

VISIONS



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Fall 2011

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Strategic Plan = Change for Port Angeles Schools Time for Your Feedback!

It was just over one year ago when 22 members of the Port Angeles School District Strategic Planning Steering Committee convened in a day-long meeting to develop 2011-15 Strategic Plan goals for recommendation to the School Board of Directors. Over 100 participants in a December 3 and 4 Strategic Planning Forum later strengthened the approved goals with what they called "preferred future statements." Now, these goals — centering on Organizational Culture, Student Achievement, Resources, Adaptability and Community — serve to chart a course for continued growth, success, and increased community support and involvement in its Port Angeles schools.

After the five-year Strategic Plan was adopted in March 2011, the restructuring of elementary schools within the School District became a top priority due to declining enrollment and the expense trends of housing five elementary schools.

With this challenge in mind, the Elementary Reorganization Task Force was formed in September and tasked with the goal "to determine the sustainability of the current resources allocated across the elementary system and research the most effective, efficient organizational structure over the next five years for Port Angeles School District elementary schools."

After a thorough research of School District boundary areas, transitions and student academic achievement, neighborhood schools, and schools that are grade cluster specific, the Task Force — comprised of principals, staff, parents and community members representing all five elementary schools — is now asking for the public's input prior to its final recommendation to the School Board of Directors.

The three proposed plans, plus support information, are posted to the School District website at www.portangelesschools.org/parents/reorganization-task-force.html. Simply stated, the three plans are as follows:

Plan 1:

- Close Franklin Elementary
- Operate two Kindergarten-2nd schools (Jefferson, Hamilton)
- Operate two 3rd-6th schools (Roosevelt, Dry Creek)
- All District programs will be housed at one of these schools (MAC/Multi-Aged Community, Special Needs, Early Learning). **Note:** Every school will have special education classrooms under each of the plans.

Plan 2:

- Close Franklin Elementary
- Operate four Kindergarten-6th schools
- All District programs will be housed at one of these schools (MAC/Multi-Aged Community, Special Needs, Early Learning). **Note:** Every school will have special education classrooms under each of the plans.

Plan 3:

- Keep Roosevelt Elementary as a Kindergarten-6th
- Operate two Kindergarten-2nd schools (Jefferson, Hamilton) with MAC/Multi-Aged Community 1st-2nd grades housed at Jefferson
- Operate two 3rd-6th schools (Franklin, Dry Creek) with MAC/Multi-Aged Community 3rd-5th grades housed at Franklin

Community members are encouraged to study the proposed plans, read the research and information the Task Force has reviewed now posted to the School District website - www.portangelesschools.org/parents/reorganization-task-force.html.

There are several avenues to provide feedback:

- Online at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/ASDElementaryReorganization>.
- By email to info@portangelesschools.org.
- By U.S. Mail to: Port Angeles School District, Attention: Elementary Reorganization Task Force, 216 East 4th Street, Port Angeles, WA 98362.

The Task Force will make its recommendation for elementary reorganization at the December 12 regular School Board meeting to be held at 7:00 p.m. at the Central Services Building, 216 East Fourth Street, at which time the Board of Directors will make its decision.



NOTES From the Superintendent

The 2011-12 school year is well underway, and School District staff members and the Board of Directors are already preparing for and looking to the future. Our budget is, once again, about to take center stage for our planning focus. With Governor Chris Gregoire's recent "cuts" announcement and our School District's continuing decreasing enrollment, we are planning for how these developments will impact the current and future financial picture of our schools.

We've made great progress focusing in several areas of the 2011-15 Strategic Plan – High School staff are connecting students to an activity or club to meet a 100% participation goal in extracurricular activities; our communications staff is focusing on partnerships and new avenues of communications; the Elementary Reorganization Task Force began its work in late September to help guide our schools through the next five years.

The Elementary Reorganization Task Force (see adjoining article) has convened since late September and is slated to announce its recommendation to the Board of Directors on December 12.

Now we are asking the Port Angeles community, our staff, students, families for feedback on the Task Forces' proposed plans prior to the Board's decision. We encourage you to weigh in with comments and suggestions by November 28, 2011.

