



Puyallup School District CONNECTIONS

Students learn marine science aboard floating classroom

In the pilot house with her eyes fixed on the horizon, fourth grader Allison Huddleston steadied the helm as she steered the 65-foot boat across the Puget Sound.

On the starboard side of the vessel, Alexandra Doring used a bowline knot to secure a plankton net while classmate George Johnston peered into a microscope as he analyzed water samples in an onboard science research lab.

The young scientists studied the samples to search for clues about organisms captured in nets dropped to varying water depths.

These fourth graders and their classmates from Woodland Elementary spent three hours on the Puget Sound in May conducting hands-on marine science experiments while learning basic seamanship, navigation, boating safety, and how to protect the environment.

Emerald Ridge High students embarked on a similar on-the-water expedition during spring break in April, spending three days and two nights on a 61-foot yawl — a two-masted sailing craft.

In both cases, the students and their teachers set sail from the Thea Foss Waterway Seaport in Tacoma. The Seaport serves as a hub for the region's research vessels that offer single- and multi-day marine science trips.



Woodland Elementary students (from left) Emily Afdem, Victoria Puryear, Alaina Emmett, and Ashlie Brooks look for signs of life in water pulled from the Puget Sound.

photo courtesy of Kristi Giste

Woodland Elementary School

The 25 budding scientists in Kristi Giste's class explored the Puget Sound aboard the "Indigo" — a 65-foot former Korean War-era steel coastal cruiser.

The vessel is operated by Service Education Adventure (SEA), a non-profit education program that offers one-day through

five-day boating and camping excursions to various parts of Puget Sound. Included are science and nautical instruction, with special emphasis on safety and protecting the environment.

The one-day Woodland Elementary trip, funded by a grant from the Foss Waterway Seaport Expedition, bridged students' learning about the water cycle and

watershed from the classroom to the sea.

Inquisitive crew members began their day at the Thea Foss Waterway Working Waterfront Maritime Museum. With red flags flying, the students waited until gale-force winds subsided before taking the boat out of the inlet into Commencement Bay.

Once in the bay, students moved to assigned research stations. As the boat chugged through the expansive waters of the Puget Sound, they worked with the boat captain in the pilot house on navigation and steering and learned how to tie knots secure enough to hold water sampling equipment to the side of the boat.

Students also assisted their teacher and the Indigo crew in collecting plankton — drifting organisms that inhabit the water, identifying water samples under microscopes in the science lab, and learning about factors that pollute the waterways.

SEA works with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to coordinate student monitoring experiments. Water samples collected by Woodland Elementary students were sent to the University of Washington to aid in its marine research, Giste said.

Giste called the on-the-water excursion "a trip of a lifetime." In the weeks leading

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Flashing beacons warn drivers to slow in school speed zones



Flashing safety lights warn motorists to slow to 20 mph in the school zone near Stewart Elementary School. The bright yellow lights flash before and after school, as well as around the time that kindergartners arrive and leave school mid-day.

New flashing safety beacons near six of the district's elementary schools are intended to remind drivers to slow to 20 mph in school zones when the lights are flashing and to be aware of children walking or riding bicycles to and from school.

The new beacons, which were activated the end of May just before school let out, are near Fruitland, Karshner, Maplewood, Stewart, Spinning, and Wildwood elementary schools.

Drivers who exceed the speed limit when the lights are flashing face a minimum \$189 speeding ticket.

The six new flashing yellow lights bring the total number of safety beacons in the district to 12. Brouillet, Meeker, Northwood, and Mt. View elementary schools, as well as Stahl and Edgemont junior high schools, also have flashing safety beacons on roads near their buildings.

The beacons are generally programmed to flash 30 minutes before and after school,

as well as around the time that kindergartners arrive and leave school mid-day. The school district has the option to program the lights during other times, such as for evening school events.

The City of Puyallup owns and maintains the flashing beacons, while the school district manages the schedule that determines when the beacon lights flash. Any changes to the schedule are coordinated between school district and city staff.

The city applied for and received a Washington Traffic Safety Commission grant in May 2009 to purchase the beacons for elementary school zones within the city.

"It's an excellent example of two public entities working together and getting the best use of tax dollars," said interim Puyallup City Manager Ralph Dannenberg.

He continued, "It directly benefits the schools, and it also benefits the city as

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District Mission

Supported by families and our diverse community, the Puyallup School District challenges students to achieve their academic, creative, and physical potential.

Connections Editorial Policy

Connections is published periodically by the Puyallup School District as part of a communications link between the district and the community. Its intent and purpose is to provide the board and district staff a venue to inform community members about programs, goals, and activities of public education in the Puyallup School District. Please direct questions or comments to Karen Hansen, executive director of communications, PO Box 370, Puyallup WA 98371; telephone (253) 841-8703; or e-mail hansenkm@puyallup.k12.wa.us. Responses, as appropriate, will be provided directly to those who contact this office.

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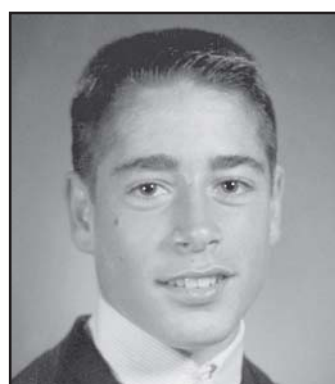
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Superintendent's Message Welcome to the 2010-11 school year

I love this time of year as we prepare for another exciting school year filled with the anticipation of the great academic accomplishments and the exciting educational activities that will prepare our students for a wonderful future.

In my youth several decades ago, I recall the first few days of school — the overwhelming sight of new school clothes and shoes, shiny lunch boxes, cheap unmarked Pee Chees (like most students, I carefully memorized the multiplication table on the inside), and the light brown newsprint dutifully handed out to use as protective book covers on our classroom textbooks. I also remember first-year and veteran teachers alike wanting to make us feel safe and welcome as they smiled politely, but sternly, in their review of school and classroom rules. The pungent smell of floor wax filled the air, and we were greeted with brightly polished stair handrails, Purex-sanitized bathrooms, and neat rows of clean, empty student desks perfectly aligned, just as the teacher wanted. The sights, smells, and sounds of the first few days of school were a consistently repeated experience as I moved from elementary to junior high, and on to high school.

Life was different then. School lunches did not offer the variety nor the healthy choices available today; but the turkey, mashed potatoes, and gravy combination was as popular then as it is now! The chili, wiener winks, and cinnamon rolls were also crowd pleasers. The lime Jell-O with shredded carrots and raisins was never a favorite of mine, then or now.



Tony Apostle, eighth grade Truman Junior High, Tacoma

Personal home communications at the time consisted of a black, bulky rented phone wired to a wall. Television viewing options, mostly transmitted in black and white (since color televisions were very expensive and only the wealthy could afford them), offered just three reliable local television stations: Channels 4, 5, and 7 with intermittent, fuzzy broadcasts from Channels 11 and 13.

In school I was educated to do my best, and I was not academically compared to my peers in my school or those throughout the state or nation through sophisticated student achievement performance assessments. Additionally, students with special needs did not receive the essential basic services they do today through our highly reputable special education programs. I was educated to believe that America had no competition and that we were the greatest, most powerful, and most wealthy industrialized country in the world. I do remember it well.

Today, our district offers the same well-scrubbed and sanitized schools that are prepared for opening day, as well as the entire school year. The tin lunch boxes of yesteryear have been replaced by soft insulated zippered bags, and nearly every student carries a backpack, calculator, iPod, and cell phone (for emergencies only, of course!). Small, colorful, wireless personal communications devices continue to evolve with new niche markets driving our youth to buy the next advanced gadget manufactured in India, Malaysia, or China. Cable or satellite television and radio offer hundreds of programs generated throughout the world, and no longer does Seattle control the media market it once did.

Yes, our schools, technology, and society have changed in extraordinary ways that I could not have imagined as a child. Public education is far improved from my days in school. Today all children, regardless of their financial condition or mental and physical abilities, are supported in public school classrooms. Our schools are provided with federal lunch programs that offer free or reduced-price meals to qualifying families. Can one imagine a student not having a complete meal at least once a day and that student trying to concentrate on classroom instruction? Today all children are afforded greater opportunities than ever before to attend universities, colleges, and technical schools.

These are the good old days for today's youth. Please join me in making the 2010-11 school year the best it can be.

Board Member's Message Remembering the first day of school and beyond



**Diana Seeley
President**

As the summer sun begins to set and the smell of hamburgers on the grill or the memory of games of catch in the front yard begins to fade, our classrooms heat up with activity. The first day of school will be here before we know it. In our family, the first day of school was always a day that I would take off from work. I would meet my children at the end of the driveway with a camera in one hand and a plate of cookies fresh from the oven in the other. What my children may not have realized is that this day wasn't about taking

what they termed to be another annoying picture or about baking cookies. This day was about being there to listen.

I wanted to know what they thought of their teacher, I wanted them to tell me the exciting things about their classroom and classmates, and I wanted to be a part of the conversation as they planned for their future and the challenges they would overcome. I especially wanted to hear the laughter in their voices and the hope for their dreams.

