

# Salish Ponds Elementary

MAY - JUNE 2023

## PRINCIPALS MESSAGE

Dragonfly Families,

I wanted to take a moment to share how grateful I am to be part of the Salish Ponds and Reynolds Community! I have dreamt of working with staff and students in our community for a long time. East County is where I grew up, started my educational path, and have wanted to continue to work and grow. My heart is here!

The support and communication from many of you this year has been greatly appreciated! I value the insights and reflections you have given this year. As well as the trust you have extended and the time you have taken to share. We cannot grow without you on our team! Many of you have shared what you would like from Salish Ponds, and that is what we reflect on moving forward.

If I don't see you at any of our end of year celebrations or events, please come by in August, before school begins, and say hello! I would love to hear how our students are doing and how we can support your child!

Gracefully,

Mrs. Stevens

[rjones@rsd7.net](mailto:rjones@rsd7.net)

503.492.7260

## TEAM WORK!

It's nice outside, the birds are chirping, flowers are blooming, and it's winding down towards the end of the school year. It's hard to believe! Together we want to support students needs academically, emotionally, and socially. With all the lovely weather and time outside, our students are starting to "spring" and struggle with peers. It's also a time of lots of big feelings and emotions. We want to continue the work we have done all year, partnering with you, on supporting your student's needs. Please reach out to teachers, Mrs. Bentley, or Mrs. Stevens on how we can support you and the end of the school year. Together, we make a great team!

# UPDATES!

As we begin to close the school year, please be sure to log into ParentVue and update your contact information. This includes phone numbers, addresses, emails, and emergency contact information. Also, please share if you are going to be moving, or transferring, to another building to make sure you are ready to start at the beginning of the new school year.

## 23/24 SCHOOL SUPPLIES

We wanted to share with you that we are going to take care of school supplies for each student for the coming year. All materials will be provided for school and classroom use.

Please make sure your child has a backpack.

## COUNSELORS CORNER!

Hello from Arianne, Virginia, and Puka!

We can't believe it is already May! We hope this letter finds you in warmth and sunshine! As our 2022-2023 school year nears summer, we want to express our gratitude for all you have done to support our Dragonfly community. Nothing is achieved alone and for that, we thank you.

This month, we focus on justice and the skill of doing what is right. It envelopes a larger goal of celebrating diversity, the inclusion of all people, and equity. We have provided some resources so that you may continue the conversation at home!

Books:

K-2

- Lubaya's Quiet Roar by Marilyn Nelson
- Where Are You From by Jaime Kim · The Thing Lou Couldn't Do by Ashely Spires

3-5

- Spell it Like Samar by Shifa Safadi
- If You Were a Princess: True Stories of Brave Leaders Around the World by Hillary Homzie
- The Proudest Blue by Ibtihaj Muhammad

Videos: · Sesame Street: Showing Fairness with Brett Goldstein | #ComingTogether Word of the Day - YouTube · Small Talk | Fairness | CBC Kids - YouTube

Resources to celebrate Asian American and Pacific Islander, Jewish American, and Arab American Heritage month:

Asian American Storytime — the conscious kid · Read Aloud: Grandpa Grumps read by Harry Shum Jr. - YouTube · Read Aloud: Always Anjali read by Padma Lakshmi - YouTube · Read Aloud: Eyes That Kiss In The Corner with Joanna Ho | BookTube Jr. - YouTube

11 Books to Read During National Jewish American Heritage Month | PJ Library · Read Aloud: Animated Read Aloud: The Missing Ingredient - YouTube · Read Aloud: Ruth Bader Ginsburg

Video - with captions - YouTube · Read Aloud: Animated Read Aloud: Fridays Are Special - YouTube

<https://www.pbs.org/parents/thrive/childrens-books-by-arab-american-authors-and-illustrators>  
· <https://socialjusticebooks.org/booklists/arab/> · <https://fromthemixedupfiles.com/childrens-books-to-honor-arab-american-heritage-month/>

Upcoming Community Events in May:

- May 4th: 6th Grade Family Night at Reynolds Middle School @ 6:00 PM
- May 25th: Family Engagement Night, Reading @ 5:30-7:00 pm

As always, we are here to support you and your family! You can always contact us by email, phone, or ParentSquare:

Puka Ahina, x3008

Arianne Delos Reyes x3016

Virginia Rose, x3037.