Visit the School District website at www.portangelesschools.org/parents/reorganization-task-force.html to review Task Force information. Send your feedback by email, U.S. mail or use the online option, noted in the article at left.

Thank you for your support of our staff, students and families! We'll continue to remain fiscally responsible, and at the same time give our students the best possible education within provided local, state and federal resources!

— Dr. Jane Pryne, Superintendent

Hear More About Strategic Plan Progress!

Join School District administrators and the Board of Directors on Monday, November 28 at 6:00 p.m. at Hamilton Elementary in the school's library, 1822 West Seventh Street, for an hour presentation and discussion on 2011-15 Strategic Plan progress prior to the regular 7:00 p.m. School Board meeting. The Plan is posted on the School District website at www.portangelesschools.org/parents/improving-our-schools.html.



ADVOCACY • ACHIEVEMENT • ACCOUNTABILITY

Tracking Student Success:

Karen Hall

PAHS Class of 2005



One thing I realize more and more is how blessed I was to have a music program in my school. I had tremendous opportunities at Port Angeles High School as well as with the Port Angeles Symphony Orchestra, The Port Angeles Community Players, The Ballet Workshop, and many other artistic activities to grow as a musician and performer and to expose and prepare for bigger things.

I will always remember Mrs. Betty Hanson. She was my music teacher when I first began playing the cello at Franklin Elementary School. I have conducted children's orchestras and teach beginning cello lessons and it is not easy at all. I admire her patience and dedication to music and to education.

Music is really where I made my friends and opportunities. I have been working as a musician since my first paid gig in 8th grade and am proud to be able to say I have performed at Carnegie Hall and placed in State Competitions.

Last fall I quit my part time job to pursue music full time and it has been an incredible journey. I teach at South Pasadena Strings Program a few days out of the week. I have had the opportunity this year to travel to Chicago and record for a friend with audio engineer Mark Greenberg. I've also been on set for a Mark Anthony music video as well as several episodes of the TV show *Glee* playing cello in the background, so look for me this season! I play for different churches, musical theater pit orchestras, and wedding bands and have some more screen work coming up this fall.

I attended Azusa Pacific University and graduated in 2009 with a B.A. in Music Performance. While there, I had the opportunity to travel abroad on several tours to Canada, Korea and Brazil, as well as U.S. West Coast and Southwest tours.

I am, of course, eager to see what is coming next with music work. Eventually, I'd like to record in the studios as a session player so everything is a small step to that.

Students Travel Locally to Learn Outdoors

Canoeing on Lake Crescent on a windy day...hiking to Marymere Falls...staying in bunkhouses overnight...These are only a few memories for Jefferson and Roosevelt Elementary sixth grade students who traveled to Olympic Park Institute (OPI) campus this fall.

"Our hope for students when they participate in a program is that they will have a positive experience in the outdoors which eventually leads to respect and care for the natural world," OPI/NatureBridge Education Manager Shannon Walz explained. "We explore Olympic National Park through a scientific lens to uncover the curiosities this amazing place holds. As students learn about banana slugs and water quality of Barnes Creek, they have a chance to be a scientist and develop critical thinking skills that are useful in all aspects of their lives."

"The programming we offer is based in inquiry science," Walz said. "We meet many of the inquiry standards as well as standards in the earth and space science, physical science and life science."

OPI works with a number of local schools including Roosevelt, Jefferson, Queen of Angeles, Stevens Middle School, and schools from Joyce and Forks. About 80% of program participants are from Washington State - 70% of this amount is from the greater Seattle Area. Schools have come to OPI from Texas, New York City, California and Oregon.

"I find that no matter where the students are from they can't help but to be amazed by this place," Walz said. "The blue waters of Lake Crescent, the giant size of the trees, the sight of a leaf under a microscope, all capture kids' imagination."



Jefferson students learn how to paddle on Lake Crescent during their Olympic Park Institute outdoor education experience.

"The trip brought many wonderful memories and lessons to our kids," Jefferson teacher Leah Bauman added. "So many had their worlds opened up and now have a new appreciation for the environment and what is in their own backyard. I watched kids overcome fears and try new things. Students who don't always experience success in a classroom setting had a chance to shine in the experiential education setting."

