



**Rock Creek Elementary School**  
Fritz Gere, Principal  
Marianne Sager, Dean of Students  
Radie Haytack, Building Manager

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Good News! There will be Camp Casey for this year's fifth-grade students.

Fund-raising efforts by elementary school PTA organizations, individuals, Maple Valley Rotary and the Tahoma Foundation have produced about half of the \$41,000 needed to ensure that fifth-graders would attend the Whidbey Island outdoor education camp. But an unexpected source of funds will be used to pay the remaining amount.

The Tahoma School District will provide \$22,000 toward camp expenses. The money will come from the district's reserve fund, known as the fund balance. Money is available thanks to unanticipated carryover of funds from last year's school budget. With the accounting books now closed on last year's budget, the district can apply unspent funds to this year's needs.

Camp Casey traditionally received funding from three sources: parents, PTA and the school district. The school district's share of funding was eliminated as part of \$3.6 million in budget adjustments that were necessary when state education funding was reduced for the current school year. The Tahoma School Board agreed to permit students to attend Camp Casey as long as the school district's portion of the camp expenses came from sources outside the district.

Fund-raising efforts have been under way since August, including sales of Java Java Camp Casey coffee, a donation from Maple Valley Rotary and the donation of up to \$10,000 from the sale of fence panels by the Eric Knudsen family. Parents also have been asked to contribute beyond the required \$100 per student.

"We greatly appreciate the efforts that are being made to raise money for our students," Superintendent Mike Maryanski said. "Fortunately, the school district now finds itself in a position to provide the balance of funds necessary to make Camp Casey available to our fifth-grade students this year. Now we must find a permanent solution for next year and beyond."

Parents who have contributed more than their \$100 per student fee can either obtain a refund or can permit the money to be used as scholarships for students who are unable to pay. Parents who wish to obtain a refund can do so by contacting the following person at their child's school:

RCES: Donna Scanlon-Olson: [dscanlon@tahomasd.us](mailto:dscanlon@tahomasd.us)

LWES: Sandy Corlis: [scorlis@tahomasd.us](mailto:scorlis@tahomasd.us)

GPES: Chrystal Shields: [cshields@tahomasd.us](mailto:cshields@tahomasd.us)

SLES: Laura Durkin: [ldurkin@tahomasd.us](mailto:ldurkin@tahomasd.us)

We look forward to your child participating in our Outdoor Education Program!