## ASSEMBLIES!

We have assemblies each month on the first Thursday of the month. This month, we are working on having all our students together. It's been a year of growth and achievement! As we finish this year strong, and look to next year, we want students to hear the amazing things happening across the building. Our whole school assembly will be at 9:15 AM on Thursday, May 4th.

We want to invite you to come to our community gatherings! Please check-in, in the office, get a visitor badge and join us, in cafeteria, to celebrate all the accomplishments our scholars have made!

## PTO END OF YEAR PLANNING AND VOLUNTEERS

We are going to be meeting on May 8th at 9:30 AM, at Salish Ponds, to plan for upcoming Spring and end of year activities. Please email Mrs. Stevens [rjones@rsd7.net](mailto:rjones@rsd7.net) and Mrs. Rose [vrose@rsd7.net](mailto:vrose@rsd7.net) if you would like to join us via zoom, or in person, to support the planning. We plan on focusing on our field day plans. Everyone is welcome to support the development of our PTO.

Volunteers.

If you would like to support the End of Year Field Day, please get your volunteer paperwork done as soon as possible! We have many families who have completed this and would like to invite you to being part of our Field Day event.

We look forward to supporting our scholars!

## BUS EXPECTATIONS

The safety of our students is a priority at Salish Ponds. Our concern for them doesn't stop at our school doors. We want to ensure that all kids make it home safe. We have received feedback and continue to listen to the needs of students and families about riding the bus to and from school. We have placed extra adults on buses and supported drivers. Thank you for the feedback! Please continue to have conversations with your children to remind them that the bus is part of school and that you want them to be safe on the way home. Thanks for your help!

## FAMILY ENGAGEMENT NIGHT!

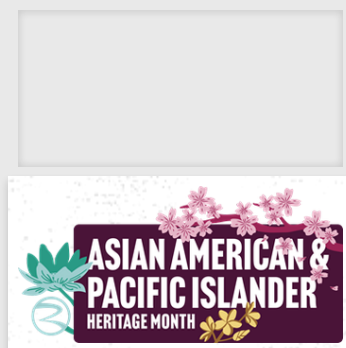
Come Join us on **May 25th, from 5:30-7pm** for our Family Reading night! We will have you enter the front of the school, play some games, see friends, get a raffle ticket, and then join us in the cafeteria for dinner and prizes! Our staff is excited to see you all!

## CULTURAL AWARENESS: ASIAN AMERICAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER HERITAGE MONTH

During the month of May, scholars will be learning about Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage month. Please look for activities coming home from your scholars' learnings and information about the Innovators and leaders from the Asian and Pacific Islander culture.



ASIAN AMERICAN



AND PACIFIC ISLANDER



HERITAGE MONTH

# SUN UPDATES!

*This year there has been a staff person in our SUN Community School, called the Family Resource Navigator (FRN). They have helped parents and caregivers find resources to help pay for things like rent, utilities or food, and stay connected to school.*

*This position was created by Multnomah County, to help relieve stress and hardship during the pandemic, and was made possible by federal funds. This funding is running out June 30, 2023. Currently in the County budget process **there is not additional funding identified to continue the SUN Family Resource Navigator position or Client Assistance funds.***

*You can find more about the County budget process and opportunities to engage at:*

<https://www.multco.us/budget/learn-more-about-multnomah-county-budget-process-and-how-participate>

[Learn more about the Multnomah County Budget process and how to participate](#)

How to Participate in the Multnomah County Budget process

[www.multco.us](http://www.multco.us)

*We know COVID is still taking a toll, prices are still high, and many families are still in need of help finding assistance.*

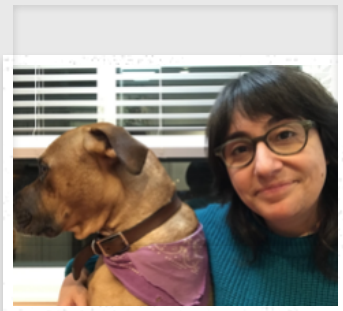
*If you or someone you know is looking for resources you can email our School Social Worker ,Puka Ahina, ([Pahina@rsd7.net](mailto:Pahina@rsd7.net)) or SUN Site Manager, Makayla Bearden ([Makaylab@mfs.email](mailto:Makaylab@mfs.email)).*

