

What's news in Tahoma schools?

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

School District highlights

Staff development activities set for Oct. 28

Teachers will work their usual hours but students will be released a couple of hours early on Friday, Oct. 28. The day is one of nine early release days for staff training and development this school year.

Ongoing staff development is a key element of the school district's educational program. The training provides teachers with current information and teaching tools, which benefits students in the classroom.

Early release days and three waiver days (when students do not attend school but teachers are involved in training) provide time for training without requiring additional spending by the school district, since the days are part of teachers' 180-day contract.

Three of the early release days this year will not be used for training. Instead, teachers will work a shortened day as part of 23 hours in pay cuts they are receiving, due to state budget cuts. Those dates are: Nov. 10, Dec. 21, April 21 and the last day of school in June, which is always an early release day for students.

Community notices online

Find out about fun events and ways to involve students in productive activities by checking the online community events web page. Just go to the main Tahoma web page or any school web page and look for Community Notices.

Visit us on the Web:
www.tahomasd.us

Shadow Lake Elementary named School of Distinction

Shadow Lake Elementary School is one of only 53 elementary schools in the state to be selected as a School of Distinction for 2011.

The award was announced Oct. 9 by The Center for Educational Effectiveness in Redmond. The award recognizes Shadow Lake for its steady improvement in reading and math scores over a five-year period as compared to other schools in Washington.

"As a staff we are committed to meeting the individual student's needs both academically and socially," said Christina Everett, principal. "In the Tahoma School District we have finely crafted curriculum and instruction practices that support all student learning.

"This recognition only validates our collaborative efforts of providing quality learning for every child, in every classroom, every day!" she said.

Everett and her staff were honored by Superintendent Mike Maryanski, Assistant Superintendent Nancy Skerritt and Associate Director of Teaching and Learning Dawn Wakeley last Thursday when the school was presented with a banner in recognition of its award.

This is the fifth year that School of Distinction awards have been made. In addition to the Center for Educational Effectiveness, these organizations sponsor and help select schools that are honored for academic achievement: the Association of Educational



Shadow Lake Elementary Principal Christina Everett, left, was presented with a banner to mark the school's selection as a School of Distinction. Assistant Superintendent Nancy Skerritt, left, and Superintendent Mike Maryanski presented the banner, along with Associate Director of Teaching and Learning Dawn Wakeley.

Service Districts (AESD); the Association of Washington School Principals (AWSP); Phi Delta Kappa-Washington Chapter (PDK-WA), Washington

Association of School Administrators (WASA), Washington State ASCD and Washington State School Directors' Association

Preparing for emergencies



Students at Rock Creek Elementary line up on the playfield as part of evacuation procedures during the district-wide earthquake drill on Oct. 19.