RHS PTSA PRESIDENT'S NOTE

Winter Greetings. (The weather has spoken: it is.)

Jumping straight into business…

RHS PTSA has revised its Standing Rules, with the major change incorporating a recent state PTA by-law revision to allow mail or electronic voting on Nominating Committee and officer elections. You may see us asking our members to submit their votes in this way when they cannot attend a meeting in person.

Please see the notice in this newsletter for the next General Membership meeting, on January 11, 2010. There will be food at this meeting!

The snow is starting to fly, and I wanted to remind you that for a $12 PTSA membership, you get a 2-for-1 card that includes two Ski Bluewood punches. (For a $20 double membership, you get two 2-for-1 cards!) With lift tickets at $42 for adult, $38 for student with ASB, $33 for grades 1-8 and age 65+, your investment is immediately returned triple-fold, and you can still get other goodies! An RHS PTSA Membership Form is included in this newsletter.

We head full-swing into the holiday season. My thoughts of the season: lights (but don’t fall off the ladder), carols (go around the neighborhood singing some – but not by yourself, you might be hauled off), busy days (but keep smiling.) And don’t be too busy. I urge you to take full advantage of extra free-from-work time you may have this season (or take more time off, if you don’t have enough!) to spend time with your family and friends. Just spend time together - eating, skiing, playing games, shopping, helping others, worshipping, whatever is enjoyable. Fully enjoy these moments, and you will pass New Year’s Day not with relief that it’s all finally over, but with sweet memories created that keep a family glow going. Our sincere best wishes to you and yours during these wonderful holidays.

REFLECTIONS 2009-2010 “Beauty is…..”

RHS PTSA Reflections program entrants were honored at a reception on November 23. There were 22 entries from RHS students this year, interpreting “Beauty is”.

Congratulations to these RHS finalists:
Literature: Susan Bengtson, Jocelyn Harris, and Krista Lingle
Music Composition: Nathan Mather
Photography: Laurel Adami, Heather Peterson, and Taylor Saueressig
Visual Arts: Kelsey Christensen, Maggie Hollick, and Hailey McAllister

The finalists’ entries went forward for judging at the Richland PTA Council level. The Richland Council will honor entrants at a reception on January 7.

A big “Thank You” to the judges that took their time to evaluate our students’ work:
Literature: Kristina Rawlins, CMS Hi-Cap instructor and Sara Schilling, Tri-City Herald news reporter
Music Composition: Carri Rose, Lewis & Clark Elementary School Music (and much more!)
Photography: Bob Brawdy, Kai-Huei Yau, Kristina Lord, Tri-City Herald photo staff and Mike Carlson, River’s Edge High School Dean of Students, and photography aficionado
Visual Arts: Judith Loomis, Allied Arts artist and Kelly Ruud, HHS Family & Consumer Science instructor (with art background)

Thanks so much to the student artists, and their parents and teachers, for your fine arts efforts entered into the Reflections program at RHS this year. The RHS PTSA appreciates your participation!

Diane Call, RHS PTSA Reflections Chairperson
RHS PTSA NEWS

UPCOMING RHS PTSA MEETING:
General Membership meeting,
January 11, 2010  7 p.m. in RHS Library

At this meeting, we will elect a Nominating Committee that will recommend candidates for PTSA elected offices (President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer) for the 2010-11 school year. If you are willing to serve on this committee (3 members needed), please contact Diane Call (531-4095; buffcall@verizon.net).

A presentation by RSD Superintendent, Dr. Jean Lane and school levy committee chairperson, Marilyn Allen will be held as part of this meeting. Get information and ask questions at this forum.

There may also be a presentation on the district’s plans to institute Professional Learning Communities (PLC) across all schools. A parent/teacher/administrator committee is currently working on a plan, to cover all the aspects of instituting the PLCs district-wide, to be presented to the school board for approval. Be watching for a parent survey (for you to give YOUR input), PLC newsletters, and a presentation to parents regarding the committee plan.

