

What's news in Tahoma schools?

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

School District highlights

Discovery Program nominations open

Tahoma School District is opening the nomination period for participants in Discovery, a program that serves exceptionally intelligent, intellectually gifted elementary students whose needs may not be easily met in the general classroom. The district screens nominees for placement in the full time Discovery Program. Anyone may nominate a student for the program. Nominations open on Nov. 14 and close Dec. 16, 2011.

This screening considers nominees currently in grades two through four for next year's placement. Only Tahoma School District residents are eligible. Nomination forms are available in all elementary school offices and online at www.tahomasd.us. Selection for the Discovery program reflects state guidelines for identifying intellectually gifted students.

2012-13 calendar on agenda

Tahoma School Board will review a proposed calendar for the 2012-2013 school year at its Dec. 20 meeting. The calendar sets dates for the opening and closing of the school year and vacation dates.

The meeting begins at 6:30 p.m. in the Board Room at Central Services Center. When the school board approves the calendar it will be posted on the Tahoma web page.

Visit us on the Web:
www.tahomasd.us

THS student wins disaster readiness poster contest

Tahoma High School student Sean Destro is off to a fast start as a graphic artist, using the skills he is gaining in his digital graphic arts class and his own imagination to create the winning entry in a Kent Fire Department poster contest.

Destro, a junior, said he and his classmates in Jennifer McCoy's digital graphic arts class were invited to submit entries to the contest, which was held in conjunction with national fire prevention month in October. He used disaster photos from the Web and created the text to communicate the importance of emergency preparedness. He then used a photo editing program to create the poster and enter it in the high school age category.

Destro's poster will be used by the Kent Fire Department in its public education program. Entries from Tahoma, Kent and Highline school districts were considered as part of the contest.



Destro

Disaster Can Strike at any second!



Earthquakes



Volcanoes



Mudslides



Fires

Are you prepared?



Sean Destro's award-winning poster.

Students offer families rebuilt computers

Tahoma students and families who need a home computer but can't afford one now have an opportunity to get a free desktop computer.

THS Bear Computers, a group of students involved in the school's PC Technology class, are refurbishing surplus school district desktop computers and offering them free to students and families in need. Each computer is refurbished in compliance with standards set by the Microsoft Corporation. This program benefits students in the PC Technology class by giving them hands-on experience in the repair and building of computers.

To apply for a free, refurbished computer please contact: Jill Jolk, Tahoma High School, 425-413-6204.

School board delves into student housing options

Answers to Tahoma's school overcrowding won't come quickly and are going to have an impact on the budget and on how students are educated, the Tahoma School Board is learning.

In the month since a citizen committee on student housing presented its recommendations to the Tahoma School Board, the board has held one meeting

to discuss the report and has asked for additional information from staff as it sifts through options.

The board is looking first at short-term options that would address current and expected enrollment over the next few years. In addition, it will examine long-term solutions that would require more permanent classrooms and support facilities.

The work done by the citizen committee and the school board began after voters rejected a bond measure request in April 2011 that would have built an additional elementary school, added classrooms at Tahoma High School and Tahoma Junior High, paid for major maintenance projects at several schools, and replaced most of the district's portable

classrooms with permanent ones.

Failure of the bond measure left the school district with limited choices to house students, since most of the district's eight schools are at or beyond their designed enrollment capacity.

The board likely will continue discussion of student housing options at its January meetings.