



# PORT ANGELES SCHOOL DISTRICT

Advocacy • Achievement • Accountability

WINTER 2022



Cora Powless – 4th Grader at  
Jefferson Elementary

## 2021-2022 School Year Update



First Day of Kindergarten at Franklin Elementary - Jase Sifagaloa and Braxton Arizpe



Homecoming Bonfire



It's incredible to look back on the last four months and see how much our students, staff, and community have accomplished together in a short amount of time. Families put a lot of trust in the Port Angeles School District, sending their children to school every day, even while covid case numbers were the highest we had yet to see. Our support staff and teachers worked around the clock to prepare classrooms so students could return to full-time, in-person learning. On the first day of school, students didn't miss a beat. They enjoyed reuniting with their friends and being together again. For our online students at Seaview Academy, teachers welcomed them back to their virtual classrooms.

It wasn't long before school events and extracurricular activities started taking place. Community businesses and organizations rallied together to help make Homecoming 2021 possible for Port Angeles High School students. They danced under the stars and stayed warm thanks to a massive bonfire and open-air tent donated by 7 Cedars Casino. Members from the Jamestown S'Klallam and Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe donated time and volunteers to help assemble the 140-foot tent for the dance. Taking part in this time-honored tradition gave students a sense of hope that brighter days are ahead.

On three different occasions, Port Angeles School District (PASD) put out a call out for help to the community to keep our schools operating and open. Our school district needed bus drivers, nurses, and substitute teachers. Each time we reached out, our incredible community answered the call. Thank you! During the first half of the school year, we didn't have to cancel a bus route or classes, unlike so many other school districts across the country.

The kindness of the Port Angeles community is humbling. PASD received more than 450 floral arrangements from local farms, businesses, and community members. Owners, Julia Ahrndt from Tin Can Floral Co. and Jenny Edwards from Rivers Edge Farmstead, organized these gifts through The Growing Kindness Project. We are lucky to live in such a generous and caring region. Our community wholeheartedly gives their time and resources to make things happen for our students and staff. It reminds us that we all want what is best for our students.

Thank you!

### FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

As another year comes to a close, it is an excellent time to reflect on some of the fantastic things that have taken place in our school district and community. Even though 2021 found us still dealing with Covid, we have all stepped up to help each other in many different ways. We learned we are stronger together.



Our staff has gone above and beyond to help our students succeed every day. This has not been easy. Please join me in thanking all district staff for their commitment to return students to school five days a week, full-time.

I want to thank our staff for caring about our students and ensuring they are safe and ready to learn. Their hard work does not go unnoticed. I truly appreciate all that they are doing.

To the parents and guardians, I would like to express my sincere gratitude for supporting the difficult decisions that have to be made. We wouldn't be successful without you.

To the Port Angeles community, I want to thank you for supporting our district and standing with us during these very uncertain times.

Finally, as we transition to 2022, I remain hopeful for a new beginning. We can and will overcome the challenges of our time, and each of us will be better because of our experience. Best wishes in 2022.

*Sincerely, Martin Brewer*



Homecoming Tent

**STRONG SCHOOLS. STRONG COMMUNITY.**



## WELCOME



Please join us in welcoming our new School Board Director, Mary Hebert.

Dedicating much of her life to volunteering and working in schools, Director Hebert wants to ensure all students and families are served and supported.

With more than 34 years of experience as a teacher, principal, and assistant superintendent, Director Hebert is passionate about our students and developing their best shot at success.

Welcome, Director Hebert!

## A GIFT OF MUSIC

Students in Music Teacher Jesse Reynolds' 4th and 5th-grade class at Dry Creek Elementary received a donation of buckets from Home Depot for their bucket drumming program. The buckets they originally had were small, mismatched, and not designed to hold up to the stress of being hit repeatedly with sticks. Several students expressed dismay at how their instruments were being damaged by just being played. Mr. Reynolds reached out to the Home Depot of Sequim and asked if they would donate some buckets for the students. They, without hesitation, donated \$100 worth of buckets to Dry Creek Music Department. Thank you to the Home Depot in Sequim for the donation and Mr. Reynolds for getting creative in your music class!