A dessert bar, with coffee and punch will be set up just for you. All RHS community members parents, staff) are welcome. We hope you’ll join us!

RHS PTSA Scholarships Awarded

Each year, the RHS PTSA awards the Service and Leadership Scholarship award to graduating seniors. Last spring we recognized the following students for their outstanding service and leadership in the community: Alexa David, David Wang and Eric Turner. Each of these students received $500 to aid in their post-graduation educational endeavors.

The following people deserve a big round of applause for working on the selection committee: Kay Humphrys, Nancy Uziembl, Diane Call, Bob McAdoo, Lynne McAdoo, Kristen Hunt and Mary Kaye Hergert. Thank for all of your hard work. If you are interested in serving on the Scholarship committee for the coming year, please contact Lynne McAdoo at 943-5023 or lynne2222@verizon.net.

Health Presentation

The Health and Safety committee invited Richland School District nurses, Rosanne Cramer and Gina Begalka to the October meeting. They provided a very informative presentation on the H1N1 virus. Thank you for sharing details and ideas to keep us all well.

The committee is also looking for interested members, along with ideas for future presentations. If you can think of anything that you would like to see presented to parents, or ideas to pass on to the school, please let me know!

Lynne McAdoo, 943-5023 or lynne2222@verizon.net

Support the RHS PTSA with eScrip

The Richland High PTSA is enrolled in the eScrip program. Individuals sign up as supporters and register their loyalty cards (for Safeway or Yoke’s Fresh Markets), debit and credit cards. When you use any of these registered cards with a participating merchant partner, the merchant makes a contribution that goes to Richland High PTSA (and other organizations you indicate on your enrollment.)

How can you enroll?

Go to escrip.com, click on ‘sign up’ and follow the instructions. The Richland High School PTSA Membership number is 8566062.

There are numerous on-line merchants that participate with eScrip, including JC Penney, Travelocity, Barnes & Noble, Best Buy, Sears, PetSmart, and Cabelas. When you go on-line to make a purchase, enter the merchant site through the eScrip.com site. One of my favorites is eBay! eBay will donate 1.2% of the purchase price, and those ‘little amounts’ add up over time as a number of people take advantage of this ‘free money’ that is donated to RHS PTSA.

A special offer through Dec. 31, 2009, from Volvo: purchase or lease a new 2010 Volvo and get $1000 off, plus $500 will be donated to your eScrip organizations. (Washington State dealers are in Spokane, Fife, Bellevue, and Seattle. Print coupon off eScrip website (www.escrip.com/Volvo) Please register with eScrip, and name ‘Richland High School PTSA’ as one of your eScrip groups. Those pennies can add up!

For more information, contact Diane Call (buffcall@verizon.net)
Dear Parents,

As we get closer to winter, it may be necessary for us to close or delay school due to ice, snow or other emergency conditions. During inclement weather conditions, the Transportation Director is responsible for conducting road checks within the District. He will assess the road network for safety of school buses and other commuter traffic to and from school. Based upon this input, the superintendent of schools will make the decision to delay or cancel school as appropriate.

The superintendent’s decision will be communicated via the District web site ([www.rsd.edu](http://www.rsd.edu)) and by local radio and television stations beginning at approximately 5:50 a.m. The radio and TV stations listed below will be asked to air these announcements:

- KORD - 102.7  
- KOLW - 97.9  
- KEPR - TV  
- KODA - 610 AM  
- KIOK - 94.9  
- KNDU - TV  
- KEGX - 106.5  
- KNLT - 95.7  
- KEPL - TV  
- KUJ - 99.1  
- KFAE - 89.1  
- KTCR - 1340 AM  
- KEPR - TV  
- KNDU - TV  
- KVEW - TV

**Receive weather closures/delays via text message and email**

The District has added text messages and email for communicating weather closures/delays this winter. Parents and students wishing to receive the closure/delay announcements via text message or email can sign up by going to: [http://flashalert.net/news.html?id=1845](http://flashalert.net/news.html?id=1845)

When you get to the page where the “Email/Text Message Addresses” box appears, your email address goes on line 1 and your cell phone address and/or another email address go on lines 2 and 3. Read the instructions below that box carefully as each cell phone company has specific address requirements. Finally, at the bottom of that box, you’ll want to click on the red lettering to send a test message.