"With the help of a grant from OPI and fundraising from our spectacular Jefferson PTO, we were able to get the cost down to very affordable for families," explained Baumann. Scholarships were provided for Roosevelt and Jefferson students who couldn't afford the trip.

Visit www.naturebridge.org/olympic-park for more information about available educational programs.

Advocate Supports Red Ribbon Effort

Josie Mehew, educational advocate from Olympic Education Service District 114 who's based at Stevens Middle School (SMS), was a speaker at the school's annual Red Ribbon bonfire and assembly in October. She spoke of the 2010 Communities that Care Youth Survey and emphasized most students don't use tobacco, alcohol or other drugs.

"The truth is the majority of students make very healthy decisions. 88% of eighth graders at Stevens don't smoke cigarettes, 72% don't drink and 89% don't use marijuana," Mehew said. "Surprised? That's because, unfortunately, our media and pop culture trick us into believing the opposite."

"Our middle school students are motivated to be successful in their education and many aspire to go on to higher education, she added. "They are community

mindful in that they have food drives and other fundraisers to support local agencies as well as their own school."

Mehew's position calls for her to provide intense case-management and support services to SMS at-risk middle school youth. She also works with PAHS, Lincoln and Sequim students referred through the Clallam County Juvenile Detention Center.

"Each youth I work with is unique," Mehew said. "I work with students on an individual basis, but I've worked with small groups of students in a drug and alcohol education group and tutoring groups."

SMS Principal Chuck Lisk reported over 600 people attended the October bonfire to make a commitment to be drug and alcohol free. "SMS music groups played; students shared stories; and everyone tossed a stick into the fire to signify their commitment to be drug free," Lisk said.



SMS eighth graders Mary Kheriaty, Scott Methner and Emma Smith were among the organizers for the Red Ribbon week.

When asked why the event was so important to students, Kheriaty said, "Drugs and alcohol destroy a lot of families in small towns like ours. It's important if only a few pledge — every little bit helps!" Methner added, "We're trying to get a lower percentage of kids doing drugs and alcohol..." Smith thought that the assembly was really important: "It's nice to show kids that they can get help if they're in that kind of situation."

Students Row to London By Way of Colleges

Krista Winn, former college crew participant and now physical education teacher at Hamilton and Jefferson Elementary Schools, joined with Olympic Peninsula Rowing Association's John Halberg to bring the "Row to London" theme to schools as a way to motivate students to lead healthy and active lifestyles. And students are learning about colleges and universities along the way – as they look forward to the 2012 Summer Olympics In London!

"This is our fourth year having ergs (indoor rowing machines) in the schools," said Winn. "The students absolutely love using the rowing machines and are motivated to set personal records." Each Port Angeles School District elementary school has three ergs on loan from the YMCA/OPRA.

Winn has contacted college crew teams along the route - Washington State University, Gonzaga University, University of Minnesota, University of Iowa, Northwestern University, Purdue, Hamilton College, Penn State, University of Maryland, MIT, Navy Academy, Harvard, Columbia University, University of North Carolina, and Oxford — all have sent greetings to her students and some, souvenirs — to inspire students to "row to London." "MIT has requested we set up a teleconference so that crew members can talk with my students or possibly even race them online," Winn added. "There are so many ideas being shared!"

Winn has received baseball caps from Columbia University and t-shirts from Purdue. Others have sent posters, calendars, postcards and window decals. "My favorite stickers came from Hamilton College," she reported. "The coach sent me Hamilton Crew window decals! Perfect to use at Hamilton! As we row to each college on our way



Marissa Lofgren and Torie Davidson, fourth grade Hamilton students, "Row to London" during physical education class.

to London, I will hold a drawing for students to win the prizes from that appropriate school."

Students and staff already track their meters as part of a rowing incentive program created over a year ago. "The computer on the erg keeps track of the meters rowed," Winn explained. "At the end of the day I check the memory and record the total. These totals, plus other individual rowing opportunities, are added together. Our progress is charted on a large map at each school."

