

SCHOOL NOTES

MARCH 2008

PORT ANGELES SCHOOL DISTRICT SCHOOL NEWS & EVENTS IN OUR COMMUNITY

SCHOOL DISTRICT UPDATES

Directors Vote to Place Tech Levy on Ballot

At its regular meeting on February 11, 2008, the Port Angeles School District board of directors voted unanimously to place a technology levy on the May 20, 2008 ballot.

The district last ran a technology levy in February 2005. The levy earned almost 52% in support from the community, but it failed to gain the necessary supermajority to win the victory. Three years later, the need for instructional technology steadily has increased as has the role of technology in the workplace and in our everyday lives.

The technology levy is a type of "capital levy" available to school districts under Washington law. Capital levies may be used for significant facilities renovations and repairs, and to purchase capital equipment. Some training may be funded if it is directly related to the equipment purchases and installation. Capital levies, like maintenance and operations (M&O) levies, now may be approved in Washington by a simple majority of voters (50% +1).

How will technology levy dollars be used?

The largest portion of levy dollars will be used to create a regular cycle of replacement of computers in schools, beginning with the oldest machines. Thirty-three percent of the computers will be replaced each year for the first three years of the levy. Smaller portions of levy dollars will be used to repair and replace the network infrastructure that connects computers and provides security when students access the Internet; provide training for teachers and staff to ensure effective use of technology; and fund technology needs for math and science, art and music, career and technical education, and libraries.

What's in it for me?

For the **citizens** of Port Angeles, supporting a technology levy represents an investment in the improvement of the community. The economic health of Port Angeles is tied to the quality of the schools. Today's students are preparing for success in a world where technology skills are a basic expectation for every job.

Local **business leaders** expect Port Angeles' schools to prepare graduates with the technology skills and problem-solving ability to be productive employees and citizens. Research on the effective use of technology in



Owen Nevaril, Dallas Olea and Ellie Chittick work together during an enrichment session at Jefferson Elementary.

the classroom indicates that, in addition to developing technology skills, students develop higher-level thinking and collaborative teamwork skills when they have access to technology in school.

For **parents**, a successful technology levy will ensure that all students at all levels and abilities have access to the tools and instruction they need to be successful in an increasingly technology dependant world. Levy funds further ensure parents have continued access to on-line access to teachers and information about student performance through e-mail, school websites, and the new Family Access interface.

How much will it cost me as a taxpayer?

In 2009 the cost to the owner of a home of average value in the Port Angeles School District is projected to be just under \$100 per year. That is based on a tax rate of \$.46 per one thousand dollars of assessed value. The 2009 projected median home value of \$215,222 is based on calculations of the average rate of change in total assessed value in the Port Angeles School District over fourteen years.

Levy questions, comments and suggestions may be sent via email to: levy@portangelesschools.org, or by U.S. Mail to: Superintendent, Port Angeles School District, 216 East Fourth Street, Port Angeles, WA 98362.

Please continue to visit Levy News at www.portangelesschools.org for updated information about the May 20, 2008 Technology Levy.

UPCOMING EVENTS

March 6

PAHS Concert

7:30 p.m.

Performing Arts Center
Free • Open to the public

March 10

Regular School Board Meeting

7:00 p.m.

Central Services Building

March 14

Learning Improvement Day
No School for Students

March 20

PAHS Junior Parent Night

6:30 p.m.

PAHS Library

March 24

Regular School Board Meeting

7:00 p.m.

Franklin Elementary

March 27

PAHS 8th Grade Parent Night

6:30 p.m.

Main Gymnasium

March 31 - April 4

Spring Break

LISTEN IN

Newsradio 1450 KONP broadcasts live interviews with Port Angeles District staff and students on the third Tuesdays of the month during the school year at 1:05 p.m. On March 18, host Todd Ortloff will speak with school district and community guests about the upcoming technology levy. Listen Live, or download the podcast from: www.konp.com

ELIST

You can sign up to receive school district news and updates via ELIST email newsletter by visiting the district's website: www.portangelesschools.org. Look for "Mailing List" sign up instructions on the home page.

