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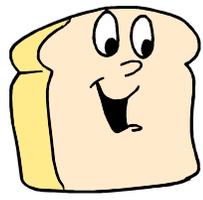


**Angie's Anguish**

Angie needs your help!! She asks: "When turning in the yellow time cards, custodians need to specify on the time card who they are subbing for. Payroll will not accept simply 'sub at \_\_\_\_\_.' They want to know who we are subbing for!"

Angie also requests that "leave requests must be turned in to me for approval at least two weeks prior to the requested time off."

Let's all help make Angie's job easier by helping her out in these two areas.



**What's Inside??**

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**Vendor Vittles**

Have you ever wondered why there are different colors of pads for use on tile floors? Well, here's your answer!

According to information provided by Coast-wide Labs from the 3M company, the following are fairly standard descriptions. (Definitions are based on 3M pad products but should be similar to other brands.)

1. Black—Stripping
2. Brown—Stripping (Wet or Dry)
3. Blue—Heavy-duty scrubbing prior to recoating
4. Red—Light scrubbing or spray buffing

**(Continued on pg. 2)**

**Get Shot!!**

As custodians, we are constantly in contact with various bodily fluids, sick-germs and so forth. That is why it is imperative to be prepared and as ready as possible to prevent unnecessary sickness. Later this year on November 5th and on



December 3rd, we will have the opportunity to get flu shots. Also on November 5th, the first in a three-part series of Hepatitis B shots will begin. The second set will be on December 3rd and the third in May sometime scheduled with the recipient. Both the flu and Hepatitis B shots will be in the Central Services Board room between 12:30 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. The cost will be \$12 for the flu shots. Take advantage of this service to protect yourself.

As mentioned, Hepatitis shots will shortly be available. Hepatitis is a very real possibility as we work with the above mentioned germs and fluids. If you would like to get the Hepatitis B shot series, please sign up for the clinic beginning in

November. According to our contract on page 21, section 7.17, it says that "the District shall make available employee-paid hepatitis inoculations at cost to all employees who desire such."

Our school nurse, Michelle Zaleski, is there to help out as well. She says "if any custodian wants to receive the series, just have them contact me for paperwork to be filled out and I will see what I can do for them."

Take advantage of this service to protect yourself and others!



# As the Toilet Turns

## “Custodian” continued from page 1)

By taking pride in our work, and the buildings we maintain, not only will we feel good about ourselves and the work we’ve done, but others will notice our hard work and be more willing to help us out and work with us when it comes to various dilemmas we may be faced with.

Our attitude about the school has a lot to do with how it will look and how well we can get along with others. By being “custodians” and taking care of the buildings we’re assigned to in a timely and professional manner, our level of stress will be greatly diminished.

We all need to do what we can, with what we have, in the best way possible. Keep a positive attitude and go with the flow. View each new situation as a challenge and a learning experience. Remember, being a custodian is a lot more than just cleaning. It’s taking care of a building and the people associated with it.

1. The average person spends 2,000 hours a year at his/her desk.  
2. Americans waste an estimated 9 million hours a day looking for misplaced items.  
(Taken from *The Seattle Times*, Sunday, September 1, 2002)

## DID YOU KNOW??

### (Vendor Vittles continued)

5. Beige—Dry buff or spray buff
6. White—Buffing soft finishes or for polishing
7. Other colors—There are other colors available, but most are used for burnishing and are usually used with propane-powered buffers.

Using the proper color pad on your tile floor will make the job easier and quicker. It will save time and money in the long run.

If you would like to see a sample of pad colors and their uses, check out the *3M Floor Pad Demo Kits* that were provided by Coastwide Labs and left with the High School, Junior High, Cedar River and Lake Wilderness schools. They have some valuable information and samples of the above-described cleaning pads.

Watch for your Hepatitis Handout to be delivered to your Head Custodian the first of October. It has some excellent information for your perusal.



### Synaptical Silliness

There are 5 houses in 5 different colours. In each house lives a person of a different nationality. The 5 owners drink a certain type of beverage, smoke a certain brand of cigar, and keep a certain pet. Using the clues below can you determine who owns the fish?



Happy

Cleaning!!

- The Brit lives in a red house.
- The Swede keeps dogs as pets.
- The Dane drinks tea.
- The green house is on the immediate left of the white house.
- The green house owner drinks coffee.
- The person who smokes Pall Mall rears birds.
- The owner of the yellow house smokes Dunhill.
- The man living in the house right in the middle drinks milk.
- The Norwegian lives in the first house.
- The man who smokes Blend lives next door to the one who keeps cats.
- The man who keeps horses lives next door to the man who smokes Dunhill.
- The owner who smokes Blue Master drinks beer.
- The German smokes Prince.
- The Norwegian lives next to the blue house.
- The man who smokes Blend has a neighbour who drinks water.

