

## Superintendent's Corner

Mike Swim, Director of Maintenance and Grounds

February 7, 2012

The Maintenance and Grounds department at Tahlequah Public Schools hopes that everyone had a safe and happy holiday.

Over the past summer HVAC contractors have replaced heating and air conditioning systems which upgraded us to higher efficiency equipment. This will save the school district money on utility bills in the coming years. The oldest units replaced averaged 25 years old. The efficiency of the old units was in the 25-30 percent range. The new units have an efficiency range of 80 percent. Units were replaced at the following schools: Sequoyah and Cherokee Elementary, High School and Central Academy. A total of thirty-nine units were replaced and paid for by Bond money.

Also during the summer of 2011, roofing contractors repaired and coated roofs on Sequoyah Elementary Gym and Annex buildings, Cherokee Elementary Gym and North and South wings, Central Academy "B", "C" and "E" buildings. The Boys and Girls Club gym was also recoated, along with High School Turf Building and locker rooms. These projects were also paid for with Bond money.

I have more roof projects scheduled for repair and replacement at the Board of Education, Professional Development Center, High School, Child Nutrition Warehouse/Offices, and possibly Middle School. All are scheduled to be completed before the start of the 2012-2013 school year.

Also completed in the last six months was the west parking lot at the Tahlequah Multi-Purpose Activity Center (TMAC). This alleviated many problems for scheduled events.

One of our tasks for early summer this year is to move teachers and Administrators to the new Heritage Elementary complex. I will be using both Maintenance and Grounds crews to make this happen for opening of the school year in August.

The Maintenance department handles work orders on all buildings and the Grounds crew mows, trims and does all related work on over 100 acres district-wide. These small crews have completed approximately 920 work orders since July 1, 2011. Once Heritage Elementary is turned over to us for upkeep, 19 acres and over 69,000 square feet will be added to our responsibilities. I would like to thank the whole department for their dedicated work, day in and out.

I will include the City of Tahlequah Street Department, Tahlequah Public Works Authority and NOFPA for their continued support and help the school district throughout the year.