

Salish Ponds Elementary

March, 2023

March Conferences!

Conferences are right around the corner! If you have not set up a conference time with your student's teacher, please reach out and schedule a time to meet during March 15th or 16th. You are also welcome to call the office at 503.492.7260 and we will get you in touch with your scholars' teacher. Conferences will run on Wednesday March 22nd from 4:00-8:00PM and again on Thursday, March 23rd, from 8:00 AM till 8:00 PM.

This is an important time of year to see how your scholar has grown, what areas are independent and what areas need supports, and we can also discuss looking ahead to next year.

We look forward to seeing you at conferences!



**Communication on
skills**



Learning together



**Thank you for being
part of our
community!**

Counselors Corner!

Hello, Salish Ponds Families!

We hope the old saying, “March comes in like a lion and goes out like a lamb” is true because our weather for the beginning of March is roaring in. We wish you cozy warm nights at home spending time with your families.

This month, we are spotlighting courage, specifically confronting our fears and standing up for what we believe in. Our anxieties and fears are real, and so is courage. Throughout time, we have bore witness to leaders who have persevered and demonstrated courage such as Wilma Mankiller, Stacey Abrams, Malala, Greta Thunberg, Naomi Osaka, and Marsha P. Johnson. Most importantly, our students and community have you. We encourage you to continue these conversations at home and share what courage means, what it looks like, and how to navigate those fears.

Here are suggestions for books and videos to help start conversations:

K-2: · I am Courage by Susan Verde

· The People Shall Continue by Simon J. Ortiz

· The Year We Learned to Fly by Jaqueline Woodson

3-5:

· Ron’s Big Mission by Rose Blue

· Courage by Bernard Waber

· Spaghetti in a Hot Dog Bun by Maria Dismondy

· Nasreen’s Secret School: A True Story from Afghanistan by Jeanette Winter

Daring Greatly: How the Courage to Be Vulnerable Transforms the Way We Live, Love, Parent and Lead by Brene Brown, Ph.D.

Media:

<https://www.facebook.com/PBSKIDS/videos/pbs-kids-talk-about-bravery-and-courage/605770353625618/> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-8yjphM969Y>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yqr2GcFIY3I>

As always, we are here to support your student and your family. Please feel free to contact us at the following extensions at school: Puka Ahina, Social Worker, x3008, Arianne Delos Reyes, K-2 Counselor, x3016, Virginia Rose, 3-5 Counselor, x3037

Assemblies!

We have assemblies each month on the first Thursday of the month. Our Kinder through 2nd grade assemblies are from 12:30- 1 PM. Our 3rd-5th grade assemblies are from 11:10-11:40 AM.

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

State Testing Opt Out

State standardized testing will start at Salish Ponds in April. If you do not want your student to participate in the state testing this year, please contact the school so we can provide you with the appropriate form.

The ELPA (English Language Proficiency Assessment) will open on January 17th. Your child's attendance during our testing times will be imperative for the success of their completion and results.

If you have other questions, you can contact Mrs. Bentley.

PTO Spring Planning

We are planning for activities this Spring and end of the year and would love for you to be part of the planning process! Please reach out if you are interested in being a part of the planning and creation of some of these to Mrs. Stevens and Mrs. Rose

rjones@rsd7.net and vrose@rsd7.net

We look forward to supporting our scholars!

Spring Break

Don't forget that Spring Break is just around the corner. There is no school the week of March 27th-31st. We will see you all back on Monday, April 3rd. Have a safe and fun Spring Break! Go Dragonflies!

Learning about IEPs

The Reynolds Special Education Department will have a training for families of elementary students experiencing disabilities on **Tuesday, March 21st from 6:00 PM- 7:00 PM**. The training will be held at Alder Elementary School and food will be provided for those participating in person. Below are some details about the event.

Learning about IEPs

Individualized Education Program (IEP) meetings can sometimes be confusing and overwhelming for parents/guardians. Become familiar with the development of the IEP and how your participation is essential in this process.

Attendees will:

- Learn about the special education process
- Understand the purpose of an IEP
- Review each section of the IEP
- Recognize the value of parent and guardian expertise during the process.

Cultural Awareness: Women's History Month!

During the month of March, scholars will be learning about Women's History month. This year the theme is "Celebrating Women Who Tell Our Stories." We will be recognizing women of past and present, who have been active in all forms of media and storytelling. The theme honors women in every community who have devoted their lives and talents to producing art, pursuing truth, and reflecting the human condition decade after decade. Please look for activities coming home from your scholars' learnings and information about the Women your scholar's class will be creating a door decoration about!



Women's

"Girls are capable of doing everything men are capable of doing. Sometimes they have more imagination than men." – [Katherine Johnson](#), one of the first Black women to work as a NASA mathematician



History

"All adventures – especially into new territory – are scary." – Sally Ride, the first American woman to fly in space



Month!

"I raise up my voice – not so I can shout but so that those without a voice can be heard ... We cannot succeed when half us us are held back." – [Malala Yousafzai](#), Pakistani activist for female education and the youngest Nobel Peace Prize recipient

Meet some of our staff!

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 Kindergarten teachers, a specialist, and support person.



