

Custodial/Maintenance Staff Newsletter



Fall, 2012

Volume 11 — (September—November) Circulation—95

SEPTEMBER 2012

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School Starts September 4!

WAMOA

WAMOA Mini Conference (Washington Association of Maintenance and Operations Administrators)

fresher; Back pack vacuum information; Germ issues in buildings; Carpet maintenance; Sports turf information; Collection of organic materials; Energy efficiency fundamentals and going beyond green products.

On June 27, 2012, the WAMOA Mini Conference was held at Issaquah High School. The Tahoma Custodial and Maintenance Departments had a good showing with 18 attending. Feedback was positive during and after the event and the bus ride allowed for good fellowship. One school district had to take three big busses to transport all of their attendees.

Many commented that it was tough to decide which three classes to take when there were so many good ones to choose from. Lots of information sharing took place after the classes. After the three sessions, all in attendance had a hearty box lunch with many choices to choose from.

The conference started off with the typical welcome speeches as well as a Key Note Speaker who shared information about making your work and personal goals better for yourself. Then there were three separate sessions that had 12 separate optional classes that attendees were able to choose from. Individuals picked classes they thought were valuable to themselves. Each session lasted 45 minutes and there were numerous topics and qualified instructors presenting information at each one.

Following lunch, there was a vendor expo/trade show that included raffle's (Tahoma had a couple winners), vendors with small samples to share, and a chance to find/exchange information on new things as well as updates on current uses of equipment and supplies. Everyone came back with something they could use to help them to keep going forward in their jobs.

Hopefully more can attend next time the mini conference is held.

Some of the topics included were: Elevator maintenance issues; Personal safety; Financial Yoga; Recycling tips; McKinstry information; Equipment preventive maintenance; Roof safety; Labor and Supply cost cutting; Basic plumbing; Pest control; Water damage issues; Fire safety; Boiler re-



23,289
Bottles Saved from
Landfills from the
THS Water Filling
Stations as of Au-
gust, 14, 2012



Pictured above is the new bottle-filling station that was installed at the Central Services building just before school let out in June. As at the high school, this has been a hit with personnel in the building and is also saving money and landfill space by reducing plastic water bottles being thrown away!

This issue marks the beginning of the eleventh year of publication for the Custodial/Maintenance Newsletter!

Thank You!

A big “Thank You” to all the student helpers this summer. What a boost they were by helping both the custodial and maintenance departments accomplish all the necessary tasks that needed to be done.

Every year we look forward to having this tremendous help in view of the fact that what we have to accomplish in just 60 days or so can be daunting.

Student helpers mowed lawns, painted, cleaned, trimmed, swept, built, demolished, repaired and more as they worked side by side with both departments. Their invaluable work and remarkable work ethics were a real boon to getting the district ready to begin school on September 4. Thanks again! We look forward to your help again next year!



Pictured above are some of the student helpers we had this summer. From left to right we have Konrad Georgeson, Jordan Wheeler, Daniel Cook and Emily Duerson who helped out at many schools. They are pictured here at Lake Wilderness Elementary.

Some TSD History

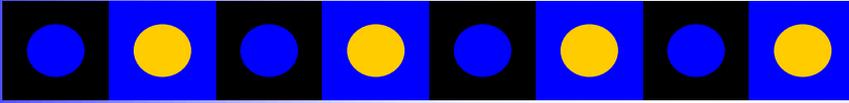
This is an ongoing series about the history of the Tahoma School District taken from [A Century of Schooling—A Brief History of the Tahoma School District](#).

In 1925 a ten-acre site and a special election was called to approve the purchase of land on which to build a new high school. After the land was purchased, a contract was negotiated to clear the land of stumps and logs. (This land was on the Hudson homestead located on the corner of SE 216th and 244th SE. Today this building is known as the Tahoma Middle School).

By December of 1925 the architect William Mallis was chosen to build the school. In 1926 a bond issue of \$50,000 was authorized and the bonds were sold to the State of Washington for 100 cents on the dollar for 23 years at 4% interest rate per year. The total cost of construction, furniture, books and equipment was \$109,776.24. Construction began immediately and the new classrooms were occupied by February of 1927.

It was at this point that the high school grades separated from the secondary grades and were then taught in the newly built Tahoma High School. This building housed the juniors on one side and the seniors on the other. In between was the gymnasium. When the new high school was built in 1926, students began to be transported to school by bus whereas previously they had come by foot, horse and train. For those who rode horses, there was once a shelter for the horses near the old brick building on the knoll. According to *One Hundred Years on the Cedar*, the new high school, “opened in 1926 with an attendance of 69 pupils and four teachers. There were 12 students in the first graduating class of 1927. This original school consisted only of a portion of the old brick-covered west side building. In 1938 plans were first drawn for the auditorium and construction began two years later. World War II stopped all work on it. In 1948 a special levy gave funds to complete the present west building with the exception of the auditorium. Four years later a bond issue was

(Continued on [page 3](#))



(Continued from [TSD History](#))

September 3—**Labor Day**. No work for custodial or maintenance staff!

passed for the auditorium. At last in 1954 after 16 years, the new auditorium was dedicated.”

In 1960 a new separate office, gymnasium, music room and shops were added. Sometime around 1976-77 the old building was remodeled and the old gymnasium was turned into a library and classrooms. Other portions of the building were also renovated. The bond issue that was passed provided the district with \$204,000 to do all of this work. Commenting on her time in this building, Barbara Strom who retired in 2006 said, “I was hired when the old junior high was facing its first remodel. The building was gutted and classes were held in portables all around the perimeter. This beautiful old building housed a 3rd floor library in the space that had originally been the ceiling of the gym. I was in room 302, which opened to the stairwell and had windows facing east. Its auditorium was being totally refurbished with the new lights, seats, curtains, etc. While such facilities may have been commonplace for 1928 when this building was first built as a two wing secondary school, it has been quite a luxury for present day schools. It remains the same today as 25 years ago.”

About 1977 it became the new junior high after the high school on SE 240th St. was built in 1974. Another remodel took place in 2003 and it opened as the Tahoma Middle School around 2004. The name for the school was chosen by a community contest. It was designated an historical landmark according to the King County and Local Landmarks List Technical Paper No. 6 in 2001.

Some of the classrooms occupied the basement of the shared junior and senior building. According to the April 18, 1968 issue of *Tahoma Today*, “during the winter, water would leak through the wall onto the floor, according to Mr. Bedard...By 1959-61, the junior high moved down to the present 7th grade building. (The current maintenance, transportation, technology building). Only the four rooms on the main floor and the three rooms upstairs were occupied. The art room and music rooms were used as locker rooms; the art room for the girls and the music room for the boys.”



Tahoma Middle School—2009