

# Open Line

## Message from the Superintendent



Superintendent  
John Bash

Welcome to an exciting year in the Tumwater School District! I am honored and enthusiastic to serve our students, families, staff and community as your new superintendent. I believe in the power of teamwork and look forward to developing collaborative partnerships within the District, and with our parents and community to build upon Tumwater's award-winning success for students. We are proud of the work our students, parents, teachers, support staff, administrators, and School Board have done to achieve the following results over the past year:

- ▶ **WSSDA School Board of Distinction Award 2014**

- ▶ **State Academic Awards:** 2014 School of Distinction awards to George W. Bush and Tumwater Middle Schools; 2014 Washington Achievement Awards to Black Lake Elementary, East Olympia Elementary, Bush Middle School and Tumwater Middle School
- ▶ **National School Change Award:** East Olympia Elementary
- ▶ **Athletic and club accomplishments:** Our programs and students have been recognized at local, state and national levels.
- ▶ **School construction projects underway on time:** Peter G. Schmidt Elementary replacement; Tumwater High School weight room; Black Hills High School track resurfacing; safety and security improvements at Black Lake and Black Hills High School *Continued on page 2...*



Retiring teacher Janis Korte congratulates Glenn Spinnie on a successful first year as principal at Littlerock Elementary.

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### Changes for this Fall

## TSD in Transition from Half-Day to All-Day Kindergarten

With research showing that investment in early learning increases student success, Washington State has slowly been increasing funding for all-day Kindergarten. Those schools with the highest poverty rates have been funded first. This year we are receiving some of this State funding for the first time. As a result, we are able to add more all-day Kindergarten classes. We expect that the State will continue to increase funding in this area, with the result that all schools will be fully funded for all-day Kindergarten by fall, 2016. For now there are some schools that are funded and others that need to charge tuition for the all-day *Continued on page 4...*

## Welcome New Administrators

Welcome to the eight new administrators joining us this year! **John Bash** joined the District as superintendent on July 1. His 28-year professional career includes teaching and administrative experience in elementary and secondary schools, along with district leadership roles in academics, special programs, and all district operations. He most recently served for the past five years as deputy superintendent of North Thurston Public Schools. His focus is on continuous improvement and building strong relationships with schools and the community. Our new executive director of student learning, **Chris Woods** comes to us from Olympia School District, where he served as principal for the last 11 years. Chris says that he is excited to join the TSD team with the talented staff who care about what is best for students. **Cathy McNamara**, who has been assistant principal at Tumwater Middle School for the past 13 years, is now moving with her students to Black Hills High School where she will join their administrative team as assistant principal. **Nick Reykdal** will be the new assistant principal at Tumwater Middle School. *Continued on page 4...*



John Bash



Chris Woods



Cathy McNamara



Nick Reykdal



Mandeé Jessee



Kyle Grunenfelder



Lisa Perreira



Tammy Schultz



Breaking ground at Peter G. Schmidt Elementary are (R-L) Tumwater Mayor Pete Kmet and TSD Board members Jay Wood, Rita Luce, Robert Barclift, Janine Ward and Kim Reykdal.



PGS Principal Jack Arend (right) poses with Peter G. Schmidt, Jr., son of Peter G. Schmidt, after whom the school was named, and grandson of Leopold Schmidt, founder of Tumwater's Olympia Brewing Co.



Incorporating the "new" gym built in 2005 (right), work begins for the remodel of Peter G. Schmidt Elementary School.

## Your Tax Dollars at Work

In February, 2014 a Capital Projects Bond Measure was passed by the community to fund facilities and technology needs across the District through 2020. In each "Open Line", we provide a project update.

### Peter G. Schmidt Elementary Groundbreaking - June 4, 2015

The air was charged with excitement as the entire school, the School Board, parents, the Tumwater Mayor, police and firefighters, many retired staff members and special guest, **Peter G. Schmidt Jr.** gathered in the footprint of the new school to celebrate the past, present and future of Peter G. Schmidt Elementary. Principal **Jack Arend** thanked the community for approving the funding and the design team for their many hours of work over the past year to "make sure that the building captured

Eagle pride." Peter G. Schmidt Jr., whose father is the namesake of the school spoke about his family's roots in the community and the value of education. PGS music teacher, **Marie Williams** led the entire gathering in singing the school song. In recognition of the importance of this song to the community, an excerpt from it will be painted in the entry to the new school. "Peter G. is where I learn, Peter G. is where I play, Peter G. is where I'm finding my way!" The actual shovel groundbreaking and then a special group photo concluded the formal event, with many lingering on long afterward to visit.