Children always bring all of themselves. They are honest and straightforward, and curious and transparent. Their excitement and wonder is innocent and real. Our children have no limits to creating new knowledge, new understandings. As this next school year begins, our children are about to embark upon the next journey in their education. The

experiences they will have this year will cause them to learn and to grow with ever-changing views on the world around them. Our teachers are preparing to greet each child recognizing his or her individuality, personality, and passion, and working hard to help each one maximize these gifts.

I wonder, if in the midst of the urgency to make sure our children are successful, we forget to listen. We are all so engrossed in such busy lives that we can forget the simplest expressions that always mean the most. In turn, the most meaningful gifts that you can bring to this new school year are those of yourself, your time, and your presence. Take time to listen, be involved, and together we will help each child succeed.

Here's to warm cookies and Kodak moments ... Welcome back.

School board honors retiring employees

Each year, the Puyallup School Board honors retiring district employees with a recognition program and reception.

The 2009-10 retirees received certificates, flowers, and pins during the June 14 meeting.

The program began with a performance by the Wildwood Elementary Chorus, directed by Nich Sutherland. School principals and other supervisors then outlined each retiree's years of service and asked family members and friends to stand during the recognitions.

This year's 42 retirees have nearly 900 years of combined service in the Puyallup



Retiring employees who attended the June 14 school board meeting gather during a reception in their honor.

lup School District. Additional photos from the school board recognition, as well as a retiree booklet that outlines each retiree's work in the district, are available

on the district website at www.puyallup.k12.wa.us. On the top of the Home page under Headlines, click More District News.

School registration and class assignments

Registration begins August 25 at elementary schools across the district for kindergartners and all other elementary students new to the Puyallup School District.

Parents may register their children from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

To register students for kindergarten and first grade, parents should bring a copy of their child's immunization record, a birth certificate, and proof of address such as a lease agreement or utility bill.

To register students in grades two through six, parents should bring the child's immunization record, a last report card, and proof of address such as a lease agreement or utility bill.

Specifics about required immunizations are on the Puyallup School District website at www.puyallup.k12.wa.us.

For more information about elementary registration, call (253) 841-8796.

Classroom assignments for new and returning elementary students

Elementary students who attended district schools in the 2009-10 school year or who registered early in the summer as students new to the district will be notified of their classroom teacher and room number through postcards mailed on August 26.

Parents are advised to contact the school if they have not received the postcard by August 31.

All newly enrolled elementary students who register on or after August 25 will receive their classroom assignment information, including their teacher and room



Northwood Elementary School kindergartners listen as their teacher, Katie Smith, reads them a story.

number, at the time of registration.

New junior high school students

Parents may register junior high students new to the district by calling the junior high school in their attendance area for specific registration information and to make an appointment to meet with a counselor after August 15.

For more information about junior high school registration, call (253) 435-6726.

New high school students

Parents may register their high school students who are new to the district by calling the high school in their attendance

area for specific registration information and to make an appointment to meet with a counselor.

For more information about high school registration, call (253) 841-8771.

The following documents are required when registering junior high and high school students:

- Immunization record
- Transcript or last report card
- Withdrawal information from the previous school
- Proof of address such as a utility bill or a lease agreement
- Individualized Education Plan (IEP) if the student receives special services

High School Proficiency Exam Students score high on state-mandated test

High school students across the district scored at or above the state average in every grade level on the state-mandated High School Proficiency Exam (HSPE).

Additionally, one of the high schools had 100 percent of its twelfth graders meet state standards in reading — a core academic subject — a first in the Puyallup School District.

The state released preliminary reading, writing, and math scores in June for grade 10, as well as for students in grades 11 and 12 who hadn't yet passed the mandated test.

This test measures the proficiency of high school students and serves as the state's exit exam.

Students must pass this assessment or a state-approved alternative in reading and writing in order to be eligible to graduate.

In addition to the state test requirements, seniors must earn a minimum number of course credits, complete a culminating project, and write a High School and Beyond Plan outlining goals in school and after graduation.

Preliminary results for the high school science exam, as well as the Measurement of Student Progress (MSP) test for grades three through eight, will be released in late August and mailed to families in September.

Letters will also be mailed the end of this month to families at schools that receive Title I federal funds and did not make Adequate Yearly Progress as defined by the state.



Emerald Ridge High students toss their caps in the air at the conclusion of their 2010 graduation ceremony in June. All twelfth graders passed the reading section of the High School Proficiency Exam last spring.

High school results

In all three grades and in all three subjects, Puyallup School District students scored at or above the state average.

All of the twelfth graders at Emerald Ridge High passed the reading exam, and nearly 100 percent (99.6 percent) passed the writing exam.

Twelfth graders at the other three high schools also achieved close to a perfect score in reading and/or writing.

"The fact that all of our schools are at or above the 90th percentile is noteworthy," said Nancy Arnold, director of

assessment and accountability.

High school students are permitted to retake the HSPE this month, so overall success rates for 2010, including those for graduating seniors, may go even higher.

Additionally, scores were expected to be released earlier this month for students who submitted a collection of evidence, or portfolio of their work in either reading or writing, last spring as one of the state-approved alternatives to passing the HSPE.

Arnold credits the work of school interventions and on-time graduation specialists at

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Back-to-school information

September 2 is the first day of school. Information about bus stops, bell schedules, lunch menus and prices, registration, supply lists, back-to-school nights, and Wednesday after-school programs is available on the school district website at www.puyallup.k12.wa.us. Near the top of the Home page, click a link in the Back-To-School box.

Free health fair set August 21

Free back-to-school services including health screenings, sports physicals, vision and dental checks, hair cuts, and more will be offered at a health fair and barbecue on Saturday, August 21 in Edgewood.

Backpacks filled with essential school supplies, and T-shirts for children and adults, will also be available at the Mountain View Community Center's first-ever "Back-To-School BBQ and Health Fair."

The event is from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Mountain View Community Center, 3505 122nd Ave. E. in Edgewood.

Activities include a free barbecue lunch, live music, and raffle items. Puyallup School District representatives will also be available to answer questions.

Key calendar dates

Calendar dates for the 2010-11 school year, including the first and last day of school, Thanksgiving break, and winter and spring breaks, are posted to the district website. Visit the Puyallup School District website at www.puyallup.k12.wa.us. Click the Calendars icon at the top of any page.

New bell schedules

The times that students start and end school on Wednesdays are new this year for students in all grade levels. In addition, three elementary schools will switch to either a late or an early bell schedule.

All elementary students will start and finish school 10 minutes earlier than the Wednesday bell schedules used this past year. This change affects all schools.

Secondary students at all schools will start and finish school 10 minutes later every Wednesday.

In addition, three elementary schools are switching to either an early or a late bell schedule, which changes the time students start and end school every day. The change takes effect on the first day of school September 2.

Wildwood and Sunrise elementary schools will begin and end school based on a late bell schedule. Schools that operate on late bell schedules start and end school 30 minutes later than schools that use early bell schedules.

Edgerton Elementary will switch to an early bell schedule.

School start and end times in the Puyallup School District are staggered to provide for the most efficient bus transportation.

The new bell times are necessary to ensure that students arrive to school on time throughout the district.

Flashing beacons

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a whole by making drivers a little more aware and keeping our public safe.”

Puyallup Police Lt. Dave McDonald said he is optimistic the beacons will work to slow cars in school zones. Even during the short time they were operating last spring, he said he heard positive comments that motorists, especially along South Fruitland Avenue, were heeding the safety zone warning.

“Fruitland (Avenue) is a major north-south arterial, and it’s on a grade,” McDonald said. “Drivers were doing 35 or 40 mph in a 20 mph zone, but I’ve heard people say that cars have slowed down since the beacons were installed. We plan to verify that perception during the school year this fall through speed surveys and enforcement.”

Fruitland Elementary Principal Lauren Orheim said, “This helps our children and families to feel safer when cars and buses turn onto the school grounds. We are pleased that everyone is more aware of the safety of our children on campus during school hours and at evening events.”

Maplewood Elementary Principal Liz Knox said she also is relieved to have the flashing yellow beacons near her school entrance. The school, located near the intersection of West Pioneer Avenue and 12th Street S.W., mostly serves students who walk to school.



Cars slow along Pioneer Avenue in the Maplewood Elementary school zone. Maplewood was one of six schools to get flashing safety beacons through a partnership with the City of Puyallup.

“The beacons will be very helpful in students’ safety as they cross Pioneer (Avenue) to get to school,” Knox said. “In the past, drivers have often gone too fast in our school zone.”

This fall, McDonald said the city will assess the effectiveness of the new beacons by setting up radar speed trailers near the six schools with the new beacons.

“We can capture data that shows how fast cars are moving, the time of day, and even the day of the week,” he said. If the de-

partment continues to see a problem with speeding, an officer will be assigned to do radar and issue speeding tickets when necessary, he said.

The radar speed trailers were used last year to document traffic volumes and average vehicle speeds as part of the city’s grant request. The radar was turned on during the times the safety beacon lights would be flashing.

Results showed that 85 percent of the 4,534 vehicles that passed by Maplewood

Elementary exceeded the 20 mph speed limit posted on the white-and-black sign by 10-12 mph. Information gathered on the radar showed speeding was also an issue at the other schools studied, with motorists driving one to 10 miles over the speed limit.