## 2022 OLYMPIC REGION TEACHER OF THE YEAR

### MARY KRZYIAK - DRY CREEK ELEMENTARY

Mrs. Kryziak is a teacher whose practice is rooted in authenticity, equity, justice, rigor, and empowering student voice. She teaches via the workshop model, embedding social-emotional learning throughout the day. Mrs. Kryziak's students exceed rigorous academic requirements because they believe in themselves. They know they are important; they see themselves in their learning with their charts and pictures on the walls. Mrs. Kryziak also works on multiple district-level committees to enact change in educational equity and diversity policies.

Mrs. Kryziak says, "My perfect day as a teacher is when my students take ownership of their learning. When they're inspired to write a book or song, or letter based on something we've learned. When there's that buzz in the classroom: students working around the room, on the floor, at counters, working with different materials, to show their understanding



*Pictured: Mary Krzyziak received the 2022 Regional Teacher of the Year Award from Greg Lynch Superintendent Olympic Educational Service District 114.*

of the concepts."

Congratulations, Mrs. Kryziak! We are lucky to have you in our District. Thank you for all that you do for our students.



*Pictured: AmeriCorps Volunteer Hannah Edstrom*

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS:** Join us for a paper shredding event on Saturday, April 23, 2022, from 10 AM – 1 PM at Steve Methner's State Farm, 611 E. Front Street. Bring your paper to shred and make a donation. Proceeds from this event will help fund our Back to School Fair held in August, where children in need receive supplies for the 2022-23 school year.

Thanks to our community for supporting this event year after year! Special thanks to our trusty volunteers and 2021's Sponsors: Sound Community Bank, Port Angeles Kiwanis, and Steve Methner-State Farm.

## Grocery Outlet Donations



*Pictured: Grocery Outlet owners Melanie and John Gratton with Stevens Middle School Principal Kristen Lunt*

Special thanks to Port Angeles Grocery Outlet owners Melanie and John Gratton for establishing food pantries at Port Angeles High School and Stevens Middle School! The pantries contain fruit cups, granola bars, and crackers. Students who experience food insecurity after school can now take soup, mac and cheese, and microwave meals to go. Grocery Outlet has pledged to restock biweekly, and you can help! You can purchase items at Grocery Outlet for the food pantries through their new Food Insecurity Program (FIP). Thank you, Grocery Outlet!

## NOHN MOBILE HEALTH SERVICES

North Olympic Healthcare Network (NOHN), in partnership with the Port Angeles School District (PASD), deployed a new mobile delivery model to bring healthcare services to the District's K-12 students in November 2021. The NOHN Mobile Health Clinic, a 38-foot Winnebago RV outfitted with specialized medical equipment, will visit each school at least once a week throughout the school year. NOHN staff on board will provide medical and behavioral health services directly to students at each school's location.

"We know how important good health is to student success and that accessing healthcare during school hours can be a challenge for students and parents," said NOHN CEO Michael Maxwell, MD. "We're excited to expand our collaboration with the Port Angeles School District by bringing services directly to students throughout the district through the Mobile Health Clinic. We're grateful for the donations we received in support of this project, including those from the United Health Foundation, Molina Healthcare, and Olympic Medical Center."

"The NOHN Mobile Health Clinic is another layer of services to support our students' well-being," said PASD Superintendent Martin Brewer. "We are grateful for the partnership with NOHN and will now provide healthcare to students that is easy to access and will decrease time spent out of class. The new Mobile Health Clinic is a great win for our district, its students, and the community."

For more information about the clinic, please visit: [www.nohn-pa.org/mobile\\_health\\_clinic.php](http://www.nohn-pa.org/mobile_health_clinic.php)





## TEACHER SPOTLIGHT: WENDY SAMPSON

For nearly 20 years, before joining the District, Wendy Sampson was an employee of the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe's Culture and Language program. During her tenure with the program, she learned the Klallam language, became a teacher, and worked as their grant and department manager. This school year, Ms. Sampson accepted a teaching position for the Port Angeles School District.

