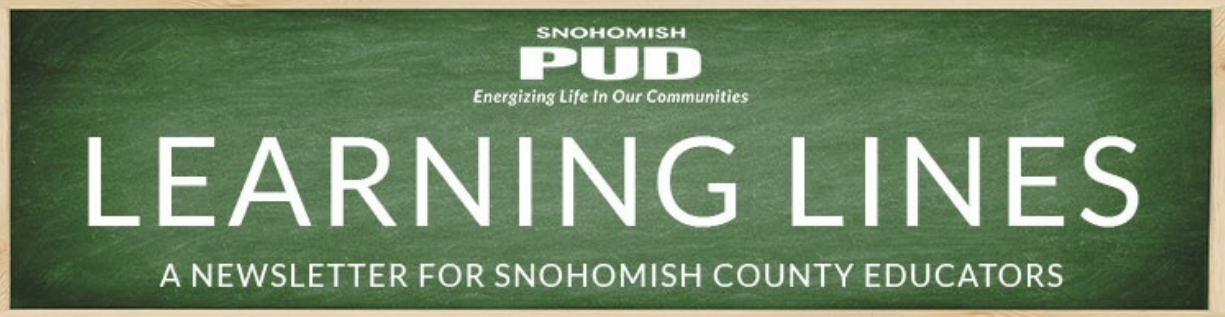


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Winter 2023 | snopud.com/education

Chalk Talk



I think we can all agree that Fall 2022 was a whirlwind in the world of education! Teachers, students, and administrators have been working hard to shake the pandemic off and get back on track. We are thankful that schools recognize the importance of our NGSS-based programs and have welcomed us back into classrooms. We are so happy to be back face-to-face with learners!

-- Heather Herbst
PUD Public Education Programs Coordinator

MEET OUR ROCKSTAR EDUCATION TEAM!



L-R: Jennifer Wenzel, Roger Olson, Ming Leung, George Swaney, Sasha Legare, and Andy Harper

PUD educators have historically been dedicated and talented team members, and our current team is one of the best. Please take a minute to learn about our crew, and if you encounter one of them in the hallways at your school, please offer them a warm welcome.

Roger Olsen

Mr. Olsen has been a key member of the PUD's education team for 9 years. Although he's enjoyed several successful careers prior to joining the PUD, teaching has always been of special interest to him. Mr. Olsen enjoys combining his passion for teaching with his dedication to science and looks forward to many more years working with the young students of Snohomish County.

Ming Leung

Mr. Leung was an Integrated Circuit Design Engineer for 30 years prior to coming to work for the PUD's Education Program in the fall of 2022. While working as an engineer, his focus was designing a wide range of products for commercial use, aerospace, and national defense. He also worked as a part-time lecturer at a technical institute for several years. Mr. Leung is a father of three adult children who all graduated from UW with degrees in science or engineering. His favorite thing about working as a contract teacher for the PUD is inspiring young people to explore science and guiding them along the way.

Andy Harper

Mr. Harper is a retired teacher who really enjoys teaching hands-on science! Before joining Team PUD in the fall of 2018, he spent several years coaching robotics teams in addition to his regular teaching duties. Mr. Harper is married

to a teacher of gifted students and is the proud grandfather of an energetic toddler. In his free time, Mr. Harper loves developing new board game ideas and perfecting his "Dad" jokes.

George Swaney

Mr. Swaney retired after 33 years teaching elementary and middle school and has been teaching for the PUD since 2017. One of his favorite things about working for the PUD is going into schools and helping students become more informed about how things work in the world around them. Although he's been retired from teaching for 10 years, Mr. Swaney still enjoys working with kids because he says, "It charges my batteries!"

Sasha Legare

Mrs. Legare is new to the education team this year. Before working for the PUD, Sasha was a paraeducator in special education for the Arlington School District. Her favorite thing about teaching for the PUD is getting to interact with students in every school district in Snohomish County. She enjoys camping with her husband and two young daughters in their VW Westfalia in her free time.