© Kevin Stone: [www.brainbashers.com] (Watch for the answer in November)



## Were You There??

By John Olson

Paul McTiernan and Martv Manly from Coastwide Laboratories conducted a training seminar on Friday, September 20th in the High School Library entitled "**Establishing Cleaning Standards and Measuring Results**". In attendance from the Tahoma Custodial staff were (10), Jim Bergum, Rick Bergum, Connie Jo Erickson, Kathy Martin, Kim McClellan, John Olson, Allen Petchnick, Nick Salvino, Connie West, and Rita Zeller. There were not any representatives from LWES, RCES, and SLES.

Paul started by handing out a card styled like a bingo card called "Chemical Display System Chart" for use in the buildings. (We can't, however, repeat what Connie Jo told us that she was going to do with hers!)

We came up with some questions that we need expectations put on in order to come up with our own district standards.

What level of clean does our district want to pay for? What expectations does our district have? Sick students lose money for our district! How many different chemicals do we really need? Wouldn't sameness throughout make it less frustrating? We need to set up our own district measuring standards and determine what to use as a measuring stick.

We discussed that the custodial staff needs ownership and support from our administration, teaching staff and parents. Custodians are the ones that help keep parents, children/students, and staff from getting cross contamination from germs, mold, etc, as well as other toxic forms of nerve/brain damage. You all know what we mean. You've seen them.

A couple of the measuring tools discussed were black light visual inspections, and using a strip of tape to check for unclean floors. The use of a dental mirror, or a full length style for some of you, to check under and behind items for cleanliness. (Don't you just love looking at the inside of a toilet bowl?)

Coastwide does have a couple of pieces of expensive testing equipment that we could use for slippery floor conditions and to check high gloss on the tiled floors. They also have training aids (no not AIDS training) available on CD with chapter tests.

In the future, the chemical makers are moving toward the "Green Earth Friendly" chemicals. (I guess you can eat them.) Paul was saying that they are having a difficult time with making the "floor stripper" Earth Friendly. (and we all know what kind of problems "strippers" can create.)

The vast majority of cleaning chemicals use cold to tepid temperature water for mixing. The use of hot water is highly discouraged. (Tepid means NOT HOT.)

Also the use of gloves and goggles while mixing and cleaning is highly encouraged for everyone's protection; some should use full body armor.

The use of Ammonia and Bleach are also considered some of the most toxic and dangerous chemicals to use around the public, and Coastwide encourages us to dispose of these eagerly. Also, refrain from purchasing more (it also may be because they do not carry these products, Hmmm?)

Dilution ratios, yes we said "**DILUTION RATIOS**" are of the utmost importance and the "J- Fill Dispenser" is helping us with this issue. We only



### Upcoming Meetings

**Training Committee**—Friday  
October 11, 2002 @ 1:00 p.m. in  
the Tahoma Senior High Custodial Office

### SEPTEMBER'S "SYNAPTICAL SILLI- NESS!!" ANSWER

The puzzle is basically contradicting itself. If the gold is in box B, then sentence A is false and B is true - which in turn says the opposite and so on.

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create more work for ourselves by not following the manufacturers DILUTION directions. You know who you are. Don't make us name names!

We discussed the meaning of words that we use like, **Standards, Cleaning, Communication, Performance, and Productivity**, and how we can encompass them within our daily operations. Try using one of these words each day. Use a dictionary if you must.

**World Class Cleaning Operations are; Proactive, Effective, Efficient, Responsive, Quality Conscious, Innovative/Flexible, Productive, and Continuously Improving.** Can you see yourself as this type of a person? Now don't you lie to us!

The exchanging of ideas is always beneficial to all as well as the learning of new concepts and products. (We have heard many say "Oh that's what that thing is for!") Stop saying that. You're scaring us!

We discussed the pros and cons of learning and retention issues, and then had Allen speak sharing his experiences. Many slept.

All that attended felt that this seminar was educational, entertaining, and well worth everyone's time.

We would like to thank Coastwide for providing this free course. And they gave out real cool free stuff too.

All that attended physically and/or mentally, received a "Certificate of Achievement". It can also be used to cover up that hole in your office that you don't want to fix.

Hopefully we'll see you at the next certification class for more fun and educational frolicking.