Work has begun on the site. The new school will be located on the same site as the current facility on Dennis Street. We encourage you to follow the progress of the construction over the next year and look forward to the new school opening in the fall, 2016.

### Other Projects Underway

**Littlerock Elementary** – This school is also being mostly replaced. The architect has been chosen for this project, and the design team will work throughout the year. Groundbreaking for the school will be in the spring, 2016. The new building will open in the fall, 2017.

**Tumwater High School** - A new weight room is being added. Gym floor refinishing underway.

**Black Hills High School** - The track is being resurfaced. Network and security features are being upgraded.

**Black Lake Elementary** - New phone, intercom and security features are being installed.

**All Schools** - Data capacity across the District is being increased to meet current and future needs.

## Spring 2015 Testing Results Update

New State testing was rolled out in the spring, 2015 to assess our new Common Core standards. Grade and school level reports for the Smarter Balanced assessments are available now on the Washington State Report Card website: <http://reportcard.ospi.k12.wa.us/summary.aspx>.

Schools will receive student score reports in September. These reports will include information from the Smarter Balanced assessments, as well as the new end-of-course assessments for math in high school. After the reports are received, schools will mail a copy to parents.

### Superintendent's Message *continued from page 1...*

- ▶ **Financial Stewardship:** Clean State audit; healthy financial reserves
- ▶ 100% on the Washington State Patrol Inspection Report for the past two years – Transportation Department Fleet

Our work this year will include the following priorities:

- ▶ Review and update the District's long range strategic plan
- ▶ Continue developing high-quality curriculum, instruction, intervention and assessment systems to meet academic and social/emotional needs for all students
- ▶ Maximize collaboration among families, students, teachers, and leaders to motivate and inspire student success in every classroom
- ▶ Expand and sustain partnerships between our schools and the community
- ▶ Maximize operational efficiency and effectiveness

Later in this newsletter you will see many ways to get involved with Tumwater schools, including volunteering, attending the Community Roundtables and Board meetings, and signing up for email updates. We encourage you to partner with us!

Thank you for your ongoing support of our schools, where our mission each and every day is focused on "Continuous Student Learning in a Caring, Engaging Environment".

# Community Connections

## Day of Champions 2015 – Working with Our Community Partners to Support Student Success

The Day of Champions is a unique, non-competitive, highly-modified track and field event designed specifically for students with special needs. It features events such as Shot Put, 50-yard Dash, Big Ball, Long Jump, Shuttle Run, and Ball Toss.



### Background

Often students with special needs and challenges remain on the sidelines cheering for their non-disabled peers, brothers and sisters. A group of inspired individuals decided that students with special needs deserved the opportunity to feel what it is like to be cheered for. This concept became reality in 2003 when the first Day of Champions was hosted by the North Thurston Public Schools with approximately 150 student participants. In 2007, the Day of Champions moved to the Tumwater School District Stadium where it expanded to include students in grades Kindergarten through 12 representing ALL school districts in Thurston County. This year the Tumwater Kiwanis became the host organization.

### Participants in This Year's Event

The 2015 Day of Champions welcomed more than 600 special needs students from nine school districts including all eight school districts in Thurston County and four schools from Shelton School District in Mason County. Participants represented 60 classrooms from 43 schools. One hundred and fifty student volunteers from Tumwater and Black Hills High Schools assisted and cheered for the student participants throughout the day. Cheerleaders, Leadership students, Key Club members, current and former School District employees and numerous community members and organizations joined together to lend their support.



### What Does It Look Like That Day?

It begins with a steady stream of school buses arriving at the stadium. Cheerleaders, school mascots, and student volunteers line up and cheer for the participants as they exit their buses. High fives, clapping, hugging and huge smiles are in generous supply! A Parade of Champions (with the "Olympics Theme" playing and the volunteers cheering) kicks off the events with participants proudly carrying their school signs making their way around the Tumwater Stadium track. In between participating at each of the track and field stations, participants can explore an Intercity Transit bus and learn about transportation options, check out a Tumwater Fire truck and visit with Tumwater Firefighters and choose a book from the South Sound Reading Foundation table. Parents take countless pictures. Attend this event once and you'll be hooked. Next year's event will be May 26, 2016, at Tumwater Stadium. For questions or to get involved, contact Karen Schoessel at [karenschoessel@comcast.net](mailto:karenschoessel@comcast.net).



## Need School Supplies?

Families of elementary and middle school children who need assistance are invited to stop in at their school office the week before school starts to pick up a backpack filled with supplies. High school students can access supplies from their counselors at the beginning of the school year.