“After a while, when you drive a road frequently, you get desensitized to signage and it almost seems to blend into the landscape,” said Brian Devereux, director of facilities planning in the Puyallup School District.

“Now there is no missing the bright yellow flashing lights,” Devereux said, “and there is no question that the school zone speed is in effect.”

Puyallup Police Sgt. Bob Thompson said plans are to pursue additional state grant money this year to purchase beacons for 12th Street S.W. near Maplewood Elementary, and 15th Street N.W. near Karshner Elementary.

Thompson said he also would like to see school zone safety beacons at Ferrucci Junior High, as well as flashing pedestrian crossing lights near Ayleen Junior High and Puyallup High schools.

The safety beacon project is one of several projects the city and school district have worked on collaboratively.

In recent years, the two entities worked closely to address traffic safety issues, including congestion on city streets, during drop-off and pick-up times at Ferrucci Junior High and Fruitland Elementary.

South Hill Art Fest set August 21

The community is invited to an art fest and sensory playground fund-raiser on Saturday, August 21 at the Heritage Recreation Center on South Hill.

The South Hill Art Fest will be held from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and will feature work by local artists and a “Chalk Out” event for people of all ages.

Heritage Recreation Center is located at 9010 128th St. E. between Rogers High and Zeiger Elementary in Puyallup.

Chalk Out participants may contribute \$10 to design cement sections with colored chalk. Money raised will be used for the purchase and installation of an inclusive sensory playground at Meridian Habitat Park and Community Center, formerly known as the Puyallup Amphitheatre.

The 36-acre park is located at the corner of 144th Street and Meridian Avenue on South Hill.

The “Place for Me” sensory playground would be designed for children of all ages and would feature components especially for children with visual or hearing impairments.

A cement square can be decorated by single artists or entire families. Sign-ups begin at 8 a.m., and the \$10 fee pays for a 10-by-10-foot section of cement. A package of 24 colored sidewalk chalk sticks will be provided.

The South Hill Community Council, Pierce County Parks and Recreation, and the Puyallup School District are partnering to host the South Hill Art Fest.

Pierce County Parks and Recreation is also hosting its annual Junk in the Trunk event that same day in the main parking lot at Heritage Recreation Center. There will be arts and crafts booths, food, and music.

Students team to create art, friendships

They talked about running track, shooting hoops, riding in a limousine, and going to the beach.

They laughed, and then laughed some more as they challenged each other to draw elaborate designs with paint markers on a big yellow plastic pot.

Some tried their hand at drawing fish, while others painted basketballs, flowers, race cars, and self-portraits.

While all of the pots were unique, this was not a day for focusing on differences.

The Puyallup High School teens — those in Peggy Haskey’s self-contained life skills class and those in Fred Orton’s multicultural studies classes — came together last spring in the school Commons to get to know one another better.

Each of the students in Haskey’s special education class was paired with several students from Orton’s four multicultural studies classes.

During the last class period of the day, the students planted geraniums and pansies in the decorated pots, which were displayed for several days in the school’s main office, library, and attendance office. A week later, they were sent home with Haskey’s students as a gift for their mothers.

Haskey began each of the hour-long class periods by sharing what a typical day is like for her students.

She described how they learn to use a calculator, identify coins, and make change. She also shared how they plan menus, read recipes, and cook; budget time such as when to go to school and work; and take field trips into the community, including the library and grocery store.

“They carry daily planners like all of you,” Haskey told Orton’s students. “All of them are working hard to reach their goals and want to be happy, productive members of society.”

Student Lindsey Calvert, who graduated in June, and student Dylan Thompson-



Lindsey Calvert, who graduated in June from Puyallup High School, gets acquainted with Dylan Thompson-Curtis, a fellow Viking enrolled in the school’s self-contained life skills class.

Curtis laughed as they attempted to create a motorcycle and action movie themes on the side of their bucket.

Thompson-Curtis communicated with Calvert with the help of a “Minimerc” — a device which, among other things, displays a series of images that correspond with pre-recorded personalized messages.

Calvert said it was fun to spend time with Haskey’s students.

“I see them around school, but they are usually doing their things and we are doing ours, and it’s hard to break down the barriers,” she said. “It was nice to sit down with them in a non-awkward situation.”

Student Monique Watson, who also graduated in June, said it’s impossible not to feel happy when around Haskey’s students.

“It was so amazing to see the smiles on all of their faces,” she said. “I just loved it.”

Orton said many of his students told him the get-together was their favorite

project all semester.

In the multicultural studies class, Orton said students learn about diversity, acceptance, and tolerance. In one unit, they discuss cliques — the haves and have-nots, and those who are popular or not.

“In the process, students discover that they have a lot more in common than they are different,” Orton said.

Orton said the flower pot painting project is a “wonderful opportunity for my multicultural studies students to learn about students with special needs. I was very impressed with the friendships that were established that day and how all students benefitted by this project.”

Haskey added, “My students loved it. They wrote notes to the students and thanked them for being their friend.”

She continued, “It made that connection so that when they do see one another around campus, there is that spark of recognition. It makes everybody feel a part of the school.”

District receives eighth perfect state audit

For the eighth consecutive year, the Puyallup School District has received a perfect state audit report.

“Eight years without any significant issues is noteworthy,” said Regena Allen, assistant state auditor/investigator with the Washington State Auditor’s Office.

The Auditor’s Office recently released its financial review of how the district received and spent its money in the 2008-09 school year.

Auditors concluded that Puyallup has sound financial practices and complies with state laws and regulations, as well as its own policies and procedures, to protect taxpayers’ interests.

Accountability to stakeholders is one of the school board’s four strategic directions.

Allen credited the leadership of Superintendent Tony Apostle, Deputy Superintendent Debra Aungst, and Director of Accounting and Purchasing Laura Marcoe. Marcoe oversees the district’s audit process.

A team of state auditors worked out of a temporary office at the Education Service Center and made onsite school visits

“We congratulate the district for its proactive approach in implementing internal controls to safeguard public resources.”
Regena Allen

between January and March as part of the annual review of district finances. The Auditor’s Office reviews finances every year for school districts statewide.

A report from the state Auditor’s Office notes that the review of the Puyallup School District’s finances focused on specific areas that have the potential for “abuse and misuse of public resources.” These include Associated Student Body (ASB) fund-raisers and cash receipting, school lunch receipting, and school student stores.

Auditors also reviewed how well the



Assistant food server Judy Cross counts lunch money from Edgerton Elementary student Constance Turner. State auditors reviewed school lunch receipting during its annual district audit.

district — the ninth largest in the state — follows ethics and open public meetings laws and follows laws regarding budget compliance.

Attention to detail is especially important in the handling and receipting of school lunch money. More than 1.9 million lunches and 96,700 breakfasts were served in the 2008-09 school year.

“Cash receipting is inherently risky due to access to cash,” Allen said, adding that auditors reviewed eight different school lunchroom operations. She called out Edgerton Elementary as a school that practiced proper receipting and had no areas of concern.

“We congratulate the district for its proactive approach in implementing internal controls to safeguard public resources,” Allen said.

Judy Jackson, director of nutrition services and logistics support, said her staff participates in an annual refresher training every August on money handling and security procedures.

“There is a lot of money exchanging hands, and the staff members take their jobs very seriously and uphold to the highest of standards,” she said. “I’m happy to work with such a great group of professionals.”

ASB fund-raisers are also considered a “high-risk” area because of the high volume of cash generated and the number of times the money changes hands between the event and the time the money is deposited.

Annual fund-raisers range from cookie dough, magazine, and entertainment book sales to money collected for Haiti earthquake relief and other humanitarian efforts.

Junior high school fund-raisers generated between \$75,000 and \$100,000 during this audit period, for example, while high schools took in between \$600,000 and \$700,000, Marcoe said.

Marcoe said she appreciates the outside perspective of the annual state audit.

“We welcome them here and want their feedback,” she said. “It’s not always easy to have your work reviewed, but it helps us continue to improve and to learn about what works in other school districts as well.”

In a report to the school board in May, Aungst summarized the audit by saying, “This is the result of the efforts of people throughout the district who are committed to solid accounting and reporting of the myriad of transactions every single day.”

Fair Day is September 15

The district will showcase educational programs on Fair Day Wednesday, September 15 at the Puyallup Fair & Events Center. Activities are planned from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. on the first floor of the Pavilion Building.

All students are released ¾ hours early from school on this day. A listing of booths and demonstrations will be on the Puyallup School District website at www.puyallup.k12.wa.us.

Volunteer reading tutors needed

Communities In Schools of Puyallup is seeking volunteers to participate in its Good Samaritan Readers tutoring program.

The program serves first, second, and third graders at Karshner and Stewart elementary schools. Students served have been identified as being below their peers in reading comprehension. The goal of the program is for all students to be reading at or above grade level by the end of third grade.

Volunteers are asked to commit to about one hour a week on a set schedule, which will be announced by the time school opens this fall. Tutoring sessions are generally held between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. No special skills are needed.

If interested in volunteering during the 2010-11 school year, contact Chris Stockslager, Good Samaritan Readers program coordinator, at (253) 988-0051.

QUEST testing applications due September 15

Highly capable students in grades three through six are served through the QUEST regional elementary program located at eight host schools throughout the district.

