

SCHOOL NOTES

WINTER 2008

PORT ANGELES SCHOOL DISTRICT SCHOOL NEWS & EVENTS IN OUR COMMUNITY

SCHOOL DISTRICT UPDATES

Architectural Team Shares Facility Report

BLRB Architects of Seattle has been hired to assist the district with the preparation of a facilities assessment and condition report and an updated long range facilities plan. The completed work will be utilized to guide facilities planning and improvements for the next 20-30 years and to provide the committee and board of directors with expert recommendation for a capital bond proposal.

BLRB presented its Interim Report to the school board in January and noted that 21 of the 26 district buildings are at least 30 years old. Most of these 21 have not had any significant renovation or upgrades other than painting, flooring replacement and a few re-roofs. Considering the age of the facilities, the buildings showed good care taken by the Port Angeles School District Maintenance Department. However, systems are worn out, in need of replacement and code compliance, and are no longer adequate to meet today's standards.

"Input from the schools indicates that most of these older campuses make it difficult for current curriculum delivery to take place in an efficient and effective manner," BLRB's Paul Rising noted. "With the consolidation that has occurred in the school district over the last several years, some schools may have inadequate space to deal with the current school populations, programs, and expansion of other programs. **View the Interim Report in Parents & Community/Committees & Task Forces at www.portangelesschools.org**

Study Includes Water Quality

In support of the ongoing study by the district's Long Range Facilities & Capital Bond Committee, and following up the results presented in BLRB Architects' Interim Report, the district has commissioned a water quality survey to be conducted by qualified testers and a certified lab in cooperation with the city of Port Angeles. City utilities staff members certified to collect samples will draw water from all of Port Angeles' public schools.

"Certified, reliable water testing will provide the district credible information about the need for costly plumbing repairs," Port Angeles School District Superintendent Gary Cohn explained. "Water quality study results will be available in 30 - 60 days, and will be available to the general public when we receive them."



Devin Helfer, Stevens Middle School student, records school district announcement on KONP Radio 1450.

Public Forum on Facilities

In support of facilities survey information and fact finding efforts, the district will be hosting a public forum on Thursday, February 21 at 7:30 p.m. at the Port Angeles Senior Services & Community Center, 328 East 7th Street. The forum will present an opportunity to discuss the Interim Report by BLRB Architects and to give community members an opportunity to ask questions and to offer comments and suggestions about district facilities. *Note: There will be other opportunities for public comment.*

School Tours

The district will be hosting school tours for those facilities with ranking under 80% in the Interim Report (which excludes Dry Creek and Jefferson Elementary Schools and Lincoln High School). This doesn't mean that some improvements will not be planned for Dry Creek, Jefferson, or Lincoln based on identified needs and staff and community feedback. Each tour should last about 30 minutes with a short summary and evaluation period at the end. Objectives are to give community members the chance to see our schools, inside and out, and to show some of the concerns noted in the Interim Report. The schedule, with two tours per site at 3:30 p.m. and 5:30 p.m., is as follows:

- Monday, February 25, Franklin Elementary School
- Tuesday, February 26, Hamilton Elementary School
- Wednesday, February 27, Roosevelt Elementary School
- Monday, March 3, Stevens Middle School
- Tuesday, March 4, Port Angeles High School

UPCOMING EVENTS

February 7

PAHS Concert
7:30 p.m.

Performing Arts Center
Free • Open to the public

February 8

Spirit Day for all 6th graders
12:00-1:45 p.m.
PAHS Gym

February 11

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

February 18

Presidents' Day Holiday

February 19

PAHS Sophomore Parent Night
6:30 p.m. • PAHS Library

February 25

Community Conversations
6:00 p.m., followed by
Regular School Board Meeting
7:00 p.m.
North Olympic Peninsula Skills
Center

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 February 19, host Todd Orloff will speak with school district guests about the district's science curriculum. *Listen Live*, or download the podcast from:

www.konp.com.

INCLEMENT WEATHER

On days of inclement weather, school closure information is broadcast throughout the day on Radio KONP 1450 AM, and on most Seattle area TV channels (4, 5, 7 and 13). Information is also available at www.portangelesschools.org. Depending on weather conditions, decisions to close school or start late are usually made by 5:00 a.m., and generally out to the news media by 5:30 a.m.

