



**Puyallup School District
Board of Directors**

Kathy Yang, *President (Outgoing)*
Joseph Romero, *Vice President*
Michael Keaton, *Legislative Rep.*
Turan Kayaoglu, *Legislative Rep.*
Maddie Names, *WIAA Rep.*

Director reorganization will occur at
the Dec. 6 School Board meeting.

Superintendent's Message

How exciting to have students back in our school buildings! As we settle into the 2021-22 school year, we are focused on academic acceleration and social-emotional recovery for students. That focus is centered on belonging. How accepted and comfortable students feel at school so they can ask questions and share experiences has a direct impact on learning. A student’s ability to learn and feel comfortable in a classroom setting directly correlates to how safe they feel. They need to belong. As we move out of the pandemic, supporting this academic mindset is a key component in our recovery to accelerate learning.

Puyallup’s tradition of excellence has been—and always will be—centered on belonging. We all need to know we are seen and feel like a valued part of the school community. This year as we reimagine excellence, we will focus on re-establishing relationships, creating culture,


and making sure everyone learns in environments where they can ask questions and share experiences.

During my school visits I’ve already seen this in action and am proud of the progress we are making to reimagine our tradition of excellence.

I’m excited to see what we can accomplish together.

We’re glad you’re here. Welcome back!

In service and support,



Dr. John Polm, Superintendent



PUYALLUP SCHOOL DISTRICT

A Tradition of Excellence

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

NON PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
TEKS SERVICES
ECRWSS

Upcoming Dates

- DEC

17

2.5 Hour Early Release: All Grades
- DEC

JAN

203Winter Break: All Grades

A look ahead at 2022 . . .

- JAN

4

First School Day of 2022:
All Grades

For more information:
Puyallup School District Communications
(253) 841-8703
communications@puyallup.k12.wa.us
www.puyallup.k12.wa.us

POSTAL CUSTOMER

Puyallup 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: Civil Rights Compliance Coordinator, 504/ADA Coordinator and Title IX Coordinator Students: Char Krause, krauseca@puyallup.k12.wa.us, (253) 435-6295; Title IX Coordinator Staff: Amie Brandmire, brandmah@puyallup.k12.wa.us, (253) 841-8666.



Connections

Fall/Winter 2021

Community update from the Puyallup School District

School Board Director Retires

At the Nov. 15 School Board meeting, the district recognized retiring School Board President Kathy Yang for dedicated service to Puyallup School District students, staff, families, and community. Serving since 2013, Yang held the Board President position in 2018, 2020, and the 2021 calendar year.

A long-time resident of Puyallup, Yang spent every Tuesday morning at Karshner Elementary School volunteering as a reading tutor with second graders in the Good Samaritan Readers program. Through this program, volunteers meet with students once a week in a mentor role emphasizing that an adult connection is crucial for academic success.

Administration surprised Yang with a rose appreciation ceremony in which Superintendent Polm presented her with a dedication plaque. The district’s YouTube channel captures elements of that day, pictures of her service throughout the years, and heartfelt messages from School Board colleagues.



Congrats E. Wesley Youth Merit Incentive Award Recipients



Congratulations to PSD's 47 students who are this year's Elizabeth Wesley Youth Merit Incentive Award recipients. They are among 117 Pierce County students recognized by the Tacoma Urban League.

High schools throughout the district are celebrating the success of 47 Puyallup School District students who are this year's Elizabeth Wesley Youth Merit Incentive Award recipients. The students are among 117 Pierce County incentive award recipients who were recognized by the Tacoma Urban League.

This is the 26th year for the annual awards. Recipients received congratulatory letters from Congresswoman Marilyn Strickland, Tacoma Mayor Victoria Woodards, The Tacoma Urban League Board, and Puyallup School District Superintendent Dr. John Polm. 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.

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.

In the past eleven years, 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.



All E. Wesley Youth Merit Incentive Award recipients are featured on the Puyallup School District website. Scan the QR code to see more.

READY! for Kindergarten Workshops



READY! for Kindergarten workshop is free for families who reside within school district boundaries.

Do you have a child who will be registering for Kindergarten next fall? 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.

Register now to attend a live orientation session and complete three online workshops at your own pace. Upon completing the orientation, parents will receive a kit to help guide learning activities with children.

OPTION 1, January 2022:

Online Orientation: Jan. 20, 5 - 6 p.m.
Materials Pick-Up: Jan. 22

OPTION 2, March 2022:

Online Orientation: March 24, 5 - 6 p.m.
Materials Pick-Up: March 26

Discover More!

Levy Proposals for February

The Puyallup School Board has unanimously agreed to place a Replacement Educational Programs and Operations Levy and a Capital Levy on the Feb. 8, 2022, Special Election ballot. If approved by voters, the EP&O Levy would replace the current levy which expires in 2022. The four-year levy collection period would be 2023-2026. The Capital Levy would have a 6-year collection period over 2023-2028.

Belonging is Essential

This year, reimagining our 'tradition of excellence' is not just about academics, but social and emotional wellness for students. Our learning environments need to be safe, inclusive places where everyone feels welcomed so learning can excel. This academic mindset is a key component on our path to recovery.

Winter Safety: Walking, Biking

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 pedestrians.

Join Our Team

Working for schools can be a very satisfying employment experience. There are many positions available, but there continues to be an urgent need for bus drivers, paraeducators, and substitutes of all kinds. Apply online today!



Link to this news and more by scanning the QR code to the left or visit us online at www.puyallup.k12.wa.us

Capital Projects Update

On Sept. 10 we celebrated the completion and full opening of two construction projects with onsite Ribbon Cutting ceremonies:

- Karshner Elementary Restoration Project
- Ballou Junior High Renovation/Expansion State match project from the 2015 Capital Projects Bond

Many teams came together to ensure these projects were completed on time and on budget. Sincere gratitude to staff, students and families for patience and resilience throughout the projects.

Watch the full ceremonies online via PSD's YouTube channel.