

voice and input. We are currently gathering perspectives from a variety of stakeholders on what is going well and what could be improved on. Once drafted, there will be additional opportunities for the larger community to weigh in on the strategic plan. Stay tuned for an electronic survey to be distributed to the broader community towards the end of December, early January. I'm confident that a renewed set of goals and priorities for the district will provide a clear path forward to maximize student performance.

In service and support,



Dr. John Polm, Superintendent

## Superintendent's Message

Puyallup School District prides itself on inspiring and educating each and every student to reach their full potential in partnership with our diverse communities. As the 8th largest district in Washington state serving more than 22,000 students, the district must also rise to the challenge of meeting the unique needs of each student. In order to focus the district's efforts and ensure positive student outcomes, PSD is beginning the process of drafting and implementing our next strategic plan. This plan will be a living document intended to guide the district's future academic and operational direction. To help guide the work over the next several months, insight from all stakeholders is key.

As part of the effort to gather insight and feedback, community engagement will be a strong component in this process. Engagement sessions will outline our strategic planning process, as well as allow for stakeholder



**Board of Directors**  
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PUYALLUP SCHOOL DISTRICT  
*A Tradition of Excellence*

Puyallup School District 3, P.O. Box 370, Puyallup, WA 98371

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(253) 841-8703  
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[www.puyallup.k12.wa.us](http://www.puyallup.k12.wa.us)

Upcoming Dates	
NOV 7	School Board Meeting
NOV 8	Election Day
NOV 10	2.5 Hr Early Release, All Grades
NOV 11	No School, Veterans Day
NOV 21	School Board Meeting
NOV 23-25	No School, Thanksgiving Break

*Every new academic year is a unique opportunity, representative of both possibility and progress.*

Community update from the Puyallup School District

This September, we joined with students and families throughout the community celebrating the first day of school. Nearly 3,700 staff members welcomed over 22,500 students in 34 schools districtwide. Our theme of **We Belong** continues as we work to ensure that students and families find a sense of belonging and purpose in schools and throughout the district.

The commemorative first day of school for students was also celebrated on social media with the hashtag **#PSDFirstDay2022**. For a first day of school photo slideshow of students and their families visit the district YouTube channel.

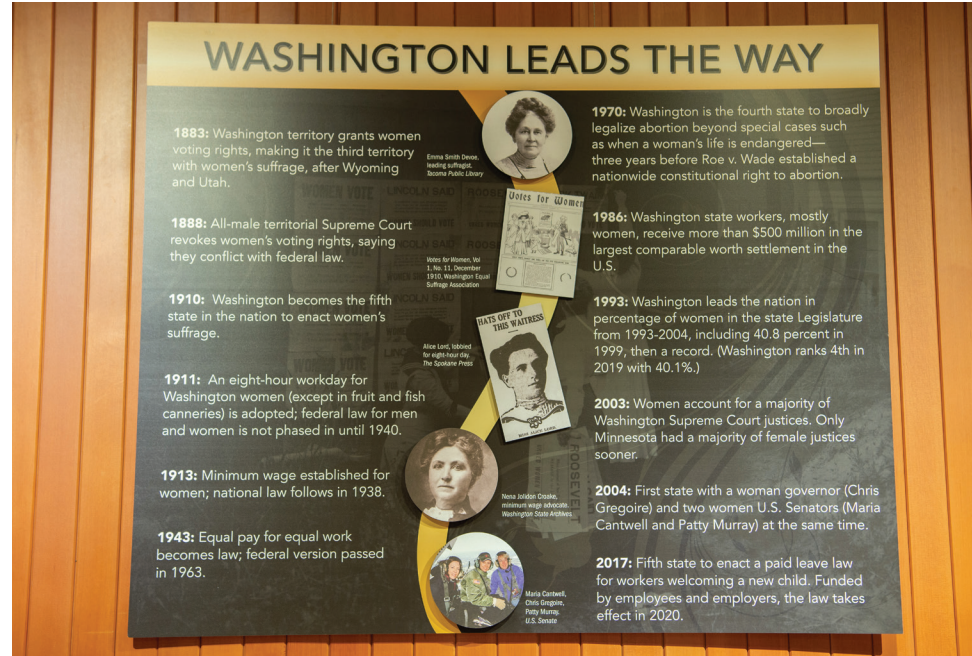


# Connections

Fall 2022

Community update from the Puyallup School District

## Get Ahead of the Curve at the Karshner Museum



The Karshner Museum and Center for Culture and Arts, 309 4th St. NE, will host the *Ahead of the Curve* exhibit, highlighting trailblazing women throughout Washington history through January 23, 2023.

Through January 23, the Karshner Museum and Center for Culture and Arts is hosting a special exhibit you won't want to miss.