*The last day of Spring SUN will be June 8th. Please look out for further communication regarding the last day of Spring SUN on Parent Square.*

## MAY STAFF HIGHLIGHT!

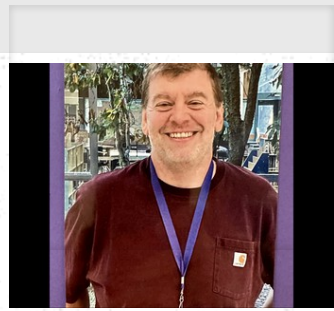
Since COVID, and changes, we haven't all been able to meet and learn about each other. In the coming months we want to share about our amazing staff at Salish!

This month We want to introduce our 5th grade teachers and Specialists.



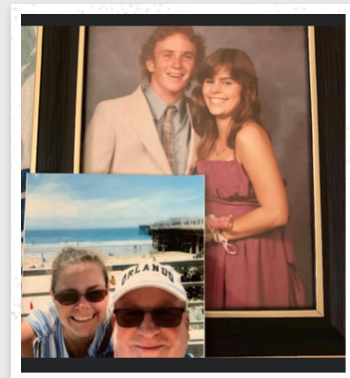
LISA EISENBERG

5th Grade



PAUL SWITALLA

5th Grade



KATHY MARTIN

5th Grade

## LISA EISENBERG

Hi! My name is Lisa Eisenberg. I grew up in New Jersey and moved to Portland in 2006. I got my Master of Education from Portland State University in 2022 and I feel very lucky to be at Salish Ponds for my first year of teaching. I also draw and write comics and am working on my first graphic novel. Y estoy aprendiendo espanol! Before I came to Salish Ponds I worked as a teaching artist, leading comics-making classes at schools all over Portland. I love to draw, read, go running, cook, garden, and study history. I live with my husband Colby and our two dogs, Grover and Inspector.

## PAUL SWITALLA

## KATHY MARTIN

I have been married to my High School boyfriend for 9 years. We met in 9th grade in 1981-82. I grew up in sunny San Diego as a Navy brat. I was fortunate to be in the same house for most of my education. I didn't start my college education until I was 30 at a community college in Alabama. It wasn't until it was time to graduate, that I found that I was leaning towards being a teacher. I finished my degree from Grand Canyon University in 2012. It took a while because of life. I moved to Oregon in 2012, after 2 years of dating long distance to my husband. He has been my rock and so grateful for him. I have completely enjoyed being a part of the Salish Ponds family.



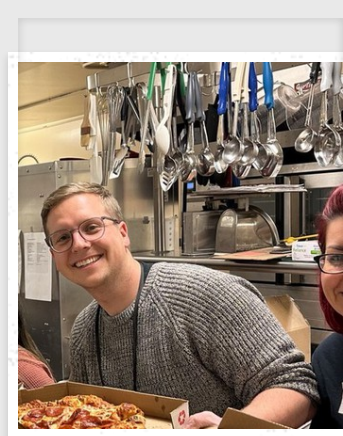
SEAN CALLAHAN

Special Education



PAULA CHUDD

Special Education



NATHAN EVANS

Speech Pathologist

My name is Sean Callahan, and I am a Special Education teacher in the behavior resource classroom.

I am having 1 baby girl this spring (my first). I have been a teacher for 2 years, both at Salish Ponds. I am the 3rd brother of 4 with no sisters. I worked as an educational assistant for 5 years prior to earning my teaching degree, and I have worked at elementary and high schools. I have been to 6 different countries and stung by 7 different bees. I won an 8th grade basketball championship with my dad as coach and 9 of my best friends. Yet, the only number that matters is that all of my students would rate me 10/10. (don't bother asking them)

## PAULA CHUDD

Hello - my name is Paula Chudd. I'm the Special Education Teacher for Academics here at Salish Ponds. I joined Reynolds School District in 2018 as a Lifeskills Classroom Teacher. I've also taught Pre-K, 2nd grade, and Special Education in a few other schools. I like to watch old TV shows and movies, travel whenever I can, and I enjoy going to new food carts and restaurants. I have 2 super-cute guinea pigs at home named Buttercup and Luna. I love teaching and feel very lucky to be a part of the Salish Ponds community.

