

Polar Paw Press

Tahoma School District No. 409

Glacier Park Elementary School

December 2011

Dear Families,

Thank you for attending parent conferences last month. We learn so much from you about your child and partnering with you is the best way we can support students' progress. Thank you for your time, your questions and your commitment to your child's education.

Friday, Dec. 5th at 7:00 pm is the performance for "Jungle Book," directed by the Missoula Children's Theatre. This is the second musical at our school this year, and we appreciate the support of our drama program from our PTSA. The high quality drama education we provide and engaging productions would not be possible without the funding and support of our parent organization.

This is a perfect time of year to think about others. Here at Glacier Park, our students showed empathy for others by contributing to the food drive in November. Opportunities this month include a toy drive sponsored by our PE Department and a coat drive that is being coordinated by the Wooten family. Thank you for helping us in these efforts.

Have a truly wonderful holiday season, filled with happy memories. We look forward to a great 2012!

Warmly,
Chris Thomas



Upcoming Events

December 5th-16th
Holiday Toy Drive

December 1st-21st
Winter Coat Drive

December 9th
"Jungle Book" 7:00 GP Gym

December 13th
1st Grade Field Trip to Meydenbauer Center

December 20th
Honor Choir Concert 7:00 GP Gym

December 21st
Popcorn for sale at 1st Recess

December 21st
Early Release @ 1:10
AM Kindergarten Attends
No School for PM Kindergarten

December 22nd – January 2nd
Holiday Break – No School

January 3rd
Waiver Day – No School

Lost and Found

Our Lost and Found is overflowing! All remaining items will be bagged next week and stored until the end of the year. If you believe your student may have an item in the lost and found, please stop by our office to see if we have it.

Community Notices:

Please remember to check the TSD website for notices of all extracurricular activities. Go to www.tahomasd.us and click on "community notices" on the left side of the page. A copy of the Tahoma Learning Community Catalog can be viewed there as well.

For Glacier Park PTSA News:

Please visit www.gpesptsa.org

Coat Drive

Please donate any new or used, warm, **CLEAN** winter coats for those in need in King County. If you could wash your coat, bag it and mark "clean" on the bag, it would be **fabulous!**

Donations will be accepted in the box outside the office until December 21st. Please contact Katie Beth Wooten at 425- 432-4632 with any questions. Thank you!



Glacier Park Honor Choir

The Glacier Park Honor Choir will present their winter concert on Tuesday, December 20th at 7:00 in the Glacier Park Gym. Come join us for some holiday cheer!

Health & Fitness News

The Health & Fitness staff would like to congratulate all the students that chose to accept the "candy challenge" in October. We offered a pedometer to all students who turned in at least 1 pound of their trick-or-treat candy. We in turn sent the candy in care packages to the military. We had an overwhelming number of students who participated and made a healthy choice for their teeth and bodies. Way to go kids!!

Holiday Toy Drive

The Physical Education Department is sponsoring it's annual Holiday Gift Drive. The proceeds will benefit the Maple Valley Food Bank Children's Gift Store. All students' participation is optional.

Students are encouraged to ask close family members, who may traditionally donate gifts at this time, to do so for this cause.

Please have your child take the donated gift to their P.E. teacher Dec. 5th-16th.

A wide variety of gifts are needed. Students are encouraged to select something that someone their own age would enjoy. Small and large gifts are welcome. The monetary value of the gifts is far less important than the effort that our students will have made to be community contributors. Please remember that gifts need to be new and unwrapped.

Thank you for your generosity during this Holiday Season.

This holiday season give the gift that keeps on giving the entire year through! A magazine subscription that arrives in the mail is a great way to spark a child's interest in reading. Adults spend substantially more time reading magazines and newspapers than books. Kids enjoy and look forward to variety in their reading habits, as well. If you are looking for a gift idea, consider one of these subscriptions and check it out online to see if it's a good fit for your child.



