

May Newsletter

Sequim Seventh-day Adventist Church Newsletter

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SCHOOL ACCREDITATION RESULTS BY JOHN GATCHET



A team of four educators visited Peninsula Adventist Elementary School on April 13th and by the end of the day issued an Accreditation Report. The team toured the school, reviewed the school's report submitted by Principal Josh Bonifant

and interviewed all the students. In the evening the report was read and shown to the PAES School Board.

The Accreditation Standards they looked at were Philosophy and Mission, Curriculum, Instruction, Assessment, Sustainable Leadership, School Environment, Professional Learning, Communication and Collaboration, and School Improvement. I have conducted many such school visits and made end of the day reports. I sat in my chair somewhat in shock as I realized there were only five recommendations from the committee and we received a six year term with an interim visit in three years. That is the very best report a school can receive.

The report was filled with positive observations about the school. Considering all the areas the team looked at, the recommendations were so very few. The positive comments filled the report for each of the nine areas they covered.

Praise to Principal Josh for all his hard work on the report and for making a difference for the students and the school. A major emphasis for Josh has been the spiritual growth of the students. Our school board chair certainly deserves a great deal of gratitude as she has guided much in the way positive changes for the school. She also serves as PAES unofficial secretary. The school board members all work for the school outside of board meetings. The school has a working board.

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WOMEN'S MINISTRY GARDEN PROJECT

BY SUSAN STEWART

Our Women's Ministry Garden Project campaign for the Peninsula Adventist Elementary School (PAES) ends soon, on May 1. Progress is being made and we are hoping to do as much as we can for the garden as funds allow.

Plant seedlings of corn, lettuce, three different squash, pumpkins, four different tomatoes, cucumber, peas, beans, kale, broccoli, and cabbage are all growing in the sunny school windows and ready for planting. Markers have been placed for placement of the 32 fence posts encircling the entire area around the interior of the circular drive, and a fence building crew has been established.

We now need a volunteer crew to help install an irrigation system for watering our garden. If you will be able to help volunteer for the irrigation project, please call or contact Lynn Berg at 503-758-3595 as soon as possible.

Our late Women's Ministry leader, Sandra Whitney, brought the vision of helping PAES with funding for this project. Giving a memorial gift in remembrance for her would be much appreciated.

If you would like to contribute, please make sure to label your monetary gift as "School Garden", on your tithe envelope and place in the church offering. If it is not labeled correctly, it will not go for this project. Thank you for all your support for our school.

SIGN LANGUAGE CLASS

BY CRAIG
HAMILTON



Would you like to learn a new way to praise God? Ever considered sign language? We are planning a six-week sign language class here at the church. The class will focus on signing songs and prayers. We will also touch on deaf culture and some sign language basics.

We are planning on beginning the class sometime in the fall but would like feedback on what days and times would work best for those interested in attending. If you have suggestions, please contact Craig Hamilton with the dates and times that work best for you. 907-312-0996 or jamescraigham@gmail.com.



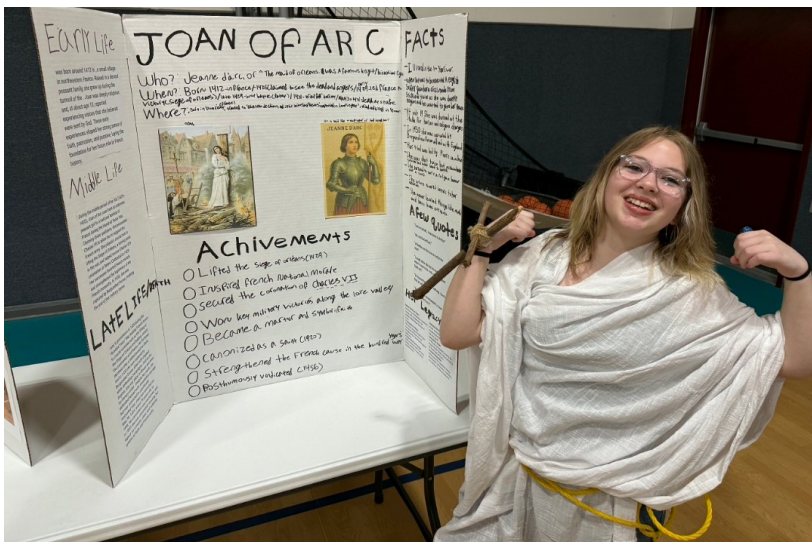
LIVING HISTORY AT PAES

BY JOHN GATCHET

All 26 Peninsula Adventist Elementary School students presented a "Living History" Program on Thursday night April 16th. The gym filled with over 100 family and friends there to see student dressed as famous historical figures ready to share information about their lives. Display boards made by each student with facts and pictures to illustrated the contributions they had made to society. The students chose the people they portrayed.