Anita Johnson



Michele Chung



Jackie Crocket

Anita Johnson

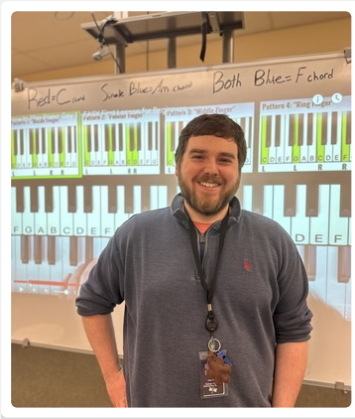
My name is Anita Johnson. This is my 25th year with the Reynolds School District and my 11th year at Salish Ponds. I love teaching! I live in Gresham with my adult child and three dogs. During my free time I enjoy visiting the Oregon Coast and taking walks with my dogs.

Michele Chung

Hello! My name is Michele Chung. This is my second year as part of the Salish Ponds Community. I love being here! Before that I have taught for 10 years in other school districts, been a science support teacher, and a Spanish support teacher. I received my Master's in Education from Eastern Oregon and completed my Literacy Endorsement in 2020. I have three children 2 daughters and a son. I have 2 cats, Leah and Storm. I enjoy cooking, baking, spending time with friends and my family. I also like to hike and spend time outside in the summer.

Jackie Crocket

Hello, my name is Jackie Crocket. I have been a teacher in Reynolds for over 20 years, with the last four years teaching at Salish Ponds. I have taught every grade K-5 including 2 years as an instructional coach and a year teaching abroad in England. I live in Gresham, with my husband Dan and two dogs. I have two grown-up kids. My son is an engineer, and my daughter is a kindergarten teacher. In the summer, my husband and I love to travel to faraway places in our campervan and hike, bike and paddle our way through nature. I love our families at Salish and am happy to be part of this amazing community!



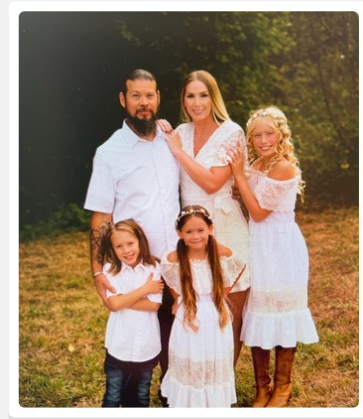
Craig Harden

Music Teacher



Jenni Blake

Educational Assistant



Emily Lasselle

Educational Assistant

Craig Harden

This has been my very first year teaching music at Salish Ponds - and not only has it been my first-year teaching here, but it is also my first year living in Oregon, or even living along the west coast! Until moving to the Portland area in August I had spent all of my years in the state of New Hampshire! Back in New Hampshire I had gone to school in the same town until I graduated high school, I attended the University of New Hampshire and graduated with my bachelors in music education, was fortunate to teach band and chorus at a middle school and high school level, and probably did just about everything there was to do in New Hampshire. It's a small state. you tend to get around to it all. Being

here on the west coast has brought me a wealth of opportunities and I could not have been luckier to have landed with such a wonderful Dragonfly Family!

Jenni Blake

I have been married to my best friend for 23 years March 4th. I have 2 children, daughter 27 she owns a beautiful salon in Sellwood & son 22 that works construction and is working on becoming a police officer. I have 3 grandchildren 2, 7, & 8. Yes, we became grandparents very young!! I have worked with children since I can remember. The last 8+ years I taught pre-K as head teacher. I also own an art studio in Gresham. Opened 3 years ago, I hold kids' art camps, adult paint and wine nights etc. It's my therapy. I LOVE crafting. I have 1 dog and 1 cat.

Emily Lasselle

I am new to the dragonfly family this school year, and I feel honored to be a part of the Salish Ponds family. I am a mom of 3 children, who have all attended Salish Ponds, and I have developed many of the skills I use at work through 12 years of parenting. I have a hardworking partner who inspires me to be a better human each and every day. I live by the motto, do unto others as you would have them do unto you.

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!

Library Corner!

March is Women's History Month and Read Across America Day

The month of March has two exciting celebrations. Read Across America Day is March 2, 2023. This is a national celebration of reading that was started by the National Education Association in 1998. In our school, on March 2nd, we participate by everyone stopping to read once it is announced over the intercom. To learn more about Read Across America, check out this website.

<https://www.readingrockets.org/calendar/readacross>

March is also Women's History Month. This is a time to celebrate all the contributions women have made through history to better our world! We will be learning about this through the library, through book read alouds, and activities. If you would like to support your student with additional resources, this link to National Geographic for Kids is great place to start.

<https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/history/article/womens-history-month>

Upcoming events in March and near future.....

- **2nd:** 3rd- 5th Assembly at 11:10-11:40, and K-2nd Assembly at 12:30-1pm. Please let your scholar's teacher know if you are coming, so we can set up additional chairs.
- **6th-10:** Classified Appreciation Week!
- **17th:** St. Patrick's Day
- **22nd-23rd:** Conferences, No school
- **24th:** No school
- **27th-31st:** Spring Break, No school
- **June 2nd Assembly:** It will be "out of this world". Please mark your calendars to come and join us for our end of the year assembly to celebrate the growth of all our scholars and their academics! The assembly will be in our cafeteria at 2pm.



We are the Salish Ponds Dragonflies!

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

🌐 reynolds.k12.or.us/salish