## NATHAN EVANS

Hello! I grew up in the San Francisco Bay Area and have lived in Oregon ever since moving up to attend University of Oregon for college. I received my Master's in Speech-Language Pathology from Pacific University in Forest Grove. This is my second year working at Salish Ponds as a speech-language pathologist. Prior to working at Salish Ponds I worked as an SLP in skilled nursing facilities and retirement communities. I enjoy cooking, traveling, and spending time with my two cats!



**ARIANNE DELOS REYES**

Counselor



**VIRGINIA ROSE**

Counselor



**PUKA AHINA**

Social Worker

## AIRANNE DELOS REYES

Hi everyone! My name is Arianne Delos Reyes and I am the K-2 school counselor for Salish Ponds Elementary! This is my second year in the field and in our district. My family and I immigrated from Manila, Philippines prior to moving to Seattle, Washington. In 2020, I graduated with my Masters in School Counseling from Gonzaga University. I moved to Portland just last year and have loved exploring my new home! In my free time, I enjoy listening to music, watching movies, reading, and spending time with my cat, Dolly!

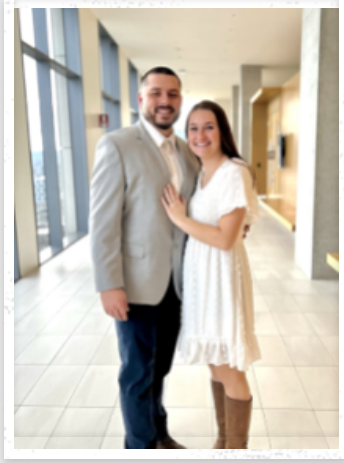
## VIRGINIA ROSE

I am a California girl-born and raised in Redding but Oregon is my home now. I have 30+ years in education. I love working with kids at Salish Ponds-they are a challenge but so fun and surprising! I have three older sisters. My husband, James, and I have a big, fluffy white cat named Whitey, after Whitey Ford, a famous baseball player. I went to school at Cal Poly Humboldt when it was called Humboldt State University and got my Master's degree at University of LaVerne in southern California. I love to read cozy mysteries and non-fiction social science, work on my old Victorian house, and garden.

## PUKA AHINA

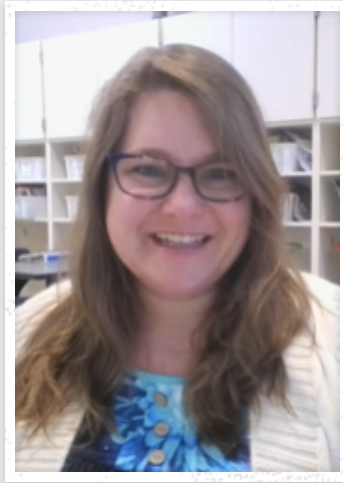
Hi! My name is Puka Ahina and this is my first year as a School Social Worker. My early years of education started here in the Reynolds School District so I'm very excited to be back working with and serving my community. I graduated from George Fox University in 2021, where I also played college soccer there for three years. I'm an honored and overjoyed first time Mom to my daughter and Aunt to my nephew who are just 8 weeks apart! In my free time I like to play soccer, be outdoors, and hangout with my family. Happy to be here.





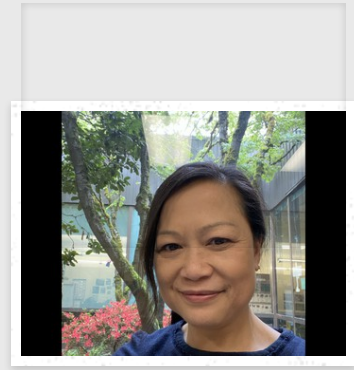
**ANTHONY LYNGAR**

PE teacher



**EVE THOMPSON**

ELD Teacher



**QUYNH NGUYEN**

ELD Teacher

## ANTHONY LYNGAR

Hello everyone! My name is Anthony Lyngar, I am originally from Boise Idaho where I grew up with my older sister and Father. I played and coached college football at Eastern Oregon University and was there for 10 years prior to moving into the Education field. My fiance and I moved to Vancouver last year and built a house, we will get married this February! We have two cute dogs and love taking them on adventures. I am a first year teacher and the Salish Ponds community has welcomed me with open arms. I can't wait to enjoy the rest of the year with the dragonflies!