September 15 is the next deadline to submit an application to be tested for the QUEST program. Applications are accepted four times each year, with additional due dates scheduled on January 15, May 15, and August 15.

Testing will take place shortly after each application deadline, and families are notified, usually by mail, of their testing appointment.

QUEST offers specialized instruction and curriculum designed to promote higher-level thinking and provide a variety of learning experiences to challenge highly capable students in a full-time classroom environment.

Highly capable children and youth perform or show potential to perform at high levels of accomplishment in one or more of the following areas: cognitive ability, exceptional creativity, and achievement in specific academic fields, said Brian Fox, director of instructional leadership.

QUEST is offered to students district-wide at the following eight host sites: Brouillet, Maplewood, Northwood, Pope, Shaw Road, Stewart, Sunrise, and Zeiger elementary schools.

For more information, visit the QUEST website at <http://schools.puyallup.k12.wa.us/programs/quest/questindex.htm>.

Marine science

continued from page 1

up to the trip, she spent considerable time in class teaching students about the water cycle and having them do a hands-on science project that involved creating a land and water model.

Student George Johnston said the boat trip “was one of the most fun trips I’ve ever been on. I liked how we scooped the water in the net and looked for plankton under microscopes.”

He and his classmates also learned boating safety skills, including how to use the marine radio to issue a distress signal for the U.S. Coast Guard and other boaters.

As stewards of the Puget Sound, students learned the importance of preventing soapy water, such as water that comes from washing a car, from entering storm drains. Cutting apart plastic rings on six-packs of soda is also critical, Abigail Hughes learned, to prevent birds from getting entangled in the holes and choking.

Giste said the trip was especially fun for students since they were contributing crew members rather than passengers simply observing science.

“We would never have been able to cover all of this information and this experience

in the classroom alone,” she said.

Emerald Ridge High School

Marine resources teacher Gary Hibbs and seven of his students took a three-day, two-night voyage during spring break in April aboard the “Carlyn,” a 61-foot sailing research vessel. Students from Auburn-Riverside and Auburn-Mountain View high schools also participated.

After spending a day in port due to a severe winter storm with 45 mph gale-force winds, students set sail from the Foss Waterway Seaport and traveled across the Puget Sound to Quartermaster Harbor near Vashon Island.

The excursion, funded by the district’s Career and Technical Education department and a grant from the Foss Waterway Seaport Expedition, was led by the Salish Sea Expedition. Salish is a non-profit program that fosters inquiry-based marine science education aboard a floating vessel.

Salish staff visited the students at Emerald Ridge High several weeks before the trip to discuss the voyage in general. Then, one week before the departure, they met with the teens at the Foss Waterway Seaport to help them develop a hypothesis and plan for their intended research.

Everyone aboard was expected to help handle sail, launch and recover scientific



Arianna Ortega, a senior this year at Emerald Ridge High, looks for zooplankton and phytoplankton recovered from varying depths of the Puget Sound as an instructor looks on.

photo courtesy of Jan Adams

Students spend summer monitoring Emerald Ridge High aquatics lab

The survival of hundreds of fish and other marine life in the Emerald Ridge High aquatics lab has depended this summer on seniors Kache Waters and Shannon Dexter.

The two teens have spent the last two months monitoring the health of the 20 fish tanks and six breeding troughs in the district’s only high school aquatics lab.

Waters cares for the fish every weekday and is paid by the district, while Dexter volunteers once or twice a week. Both are enrolled in the school’s advanced marine resources class this fall and have been trained by teacher Gary Hibbs to work in the lab.

The students feed crayfish, koi, mollies, angel fish, neon tetras, African cichlids, goldfish, red-bellied pacus, bluegills, and more.

They also turn on heat lamps and make sure the Western Red Sliders, a native turtle species, spend time on the jagged

rocks below. The extra heat and light prevents fungus from growing on the turtles’ undersides.

Checking the health of the African cichlid babies in one of six breeder troughs is another daily activity, as is feeding fish flakes and bloodworms to the more than 30 varieties of fish.

Both students have also learned to check the chemical balance in the water and to clean each tank on a rotating schedule.

Cleaning includes changing the water, vacuuming the gravel through a suctioned hose, removing algae from the glass, and replacing filter bags as needed. Most of the fish live in 165-gallon fresh water tanks.

One of Waters’ first introductions to caring for the aquatics lab was coming to work and finding that the filter had broken in the lab’s only salt water tank. The oxygen levels were low, and the fish were near the surface trying to get air



Emerald Ridge High student Garrett Salvesson steers the boat while classmates (from left) Cece Watkins and Sarah Russell remove a water sample from a plankton net.

photos courtesy of Jan Adams

gear, evaluate data, plot a course, cook meals, wash dishes, and more.

Like the students from Woodland Elementary, the high school students collected water samples in plankton nets and studied phytoplankton and zooplankton recovered from different water depths.

Salish has a wide variety of oceanographic research equipment available for students, and it is the same equipment used by oceanographers and marine scientists.

The teens used marine science probes, for example, to measure the salinity and temperature throughout the water column to 50 feet. Students projected that the nitrates, phosphates, and dissolved oxygen would decrease the further down the probe tested. They learned, however, that the oxygen actually increased.

They also used Secci discs to measure the transparency (clarity) of seawater, and nautical charts to help determine longitude and latitude and plot the course.

While students assisted the captain and deckhands with tasks the first two days, they were told to navigate the ship solo the final day for the return trip from Vashon Island. The captain and deckhands remained on the boat in case of an emergency.

In addition to sail raising, piloting, and navigating the boat, students learned right-of-way rules and maritime history.



At night, they split into two groups, with half sleeping in the cabin and the others camping on shore.

“This was my first experience sailing, and it was lots of fun,” said Sarah Russell, a senior this year. She said she is considering a career in teaching, possibly in marine biology. “This trip really was a hands-on experience with science. That’s what I love about it.”

Classmate Arianna Ortega added, “I learned how to tack and move the boat in the opposite direction.”

Students documented their trip by writing in journals. They presented their scientific findings in June during a one-day Salish Sea Student Science Symposium at Woodland Park Zoo.

Kache Waters and Shannon Dexter, both seniors this year, also presented a slideshow about the trip to the school district’s Career and Technical Education Advisory Committee during its June meeting.

Hibbs said he especially enjoyed watching the students work together on the boat, whether it was raising the sails or analyzing their research.

“It was one of the highlights of my career as a teacher to see them come together as a team,” he said. “The experience doesn’t just teach students about science. It provides an opportunity for students to become scientists.”



Emerald Ridge High students (from left) Shannon Dexter and Kache Waters vacuum gravel in one of the fish tanks in the school’s aquatics lab. The two cared for the marine life over summer.

from the top of the water.

Hibbs, who had stopped by the lab to check in with Waters, said time was of the essence in saving the fish.

“It was like an emergency room in here,”

Hibbs said. “We were running around like crazy trying to save the fish.”

Together Hibbs and Waters quickly drained and filled the tank, added salt, and

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Students monitor school aquatics lab

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inserted a new filtering system and additional air bubbles to double the oxygen intake. In the end, all of the fish survived.

“It was good to have her here to experience this,” said Hibbs, who is a phone call away from helping the students when needed. “You can lose the whole lab in less than a week.”

Waters said she was surprised what it takes to run the aquatics lab.

“I never realized how much work it is to care for the fish,” she said. “Just vacuuming the gravel in a tank can take a half hour to do it properly. But it feels good to know that I’m helping these fish to live and to grow.”

Waters is eyeing a career in oceanography, marine biology, or underwater photography.

After several failed attempts at getting



Marine resources teacher Gary Hibbs teaches (from left) students Kache Waters and Shannon Dexter about Western Red Slider, a native turtle species.

water to suction properly in the gravel vacuum, Dexter smiled and said she, too, is learning new skills. She plans to study veterinary medicine in college.

By the time summer is over, Hibbs said the student helpers will have learned enough career and technical education skills to be able to work for an aquarium

Handmade bowls add school spirit to Soup’s On luncheon

School spirit runs high in Andrea Coombs’ house. Her four children range in age from elementary to high school, representing Hunt Elementary, Glacier View Junior High, and Emerald Ridge High School.

It was only natural, then, for Coombs to select a soup bowl in green, black, and white stripes — the colors of Emerald Ridge High School — when she was a guest in May at Superintendent Tony Apostle’s “Soup’s On” luncheon.



Rogers High is dark blue, light blue, and white; Puyallup High is purple, gold, and white; and Walker High is maroon, white, and gray.

Apostle has been hosting the luncheons twice a month since he became superintendent in 2004.



Cindy Fabulich-Tate

Tate made the ceramic bowls during winter

break last year after her principal, Scott Brittain, mentioned the idea of creating handmade bowls to replace plastic ones used at the luncheon.

She surprised Apostle with a set of eight bowls — two for each high school — in January.

In addition to the stripes on the outside, Fabulich-Tate said she applied a solid glazed color on the inside of the bowls to match one of the deeper colors that spiral around the outside.

“Fun” is a word often repeated by Soup’s On guests to describe the idea of having soup bowls in high school colors.

