

SCHOOL NOTES

OCTOBER 2007

PORT ANGELES SCHOOL DISTRICT SCHOOL NEWS & EVENTS IN OUR COMMUNITY

SCHOOL DISTRICT UPDATES

Thanks to the support of our community and the very hard work of staff and teachers this summer, school reopened on September 4 with relative ease. Considering the district closed Fairview Elementary and Roosevelt Middle Schools in June, moved to a kindergarten through sixth grade format at the elementary level and combined all middle school students on the Stevens campus, this was quite an accomplishment. Much thought by numerous people went in to the transition process and it was gratifying to finally see the results of so much work and energy. Many of our students entered buildings for the first time and were able to connect with familiar faces...teachers, staff and friends. We are excited about the upcoming school year and will continue to update chamber members via *School Notes*. Thank you for your support of our local schools! To help us evaluate *School Notes*, please email us at info@pasd.wednet.edu and let us know whether you have read this month's newsletter. Suggestions are always welcomed.

School District 2007-08 Budget Reductions

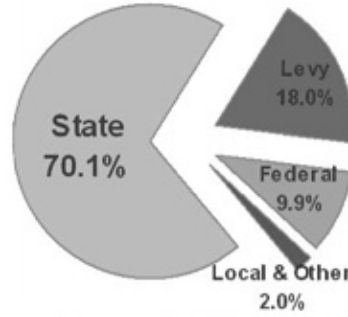
Reduction plans for the 2007-08 school year consist of:

- 1.00 middle school principal position reduced; savings of \$115,000
- 1.00 middle school assistant principal reduced; savings of \$105,000
- 4.00 teacher position reductions planned; savings of \$280,000
- 1.50 secretarial positions reduced; savings of \$75,000
- 1.50 custodial positions reduced; savings of \$75,000
- Utilities savings due to closure, consolidation; savings of \$70,000
- Middle school athletics consolidation expected to save \$15,000

Staff members are currently reviewing these projections to determine whether the district will reach the expected target savings.

Simple Majority Issue on November Ballot

- **How does Washington's current school levy system work?** Currently, local school levies must receive both a 60% supermajority approval and meet the 40% validation requirement to pass.



School District Funding Resources

- **What would EHJR 4204 do?** EHJR 4204 would amend the Washington State Constitution and would provide that a simple majority of voters (50% + 1) could authorize local school district levies. The amendment also removes the 40% election validation requirement for levy elections. It does NOT apply to school bond elections. EHJR 4204 will be on the November 6th ballot.
- **What do school levies pay for?** Local levies support school needs. In our district, the maintenance and operations levy helps to support education programs and school operations such as teaching, school supplies, athletics and activities, maintenance, transportation and student safety. Our local levy pays for 18 percent of the district's operating budget.
- **What happens if school levies don't pass?** Some school levies have failed because they do not meet the supermajority requirement. Levy failures can result in budget cuts, which require program cuts, staff and/or teacher layoffs, and other disruptions. Elections cost money. If school districts need to run a subsequent election for the same levy, it will take money away from educational programs. It cost our district \$42,000 to run the most recent February 6, 2007 levy election.
- **Do all types of levies require a supermajority to pass?** No, they do not. Regular tax levies do not require supermajority approval. Public hospital districts, metropolitan park districts, and other taxing jurisdictions can pass levies to operate hospitals, parks, and other facilities with a simple majority vote. School districts are held to the supermajority standard to pass a local levy.

Information approved and provided with permission from Washington State PTA.

UPCOMING EVENTS

October 8

Regular School Board Meeting
7:00 p.m.
Central Services Building

October 16

KONP PASD Discussion
1:05 p.m.
"Live" with Todd Ortloff
Radio 1450

October 22

Regular School Board Meeting
7:00 p.m.
Roosevelt Elementary School

October 23

PAHS Concert
Performing Arts Center
7:30 p.m.
Free • Open to the public

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 October 16, host Todd Ortloff will interview PAHS ASB officers on their plans for the 2007-08 school year. Listen Live, or download the podcast from the KONP website: 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.

DISTRICT UPDATES

RIDERS ON BROADWAY

Port Angeles High School celebrates Homecoming 2007, *Riders on Broadway*, kicking off the week with Sweats Day on Monday, October 1. Each day has a "student dress" theme: Tuesday, Sports Jersey Day; Wednesday, Decades Day; Thursday, Broadway Costume Day, and Friday, Green and White Day. Events culminate on Friday with the Homecoming Parade starting at 5:30 p.m. at the Clallam County Courthouse Parking Lot. The Homecoming Football Game, Roughriders vs. Bremerton, begins at 7:00 p.m. Half-time entertainment features the Port Angeles High School Marching Band, Rider Angels Dance Team, homecoming royalty and the traditional "carriage" race.

