

Polar Paw Press

Tahoma School District No. 409

Glacier Park Elementary School

January 2012

Dear Families,

Happy New Year! I hope that your holidays were fun and relaxing. Here at Glacier Park we have much to celebrate! We are proud of our school culture and what we've accomplished. Staff and students set ongoing academic goals and work diligently toward those targets. Equally important are the priorities we continue in showing empathy and respect toward others, approaching tasks and activities positively and in taking responsibility.

We are excited about the year ahead and want to invite you to our Celebration of Learning on Thursday, March 8th. Students will be displaying projects and work samples, and our PTSA is sponsoring a spaghetti feast and silent auction. The event will be from 5 to 7pm, and specific times for special activities will be sent home soon.

Our third and final Missoula Children's Theater production of the year, "Secret Garden" will be on Friday, February 3rd at 7:00 in our gym. Once again, we'd like to thank our PTSA for their support of our drama programs.

Best wishes to you, our Glacier Park families, for a happy, healthy 2012!

Warmly,
Chris Thomas



Upcoming Events

January 3rd

Waiver Day – No School

January 13th

Early Release @ 1:10
PM Kindergarten Attends
"Retro" Spirit Day

January 16th

Martin Luther King Jr. Day – No
School

January 20th

PTSA Sock Hop 6:30-8:30 GP Gym

January 24th

5th Grade Band Concert
7:00 at Tahoma Middle School

January 27th

Semester Break Day – No School

February 3rd

Missoula Children's Theater Presents
"Secret Garden" 7:00 – GP Gym

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

Happy New Year!

🎵 A Note from Our Music Department:

GP Band students will be having their first concert on January 24th at 7:00 p.m. in the Tahoma Middle School Auditorium. Band students need to arrive at 6:45. Concert dress is a white top and black bottoms w/ black shoes. If your student is not able to perform on the 24th, they can attend/perform at the Shadow Lake/Lake Wilderness concert on January 25th? For more information, please visit our band website @ tahomaband.org.

4th grade concert is on Thursday, February 16th with the following format:

6:30 - Bennison and A. Hanson

7:30 - Garney, Hesby, Markert, and Strom

Camp Casey Information

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 the Social Worker:

Changing Families

Dear Families,

I am organizing educational support groups for students who have experienced a "Changing Family". The groups will be for students who have been through a parental divorce or separation, either recently or in the past (students will be grouped by grade level).

Divorce and separation can be difficult and confusing for all members of the family. Therefore, goals for the Changing Families groups are to help children:

- ◆ Positively adjust to a changing family environment
- ◆ Learn healthy ways to express themselves
- ◆ Improve the understanding of parental conflict
- ◆ Share questions, concerns, and feelings
- ◆ Connect with other children who have had a similar event in their life

Groups run for 30 minutes once a week for six weeks. I always work with the teachers to find a time so that the students miss as little instruction as possible.

A Changing Families group can be a very positive experience for any child who has encountered separation or divorce in the family. If you are interested in having your child participate in a Changing Families group, please sign and return the attached permission slip by **Friday, January 13, 2012**. Please contact me at or nclosser@tahomasd.us or at (425) 413-3728 with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Nikki Closser
School Social Worker



Glacier Park Elementary School

_____ has my permission to participate in a Changing Families group.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

* Please return to Mrs. Closser or to your child's classroom teacher

Green Team News

How to Pack a

WASTE FREE LUNCH

As a **King County Green School**, our school encourages waste reduction and recycling in the lunchroom and classrooms.



Waste Free Lunch Box

Students sort lunch waste into trash, recyclable items (**milk cartons/juice boxes, plastic bottles, and aluminum cans**), and compostable items (food scraps, food soiled paper).

Easy ways to make a waste-free lunch

- 1. PACK ONLY WHAT YOUR CHILD CAN EAT**
Have your child bring home everything they don't eat so you can see what they are able to eat in a lunch period. Only pack a half-sandwich if that's all your child eats during lunch.
- 2. USE REUSABLE CONTAINERS to pack the lunch.** *Use durable, reusable plastic containers instead of plastic baggies.*
- 3. USE A REFILLABLE DRINK BOTTLE** instead of disposable containers.
- 4. SELECT lunch items with packaging that can be recycled (see list above)** instead of packaging that can't be recycled.

Do you
need
technology
at home?

THS Bear Computers can help!

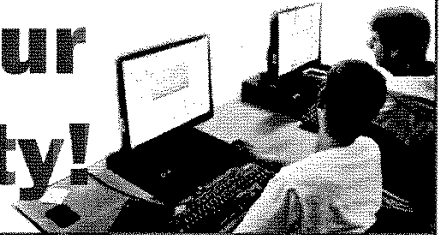
THS Bear Computers is Tahoma High School's **free** computer program designed to help students

and families in the Tahoma School District who do not have a computer at home or whose access to computers is limited when they are not in school.

Our families can obtain one free desktop computer through this special, limited-time opportunity from Tahoma High School Bear Computers.

THS Bear Computers

**Helping our
community!**



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.

THS Bear Computers already has commitments for 15 refurbished computers but is accepting applications for up to 145 additional computers. The computers must be distributed by the end of December.

To apply for a free, refurbished computer please contact:

Jill Jolk, Tahoma High School, 425-413-6204.

Information is online at:

<https://sites.google.com/site/thsbearcomputers>

*THS Bear Computers is a Microsoft Registered Refurbisher, which means computers can be put back into service by installing Windows XP and Microsoft Office 2007 software. Computers are given a quality check and then made available to students and their families.