

PORT ANGELES SCHOOL DISTRICT NEWS AND NOTES

FEBRUARY 8, 2021

Parent Newsletter

Martin Brewer, Superintendent



STRONG SCHOOLS. STRONG COMMUNITY.

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

Port Angeles School District honors and recognizes February as Black History Month. We admire the achievements of so many and invite you to take this time with us to celebrate this important month.

EQUITY SURVEY

This morning, an email went out to all staff, high school students, and parents district-wide. You are being asked to participate in an Equity and Inclusion Diagnostic Survey between Monday, February 8th to Friday, February 12th. We would love to hear your voice and gather your perceptions related to equity in our district.

We hope the data we gather from the survey will help form our next steps in continuing our journey towards building an equitable system. We look forward to hearing from you!



PASD AmeriCorps members were joined by students and community members to honor Martin Luther King Jr. through art and unity on Monday, January 18th, MLK Day. The Gateway Center in downtown Port Angeles had an art collage with student contributions and a running slide show. Passersby stopped to look at the art, listen to music, and watch some of the speeches given by Martin Luther King Jr.

Pictured above:
Jasmine Thomas, a second-year AmeriCorp team member creates an artistic shadow on MLK artwork.

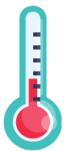
We appreciate the dedicated efforts families have made to allow for healthy experiences in our schools. Thank you for keeping students home when sick, communicating potential community exposures, wearing masks, morning attestations, and social distancing. This commitment from our families has certainly paid off, thank you! Check out our Key Strategies for Health and Safety below:



Feeling ill? **Stay home.** [Click here](#) for the return to school flow chart.



Enhanced **cleaning, disinfecting, and sanitizing** of schools will be conducted. [Click here](#) to learn more!



Staff and students are required to provide a Daily Screening Form that confirms they are healthy and able to be at school or at work. [Click here](#) to download the student and staff screening form.



Masks are required to be worn by all staff, students, and visitors on all campuses and buses. Maintaining six feet of social distancing whenever possible will be required while on Port Angeles School District property.



Regular handwashing and sanitizing will be required throughout the day. Hand sanitizer is available throughout all school buildings.

Hi! My name is Carmen Geyer and I am your new Communications and Community Outreach Coordinator. I join the District from United Way of Clallam County where I spent time learning and investing in our community through public speaking engagements, fundraising, and coordinating volunteer opportunities for youth. I have over 19 years of experience working in communications, marketing, and sales with an emphasis on community, and relationship building.

I will be responsible for the District's overall communications program, including developing and distributing internal and external communications. In this position, I will assist the Superintendent, Martin Brewer, with community relations activities. Our number one goal is to ensure a positive culture focused on student achievement within the schools and the community. I am very excited and honored to be a member of the PASD Team and look forward to telling our District's story. If you ever have anything you would like to share, please drop me a line. I can be reached at cgeyer@portangelesschools.org.



Congratulations to Seaview 4th Grader, **Anouk Atwater**, for winning the honor of being published in a national poetry contest by **Creative Communication**. Anouk's poem, "Let Them Bee" has been selected to be published in the book, "A Celebration of Poets." Creative Communication is a publication that brings together the best student authors in the United States. Way to go, Anouk!

Let Them Bee

Bees be dropping one by one
Eternal rest be no fun
But the bees, they be confused
Why were they the ones abused?
About to go to their graves
Perhaps in heaven, they won't be slaves
Now they have, but one more hope
Hanging on a piece of rope
With the rope, out comes the Queen
But the humans, they be mean
Alas the Queen, she then be rushed
To save the hive, before she's crushed
Their lifelong struggle, their bucket filled
Years of work, it then be spilled!



The **AmeriCorps** team will start providing **tutoring sessions for Parents and Students** at 3 locations across the community starting on **Tuesday, February 16th**. Parents can learn about the platforms their children are on each day and also help students who need the extra support. Parent/student tutoring will be available from 4-6p:

- **Tuesdays starting 2/16 at Roosevelt in the gym**
- **Wednesdays starting 2/17 at Jefferson in the library**
- **Thursdays starting 2/18 at Dry Creek in the library**

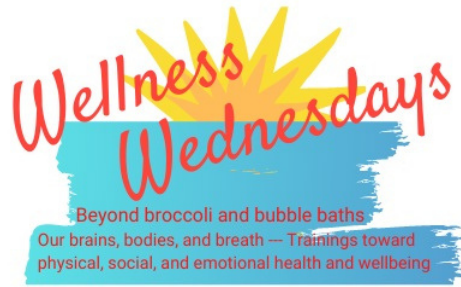


**PARENT
SUPPORT**



Please join us in celebrating and recognizing **Dwayne Johnson**, athletic director of PAHS for receiving the highly prestigious Gareth Giles Memorial Award for the 2020 school year. The Washington Interscholastic Activities Association (WIAA) recognized Johnson for his leadership and dedication to Washington's students and schools. Thank you Dwayne for all you do in our District!!