Questions regarding our communications procedures should be addressed to the undersigned at 967-6008.

Sincerely,

Steve Aagaard   Communications Director   Richland School District

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**SPECIAL EDUCATION PARENT/PROFESSIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL (SEPAC)**

The Richland SEPAC invites parents/guardians, staff, friends-anyone that is interested in special education to attend our informational meetings. Childcare is provided by RHS Key Club students at each SEPAC meeting. The next meeting’s topic is “Response to Intervention: What does this mean for my child?” **The meeting is February 4, 2010 at Jason Lee Elementary School.**
RHS PTSA supports the school in many ways:

- The Day’s Pay-Per - the monthly PTSA Newsletter
- Teacher Appreciation
- RHS Student Scholarships
  
  You can be part of this by:
  
  ▪ Joining PTSA
  ▪ Volunteering (see below)
  ▪ Using your Albertsons Community Partners card and eScrip when you shop
  ▪ Donating to the School Grant Program or Scholarship Program (all donations are tax deductible)

Drug/Alcohol/Health education
Reflections National PTA Arts contest
Senior Graduation Party

How to join – and get your bonus 2-for-1 card! (Ski-Bluewood, Barracuda Coffee and more):

Fill in this form and return

☑ Drop off at the RHS Main Office or Mail to RHS PTSA-Membership,
930 Long Avenue, Richland, WA 99352

PARENTS—please check the current year(s) your children are in school at RHS.

☐ 9 ☐ 10 ☐ 11 ☐ 12

☐ Check here if you wish to get the RHS PTSA newsletter electronically.

Your address label will be removed from the mailing list and you will be notified monthly via your email address (please enter in address section below) when the newsletter has been placed on the PTSA website, http://www.rsd.edu/schools/rhs/ptsa/

Please PRINT the information requested and check ONE or MORE boxes below:

NAME(S) (2 Names for Double Membership)

______________________________________________________

ADDRESS, CITY, ZIP CODE

____________________________________________________________________

E-MAIL ADDRESS (PTSA Use Only)

______________________________________________________________

HOME /CELL PHONE __________________________/______________________________

☐ $12 One membership. I have included my check [to ‘RHS PTSA’] for $12
☐ $20 Double membership (2 discount cards). I have included my check for $20
☐ $10 School staff membership. I have included my check for $10
☐ $8 Student membership. I have included my check for $8
☐ $25 Business membership. New this year!
☐ Wish to receive updates on education advocacy and legislation by email
☐ Wish to volunteer but cannot join RHS PTSA at this time

Volunteer—Please check items below for these volunteer opportunities

☐ Newsletter Assembly (Once a month)
☐ Chaperone (for dances)
☐ PTSA Leadership
☐ Food Donation/Hospitality (Food donations)
☐ RHS PTSA Scholarship Committee
☐ Senior Party
☐ Reflections (Fall only)
☐ Drug/Alcohol/Health education
☐ Web site assistance
☐ Other - I can ________________
## ELITE FLEET MONTHLY WINNERS  October 2009...from Becki Maki, Director