**Ahead of the Curve** celebrates the 100th anniversary of American women gaining the right to vote by highlighting the pioneering spirit of some larger-than-life women and little-known stories with big impacts on Washington, the nation, and beyond. The exhibit is on loan to the Karshner Museum from the Washington Secretary of State's Office and Legacy Washington through January 23, 2023, at which time it will travel to other museums throughout the state.

In celebration of the exhibit, the Karshner Museum has also created a companion exhibit, **The World**

**of Women: Life and Work**, that highlights and celebrates the role women have played in our history throughout the decades.

You can view these exhibits and much more:

**KARSHNER MUSEUM, 309 4th Street NE**  
<https://karctr.puyallup.k12.wa.us>

**Hours:**  
Tuesday-Thursday: 1-4 p.m.  
First Tuesday of each month: 1-7 p.m.  
Third Saturday of each month: 12-5 p.m.



## Discover More!

### Native American Education Program

The PSD Native American Education Program is a program that serves students currently representing 626 Native American tribes, bands or groups. In addition to providing academic support and mentoring, this program provides Native American students and families with opportunities for cultural engagement and enrichment.

### PSD Recognized by EVERFI

EVERFI, an educational company that helps bring real-world digital learning to school districts, recently recognized PSD with its Empowered District Seal for exceptional classroom use of its platforms. It recognizes school districts that demonstrate an exemplary commitment to whole-child education through EVERFI's comprehensive, evidence-informed digital programs.

### Safe Walking and Biking Tips for Winter

With more students walking and biking to and from school, motorists are encouraged to drive safe, slow down in school zones, and be aware of walkers. Students should remember to wear bright-colored clothes to be seen, dress appropriately for weather, and bicycle check equipment for safety.



Link to this news and more by scanning the QR code to the left or visit us online at [www.puyallup.k12.wa.us](http://www.puyallup.k12.wa.us)

## Congrats Elizabeth Wesley Youth Merit Incentive Award Recipients

High schools throughout the district are celebrating the success of 49 Puyallup School District students who are this year's Elizabeth Wesley Youth Merit Incentive Award recipients. The students are among 116 Pierce County incentive award recipients who were recognized by the Tacoma Urban League.

This is the 27th year for the annual awards. The Elizabeth Wesley Youth Merit Incentive Award program began during the 1995-96 school year. It recognizes and honors African-American youth in grades nine through 11 for academic excellence, community involvement, and good citizenship.

The program is a community partnership between individuals, businesses, and organizations. It is named in honor of Elizabeth Wesley, a civic leader active in the founding of the Tacoma Urban League. The league awards each of the student winners with \$350. In addition, photos of award recipients will be on display at the South Hill Mall.

Students were recognized at the Award Ceremony on September 17th at Clover Park Technical College in Lakewood, Washington. In the past twelve years,



Recipients of Elizabeth Wesley Youth Merit Incentive Awards were celebrated at Clover Park Technical College on September 17.

Puyallup principals, assistant principals, and other district leadership have raised more than \$200,000 for youth merit awards. This year, more than \$10,000 was raised for the program.



READY! For Kindergarten Orientation Workshop



READY! For Kindergarten workshops are offered to families of children who will be attending kindergarten next school year and reside within Puyallup School District.

Do you have a child who will be registering for Kindergarten next year? Consider attending a **READY! For Kindergarten** workshop orientation on January 30, 2023. The workshop orientation will be held at the Karshner Museum from 5 – 6 p.m. (childcare provided), and is free for families who reside within school district boundaries.

**READY! For Kindergarten** workshops provide parents with the tools and skills to help their child

be successful in kindergarten. Upon attending orientation, families will receive a **READY!** kit with all the tools and instructions to complete three self-paced, virtual workshops.

The workshops will guide families through preparing children, both academically and socially, to be successful in kindergarten.

Rogers Alum and Miss Washington 2022 Inspires Students

Late last month, Rogers High School (RHS) 2017 Alum and Miss Washington 2022 Winner Regan Gallo returned to her alma mater, sharing her knowledge and wisdom on preparing for life after graduation.

As an RHS Student, Gallo participated in many extracurricular activities, such as theater, cheerleading, choir, and the Rambassadors, contributing to her opportunity to attend the University of Washington in Seattle, where she also graduated with a degree in law, societies, and justice (pre-law) in 2021. After being crowned as Miss Pierce County 2022 earlier this summer, she represented the south sound in the statewide Miss Washington competition, winning the contest and over \$22k in scholarships and earning the opportunity to compete at the Miss America Competition in December 2022 in Connecticut.

During Gallo’s visit to RHS, along with talking about the importance of volunteering, post-high school planning, and taking advantage of opportunities in high school, she shared with students how her time as a Ram prepared her for success.