At press time participants were rowing across the Palouse. "This spring we hope to cross the Atlantic Ocean and partner with the crew team from UPS," Winn said. "Depending on how 'on track' we are with our meters (we need over 10,000,000!), we might find ourselves catching currents that will help carry us to London a bit faster!"

Volunteers Pack Friday Food Bags

It's early Friday morning and Jerry Dean's team of volunteers is ready to begin packing up to 500 Friday Food Bags for Port Angeles School District elementary students. Food Bank Director Josie Gilbeck has completed the shopping, set the menu, and "all hands are on deck" in the second year of this cooperative partnership with Port Angeles School District.

Dean and volunteers, mostly from faith-based organizations, have worked closely with Gilbeck and School District principals to distribute food to students who may need an extra "hand up" over the weekends since the beginning of the program.

The idea to provide an extra meal over the weekend, one that is nutritious, easy-to-prepare and non-perishable, has grown to meet the needs of students and families. Gilbeck oversees the program from her Food Bank chair with input from volunteers and school principals.

The program has grown from last year's highest count of 175 to present numbers and the need continues to increase. Student participants apply to the Food Bank program through their school.

School District Food Services Director Kathy Crowley announced recently the Friday Food Bag program is a multi-year recipient of a grant from Sodexo's Backpack Food Program. The program will receive \$4,500 paid over three years (\$2,000 in year one,

\$1,500 in year two and \$1,000 in year three) to support the existing program.

Gilbeck has also received donations from local service organizations, a Haller grant, and is thankful for her many local suppliers.

Community members wishing to donate to the program should call Gilbeck at the Port Angeles Food Bank – 360.452.8568.

Franklin Elementary Principal Amity Butler, Jerry Dean and Johnny Westerholm look on as Sodexo Food Services Director Kathy Crowley presents the check to Port Angeles Food Bank Director Josie Gilbeck.



Summer Start for Kindergarten Readiness

This past July twenty young students received a jump start to kindergarten through their attendance at Adventure Camp, a month-long, two hours a day program held at Jefferson Elementary designed to help children prepare for school.

A shy boy gained confidence and became one of the leaders in his class. . . . A student who had never been on a playground gained confidence to do so. . . . Another had difficulty interacting with others – and ran happily with others at the end of camp.

Sponsored by the Readiness to Learn Program through First Step Family Support Center, a United Way of Clallam County agency, the curriculum was created with the help of classroom teachers across the Port Angeles School District.

Teacher Aurora Edwards and assistant Erin Clawson focused on activities involving colors, shapes, letter sounds, and numbers, all while engaging the young students in play and art projects, and allowing for individual choice time.

The camp day was structured much like a kindergarten classroom with typical skills taught and practiced – listening, following directions, self-control, along with basic academic knowledge.

"The most remarkable advance I noticed in the children," said Edwards, "was their ability to learn and follow a set routine. For instance, the arrival/morning work routine consisted of multiple steps, ending with quiet book time at their desks. By the end of the program most of the children were independently following the routine - this was a huge accomplishment for some of them. The children also built up their stamina in tasks like cutting, writing or sitting during story time."

Referrals for camp attendance came from several different sources - kindergarten screeners, parents, Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe, Peninsula Mental Health, as well First Step staff.

Funded through a collaboration of supporters - Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction funded \$2,685.82 to cover the costs of hiring a teacher and assistant; the Port Angeles Education Foundation funded \$740 to cover supply costs; First Step donated 80 books as part of the supply kits for each student, as well as administrative and overhead costs; and the Port Angeles School District donated the use of classroom space. First Step Director Nita Lynn is hopeful the program can continue next summer. Call Lynn at 360.457.8355 for additional information.

KONP Recognizes Local Teachers

Port Angeles, Sequim and Crescent School Districts, Queen of Angels and Olympic Christian Schools

KONP Radio has announced the return of its Teacher of the Month recognition program for the 2011-12 school year.

Let's honor our teachers! Send KONP Radio your recommendation for Teacher of the Month. You can name someone who is teaching in our local schools right now - your teacher, your child's teacher or a teacher you've admired at your school! KONP Radio will honor teachers each month during the 2011-12 school year.