She spends most of her time at Port Angeles High School teaching Klallam Language year 1 and 2, Native American Studies, and Washington State and U.S. History from the Native American perspective. She also teaches one period at Stevens where she started the middle school's first ever Klallam Language class.

Ms. Sampson receives mentoring from her predecessor, Jamie Valadez, who retired in June of 2021 after 20 years with the District. Jamie provides support and guidance on preparing lessons, materials, and assessments for all of Ms. Sampson's classes. This evolving curriculum will be used in other schools someday as upcoming Klallam language teachers grow into their places within the local school districts. Ms. Sampson shared that she is proud to carry on the work of her late elder teachers and current mentors and help mold the next generation of language learners into tomorrow's teachers. Welcome to the Port Angeles School District, Ms. Sampson! We are grateful and lucky to have you here! hā?nəŋ cn / Thank-you!



*Pictured: Wendy Sampson Teaching Klallam Language with student Antonio Martinez.*

## Port Angeles Education Foundation assists with educational needs

Since 1991, The Port Angeles Education Foundation (PAEF) has worked to ensure every child in Port Angeles public schools has an equal opportunity for quality education. As a non-profit 501(c)3 organization made up of volunteers from the community, PAEF works closely with teachers and administrators to fill gaps not covered by the district's budget. PAEF assists students with basic educational needs, provides scholarships to graduating seniors, and awards grants to teachers to fund innovative projects and programs.

As a school district with a high percentage of children in need, PAEF helps students reach their full potential by lowering barriers and building private/public partnerships between individuals, businesses, corporations, and community groups. PAEF focuses on three funding areas:

- Basic needs** – PAEF provides funding for basic needs throughout the year, including dental services, counseling, eye exams and glasses, school supplies, gym uniforms, shoes, clothing, and toiletries.
- Scholarships** – PAEF provided more than \$250,000 in scholarships in 2021, which accounts for a substantial amount of the total local scholarships awarded to PAHS students.
- Grants** – In 2021, PAEF awarded more than \$53,000 in grants supporting innovative, creative, and excellent educational opportunities. Dry Creek Elementary P.E. Teacher Jarom Packer received a grant for a Gaga Ball Pit. Gaga is a form of dodgeball, and the pit consists



*Dry Creek Gaga Ball Pit*

of plastic walls to contain the players and the ball. Mr. Packer shared that he noticed students not engaging in activities on the playground during recess. Other school districts have resolved this problem by bringing in a Gaga Ball Pit. "So far, it's going great," said Mr. Packer. "It's added so much excitement to the playground for all ages. The game moves smoothly and quickly. Kids are learning how to be good sports in the process."

Helping all of our kids succeed is the best way to ensure the long-term health of Port Angeles. If you are interested in helping make a difference in the life of a Port Angeles student, please consider making a tax-deductible contribution that will fund classroom grants, student needs, and scholarships. Visit [pa-ef.org](http://pa-ef.org) to learn more!

## All Kids Bike Program is underway!

We are excited to announce that the All Kids Bike® (AKB) program for kindergarten and first-grade students is officially underway! AKB is a national movement led by the Strider® Education Foundation. Hamilton Elementary first-graders tried out the Strider bikes for the first time in November. Students learned how to put on helmets, and staff made sure they fit correctly. After the safety talk, students spent a few minutes practicing putting the kickstand up and down, and then it was time to straddle the bikes and take them for a spin! For some students, it was their first time on a bike. This program aims to teach safe riding skills and build confidence.

PASD is the first District in Washington to offer the AKB PE Program to kindergarten and first-graders. Our teachers now have everything they need to teach our youngest learners how to ride bikes. Special thanks to our community sponsors, Lincoln Park BMX Track and Sound Bikes & Kayaks, for making this possible.