Thank you to the Tumwater Public School Employees (PSE), the City of Tumwater, TOGETHER!, the Tumwater Rotary, the Tumwater Kiwanis, other sponsors, volunteers and the entire community for organizing and supporting "Stuff the Bus" on August 1.

## Before, After-School & Break Program Resources

### Boys & Girls Club

Located on the campus of Tumwater High School, this local club serves youth ages 6-18, year-round. Transportation is provided from every school. For more information call 360-570-8888 or visit [www.bgctc.org](http://www.bgctc.org).

### YMCA

Y-Care operates at each TSD elementary school site. The Y accepts DSHS. For more information, call 360-705-5429 or visit their website at [www.southsoundymca.org/Child\\_Care.htm](http://www.southsoundymca.org/Child_Care.htm).

### City of Tumwater

The Old Town Center (OTC) is a fully supervised, free drop-in program open to youth in grades 3-12, operated and staffed by Tumwater Parks and Recreation. The OTC is available year-round. Call 360-754-4160 for more information or visit online at [www.ci.tumwater.wa.us/departments/parks](http://www.ci.tumwater.wa.us/departments/parks).

### Child Care Action Council

The Child Care Action Council (CCAC) provides consultation for families looking for quality child care. They assist with referrals to licensed day care centers and homes in Thurston, Mason, and Lewis Counties. Call 360-754-0810 or 1-800-845-0956 or visit online at [www.ccacwa.org](http://www.ccacwa.org).

### Working Connections

The Olympia Office of the Department of Social and Health Services provides subsidized childcare for low-income families who are currently employed. Call 1-877-980-9180 or visit online at [www.dshs.wa.gov/onlinecso/wccc.shtml](http://www.dshs.wa.gov/onlinecso/wccc.shtml).

# How Tumwater School District is Creating the Healthiest Next Generation

Reproduced from a Washington State Department of Health article, July 2015

## Opportunity

How can a school district improve their physical education (PE) program? That was the question **Greg Bert**, Physical Education Coordinator at Black Hills High School (BHHS) wanted to answer. "Our class could be their last chance to receive instruction in quality physical education to learn how to have an active lifestyle," said Bert.

At Bert's urging, in 2011 the District successfully applied for and was awarded a three-year \$1.1 million Carol M. White Physical Education Program (PEP) grant from the U.S. Department of Education to initiate, expand and improve PE for students in grades K-12.

## Action

The PEP grant meant improvements across the District, including:

- ▶ Aligning K-12 curriculum maps, so student knowledge builds from year to year. A curriculum map outlines what is being taught at each grade level.
- ▶ Starting a new program for the District's youngest learners (kindergarten through second grade) called Early Learner Fitness (ELF). This program connects math, reading and writing skills through physical activity.



Building both strength and endurance, BHHS PE students take a Spin Class using a classroom-set of spin cycles, a purchase made possible by the PEP grant.

- ▶ Purchasing state-of-the-art equipment, including Spin® Bicycles, and integrating technology to help students monitor their physical activity and heart rate.

The grant also required an evaluation that led the District to become one of the few in the State to report students' Body Mass Index (BMI). Parents and guardians can opt-out of

this reporting; however, most families opt-in.

To align the curriculum maps, the District created the PE Leadership Team of elementary, middle and high school PE teachers that met quarterly. All 120 of the K-2 teachers learned to deliver the ELF curriculum while developing motor skills and fitness. *Continued on page 6...*

## New Administrators *continued from page 1...*

After teaching in Kent and Seattle, he most recently served as principal of the Archdiocese of Seattle - St. Joseph School in Chehalis. **Mandee Jessee** returns to Tumwater School District to be the principal at Tumwater Hill Elementary. She spent her first year of teaching here at Littlerock Elementary. Most recently she was principal at Pioneer Primary School in Shelton. **Kyle Grunenfelder**, who has worked at Michael T. Simmons as a teacher for the past three years, will now become the assistant principal. He said that he also attended the school as a student! **Lisa Perreira** joins the Tumwater High School team as assistant principal. She has a strong background in instructional leadership and comes to us from Tenino, where she has served for the past seven years. **Tammy Schultz** will serve as the new Supervisor of Special Services. She has been an itinerant occupational therapist for the Lewis County Special Education Cooperative since 1990. We are excited about working with these new administrators, as well as the other new staff members joining us across the District.

## Kindergarten *continued from page 1...*

Kindergarten option. At those schools that are charging tuition for the full-day, there is also a half-day no cost option. Below is the Kindergarten configuration for Tumwater School District for 2015-16:

- **LRE, MTS, PGS & THE:** Free All-Day K
- **BLE & EOE:** Tuition for All-Day K / Free Half-Day K

It is possible that we will receive additional funding for East Olympia Elementary before school begins. How is this possible? Some districts are turning down the new funding because they don't have enough classroom space. That funding is then being shifted to other districts. We will inform parents if more sections of all-day kindergarten become available for 2015-16. We look forward to serving all of our incoming students this fall!