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DEPARTMENT</th>
<th>ATTITUDE</th>
<th>IMPROVEMENT/CONSISTENCY</th>
<th>EXCELLENCE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ENGLISH</td>
<td>Krista Lingle</td>
<td>Travis Ayers</td>
<td>Amelia Hillebrant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FINE ARTS/OTHER</td>
<td>Chandra Mohl</td>
<td>Mark Kehret</td>
<td>Elizabeth Judy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FOREIGN LANGUAGE</td>
<td>Caitlin Houck</td>
<td>Amelia Hillebrant</td>
<td>Noemi Castaneda</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATH</td>
<td>Anna Croskrey</td>
<td>Jared Barichello</td>
<td>Bridgette Nickeson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P.E./HEALTH</td>
<td>Bradley Smith</td>
<td>Sarah Miller</td>
<td>Lexi Joseph</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCIENCE</td>
<td>Samantha Frances Lee</td>
<td>Alexander Tyr Giese</td>
<td>Ragan McKenzie Bishop</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOCIAL STUDIES</td>
<td>McKenzie Webb</td>
<td>Britney Pringle</td>
<td>Teea Bunker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VOCATIONAL</td>
<td>Chas Guel</td>
<td>Johnathan Keck</td>
<td>Samantha Lehman</td>
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### HOMEWORK REQUESTS

Homework may be requested through our website. Log on to Richlandbombers.org and click on the link RHS Staff. You may contact the teacher directly for homework from this link.

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### NEWS FROM THE PHYSICAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

One of the goals of the PE Department’s Professional Learning Communities is to recognize students who everyday display a great attitude, show effort and are committed to excellence in our department. The following are the October winners who will be given a “PE All-Star” T-Shirt:

- **Aaron Conley** from Mrs. Murrow’s class
- **Ashley Hampton** from Mr. Sevigny’s class
- **Kayla Mercer** from Mrs. Rulon’s class
- **Jon Larsen** from Mr. Olson’s class
- **Cord Lopez** from Mr. White’s class
- **Dennis Christiansen** from Mr. Streufert’s class

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### RHS THEATRE ARTS

The Richland High School Theatre Arts Department will be traveling to Edinburgh, Scotland in August 2010. Richland High was one of sixty schools in the nation chosen out of over 2,100 schools nominated to represent the United States and perform at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival! Students are responsible for paying their own transportation costs, and the department will be raising funds throughout the school year to pay for the production they will take to Scotland. Parents, students and chaperones will be offering gift wrapping at the Columbia Center Mall through December 24.

If you are interested in assisting the theatre arts department, please contact theatre director Ellicia Mertens Elliott at ellicia.elliott@rsd.edu.
Richland High School Bomber Boosters

JOIN TODAY - GET INVOLVED!!
You can help support the many Richland Bomber activities, events, and student needs by becoming a Bomber Booster member today. With your membership, you receive a RHS Bomber Booster shirt, Dairy Queen discount card, and you'll get to hang out with the energetic RHS Bomber Boosters gang. Visit our web site at www.bomberboosters.org.

Bomber Boosters supports the school in many ways:
• Managing concession sales at RHS sporting events to create funding support for school activities
• Time and monetary donations to RHS teams and school club events
• The Bomber Boosters support several school road trips and events, such as:
  • Athletic team trips to regional and state playoffs and purchasing of championship banners
  • Drama Club trips to Washington State competitions
• Maintenance of the “RHS Wall of Fame” at the school gym
• Maintenance of the “RHS Valedictorians” display in the school’s main entrance
• RHS student scholarships for college

You can be part of this by:
• Joining the Bomber Boosters membership
• Becoming a Bomber Booster board member to consider and decide RHS support needs
• Helping at RHS sporting event concession stand sales (our major fundraising activity)

Please PRINT all the information required and check ONE or MORE boxes below:

NAME(S) _______________________________________________________________________
ADDRESS ______________________________________________________________________
E-MAIL ADDRESS (Bomber Booster use only) _________________________________________
HOME /CELL PHONE __________________________________________________________________

☐ $30  One membership (1 discount card, 1 Bomber shirt). I have included my check for $30.
☐ $60  Two memberships (2 discount cards, 2 Bomber shirts). I have included my check for $60.
☐ I wish to volunteer, but can not join RHS Bomber Boosters at this time.