## EVA ROTTER- JOHNSON

Hola, I am Ms. Eva. I am originally from Caracas, Venezuela, where I lived until I was 17. I came to go to university in the USA and ended up staying. I have been an educator for almost 30 years, 27 of them working for Reynolds SD. I am married, have two daughters, and will soon be an abuela :)

## EVE THOMPSON

I grew up in Minnesota and have been teaching in Oregon for 22 years. 20 of those years have been here with Reynolds School District. I have taught in a classroom and as an English language specialist. I speak both English and Spanish. When I am not teaching, I love to travel to countries our Reynolds families are from.

# QUYNH NGUYEN

Hello! My name is Quynh Nguyen and I am the English Language Development teacher at Salish Ponds. I have been teaching for over 24 years and at Salish Ponds for nearly 17 years. The wonderful students and families, as well as the amazing staff at Salish make teaching at here an awesome experience everyday. I started my career as a third grade teacher in San Francisco before moving back to Portland and have also taught kindergarten, first and second grade. When my family immigrated from Vietnam, English was my second language. Therefore, helping our scholars with academic English is extremely rewarding. I graduated from Parkrose High School, which is not far from Salish. I have also graduated from University of Oregon, San Francisco State University, and Concordia University. I live in Portland with my husband and eleven-year-old son. Our dog is a Beagle. In my spare time, I enjoy gardening, walking, hiking, reading and skiing. Spending time with and friends is also one of my favorite things to do.

## ARRIVAL AND DISMISSAL / SAFETY CONCERNS

Your patience at arrival and dismissal keeps our kids safe and the traffic moving! Thank you for driving with slow speeds, using our designated drop off areas, and for always checking with the adult on duty before leaving with your child.

**Safety Concerns** We need your help to ensure everyone's safety so we can avoid potentially dangerous situations for our students as they are getting dropped off to / picked up from school:

- Please do not drive around/over/through the orange cones - they are there to help traffic patterns and ensure your vehicle, your students and our staff remain safe!
- Park in the center parking lot *only* if you need to go into the building.
- Drive slowly and be considerate of drivers backing out of parking spots
- Allow students to get into/exit vehicles on curb side only
- Keep students buckled-up until vehicle is at a full stop
- Call the school if your student will be going home with a different person or in a different way

**"Pro Tips"** Here are some ideas for these times of the day that might benefit your family and help make our processes more efficient:

- We do not release students until 3:20pm and the pick-up line is complete in less than 15 minutes. Arriving early to line up in the car pick up lane doesn't always mean a faster pick up!
- If you consistently pick up your student in different cars or by different people, ask the teacher for another dashboard name sign so your pickup person will not need to be verified
- Park at the middle school north lot and walk to drop off/pick up your student! This could be a great time to talk and connect with your scholars without distractions (not to

mention exercise a bit!).

*This is a process we continually strive to make better and faster for you! Let us know if you have ideas!*

## UPCOMING EVENTS IN APRIL AND NEAR FUTURE.....

### May

- **4th:** PBIS Assembly at . Please let your scholar's teacher know if you are coming, so we can set up additional chairs.
- **5th:** Spring Photos. ALL students will have pictures taken
- **8th-12:** Salish Staff Appreciation Week
- **12th:** 4th Grade to Oregon Historical Society
- **19th:** No School-Professional development day for teachers
- **25th:** Family Engagement Night- Reading, 5:30-7pm
- **29th:** Memorial Day, No School
- **31st:** RHS graduation walk through Salish

### June

- **2nd:** End of year assembly at 2pm
- **15th:** Last day of school for students



## WE ARE THE SALISH PONDS DRAGONFLIES!

📍 1210 Northeast 201st Avenue, ... 📞 (503) 492-7260

🌐 [reynolds.k12.or.us/salish](https://reynolds.k12.or.us/salish)