

What's news in Tahoma schools?

Presented as a community service by the VOICE of the Valley and Tahoma School District

School District highlights

Makeup schedule set for snow days, conferences

Tahoma School District parent-teacher conferences postponed by weather-caused school closures on Nov. 23 and 24 will be made up during the week of Dec. 20. School closure days will be made up in January and June.

Here is the schedule for the week of Dec. 20:

Monday, Dec. 20: Early dismissal for students. This is a full contract day for teachers and becomes an early release day for staff development instead of the one originally scheduled for Dec. 22.

Tuesday, Dec. 21 and Wednesday, Dec. 22: Early dismissal for students. Elementary school teachers can schedule parent conferences on these days.

Morning half-day kindergarten students will attend school on the mornings of Dec. 20 and 22. Afternoon half-day kindergarten students will attend school on the morning of Dec. 21.

Tahoma School District students and staff will make up three days of school closures on the following dates:

Jan. 27 will be a full school day instead of a semester break day to make up for a school closure on Nov. 16 because of power outages; it will be a "gold" calendar day. Jan. 28 is the final day of first semester. Second semester begins on Monday, Jan. 31.

June 17 and June 20 will be school days to make up for school closures.

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www.tahomasd.us

THS students compete to aid MV Food Bank

Tahoma High School students attacked hunger last week by competing in their advisory classes to see who could collect the most food for the Maple Valley Food Bank.

The winners -- students and their community -- were plain to see as a small mountain of donated food filled one end of the basketball floor and students celebrated by cheering on teams of "bouncy ball" racers at a special spirit assembly on Dec. 7.



Voters: Our students need your attention

Do you recall the reasons you chose to purchase your home and raise your children in Maple Valley? Chances are that the quality of the Tahoma School District was a prime factor.

Of the 295 school districts in Washington state, our school district is currently among the top 10 school districts per state assessments. We offer a variety of AP, CORE, elective and vocational classes to support a comprehensive education for our students. The school board is concerned that those offerings

Board Talk



Mary Jane Glaser

will be limited in the future due to competition for classroom space.

The school board engaged a group of citizens and school staff three years ago to study the district's school and facilities issues and received their recommendations to run a capital bond. We delayed this important vote due to the state of our economy. Recently, the school board felt that we could no longer delay due to the prediction that 1,700 more students will be enrolled in our school district during the next eight

years. We must prepare for that eventuality.

It has been 14 years since our community has been asked to come to its school district's assistance in approving a bond measure to remodel schools and build additional teaching and learning spaces for our students.

If the bond measure fails, difficult decisions will be made to meet the needs of housing our students. Those decisions will affect everyone in our community. When the number of students exceeds our ability to house them, we may need to decide between year-round school and double-shifting. We can all project how disruptive that would be

to schools, family, work and extracurricular schedules.

Our entire community must discuss and decide upon the challenges facing our school district before the vote is taken on April 26, 2011. As concerned and informed citizens, especially the parents of our students, we know that our children deserve your attention. I was shocked to learn that of the 9,000 parents in our school district only 6,000 are registered to vote. Of that group, only a small percentage exercises their right to vote.

Please... Register to vote. Become informed. Vote.

School Director Mary Jane Glaser represents District 3 on the School Board.