

# PORT ANGELES SCHOOL DISTRICT NEWS AND NOTES

Employee Newsletter  
Martin Brewer, Superintendent



October 8, 2021

ḷkʷátəxʷ kʷa?  
ʔuʔstánəs!  
"Whatever it Takes"  
in Klallam

## 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

I want to express my gratitude to each and every one of you. There seems to be a collective heaviness right now. Our District and hundreds of Districts across our country are short-staffed and working at an incredible pace. I want to note that our school year's motto of "Whatever It Takes", that also applies to your well-being. I hope that you are all taking the time to invest in yourselves, in whatever way that is the healthiest for you. I appreciate ALL of you and your dedication to our students, your profession, and your well-being. Remember, this is just a chapter, not our whole story.

## Homecoming 2021

Thank you to everyone who came together to make Homecoming a success! The week started with traditional class competitions, including Buff Puff, Capture the Flag, Ultimate Frisbee, and an epic Lip Sync Battle at the outdoor assembly. On Friday night, the Port Angeles community celebrated their love for the Rough Riders with a Homecoming Parade that ended at Civic Field. The Rider football team took on Eastside Catholic and the PAHS band and cheerleaders performed for the crowd during halftime. Each class battled it out during the carriage races, and the crowd honored homecoming royalty. Congratulations to Queen Samantha Robbins and King Lance Menes.



The Homecoming dance was held on Saturday evening under the stars, complete with a massive bonfire and open-air tent donated by 7 Cedars. More than 400 Riders danced and sang the night away. It took nearly 100 community members, parents, staff members, and local businesses to make this happen for our students! Thank you to our fantastic community partners! All of this wouldn't have happened without the organization and care from PAHS Leadership Teacher Pam Helpenstell. We appreciate you, Pam!

## **Rethinking How We Celebrate American History—Indigenous Peoples' Day.** **Dennis W. Zotigh and Renee Gokey - From the Smithsonian Museums** **SMITHSONIAN VOICES**

Happy Indigenous Peoples' Day! On Monday 10/11, more states, cities, and communities than ever will observe Indigenous Peoples' Day in place of or in addition to Columbus Day. They're part of a larger movement to see a more complete and accurate history of the United States taught in our schools and public spaces. Given research showing that the majority of state and local curriculum standards end their study of Native American history before 1900, the importance of celebrating the survival and contemporary experience of Native peoples has never been clearer.

[Click here to read the full article.](#)

**KUDOS  
CORNER!**



**Kudos to Dan Helpenstell and the welding class for your help in creating the fire ring for the homecoming bonfire. Shout out to the PASD Maintenance Team for making the fire pit and helping with the setup and removal of the massive tent!**

## **"Coping with COVID" podcast and blog series**

*Did you know that a pandemic is a type of natural disaster?* Disasters have known impacts on our behavioral health. In this series of conversations, disaster psychologist Kira Mauseth, Ph.D. and psychiatrist Doug Dicharry, MD discuss how the COVID-19 pandemic impacts us – what we're feeling, why we're feeling it, and what we can do about it. Check out the **blog** and **podcast** series.





## **OCTOBER 11-15 IS NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH WEEK IT'S TIME TO GET WILD ABOUT SCHOOL LUNCH!**

The National School Lunch Program serves nearly 30 million children every school day. President John F. Kennedy created National School Lunch Week (NSLW) in 1962 to promote the importance of a healthy school lunch in a child's life and the impact it has inside and outside of the classroom. How are you going to celebrate?



**The Port Angeles Fine Arts Center will host the Celebration of Shadows Fall Festival, a family-friendly event, on Saturday, October 23rd.**

This first-time event will offer a shadow theater and pumpkin carving workshop followed by free evening festivities that include a pumpkin walk and contest through Webster's Woods, an interactive shadow puppet theater performance on the outdoor stage, warm drinks, and the opportunity for an evening visit to the gallery for the latest exhibition Chasing Shadows. [Click here](#) to learn more about this festive event.

## GETTING TO KNOW YOU

**This month's staff spotlight is Jessica Bruning - 6th Grade Math and Science Teacher at Jefferson.**

**Where are you from?**

I am originally from Houghton, MI. I have to say that I do miss the Fall colors, but not the Winters. I moved to Mount Vernon, Washington in 2007, when my oldest daughter was just 2 months old! I lived there until 2014 when I moved to Port Angeles. I can't imagine living in a more beautiful area.