The visitors were able to ask questions of the students and many of the historical characters were quite knowledgeable about the life and achievements of the person they were portraying. A few of the individuals represented were George Washington, Henry Ford, Clara Barton, Jonas Salk, Jane Austen, Wilbur Wright, Amelia Earhart, Harriet Beecher Stowe and Martin Luther King.

The Living History assignment allowed the students to deepen the learning experience through application to their lives and interaction with adults. They were able to experience positive feedback from the community. One adult commented "The K-2 students were amazing. They knew the facts about the people."



My term as Background Screening Administrator will soon be completed. It would be a great gift to the next Administrator if all Sequim SDA/PAES volunteers who need to renew their background screening clearance, or who need to update their Child Protection Training module would do so without further delay. If you are unsure of your compliance status, please log in to your Sterling Volunteers account at <https://www.ncsrisk.org/adventist/> or check with me at bcp1549@gmail.com before June 1. After that date, I will no longer have administrator access to the database.

BACKGROUND CHECK UPDATE

BY MARK CAUGHEY

The Washington Conference Human Resources office has announced that, effective immediately, the following changes apply to all volunteer positions:

- Sexual harassment Prevention training is no longer required
- References are no longer required; reference request forms will no longer be sent to first-time screening applicants.

ISN'T GOD GOOD!

SUBMITTED BY DOUG WOODS

Sabbath Dinner

by Mark Regazzi

I raced from my freshman comp class at the University of Notre Dame to drop off my books and grab a taxi. That Saturday morning I was going to visit the South Bend Seventh-day Adventist Church for the first time. As a Catholic, I didn't want to explain to the cabby why I was going to an Adventist church, so I told him to drop me off in the 1300 block of E. Altgeld, even though the church was several blocks away.

I signed the guest book and sat in a Sabbath school class taught by the pastor's wife. On the way out of church a woman asked me, *"Where are you from?"*

"The University," I replied.

She offered to drive me back, since she was going to see her sister anyway. I told her, *"No thank you, I'll take the bus back."* Only later did I discover that her sister lived near Andrews University, 25 miles from South Bend. Adventists in South Bend apparently assumed that a college student from "the University" had come from Andrews. When I realized the generosity of her offer, I was truly impressed. I attended church there two more weeks, each time signing the guest book with my Notre Dame address.

Apparently someone eventually read the guest register and was mortified at missing an opportunity to reach out to a Notre Dame student. When I returned to the church three Sabbaths later, I had not walked 10 feet into the church before Ardis Meyer almost knocked me over, rushing to inform me that I would have lunch at her house that day.

From then until I left Notre Dame I always had an invitation to Sabbath dinner. Members so much expected the Nelsons or Behners to take care of me that anyone wanting to have me to dinner called and asked *their* permission and then *told* me where I was eating that Sabbath.

A year later I was hospitalized in South Bend. My mother came from New Jersey to stay with me. After meeting many of the people from the church who came to see me in the hospital, my mother said, *"Now I know why you became an Adventist. It's because those people loved you."*

My mother was right.

"Practice hospitality." Romans 12:13, NIV.

[taken from ***Over & Over Again! 150 Adventists Share Personal Faith Stories About Stewardship.*** 1998. NAD. Edited by Ronald Allan Knott]

ADVENTURERS

BY JAY RICHMOND

Finding our creativity was our next adventure as we worked on Troubadour and Bible Friends. From marching band to creating poems and doing skits, we discovered what area the Otters enjoyed the most. Serenity could make sounds with any wind instrument. Perhaps a budding wind ensemble player? Some, writing rhyming poems came so easy, while others enjoyed the theater and acting the part of the bible story. Beavers colored pictures of bible friends- David and Jonathan, Naomi and Ruth, Paul and Silas. We ended the meeting with doing creature charades.

Our April 6 meeting was the Fire Safety award. We have some sort of fire safety each year to help keep families safe. Otters were reminded to create or have a refresher on their exit plan for their home when a fire happens. This year we added smoke detectors to our learning and discovered the different sounds they make whether it's a fire or battery change time. We watched a silly video, but serious content, about being safe. Otters climbed through a "burning" home, staying low and covering their mouth to not breathe the smoke. A Tissue and flashlight were provided for each one. When safe, they practiced calling 911. Our "kitchen" with a pan on a plate burner (not plugged in) ended up setting each Otter on "fire." All needed to stop, drop, and roll to put out the "fire," removing the sticker. All this created high energy so off to the playground before parents picked up their kids.

We have just three more classes before the big Investiture on Monday, June 1 at 6:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Some parents aren't able to attend the Pathfinder Investiture on June 11 so, this year, we will have our separate celebration and pinning. Hope you can come!



PLEASE STOP USING AI!