Indicate Shirt sizes:
1st Shirt  ☐ S  ☐ M  ☐ L  ☐ XL  ☐ XXL  ☐ XXXL
2nd Shirt  ☐ S  ☐ M  ☐ L  ☐ XL  ☐ XXL  ☐ XXXL

Make checks to: Richland Bomber Boosters (P.O. Box 1651, Richland, WA 99352)
District looking at feasibility of teacher collaboration time at secondary schools

The Richland School District is studying the potential impacts of implementing a middle school/high school teacher collaboration system. This system would be similar to what the elementary schools have been doing for a number of years (students are dismissed early one day each week so teachers can plan and work together). Some of the discussion points for secondary implementation are:

- Number of minutes needed per release day
- Frequency of release days
- Which day of the week would be best
- Advantages of late starts versus early releases
- Potential loss of student instructional time
- Alignment of secondary and elementary schedules
- Transportation – time needed between elementary and secondary bus routes

A research committee of secondary and central office administrators has gathered information from nine school districts that have implemented secondary school teacher collaboration time. Some of the findings are:

- Half use late starts while half use early releases
- Amount of release time varies from district to district
- Most are too early in the process to have observed much change in academic performance
- Eight of nine districts indicate no increase in costs
- Multiple types of teacher collaboration are being used

Next step is for the District to gather input from staff, parents and community members.

District making “green” strides

The Custodial Services Department’s efforts to become more “green” have resulted in cost savings as well as providing a safer environment for employees and students. The District is:

- Using products made from recycled materials.
- Using high efficiency floor scrubbers and carpet cleaners which conserve water.
- Reducing the use of products that contain hazardous chemicals and corrosive agents.

Voters will be asked to renew levy

The operations levy election is February 9. The levy allows the District to continue basic programs which are not fully funded by the state including: updated textbooks, technology, transportation, extra-curricular activities and utilities expenses. Levy money makes up about 15% of the District's annual operating budget. “This levy will allow us to maintain our quality programs and maintain a fiscally sound budget,” said Superintendent Jean Lane.

The operations levy is not a new tax. It will replace the current levy which expires at the end of 2010. Every two years, District residents are asked to renew the levy.
PTA Partners With Consumer Reports for School Safety Program

The National PTA has recently partnered with Consumer Reports and the National School Boards Association to form the School Safety Alert Program (http://www.pta.org/3430.htm) to alert parents, schools and educators immediately to imminent dangers and allow them to remove potentially dangerous—even lethal—products from their homes and schools. Go to PTA.org/safetyalert for more information on the partnership to keep your children safe.

Keeping Kids Busy Offline Keeps Them Safer Online

The Online Mom, Tech Tools for Parents (http://www.theonlinemom.com) reports that recent research from Queensland, Australia has drawn a parallel between the activities of children offline and the likelihood of them getting into trouble online. Griffith University researchers Margee Hume and Gillian Sullivan-Mort interviewed over 150 children between the ages of 10 and 18 and found that those involved in fewer extracurricular activities were also the ones most likely to exhibit risky behavior online.

During the course of the study, Hume found that keeping children occupied and active away from the computer was one of the key components of cultivating a healthy and safe relationship with the Internet. "Exercise was a big factor. All the kids who were participating in sports or dancing and other activities not involving the Internet had experienced fewer problems online," she said.

They had a better sense of self and wellbeing and could balance out instances of cyber-bullying with their friendships away from the school and the web. The children who were most at risk were those who were socially and geographically isolated and did not have a strong interest in other activities. "In many respects, it's not what children are doing online which is the problem, it's the balance of what they are doing offline which is important," said Hume.

The researchers found there were plenty of strategies parents could put in place to protect their children which they were not currently implementing. As a result, they have called for the development of guidelines to help parents prevent their children from being exposed to dangers on the Internet. "Lack of parental supervision, isolated or excessive computer use, and lack of offline activity all increase the risks associated with online activity," Hume said.