## Keep Informed about TSD Year Round

### Sign Up for "Friends of TSD" E-List

These monthly emails contain updates, as well as information about upcoming events or activities that are open to the public. To sign up, email [kim.howard@tumwater.k12.wa.us](mailto:kim.howard@tumwater.k12.wa.us) or go to the home page of the TSD website and click on the "Friends of TSD E-Updates" link on the lower left.

### Volunteering in Tumwater School District

There are many ways to get involved depending upon your interests. Help as a reading buddy, in the office, on the playing field, on a school or District committee and more! We truly appreciate the thousands of hours dedicated to our schools each year. Our volunteers include parents, relatives, retired teachers and other community members. Contact any school office or the District Office at 709-7000 to get connected.

### You are Invited to the Community Roundtable!

Tuesday, September 22nd from 11:45-1:00 p.m.  
Tumwater School District Board Room, 621 Linwood Ave. SW

The first Roundtable for the year will feature our new superintendent, Mr. John Bash. John is interested in meeting you and in sharing his vision for Tumwater School District. He will also welcome your questions and comments. The Roundtable is chaired by community member, **Christy Upton**. Please join us for a light lunch that is served at 11:45. The program begins at 12:00. Dates and topics for additional roundtables will be shared later via the website and email.

### TSD School Board Meetings

The Tumwater School Board holds regular meetings throughout the year. Board meetings are usually held the second and fourth Thursday of each month. The first meeting of the month is at the TSD Administration Office at 7:00 p.m. The second meeting of the month rotates to school or department sites and begins at 8:30 a.m.

Meetings are open to the public, with agendas available on our website a few days prior to each meeting. For more information about the Board, meeting agendas and minutes, visit the District website and click on the "Leadership" tab.

#### Evening Meetings 7 p.m. @ District Office

September 10, October 8, November 12, December 10, January 14, February 11, March 10, April 14, May 12, June 16, July 14, August 11

#### Morning Meetings 8:30 a.m. @ Locations Around the District

September 24 – East Olympia Elementary	April 28 – Black Hills High School
October 22 – Michael T. Simmons Elementary	May 26 – Tumwater Middle School
January 28 – Tumwater Hill Elementary	July 28 – Workshop at the District Office <i>Time to be determined.</i>
February 25 – G.W. Bush Middle School	August 25 – Support Services
March 24 – Tumwater High School	

## 2015-16 District Calendar

- September 9 – First day of school
  - September 14 - First day of school for Kindergarten
  - November 2 - 5 – Elementary and Middle School Conferences (half-day early release for K-8)
  - November 11 – Veterans’ Day
  - November 25 – Half-day early release
  - November 26 and 27 – Thanksgiving Break
  - December 21 - Jan 1 – Winter Break
  - January 18 – Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
  - February 15 – Presidents’ Day
  - February 16 – Mid-Winter Break
  - March 16-18 – Elementary and Middle School Conferences /HS Senior Presentations (half-day early release for K-12)
  - April 4 - 8 – Spring Break
  - May 30 – Memorial Day
  - June 16 – Last Day of School (half-day early release)
- (All days missed due to weather/emergencies will be made up at the end of the school year.)**

### Early Release/ACT Days

Academic Collaboration Time (ACT) was first introduced in 2008-09 to provide teachers with time to team, review data and discuss individual student progress. Students are released from school 75 minutes early every Friday for ACT. The only exception to this is the first week of school. **On the first Friday of the school year, students will be in school for the full day.**

### Notice of Pesticide Applications at TSD Schools

*At least 48 hours prior to the application of a pesticide on school properties, a notice will be posted in the school's main office. Anyone who would like to be notified directly should contact Buildings and Grounds at 360-709-7725.*

# Retirees

## *We Thank You for Your Service to the Tumwater School Community!*

Karen Angell, Paraprofessional, BMS  
Lorri Brown, Office Assistant, THE  
Lucinda Caldaron, Paraprofessional, MTS  
Connie Colbeck, Teacher, BHHS  
Brian Duke, Principal, THE  
Darlene Garrett, Counselor, EOE  
Karen Grunenfelder, Teacher, THE  
David Haeger, Custodian, EOE  
Dorothy Hicks, Teacher, THE  
Vicky Jones, Paraprofessional, PGS  
Janis Korte, Teacher, LRE  
Marilyn Krause, Counselor, PGS  
Mark Lorenzo, Bus Driver  
Diane Malick, Teacher, MTS  
Katherine Mayer, Occupational Therapist  
Kimberly A. McCloud, Teacher, THE  
Steven McMillan, Custodian  
Kathy Nolan, Teacher, MTS  
Carol Pitts, Bus Driver  
Vonna Pullen, Teacher, MTS  
Linda Watterson, Admin. Asst., DO  
Joanne Wood, Cook, BLE  
Linda Woodall, Teacher, EOE  
Dean Yoder, Mechanic

