

PENINSULA SCHOOL DISTRICT

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From the Superintendent



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COMPASS

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School Board President speaks

Q&A With Deb Krishnadasan

The school board’s main responsibility is to set district policies around students, human resources, instruction, and financial matters. The board also works with the superintendent to develop a vision and mission for the district, as well as make decisions regarding bond and levy campaigns, budget and curriculum adoptions, and decisions about district facilities.

How does the school board work with the student representatives from each school?

About three years ago, the board adopted a policy that allowed students to sit on the board as non-voting advisory representatives. The representatives act as a liaison between the board and the school, providing insight and support to enhance the board’s understanding of student issues. We’ve had fantastic representatives over the past few years. They have brought about change, and the way we think about our decisions.

School board members represent the community. How do you hear from (or get feedback from) your constituents?

We’re really fortunate because all of our board members are very active in the community, and we all have different areas that we focus on. We attend

community organization meetings, functions, and events; some board members have family or work ties; or have kids in the schools themselves. My favorite way to get feedback is to spend time in the schools, talking to teachers, principals, parents, and students. We work closely with the district to consider input and get responses back to people in a timely manner when they call or email. Lastly, all of us try to be available and as approachable as possible. That’s the best way to get feedback, really.

What is your favorite part of serving on the school board?

That’s easy: the kids. Whenever I feel overwhelmed in my role, I love to go into the classrooms, see the students, watch the teachers in action, and talk to principals. It just makes me think, “Oh, this is why I’m volunteering for the board.” It’s just a refreshing experience. I feel so energized and inspired to go out and do more things for our district. I just feel honored to be a part of the Peninsula School District. It’s a really special place with a lot of wonderful people.



Student board member representatives

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CONSTRUCTION



Building Local With Brian Ho



Brian Ho is Managing Principal at TCF Architecture and the lead architect on Pioneer Elementary School and Evergreen Elementary replacement projects. Brian attended Artondale Elementary and Kopachuck Middle School. He graduated from Gig Harbor High School in 1996 and currently lives in Gig Harbor with his wife and children.

“The best part of these projects for me is to be involved in shaping the future of the community that I love and has given me so much. It is always rewarding to work on schools, but even more so when they serve your own family and friends.”

Pencils, Paper and Crockpots

Community Partners Provide for Peninsula Students in Need

Thanks to generous community partners, the Peninsula School District has a long tradition of providing school supplies for our students most in need. This year, one donor kicked off the year with school supplies and something a little less traditional – Crockpots.

Food Backpacks for Kids collected and donated 27 Crockpots this year as part of their effort to make sure no Peninsula student goes hungry over the weekend. The crockpots will be distributed to families along with recipes and ingredients to make healthy meals.

Chronic hunger can leave children distracted, and unable to learn. Many students rely upon school lunches and breakfasts to help meet their nutritional needs during the week but have less reliable access to meals on weekends.

Thanks to Food Backpacks for Kids, many of our most hungry students arrive to school on Monday

Student Stories

What our students did this summer

Three Key Peninsular Middle School students, Deven Loska, Grace Nesbit, and Mia Stitt, showed their artistic talents last spring through the inspiring works they submitted to Seattle's Holocaust Center for Humanity's Writing, Art, and Film Contest. The Holocaust Center for Humanity focuses on teaching the lessons to be learned from the Holocaust. Focusing on inspiring students to stand up to bigotry and indifference.

Grace Nesbit and Mia Stitt won first place in the 5th

mornings having had enough to eat all weekend. The organization currently provides more than 400 weekly backpacks for kids from each school within the Peninsula School District.

To donate to Food Backpacks for Kids, visit <http://feedbackpacks4kids.org/>.

to 8th grade division for their moving film, "The Flame of Courage." They took what they learned in class and continued their findings at home. Using this opportunity, they were able to tell the story of Carla Peperzak, an inspiring woman who was able to secure hiding places for Jews, and create fake identification and ration cards for them. Their film ends with an impactful statement, showing just how important it can be for even one person to speak up against what's wrong.

Deven Loska was inspired by the stories of Gig Harbor's local Holocaust survivors to create her art piece she titled, "Never Again." Her artwork shows victims of several past genocides, and received an honorable mention in the 7th/8th grade division.

"I think it's important to voice your opinion on important matters," said Deven. "You need to speak out if you want things to change, and for people to remember." She believes other students should enter the contest because, "If they feel passionate about something, they should speak their mind."

Congratulations again to these outstanding students, we are PSD proud of you!





Purdy Elementary students excitedly greet the 2019 PHS graduates!



The Goodman Marching Band marched in the Maritime Gig Festival Parade this year!



Purdy Elementary students excitedly greet the 2019 PHS graduates!

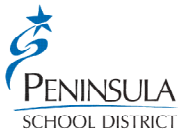
#WEarePSD



Congrats to the 14 students from Kopachuck and Goodman who competed in speech and debate at Goodman!



David Brooks learning with an authentic audience empowers the learner at Discovery Elementary school.



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