



### **Learning Improvement Day Report**

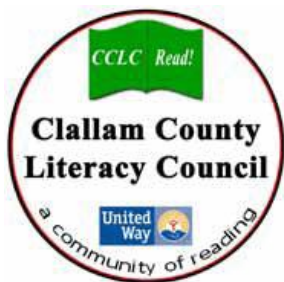
On Friday, October 10, 2008, district staff participated in the scheduled Learning Improvement Day (LID) activities. The day's activities were planned around the topics of high trust teaching and learning, maintaining student engagement in school, and building and maintaining positive classrooms and school climates. This work responds to staff and board comments regarding maintaining successful discipline in all schools.

Port Angeles teachers, paraeducators, principals, some secretaries, professional development coordinators, and central office leadership convened in the Port Angeles High School cafeteria for the first half of the day. The superintendent welcomed the gathered staff and introduced Dennis McLoughlin. Mr. McLoughlin spoke to the assembly regarding the challenge, necessity, and fundamentals of managing school and classroom climates effectively, as well as the importance of trust in this process. Mr. McLoughlin utilized the information presented in the morning to deepen professional staff members' understanding of these difficult topics.

Following this whole-district staff time together in the cafeteria, most members of school teams returned to their buildings to continue the conversations unique to their school and circumstances. Mr. McLoughlin remained at Port Angeles High School to work with the high school staff and any other district staff who wished to stay. His focus in the afternoon was the ninth grade transition year and strategies to enhance the success of this year for students. This work will continue to inform the culture and climate work in which we are engaged as a district this year.

During the evening prior to the Learning Improvement Day, Mr. McLoughlin conducted a parent workshop in the Port Angeles High School cafeteria. The workshop focused on the important role parenting plays in student and school success. The turnout for this meeting was excellent: approximately 160 parents attended. Childcare for almost 55 toddlers was provided by volunteers.

During the weekend following the LID, Mr. McLoughlin offered a two-day course for college credit that a number of staff attended. He plans to offer a similar course when he returns in March for the spring LID.



### **November: Family Literacy Month in Clallam County**

The Port Angeles School District is proud to acknowledge the importance of literacy to our staff, students, and their families. Reading to our young children is the basis for learning and is the responsibility of our entire community.

**WHEREAS** a literate population is critical to the well being of our city, county, and country;  
**AND WHEREAS** Clallam County Literacy Council is reaching out to all members of the community, young and old;

**AND WHEREAS** the importance of learning to read is everyone in the community's responsibility;

**AND WHEREAS** reading to our young citizens is the basis for learning and the foundation of a literate society;

**AND WHEREAS** businesses in our community are recognizing the importance of reading through the Clallam County Literacy Council's Bookworm Club;

**AND WHEREAS** one in five adults in our state cannot read to a child, fill out a job application, or understand the words on a medicine bottle;

**AND WHEREAS** 50% of chronically unemployed people are illiterate;

**AND WHEREAS** job advancement is limited by a person's ability to read;

**AND WHEREAS** it is estimated that limited literacy skills cost business and taxpayers \$20 billion in lost wages, profits, and productivity annually;

**AND WHEREAS** the Clallam County Literacy Council will continue to reach out to adults as well as children in an effort to raise the level of literacy in our community;

**NOW THEREFORE, we, the Port Angeles School Board do ACKNOWLEDGE THE IMPORTANCE OF LITERACY EFFORTS in our community and PROCLAIM the month of November Literacy Month.**



Thanks to Maria Kays for a great presentation before our Chamber of Commerce business representatives this week! Maria talked about the use of technology in our classrooms and how computers can contribute to the additional learning of our students. Thanks, Maria, for going beyond the call of duty! (Sorry, no camera was available during Monday's presentation. Maria is pictured above during a class visit to the Port Angeles Fine Art Center.)

**TAKE NOTE!!**

**NOV 4:** Remember to VOTE!  
**NOV 11:** Veterans' Day Holiday

**Friday, NOV 14 and Monday, NOV 17:**  
Parent/Teacher Conferences: There will not be regular classes during conferences; however, students at all levels are expected to attend conferences with parents.

**Weekly Meeting Schedule**

November 2008

Nov 3 **Special School Board Meeting**  
6:00 p.m. @ CSB

Nov 4 **REMEMBER TO VOTE!**

Nov 6 **Communications Roundtable**  
Noon @ CSB  
**ILT**  
4:00 @ CSB

Nov 8 **AED Refresher/1st Aid/CPR**  
9:00 a.m. @ CSB

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

[www.portangelesschools.org](http://www.portangelesschools.org)

**October Enrollment Report**

The district's total enrollment for October 2008 (not including Skills Center or Running Start) is 3,854.0 FTE. This is 114.8 FTE fewer than last year at this time, 13.8 FTE students more than last month, and 17.1 FTE more than the annual budget. However, October's enrollment is lower than anticipated for this particular month by 25 FTE. With two count periods completed, the average enrollment projected for the entire 2008-09 school year is 3,805 FTE or 26 students fewer than the annual budget. Here is the essence of each grade band's status:

- Grades K-6 enrollment is at 1,921.4 FTE. This is 42.1 FTE fewer than last October and 13.4 FTE more than last month (26.2 FTE fewer than budgeted).
- Grades 7-8 enrollment is at 585.2 FTE. This is 34.8 FTE fewer than last year at this time, and 8.5 FTE fewer than last month (9.5 FTE fewer than budgeted).
- Grades 9-12 enrollment is at 1,347.4 FTE. This is 37.4 FTE fewer than last year at this time, and 8.9 more than last month (52.9 FTE more than budget).
- Skills Center enrollment is at 125.0 FTE. This is 16.8 FTE students fewer than last year at this time, and 5.6 FTE fewer than last month (22.2 FTE fewer than budget).
- Running Start enrollment is 105 FTE, 9.7 FTE more than last October and 20 FTE greater than budget.

Approximately twice during the year, the headcount enrollment in every elementary classroom is counted and reported to the board. The district's target for average elementary class size is 22 students. Due to the restructure of the district this past year (inclusion of 6th grade with the elementaries), the average class size rose to nearly 23. With the implementation of full-day kindergarten this year, the average elementary class size has fallen to 19.7 students. This class size calculation is not the same statistic as student-teacher ratio. The ratio is lowered by the addition of specialists and certain special education teachers to the calculation.

**Lincoln High School Science Outside**



Olympic Park Institute staff has been granted a small grant from NASA to engage Port Angeles students in local watershed research and management on the Dungeness and Elwha River. Pictures above show students from Lincoln High School as they visit irrigation sites in Sequim, including locations in the Cline Irrigation District and Nash's Organic Farm in Sequim.