“I thought it was a fantastic idea,” Coombs said. “It was a lot of fun and added some spontaneity when he asked us to choose our color.”

Debbie Isom, who has three children at Carson Elementary, wasn’t aware of the



Superintendent Tony Apostle (center) visits with parents (clockwise from left) Bebe Colley, Debbie Isom, Kevin Malone, and Janine Parque during a “Soup’s On” luncheon.

district’s four high school colors until Apostle shared them with the group. She said she appreciated the connection to the higher grade levels.

Soup’s On lunches usually consist of soup, salad, rolls, and pie — all prepared

or other similar business. He also plans to have them both mentor their peers this fall in the Marine Resources 2 class.

The marine resources classes and aquatics lab are part of a magnet program that draws high school students from throughout the district.

The program began when Emerald Ridge High opened 10 years ago. Students generally take a biology course in tenth grade, Marine Resources 1 in eleventh grade, and Marine Resources 2 in their senior year.

Beginning marine resources is an introduction to marine biology, ocean zones, and aquaculture, including the basics of raising and breeding aquatic animals.

The advanced class is an introduction to oceanography, including more advanced study of the care and breeding of fish, satellites, and underwater technology.

“Marine biology and oceanography are two huge fields for students to consider as careers,” Hibbs said. “The aquatics lab is a great chance for them to build their skills, because students learn by doing.”

by the district’s Food and Nutrition Services department and served family style.

The purpose of the lunch meetings is for Apostle to introduce himself to district stakeholders, become acquainted with parents and community members, and ask them three questions: what are your expectations of the superintendent, what do you believe needs to change in this district, and what do you believe needs to remain the same or unchanged?

Over the past six years, Apostle said there have been several recurring themes that parents have shared. They include:

- Keeping children safe at school.
- Having caring, nurturing, competent teachers and support staff.
- Educating children to be culturally competent and well-prepared for a socially and ethnically diversified community.
- Preparing children to compete equally for university and technical college admissions that lead to a personally satisfying career, citizenship, and financial well-being.

Since Soup’s On began, more than 325 area residents including parents, senior citizens, and business people, have participated.

If interested in attending a Soup’s On luncheon this year, contact Karen Hansen, executive director of communications, at (253) 841-8703.

Fred Meyer presents \$6,480 community donation



Puyallup Fred Meyer Store Director Jeff Fortin presents a check for the Puyallup School District to Chrys Sweeting, assistant superintendent of student programs, curriculum, and assessment. The money was donated by the community in boxes set up at cash registers in downtown Puyallup and on South Hill.

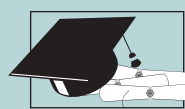
Puyallup Fred Meyer Store Director Jeff Fortin presented the Puyallup School District with a check for \$6,480.40 last month collected from the community in donation boxes set up at cash registers in two local stores.

The money will be used to benefit students in areas with the greatest need. Specifics of how the money will be used will be announced at a school board meeting this month.

The money collected was donated by the community from June 2009 through February 2010 in “Fred Meyer Fund” donation boxes set up at every cash register at the downtown Puyallup and South Hill Fred Meyer stores.

A sign on the front of the boxes stated that money collected would be given to the local school district.

“It’s very important to us that the money raised in the stores goes back to that local community,” Fortin said. “We couldn’t do this without the community’s support and generosity.”



Where are they now?

This is the next article in an ongoing series featuring the accomplishments and whereabouts of Puyallup School District graduates. Each issue of Connections features one or more graduates from Emerald Ridge, Puyallup, Rogers, and Walker high schools. Stories and photos chronicle students' travels and successes since they walked across the graduation stage.

Emerald Ridge High grad helps students get to college

Lindsey Maxfield believes that every student, no matter where they live in the world, should be able to go to college.

A recent college graduate, Maxfield spends her days helping to secure student college loans for microfinance institutions that cater to low-income people in developing countries.

Maxfield is the communities and operations manager with Vittana, a non-profit organization headquartered in the historic Pioneer Square district in Seattle.

The organization solicits individual donors and then works with microfinance institutions to build sustainable student loan programs. A microfinance institution is an organization that gives small loans, or "micro-loans," to the community it serves.

The 2005 Emerald Ridge High graduate landed the job last year shortly after earning her bachelor's degree in international affairs, with a concentration in international development, from George Washington University in Washington, D.C.

The 23-year-old was born and raised in Puyallup and attended Sunrise Elementary and Ferrucci Junior High.

All of her classes and extracurricular activities, especially in high school, prepared her well for her current job, she said. Maxfield worked on the school newspaper's editorial board and served as a senior class officer.



Lindsey Maxfield, a 2005 graduate of Emerald Ridge High School, works in Seattle's Pioneer Square at a non-profit organization that helps students go to college.

During college, Maxfield fueled her passion to learn about different cultures by enrolling in the university's Elliott School of International Affairs. In fall 2007, she spent a semester abroad in Cape Town, South Africa.

"That was one of the best experiences of my life," she said. "I learned so much from living in another part of the world."

When she returned to Seattle last year and saw the advertisement for the opening at Vittana, she knew it was the job for

her. She started as an office manager and within a month was promoted to her current position.

"This is such a great way to help students around the world," she said. "They can really make life better for themselves and their families."

The company is three years old, has five paid staff members, and launched a public website in May 2009 featuring the first faces and stories of students in need of college loans.

Maxfield posts the profiles and photos to the website and works closely with translators around the world to make sure the students' data is transcribed correctly. She also communicates with lenders and reaches out to community organizations for support.

"Lindsey has been absolutely instrumental in helping turn Vittana from a promising, fledgling organization to an innovative, healthy, well-run machine that's moving forward at light speed," said co-founder and CEO Kushal Chakrabarti.

He continued, "Even though she's just a year out of college, I've been absolutely blown away by Lindsey and everything she's able to make happen for Vittana — it's really a testament to what someone can accomplish if they're smart, motivated, and have that sense of the world about them."

Vittana, an Indian word for "seed," has partnerships in five countries — Mongolia, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Peru, and Vietnam. The company, overseen by a board of directors, has lent more than \$300,000.

Lenders from throughout the world can choose a specific student and make a loan for as little as \$25, with 100 percent of the funds delivered to the student, she said. The company survives financially on support from individuals and foundations.

Once a student graduates and starts

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High school test scores

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each of the district's high schools and junior high schools for contributing to the high rate of students passing the HSPE.

"The on-time graduation specialists have been outstanding in their support of students," she said. "They track where every student is academically, they meet with them face to face, they provide support when needed, and they collaborate with classroom teachers and principals in helping every student meet graduation requirements."

Math improvements

Arnold's primary focus, which mirrors concerns by districts statewide, remains on the number of students meeting the state standard on the high school math exam.

Districtwide, 82.6 percent of the graduating Class of 2010 met the state's math standard. This compares to 69.2 percent statewide. Just under half of this year's tenth graders met the math standard.

Beginning this fall, new supplementary math instructional materials will be used in grades three through five to help in the effort to improve student learning.

Students in grades two through nine also will be screened on their math skills as part of a new districtwide math assessment.

"This will help us to identify early which students are at risk and get them the help they need," Arnold said.

Class of 2013

This year's incoming tenth graders, the Class of 2013, will be the first to be required to meet standard in four subject areas — reading, writing, math, and science.

They will also be the first class required to earn three math credits to graduate.

These students will take the reading, writing, and science test on the HSPE next spring and an end-of-course exam in their Algebra I and geometry classes.

Students who took Algebra I and geometry in junior high school may take a comprehensive end-of-course exam that tests learning from both subjects.

Beginning with the Class of 2013, students will not have the option of earning additional math credits if they don't pass the end-of-course exams. Retake opportunities will be available.

The following year, students in this class who did not meet standard on the science section of the test in tenth grade will be required to pass an end-of-course exam in biology.

Classes of 2011 and 2012

Eleventh and twelfth graders in the classes of 2011 and 2012 who took the HSPE last spring and didn't meet the math standard or a state-approved alternative must pass an end-of-course exam this year in Algebra I or geometry to be eligible to graduate.

Those who do not pass the HSPE or their end-of-course exam may still be eligible

to graduate if they have earned at least two math credits after tenth grade and have taken the HSPE test at least once.

Beginning in the 2011-12 school year, students in either class who have not met the HSPE standard in science must take an end-of-course exam in biology.

Online testing a success

About 25 percent of Puyallup School District students in grades six through eight took the MSP reading and math tests via computer last spring.

Participating schools included Glacier View Junior High and Edgerton, Spinning, and Zieger elementary schools.



Nancy Arnold

In general, students finished the online testing about 30 minutes faster per subject than those using paper and pencil.

"It went very well considering it was the first time ever to do this," Arnold said. "We had lots of planning time and support from our technology staff. It really is moving to the 21st century in technology."

The state plans to have all students testing online by the 2013-14 school year.

Plans are to add grades four and five to the online testing option next year in reading and math, and grades 5 and 8 in science.

High school online testing will begin in spring 2012.

Ethnicity and race data collection forms due

Each year, school districts in Washington are required to report student data by ethnicity and race categories to the state's Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI).

Forms were mailed June 1 to families of all Puyallup School District students to report this information, with a suggested return date of June 16, 2010.

