

Press Release



Battle Ground Public Schools

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School praised after morning evacuation

Pleasant Valley Primary School Principal Missy Mitchell praised students and staff Wednesday for their quick actions and orderly evacuation of the building after gas was smelled shortly after 9 a.m. In turn, the fire department and the gas company had praise for the school.

The situation was created when some unburned fumes escaped from a heating and air conditioning unit on the roof of the school at 14320 N.E. 50th Ave. and were sucked back into the unit via an outside-air intake. A new part has been ordered.

In the meantime, that one unit cannot be used for heating, although air conditioning and ventilation will continue to operate. The unit serves offices, the library and music and reading rooms at Pleasant Valley Primary, but not classroom wings. Thanks to mild weather at this time of year, the temporary lack of heating should not be a problem.

Mitchell said that as soon as the gas fumes were smelled, about 9:15 a.m., the building was evacuated, as it would be in a fire drill. The main gas supply was shut off and 911 was called. She said Northwest Natural technicians joined school and district maintenance people in tracking down the problem. The Fire Department later complimented the school staff for its quick actions and Northwest Natural praised the system's overall condition, noting they found no leaks in the piping or ductwork.

Afterward, Mitchell made an automated phone call to families of the school's students, explaining what happened and adding, "Students and staff did an excellent job with evacuation and being safe. . . . We are all so proud of their behavior!"

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