

# PORT ANGELES SCHOOL DISTRICT NEWS AND NOTES

Employee Newsletter  
Martin Brewer, Superintendent



MAY 14, 2021

## 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

At times, I can't believe how fast this year has flown by. Each day we face struggles, but please know overall, we are doing things really well. Think about how creative and innovative we had to become for our kids this year. I am proud of us and I hope you are too. Enjoy the weekend and take care!

## Celebration of Life for Lisa Lisk

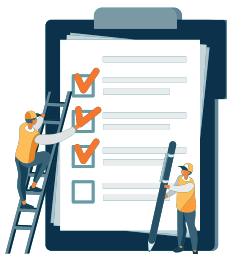
The Lisk family is hosting a celebration of life at the Elk's Club in the Ballroom, at 2:00 pm, Saturday, June 5th.

The ballroom will be set up so everyone can socially distance. Masks are required. Food will be supplied by the family and a group of Lisa's friends, called The G.A.P girls!

Please, no flowers. If you wish to make a donation to the Lisa Lisk Scholarship Fund, a collection basket will be available. Checks can be made out to Dry Creek PTO - Lisa Lisk Scholarship Fund.



# Your Opinion matters!



Help the District shape our return to school in the fall! Today is the last day for the staff, student and parent surveys!

**CLICK HERE**

**Make  
every day  
World No  
Tobacco Day.**

[www.who.int/tobacco](http://www.who.int/tobacco)



**31 MAY**

Living tobacco-free helps you breathe easier, feel better, and have more energy to do what you enjoy.

There are many reasons to quit tobacco. What's yours?

If you or a loved one struggles with tobacco use, don't give up on quitting. Every try counts. Most people try several times before they are able to quit for good. Quitting is easier when you have the support you can count on every step of the way.

[Click here](#) to learn about the programs that support you living tobacco-free.

## **Please say hello to Gunnar Thomason !**

Gunnar is Stevens Middle School's Engineering Teacher, but he is so much more than that. To students, Mr. Thomason's class is "their favorite!" and if you've had the chance to watch him in action, you can tell why. The energy Gunnar brings to the classroom helps build student's self-esteem, sense of curiosity, and drive to learn.

Gunnar is in his second year at Stevens. Before that, he was an elementary teacher for fourth to sixth graders at Franklin, Dry Creek, and Hamilton. Kathy Greer is Gunnar's wife, who also works at Stevens as a Math Teacher. When not at school, you can find Gunnar and Kathy taking care of their land. They have more than 10 acres filled with orchards, beehives, and two adorable Sealyham terrier dogs named Ivy and Wrigley. Can you tell Gunnar is a Cubs fan? In college, he watched the Cubs and Braves play baseball since it was the only sport to watch during daytime television. Kathy and Gunnar love to travel and have been to Wrigley Field four times now! They are looking forward to traveling again and have a few big cities on their bucket list, like New York and San Diego.

Gunnar was born in France and his family moved all over since his dad was in the military. He lived in Alaska before moving to Washington, to study at Eastern Washington University and then the University of Washington. He got into teaching because he wanted to help out our future generations. Gunnar is a futurist at heart and enjoys Sci-Fi. On average, he reads four books a month!

Teaching is Gunnar's passion. He shared a special moment from last year when covid shut down schools. After students left the building, their projects were unfinished and stopped in time. When he returned to the classroom to check on things, Gunnar said he felt the same emotions when walking into his father's shop after he had passed away. He truly missed students in the classroom, and this reassured him that teaching is his calling. Gunnar's favorite thing about teaching is getting to share a part of his childhood. As a kid, he enjoyed building models and doing hands-on activities. He loves to hear kids laugh and finds joy when they are happy.

Thank you, Gunnar, for always bringing the fun and believing in our students. We are lucky to have you on board! Go, Cubs, Go!

**Pictured Right: Gunnar and wife, Kathy Greer at Wrigley Field for Kathy's 50th Birthday!**





**KUDOS  
CORNER!**



**Pictured Above: Reba with  
Mother, Garnet Charles**

**Congratulations to Port Angeles High School Native American Interventionist, Ralena “Reba” Cornelson, for graduating with her Bachelor of Arts Degree in Business Management from Northwest University! Reba has invested nearly two decades of advocacy, love, support, and prayer for our Native American Students both within the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe and Port Angeles School District. She roots for their success to conquer the world and be vibrant leaders for Indian Country. Reba has supported my own success, as a relative, student, and now, as a team member/colleague. She continues to set the standard and we are proud of her!!**

**háʔnəŋ cn - Thank you, Jonathan J. Arakawa**

**Washington State Health Care Authority and Omada presents a webinar on  
Reducing Stress and Improving Sleep.**

Healthy is for everyone and Omada helps employees shift the way they view their health so they can change their health for good. Learn how chronic stress can impair your immune system and how reducing stress and improving sleep are just a couple of ways you can make long-lasting positive impacts on your overall health.

**In this webinar you will:**

- Learn the basics of what causes stress.
- Identify sleep-related issues and how to address them
- Learn simple, easy habits to manage daily stress and improve sleep with an Omada health coach.

**When and where**

Tuesday, May 25, 2021

4 to 4:50 p.m.

Online (Zoom)

**[Click here to sign up](#)**



**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).