"It is rewarding to have the chance to see teachers in our community who are making a difference," Todd Ortloff, KONP Radio station manager said. "Traveling to schools in the area to award these hard-working professionals is always an honor, especially seeing just how impactful their work is in the eyes of their students and students' families."

Entries are accepted through the month of November. Send us your nominee's name, the school he or she teaches at, what grade or subject taught. Tell us in 100 words or less (we know this will be difficult!) why this teacher should be honored as Teacher of the Month. Include your name and phone number.

Mail your entry to:
KONP Teacher of the Month

721 E. 1st St. / Port Angeles, WA 98362
Or you may drop off entries during business hours from 8:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

There are many teachers we can honor, so let's get started! Visit the Port Angeles School District website - www.portangelesschools.org - for a 2011-2012 nomination form, or just provide the requested information for your nomination.

Todd Ortloff with January 2011 Teacher of the Month Lambert Grimes and student Ella Holland.



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PORT ANGELES SCHOOL DISTRICT Vision

All Port Angeles School District students will reach high standards and graduate prepared with knowledge, skills, and abilities to choose a successful future.

Mission

The Port Angeles School District creates and sustains learning communities that prepare each student to live, work, and learn successfully in a changing world.

NONDISCRIMINATION POLICY: The Port Angeles School District complies with all federal and state rules and regulations and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex or handicap. This holds true for all students who are interested in participating in educational programs and/or extracurricular school activities. Inquiries regarding compliance and/or grievance procedures may be directed to Michelle Reid, Title IX/RCW 28A.640 Compliance Officer, and/or Patti Dunlap, Section 504 Coordinator, 360.457.8575, 216 E. Fourth St., Port Angeles, WA 98362-3023.

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ELIST News

Receive School District news by email. Send your email address to info@portangelesschools.org or sign up online at: www.portangelesschools.org.



Tracking Student Success:

Conor Haggarty PAHS, Class of 2003

As I met other people my freshman year at the University of Washington and exchanged stories about high school and hometowns, I began to realize how fortunate I was to have grown up with the Olympic Mountains, the Strait of Juan de Fuca, as well as a very diverse set of professional and blue collar workers within my community. This understanding of the natural world, its importance for a small local economy, and the diverse set of players that make that economy turn made me feel well rounded and fortunate.

It was this respect and interest for the natural world that inspired my studies and ultimately my profession.

I studied Community Environment and Planning in the College of the Built Environment (formerly College of Architecture) to learn about how to design growth and make responsible long lasting decisions for communities. I found myself learning about forestland conversion and its effects on our waterways and rural communities.

Now as an arborist I have the opportunity to help landowners make educated decisions about their trees and forests. My profession leverages the skills I learned in college and the respect for the land and community that I gained from growing up in the town of Port Angeles. I also feel a sense of responsibility to the Port Angeles community - to make educated decisions and use thorough planning - in order to shape the natural landscape in a way that it will continue to be a benefit.

I own and operate Sitkum Tree Service LLC. Serving the Greater Seattle Area and the North Olympic Peninsula, I offer clients professional services that include single tree evaluation, consultation, pruning, removal, and timber stand management. *To learn more about Conor Haggarty and his vision, visit www.sitkumtree.com and Tracking Student Success on the School District website - www.portangelesschools.org.*

ANNUAL NOTIFICATION

To help keep parents and community informed of any application of pesticides, and in compliance with RCW.17.21.410, this annual notification is provided.

The Port Angeles School District applies pesticides as needed throughout the year. Pesticides are only utilized when it is determined that there is no alternative treatment that will be successful. As much as possible, the district relies on an environmentally sensitive, common sense approach to pest control that focuses on custodial practices, landscaping, and other preventive measures. The district approach to pest control is devoted to removing the root causes of landscape and structural pest

infestations and only calls for the use of pesticides as a last resort.

The District will continue to make every effort to minimize the use of pesticides in schools. When pesticide use does become necessary, every effort will be made to schedule applications so they do not take place while students or staff members are present. For information regarding the use of pesticides in the school district, please contact the Maintenance Department at 360.457.0949 (RCW 28A.320.1651; RCW 17.21.415[2]). Visit 2011 -12 Public Notices at www.portangelesschools.org for additional Pesticide Notification Information.



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