Jennifer Wenzel

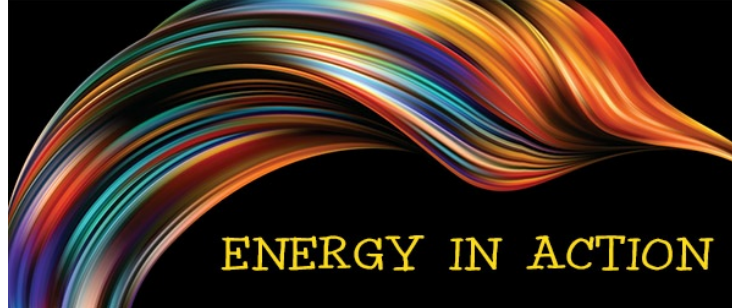
Mrs. Wenzel originally studied for her M.Ed. at UW with the idea of teaching high school English Literature. She learned about adding special education to her credentials by chance. Her first teaching job was at a middle school in Renton where she most enjoyed teaching kids with behavioral struggles. Mrs. Wenzel currently teaches birth to age three when she isn't working with the PUD. She loves teaching all ages and stages, which is why she decided to join our team this year. She enjoys getting to joke around with kids and hear their interesting ideas while she teaches.

Announcing our 2023 Contests!



[K-12 Art Contest \(click to view\)](#)

Theme: Create a Superhero with Energy-Related Superpowers!



[High School Photography Contest \(click to view\)](#)

Theme: Energy in Action

Teacher Bonus!

You could win a \$250 Amazon gift card to help you promote energy, environmental and/or water education in your classroom. Your name will be entered into a drawing for each of your students who participate in our contest. Increase your odds! Encourage your students to participate and make sure your name is included on the "Teacher's Name" line of the entry form. Good luck!

Please share these links containing contest details with your students and their parents. Keep your eyes peeled for printed flyers to be delivered to your school mailbox soon. Email hmherbst@snopud.com if you have any questions about the information in the flyers.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL OPPORTUNITIES & RESOURCES



FREE Solar Bug Teacher Mini-Workshop for 4th and 5th Grade Teachers

We received lots of positive feedback after we piloted our virtual Mini Solar Teacher Workshop last spring, so we're offering this workshop again and expanding our number of participants.

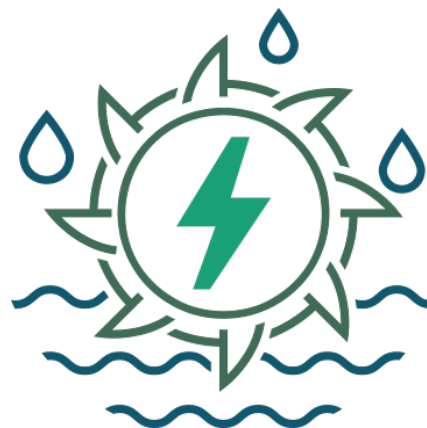
Workshops will be on Wednesday, April 26, from 4:00-5:00 pm and Thursday, May 4, from 4:30-5:30 pm.

This workshop is a jam-packed hour with information about how to easily bring solar energy topics into 4th- and 5th-grade classrooms. After the workshop, attendees will be provided with solar teaching resources and classroom sets of [Solar Bugs](#). This way, teachers can build with their students on a sunny day that fits their schedule! Register [here](#). Email jrlamarca@snopud.com with questions.

Live Classroom Presentations for 3rd to 5th Grades

If your team still hasn't signed up for classroom presentations for the 2022-2023 school year, there are still a few spots open for spring. If you would like to sign your team up, please fill out the request form on our [website](#) and Heather will be in contact with you.

MIDDLE SCHOOL OPPORTUNITIES & RESOURCES



Middle School Renewables Workshops

There are still a few openings for our middle school [workshops](#) *Hydropower: Energy and Systems* and *Renewables: The Future of Energy*. During these hand-on workshops, students learn about energy, systems, hydropower, and other renewable energy sources. To schedule these virtual workshops, please email Leandra at ldarden@triangleassociates.com.

Career Connected Learning Videos



We're hoping you'll share our [Career Connected Learning webpage](#) with your students. It has inspiring short videos showcasing PUD careers in action. Recently we added 2 new videos featuring Lillian Manley, an Engineering Technician in our Water Resources group, and Nick Peretti, an Engineer for Substation Construction. Both share engaging stories about how their education journeys led them to jobs they enjoy!



JUST FOR FUN!

It's never too early to plan for April Fool's Day. Check out these April Fool's STEM activities from the [US Department of Energy](#) and show your students a trick they'll never forget!

[Click to email the PUD Education Team](#)

