February 2010
Volume 13, Issue 4 (published 7x/year)
PTSA Membership: 219
PTSA President: Diane Call
Newsletter editor: Nancy Uziemblo
Newsletter deadline: 15th of the month*
*send news to uziemblo@verizon.net

RHS PTSA PRESIDENT’S NOTE …Diane Call
February, the month Cupid loves!

I want to honor with words our very special principal, Mr. Comfort. Take a look around at any Richland High event, and chances are he will be there. Perhaps he has clones – otherwise, I’m not sure how he does it and still maintains time with his family. He came to my Reflections awards ceremony – and I had thoughtlessly forgotten to invite him! After I thanked him for coming anyway, I asked him why he’d come. “Well, it was on the event calendar….”

The Richland Schools’ music teachers gave a concert the other night, and wouldn’t you know it, our very own Mr. Comfort was emcee! He’s a natural – quick wit, engaged, encouraging. Mr. Comfort to most of us, Gordy to many of his colleagues, I just want to let him know how much we appreciate him and the results of all the work he does. Won’t you join me, next time you see him, in giving him a ‘thank you’?

There have been several articles in this newsletter on ways you can help fund RHS PTSA efforts. The biggest RHS PTSA projects are this newsletter, student scholarships, help to our administration to meet student needs via our donation to Saul & Dayee Haas Foundation, staff grants, staff hospitality, and the Reflections Art Program. In the past, our major source of revenue has been Albertsons Community Partners Program, administered via their Preferred Savings card. This is a ‘loyalty’ program, if you support their business, they will donate to non-profits you designate. I urge (okay, BEG) you to update your Albertsons Community Partners designation list.

Albertsons will donate up to $1800 each quarter to an organization; in the past couple years, we have received around $800 each quarter. Unfortunately, the last quarterly reward RHS PTSA received was about $350.

To support RHS PTSA, or other Albertsons Partner organizations:
1) Apply for a Preferred Savings card if you don’t already have one. Ask in store, or apply on-line. (If you think you have an account but don’t know the number, check for ‘Preferred Customer’ number at top of an Albertsons purchase receipt.)
2) To enroll, or check/change your Community Partners designation(s), first go to the Albertsons web site.
3) Click on ‘In the Community’ on lower web site bar, then click on Community Partners logo. (URL is www.albertsons.com/cp/)
4) Click on Shoppers ‘login or register…’ link and follow the instructions.

The Richland High School PTSA number is 49000120508. You can choose to support up to 4 organizations, and choose the percentage of your donation each organization is to receive. Albertsons recently instituted a policy of requiring re-enrollment each year. If you haven’t checked your account recently, please check it out and include RHS PTSA as one of your linked Community Partners! Your everyday purchases can help the RHS PTSA help our school and our students!

And we love our RHS students and staff! Love extraordinarily this month!
RHS PTSA NEWS

UPCOMING RHS PTSA MEETINGS:
BOARD MEETINGS (All members welcome.)
February 8 and March 9 7 p.m. in RHS Library

SENIOR PARTY MEETING—hear what is being planned and how to help!
February 9 7 p.m. in the RHS library.

REFLECTIONS 2009-2010 “Beauty is....”
We’ve just about wrapped up another successful Reflections Program. But there is an additional stop for four RHS students: their entries have been sent to the Washington State PTA for the next round of judging! State winners will be honored during the state PTA convention near the beginning of May. These Richland PTA Council winning entries, honored at a reception on January 7 are:

Literature: Susan Bengtson, “Caelestis forma”
Photography: Laurel Adami, “Weed or Wonder?”
Visual Arts: Kelsey Christensen, “Molly-fish”

I thank ALL the student artists, and their supporters, for your fine art creations entered into the Reflections Program at RHS this year. The RHS PTSA appreciates your participation!

2010-11 theme is “Together We Can....”
Diane Call, Reflections Chairperson

THANK YOU TO DIANE CALL, RHS PTSA REFLECTIONS CHAIRPERSON, FOR ALL HER WORK THIS YEAR!