Clallam AmeriCorps Benefit

The highly acclaimed Brigham Young University International Folk Dance Ensemble, a company of 46 dancers, musicians and technicians, will visit Port Angeles on Thursday, February 28 for a day-long series of activities benefiting Clallam AmeriCorps and students at Franklin Elementary School. Proceeds from an evening performance at 7:30 p.m. at the Port Angeles High School's Performing Arts Center will be used to raise funds for Clallam AmeriCorps. Reserved tickets may be purchased locally at Port Book & News in Port Angeles and Pacific Mist Books in Sequim.

Community Conversations

School board members invite you to Community Conversations, your opportunity to ask questions or discuss issues one-on-one with board members, district administrators, and your neighborhood principal, on Monday, February 25, 6:00 p.m. at Lincoln High School, 924 West 9th Street. The open session will be followed by the 7:00 p.m. regular school board meeting. Please join us!

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.

IS A TECHNOLOGY LEVY IN OUR FUTURE?

The Port Angeles School 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 increases as does the role of technology in the workplace and in our everyday lives. Meanwhile, the district's technology infrastructure and equipment has aged, and in many cases, less than gracefully.

Schools need funding to provide and maintain a basic level of student access to technology. The state legislature does not regularly fund technology for schools. The district has tried to keep up with the increasing need for technology using scarce resources from the district's general fund, and by cobbling together occasional funding from grants, such as those offered by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and others, but these sources are not adequate to maintain basic technology resources. As a result, district computers and infrastructure are wearing out, and in many cases failing, as equipment reaches an end to its useful life.

The board of directors will continue to study technology funding needs and likely make a decision in February whether to offer a technology levy to our community. **Visit Levy News at www.portangelesschools.org for updates.**



Madison Bauman, PAHS student, records school district announcement on KONP Radio 1450.

Full-Day Kindergarten Begins September 2008

Port Angeles public schools will be starting full-day kindergarten in September 2008. We've already begun our work with teachers, local daycare and preschool providers to prepare for this program. All elementary schools will be accepting kindergarten registrations beginning Monday, March 3, 2008. Children must be 5 years old before September 1 to be eligible to enroll. **View Students at www.portangelesschools.org or visit your neighborhood school for more information about full-day kindergarten and registration.**

Education Foundation Awards \$10,846

Teacher and schools in the Port Angeles school district have just received this year's school and teacher grants from the Port Angeles Education Foundation. The foundation gave fourteen grants totaling \$10,846.

Jefferson Elementary School received three grants in partnership with the Jefferson Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) and the City of Port Angeles. All fourth graders will be able to take swimming lessons and ten at-risk first graders will take part in a summer reading program. Supplies will also be purchased for the all-school Enrichment Cluster Extravaganza, which is also supported by the Jefferson PTO. **View Press Releases at www.portangelesschools.org for more grant award news.**

For more information about the foundation, or to make a donation, visit the website at www.paedfoundation.org, or call Karen Meyer at 360.457.1453

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ERIN KANE, CLASS OF 2002

Erin Kane, graduate from the class of 2002 at Port Angeles High School, credits her middle school leadership class and vocational business classes during high school as inspirations for her career today.

Her participation in sports from age three through high school also contributed to her teamwork and communications skills. "While in high school, I played on the junior varsity and varsity soccer teams through my junior year, was a member of the dance team my senior year, and an active DECA member. I was involved in student government and the Interact Club, and I worked as a front desk agent at the Red Lion Hotel," Kane says. "Participating in these activities taught me about time management and prioritizing my schedule between social activities and school work. These activities helped build my professional and personnel traits which have helped me to get where I am today."

Kane graduated from Johnson & Wales University Denver campus in May 2006 with a Hotel Management bachelor's degree, concentrating in sales and meeting management. She lives in Chicago, and works at the Renaissance Hotel as a business travel sales manager. "I plan on living in Chicago for a couple of years," she says, "then will move to another city, and hopefully end up back in the northwest. My long term goal is to become vice president of revenue and marketing for a hospitality management company."