Hume and Sullivan-Mort said the potential dangers faced by children included cyberbullying, adults and children impersonating other users, the exchange of intimate photos and videos, and the sharing of personal secrets online. "We need to have easily accessible and affordable programs for parents, as well as a strong social marketing campaign which draws attention to the dangers children face online and how to protect them," Hume said.

However, "we can't keep blaming the tool," she added. "The importance of parental involvement and a strong roster of offline activities can't be emphasized enough."

For more information about your kids and technology in English and Spanish, visit http://www.theonlinemom.com/
Senior Checklist
- Register for a FAFSA PIN to electronically sign your Financial Aid Application.
- Finish any remaining applications for four-year college and submit them.
- Pick up a copy of the CBC application to prepare for mailing in January.
- Start working on the Worksheet on the Web in preparation for filing your FAFSA in January.
- Request the transcripts you need for completing college applications.

Culminating Project Monitoring
In December both Sophomores and Seniors will participate in monitoring conferences to review the progress made on their projects. Instead of going directly to first hour, monitoring students will go to their session to conference with a teacher. We will be using the bell schedule at the bottom right of this page. First hour classes for all students start at 8:25 am.

Prior to the conference, students need to assemble their work samples to bring directly to the session or place in their library folder. Please remind your child to update their work, especially the Reading and Activity Lists.

Following the monitoring conferences, student progress information will be available in PowerSchool accounts.

Sophomores—December 4, 2009
Requirements
- Transcript - a copy is available in the library folder
- Attendance Record - a copy is available in the library folder
- Best Work in Reading
- Best Work in Writing
- English/LA 10 Exit Exam
- Best Work in Math
- Reading List (word processed with dates or year, authors and titles)
- Activity List (word processed with dates and role)
- Two Teamwork Samples

Seniors—December 11, 2009
Requirements
- Transcript - a copy is available in the library folder
- Attendance Record - a copy is available in the library folder
- Best Work in Reading
- Best Work in Writing
- Best Work in Math
- Reading List (word processed with dates, authors, and titles)
- Activity List (word processed with dates and role)
- Two Teamwork Samples

This is the final monitoring for senior projects. Following the monitoring conferences the final MET or NME (not met) scores will be transferred to transcripts for both the Culminating Project and High School and Beyond Plans. It is important that seniors attend with updated materials prepared to meet the requirements. Please encourage your child to begin updating their project which most placed in a binder during Consumer Economics class. Tri-Tech portfolios are also a great resource for work samples.

Recommended Components
- Planner Sample, Certificates of Achievement or Skill, Awards, Assessment Data (WASL, PSAT, MAP etc.)
- Final Application Form - This is a copy of the actual application students are using to launch their plan for after high school. Examples include: completed college applications, employment applications, military enlistment documentation, apprenticeship forms etc.
- High School and Beyond Plan—A few seniors continue to have this item missing—they know who they are!! If you want to double check status, please refer to PowerSchool. Students with missing plans need to bring a copy to leave at the monitoring session for scoring or e-mail a copy to Mary.Kaye.Hergert@rsd.edu

If you have questions be sure to take action before the monitoring date! Get information from the website at www.rsd.edu/schools/rhs/leem in the Senior Connection link or contact Mr. Neill in room 3104 or Mrs. Hergert in room 1221.

Scholarship Leads
New scholarships are arriving daily! Please check out the lead list in the Career Center link at www.richlandbombers.org or update your e-mail address in PowerSchool to receive a list in the Parent Bulletin at the beginning of each month.
UPCOMING RHS PTSA MEETING:

RHS PTSA General Membership meeting, January 11, 2010
7 p.m. in RHS Library

A presentation by RSD Superintendent, Dr. Jean Lane and school levy committee chairperson, Marilyn Allen will be held as part of this meeting. Get information and ask questions at this forum.

Join us for dessert, coffee and punch.
All RHS community members, parents, and staff are welcome.

For peace of mind, resign as general manager of the universe.

Anonymous