A MAJOR THANK-YOU to those who helped with the November and December newsletters: Lory Allen; Parents: Sue Gauglitz, Stacy Maul, Crisit Bratton, Kelly Combs, Noel Eger, Kathryn Hassell, Jodi Hassell, Bryan Hassell, Emily Hassell and Alison Webster; Staff: Ms. Hodges, Rita Yourdan, Tina Hubbard, and Jeanette Mendell; Students: Shaylee Welker, Long Vu, Hailee Elliott, Eugene DeBattista, Caitlin Talbert, Gary Patrick, Kyle Cooke, Garth Mann, Jeana Tilden, and Logan Frost.

The RHS PTSA 2010 Nominating Committee is recruiting qualified persons for the 4 PTSA elected positions for the 2010-11 school year. Having qualified and willing people step into leadership positions will ensure we fulfill our mission and enhance the value of an RHS education. You can help us by nominating yourself for President, Vice President, Secretary or Treasurer for the next school year or nominating someone. RHS PTSA officer elections will be in April. Contact Bob McAdoo [ r.mcadoo@verizon.net ] for position descriptions and delivering nominations.

WANTED! RHS PTSA NEWSLETTER EDITOR—STARTING 2010-11 SCHOOL YEAR Interested in sharing RHS news with families? Seven editions are published each school year. It is lots of fun and there is room for creativity! Contact Nancy Uziemblo at Uziemblo@verizon.net or 943-5762 for more motivation.

RHS PTSA Scholarships
The RHS PTSA has 2 scholarships available for graduating seniors:
The Service and Leadership Scholarship recognizes students for their outstanding community service and leadership and is for those students attending a 4 year, 2 year, trade school or technical school.
The RHS Post Secondary School Scholarship is specifically for those students that will be attending a 2 year, trade or technical school after graduation.

Please see Mrs. Hergert for a scholarship application. The deadline for both of these scholarships is April 8, 2010.

Also in the Career Center is information on the Richland PTA Council Scholarship. This is a $500 scholarship awarded each year to one Richland High School senior. Pick up an application today!
District looking at possible schedule change for secondary schools
For the past five years, Richland School District elementary students have been dismissed early on Fridays so teachers could collaborate with colleagues. The District is now considering collaboration time for secondary teachers. This would mean a schedule change for all middle school and high school students.

Three options are currently being considered:

1) Early dismissal at 1:18 pm one day a week (Wednesday most likely). This option would provide 72 minutes of collaboration time. There would be a net loss of 28 hours of instructional time per year. Fridays are not possible because of transportation issues.

2) Early dismissal at 1:30 pm one day a week (Wednesday most likely). This option would provide 60 minutes of collaboration time. There would be a net loss of 21 hours of instructional time per year. Fridays are not possible because of transportation issues.

3) Early dismissal at 12:15 pm every other Friday. This option would provide 135 minutes of collaboration time. There would be a net loss of 27 hours of instructional time per year.

“Teachers accomplish a number of objectives during a structured and consistent collaboration time,” explains Superintendent Jean Lane. “They work together as grade level teams to develop curriculum and share instructional strategies. They talk about what’s working with students and what isn’t. This weekly time provides an opportunity for teachers to discuss new ideas from workshops and classes they attend. Teachers can also plan vertically (from one grade level to the next) and hone in on any areas which may become redundant or fill in any gaps that may occur from one year to the next.”

Five public input meetings are being held so parents/students can find out more about the various options. The meeting schedule is:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, February 3</td>
<td>7:00 pm</td>
<td>Hanford High School library</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, February 4</td>
<td>7:00 pm</td>
<td>Enterprise Middle School library</td>
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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 upcoming meetings are:

February 4, 5-6:30 p.m. Jason Lee Elementary School Topic is “Response to Intervention: What does this mean for my child?”

March 4, 5-6:30 p.m. Enterprise Middle School Topic is “State Assessments: What’s the Latest?”

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.
ELITE FLEET MONTHLY WINNERS  ...from Becki Maki, Director

November 2009

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<tr>
<th>DEPARTMENT</th>
<th>ATTITUDE</th>
<th>IMPROVEMENT/CONSISTENCY</th>
<th>EXCELLENCE</th>
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<tr>
<td>ENGLISH</td>
<td>McKenzie Webb</td>
<td>William Nelson</td>
<td>Hannah Pylate</td>
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<td>FINE ARTS/OTHER</td>
<td>Kyle Westlund</td>
<td>Heather Findlay</td>
<td>Tasha Kulmus</td>
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<td>FOREIGN LANGUAGE</td>
<td>Corwin Bryan</td>
<td>Diane Shockey</td>
<td>Savannah Deckert</td>
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<td>MATH</td>
<td>Darya Fisenko</td>
<td>Tyler Conley</td>
<td>Garrett Gallinger</td>
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<td>P.E./HEALTH</td>
<td>Meagan Patterson</td>
<td>Connor Fleming</td>
<td>Nathan Ruane</td>
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<td>SOCIAL STUDIES</td>
<td>Devonte Rhea</td>
<td>Evelyn Ruiz</td>
<td>Lauren Dernbach</td>
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<td>VOCATIONAL</td>
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December 2009

