



December's cool, damp days are upon us, as is the respite our winter break brings. As surely as the green surrounds us, and the fires we light in home and hearth warm us, we are encouraged to pause and reflect, to rekindle the flame of gratitude and holiday celebration. December also reminds us that 2004 has been a remarkable year of accomplishment in the Port Angeles School District. Teaching, caring for, and supporting our students requires unfailing dedication, which you have demonstrated in countless ways. I am deeply grateful to each of you – our teachers, secretaries, para-educators, bus drivers, custodial and maintenance staff, and administrators – for everything you do. My hope for this season is that each of you finds joy and satisfaction in the knowledge that you *do* make a difference.

We have indeed so much to celebrate: Our students' successes are a source of tremendous pride and encouragement in schools throughout our district. Their achievements continue to rise overall, and to outpace our state in spite of economic challenges in our district. It is inspiring to observe your day-to-day successes with students. It reflects how very serious you are about our district's vision of our future, and the quality of education for *all* our students.

Our high school small learning communities continue to evolve and to positively impact student success. Roosevelt Middle School's new gym is nearing completion, and Stevens Middle School's music students are thriving in the new music building – examples of commitments made and fulfilled.

We know the upcoming year will bring challenges, and we will face them together. And together we will also celebrate our inevitable successes. For that, I offer my sincere thanks to you, along with my best wishes for a joyous and safe holiday season, and a Happy New Year.

Gary Cohn

Eve Datisman, Port Angeles High School Librarian, was elected as chairperson on the Library Council of Washington. She sits as an advisor to a 3.3 million dollar grant awarded through the Library and Technology Services Act. Eve started working for our district this year and we are so impressed with her work and feel extremely fortunate to have her as a part of our high school staff. Way to go Eve!



Stevens Rewarded for Reading



Throughout the month of October, Stevens Middle School placed additional emphasis upon the district's focus on literacy. The Literacy Council presented books to give away to students who had completed reading goals. In addition, The United Way of Clallam County Literacy Council awarded 30 books to Stevens students. Subway donated 10 Kids' Pak Meals to the students who read the most books for the month. Language arts teachers at Stevens have been engaging students in great book study discussions while kids participate in book clubs. Ms. McComb's class just finished a book project where students read 100 books to have 100 books donated within our community. All language arts teachers are gauging students reading levels by using the electronic STAR assessment and working on specific areas of need with the district's Developmental Reading Assessment (DRA). However, language arts teachers aren't the only staff focusing on reading strategies. Mr. Williams, a science teacher, has a weekly book club, using science content reading materials. Other teachers are using reading stem questions to ask students WASL- like questions, further enhancing the use of higher-level thinking skills. Stevens math teachers are using these questions to have students practice the word problems/extended response items seen in the WASL math section.

The staff at Stevens take tremendous pride in the difference that this comprehensive emphasis on literacy is making for students.

Article and photo provided by Monique Flickinger

CSB Holiday Schedule
Central Services will be closed
December 22, 23, 24, 30, and 31.

From the Personnel Office



Openings

Para Educator/Pre-School Special Ed	35 hrs./week	Jefferson
Para Educator/Temporary Position	2 hrs./day	Jefferson
Level 1 Secretary-181 days (Revised)	2 hrs./day	Fairview
Para Educator/Spec. Ed./Leave Replacement	5.5 hrs/day	Franklin

For further details on these positions, please refer to "Job Opportunities" on your email system.

Add the Port Angeles School District website to your favorites! www.portangelesschools.org

UPCOMING EVENTS

December 20-31 Winter Break

January 1 New Year's Holiday
 January 3 School Resumes

