

# PORT ANGELES SCHOOL DISTRICT NEWS AND NOTES

Employee Newsletter  
Martin Brewer, Superintendent



October 29, 2021

ákwátəxw kʷa?  
ʔuʔstánəs!  
"Whatever it Takes"  
in Klallam

## STRONG SCHOOLS. STRONG COMMUNITY.

Our Mission: PASD creates learning communities that prepare each student to live, work and learn successfully in a changing world.

### MARTY'S MINUTE

As October and National Principal month comes to a close, I want to take one more moment to reflect on how incredible our principals are in this District. The level of commitment they show to our staff and students is inspiring. I am proud of our leadership team. With November coming in just a few short days, let's focus on gratitude and brainstorm ways to show our appreciation. Thanks for all you do, team!

## WHAT'S AT YOUR CORE?

Port Angeles School District AmeriCorps members **Luca Sorenson** and **Jasmine Thomas** virtually joined hundreds of Washington State volunteers and were sworn into their year of service with our schools. Staff members **Michell Gentry** and **Carrie Sanford** celebrated with them over breakfast at Chestnut Cottage.

They spent their afternoon in virtual workshops with fellow AmeriCorps members from across the state.

PASD has another member joining the team and we continue to recruit on a rolling basis for more members. [Click here](#) to learn more about our AmeriCorps and the application process.



## The NOHN Mobile Health Clinic is coming!

In partnership with North Olympic Healthcare Network (NOHN), school-based health care services will be available to students at each school's location through a mobile health clinic. The mobile health clinic will provide services directly to students, including medical, behavioral health, and dental screenings.



The goals are to provide students with services that are easy to access, and decrease time spent out of class, waiting for an appointment. For more information about the clinic, [click here.](#)



The Pandemic Experiences Project invites Port Angeles High School students to create photographs documenting the pandemic and its impact on all aspects of life. Student photography will be featured in an exhibition at the Port Angeles Fine Arts Center in January 2022, and will also be included in a printed booklet.

This project is funded by the Washington State Arts Commission and the National Endowment for the Arts. All current PAHS students are eligible & there is no cost to participate. This is a great opportunity for students to be a part of a formal art event and to tell their unique stories about this extraordinary moment in their lives.

[Click here to learn more!](#)



**Behold!**  
**Diego Waterkotte,**  
**Dry Creek student and**  
**pumpkin-weight-**  
**guesser extraordinaire!**



**Diego correctly guessed the weight of the pumpkin**  
**and won both the pumpkin and a pizza gift card!**  
**Good job, Diego!**



**It's not just Dry Creek kids who**  
**are good at guessing pumpkin**  
**weights! Mrs. Austin won a gift**  
**card and a pumpkin for**  
**correctly guessing how much**  
**this pumpkin weighs!**  
**Nicely done, Mrs. Austin!**





# GETTING TO KNOW YOU

## This weeks' staff spotlight is Stephanie Gochnour - 2nd year Teacher at Seaview Academy

•**Where did you grow up?** I was born in Milwaukee

Wisconsin, lived in Schwabisch Hall Germany from age two to five and then my family moved to Port Angeles. I attended Franklin Elementary, Roosevelt Middle School, and Port Angeles High School.

•**What is your job at the District?** Teacher at Seaview Academy - grades 1-8; prior to this I taught at Franklin for 23 years; also taught at Stevens Middle School and Dry Creek. For the past eight years, I have been the head girls' tennis coach for Port Angeles High School.

•**A favorite thing about working here?** Working with families and creating a special bond.

•**What was your first job?** Support teacher for language arts and math at Stevens Middle School

•**Do you have any pets?** A calico cat named Kona

•**Favorite foods?** Dungeness crab, schnitzel, and my husband's shrimp pasta

•**What's your favorite family recipe?** Lemon curd tarts

•**What is your favorite family vacation?** My favorite family vacations include visiting London, England; Kauai, Hawaii; and Gearhart, Oregon when my kids were young.

•**Who is your hero?** My hero is my sister because I appreciate her perseverance and strong determination.

•**What is your proudest accomplishment?** One of the proudest accomplishments was about eight years ago when I was able to go to Kenya Africa. I went with my father who is a retired dentist and was his assistant as he volunteered to help the Maasai tribe. I was also able to visit one of their boarding schools, go on a safari of the Maasai Mara, and kiss my favorite animal, the giraffe.

•**What was the last book you read?** Since I'm on the computer all day with online learning, I tend to listen to podcasts.

•**What's your favorite movie?** Some of my favorite movies include Out of Africa, Sound of Music, and Return of the Jedi.

•**If you could choose to do anything for a day, what would it be?** Dive the Great Barrier Reef

•**What is your favorite game or sport to watch and play?** Tennis

•**What would you sing at Karaoke night?** Sweet Caroline by Neil Diamond

•**What about hobbies?** Antiquing, playing tennis, snow skiing, and spending time with my family.

•**Do you like to travel?** LOVE to travel!! Before becoming a teacher, I was a flight attendant for Continental Airlines.

•**What is your goal for this year?** My goal is to become the best online teacher I can be and also help to inspire others to appreciate the online platform.

•**Where do you see yourself in 10 years?** Traveling the world and retired :)

•**One fun fact that most people don't know about you:** I was able to participate in a study abroad program in Siena, Italy and majored in art history.

•**What's your favorite holiday?** Christmas

•**Are you an introvert or an extrovert?** Extrovert

•**Anything else you'd like to share?** My mom, my sister, my two children, and I attended Franklin.



# KUDOS KORNER

**Sabrina Mudd has really stepped into the R2 para role here at Franklin and made life-changing impacts on students in just a short two months. She deserves all the recognition in the world! – Skylar OConnor**

**Ms. Paula Elder (pictured right) deserves kudos, she is a great Para, assisting students as well as other coworkers. I am a new Paraeducator and every time I have a question and/or concern she is always willing to help in any way, she is also a very kind lady.  
- Martha Enriquez-Sedano**

**Congratulations to Dan Palacios, who completed his doctorate! Wow! Dan is a Speech-Language Pathologist at Dry Creek.**



## Hope

**The rainbow is most commonly known as a symbol of hope. Rainbows often appear after a thunderstorm or when everything is seemingly at its darkest to then spread light and ultimately, hope.**

**Pictured: Rainbow over Dry Creek Elementary.  
Taken by Parent, Christine Rose.**

**News and Notes, our PASD staff newsletter, is emailed out each week on Friday during the school year to all staff and is archived on the District's website under Departments, then Communications. Do you have a news item for the staff newsletter? Send an e-mail to Carmen Geyer, Communications & Community Relations Coordinator, at [cgeyer@portangelesschools.org](mailto:cgeyer@portangelesschools.org) by the Wednesday before.**

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