



PENNRIDGE

SCHOOL DISTRICT

NEWSLETTER

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Renovations, New Construction and General Maintenance Make Facility Improvements District-Wide

The changes at M.M. Seylar Elementary School will be obvious to returning students and staff as the \$8.5 million renovation project is in full swing with expected completion by September 2003. At the high school campus, the first phase of the \$93 million, four-year construction project has begun, and around the district, general maintenance and improvement projects will address the changing needs of a growing school community.

According to Pricilla Ponist, the new principal at M.M. Seylar, the renovation plans are moving quickly. Expected to be completed for the opening of school this fall are the refurbished classroom areas for grades 3-6 and the newly remodeled "cafetorium." Students in

kindergarten through grade two can expect to be displaced temporarily as work on their wing will take place early in the school year. The new gym should be ready for use by early 2003. New classrooms and the renovated office suite will finish the final phase of the Seylar project.

The major renovations and additions to the building are the first since 1954 when additional classrooms were constructed. The much-needed updates will provide the Seylar school community with

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Pricilla Ponist looks into one of the completed sixth grade classrooms as she inspects the work at M.M. Seylar Elementary School. She took over as principal of the building in July after spending seven years as principal at West Rockhill Elementary. The change has been challenging, but she is excited about working with the students and staff at her new school. "I've heard wonderful things about the staff here and I'm anxious to observe their delivery of instruction in the classroom," she said.



Penridge Continues Involvement with Healthy Communities/Healthy Youth Initiative

Since the spring of 2000 a resurgence of community involvement has developed

into the Penridge Area Healthy Communities/Healthy Youth (PAHCHY). The PAHCHY is comprised of local representatives from government, law enforcement, education, faith communities, businesses, neighborhood associations and individual youth. The PAHCHY mission statement is as follows:

To build a community where:

- Adults and youth appreciate human value and accept each other's diverse needs, gifts, and character;
- Families, schools, faith communities, businesses, law enforcement, government, and community organizations work cooperatively to nurture understanding across generations, promoting vital assets for healthy youth.

PAHCHY is a long term (20-30 year) process of creating the necessary foundation for the development of healthy children. One of the approaches PAHCHY is taking towards this end is educating every member of the Penridge Community about its role in building what are known as "developmental assets." Last year PAHCHY was "introduced" to the secondary level educators and the larger community at a widely attended meeting held on October 8, 2001.

This year, a district wide in-service program for all elementary school staff on October 16th will focus on the developmental assets approach with Derek Peterson, a national speaker and

trainer on positive youth development. He will present an after-school workshop to help elementary educators infuse their ongoing work with students and families with the developmental assets message. Peterson will make a presentation titled "Building Safety Nets and Launching Pads for All Your Kids" at Penridge Central Middle School beginning at 7:30 p.m. The community is invited to attend the free program and become more familiar with the developmental assets.

For more information about the Penridge Area Healthy Communities/Healthy Youth please contact the following:

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To learn more about the PAHCHY, to see actual community data on the priority risk factors and the level of developmental assets, and to see minutes of monthly PAHCHY meetings, go to www.justcommunity.com.

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