

Portland Federation of Teachers and Classified Employees

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December 1, 2009

The
PFTCE

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FIELDING THE ISSUES...

BY BELINDA REAGAN
PFTCE FIELD REP &
VICE PRESIDENT



It's often said that time passes more quickly as we age, and I have no doubt that's true. Thanksgiving has come and gone, and winter break is just days away! It seems like just moments ago we were all suffering through 100+ degree days, but last week's wild wind and rain storms tell me that fall is passing through in serious fashion! And now, suddenly, I'm noticing twinkling lights appearing in my neighborhood, signaling that winter is too-fast approaching! Boy, do I feel old these days!!

What a busy fall this has been here at PFTCE! Our fall/winter Classified Connections took place on November 6th, and was a resounding success, due in large part to the cooperative efforts of so many, lead by Jackie Davis of Title I. Keynote speaker, Glenn Singleton, captivated the audience with his discussion of race, and his book "Courageous Conversations About Race" was a welcome gift to each participant. Over 700 PFTCE employees attended the event; more than I can recall at any past PFTCE educational opportunity! Our PFTCE Treasurer, Michelle Batten, graciously greeted the crowd, and introduced Superintendent Carole Smith. Regrettably, I was out of town for the occasion, but Michelle, and other E-Board members, reported that the day was exhilarating from start to finish!

Our deep sympathy goes out to the employees of Marysville School, for the heartrending loss of their beloved school. EVP Becky Wright and I were in Florida, at a conference, when the tragedy occurred, but I was notified immediately by HR of the fire, and told that, most thankfully, no one suffered a serious injury. With today's remarkable technology, we were able to immediately access Portland news, and watched, in disbelief, as the fire was battled. While all of Portland's schools are special, the loss of Marysville was particularly sad to me, as it has always seemed such a very charming school, with wonderful architectural features reminiscent of a bygone era. I'm delighted that the community outpouring was so tremendous, and staff and students now appear to be settling in at their "new" worksite, Rose City Park!

Those of you familiar with our health benefits' annual Open Enrollment may be wondering why your packet is so late in arriving this year; PFTCE and the District have been busy ironing out some changes to the method in which rates are calculated. I want to assure each of you, however, that the employee contributions will be very similar to the amount you've been paying, and there will be no changes to any of our plans. I will email everyone as soon as packets are mailed to your homes, so that you can be watching for them! Complete and return them as soon as possible.

Speaking of email... if you are NOT receiving regular emails from me, please let us know. It's important that we have everyone's email, so that we can notify you of any issues or situations that may concern you, as a PFTCE Classified employee. You can email me at belinda@pftce.org with your email address if you need to be added to the list.

As most of you are aware, PFTCE President Tom Smith has been on a medical leave since the onset of this school year, and was hoping to return at the beginning of November. Tom has now decided to take some additional time off, and has extended his leave of absence. He's not certain about his return date at this time, but we will keep you informed as we hear more. If you would like to send cards or notes to Tom, you may forward them to the PFTCE office via the PONY.

I hope you all have a relaxing Winter Break, and can take time to enjoy your friends and family!

Season's Greetings!

From your PFTCE staff, Belinda, & Allison, along with your E-Board:

Tom Smith, Cathy Arrington, Michelle Batten, Bill Beeson,

Louise Currin, Linda Carol McKinlay, Thea Stayton, & Becky Wright

Have a wonderful Winter Break!



The popcorn is expensive,
but your tickets don't have to be.

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MARK YOUR CALENDARS...

(Please Note: Year-round schools may have different schedules.)



December 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

E-Board Meeting
PFTCE Offices
5:30 pm - 7:30 pm

← **WINTER BREAK** →

← **WINTER BREAK** →



January 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
					Happy New Year!	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

Return from Winter Break

Membership Mtg.
Benson HS
5:30 pm - 7:30 pm

E-Board Meeting
PFTCE Offices
5:30 pm - 7:30 pm

MLK Day
Schools and
Offices Closed