

# Tacoma Public Schools

Neighborhood Council Report: May 2018

## Key Dates in May

Memorial Day: May 28 (No School; District Offices Closed)

## Graduations

June 4

- Oakland High School at Tacoma Dome Exhibition Hall, 4 p.m.
- School of the Arts at Tacoma Dome Exhibition Hall, 6:30 p.m.

June 5

- Science & Math Institute at Tacoma Dome Exhibition Hall, 6:30 p.m.

June 8

- Mount Tahoma High School at Tacoma Dome, 4 p.m.
- Foss High School at Tacoma Dome, 6:30 p.m.

June 9

- Stadium High School at Tacoma Dome, 11 a.m.
- Lincoln High School at Tacoma Dome, 1:30 p.m.
- Wilson High School at Tacoma Dome, 4 p.m.

## 5-year Graduation Rate

Last fall we reported that the four-year, on-time graduation rates went from 55 percent in 2010 to 86 percent with the Class of 2017. That meant the Tacoma School District's 2020 goal of 85 percent of students graduating on time.

Our community, led by the Foundation for Tacoma Students and the Graduate Tacoma movement had a different goal. They wanted to increase the five-year, extended graduation by 50 percent by 2020.

The foundation reported in late April that they exceeded that goal for the Class of 2016—89 percent of the Class of 2016 graduated after five years of high school.

Some students need a bit longer to get all their credits.

Now, the foundation has asked more than 200 community partners to help focus on students reading at grade level—particularly third graders.

National statistics show that if third graders read at grade level or above, they are more likely to graduate. Tacoma Public Schools statistics for third-grade reading have been relatively flat for several years.

## See Something. Say Something.

You may recall in March, Tacoma Public Schools and the Tacoma Police Department rolled out a joint public service campaign to encourage community members to report threats of violence related to our schools to 9-1-1.

On April 30, that campaign paid dividends. Some students on the playground at DeLong Elementary School after school noticed a man across the street duct-taping a young boy's legs. Two of the students had the presence of mind to pull out their cell phones. One took a short video that clearly showed the man, the boy and the car. The other student attempted to get a photograph of the license plate on the car. Then they both immediately took their phones to the main office of the school, where staff members called 9-1-1.

The Tacoma Police Department and several other agencies issued an amber alert, distributed the students' video and photograph to media and began a search.

As it turned out, the man in the video saw himself on the news and called 9-1-1. The boy is his grandson, a special needs student with violent tendencies. He duct-taped his grandson to keep him from running away, he told police.

While we don't condone duct-taping children, the important takeaway from this incident is the quick-thinking of the DeLong students. Their video and photograph helped solve the case within four hours.

The students saw something and said something. We want to continue to promote the See Something. Say Something. campaign. If you see or hear of any threats of violence against our schools, please call 9-1-1.

## TPS Night at Tacoma Rainiers

If you buy tickets online, \$2 from every ticket goes to scholarships for our elementary sports program. Details below.

In addition, the design of the uniforms the Rainiers will wear that night were created by Wainwright Intermediate School fifth grader Summer Barton. Her design features a rainbow-colored tie-dyed top. At the game, you'll be able to bid on the player uniforms in an auction.

### A NIGHT AT CHENEY STADIUM

## TACOMA PUBLIC SCHOOLS NIGHT



Mark your calendars! Join us for a night of baseball and fun for our Tacoma Public Schools Night at Cheney Stadium. A Reserved Seat ticket and Ballpark Meal costs \$15, and \$2 of every purchase goes back to your school district! There will be a jersey auction, featuring a limited edition Tacoma Rainiers Jersey, designed by the TPS Student who is the winner of our TPS Jersey Design competition.

Visit [www.tacomarainiers.com/TPSNight](http://www.tacomarainiers.com/TPSNight) and enter promo code TPS2018

**GROUP EXPRESS  
(\$15 PER PERSON):**

- RESERVED SEAT TICKET
- BALLPARK MEAL (HOT DOG, CHIPS & BOTTLED WATER)

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**EVENT DATE: THURSDAY, MAY 17TH**  
**FIRST PITCH: 7:05PM**  
**GATES OPEN: 5:30PM**  
**RAINIERS VS. LAS VEGAS 51S**



**FOR MORE INFORMATION OR  
TO RSVP, PLEASE CONTACT:**

**HAYLEY TAMAGNI, GROUP EVENT COORDINATOR**  
253-722-2087  
[HTAMAGNI@WERTACOMA.COM](mailto:HTAMAGNI@WERTACOMA.COM)



**CHENEY STADIUM**

## Construction Updates

### **Grant Center for the Expressive Arts Informational Meeting**

When: May 30

Where: Grant Center for the Expressive Arts

Time: 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.

What: TPS will host a meeting for the neighbors around Grant Center for the Expressive Arts to share what's ahead with demolition of the old site and construction of the new one. We'll address the project schedule, noise, parking and road closures, truck routes and crew work hours, and take questions from the audience, of course.