BY EMMA MORRIS

I have recently noticed AI-generated images in church, specifically in the lyric videos for the hymns and in the bulletin. It occurred to me that many people in our community probably do not know how bad AI is. Not only is Artificial Intelligence bad for the environment but it will also slowly start to limit our creativity and ability to learn things on our own. But how?

Generative AI uses water. This is not sea water or other undrinkable water, it is our fresh water, the one we need to survive and are already running low on. An article from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, *[Explained: Generative AI's environmental impact](#)*, written by Adam Zewe, states, "Beyond electricity demands, a great deal of water is needed to cool the hardware used for training, deploying, and fine-tuning generative AI models, which can strain municipal water supplies and disrupt local ecosystems." In case you're wondering what generative AI is, the definition is: a subfield of artificial intelligence that uses generative models to generate text, images, videos, audio, software code or other forms of data. Please don't ask ChatGPT, or any other AI bot, to create anything for you and try not to use images already created by generative AI.

Artificial Intelligence restricts our thinking abilities and artistic ones. Instead of doing our own research we usually just look up something on Google and use the AI overview, I used to do this and I'm sure most kids at school do this often, as well as adults. Though the overview AI isn't as harmful as the generative it can still hurt us in the long run. Instead of people drawing, painting, or even photoshopping when they have an idea for a picture, they just use Artificial Intelligence to create it, which means we are using our skills in art progressively less and as humans we need art!

If you're wondering how to avoid AI when using a search engine, I recommend switching to Ecosia. With every few searches on Ecosia you are helping to plant trees and fight climate change. Ecosia invests 20% of their profits in renewable energy, regenerative agriculture, and grassroots activism and the other 80% in protecting and planting trees all over the world. OceanHero is also a good option because they help get plastic out of our oceans. About every 5 searches on OceanHero recover one plastic bottle. If continuing to use Google is more convenient for you, I totally get it and I only ask that you add "-ai" after searching. Thank you for reading and I hope this helped!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Annual Church Business Meeting and School Constituency Meeting will be Sunday, May 31. Please mark your calendars and plan on attending this important meeting. The church budget, 5-year plan, and reports are among the items to be discussed and voted. Watch for more information.



Congratulations to Larry Luke on your 3rd successful Boston Marathon and being part of celebrating 130 years of the race!



All who are interested in being part of a team to encourage and bless others through visits and other means, please meet May 9 right after church in the room next to Office. Pastor Bill Roberts will offer a training session once we have a team formed. Any questions, please contact Donna Bottgenbach at 360-461-2548.

If you have accomplished something, will be graduating, or know someone who has, consider sharing in the newsletter. We would like to celebrate with you. Send to 4thenewsletter@gmail.com.

MAY BIRTHDAYS

1 Leslie Bagwell
4 John Werner
10 Elliot McClure
11 Susan Stewart
13 Pam Arnott
15 Geovonni Peder
16 Charisma Luke
19 Skyela Pulley
19 Jeff Rasco
25 Cecilia Werner
27 Jeff Dawson
27 Mike McBride
28 Noreen Barber
28 June Smith
30 Julia Olsen
30 Laura Shuck



If your name is missing or has an incorrect date, please contact the church office, sequimadventist@sequimsdachurch.org. We would like to celebrate with you.

May 2026 Church Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					¹	² <i>Fellowship Meal 12:30pm</i>
³	⁴ <i>Adventurers 3:30pm</i>	⁵ <i>ACS 10:00am-12:00pm</i>	⁶ <i>Prayer Meeting 6:30pm</i>	⁷ <i>Backpack Program 8:00am Elders Meeting & Pathfinders 6:30pm</i>	⁸	⁹ <i>Visitation Planning Meeting after Service</i>
¹⁰	¹¹ <i>School Board Meeting 6:30pm</i>	¹²	¹³ <i>Prayer Meeting 6:30pm</i>	¹⁴ <i>Backpack Program 8:00am Ladies Bible Study 2:00pm Pathfinders 6:30pm</i>	¹⁵	¹⁶ <i>Children's Church 11:00am</i>
¹⁷ <i>Adventurers 2:00pm</i>	¹⁸ <i>Ladies Get-Together 12:00pm Church Board Meeting 6:30pm</i>	¹⁹ <i>ACS 10:00am-12:00pm</i>	²⁰ <i>Prayer Meeting 6:30pm</i>	²¹ <i>Backpack Program 8:00am Pathfinders 6:30pm</i>	²²	²³
²⁴	²⁵ <i>Church Office Closed</i>	²⁶	²⁷	²⁸ <i>Backpack Program 8:00am Ladies Bible Study 2:00pm PAES Picnic</i>	²⁹	³⁰ <i>Baptism</i>
³¹ <i>Church Business / School Constituency Meeting</i>	<u>Upcoming Events:</u> June 1 Adventurer Investiture June 3 PAES Kindergarten & 8th Grade Graduations June 4 Last Day of School for PAES June 11 Pathfinder Investiture					

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