“I feel so much gratitude coming back to RHS,” Gallo said. “This school gave me so many outlets to serve and explore who I wanted to be. Visiting music classes at Rogers gave me a chance to reflect on my time as a Rogers Ram and share how I became Miss Washington.”

Gallo says she hope she brought new enthusiasm and ideas to the classroom that students can take with them as they begin their new school year.

“I want to inspire students that they are capable of so much,” Gallo said. “Take advantage of this explorative time that high school offers and continue to be resilient.”

11th grade RHS Student Elisa, who heard Gallo speak in her band class, said she learned alot from her.



Regan Gallo was crowned as the 2022 Miss Washington on July 2, 2022 at Highline Performing Arts Center in Burien.

“She (Gallo) really inspired me to get up and go,” Elisa said. “She provided helpful tips and inspired me due to the causes she’s involved in. Overall, it was a great learning experience.”

Along with Elisa, 11th grade student Evan felt empowered after Gallo’s visit.

“It was very empowering and motivational,” Evan said. “She talked about how volunteer hours helps the community and looks good on resumes. It was an honor having her talk to us.”

Gallo hopes her stories instills students to take the

Puyallup Kiwanis Hosts New Teacher Luncheon

A tradition since 1944, the Kiwanis Club of Puyallup has hosted a New Teacher luncheon celebrating new certificated staff members for the upcoming school year. The new teacher Luncheon is held during professional learning week and this year was attended by nearly all 140 new teachers. Teachers receive lunch and sit at tables reserved by school name—all are introduced to each other and Kiwanis club members by principal teams. Members of Kiwanis were present to give new teachers a big thank you for their dedication to students.

For 78 years, Kiwanis Club of Puyallup has honored new teachers in this unique and warm way. The school district joins with Puyallup Kiwanis in celebrating those who help provide students with the best education possible.



Remember to Vote: PSD Capital Levy (Proposition 1)

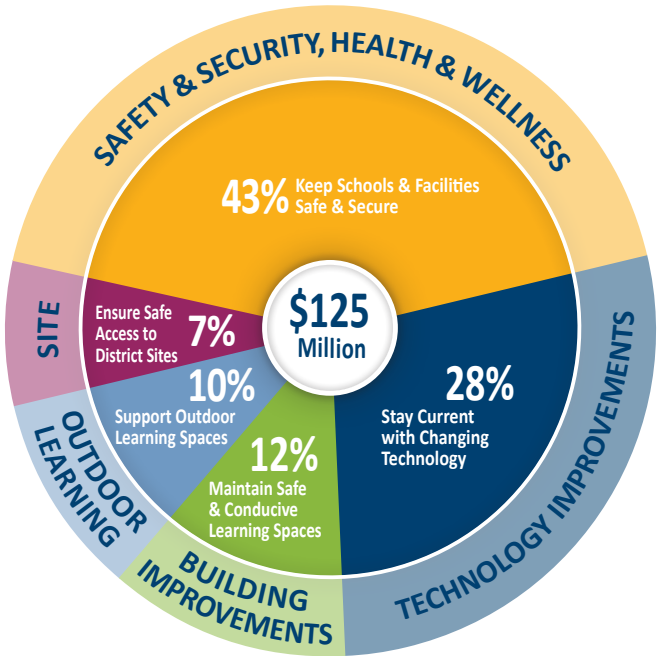
Have you voted on Puyallup School District’s capital levy (Proposition 1) on your November 8 general election ballot? Ballots must be postmarked or returned to a ballot drop location by 8:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 8.

- Proposition 1 would provide needed infrastructure improvements not funded by the state that address safety, security, and technology access throughout PSD schools and facilities. The levy of taxes over a six-year period would include:
- **Upgraded** security intrusion systems, cameras, alarms, and fire protection;
  - **Expanded** student and staff access to technology through infrastructure and equipment enhancements, internet access, device life cycle replacements, and network cabling upgrades;
  - **Improved** heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems and equipment, lighting, roofing, and flooring;
  - **Improved** parking and traffic flow at schools to ensure safe and efficient access; and
  - **Enhanced** outdoor learning spaces through playground, all-weather athletic tracks at junior high schools and field improvements.

A previous capital levy request was narrowly rejected by a majority of voters in the Feb. 8, 2022 special election. Since then, community feedback was gathered, and adjustments were made to the capital levy request voters will consider on November 8. The main difference between the previous and new capital levy request is that Proposition 1 will not include funds for constructing a central transportation facility or rebuilding the

current maintenance facility. The funds that would have been used for those facilities have been reallocated in the new capital levy request to fund additional safety, security, and technology improvements districtwide. For a full listing of upgrades and improvements planned at each school visit [www.puyallup.k12.wa.us/election](http://www.puyallup.k12.wa.us/election).