Families who have not signed and returned the one-page Ethnicity and Race Data Collection Form are encouraged to do so before school starts on September 2.

The form may be turned in at the child's resident school or mailed to the Puyallup School District at 302 Second St. S.E., Puyallup, WA 98372.

Emerald Ridge, Puyallup, Rogers, and Walker high schools are open with regular summer operating hours.

Junior high schools are closed until Monday, August 16, and elementary schools will reopen to the public starting on Wednesday, August 25.

Additional Ethnicity and Race Data Collection Forms are available at schools throughout the district and on the Puyallup School District website at www.puyallup.k12.wa.us.

Spring sports wrap-up

Track athletes claim victory at state meet

High school track athletes ran away with numerous state titles, and seven coaches received Coach of the Year honors, during the spring sports and activities season.

The Rogers High School girls track and field team dominated the medal podium with a second-place team win and four individual state champions during the annual Washington State Track and Field Meet.

Senior Kishia Mitchell won three events: the 100-meter dash, the 400-meter dash, and the 4 x 200-meter relay. Teammates Sydney Davis, Nichole Jones, and Sherrille Williams shared the championship in the 4 x 200-meter relay.

Mitchell also took second place in the 200-meter dash, Jones placed third in the high jump, and Davis placed sixth in the 200-meter dash.

Emerald Ridge High senior Kayla Stueckle made sports headlines around the state after winning the 300-meter low hurdles for the third year in a row.

Stueckle also won the 100-meter high hurdles and the long jump, as well as took third place in the 200-meter dash. The News Tribune recently recognized her as its girls high school athlete of the year.

In boys track and field, Emerald Ridge High senior Cory Okazaki placed second in the 110-meter high hurdles, Puyallup High senior Jesse Jorgensen placed third in the 800-meter run, and Rogers High senior Austin Thummel-Gravitt placed fifth in the 400-meter dash.

Thummel-Gravitt also placed fourth in the 4 x 400-meter relay with Rams teammates Derrick Jones, Spencer Hollandsworth, and Ronelle McGraw.

Rogers High took sixth place in the 4 x 100 meter relay through the efforts of Thummel-Gravitt and teammates Terrance Stubblefield, Donavin Goode, and Kyle Caviezel.

The state track meet was held on an un-



Emerald Ridge High student Kayla Stueckle won the 300-meter low hurdles state title for the third consecutive year. She is shown here at a local meet.

photo courtesy of Nathan McCurtain

usually cold and wet weekend.

"Despite the driving rain, head winds, and cold weather, our athletes exhibited perseverance, commitment, and drive to overcome the elements and represent their families and their schools very well," said Rick Wells, director of athletics, health, and fitness.

Several school teams also won recognition on the local level as South Puget Sound League (SPSL) South champions.

The Puyallup High girls fastpitch and boys baseball teams, the Emerald Ridge High girls tennis team, and the Rogers High boys track team all won league championship titles.

Other team and individual high school student athlete accomplishments during the spring season, including teams or individuals that qualified for state competition, are included in a school-by-school listing on the Puyallup



Rogers High student Kishia Mitchell won three state titles.

photo courtesy of Adriana Cranston

School District website at www.puyallup.k12.wa.us.

In addition to the student accomplishments, seven Puyallup School District coaches were named Coach of the Year — an honor voted on by their peers in the SPSL.

"Season to season, the Puyallup School District consistently has a number of SPSL Coach of the Year selections," Wells said. "It is a tribute to the quality of people we have and to the hard work ethic of those selected."

District coaches named Coaches of the Year are:

Emerald Ridge High

- Theresa Gotter, SPSL South Girls Tennis Co-Coach of the Year

Rogers High

- Dan Carlson, SPSL South Boys Track Coach of the Year
- Dan Thompson, SPSL South Boys Baseball Coach of the Year
- Deb Turver, SPSL West Girls Water Polo Coach of the Year

Puyallup High

- Tony Batinovich, SPSL South Girls Softball Coach of the Year
- Brooks Hazen, SPSL South Girls Tennis Co-Coach of the Year
- Matt White, SPSL South Boys Soccer Coach of the Year

Puyallup High pool renovation project nears completion

The Puyallup High School pool is set to reopen this month with limited school programs after undergoing a facelift this summer.

Public open swim will resume in November.

The pool restoration project includes resurfacing the pool and pool deck, upgrading lighting inside the pool, replacing roofing above the pool, upgrading electrical components in the pump room, and replacing deck coatings in locker rooms.

The work is being done to replace items that have deteriorated over 20 years.



Workers use high-powered tools to resurface the Puyallup High School pool and pool deck over summer.

Puyallup Giftmakers collects donated toys

Puyallup Giftmakers is in need of donations for its 24th annual holiday gift giveaway for children in need throughout the school district.

Student organizers are seeking new toys, books, board games, holiday stockings, stocking stuffers, and sporting equipment for girls and boys ages 4 to 14. Infant toys and clothing are also appreciated.

Items may be dropped off beginning in mid-November in two donation boxes marked for Puyallup Giftmakers — one at the South Hill Mall and another at Top Food & Drug in Puyallup.

A wooden gingerbread-style house, constructed last year by students in the Rogers High School Architecture, Construction, and Engineering (ACE) program, will again be located inside the South Hill Mall.



Top Food & Drug has also agreed to collect toy donations again this year. A large red wooden box decorated as a holiday present and marked "Puyallup Giftmakers" will be located inside the Puyallup store.

Donated toys are given to Puyallup School District families in need by invitation only during a two-day gift giveaway in early December. Students coordinate the toy drives, help hand out toys at the annual event, and serve on the Giftmakers Board of Directors.

Graduate profile

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working, he or she begins to repay the full amount of the loan, which is returned directly to the lender, Maxfield said. The company has a 95 percent success rate in loan repayment.

Some of the students need money to start college, while others, like Haward Alvarez Morales in Nicaragua, request a loan to finish.

Morales was one semester away from finishing law school. He had paid for his education through a combination of scholarships, part-time jobs, and help from his family. When his father lost his job, the 22-year-old realized it would take two to three years to save the \$1,000 needed to finish his last two months of school.

Last October, not long after Maxfield started at her new job, 11 lenders from Seattle, San Francisco, Chicago, and other cities around the world made individual loans ranging from \$25 to \$300 to pay for Morales's final semester of college.

Morales finished law school and graduated last January cum laude — in the top 10 percent of his class. Since then, he has had two pay raises and a new job working for one of the best law firms in Nicaragua. He has even offered his time pro bono to Vittana as a way of giving back.

"That's what it's all about," Maxfield said. "I love it that I get to wake up every day and help students go to college."

Rogers High School teacher wins community vocational service award

Jon Cerio, a Rogers High School graduate who teaches at his alma mater, is the 2010 Community Vocational Service Award winner in the field of education.

The Puyallup South Hill Rotary Club honored Cerio last spring along with three other community leaders during a ceremony at Pierce College.

Cerio teaches Architecture, Construction, and Engineering (ACE). In that role, he has inspired his students to participate in a variety of service projects. They helped children make tool kits on Education Day at the Puyallup Fair and built rocking animals, doll cradles, and art easels for Puyallup Giftmakers, which

provides toys and other holiday gifts to children in need. Cerio's students also built a Giftmakers donation box in the shape of a gingerbread house, which will be displayed for the second year in a row this winter holiday season at the South Hill Mall.

When introducing Cerio at the Rotary Club ceremony, Rogers High Assistant Principal Scott Harrison said, "Jon Cerio epitomizes the philosophy of 'service above self' more than anyone I have ever met."

He added, "This is evident in the work that he does in the classroom at Rogers High School, as well as the countless hours he volunteers in service of this community."



Rogers High teacher Jon Cerio helps students Dalton Thompson and Kyle Savage build toys for children in need.

Meet the school district's newly appointed leadership

The following are newly appointed leadership positions for the 2010-11 school year. Other leadership posts announced after this issue of Connections went to press will be featured on the district website when information is available. The appointments will also be included in the November issue of Connections.



Student Programs, Curriculum, and Assessment Assistant Superintendent

Name: Chrys Sweeting
Former Position: Executive director of special services
Past Positions: Sweeting joined special services after having spent two years as principal at Mt. View

Elementary School. She began teaching special education in 1979 in Ellensburg and also taught in Federal Way Public Schools. She joined the Puyallup School District in 2001 and served two years as assistant principal of Hunt Elementary School.

Degrees: Bachelor's degree from Central Washington University and master's degree from the University of Washington. She also completed her superintendent's credential program at the University of Washington and is enrolled there in the educational leadership doctoral program.

Student Achievement and Education Support Executive Director of Business Services

Name: John Knutson
Former Position: Executive director of finance and budgets in the Kent School District

Past Positions: Knutson brings 31 years of experience in business leadership, including the last six years as executive director of finance and budgets in Kent. Before that, he worked two years in the Kent School District as director of accounting and payroll. Knutson's other past work experience includes serving as executive director of finance in the Wenatchee School District, as well as regional audit manager and assistant audit manager with the Washington State Auditor's Office.

Degrees: Bachelor's degree from Central Washington University and master's degree from Gonzaga University.