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<th>DEPARTMENT</th>
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<tr>
<td>ENGLISH</td>
<td>Josh Andrew</td>
<td>Ryan Francis</td>
<td>Kevin Bauder</td>
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<tr>
<td>FINE ARTS/OTHER</td>
<td>Alex Garvie</td>
<td>Alexis Beyers</td>
<td>John DeLamare</td>
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<td>Tanner Olveda</td>
<td>Erik Nelson</td>
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<td>MATH</td>
<td>Chase Castillo</td>
<td>Carolyn Ingram</td>
<td>Allison Boynton</td>
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<td>P.E./HEALTH</td>
<td>Alexis Holcomb</td>
<td>Desiree Petty</td>
<td>BrieAnna Puryear</td>
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<td>Hannah Murphy</td>
<td>Keegan Shepherd</td>
<td>Gina Ojeda</td>
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<td>VOCATIONAL</td>
<td>Evelyn Ruiz</td>
<td>Angel Saenz</td>
<td>David McAdoo</td>
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The semester Elite Fleet winners for September, October, November and December are:
Jared Romo – Attitude        Mark Kehret – Consistency
Garrett Gallinger – Excellence  Allison Boynton – Excellence

MATH TEAM NEWS  ...... from Kelly Casto Richland HS Math Teacher and Math Team Advisor

On December 5, the Math Team traveled to Moses Lake High School to compete in the state Math is Cool Masters competition. The 9/10 team placed 2nd overall and the 11/12 team placed 6th. Additionally, Jihoon Lee placed 4th in Algebra 2; in Precalculus Katrina Hui placed 10th and Antony Chen placed 13th. The team also participated in the Ciphering Time Trials put on by the National Assessment and Testing in Auburn, WA. In this competition, students participate in ten rounds, during each round they are to complete three questions in three minutes. The team overall placed 22nd in the nation. Students will be competing in two contests in February, both at Richland High School. The Four by Four competition, another National Assessment and Testing contest, will take place on February 4 and the American Mathematics competition will take place on February 9. All students in honors mathematics classes and others interested will participate in this contest.

Along with these activities, students have been involved in raising funds to help pay for contests. These include selling Bomber dog tags, bracelets, and beavers as well as working concessions at the basketball game.
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.

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 honored with a “PE All-Star” T-Shirt:

Emily Young and Elliot Bailey from Mr. Streufert’s class
Jesse Deleon and Ryan Meteer from Mr. Olson’s class
Corli Ollerman and Tyler Passey from Mr. Sevigny’s class
Chris Smith and Alex Schwartz from Mrs. Murrow’s class
Desiree Petty and Elizabeth Quick from Mrs. Rulon’s class
Jesus Mata and Megan Oakley from Mr. White’s class.

RHS THEATRE ARTS
The Richland High School Theatre Arts Department will have a book-fair fundraiser at Barnes and Noble on Saturday, February 27 (during all business hours). Mention the Richland High School Theatre program or bring in a coupon for the event and the Theatre Arts program will receive a percentage of your purchase. All proceeds go toward the department’s upcoming trip to perform at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival.

Mark you calendars for March 5, 6, 12, and 13, when the award-winning RHS Performing Arts Department will present the beloved musical The Sound of Music. A special gala celebration will take place closing night, March 13, with live music and a silent auction, to celebrate the production and to help benefit the Theatre Arts department’s trip to Edinburgh, Scotland. Information about tickets both for the production and the gala event will be in next month’s newsletter.

If you would like more information, or would like to help, please e-mail theatre arts director Ellicia Mertens Elliott at ellicia.elliott@rsd.edu.
Parents of Richland High School Seniors  
Save the Date for the  
2010 Senior Party Auction!