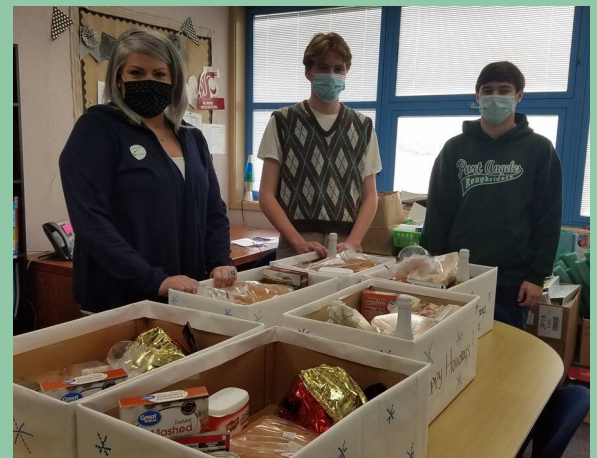


The PASD Reopening Plan focuses on the social-emotional needs of students and staff. The **PASD Board of Directors** and the staff has chosen to emphasize our students' and staff's mental health. To help launch this forward, a cohort of administrative staff, counselors, teachers, and community advocates have participated in a 4-part online workshop provided by **CASEL** (The Collaborative for Social Emotional Learning). This training will help our district gain a deeper understanding of systemic SEL fundamentals and help us identify the specific planning needs for our district. Additionally, PASD chose to jumpstart promoting SEL for students by introducing the character development curriculum from **Character Strong**. Teachers implemented this into classrooms throughout the last fall. Our curricula and training are focused on fostering the whole child with vertically aligned lessons that teach SEL and character building, side-by-side.

Another major focus of this school year has been on strengthening adult capacity and competency. Through our ongoing partnership with the **Clallam Resilience Project**, a consortium of over 50 local organizations operated out of **United Way of Clallam County**, PASD staff participated in multiple pieces of training on SEL related topics this October. The feedback was for more such learning opportunities. Therefore, the Clallam Resilience Project, in collaboration with the PASD, has begun offering twice-monthly **Wellness Wednesday Workshops** for all PASD staff focused on self-care, holistic health, and wellness. These workshops will continue throughout the school year and are embedded in the workday so that all staff can attend. Access to these opportunities is crucial as we cannot adequately provide for our students' SEL without first taking care of staff wellness. Special thanks to parent and student advocates, **Christine Loewe, Minnie Whalen, and Bonnie Schmidt**, for helping us invest in our District's overall health and mental wellbeing.

2020 Chapter Campaign Winners - PAHS DECA

PAHS DECA received the top level of "Thrive" for their submission to the Chapter Campaigns. To win the "Thrive level," the DECA club needed to show community service accomplishments, community outreach, school outreach, and alumni connections. The PAHS community service project was a great success and delivered 35 baskets to families in elementary and middle schools. The baskets contained items donated by the public, including full-sized hams, rolls, corn, green bean casserole fixings, boxed mashed potatoes, gravy, canned pumpkin, pie crust, and a Martinelli's sparkling cider. The DECA Club, students in Marketing, Franklin staff, and Stevens staff donated most of the food, except for the hams. PAHS junior, Hannah Basden has been helping with this event for 7 years and shared, "Last year we put together 56 boxes and this year knew we wouldn't be able to do that much, so we set a goal of 30 boxes. We exceeded our goal and were able to do 35 because of the local businesses that donated hams." Community businesses and supporters who participated in this project were **Dr. Rudd**, who donated \$500 worth of hams, **Mittelstaedt Chiropractic** donated three hams, **The Critchfield Family**, **7 Cedars Casino**, and **Josh Wood Construction** all donated two hams each. Shout out and thank you to Stevens Middle School and Franklin Elementary for joining in creating the baskets for the families. Congrats to the DECA Team on your successful community service project and award. Thank you to everyone involved to help our neighbors in need!



Students Jason Gladfelter and Miles Wait delivering baskets to Dry Creek with principal Blore.

4th Annual Port Angeles Community Awards

Dan Cobb



Kasey Ulin



Congratulations to Hamilton Elementary School music teacher, Dan Cobb, for winning 2021 Educator of the year and finalist, Kasey Ulin, PAHS Basketball Coach! We are so lucky to have you in our District!

