PORT ANGELES SCHOOL DISTRICT NEWS AND NOTES

Employee 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.

MARTY'S MINUTE

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A quick note to remind you all of the great work you are doing in our district. Our students benefit from being back in the classroom more than we will ever fully know. I hope you are all proud of the work you continue to do. I am proud of you!

Our local health department released an updated returnto-school <u>flow chart</u> for schools. Key changes:

- A person who tests positive and is symptom-free after day 5 may return to school/work.
- If it has been more than 6 months since a person received their booster or completed their Covid vaccine series, the contact tracing/quarantine has changed.
- For unvaccinated people or people more than 6 months past the completion of their vaccination series or booster, the quarantine for household exposure is reduced to 5 days.
- 'Test to Stay' is now 5 days, with twice-weekly testing.

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January is School Board Recognition Month! Board members volunteer their time to tend to board business, which helps Port Angeles School District students thrive and fulfill their potential.

Our entire community benefits from the countless hours board members dedicate to Port Angeles.

Please take a moment and say THANK YOU to a board member today!

COVID-19 BACK-TO-CLASSROOM THINK TOOLBOX: TEACHING WITH HEALTHCARE INFORMED NEUROLOGICAL STRATEGIES FOR KIDS

Teachers, school staff, parents, caregivers, and students may experience emotional responses during the COVID-19 pandemic. <u>This toolbox</u> provides behavioral health tips and resources for navigating some of those responses. The toolbox includes general information about common emotional responses of children, teens, and adults during disasters and how these may present in the classroom and other areas of school life.

Teachers and other school staff can use this resource to help with their own adjustment as well. Additionally, resources are provided for parents and caregivers to help their school-age children and teens deal with emotional responses to disasters and assist their return to in-person school. While we all are living through this global pandemic, many communities – particularly marginalized and communities of color – have been disproportionately affected by COVID-19. The Department of Health believes that health equity is a human right and that promoting and working towards health equity benefits everyone.



This event is brought to you in partnership with the following sponsors:

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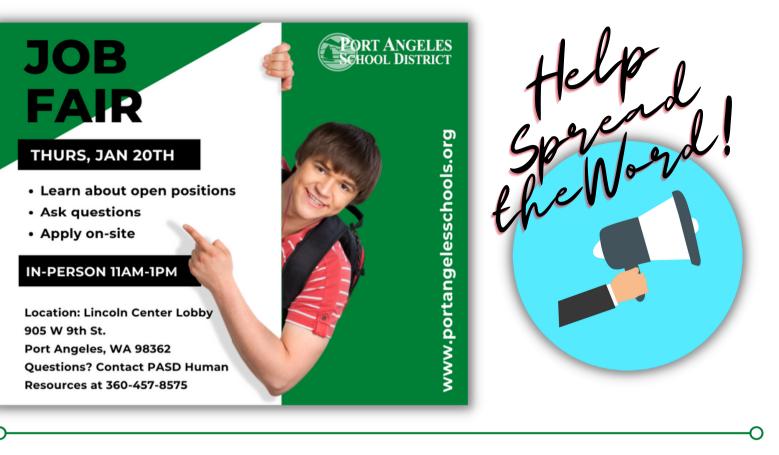


Check out this great exhibit at Port Angeles Fine Arts Center, featuring photography from Port Angeles High School Students!



PASD Employee Newsletter

January 14, 2022



PAEF GRANT CLASSROOM INCIDENTALS AND EQUIPMENT GRANT APPLICATION

Teachers! As a reminder, this grant is intended as a reimbursement for expenses not covered by other grants or means (you know...the stuff you "just pick up" for your classes). The maximum grant is \$250. The application deadline is January 28, 2022. <u>Click here to apply or learn more!</u>

The Port Angeles School District is Rolling Out Remind District-Wide!



The Port Angeles School District is rolling out Remind district-wide!

If you're not already familiar with Remind, it's a classroom communication tool that makes it easy to stay involved with your child's learning. Remind is free to use, and you'll be able to get and send messages on any device—even a simple text message from your phone!

As part of this rollout, official accounts will be created for all the educators, parents, and students at the Port Angeles School District. On Monday, January 17th, you'll receive an email or text message from Remind. All you need to do is follow the steps in the message to finish setting up your account. <u>Here is a</u> <u>video demo to see how Remind works.</u>

We look forward to connecting with families in a new and engaging way!

BATTLE BOOKS

Battle of the Books is a collaborative project for 4th graders, with North Olympic Library and schools from around Clallam County!

Fourth-grade students can sign-up to participate and receive a free copy of each book. From February through April, Library staff will hold book discussions for participating students.

All 4th-grade students in Clallam County, including homeschooled students, are welcome to join. To sign up, complete an application and return to any NOLS branch library or to your participating 4th-grade teacher. Applications are due Tuesday, February 1. Download the application <u>here</u> or pick one up from NOLS or your teacher.

Monthly book discussions will take place with 4th-grade students beginning in February. A monthly afterschool discussion group on Zoom will be open to all Battle of the Books participants.



Nominations are now open for teachers and employees of the year through OSPI. You can nominate any type of employee from paraeducators, bus drivers, school nurses, secretaries, IT/help desk, cafeteria staff, maintenance, and teachers. Nominations are open through March 1. <u>Click here to nominate today!</u>

WINTER SHUTTLE BUS TO HURRICANE RIDGE!

Olympic Hiking Co. is thrilled to partner with the Hurricane Ridge Winter Sports Club and Black Ball Transport to facilitate a commercial, four-wheel drive, winter shuttle bus to Hurricane Ridge! Thanks to these partners and support from the City of Port Angeles, we're able to offer this shuttle for only \$15 per person. For those without a National Parks pass, it is an additional \$15



for the Olympic National Park entrance fee the park collects (except youth under Age 15). A National Parks pass covers three other adult passengers. <u>Click here</u> to learn more!



CLICK THE LINK TO LEARN MORE!

Port Angeles School District's Highly Capable <u>Program</u>

> The referral window for the identification process is now open! The deadline to submit a referral is January 21st. Please share the news!

Annually, we put out extra effort to identify gifted learners, known as Highly Capable students. This program is for students who may have talents and needs beyond the scope of the general classroom environment. Parents and educators recognize that all children and students have unique skills and strive to meet their needs through various curriculum and learning activities within the general classroom. <u>Click here</u> to learn more.



JOIN THE CONVERSATION WITH OUR COUNTY'S HEALTHY YOUTH COALITION COORDINATORS!

Join the discussion about building healthy community connections to support youth and how this can decrease substance use.

The presentation is January 25, 4pm-6pm and topics will include:

- How community coalitions can help affect issues such as substance use disorder, mental health issues, violence, and more
- How do we all work together?
- Learn how you can be involved to build healthy youth and healthy communities

<u>Click here</u> to learn more or register to attend!

News and Notes, our PASD staff newsletter, is emailed out each week on Friday during the school year to all staff and is archived on the District's website under Departments, then Communications. Do you have a news item for the staff newsletter? Send an e-mail to Carmen Geyer, Communications & Community Relations Coordinator, at cgeyer@portangelesschools.org by the Wednesday before.

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.