“Bombers Take Flight”

Mark you calendars to assure you don’t miss the night flight on RHS Airlines filled with friends, fun, and fantastic gift items! In-flight entertainment will include tempting silent and live auction items as well as delicious appetizers and local wines. Finish the evening with dancing in the cockpit to the tracks of Sight and Sound Services. We do not anticipate any turbulence at our cruising altitude of 2010 feet, so feel free to mingle in the cabin all evening.

Date: Saturday, March 13th  
Flight Time: 6:30 p.m. – 11:00 p.m.  
Terminal and Gate: Richland Knights of Columbus Hall  
Boarding passes on sale now at $30.00 per person. 21 years and older.

All proceeds benefit the Richland High School Graduation Party, providing the 2010 RHS seniors with a safe and unforgettable senior party on the evening of their graduation.

If you have questions, please contact:  
Linda Dunford (627-1446) or Carol Sanford (627-5916)

HELP! We are presently in the process of organizing the 2010 Senior Party Fundraising Auction and we need you to help us make this a roaring success! If you just don’t have the time to become involved, would you consider donating an item or service that could be offered as an auction item? Possibly your employer or a friend you know would be willing to donate something we could use – all donations are welcome. Let’s all work together to make this a wonderful success for our graduating seniors!

If you are able to donate an item please contact:  
Linda Dunford (624-1446), Carol Sanford (627-5916)  
Lorna Dittmer (627-1879), or Cindi Foster (627-0425)
Senior Party 2010

“Life’s A Beach”

Friday, June 4,
10 p.m.–3:30 a.m.
Cathedral of Joy

HOURS OF FUN FOR JUST $25

LOADS OF ENTERTAINMENT!!

Music Hypnotist Bingo
Trading Post Henna Tattoos Photo
Casino Door Prize Drawings Food
Large Inflatables

lots and lots and lots of PRIZES

All tickets purchased by March 1st will be entered in a drawing for a Flip Video Camcorder

BUY YOUR TICKETS EARLY!

RHS CLASS OF 2010 TICKET ORDER FORM

STUDENT NAME ______________________________
PARENT NAME ______________________________
PHONE NUMBER ______________________________
E-MAIL ADDRESS (to confirm receipt) ______________________________

Checks only: $25 before March 1
$30 March 1 - May 31 OR $35 at the door

Make Checks out to RHS PTSA 2010 Senior Party

Mail form with check to:
Leann Sutherland
503 Basswood Ave.
Richland, WA 99352

Questions: Call Leann 943-7694
Levy Election is February 9  
Election ballots for the Richland School District's 2010 Operations Levy have been mailed out and must be returned by February 9. The operations levy allows the District to continue basic programs which are not fully funded by the state including: updated textbooks, technology, substitute teachers, transportation, extra-curricular activities and utilities expenses. Levy money makes up about 15% of the District's annual operating budget. The levy is not a new tax. Every two years, voters are asked to renew the levy. The current levy expires at the end of 2010. The Levy Voter’s Pamphlet is available at: www.rsd.edu/info/operations-levy-election.html

Fill Out Survey on Teacher Collaboration Time/Professional Learning Communities
As many of you know, the District is looking into the feasibility of establishing teacher collaboration time/Professional Learning Communities at the middle schools and high schools. An online survey will be posted on the District web page (www.rsd.edu) on February 12. We invite you to fill out the survey and give us your feedback.

Learn More About Professional Learning Communities  
The term professional learning community describes a group of administrators and school staff who are united in their commitment to student learning. They share a vision, work and learn collaboratively, visit and review other classrooms, and participate in decision making. The benefits to the staff and students include a reduced isolation of teachers, better informed and committed teachers, and academic gains for students. As an organizational arrangement, the professional learning community is seen as a powerful staff-development approach and a potent strategy for school change and improvement. For parents wishing to learn more about Professional Learning Communities, one resource is PLC Washington. Find it on the web at: www.plcwashington.org

K-5 Parent Resource Guides  
Kindergarten through fifth grade Parent Resource Guides are posted on the Richland School District web site. The guides provide information regarding what students are expected to learn at each grade level. They also provide families with ideas for supporting their children's education at home and in our community.

May 28 is Makeup Day  
The District has announced that Friday, May 28, will be the makeup day for the canceled school day in December.

