



# Bear Claw News

Tahoma Junior High/Middle School PTA (9.14.40)

Serving Tahoma secondary schools in the Maple Valley/Ravensdale/Hobart Community

## Digital Learning Day—February 1st

### What is Digital Learning?

Digital learning is any instructional practice that is effectively using technology to strengthen the student learning experience. Digital learning encompasses a wide spectrum of tools and practice, including using online and formative assessment, increasing focus and quality of teaching resources and time, online content and courses, applications of technology in the classroom and school building, adaptive software for students with special needs, learning platforms, participating in professional communities of practice, providing access to high level and challenging content and instruction,

and many other advancements technology provides to teaching and learning. In particular, blended learning is any time a student learns, at least in part, at a supervised brick-and-mortar location away from home and, at least in part, through online delivery with some element of student control over time, place, path, and/or pace.

### What is Digital Learning Day?

Digital Learning Day is a culminating event in a year-round national awareness campaign to improve teaching and learning for all children. On Digital Learning Day, we are asking everyone – no matter your comfort with



technology - teachers, librarians, school leaders, afterschool programs, community groups, parents – to Sign up and be counted in this effort (see website below)

Digital Learning Day is not just for schools: learning takes place in many environments, so libraries, community or afterschool programs, and other groups along with parents and students are all invited. Sign up today, learn more, and join us for a celebration of innovation. Visit our toolkit section to get started!

[www.digitallearningday.org](http://www.digitallearningday.org)



## Brad Henning Returns to Tahoma Junior High

Monday, March 5<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30p.m.

At school, your 8th grade students will hear Brad Henning (a dad himself) talk about differences between men and women and about ways to build healthy, long-term relationships using humor and true stories as tools. This is not a biology lesson. It is a real -life description of the ways that men and women relate to life and to each other. They'll laugh, they may cry, but what they hear will **make sense** to them.

That evening, Brad will be speaking to PARENTS ONLY. He will give you an overview of his talk to students as well as additional tools to help you guide your kids through this challenging time of life. His aim is to help parents understand the culture their kids live in and see their role in their kids' maturity. Parents often say they wish they had received this kind of information when they were kids, and that it actually answered questions they as adults have had about love, marriage, and relationships. Parent Night also creates positive parental support in delicate issues. Topics to be covered: Differences Between Men and Women, What Love Is (and isn't), and Nine Reasons to Wait.

[www.bradhenning.com](http://www.bradhenning.com)

### Elected PTA Board Members Unit # 9.14.40

**Cedar River Middle School**  
Pres.: Eva Paterson  
V.P.: Sue La Brie  
Cashier: JoAnne Bridges

**Tahoma Middle School**  
Pres.: Jennifer Foucault  
V.P.: Terri Phillips  
Cashier: Stephanie Masters

**Tahoma Junior High**  
Pres.: Tonyia Cairns  
V.P.: Susan Mozonne  
Cashier: Angie Gormley

**Treasurer**  
Milissa Smith  
**Secretary**  
Beth Simmons

**PTA WEBSITE**  
<http://swift.tahoma.wednet.edu/csc/mpta/>

**PTA EMAIL:**  
[tjh\\_ms\\_pta@hotmail.com](mailto:tjh_ms_pta@hotmail.com)

## REMEMBER -

**Ice Cream punch cards are available. \$5 and \$10 Ice Cream punch cards can be purchased during your school's ice cream days!**

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THAMS PTA

Striving to support the partnership of parents, educators and the local community to enhance the learning and social environment to benefit all children in achieving personal excellence



### IMPORTANT DATES

#### Feb

1/31 (8<sup>th</sup>) & 1 (9<sup>th</sup>) Finding Kind Video (TJH)

3-5 Musical @ TMS(CRM/TMS/TJH)

9 PTA Board Meeting

Presale Jamba Gram Valentines(TJH)

10 Early Release

10-12 Musical @ TMS(CRM/TMS/TJH)

14 Red/White/Pink Day (TMS)

20-24 Mid-Winter Break

29 Choir Concert @ THS (TMS)

#### Mar

1 Choir Concert @ TJH (CRM)

2 Dance @ TJH (TJH)

5 Brad Henning Parent Night @ TJH

8 PTA Board Meeting

9 After School Dance (TMS)

Talent Show (TJH)

13 Incoming 9th grade Parent Night (TJH)

16 No School

Tahoma Faculty Concert @ TMS

19 Incoming 6th Parent Night (TMS/CRM)

20 Incoming 8th Grade Parent Night (TJH)

21 Choir Concert @ TMS (TMS)

22 Choir Concert @ TMS (CRM)

23 Pep Assembly (TMS)

28 Choir Concert @ TJH (TJH)

30 Early Release



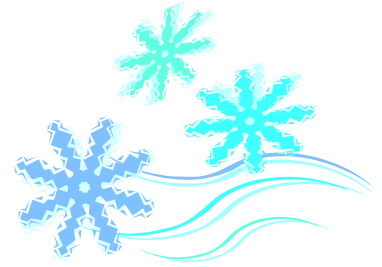
## Cutting School Funding? Nothing Equitable About It!

