Learn, Eat, Laugh

Are you ready to learn? During the February break the Consensus Committee is planning a day for training. Among other things will be included training on running floor machines, training on using and driving the Nobles ride-on carpet machine and other related subjects. A potluck style lunch will provide sustenance and fun and laughter will ensue. More details will be provided as we approach this event. Please attend and support the efforts that have been made to train our department!

Increase Your Knowledge and Versatility

If we quit learning, we quit living. Learning not only keeps us up-to-date on what’s happening around us, it also makes our abilities more valuable and it keeps us energized. Our brains need input and exercise like any other muscle and learning aids in this. The following four articles taken from the magazine Cleaning and Maintenance Management (www.cmmonline.com) will aid in stretching some of our brain tissue. The articles are also apropos to the school environment.

The Greening of Specialty Cleaners

The Three Ss: Safety, Security and Satisfaction

More Than Ever, Health is in Your Hands

Targeting the Growing Concern Over Cross-Contamination

Answer two ?’s and win

1. What is “cloud computing”?
2. Which school district building was dedicated on October 11, 1961?

Upcoming Paid Holidays!

December 24, 25, 31; January 1, 21; February 18

34,182 Bottles Saved from Landfills from the THS Water Filling Station as of November, 14, 2012

Gift card courtesy of WCP, Inc.
Winter, 2012—Page Two

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.

By 1961 the junior high moved into the newly built 8th and 9th grade building (now Cedar River Middle School). It was dedicated on October 11, 1961 and “about 349 students attended the school” according to Tahoma Today. By 1968, Tahoma Today said that, “about 360 eighth and ninth graders” attended the school. “If the seventh graders were with them, there would be about 530 students.” Discussing the custodian at the new junior high back in 1961, the Tahoma Today newsletter said, “Mr. Rudy Collie, custodian, greatly improved the grounds with bushes, shrubbery, and flowers.

“Mr. Collie, who has been the custodian for about the last eight years, opens the junior high in the morning.

“He works about ten hours a day. He starts at 5:00 a.m. and works until 3:30 p.m.”

Even the principal was interviewed. Continuing on, Tahoma Today quoted the principal Mr. Jack Frost as saying, “‘I like being principal very much because I like working with the kids and teachers.’

“Mr. Frost started in the Grand Coulee District then came to Maple Valley.

“Mr. Frost had the interest and necessary certification so he became principal in 1961 when Mr. Roy Heimbigner resigned to teach in Seattle.”

Tahoma Schools’ History shed some interesting details on the early days of Cedar River when it was the junior high. As of that writing in 1969 it stated: “the current enrollment is 400 students in the eighth and ninth grades in 19 teaching stations or classrooms. The physical arrangement of the building is 14 classrooms in three wings, 5 classrooms each in two wings and 4 in the remaining classrooms wing. In addition there are two teaching stations in the gymnasium, one teaching station in the cafeteria, one arts and crafts room, and the manual arts room. Theoretically, this adds up to the 19 teaching stations but Mr. Frost, the principal, finds the actual total to be 16 full-time, regular classrooms. Of the total classrooms, special education uses one of the rooms, the cafeteria can only be used on a part time basis and state restrictions limit the gymnasium to one station use. The 16 full-time teaching stations divided by 400 students gives the ideal of 25 students per class, but in actuality the class sizes do not balance out this way. By the very nature of some subjects, working space and equipment reduce a class size to less than 25, e.g. manual arts and home economics. Required subjects like 8th grade mathematics are consequently overloaded since more than half the school enrollment are 8th graders. In addition, to broaden curriculum offerings, a few, special-interest classes have been added that have fewer than the optimum 25 students. Taking these factors into account, it becomes apparent that the ideal class size of 25 is not a reality.

“The library can adequately hold 40 students obtaining material or reading, however, there is no room for private research or for enclosures for small group study. The music department uses the cafeteria for a practice area and stores its materials on open shelves in one of the back corners. Manual skill courses must be broadened when space and funds are available.

