

SCHOOL MATTERS

WINTER 2008

PORT ANGELES SCHOOL DISTRICT SCHOOL NEWS & EVENTS

SCHOOL DISTRICT UPDATES

School Board Members Sworn In

New school board directors, Steve Baxter and Lonnie Linn, and continuing director, Dr. Patti Happe, began their terms of office after being sworn in by Judge George Wood at the December school board meeting. Happe is starting her second term while Baxter and Linn are beginning their first term.

Jeff Hinds and Charlie McClain, retiring directors, were honored for their years of service to Port Angeles schools. Hinds served on the board for five years, and McClain served for nine years.

Cindy Kelly was elected by the school board as the new board president, and Steve Baxter was elected as vice president. View **Administration** at www.portangelesschools.org for board contact info.

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 recommendations 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.

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.

Public Forum on Facilities

In support of facilities survey information and fact find-



Luis Peña, Steven Middle School student, records a school district announcement on KONP Radio 1450.

ing 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. See **Interim Report in Parents & Community/Committees & Task Forces** at www.portangelesschools.org.

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

February 8

Spirit Day for all 6th graders
Time TBA
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.
Lincoln High School

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. PAHS Gym

March 31-April 4

Spring Break

See Calendar & Events at
www.portangelesschools.org
for more info.

Family and Student Access

The Port Angeles School District has opened Skyward's Family and Student Access to Port Angeles High School, Lincoln High School and Stevens Middle School students and families. With the family access web portal, students' attendance, academic progress, and lunch account balance may be viewed from any Internet access location by parents and students. Visit *Family and Student Access* via: www.portangelesschools.org. Call your student's school for password information.

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.

Listen In

Radio KONP 1450 host Todd Orloff will speak with school district guests about science curriculum on Tuesday, February 19 at 1:05 p.m. Listen Live, or download the podcast: www.konp.com.

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.

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 end of its useful life.

The board of directors will 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.

Parents As Partners Grows with Digital Resources Help

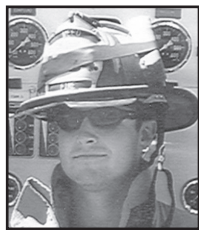
Parents As Partners (PAP), Port Angeles School District's home-based education support program, has just grown bigger, not in size but in what will be offered to students and teachers, with the help of digital resources. The PAP program was able to make these additions by joining the Digital Learning Commons (DLC). Through the DLC, PAP students and parents will have access to a digital library, teaching and student resources, and teachers will be trained to incorporate technology into the classroom. For additional information, phone Craig Chambers at 360.417.3779 or email cchambers@portangelesschools.org.

Inclement Weather Notification

School closure information is broadcast on Radio KONP 1450 AM, and on most Seattle area TV channels. Info is also available via www.portangelesschools.org and by calling 360.457.8575. Our practice is to only announce news when we change from normal school operations.



Lacey Schimetz, fourth grader at Hamilton, records a school announcement with KONP's Amanda Bacon.



HENRY OCHS, CLASS OF 2002

Although college football opportunities drew Henry Ochs, graduate of Port Angeles High School's class of 2002, to northern California's College of the Siskiyous (COS), so much more has now made the Weed, California area his home. Ochs played football for two years for the Eagles, and began to take courses in the fire science program, eventually earning his Associate of Science Degree in Fire/Emergency Response Technology in 2005.

Fortunate enough to begin work with CAL Fire after graduation, Ochs began volunteering with his chief, and spent the next three years assisting with the COS Firefighter Academy, a twenty unit required course for graduation and California State Fire Marshal certification as a Firefighter I.

"I run the academy program now," Ochs says. As Firefighter Academy Coordinator, he is responsible for arranging seventeen weeks of training exercises. "Students receive fourteen certifications after going through the academy, and are trained in areas such as auto extrication, confined space rescue and wildland firefighting techniques," he explains. "I really like to teach, coach and instruct. It keeps me up to date in my own skills and training."

Ochs played football for the Port Angeles Roughriders for three years, and remembers Coach Dan Novick for having made an impact on him and other football players. "Coach Novick's discipline and his strong work ethic stand out in my mind. He helped me develop a regime which is helpful in my work now," Ochs said.

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