

# PORT ANGELES SCHOOL DISTRICT NEWS AND NOTES

FEBRUARY 5, 2021

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

Thank you to everyone for all of your hard work and sacrifices you have made to help get us to where we are today. You are the reason we were able to start bringing back secondary students this week with our 2.3 reopening phase. The work that you have done has enabled us to get this far and as a District, we are all pulling together for our students, parents, and community. Keep it up!

## The strategic return of secondary students begin!



PAHS sports has returned! As of Feb. 1st, boys and girls cross country, boys football, girls soccer, girls swim and dive, girls volleyball, and girls cheer have all started practicing.

Stevens Middle School, 7th grader Sylvanna Benzler is excited to start in person learning again!



## I.C.Y.M.I.:

In case you missed it, check out the article written by Seattle Times on our reopening process for elementary. This was an incredible article for our District! Click the image below to read the full article.  
Way to go PASD!!



SEATTLETIMES.COM

**As Port Angeles reopens its schools, students readjust to routine**  
A transition away from full-time remote learning doesn't mean a transition out of the pandemic. Just as they did online, educators are tailoring their approach to the toll the last year has had on students' mental health.



## **Everyone, please say hello to Rachel Picard!**

Rachel Picard is an excellent secretary at Dry Creek Elementary. She has worked there for over five years and was born in Portland but raised in Sequim. Rachel is married to her husband, Chris Ramsey, otherwise known as Tater, also a substitute custodian for the District. They have been married for a little over a year and have been together for 17 years. Rachel's dad was a teacher at Dry Creek until he passed away 17 years ago. Her mom still lives in PA with her step-dad.

Dry Creek is home to Rachel. She plans to work there until she is 99 years young and fully intends on being the old purple-haired secretary that came with the building. Rachel and Tater have four cats and a 50lb lap dog named Jelly Bean. Running is one of Rachel's most favorite things to do. She is a part of a local running club called the Super Sloth Ladies. They enjoy local running events like the Frosty Moss Relay and the Run the Peninsula race series. Rachel is attempting to get more serious about backpacking and eventually wants to hike the Hoh River Trail to Blue Glacier. Currently, Rachel is planning a backpacking trip in July up to Obstruction Point and Moose Lake. Nice!

Some fun facts about Rachel that you might not know is that she is a Veteran. Thank you for your service, Rachel! She has also created music featured in the Dance Dance Revolution music video game! She has been making music with her best friend Pete since high school and enjoys creating fast electronic music.



Team Presh – 2019 school photo  
Rachel and Susan. Dry Creek secretaries



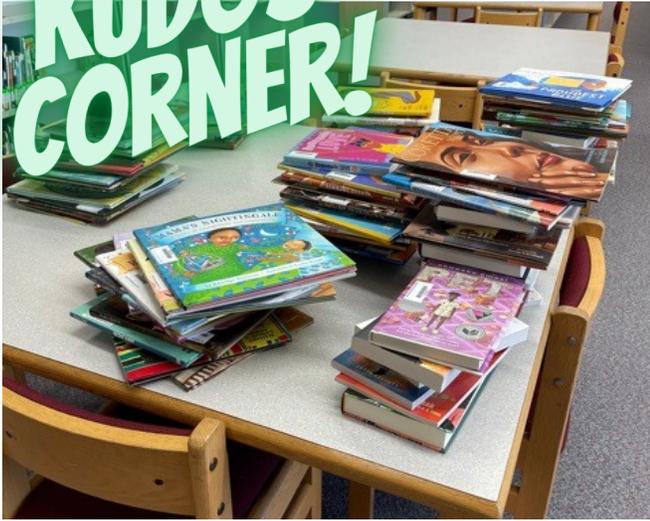
**The Super Sloth Ladies' Running Club:** (L-R)

Danica Hedin –PAHS Para, Mickey Branham – DC Teacher (retired),  
Carrie McCaleb – DC Teacher, Rachel Picard - DC Secretary.

Rachel wanted to share that, "Susan Warren is awesome, and we share the same brain." Susan is a fellow secretary at Dry Creek, and they like to tell children that they are twins. A couple of years ago, they accidentally went on spring break together in Vegas. The story is they planned the same vacation without knowing the other was going and found out a few days before their trip that they booked the same hotel!

If you ever get a chance to meet Rachel, you are in for a treat. She is hilarious, fun to be around, and extremely helpful. We are lucky to have you in our District, Rachel! Thank you for all you do!

# KUDOS CORNER!



Shout out to Dry Creek para and part-time librarian, **Kim O'Keefe** and 4th-grade teacher, **Lauren Galster** on their grant from PAEF for books! These books will help expand Dry Creek's collection of books around equity and diversity! Thank you Kim and Lauren!

## Vietnam Memorial Push-Up Challenge Update

To date, 26,019 push-ups have been completed and we need to complete 32,299 more push-ups by Memorial Day. This is a community effort and is easy to do during social distancing. Help Roughrider Company make it to the finish line. Send your weekly push-up totals and photos to Senior Chief Justin Beck, [jbeck@portangelesschools.org](mailto:jbeck@portangelesschools.org) by Monday of each week. Every push-up counts!

Maybe challenge a fellow co-worker or classroom to a push-up battle??



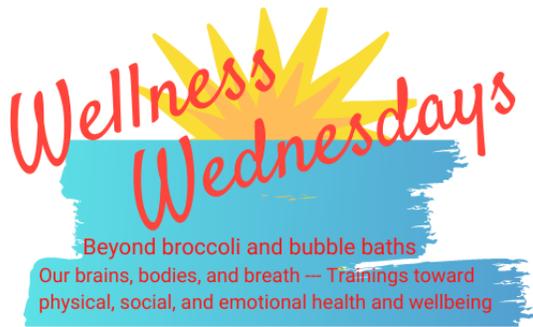
**"It's up to you to make life interesting."**

Jim Carrey



**Save the date!**

Our next Wellness Wednesday on Feb. 10th will be from 8:15-9am  
 Featuring: **Sleep and Rest** with Bonnie Schmidt, NEAR sciences presenter  
 We will be learning about how you can promote a better night of rest.  
 Becoming aware of your body's sleep signals and the impact of cortisol  
 of your sleep/wake cycle.



Please Join Our Zoom Meeting  
[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86056500980?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86056500980)  
 pwd=Qldoc0I4UWQzQnZpbStnYjVuOWJpQT09  
 Meeting ID: 860 5650 0980 Passcode: HOPE

**Stevens Middle School Staff are so excited to welcome back 7th graders this week!**



**Teachers spot 8th graders on the horizon!!**

**Left to Right: Josh Krzysiak, Brad Ahrndt and Rylee Horton**



**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.**

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