“Another limiting feature, stemming from the current physical set up of the building, is the restrictions placed on teacher planning and conference time. Even though the teachers have one period a day free in which to correct papers, plan lessons, or confer with students and parents, they must do these necessary things elsewhere than at their own desks since each room is busy the entire day.

“In summary, this school though soundly constructed and planned was built for the entire three grades of junior high but is now serving two grades on a limited basis. It is, like many of the other buildings in the district, inadequate to meet the various academic and vocational needs of the students.”

Around 1977 the junior high (Cedar River School) became an elementary school. The major remodeling of Cedar River took place in 1990, about thirty years after it was built around 1960. Cedar River was named after a body of water. Sharon Monaco says that, “over the summer of 2000 CRES went through another re-model and added a new up-graded gym on the site since that fall it was going to be the new middle school. That was the same year that Glacier Park became an elementary school.”

According to Amy Adams, a teacher at Cedar River Middle School, “Gary Morgan (former principal) started here as a math teacher. While the school was remodeled the office was in his former classroom. He said he hadn’t gotten very far in the 30 years between.”

Scott Sims, an art teacher at Cedar River Middle School recalls that his dad taught at the school when it was a junior high and that when it opened as such there was a salmon bake to celebrate the event.

In 2001, a building was built specifically as a junior high. It now exists on the Summit-Landsburg Road. According to Sharon Monaco a Para educator at Tahoma Middle School, “since the 8th graders were at 2 sites (CR and TJH) some of the 8th grade staff moved from Cedar River to the new TJH.” No major renovations or changes have been made to the current junior high which houses the eighth and ninth grade students.

(Continued on page 3)
In 1973-74 the current high school on SE 240th street was built. The May 10, 1968 issue of Tahoma Today said of the then upcoming new building that, “this new school will hold 1,000 students without the crowded classrooms and crowded halls that now exist. It will have all new equipment and facilities.

“This new high school will have 14 new teachers to teach assorted subjects.”

It was supposed to open in 1974, but due to a lack of funds it sat empty until 1975. Connie West, head custodian at Shadow Lake Elementary said of the high school that it, “was built as an open concept school and had the walls built between the rooms. That was why the walls did not go all of the way to the ceiling before the remodel at THS” in 1999. Since then no major remodeling has been done. It currently houses over 1,700 students.

(Continued from TSD History)

He was born in Concord, California but spent most of his life growing up in Maple Valley. His wife worked for the district until July, 2002. His father-in-law is Larry Dixon who works in maintenance. His title is Maintenance Facilities Foreman. Who is he? Elliot Traweek.

Elliot has been with the district for about three months. He has never worked for the district before, but his wife Sherrie has. Elliot previously worked for McKinstry for 12 years as a Service Mechanic. When the opportunity opened up, he applied for and was hired by the district to work in the maintenance/custodial department. One of the things Elliot likes about his job is “having the freedom to be able to do the right thing.” He also made the comment that he enjoys “the level of ownership with all custodians.”

Elliot is friendly, outgoing and wants to get the job done correctly, efficiently and quickly. He has accomplished quite a bit in the short time he has been here and has plans to do much more to streamline and improve the district buildings.

One humorous story Elliot shared was this. “I grew up in this town so on my first day Bruce took me around to all of the schools to introduce me. But to his surprise, I already knew almost everybody that he took me to. I pretty much took his glory that day. Kind of funny.”

When thinking of other employees in the district, Elliot stated, “don’t ever forget where you come from and why you do what you do.” Looking toward the future Elliot’s goal is “to help build an unstoppable team that can work together and do anything.”

We truly appreciate Elliot’s attitude and demeanor and look forward to many years of positive advancement!
More Memories of Summer

Below are several pictures of the fun that was had during the summer at Shadow Lake Elementary School. You’ll notice that much of the exuberance and joy came from the student helpers that travelled around the district during the summer. They were awesome! You’ll also see a few pictures from the district BBQ that was held at the Transportation building.