STUDENT TRANSPORTATION

Port Angeles School District bus routes continue to be updated as we begin the 2007-08 school year. Updates are posted continually to the district's website:

www.portangelesschools.org.

EMAIL SYSTEM CHANGE

Beginning August 31, the school district switched from First Class® to Microsoft Outlook® for its district email system. Staff email addresses have changed, and in general, emails will consist of a first name initial, followed by the lastname@portangelesschools.org.

SCHOOL NOTES

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**PORT ANGELES
SCHOOL DISTRICT**

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SPONSORSHIP

We're grateful to local businesses who "stepped up to the plate" to help us thank our community, district staff and teachers, and students and families for their incredible effort during the past year of transitions planning. State Farm's Steve Methner and Ray Gruver coordinated the effort and Coldwell Banker Uptown Realty, Jim Heckman Budget Rent A Car & Truck Rental, Peninsula Bottling, Wilder Auto Center, Ruddell Auto Mall, Irwin General Dentistry and Bushwacker Restaurant contributed to the *Peninsula Daily News* ad. We appreciate your support of our students and staff! Thank you!

MORE THANK YOUS FROM STUDENTS

Did you hear the Radio KONP announcements about our schools? A huge thank you to KONP's Amanda Bacon for coordinating the effort with our students, Josh Basden, Madison Bauman, Luke Price, Luis Peña, Ian Price and Taylor Price. Here's an example:

My name is Josh and I'm a student at Stevens Middle School. Port Angeles public schools reopen on September 4. Stevens Middle School bus routes have been affected dramatically by district changes and by construction for the 8th Street bridges. We've added temporary busing and "express routes" to make life easier. Parents can drop you off at an express route, and the bus will take you straight to Stevens. Saves time, saves gas, saves money. For more information, log on to www.portangelesschools.org. Thank you to our community for its support of our schools!



MUSIC TO OUR EARS! YOU'RE INVITED!

Port Angeles High School's Music Department has released its 2007-08 Concert Schedule. All concerts are free and open to the general public. They are held in the high schools' Performing Arts Center and start at 7:30 p.m. Programs for 2007 are: **Tuesday, October 23:** Concert Band, Symphonic Choir, Concert Orchestra, Symphonic Orchestra, Vocal Unlimited and Jazz Ensemble. **Tuesday, November 6:** Chamber Orchestra, Wind Ensemble, Symphonic Band, Women's Choir and Men's Choir. **Thursday, December 6:** All Choirs, Bands & Orchestras. The concerts are very popular, particularly the Holiday Show, so plan to arrive early!

SEPTEMBER 2007 ENROLLMENT REPORT

The district's total enrollment for September 2007 (not including Skills Center or Running Start) is 3,953.6 FTE. This is 101.4 Full Time Equivalent (FTE) fewer than last year at this time, and 10.5 FTE greater than last May. With one of nine counts complete, our district's enrollment for 2007-08, excluding the Skills Center is 3,953.6 or 10.6 FTE. students above budget. (Skills Center enrollment is at 125.1 FTE. This is 6.9 FTE students more than last year at this time, and 6.0 FTE more than last May.)

CATHARINE MALMSTEN, CLASS OF 1995



"I think that growing up in Port Angeles has helped me understand and empathize with some of my patients who come from smaller towns, and how that might affect the health care that they have received," says Catharine Malmsten, graduate from Port Angeles High School in 1995. Malmsten recently finished a residency in Internal Medicine at the University of California, Davis Medical Center, and has just moved to Milwaukee, Wisconsin to start a three-year fellowship in cardiology at Medical College of Wisconsin.

Malmsten considers some of her former Port Angeles High School teachers as mentors. "I think of Ms. Haas from Spanish class every time I try to use some Spanish to communicate with my patients who are Spanish speaking only," she says. "Mr. Johnson was very encouraging about reading and those things I wanted to learn about. He encouraged a variety of discussions." She remembers Mr. McLaughlin as a tough but fair grader; "I remember him saying once that if he ever needed his heart worked on, he would be fine with me working on it. At the time, I knew I was going to be a doctor, but I had not figured out that I was going to be a cardiologist!"

Malmsten received her Bachelor of Arts in anthropology from the University of California, Berkeley and her M.D. from the University of California, San Francisco, completing cardiology research at San Francisco General Hospital in 2004.