The governor's proposal to cut and later ask voters to "buy back" four days of school gambles with our children's future, and Washington State PTA strongly opposes it. The move would land the state in a legal mess and cause tremendous disruption.

- It would require redefining basic education and set a troubling precedent that students don't need those additional days.
- It would force districts to reopen and renegotiate hundreds of contracts, or possibly make the state step in and order school doors closed.
- Worst of all, it tells students not to count on that promised college- and career-ready diploma.

**Don't want education funding to be cut in 2012?!** Then the time is now to contact your legislators and let them know how important a quality education is to students in the Tahoma School District. You can email your representative and/or senator easily with a sample letter already written from the announcements page on our website:

[swift.tahoma.wednet.edu/csc/mpta](http://swift.tahoma.wednet.edu/csc/mpta)



## Focus Day—Tell Legislators Kids Count

The key to Washington State PTA's successful advocacy is a broad base. We hope you'll make plans to join us in Olympia on **February 20, 2012**, for our annual Focus Day. Schools will be closed on that day in observance of Presidents' Day, and children are welcome. It's a great opportunity for them to learn about state government, and their presence will serve to remind legislators where their focus should be as they wrestle with the state's budget problems.

**February 20, 2012**

**The Urban Onion - 116 Legion Way, Olympia, WA 98501**

[www.wastatepta.org/meetings/focus\\_day](http://www.wastatepta.org/meetings/focus_day)

**Washington State**

**PTA®**

*everychild.one voice.®*

## General Membership Meeting Highlights— January 12, 2012:

- Voted in Nominating Committee: Nancy Banerjee, Joanne Ludeman & Ryan Foucault. This committee will recruit and nominate volunteers to serve on the 2012-2013 PTA Board of Directors.
- Volunteer Opportunities: Just a reminder to parents that at the 6th—9th grade level there isn't a need for classroom volunteers as there was in elementary school. So volunteer opportunities are chaperones at dances and in the cafeteria, selling ice cream/Jamba Juice, or assisting with ASB events. The PTA will always send out email to members. If you aren't a PTA member you may ask to be added to volunteer contact list. Email us at: [tjh\\_ms\\_pta@hotmail.com](mailto:tjh_ms_pta@hotmail.com).

**We're on the Web!**  
[swift.tahoma.wednet.edu/csc/mpta](http://swift.tahoma.wednet.edu/csc/mpta)



**Did you know.....**

**Because of PTA our nation has:**

- Child labor laws to protect against unsafe working practices and conditions
- Kindergarten as part of our public school system
- Federally funded hot lunch programs
- Juvenile justice system so children would not be tried and incarcerated as adults
- Mandatory immunization
- Labels on music recordings to help parents know which contain "explicit lyrics"
- TV ratings in the upper left corner of our screens to help us know if the upcoming program is suitable for family viewing



[www.facebook.com/KindCampaign](http://www.facebook.com/KindCampaign)

Any of the PTA presidents can be reached at: [tjh\\_ms\\_pta@hotmail.com](mailto:tjh_ms_pta@hotmail.com).

**Cedar River Middle School**

**Happy 2012!** I hope you all had and enjoyable holiday and that you were able to spend some quality time with your family. It seems as my kids get older their gifts get smaller and more expensive. This year seemed to be the year of technology at our house. Often, I wonder: how much is too much? In the December issue of The Child Advocate (a WAPTA publication), there is an article on: Understanding Today's Youth Culture. Within that article, there is a piece on technology and warning signs of

possible technology addiction. From texting while having face-to-face conversations to having less and less contact with people in the real world, we, as parents and guardians, need to be mindful of where their focus is directed. If your student has a social media account, be sure you have access to those posts and pictures. I encourage you to check your student's posts, incoming and outgoing texts and emails. They may think it is an invasion of privacy, but at this age, it is a privilege, not a right.

On these short rainy winter days, sometimes it is just easier to do our own thing. I remind myself that the days we have together as a family, won't go on forever. Our favorite thing to do to reconnect is to pull out a board game. At first, there might be some moans and groans, but by the end of the game it's usually smiles all around.

