

What's news in Tahoma schools?

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

School District highlights

Saturday classes aim to support parents, kids

Parents who are looking for ways to help their children succeed in school can get some help this month in a series of free learning workshops.

The Tahoma Parent-School Partnership Series features a different topic on three consecutive Saturdays that are aimed at helping parents better understand what students need to know and be able to do in school.

The classes will be held from 9 a.m. to noon on Oct. 16, 23 and 30 at Tahoma Middle School. Classes will cover all grade levels. Subjects are: Using Technology at Home; Supporting Your Young Reader and Writer at Home; Supporting Your Young Mathematician and Scientist at Home.

Registration information is available on the Tahoma Web page.

Early release on Oct. 8

Students will be released early on Friday, Oct. 8. Teachers and other staff members will participate in professional development activities for the remainder of the day. Staff development days provide time and opportunity to bring staff members together to focus on ways to strengthen student learning.

Tahoma news on Facebook

Check for Tahoma news and events, including Tahoma Learning Community classes and activities, on Facebook.

Visit us on the Web:
www.tahomasd.us

Students raise gardens and water quality awareness

Students at Rock Creek Elementary School and Tahoma Junior High School are taking a hands-on approach as they learn about ways to protect Puget Sound.

Students at each school helped create rain gardens to divert runoff from roof downspouts. Instead of going into storm drains and then into streams, the water flows into sunken gardens filled with composted soil and native plants.

The rain garden project is being conducted in cooperation with the Friends of Cedar River, a non-profit organization whose mission is to encourage conservation and protection of the Cedar River/Lake Washington watershed.

Peter Donaldson of Friends of the Cedar River Watershed, is coordinating the projects. Donaldson said that the demonstration rain gardens give students an opportunity to understand how stormwater



A team of Rock Creek Elementary students planted this rain garden at Central Services Center.

can affect an ecosystem such as the Sound. The gardens are one element of a comprehensive education program about runoff from hard surfaces into stormwater pollution solutions.

School board faces tough choices on construction bond

School board directors often face challenging decisions that demand more than the usual amount of consideration and information. The question of whether to run a bond measure in this difficult economy is one of those challenging decisions that we now face.

Over the last two years our board has discussed and studied options, poring over hundreds of pages of information and monitoring the conditions in our schools both in terms of classroom space and the condition of our buildings. There is one word that is at the forefront of my mind as I consider whether it is appropriate to run this measure as our economy

Board Talk



Didem Pierson

struggles to bounce back. That word is "stewardship."

Stewardship is defined as "the careful and responsible management of something entrusted to one's care." As a member of the Tahoma School Board, it is my duty as your steward to make certain that we provide adequate learning facilities so that quality education can occur.

The task before us is not easy. The type of construction and major maintenance that is needed requires our district to ask our community to support a bond measure that will increase property taxes. The need for more classroom space and major building maintenance is clear. What is

difficult is asking our citizens to pay higher taxes in the midst of an economy that is struggling. What does someone in my position do?

My answer is to do my best to educate my community of the importance and the need for this bond measure. My responsibility as an elected official is to offer as much information as possible and invite our community to join me in being responsible stewards of a district that believes in quality education, every day, in every classroom for every child.

I invite your questions and comments. Please contact me or other members of our school board. Find us on the TSD Web page.

Didem Pierson is president of the Tahoma School Board.