Special Education Executive Director of Special Services and Programs

Name: Kris Lenke
Former Position: Director of special education

Past Positions: Lenke joined the Puyallup School District in 2005 as director of special education. Before that she served as assistant director of special services in the Central Kitsap School District, director of special services in Chimacum School District, assistant principal of Timberline High School in Lacey, and acting assistant director of special education in the North Thurston School District. She began teaching in 1977 in Montana and also taught in the Peninsula, Tacoma, and North Thurston school districts. **Degrees:** Bachelor's degree from The Evergreen State College and master's degree from the University of Washington.



Special Education Director

Name: Karen Mool
Former Position: Assistant director of special education

Past Positions: Mool began teaching in 1992 and joined the Puyallup School District in 1995. Her past experience includes working as a half-time assistant director of special education combined with a half-time assistant principal position at Zeiger Elementary School. She also worked as an education specialist in the 2003-04 school year.

Degrees: Bachelor's degree from MacMurray College in Illinois and master's degree from City University.

Special Education Assistant Director

Name: Tracy Pitzer
Former Position: Education specialist in special education

Past Positions: Pitzer began teaching in 1994 in Puyallup and was hired two years later as an inclusion learning specialist for elementary and junior high schools. Her other past experience includes working as an administrative assistant and principal intern at Stahl Junior High, an assistant principal at Spanaway Junior High in the Bethel School District, and a special education program specialist in the Franklin Pierce School District.

Degrees: Bachelor's degree from Whitman College and master's degree from University of Washington.



Special Education Assistant Director

Name: Roger Smith
Former Position: Co-director of special services in the Sumner School District

Past Positions: Smith comes to Puyallup with 25 years of leadership experience in special services. He served as co-director and assistant director of special services in Sumner, coordinator of special education in the Tacoma School District, director of media and technology in the Coos County Education Service District (ESD) in Coos Bay, Ore., and supervisor of severely disabled programs with the Coos County ESD. Before assuming administrative posts, Smith taught students with severe disabilities for one year in the Olympia School District and three years in the Coos County ESD. **Degrees:** Bachelor's degree in psychology and master's degree in special education from the University of Washington.

Waller Road Elementary School Principal

Name: Michelle Cruckshank
Former Position: Principal at Walker High School

Past Positions: Cruckshank has been principal at Walker High since 2007. Before that, she worked as an assistant principal at Ballou Junior High, interim assistant principal at Ballou Junior High, administrative intern and



smaller learning communities grant coordinator at Rogers High, and a teacher at Meeker and Firgrove elementary schools.

Degrees: Bachelor's degree from the University of Portland and master's degree from the University of Puget Sound.



Student Achievement and Education Support Director of Instructional Leadership in Math, Science, and English Language Learners

Name: John Parker
Former Position: Director of special programs

Past Positions: Parker began teaching math and science at Ayleen Junior High in 1988 and taught there until 1993. For the next 10 years, he taught science at Puyallup High School. From 2003-2006 he was an associate principal and instructor for the Shanghai Community International Schools in China. Parker returned to Puyallup in 2006 as an instructional coach, then served the past year as director of special programs.

Degrees: Bachelor's degree and master's degree from Washington State University.

Walker High School Assistant Principal

Name: Alicia Nosworthy
Former Position: Assistant principal at Puyallup High School

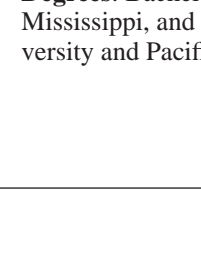
Past Positions: Nosworthy has been an assistant principal at Puyallup High since 2006. She went to Puyallup High from Walker High, where she served as a building learning specialist. Before that, she served two years as an instructional technology facilitator in the district and 11 years as a classroom teacher at Firgrove and Meeker elementary schools. Her 11 years of teaching included six years in the QUEST program for highly capable students at Meeker Elementary, where she also completed her administrative internship.

Degrees: Bachelor's degree from University of Washington and master's degree from University of Puget Sound.

Puyallup High School Assistant Principal

Name: Conchita Oliver-Moore
Former Position: Principal at Waller Road Elementary School

Past Positions: Oliver-Moore came to Waller Road Elementary in 2008 after having served two years as principal at Spinning Elementary. She came to Puyallup in 2002 as an assistant principal at Emerald Ridge High. Before that, she was an assistant principal at Tumwater Middle School, assistant principal at Lincoln Middle School in Pullman, and administrative intern at Spanaway Lake High School in the Bethel School District. Her teaching experience includes junior high, high school, and college positions in Washington and Mississippi. **Degrees:** Bachelor's degree from Millsaps College in Mississippi, and master's degrees from Iowa State University and Pacific Lutheran University.



Karshner Museum Family Days begin Saturday, October 2

"Ideas, Inventions, and Creativity" is the theme for this year's Family Days at the Karshner Museum.

Students, parents, and community members are invited to attend the monthly Family Days, which begin on Saturday, October 2.

The museum is at 309 Fourth St. N.E., adjacent to Stewart Elementary School in Puyallup.

The events are scheduled from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on the first Saturday of every month, except in April.

Cost is \$3 per person, \$10 per family, or free for those with annual memberships to Friends of the Museum. Memberships cost \$15 per person or \$25 per family, and forms are available at the museum.

Family Days are opportunities for par-



Friends of Karshner Museum President Bonnie Beaudoin teaches Karshner Elementary students about dinosaurs during a recent trip to the Karshner Museum. The museum hosts monthly Family Days on the first Saturday of every month, except in April.

ticipants to learn more about the museum while enjoying arts and crafts, artifact hunts, and special events that relate to

this year's theme. For more information, contact Museum Manager Beth Bestrom at (253) 841-8748.

Bus inspection yields high passing rate

An extensive five-day inspection of Puyallup School District's school bus fleet last June resulted in 94 percent of the buses meeting safety standards established by the Washington State Patrol (WSP).

The number of buses that passed inspection is seven percentage points higher than the annual WSP inspection completed last summer.

Of 187 school buses inspected, 175 passed inspection and 12 were placed out of service for adjustments ranging from a left-turn signal that was burned out to minor mechanical adjustments to the braking and steering systems.

"None of the items found would lead to immediate danger to passengers or the driver, but it's a matter of maintaining our buses to the highest level of performance," said Director of Transportation Cathy McDaniel. "There is a compliance threshold we must meet."

Because repairs were minor, district mechanics fixed the items on all 12 buses, presented them to the WSP for re-inspection, and returned them to

service during the five days inspectors were on site in early June.

Mechanics have also been working over summer, McDaniel said, to repair items found by inspectors that did not require buses to be pulled from service, but were recommended for adjustment.

Inspectors noted repairs needed in about half of the buses inspected, including some holes in seats, low windshield wiper fluid, emergency doors that were difficult to open, inoperable heater fans, exhaust leaks, air line cracks in the braking system, and incomplete first aid kits.

There were three buses in the district's fleet of 190 buses that were not inspected as the district had already pulled them out of service due to extensive repairs needed or a plan to surplus the vehicles.

Inspectors also carefully reviewed the condition of 18 district vehicles that transport students to special programs, some outside of the district. One of those automobiles was placed out of service because of a burned-out left rear turn signal light.



Puyallup School District buses travel toward Emerald Ridge High and other neighboring schools last September on the first day of school.

This inspection resulted in a 95 percent passing rate.

The WSP inspects district buses twice a year — the full operating fleet in summer during a planned inspection, and about 25 percent of the buses in winter during a surprise inspection.

The school district also maintains ongoing inspection and maintenance of all of its buses, cycling the entire fleet through a careful review process every three months. Each bus is inspected inside and out, including steering, brakes, suspension parts, lights, first aid kits, emergency doors, and more.

"The bus drivers and mechanics feel good about the work they have accomplished," McDaniel said. "It was a true team effort, and our hope is that this trend will continue to even higher levels of achievement."

Sometimes, she said, items identified as unsatisfactory during an inspection cannot be avoided — such as a burned-out light bulb. "You can go into your house and flip on the light switch and it works," she said. "You can go into the same room minutes later, flip the switch, and the bulb burns out at no fault of anyone."

McDaniel assumed the role of director of transportation in spring shortly after the department was moved under the oversight of Rudy Fyles, executive director of education support and operations.

These two, with the assistance of a committed staff, facilitated the implementation of a plan to improve on two previous district school bus inspections, both of which resulted in less than a 90 percent passing rate.

The last time the entire fleet was inspected in June 2009, for example, 87 percent of the 183 buses examined passed inspection, and 24 were pulled out of service.

"We have been reviewing all of our internal processes and addressing those that need improvement," McDaniel said.

McDaniel met with all of the bus drivers, presented past inspection data, and discussed areas that needed particular focus. She also created a bus inspection checklist, based on the model used by the WSP, which bus drivers can use during their routine inspections.

Three mechanic consultants from outside the district also were brought on board short-term this spring to review the undercarriages of the entire fleet, she said, and an aggressive repair schedule was implemented to make improvements.

"I am just so pleased with our entire Transportation department staff," she said. "Everyone has worked so hard, not just for the inspection, but for the overall goal of transporting our students safely every day of the year."

School immunizations and Emergency Action Plan

All incoming third, fourth, and sixth graders are required to show documentation before school starts on September 2 that they have received at least one dose of the Varicella vaccine or provide verification by a parent that the child has had the chickenpox disease.

