

October 15, 2008

To: Principals and Assistant Principals
From: Michelle Reid
Regarding: HIV/AIDS Parent Information Meeting

Thursday, November 20, 2008 will be our HIV/AIDS parent information meeting. Each year we provide a meeting for parents to learn about HIV/AIDS, to review the materials, and to complete the form that allows them to excuse their child from participation.

Every school needs to have a representative at the meeting. The health teachers from the middle and high school and a grade five teacher from each elementary school will be introduced, and may be asked to respond to questions following A PRESENTATION BY OUR County Public Health physician, Dr. Thomas Locke. Our teachers will receive pay for their participation at the meeting, from each site's contracted "after-school meetings" (See PAEA CBA, page 52). Please identify the teacher(s) from your school and make sure they have the appropriate information. (I will ask two elementary school representatives to bring a copy of their video and student materials to the meeting for review by the parents. I will call a couple schools in about a week to set this up.)

I have included a copy of the letter from the superintendent that needs to go to all parents from grades 5 through 12 and a copy of the agenda for the evening.

If you or your building representatives have questions, please call.

Thanks for your help!

c: Dr. Cohn

October 14, 2008

Dear Parent/Guardian:

During the 2008-09 school year, the Port Angeles School District will again be providing information about the disease AIDS to all students in grades 5 through 12. AIDS is a life-threatening disease that destroys the body's capability to fight infections. Due to the seriousness of this disease, which is a major public health issue, the Port Angeles School District believes students should be provided correct information about the spread and prevention of the disease. The Port Angeles School District uses the KNOW: AIDS Prevention Curriculum developed by the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction staff. The curriculum was reviewed for medical accuracy by the Office of HIV/AIDS, DSHS, and meets the approval standard required by the AIDS Omnibus Bill of 1998. The AIDS curriculum is intended to provide basic information about AIDS.

This year's parent meeting to furnish you an opportunity to preview the AIDS prevention education program has been scheduled for Thursday, November 20, in the Port Angeles High School Library from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. All of the teacher and student instructional materials, including videos, will be available for your inspection from 6:30 to 7:00 p.m. Our County Public Health physician, Dr. Thomas Locke, will be available between 7:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. Teachers and administrators from our schools will be in attendance at the meeting on November 20. Your participation will enable you and your child to discuss the topic both before and after the classroom presentations.

Following the meeting, parents who wish to have their child excused from participation in the AIDS prevention program may sign a release form. Please note that Washington State law provides that a parent or guardian must attend such a meeting before he or she can object and excuse a child or ward from participation in the HIV/AIDS prevention program.

We look forward to seeing you and discussing this important topic with you.

Sincerely,

Dr. Gary Cohn
Superintendent

PORT ANGELES SCHOOL DISTRICT

REQUEST TO EXCUSE STUDENT FROM HIV/AIDS PREVENTION TRAINING

After having previewed the HIV/AIDS prevention education program, if you **DO NOT** wish your son/daughter to participate in the HIV/AIDS education program, please return this notice to the school office.

Student Name School Grade

Please check:

_____ I **DO NOT** wish my son/daughter to participate in the HIV/AIDS prevention program offered this year.

As specified in Washington State Law, I have attended the Port Angeles School District AIDS materials presentation before requesting non-participation for my child. I understand that the AIDS epidemic presents a serious threat to the general population, particularly the youth, and have been given resources to present to my son/daughter at home.

Signature of Parent(s) and/or Legal Guardian(s)



ATTENTION!
PARENTS OF STUDENTS IN
GRADES 5 THROUGH 12

November 20, 2008

You are invited to an information night about our HIV/AIDS curriculum at the Port Angeles High School Library.

6:30 – 7:00 Preview Video Series at your child's grade level

7:00 – 8:00 Dr. Thomas Locke, Public Health Physician

Questions and Answers

Grade level teachers/school nurses

Dr. Locke