PSAA and KSDA Welcome Dr. Perrin as New Principal

October 2022

By: Josephine Baird-Nye

Dr. Ralph Perrin joined PSAA and KSDA as principal on August 22, 2022, and has not only been a great addition, but a wonderful leader. Before moving to Kirkland, Dr. Perrin, was teaching full-time at Pacific Union College. While Dr. Perrin enjoyed teaching at PUC, he is happy to now be involved in a K-12 program because it gives him the opportunity to get to know the parents of the students. He said, “I find a much greater family approach to education here, than I had at the university level.”

While Dr. Perrin loves education, teaching wasn’t always in his plan. Dr. Perrin received his bachelor’s degree in Biology and Chemistry from Walla Walla College, now Walla Walla University. He then received his Master's in Nutrition and Health Education. He later went on to receive Doctorates in Preventative Care and Health Science. After a short stint in clinical work, Dr. Perrin realized that he enjoyed formal education much more. He said, "There is a lot of personal satisfaction in guiding students through in-depth inquiry about the world in which we live and the practical application of knowledge, skills, attitudes and behavior." What he is most passionate about, is "Nudging students a little closer to Jesus Christ."

Dr. Perrin has worked in both Adventist and non-Adventist schools and has “enjoyed both immensely” because he believes that both environments are conducive to whole-student development, which is a passion of his. But because he is a fifth generation Adventist, he believes there is something special about the world-wide Adventist network. He loves being able to participate in a worship setting with students, staff, parents and board members. Something he was not able to enjoy at public colleges and universities. It is because of this belief that the new principal’s goal at PSAA and KSDA is “To continue the rich heritage of Adventist education for our constituency.”

In his spare time, Dr. Perrin enjoys doing anything with a ball, water, trail, birds, nature and always seeking the next adventure. He enjoys spending time with his wife, Gayla Martin Norton and with their five adult children and two grandchildren. Gayla teaches grades five and six at KSDA, where she attended as a child.

PSAA and KSDA are blessed by Dr. Perrin and his wife Gayla. The PSAA and KSDA community can’t wait to see where Dr. Perrin will take our campus!