



Shaw Island School District 10

February 2023

Dear Shaw Community,

It has been another busy year for Shaw School! Last Spring our older students took the State mandated performance exams and, as always, tested at grade level or above in all subjects. As a school we are grateful for the amazing teachers and families that help create such stellar students. They are all certainly a cut above!

The Sheriff's Department has made a priority of having a deputy from Lopez or Orcas come to Shaw Island one to two times a month. The first visit was from Deputy Walker from Lopez. He drove around the island and then stopped at the school to introduce himself to our staff and students. While at the school, he stayed to play ukulele with the students and Anita. One student reported he was "pretty good" and enjoyed learning new songs with the students. We look forward to a productive relationship with the deputies and our students.

I have been working with our other island superintendents to help impress upon our state legislators the need to increase funding for island school districts. Although it is too soon to say for sure, we are hopeful to get our regionalization rates (monies allocated to districts to offset a region's higher cost of living) increased to a percentage that more accurately reflects the higher cost of living in the San Juan Islands. Stay tuned as the legislative season unfolds.

In previous letters, I have shared with you the district's recent exploration into creating teacher housing. This is a topic that has been discussed at the board level for well over twenty years, with previous boards moving ever so close to pursuing the actual building only to postpone moving forward for a variety of reasons. While the district has looked into this over the past many years, the crisis of a shortage of available housing in the San Juans and specifically Shaw Island has only gotten worse <https://www.sanjuanjournal.com/news/housing-shortage-reaches-critical-mass/>. Most recently, in answer to this housing crisis, the current Shaw Island School District Board has approved the creation of full architectural plans for a teacher housing duplex on district owned property. The board also approved an ad hoc committee to explore financial and business aspects of the project before making a decision whether or not to move forward with building teacher housing. What is undeniable is the absolute need for teacher housing to maintain a viable school district and a sustainable economic future for the community. Please take a look on the district website <https://www.shawislandschool.org/> to learn about the district's history of pursuing teacher housing, a current list of FAQs regarding teacher housing, and the conceptual plans.

Well, Punxsutawney Phil has seen his shadow, so we know we are in for several more weeks of winter. Please stay safe and warm while we wait for Spring to bloom!

Best Wishes,
Kari

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