Highlights For Kids (3-8)
 Your Big Backyard (3-7)
 Zoobooks (7-12)
 National Geographic for Kids (6 and up)
 Ranger Rick (7-up)
 Yum! Food and Fun for Kids (all ages)
 Discover Kids (8-10)

Time For Kids (all ages)
 American Girl (8-12)
 Discovery Girls Magazine (8 and up)
 Your Big Backyard (3-7)
 Chickadee (6-9)
 Sports Illustrated for Kids (8 and up)
 Dig on the Move (8 and up)

Dear Parents/Guardians of 5th Grade Students,

As part of the 5th grade outdoor education program, students will have the opportunity to go to Camp Casey on Whidbey Island for three days at the end of March. Camp Casey offers a unique environment in which to learn and grow. Students are exposed to a historical part of the state of Washington and given the opportunity to learn about the natural environment. Classes are scheduled as follows:



Session One March 26-28	Session Two March 28-30
SL – Lindstrom SL – Williams	SL – Mitchell SL – Heighton SL - White
LW – Cuddie LW – Newbrey, R.	LW – Finch LW – Newbrey, T. LW - Cragar
RC – Cassidy RC – Rodriquez RC – Aaby	RC – Lange RC – Johnson RC – Schuster
GP – Blechschmidt GP – Reynoldson GP – Pierce GP - Betlach	GP – Hagen GP – Conklin



The school district is reducing its spending, due to state budget reductions, and can no longer provide funding for the program. Therefore the entire cost needs to be absorbed by the parents and the Parent-Teacher-Student Associations (PTSA). All elementary PTSAs have agreed to continue contributing \$50 per student. The student cost for this year is \$150.00. Options for making this payment are as follows:

- One payment of \$150 paid any time prior to March 15, 2012
- Monthly or multiple payments (however it works best for your family). Available through March 15, 2012

Please make checks payable to your child's school or you can pay online using the school district's E-Funds system, which is available through Family Access. You may contact your school office if you are unfamiliar with Family Access.

If you have any questions, please contact Radie Haytack, Outdoor Education Coordinator at rhaytack@tahomasd.us or call 425-413-3313.



Special News from our Social Worker: IF YOU ARE IN NEED THIS HOLIDAY SEASON:

Please contact the Maple Valley Food Bank at **(425) 432-8139** or **21415 Maple Valley Rd SE, Maple Valley, WA**

Holiday Meals:

Clients will receive a turkey and the trimmings for a Thanksgiving and holiday meal to take and prepare in the comfort of their own home.

- You will need to register Monday, Wednesday or Thursday 10:30 am - 12:30 pm or Thursday, Nov 10 or Thursday, Dec 8, from 5:30 - 7 pm.
- Thanksgiving Basket Registration, October 31 - November 17, 2011
- Thanksgiving Basket Distribution, Tuesday, November 22, 2011 by appointment only
- Holiday Basket Registration October 31- December 15, 2011
- Holiday Basket Distribution, Tuesday, December 21, 2011 by appointment only

Children's Holiday Gift Program: Parents and guardians select new gifts at our Christmas Store for their children ages newborn to 15 years of age. Black Diamond residents must register with the Black Diamond Community Center.

- Registration begins October 31 and runs through December 15, 2011
- You will need to register Mon, Wed or Thur 10:30 am - 12:30 pm or Thursday, Nov 10 or Dec 8, from 5:30 - 7 pm.
- At registration, you will receive an appointment time and directions to our store
- Gift Distribution is by appointment only, December 18 and December 19, 2011.

Additional Services Available at the Maple Valley Food Bank:

Financial Assistance:

Assistance is available for utility disconnects, eviction notices, move-in costs, prescription drugs, medical bills and other emergency needs. Funding is limited each month and we will be taking applications only when funds are available. To apply for financial assistance you must submit an application at our office during regular food bank hours. Bring your disconnect notice, eviction notice or other qualifying bill to attach to your application. Priority is given to households with children, seniors and disabled.

Federal Energy Program (LIHEAP) and PSE HELP:

We are now scheduling appointments at our site for the Federal Energy Program. At this time, funding is only available for the PSE Help Program. The LIHEAP Program is waiting for funds to be released by Congress. If your primary heat source is oil, propane or wood, we are unable to schedule an appointment at this time. If your primary heat source is gas or electric through PSE, you will be able to schedule an appointment.

Our agency has limited appointment times, please call 425-432-8139 ext 100 to make an appointment. You can also call 1-800-348-7144 to make an appointment through the Multi Service Center. [Income Guidelines and Documentation needed.](#)

Outreach Programs: King County Veterans' Program:

Each Monday, the King County Veterans' Program has an outreach worker on site to assist veterans, service members and their dependents with housing, employment, and living stability. **Please call 206-296-7656 to make an appointment.** When you call, specify the desire for an appointment at the Maple Valley site.

Twice each month, outreach workers provided by both the Korean Women's Association and WithInReach come to assist applicants with the **Washington Basic Food Stamp Program.**

Weekly, Washington State University, King County Extension, provides a **Food Sense Program** educator, sharing food prep skills using the food from our food bank, teaching healthful eating habits and ways to maximize the value of food dollars and food assistance benefits.