## HERITAGE LANGUAGE GRANT

The Port Angeles School District is proud to partner with the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction and the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe (LEKT) to support the LEKT Language Program across the District. This year, six recipients received a \$5,000 grant to pursue their Klallam language certification through Peninsula College. With this certification, these grant recipients can teach Klallam language in our community and schools.

Recipients of the Tribal Language Grants:

- Jonathan Arakawa
- Harmony Arakawa
- Carmen Watson-Charles
- Wendy Sampson
- Angelina Sosa
- Ashley Pitchford

Recipients of the Tribal Language Grant were honored during the November Board of Directors and Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe Meeting.



*Pictured: Front Row: Angelina Sosa, Jonathan Arakawa, Harmony Arakawa. Second Row: Ashley Pitchford, Superintendent Marty Brewer. Third Row: Carmen Watson-Charles, Director Cindy Kelly, Director Katie Marks. Fourth Row: Student Board Representative Luke Gavin, Tribal Chairwoman Frances Charles, Director Sandy Long. Fifth Row: Director Jacob Wright, Assistant Superintendent Michelle Olsen, Director Sarah Methner.*



# A Message from Outgoing Board Director Cindy Kelly

My campaign, KELLY4KIDS, has always focused on providing an environment where all students and families are seen, heard, and respected. Student voice is the most important aspect of this work.

My educational journey began when my children entered Port Angeles Schools. Several community leaders encouraged me to run for a position on the school board. As I look back on my 20-year tenure as your school board director, it has been a challenging but rewarding venture.

The challenges we faced during my tenure included cutting the budget for ten years due to declining enrollment, changing school boundaries, eliminating a middle school and two elementarys, passing school facility bonds, curriculum alignment and closing the skills center just to name a few.

Our successes included accreditation of Lincoln High School, our relationship with Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe, increasing access to Career and Technical Education opportunities, collaborative time for our elementary staff, continued passage of EP&O levies and our first capital facilities levy.

During my time as a school board director, I helped hire four Superintendents, served with seventeen local school board directors and 30+ school board student representatives, witnessed thousands of PA graduates receive their diplomas, and built life-long relationships with countless legislators and other educational professionals. I took the opportunity to get involved with our Washington State School Directors' Association (WSSDA) by serving on multiple committees. WSSDA also appointed me as their Tribal Ambassador for the past ten years.

It has been my honor to serve as your school director, and I thank you for this opportunity. Special thanks to the love of my life, Timm Kelly, for your continued support through our many educational adventures. Thank you to our fabulous staff, past, and current for your dedication. And to our parents/guardians, you are the #1 advocate for your children's success. Be present; your voice matters!

*A note from PASD: Cindy Kelly donated more than 20 years of service to the Port Angeles School District, and we are grateful for her knowledge, time, and support.*

## Students Host Winter Homeless Drive

Port Angeles High School Rotary Interact Club Students hosted a clothing drive for those who live unhoused in our town. Students gathered donations from the community of new or gently used jackets, gloves, socks, hats, and clothes. Items were donated to Olympic Peninsula Community Clinic's REdisCOVERY Program and The Answer for Youth (TAFY). Rotary Interact Club Students pictured left to right: Emi Halberg, Darcy Glore, Olivia Carroll, Courtney Smith, and Trinity Laws.



## SENIOR SPOTLIGHT: JAMES SASKOWSKY

My name is James Saskowsky, and I am a senior at Port Angeles High School (PAHS). During my sophomore year, my chemistry teacher, Mrs. Shere, made us aware of several internship opportunities available to high school students. PAHS offers numerous Advanced Placement (AP) and College in the High School courses to challenge students and make them competitive applicants. I was thrilled when I was selected for a full-time paid two-month internship for rising 12th graders at Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center in Seattle last summer.

The Summer High School Internship Program (SHIP) exceeded my expectations on numerous levels. All staff at Fred Hutch were incredibly patient and supportive. Working alongside people who are as passionate about research as I am, was incredibly fun. The 20 interns came from diverse backgrounds, but all displayed a deep interest in science. There never was competition among us; we truly helped each other succeed. We had frequent challenges due to pandemic-related restrictions, but we were grateful to continue our research.