Register to vote at the Pierce County Elections website at <https://bit.ly/3Shv8dm>. Information about tax exemptions for seniors and people with disabilities can be found on the Pierce County Assessor’s website at <https://bit.ly/3BPaBWA>.



**How will this affect the overall tax rate?**

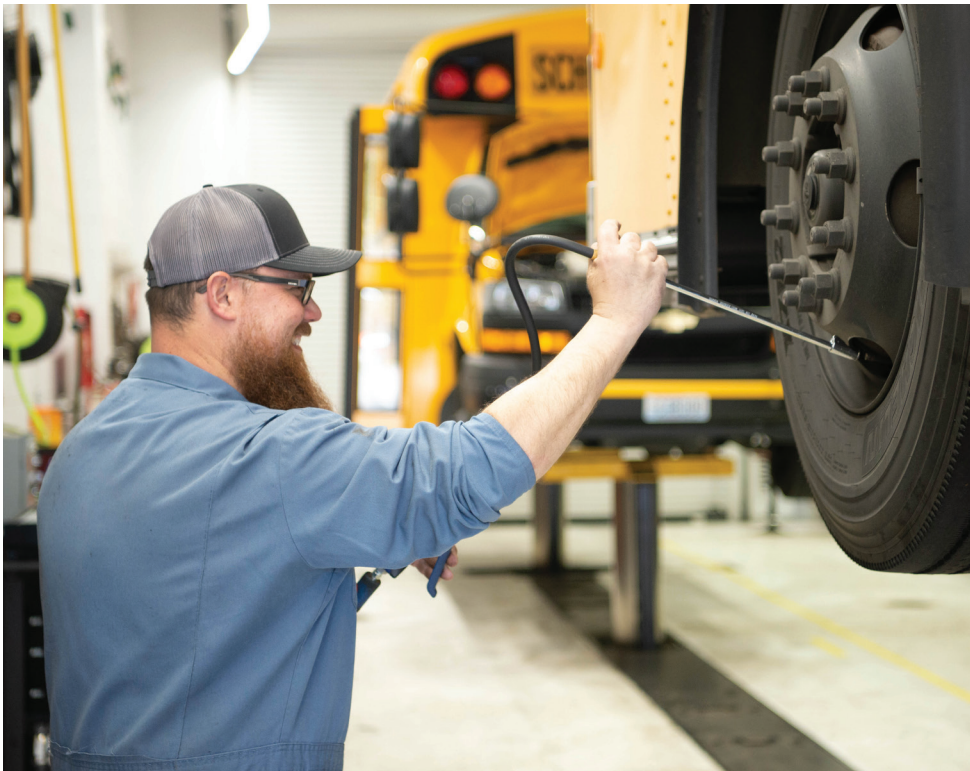
The proposed \$125 million capital levy would collect \$20.8 million each year over the course of six years to provide needed infrastructure improvements that address safety, security and technology access throughout PSD schools and facilities.

The total tax rate increase for a \$500,000 home if this levy were to pass would be approximately \$23 per month.

**What happens if the capital levy doesn't pass?**

Without capital levy funds, the district’s ability to address critically deficient learning spaces and buildings would be impacted. If the levy does not pass, we would need to look at other ways to address security and safety for students, and facilities identified in the study and survey as needing critical repairs, such as roofs and floors. Paying for repairs out of the general fund means less money going into classrooms.

PSD Recognized by Forbes Magazine as a Top Employer



Influential business magazine, Forbes, recently ranked Puyallup School District in its “Annual Best Employers by State” list.

PSD was the highest ranked school district on its list at #22 of all businesses in the state with at least 500 employees.

The list’s rankings were the result of anonymous surveys collected from over 70,000 Americans working for businesses and organizations with 500 or more employees. The respondents were asked to rate their employers on a variety of criteria, including work environments, competitiveness of compensation, and opportunities for advancement.

“Our ranking on this list is a direct reflection of our incredible employees and the culture of support and innovation they foster within our schools and district,” said Superintendent Dr. John Polm.

If you’re interested in learning more about working for the Puyallup School District and positions we’re currently hiring for, visit us at [www.puyallup.k12.wa.us/careers](http://www.puyallup.k12.wa.us/careers). Working for schools can be one of the most satisfying employment experiences a person can have. While there are many different positions available, there continues to be an urgent need for bus drivers, food service staff, paraeducators, and substitutes of all kinds. We need you. Apply today to become part of our team and support students in our community.



PSD staff members engage in incredible work each day to support the success of the more than 22,500 students who walk into our schools and facilities.