**Where did you go to school?**

I went to school at Michigan Technological University, where I got a B.S. in Marketing. After being a stay-at-home mom for 7 years, I went back to school to get my teaching certificate from the City University of Seattle.

**Favorite thing about working at Jefferson?**

My favorite thing about working at Jefferson is the school community. I truly feel like everyone who works here would do anything to ensure that each staff member and student feels successful. I also enjoyed being both of my daughter's teachers!

**What was your first job?**

At the age of 14, my first job was as a janitor/office cleaner for a crisis center called Dialhelp. I learned a lot about suicide prevention and the proper way to clean a toilet.

**Do you have any pets?** I currently have two cats: Sir Honey and Jinx, and a co-owned dog named Sazi.

**Favorite foods?** I love anything that involves potatoes.

**What's your favorite family recipe?**

My favorite family recipe is a Finnish pancake called Pannukku.

**What is your favorite family vacation?**

My Favorite family vacation was our Christmas trip to Hawaii.

**What is your proudest accomplishment?**

Hopefully, it's being a positive role model for my daughters and students.

**What makes you laugh the most?**

The silly things my 6th-grade students say.

**What about hobbies?**

My hobby is collecting skills. Every year my daughters and I learn a new skill. We have learned to knit, wood burn, pottery, make jewelry, candles, and so on... This year we are learning to can jams and such.

**Do you like to travel?**

I love to travel! I have been to 19 US States and 3 Canadian Provinces & hope to continue traveling as much as possible.

**What's your favorite holiday?**

My favorite holiday is Halloween.







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 are being damaged by just being played. Jesse needed to do something to try and replace these buckets and so they reached out to the Home Depot of Sequim and asked if they would donate some buckets for our students. **They instantly donated 20 buckets.** Retail, they are \$5 per bucket, so they effectively donated \$100 bucks to Dry Creek music. How cool?!

Way to go Jesse, and thank you to the Home Depot in Sequim!







# CARVE FOR A CAUSE!

## PUMPKIN CARVING CONTEST TO BENEFIT UNITED WAY OF CLALLAM COUNTY

**\$15 PER ENTRY OR \$25 FOR TWO!**  
 \*ABOVE PRICES INCLUDES A SUNNY FARMS PUMPKIN AND CARVING KIT\*  
 PHOTO ENTRY ONLY: \$10 (EXCLUDES PUMPKIN & KIT)  
 DON'T FEEL LIKE CARVING? SPONSOR KIDS WHO MIGHT NOT OTHERWISE BE ABLE TO PARTICIPATE!

**AGE DIVISIONS:**  
 • PRE-K TO 5 YRS • 6-9 YRS • 10-12 YRS • 13-17 • 18+  
 ENTRIES IN EACH DIVISION WILL BE JUDGED ON DESIGN, DETAIL, CREATIVITY AND ORIGINALITY.

**PHOTOS MUST BE SUBMITTED BY OCT 26TH AT 5PM**  
**REGISTER ONLINE NOW AT:**  
**UNITEDWAYCLALLAM.ORG/CARVE**  
**ENTER IF YOU DARE!**

# PUMPKIN PICKUP

**REGISTER AT [WWW.UNITEDWAYCLALLAM.ORG/CARVE](http://WWW.UNITEDWAYCLALLAM.ORG/CARVE)  
AND COME PICKUP YOUR PUMPKINS & CARVING KITS!**

<b>SEQUIM</b>	<b>OR</b>	<b>PORT ANGELES</b>
<b>MONDAY, OCTOBER 11TH</b>		<b>TUESDAY, OCTOBER 12TH</b>
<b>4-6PM</b>		<b>4-6PM</b>
<b>@ THE SEQUIM YMCA</b>		<b>@ THE PORT ANGELES YMCA</b>

**PORT ANGELES SCHOOL DISTRICT BUILDING**  
**OCTOBER 13-25TH 10AM-4PM**

**\*IF NONE OF THESE TIMES WORK FOR YOU, PLEASE CONTACT US TO MAKE ARRANGEMENTS\*  
 CALL OR EMAIL US AT: (360) 457-3011 INFO@UNITEDWAYCLALLAM.ORG**

**THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS SPONSORS!!**







## October is National Retirement Security Month.

To celebrate, DRS has a weekly challenge for our 335,000 active members. The challenge? See how you can benefit from the available retirement planning tools. [Click here to learn more!](#)



## Don't Forget

No late start on  
Wednesday 10/27 for  
Parent/Teacher  
Conferences

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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:psanford@portangelesschools.org).