## Register to Vote at Schools & Online

For more information or to register online, call 360-786-5408 or visit the Thurston County Auditor's webpage at [www.co.thurston.wa.us/auditor](http://www.co.thurston.wa.us/auditor) and click on "Elections." Registration forms are also available at each of our schools and at the District Office.

*Open Line* provides school and education information to all the residents of Tumwater School District. For more information about the District, please call the TSD Administration Office at (360) 709-7000.

Our Schools: Black Hills High School (BHHS), Tumwater High School (THS), Secondary Options (SO), Bush Middle School (BMS), Tumwater Middle School (TMS), Black Lake Elementary School (BLE), East Olympia Elementary School (EOE), Littlerock Elementary School (LRE), Michael T. Simmons Elementary School (MTS), Peter G. Schmidt Elementary School (PGS) and Tumwater Hill Elementary School (THE).

Board of Directors: President Jay Wood, Vice President Bob Barclift, and members, Rita Luce, Kim Reykdal and Janine Ward.

Superintendent: John Bash

Writing, editing: Kim Howard, Communications and Community Relations.

Graphic design, photography, writing: Barbara Bayer



*How is each event in history unique? THE 3rd graders practice "close reading" techniques for a more careful and purposeful reading of U.S. history.*

## Equal Opportunity/Non-Discrimination

Tumwater School District will provide equal educational opportunity and treatment for all students in all aspects of the academic and activities program without discrimination based on age, sex, race, creed, religion, color, national origin, veteran or military status, sexual orientation, gender expression or identity, marital status, the presence of any sensory, mental or physical disability or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal by a person of disability. The District will provide equal access to school facilities to the Boy Scouts of America and all other designated youth groups listed in Title 36 of the United States Code as a patriotic society.

The Tumwater School District offers classes in many career and technical education program areas under its open admission policy including courses in the Business and Marketing, Horticulture, Skilled and Technical Sciences, Family and Consumer Science, and the Science, Technology, Engineering and Math program areas. Some advanced level classes have prerequisites and/or specific criteria through an application process that is non-discriminatory. More information about participating in one of these program areas is available by contacting the school's counseling office. English language proficiency is not an element of the admissions and participation requirements for career and technical education classes. This notification can be provided in the appropriate language for communities of national origin by calling 360-709-7000. The following people have been designated to handle inquiries regarding the nondiscrimination policies:

Title IX – Kim Howard, Compliance Officer 360-709-7003  
621 Linwood Ave. SW, Tumwater, WA 98512

504- Tammy Schultz, Special Services Supervisor, 360-709-7040  
621 Linwood Ave. SW, Tumwater, WA 98512

Equal Opportunity and Compliance – Kim Howard, Compliance Officer, 360-709-7000  
621 Linwood Ave. SW, Tumwater, WA 98512

Grievance – Kim Howard, Compliance Officer, 360-709-7000  
21 Linwood Ave. SW, Tumwater, WA 98512

El Distrito Escolar de Tumwater School District no discrimina en sus programas o actividades por motivos de sexo, raza, credo, religión, color, origen nacional, edad, condición de veterano de guerra o grado militar, orientación sexual, expresión de género o identidad, discapacidad o uso de perro guía entrenado o animal de servicio, y ofrece igualdad de acceso a los Boy Scouts y a otros grupos de jóvenes especificados.

El empleado mencionado a continuación ha sido designado para atender consultas y quejas de supuesta discriminación: **Kim Howard**, 621 Linwood Ave. SW, Tumwater, WA 98512, 360-709-7000.

## Healthiest Next Generation *continued from page 4...*

### Impact

With the launch of ELF, the District became a pioneer in the country for fitness among young students. "Now elementary students are able to talk about their body systems in a way that they could not before," said **Tanya Greenfield**, PEP Grant Coordinator.

Another outcome is an increase in students' knowledge and skills about living a healthier life. "We can very clearly see that students' cognitive understanding of fitness and nutrition was stronger at the end of the grant," said **Sue Anderson**, BHHS Assistant Principal. "And this puts them on the path for lifelong health."