



February 16, 2007

Dear Whitworth and Dearborn Park families:

I am pleased to announce the appointment of Ellen Punyon as the new principal for Dearborn Park Elementary School. As you know, Whitworth and Dearborn Park schools are merging this fall at the Dearborn Park building. Ms. Punyon will officially begin her duties in July 2007.

Ms. Punyon has 25 years experience as an educator serving students from many backgrounds and cultures. She is currently the principal at Wing Luke Elementary where she has served for the past 11 years. Ms. Punyon also spent four years as principal of Whittier elementary and eight years as a special education resource room teacher. Prior to moving to Seattle, Ms. Punyon taught elementary school in New York.

Ms. Punyon's experience at Wing Luke has been an excellent preparation for leading your merged school community. Like Whitworth and Dearborn Park, Wing Luke's student body is ethnically and socio-economically diverse. Ms. Punyon is a strong leader who focuses on academics, and who welcomes family involvement.

Ms. Punyon is honored to be able to work in the community in which she lives, and looks forward to working collaboratively with staff and families of Whitworth and Dearborn Park. Her vision is to bring the communities north and south of Orcas Street and east and west of Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. together to build a high achieving multi-cultural learning community. While Ms. Punyon's appointment officially becomes effective July 1, 2007, she will begin working with the staff and building leadership teams at Whitworth and Dearborn Park to ensure a smooth transition. She looks forward to meeting you!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carla J. Santorno". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Carla Santorno
Chief Academic Officer