Sincerely,  
**Eva Paterson,**  
CRMS PTA President

**Tahoma Middle School**

**Happy New Year!** Did you know that you can schedule a meeting with your student's teachers other than conference time? Yes! You can meet with the teachers on your students team to discuss grades, missing homework, any questions or concerns you may have about your student's progress any time of the year. Don't hesitate to

send teachers an email with your questions, concerns or just to check in for an update. We are so fortunate to have such a caring group of administrators and teachers in our school district. The new semester begins soon and many students will have changes to their schedules. New teachers, classmates and a

fresh start. Check Skyward to see your students grades and to check for missing assignments. It is important to check grades often. We want our kids to succeed.

Sincerely,  
**Jennifer Foucault**  
TMS PTA President

**Tahoma Junior High School**

**Hello TJH families!** I hope your 2012 is off to a great start, hard to believe we are almost through January. That means the end of first semester and for many students a new class or two. Remember the school staff is available to help make the transitions positive and successful for each student.

school, but also extend beyond to include non-school related activities. It truly validates each students individuality and goals. You can find more details on the school website.

have bullied others. The film is told by 2 young women who met while attending Pepperdine, and both have experienced girl-bullying while in high school. After the film, students will be invited to join the Kindness Campaign to start the change in the way females treat each other.

On January 31st and February 1st, *Finding Kind* is coming to TJH. This is a program for 8th and 9th grade girls. *Finding Kind* is an acclaimed documentary meant to educate, inform and inspire females of all ages, but students in particular, to take up the cause of kindness. It tells the stories of girls who have been bullied, as well as those who

I will be at one of the assemblies and other moms/women are also invited to attend.

**Tonya Cairns**  
TJH PTA President

Before break, the TJHS student council introduced the new rewards and recognition program. It encourages all students to do their best at school and in the community by offering incentive points that can be earned at



### Tahoma Spirit Jewelry is Available!

Tahoma Bear Paw Earrings and Necklaces customized with Tahoma Blue & Gold make great gift items and are the perfect "bling" accessory for Tahoma fans.

See the items on display and pick up an order form in the front office of your school.

You can also download and print the order form from the "Documents" section on the PTA Website.

Help support our secondary schools and show your Tahoma spirit at the same time!

### Not Too Late for Entertainment Books!

The PTA sent home an entertainment book with your student last September and we have not collected payment for many of them and many have not been turned in. The good news is that it is not too late! You can either send a payment of \$25 (checks payable to TJH/MS PTA) to cover the book or you can send the book with your student to turn into the PTA box in the school office. Let's get that extra weight off of your student's back today!



### Bartell Drugs has Partnered with eScrip to Support Schools

Bartell Drugs has joined with eScrip to bring you the 'B' Caring Card. Any one can pick up a card at Bartell Drugs. Once you register your card, simply present it every time you shop at any Bartell Drugs and up to 4% of the purchase amount will be contributed to our PTA.

For more information, or to sign up to participate, see a cashier at any Bartell Drugs location beginning or visit [eScrip.com/BCaringCard](http://eScrip.com/BCaringCard)



### Bartell Drugs Supports TJH/MS PTA

#### Pick up a 'B' Caring Card Today!

Bartell Drugs will contribute up to 4% of your purchases to TJH/MS PTA every time you shop and present your card



Register your card by calling 800.931.6258 or visit [eScrip.com/BCaringCard](http://eScrip.com/BCaringCard)

### Sponsored by: TJH/MS PTA

#### PTA Chairs/Leads

##### Membership

Nancy Banerjee

##### Fundraising

Kim Walley

##### Book Fair

Toni Neely (TJH)  
Erin Weaver (CRMS)  
Terri Phillips (TMS)

##### Ice Cream/Treats

Tricia Shreck—Chair  
Joanne Ludeman (TJH)  
Robyn Grant (TMS)  
Kira Moulton/  
Amber Hughs/  
Holly McHugh (CRMS)

##### eScrip

co-chair Jacquie Miller  
co-chair Janice Sowa

##### Spirit Wear

Karen Clark

##### Newsletter/Website

Jo Haverfield

##### Pictures

Kim Walley  
Kristin Pinter(CRMS)  
Tammy Greenwood (TJH)  
Leslie Hostetter (TMS)

##### Staff Appreciation

Susan Kelder (TJH)  
Sarah Holtz (CRMS)  
Cheri Clausen (TMS)



*everychild. one voice.®*

TJH, CRMS, TMS PTA (9.14.40)

Mailing Address

Tahoma Junior High PTA

P.O. Box 215

Maple Valley, WA 98038



Are you on Facebook? If so, you can find us there as well!

[www.facebook.com/TJHMS.PTA](http://www.facebook.com/TJHMS.PTA)