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PENDLETON SCHOOL DISTRICT NEWS

December 1, 2010

District takes proactive approach to curb bullying

From the Desk of Jon Peterson, Superintendent



The Pendleton School District is committed to preventing bullying and harassment in all of its schools. Seven years ago, PSD staff members participated in a series of trainings utilizing the Olweus Bullying Prevention Program (www.olweus.org). A majority of the Olweus program strategies and techniques are still utilized throughout the District today.

The Positive Behavior and Instructional Supports (PBIS) program also is a key component of the District's approach to bullying and harassment. Using PBIS, teachers work with students using hands-on activities to teach appropriate behavior. Additionally, schools reward students for exhibiting the positive behaviors taught through the regular lessons. School counselors play an integral role in the PBIS system, helping to organize the bullying and harassment curriculum, as well as teaching regular lessons in all elementary classrooms.

Through the Olweus and PBIS programs, students are taught to report all bullying and/or harassment incidents. Bullying/

Harassment Report Forms are available throughout the District, and drop-off boxes are strategically located building by building. School administrators and guidance counselors investigate each reported incident, taking swift disciplinary action when warranted, and parents are notified.

Pendleton schools have also taken a proactive approach to dealing with cyberbullying. This form of bullying, in which students are targeted through the use of interactive technology (e-mail, Facebook, cell phones, etc.), is more common today than physical, verbal, and written bullying. Counselors, teachers, and administrators work together in an effort to educate students with regard to the many dangers associated with bullying via interactive technology.

The Pendleton Police Department also plays a critical role in the prevention of bullying and harassment in Pendleton schools. The PPD investigates bullying incidents when it is appropriate, and cites students when the situation warrants such action.

Additional information regarding bullying and harassment policies is available on the PSD Web site, www.pendleton.k12.or.us.

Winter weather brings some school delays, closures

When the Pendleton School District makes the decision to delay or close schools during inclement weather conditions, the decision isn't made lightly. It's a team effort between District administrators and MidColumbia Bus Company. Safety of students is the most important factor.

When weather forecasts indicate there will be snow or ice on Pendleton roadways, MidCo's Location Manager Mark Parm and another MidCo employee hit the roadways at 2:30 a.m. to drive the significant and trickier bus routes in the District to determine if they'll be safe for students and buses by the time kids need to be picked up at bus stops. Parm contacts Pendleton Assistant Superintendent Tricia Baker by 5 a.m. with a recommendation on whether to delay school for a couple of hours or close for the day. Once Baker has conferred

with Superintendent Jon Peterson, a decision to delay or close is made.

Once a decision has been made, school administrators are contacted, and a message goes out via School Messenger to notify staff and parents by phone of the delay or closure. The District posts the information by 6 a.m. on its Web site, as well as posting on Twitter and Facebook pages to notify students and parents. Local media also are notified to help get the word out.



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HOT TOPICS:

Budget Update

The December state revenue forecast was released mid-November, which reflected state revenue in the current biennium up by \$69.7 million, but down \$266.8 million for the 2011-2013 biennium as compared to the September forecast. This will likely mean that the District will not experience further reductions this year, but the Governor and the state Legislature will have approximately \$270 million less than expected in revenue for the next biennium. With two more revenue forecasts to be released in March and May that could have a potential impact on the District's current budget, the PSD will continue the practice of conservative spending.

For the 2011-2012 school year, the District is anticipating state funding levels to be in the range of \$5.2 billion to \$6.0 billion. Based on PSD's early estimates, any funding level below \$6.0 billion will equate to reductions in the District. In the next biennium, the District will lose approximately \$1.1 million in federal stimulus dollars, face uncertain state funding, and a 3 percent increase in PERS costs. The 2011-2012 budget may prove to be the District's most challenging yet.

District making strides towards improvement in achievement

The 2009-2010 Oregon State Report Card indicated the Pendleton School District is in need of improvement, but the District is taking great efforts to help students improve their skills in math and reading. The Report Card evaluates information from the federal Adequate Yearly Progress report and the Oregon Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (OAKS) tests, which several grade levels take annually, and compiles it into one report, rating a school district as Outstanding, Satisfactory, or In Need of Improvement. For the past several years, the PSD has rated Satisfactory on the Report Card. However, due to the fact that students in two subgroups (students with disabilities and economically disadvantaged) haven't met AYP in math for two years, the ranking has shifted.



District administrators are working with staff to develop a variety of ways to help students improve their achievement scores, from math help classes, to Professional Learning Communities for teachers, to incorporating reading comprehension and writing into all subject areas. New math textbooks are being used this year, and staff are working hard to assist students who need help and help those who are doing well to continue succeeding.

For full details on the District's Report Card, OAKS scores, and AYP report, please visit the District Web site at www.pendleton.k12.or.us and click on the "assessment" tab.

Professional Learning Communities

Things look different this year in the Pendleton School District on Wednesday mornings: Certified staff are hard at work at 7 a.m. We have set aside the time from 7-7:45 on Wednesday mornings for teachers to meet in Professional Learning Communities (PLCs).

During these meetings, teachers work collaboratively in grade level or subject alike groups. The focus? Student learning. Teachers focus on the guiding questions :

- What do we expect students to learn? (Curriculum)
- How do we know they have learned it? (Assessment)
- What do we do when they do? (Enrich or Move On)
- What do we do when they don't? (Interventions or Reteach)

We are already beginning to see some of the fruit of their efforts in more focused instructional practices resulting in increased student achievement.

Mark Your Calendar

School Winter Concerts Dec. 2-16. Please see complete concert schedule at www.pendleton.k12.or.us/calendar.

- Dec. 13 PSD Board Meeting, 6 p.m., West Hills
- Dec. 22-Jan. 2 Winter Break, No School
- Jan. 10 PSD Board Meeting, 6 p.m., West Hills
- Jan. 17 MLK Holiday, No School

Enrollment Update

School	November 2010
PHS	913
Sunridge	740
Lincoln	182
West Hills	179
McKay	350
Sherwood	425
Washington	355