Our main project involved the treatment of Acute Myeloid Leukemia (AML) by using base editing technology. We removed CD33, a marker protein expressed in the macrophage and associated with AML. By removing CD33 in healthy cells of a patient with AML, cancer will not spread. We used base editing technologies to remove CD33. We extracted, purified, amplified, and sequenced the treated cells to verify the removal of the CD33 protein.

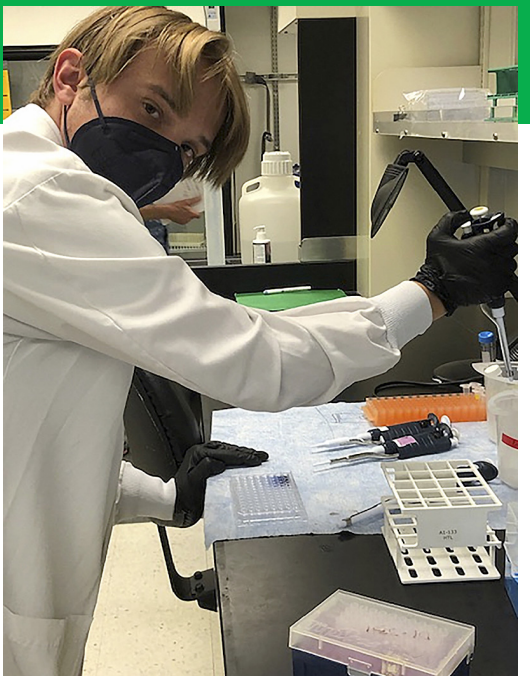
In addition to working in the lab, we joined presentations of Fred Hutch researchers who gave us insights into their innovative research projects. I was particularly interested in Dr. Simon's research about ototoxicity (drug-induced hearing loss) and based my final presentation on his work.

Living in Seattle was a bit daunting at first but was great fun. A group of us interns explored the city by walking, riding busses, and taking the streetcars all over town.

I am very grateful for PAHS's considerable course catalog, including AP, College in the High School classes through the University of Washington and Eastern Washington University. Port Angeles may be a rural town, but we have excellent and caring teachers. My biotechnology teacher, Mrs. Duncan-Taylor, prepared me well for the internship, and I was frequently the only intern already familiar with research processes. All my teachers helped me grow personally and academically. You get the picture: exceptional teachers who help students succeed!

I hope that other high school students will take advantage of internship opportunities and rigorous class offerings in the future. My internship gave me insights into research and lab work in a real-life scenario and cemented my desire to become a pharmaceutical scientist. I want to make a difference and contribute to developing and researching effective and safe medication.

I was recently admitted to Northeastern University in Boston to major in Pharmaceutical Sciences (Bouvé College of Health Sciences). It will not be easy to leave the Pacific Northwest, but I am excited about my future and will always return to Port Angeles.



### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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**Director Mary Hebert** • 360.457.1730  
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Term Expires: 11/25 - Position #2

### PORT ANGELES SCHOOL DISTRICT

**Vision:** All PASD students will graduate prepared for life-long learning.

**Mission:** PASD creates learning communities that prepare each student to live, work, and learn successfully in a changing world.

Port Angeles School District does not discriminate in any programs or activities on the basis of sex, race, creed, religion, color, national origin, age, veteran or military status, sexual orientation, gender expression or identity, disability, or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The following employees have been designated to handle questions and complaints of alleged discrimination: Title IX Coordinators, Civil Rights Compliance Coordinators: Scott Harker, 905 W. 9th St., Port Angeles, WA 98362, (360) 457-8575, sharker@portangelesschools.org, and for Section 504/ADA Coordinator, Pam Sanford, 905 W. 9th St., Port Angeles, WA 98362, (360) 457-8575, psanford@portangelesschools.org.

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For school information, dates, events, forms and photos, check out our website at [www.portangelesschools.org](http://www.portangelesschools.org)

Send inquiries to: [info@portangelesschools.org](mailto:info@portangelesschools.org)

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