



Principal Scott Harker Requests Reassignment

On Wednesday Port Angeles High School Principal Scott Harker announced to high school staff his resignation from the principalship effective June 30, 2009. Scott will transition to an assistant leadership role within the Port Angeles School District at that time.

“It has become increasingly more difficult to balance the expectations of my job with the expectations I hold for myself as an educator, a husband, and a father,” he explained. “At this point in time, I feel that I am compromising my core values, and I need to make a change.”

“Scott has guided Port Angeles High School through some difficult times,” Superintendent Gary Cohn said. “Providing leadership for staff, students, and parents through our state’s graduation requirement changes, implementing student advisories, responding to the fire of 2007 has been no easy task. Scott has faced these and other challenges with a focus on positive leadership and good humor during his tenure as principal. I commend and appreciate his contributions and continuing commitment to education.” See full media release: www.portangelesschools.org

Assistant Superintendent Mary Hebert has developed a timeline for the search process for a new principal, which will engage staff, students, and parents in defining the necessary skills and qualifications for the position.

- Mary will meet with the PAHS student council next Tuesday, January 13.
- Staff members will have the opportunity for input on Wednesday, January 14 at 3:00 p.m. in the school’s library.
- Parents and community members will be invited to a meeting on Thursday, January 15 at 6:30 p.m., also in the high school library, to contribute their suggestions for hiring a new principal.

Please encourage student, staff, parent and community involvement in these meetings next week.

Welcome to our Mutsu City Junior Ambassadors!

Please join the Port Angeles School District and Peninsula International Relations Association in welcoming our good friends from Mutsu City, Japan! The Junior Ambassador Program visit takes place January 7 through 12, 2009.

During their stay in Port Angeles, the delegation of Japanese students and adult chaperones will spend time with their host families, visit Stevens Middle School and Dry Creek and Hamilton Elementary Schools, and tour the Clallam County Historical Museum and Olympic Game Farm.

Thank you to PIRA and to all of our students, teachers, support staff and families for the incredible effort you’ve put into planning this event! *Pictures included here were taken at the Stevens Middle School Culture Fair. The Japanese ambassadors are scheduled to visit Hamilton and Dry Creek Elementary Schools on Friday. More photos next week!*





Hats off to Principal Loren Engel, who with his staff and students at Hamilton Elementary celebrated Pajama Day on Friday! Mr. Engel has never been one to shirk his duties and he always jumps in when there's work to be done or fun to be had! Hurrah, Mr. Engel! Thanks for all you do for Hamilton Elementary and the Port Angeles School District.

School Board Now Online with BoardDocs®

Our school board has converted to a paperless board documents system known as BoardDocs®, providing real-time access to board meeting agendas and the background materials prepared for the meetings. Viewers may access BoardDocs® directly at www.boarddocs.com/wa/pasd/Board.nsf, or via the district website on the school board page: www.portangelesschools.org/administration/school-board.html.

Agendas are normally released on the site on Fridays. Check BoardDocs out! You will see that several staff members will be honored at the Monday, January 12 board meeting. Congratulations to Bryan O'Donnell and Laurie Day from Stevens Middle School on their recent National Board Certification! Kudos to paraeducators Cara Ottele, Jacqueline Price, Cindy O'Connor, Lisa Cobb and Joseph Sablan, who will be recognized for their achievement of "highly qualified" status. Check next week's News & Notes for additional information!

Weather-Related School Make-Up Days

In planning for the 2008-09 school year, the Port Angeles School District built two snow make-up days in to the school calendar in case it was necessary to close school due to inclement weather. Because we closed school on Thursday, December 18 and Friday, December 19, the last two days prior to winter break, we need to make up the days before the end of school. The days we earmarked for school make-up days are March 13 and May 8, 2009. School will now be in session on these days. If it becomes necessary to close school again for any reason, it will be necessary to add make-up days at the end of the school year.

For more information about inclement weather closure decisions, visit the Port Angeles School District website at www.portangelesschools.org. View the 2008-09 calendar on the district website by selecting "Calendar" at www.portangelesschools.org.

Budget Review Ongoing for 2009-10
In late December Governor Chris Gregoire revealed her 2009-11 state budget proposal, which would reduce state spending in response to drastic state revenue projections. The PASD's Fiscal Advisory Committee has begun its review. *Budget information will be reported after further evaluation of state budget proposals.*

Healthy Youth Coalition Announces Workshop

Clallam County Health and Human Services Prevention Specialist Karen A. Meyer has announced a Strengthening Families Program™ for parents and their children in grades 4 through 8 will begin in January. Parents will learn what to expect from "tweens," tools for parenting teens effectively and how to set limits and show love to your children. Youth will learn how to resist peer pressure, how to handle angry feelings and manage stress and the importance of choosing positive friends.



Meetings are on seven Tuesday evenings, beginning January 20, 2009. Dinner and childcare are provided. Dinner begins at 5:30 p.m., followed by workshop activities from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at Roosevelt Elementary School. Register now by contacting Sandi Saltiel at 360.457.1453 or via email at ssaltiel@co.clallam.wa.us.

Weekly Meeting Schedule

- Jan 12 Regular School Board Mtg**
7:00 p.m. @ CSB
- Jan 13 United Way**
12:00 Noon @ CSB
President's Council
3:30 p.m. @ CSB
- Jan 14 Special Ed Committee**
3:30 p.m. @ CSB
Long Range Planning
5:00 pm. @ CSB
- Jan 15 Multi Ethnic**
9:00 a.m. @ CSB
Communications Roundtable
12:00 Noon @ CSB
ILT
4:00 p.m. @ CSB

Current Job Postings: A full list of open positions can be accessed at Job Opportunities on our district website: www.portangelesschools.org

Ready! For Kindergarten Starts Up in January; Sign Ups Limited!

Mary Hebert announced the next *Ready! For Kindergarten* class is scheduled for Tuesday, January 27 at 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Jefferson Elementary School Library. Classes are now open for parents of 2-3 year olds and 4-5 year olds. Space is limited, and registration is at no cost, and families must register in advance as soon as possible. Call Marsha McKay at 360.457.8575 to inquire about space availability and childcare.



Kindergarten teachers will lead the interactive and fast-paced *Ready! For Kindergarten* class. *Ready!* shares powerful ways to talk, read, sing, and play with young children. It also furnishes many of the supplies, tools, information and hands-on practice you will need for these activities.