National Board Certified Teachers  
47 District teachers have now earned certification from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards, the highest credential in the teaching profession. The list is posted at: www.rsd.edu/about/nationally-certified-teachers.html
Community News

Habitat for Humanity offers services to families

Interested in homeownership? Is your home in need of repairs you cannot afford? Habitat for Humanity Tri-Cities is accepting homeownership applications and home repair applications! Habitat works in partnership with low-income working families, sponsors, and communities to build and renovate decent, affordable housing. For more information, please call Valerie Griffin at (509) 943-5555, visit our website at www.habitatbuilds.com, or stop by our office at 313 Wellsian Way in Richland. We are an Equal Housing Opportunity organization.

Europe 21 Day 2010 Student EF Travel Tour

There will be an Informational meeting on a summer 2010, 21 Day European Educational tour on February 4th (Thursday), in the 2000 Building at RHS, in room 2270, at 7 p.m. This student tour is not sponsored by the Richland School District; the trip is sponsored by EF. EF is the largest student travel company in the world. The tour leaders will be Rich McDonald and Rod Ostboe, each having over 25 years of European travel experience. Originally there was to be a 16 day summer tour, now the trip is will be 21 days long, with added days and cities at less cost. The trip will include three days each in London, Paris, and Rome. Also included will be two days each in Venice, Florence, Switzerland, and Munich, Germany, with a special overnight stay in the Austrian Alps. Special highlights will be the Louvre and Eiffel Tower in Paris, the Colosseum and Vatican City in Rome, the changing of the guard at Buckingham Palace in London, taking the Channel Train between London and Paris, the magical floating city of Venice, a ride on the steepest mountain railroad in Switzerland and a visit to the fairy-tale castle of Neuschwanstein, in the German Alps. The doors at the south end of the 2000 building will be open at 6:45 p.m., February 4th. Questions can be directed to Rich McDonald at (email) rich.mcdonald@rsd.edu or call 845-0325 for Rich McDonald or 702-7272 for Rod Ostboe.

From the National PTA website..... http://www.pta.org

STUDY: KIDS' STRESS HIGHER THAN PARENTS REALIZE

By Nicola Freeman of TheOnlineMom.com http://www.pta.org/3730.htm#1

Kids are more stressed out this year– and many parents are missing or ignoring the signs. That appears to be the conclusion of the American Psychology Association's annual Stress in America survey, which for the first time included children. Not surprisingly, stress levels are up across the board this year. Seventy-five per cent of adults reported moderate to high levels of stress in the month prior to the survey, with moms generally reporting higher stress levels than dads. Financial concerns top the list, with money, the economy and housing costs all cited as significant causes of stress. As families across America face challenging times, the survey suggests that stress and worry are having more of an impact on young people than parents believe. Nearly half (45 percent) of teens ages 13-17 said they worried more this year, but only 28 percent of parents believed that their teen's stress levels had increased. There is also a significant disconnect between what parents believe causes stress in children and what children themselves consider worrisome. Children were two times more likely to say they worried about their family's financial difficulties than their parents perceived. This gap between children's actual stress levels and parents' perceptions extended to many other areas, including relationships with other family members, school worries, and concerns about getting into a good school or getting a job.

Katherine Nordal, a clinical psychologist at the APA, suggests that parents need to start by coming clean with their kids about their own worries. "Younger children tend to blame themselves for problems," she says. "If the kid doesn't know what's going on, they're likely to assume a worst-case scenario or make a problem bigger than it is." Parents also need to make time to find out what is troubling their kids. Here, technology takes part of the blame. "When a parent is plugged into a BlackBerry, cell phone, video game or television, they're not going to have enough time with their kids for issues like that to come up," says Nordal. In fact, 85 percent of the kids surveyed said they weren't comfortable talking with Mom or Dad, often because their parents were too busy.
UPCOMING RHS PTSA MEETING:

BOARD MEETINGS (All members welcome.)  February 8 and March 9  7 p.m. in RHS Library

SENIOR PARTY  February 9  7 p.m. in the RHS library

RICHLAND HIGH SCHOOL PTSA

RHS PTSA supports the school in many ways. You can be part of this by joining. Get a bonus 2-for-1 card! (Ski-Bluewood, Barracuda Coffee and more).

Check out http://www.rsd.edu/schools/rhs/ptsa/membership.html

Be transparent, be accountable, be involved.

Advice from Nancy Uziemblo