Kindergarten Registration Begins

Kindergarten registration for children in the Port Angeles School District begins March 3 at all elementary schools. Students should be registered at the nearest elementary school at the earliest possible date. Schools will accept registrations between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Children must be 5 years old before September 1, 2008 to be eligible for kindergarten enrollment for the 2008-09 school year. State requirements mandate what is required as proof of date of birth. Parents must show the child's birth certificate or a document (immigration papers, social security card or adoption papers) with the child's legal last name. Immunization records are also required at the time of enrollment. Parents may register the student prior to completing immunizations, but children may not begin school until they have completed the immunization requirements.

Registered students will be invited to participate in district-wide Full-Day Kindergarten Orientation activities during May. More information will be released soon about this event.

Registrations are accepted at all Port Angeles School District schools.

For more information, call your neighborhood school or the Port Angeles School District's Central Services Building staff at 360.457.8575.

LEADERSHIP GROUP GETS SAFETY GRANT

Leadership students at Port Angeles High School have been awarded a \$5,000 "Shift into Safety" grant from State Farm Insurance to encourage safer driving near the school. Student Nick Simpson wrote the grant for the group.

"Out of 20 schools applying for this grant, Port Angeles High School was only one of two schools that received the total \$5000," said Rachael Ward, advisor to the leadership group. "Our grant allows for the purchase of a speed monitor trailer that will be set up near the high school area during the times when staff and students are arriving and leaving the school property."

State Farm offered the safety grants for the second year of its annual program to high schools within its six-state Pacific Northwest Zone - Alaska, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Oregon and Washington. Thirty-eight schools applied and \$76,000 was awarded to 22 schools. Port Angeles High School was one of five schools awarded grants in Washington State.

Steve Methner and Ray Gruver, Port Angeles State Farm Insurance representatives, delivered the check to the leadership class. **Thank you to our local State Farm representatives for your support of our students!**



PAHS student Nick Simpson with State Farm representatives Steve Methner and Ray Gruver

COMPUTERS DONATED TO FAMILIES BY PORT ANGELES BUSINESSES

Capacity Provisioning Inc. and CPI Computers LLC (CPI & CPIC), along with Frontier Bank in Port Angeles, have donated twenty used computers to families who live within the Port Angeles School District who do not currently have a computer in the home.

"We've relied on the best judgment of school district personnel to select the homes to which these computers should go," Craig Johnson, Managing Partner of CPI & CPIC said. "We're requesting the used computers and new printers go to families with children in first through sixth grades."

Johnson and his partners, Bill Roberds and Bob Jensen, have been gathering computers and spare parts for several years in anticipation of the donation to students and their families. They refurbished the computers and loaded them up with a word processor and other free software. While the computers will not run or attach to the latest software or hardware, they are good computers for basic learning, homework and surfing the Internet.

CPI & CPIC donated new keyboards and mice, and Werner Beier, Vice President and Manager of Frontier Bank in Port Angeles, arranged for the donation of new color printers by the bank.

Thanks to CPI & CPIC for this tremendous effort on behalf of our students!



ERICA NUTTER, CLASS OF 1989

Erica Nutter, graduate from Port Angeles High School's class of 1989, has come full circle within the Port Angeles schools. Not only is she currently working for the district's Infant Toddler Program as a speech language pathologist, she has two children, Scott and Laura, who are students at Franklin Elementary.

"Growing up in Port Angeles and attending Port Angeles schools has helped me understand the community and the population I work with now," says Nutter. "I've worked in many of the schools here, and it was nice to be familiar with the schools and some of the staff."

"Public school speech language pathologists evaluate children for communication delays," she explains. "If a delay is found, we provide speech therapy. Essentially, I'm a teacher who provides speech therapy through play in the classroom."

"I love my job because I get to interact with lots of different kids and their parents," she adds. "I am able to provide instruction to both the children and the parents. I also work with a wonderful team. There's never a boring moment!"

Nutter fondly remembers her time playing soccer during high school. "It helped me learn to be part of a team and I loved the competition," she says. "I also participated in tennis, gymnastics, and track."

Nutter graduated with honors from Peninsula Community College in 1991, then received a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology with a minor in Spanish 1993 from Western Washington University. She later completed a Master of Arts in Speech Language Pathology and Audiology in 1996, also from Western Washington University.

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