PA Students Have Heart

Shout out to Port Angeles High School's Leadership and NJROTC classes for their beach clean up on January 9th! Students from Mrs. Helpenstell's class picked up over 120lbs of marine debris for two hours around Hollywood Beach. The most unique find was an inflatable raft! Dr. Nancy Messmer and husband, Roy Messmer, with Ocean Conservancy, joined the efforts and helped with sorting the debris and collecting data. The NJROTC Crew was out on Ediz Hook for their beautification project. Way to go, environmental heroes!



Pictured above:
NJROTC Students getting the low down on how to safely handle and clean up beach refuse.



Pictured left:
Mrs. Helpenstell cleaning up marine debris.

Pictured right:
Leadership student, Ty Bradow and student videographer, Cole Acker



PA Students Have Soul

The Port Angeles High School has a new Band Director, Mr. Jarrett Hanson. Last semester, students in Mr. Hanson's Percussion Band class practiced the song "Punch List" two times a week. This song does not require your commonly found instruments in a band room. Rather, students have found ordinary, everyday objects to use as their percussion instruments. Percussion Band Class is unique in the sense that they do not need to use air to play their instruments and that allows them to hold class in-person with 10 students or less. Hanson shared that he purchased this song piece to be performed this year as something fun and different to perform. "We were able to find all the instruments we needed in the band room, student's homes, my garage, and music building basement." The class went down to the basement of the music building when they were still missing a metal trash can, plastic bucket, and plastic trash can and found them all. The students enjoy taking everyday items and making music with them.

The dynamic in this classroom is one of support and cohesiveness. It was clear that they really benefit from grooving together during in-person class time.

Click here to listen to their song, "Puch List"!

Pictured right with instruments:

- Junior, Will Rife – Metal Trash Can
- Sophomore, Will Roening – Ladder
- Freshman, Reid Schmidt – Shaker
- Junior, Everett Hunsaker – Broom
- Senior, Blake Parker - Plastic Bucket
- Senior, Jenna Gates - Plastic Trash Can



Stevens Middle School band teacher Hannah Reed was one of six recipients of Clallam County School Retirees' Association's Isabel Whitfield/Naddy Classroom Mini-Grants for the 2020-2021 school year. Ms. Reed applied for the grant and received \$5,000 to purchase a new marimba and mallets for her classroom. She is a new teacher to the District and already doing amazing things! Students in Reed's class helped put the marimba together, and it only took 10-15 minutes to build.

Congrats, Ms. Reed! We can't wait to hear the new marimba in action!





2021 National Wildlife Photo Contest!

Calling all Young Nature Photographers ages 13-17: Entrants **MUST** only enter the Youth category and **MUST** obtain verified parental or guardian consent as set forth before entering the NWPC.

The National Wildlife® Photo Contest, which began five decades ago, celebrates photography's power to advance conservation, and connects both photographers and viewers with wildlife and the outdoors. The most compelling nature images can help protect wildlife in profound ways.

To Register: [Click Here](#)
DEADLINE: March 28, 2021, at 11:59 pm

PAHS ROTARY INTERACT CLUB

DRIVE FOR THE HOMELESS

January 22nd- February 19th

- Q-Tips
- Band-Aids
- Baby Wipes
- Wash Cloths
- Hand Warmers
- Athlete's Foot Cream

Drop off locations: PAHS foyer, Lincoln Center foyer, Shore Aquatic Center



Port Angeles School District's Highly Capable Program

Identification Referral Deadline extended!
Forms can be submitted no later than Friday, February 26th.
Please share the news!

[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE!](#)

Upcoming Dates

February 11th - School Board Meeting

February 15th - No School, President's Day

February 16th - Parent/Student Tutoring Starts!
 Tuesdays at Roosevelt in the gym

February 17th - Parent/Student Tutoring Starts!
 Wednesdays at Jefferson in the library

February 18th - Parent/Student Tutoring Starts!
 Thursdays at Dry Creek in the library

February 25th - School Board Meeting

February 26th - Highly Capable Referral and parent permission deadline.

March 15th - No school, Snow Make-up day (unless we have a snow day between 2/8 - 3/15)

April 5th - 9th - No school, Spring Break.

News and Notes, our PASD Parent Newsletter, is emailed out each month during the school year to all staff and is archived on the District's website under Departments, then Communications. For further assistance, contact Carmen Geyer, Communications & Community Relations Coordinator, at cgeyer@portangelesschools.org.

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 98363, (360) 457-8575, sharker@portangelesschools.org, and for Section 504/ADA Coordinator, Pam Sanford, 905 W 9th St. Port Angeles, WA 98363, (360) 457-8575, psanford@portangelesschools.org.