The Varicella vaccine is recommended, but not required, for students entering fifth grade.

Students entering grade six through nine who are 11 years or older must show documentation of a Tdap vaccine if it has been five years or more since a previous Td vaccine.

Other immunization information is on the Puyallup School District website at www.puyallup.k12.wa.us.

Immunizations can be obtained at a health care provider's office or at the MultiCare Mobile Health Van. Call (253) 697-4010 for dates and locations of the health van.

According to state law, students who have been diagnosed with a life-threatening medical condition must have their Emergency Action Plan and any required medication and signed prescriptions to the school nurse before September 2.

Sexual health and HIV/AIDS curriculum preview September 8

Parents or guardians of junior high students are invited to preview the school district's approved sexual health and HIV/AIDS curriculum for students in grades seven through nine between 6:30 and 8 p.m. Wednesday, September 8.

The meeting will be held in the Puyallup High School Commons, 105 Seventh St. S.W. in Puyallup.

Parents wishing to exclude their child from the state-required sexual health and HIV/AIDS curriculum must preview this curriculum and sign an exclusion form. Questions or concerns may be addressed by attending this parent meeting, contacting the child's teacher, or contacting Rick Wells, director of athletics, health, and fitness, at (253) 841-8785.

Puyallup School Board honors two educators

The Puyallup School Board recognized two educators last spring for outstanding achievement in their specific areas.

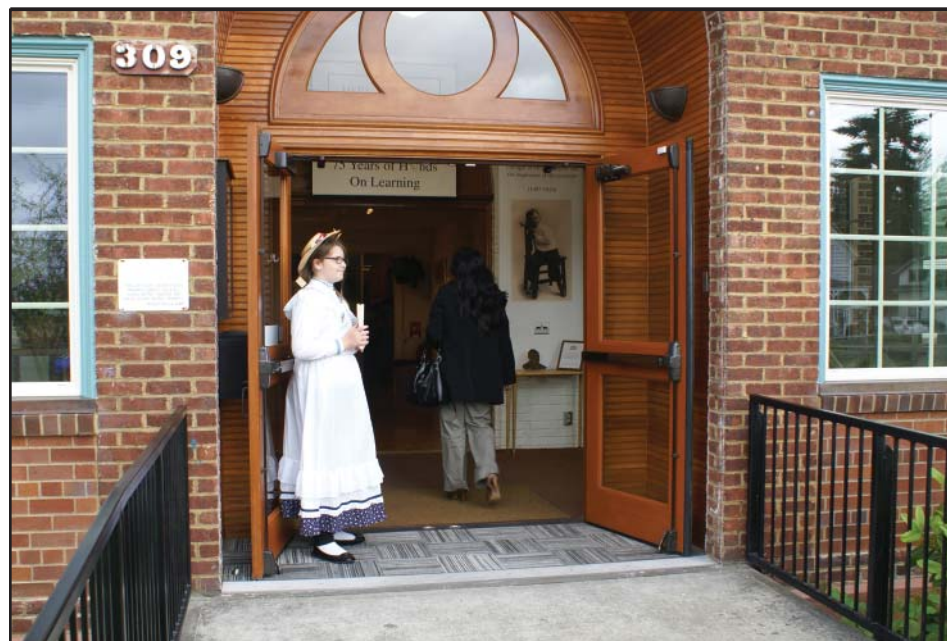
The board honored Jim Lemieux, an engineering and technology teacher at Kalles Junior High. Lemieux was selected in May as the Puyallup School District's Career and Technical Education Educator of the Year.

Directors also honored Terry Addison, a teacher in the Puyallup Family Co-op at Firgrove Elementary. Addison is the recipient of the Fourth Annual Peer Support Network Inspirational Award.

The district's Peer Support Network was formed eight years ago to provide opportunities for employees to share experiences and promote diversity and cultural competency.

Read more about both award recipients on the Puyallup School district website at www.puyallup.k12.wa.us.

Karshner Museum celebrates 80th anniversary



Meggie Ausbun, a fifth grader last year at Stewart Elementary, greets guests at the Karshner Museum's 80th anniversary celebration.

The ladies wore pearls and silk, the gentlemen their fashionable best. They mingled to strains of swing music in the background with baked bean finger sandwiches in hand.

They — Puyallup School District students past and present, district staff, and other visitors — gathered on Thursday, June 10, to reminisce about the past 80 years of Karshner Museum history.

Karshner Museum was started by Dr. Warner Karshner and his wife, Ella, in 1930 as a lasting memorial for their only son, Paul, who died in 1924 from polio.

Eighty years later, Diane Karshner,

the wife of the original Dr. Karshner's great-nephew Warner Karshner, stopped at the museum to thank Museum Manager Beth Bestrom and the Puyallup School District for their support of the museum.

"It is just wonderful to have this here for the students," Karshner said.

Superintendent Tony Apostle read to the assembled audience a copy of a radio speech that Dr. Karshner gave sometime in the 1930s.

After reading the speech, Apostle said he was impressed with the words of the museum founder.



Superintendent Tony Apostle reads a copy of a radio speech delivered by Dr. Warner Karshner in the 1930s.

photos courtesy of Shanon Burke

"His words point to the many reasons why it is important we have places like this," Apostle said.

The museum's value and impact were common topics of conversation among the crowd. Friends of Karshner Museum President Bonnie Beaudoin said that she is constantly reminded of the good work that is done at the museum.

"Wonderful things happen here all the time," she said.

Woodland Elementary fourth-grade teacher Katie Anderson agreed, saying that bringing her students to the museum was always an enlightening experience

for both them and her. Former Stewart Elementary School student Bob Plummer (1941-1947) said coming back to his old school and seeing the old classroom was like taking a trip back in time.

"It is exactly the same," he said. He also said he loves that current elementary school children in Puyallup can come and get a hands-on look at history.

Stewart Elementary student Meggie Ausbun agreed that coming to the museum has taught her a lot. "It is just neat to see how school and things used to be," Ausbun said.

Names sought for new play area at former school site

The community is invited to submit nominations for the name of a play field and adjacent playground area at the former Hilltop Elementary School in Edgewood.

Suggested names must be received by the district no later than 4:30 p.m. on Monday, September 20, 2010.

Nomination forms are available at all schools and on the district website at www.puyallup.k12.wa.us.

The elementary school, which closed last fall, will be razed this summer and the property regraded and planted with grass.

Adjacent to the new play field is the former school playground, which will be preserved for use by the community.

Several climbing toys, picnic-style tables, a play shed, backstops with bleachers, the parking lot, and the multipurpose building will remain on the property. The multipurpose building is used as the district's Textbook and Media Center.

Nomination criteria

Nominations must meet the following criteria, which is based on school board policy:

- Schools, public spaces within, and public site areas will be named after geographic characteristics of the area in which the facility is to be located or after persons who have attained local, state and/or national significance and prominence.
- Recommended names shall not duplicate names of other public spaces or public site areas in the district.
- Recommended names shall not have obvious negative connotations.

Advisory committee formed

Last May, the Puyallup School Board commissioned an advisory committee to recommend potential names for the grass field and adjacent play area.

The committee, made up of students, parents, and district staff, has met several times since then and is seeking public input. This fall, it will present possible names to the public to comment on during two public hearings.

The hearings are scheduled from 7 to 8 p.m. September 21 and 29 in the Edgemont Junior High Commons.

"I encourage people to get involved with the naming process to preserve the history of the school and what it meant to the community," said Paul Holmquist, co-chair of the advisory committee with Mike Joyner, director of career and technical education. Holmquist attended Hilltop Elementary in kindergarten and first grade.

The advisory committee will use input from those two hearings to determine the final two to five names it will submit to the board.

Naming ceremony

Plans are to place a monument sign at the former school site featuring the new name selected by the school board this fall. The community will be invited to a naming ceremony, and those who attend will be offered a piece of the school's history as a lasting memorial.

Exterior bricks from the classroom building, which opened in 1957, will be available to interested community members on the day of the dedication only, said Rudy Fyles, executive director of education support and operations.



Photo from left: Eric and Britt Holmquist and Chloe, Cooper, and Carson Williams play on climbing toys that have been preserved at the former Hilltop Elementary School site. The Holmquists attend Northwood Elementary, and the Williams, who all attended Hilltop Elementary, attend Mt. View Elementary and Edgemont Junior High.

The date for the naming ceremony will be announced on the district website.

School items preserved

Earlier this summer, the district removed and stored several items that committee members asked to keep to preserve some of the school's history.

Items safeguarded include a tile mural completed by students in 1976 as part of the U.S. Centennial, a quilt made by students in 1989 during the Washington State Centennial, a sign with the school name that was attached to the exterior of the building above the front door, and a school banner that hung in the hallway

just inside the front entrance.

"Those are treasured items that need to be saved as part of the Hilltop legacy," said committee member Kim Gillihan.

Long-term site plans

Long-term, the district plans to relocate the Edgemont Junior High track and field from its current site south of 24th Street to the former site of the Hilltop Elementary classroom building.

The name that the board approves for the play field this fall will continue to be used for the facility when the track and field is moved to the location, Fyles said.