

November 2009

2009-2010 School Year

Dear Parents, Staff, Students and Community Members:

I hope that this month's newsletter finds you in the very best of health and spirit as we enter the winter season. As I have mentioned in the past, please review Peninsula School District procedures and expectations regarding inclement weather and school closures in your calendar. This information is also available on the District's website at <http://psd401.net>.

First, I would like to take a moment to thank our retiring board member, Jill Johnson, for her nine years of dedicated service to our students, staff, parents and community members. She held this position with high integrity and honor. With a little laughter, some tears and heartfelt wishes, fellow board members and district administrators shared their memories and celebrations regarding Jill Johnson at the November board meeting. As Jill Johnson closes out her tenure on the school board, we will be welcoming newly elected John Earl to the Board in December.

Communication and parent/community involvement are a high priority of the Peninsula School District. Towards that end, I ask all of you to periodically check the District and school websites, the District Master Calendar and provide us with your personal email address through the following link: [Going Paperless](#). Please take a moment to review the updated information provided below.

I appreciate all that you do in support of our students and staff in the Peninsula School District.

Sincerely,

Terry Nelsen Bouck
Superintendent

H1N1

Our absenteeism rates have returned to the normal range, but the H1N1 virus and the possible outbreaks of illness among children in school remains a concern. Our district continues to work closely with the Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department in providing guidelines to prevent the spread of the virus and in planning for the management of any outbreaks of the illness that may occur in our schools.

Budget Information

We continue to measure the impact of the \$5 million cut to our budget for 2009-2010. Enrollment is ahead of projections and we have restored some teaching and support staff to keep class size ratios similar to last year. We are also looking at Federal Stimulus money and the possible positive impact it can have on our budget over the next few years. Many of you know that the State is now projecting a nearly \$2.6 billion deficit for 2010-2011. That figure may get worse before the budget is adopted in March. Although this is less than last year's deficit, there is no offset with new Stimulus money. Cuts to local school districts would not be unanticipated. To that end, we are closely monitoring this year's budget and will conservatively approach our budget planning for 2010-2011.

PowerSchool's Parent Portal: Grades 6-12

PowerSchool's Parent Portal is Peninsula School District's new online resource that can be used by parents to track the academic progress of a child in middle or high school. Parent Portal can also be accessed by students so they can monitor their own progress. Parent Portal provides up-to-the-minute data on attendance, grades and even individual assignments. In addition, parents can read comments posted by teachers, connect to a calendar that lists assignments and set up an email notification system. As the system evolves, parents will also be able to access school bulletins and register for next year's classes. To access Parent Portal, parents need to pick up their account information at their child's school. On the login page, <http://parentportal.psd401.net>, there is a link to a user guide, an online presentation and a guide on how to use the calendar feature. Students can log into their account using their district student login.

First of Four Superintendent Forums to be Held January 21, 2010

As part of its outreach effort to staff, parents and community members, the Peninsula School District will sponsor four Superintendent Forums open to the community, the first meeting to be held January 21, 2010, at Goodman Middle School. These sessions will be unstructured and will allow community members to raise issues and ask questions pertinent to the Peninsula School District. The meetings will be held at school sites to afford community members the opportunity to visit their neighborhood schools and better understand their school system.

The evening will be hosted by Superintendent Terry Bouck and will rotate throughout the District's four middle schools to afford maximum opportunity for participation. All meetings will begin at 6:30 p.m. and end by 8:00 p.m. at the following locations:

January 21, 2010	Goodman Middle School
March 15, 2010	Harbor Ridge Middle School
May 4, 2010	Key Peninsula Middle School
June 1, 2010	Kopachuck Middle School