



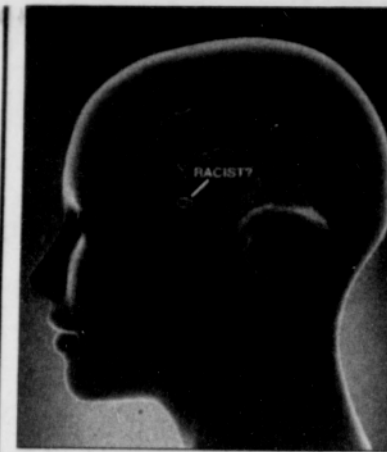
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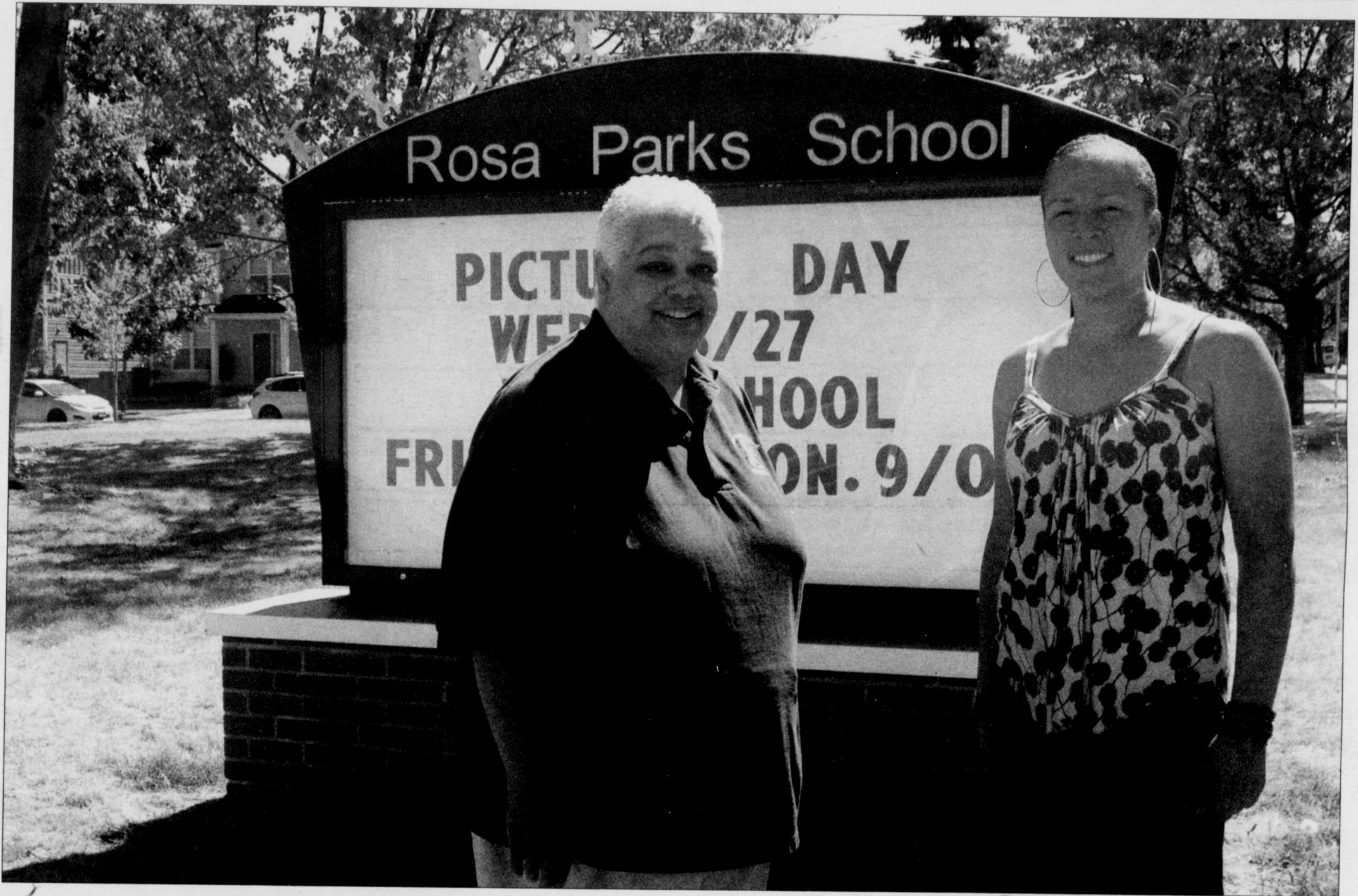


PHOTO BY DONOVAN M. SMITH/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Rosa Parks Elementary Principal Tamala Newsome (left) and assistant principal Reiko Williams pose outside of the north Portland school where students, parents, and administration alike are piloting a year round calendar meant in part to offset some of the 'learning loss' that traditionally comes with months of summer vacation.

School gets a Jump Start

*As kids return to the
classroom, Rosa Parks
already in full swing*

BY DONOVAN M. SMITH
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

The end of the Labor Day weekend meant that Tuesday was first day of school for most children in Portland but not at Rosa Parks Elementary.

Classes have been in full swing for 400 pupils of the north Portland school where a pilot "Year Round Balanced Calendar" began in July. Instead of long summer

vacations of the past, Rosa Parks's students will continue on a year-long schedule that puts them in the classroom for 9 week segments sandwiched with 3 week long breaks.

The Portland Observer sat down with Rosa Parks Principal Tamala Newsome and Assistant Principal Reiko Williams to discuss how the new programming is going so far.

Past the normal anxiety that usually comes with starting something new, Newsome says that since kicking off their unique school year, students, staff and parents alike have adjusted well.

"We can already see the positive effects moving to a year-round balance calendar are having on our students," she

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