PTSA CO-PRESIDENTS’ MESSAGE
Carla Chiotti & Terrie Cobb

As I write this message three days after the September 11\textsuperscript{th} disasters, I am having difficulty finding the right words. I don’t think the usual cheery welcome back message from PTSA is appropriate. As a nation, we are facing dramatic changes. We no longer feel completely secure and safe. We look at the future with some uncertainty. The freedom to move safely around our country is being questioned. There is talk of war, but with an enemy that is unknown and unseen. And, above all, there is the shock of the deaths and destruction. The events are too recent and too horrible to try to put into perspective and give them meaning. Yet, we all know that in some ways our lives will never be the same again.

In times of tragedy and uncertainty we tend to focus on what is most important to us. For those of us with children, our families always come out on top. The people we love are more important to us than work, or hobbies, or sports, or whatever else we do to fill up our time. This is a good time to take a look at our busy lives and see how much time we are spending with those we care about the most. How often do we sit down for dinner together, or play a game or work a puzzle, or do chores together? How often do we have a real discussion? How often do we call or write our loved ones who live far away?

Years ago I attended a talk by Elizabeth Kubler-Ross, the author of, “On Death and Dying.” As she worked with people near the end of their lives, they never said that they wished they had worked more. Instead, they spoke of their families, the people they loved and the time spent with them.

In this time of significant endings and new beginnings, may our American national tragedy serve as a wake-up call for us to take a look at what is really important to us and how we want to live our lives. Please embrace your children and your families.

Carla Chiotti  
946-7217  
cchiotti@owt.com

Terrie Cobb  
946-0622  
protac@owt.com

OCTOBER 2001 CALENDAR

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Homecoming - Shilo Inn 8:30 - 12:00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>12\textsuperscript{th} grade SAT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>PTSA Board Meeting. “Beyond High School” - program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>10\textsuperscript{th} &amp; 11\textsuperscript{th} grade PSAT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>9\textsuperscript{th} grade parent meeting 6:30 - Library</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>12\textsuperscript{th} grade ACT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov 1</td>
<td>Reflections entries due in Library</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
THE PRINCIPAL’S MESSAGE

To all the Richland High School constituents I’d like to introduce myself as the new principal. My name is Steve Neill and I’ve worked for the Richland School District for the past 25 years. My travels have taken me through Jason Lee, Tapteal, Badger Mountain, Chief Joseph, and for the past three years Richland High School. Richland is truly a great district and our students and staff are outstanding. I would like to take this opportunity to encourage you to read the PTSA newsletters. They will provide important information throughout the school year regarding dates and event. Most importantly, it will create links for continual communication between home and school.

This fall’s Open House took place September 12th and was a huge success. I want to thank all parents/grandparents for attending. Please mark on your calendar November 7th & 8th between 4:00-6:00 pm for our parent/teacher conferences. The conferences will take place in Art Dawald Gymnasium and provide parents a few minutes to discuss their child’s progress with their teachers. Please limit your conference time with each teacher to less than three minutes. Also, your child’s teacher can be reached through an e-mail address using the following address: first name_last name@rsd.edu. An example would be: Steve_Neill@rsd.edu. Please use the e-mail wisely and keep in mind most teachers educate 140-160 students per day.

Last spring we organized Richland High School Steering Committee. The committee’s responsibilities include developing and evaluating a school wide Learning Improvement Plan. The members consist of six staff members, four parents (representing each grade level), one school board member, and the principal. We meet the third Wednesday of each month from 4:00-5:30 pm. Listed below are the e-mail addresses and phone numbers of the parents on the committee. If you have any questions regarding the Steering Committee, please feel free to call your child’s grade level representative.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Email</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Freshmen</td>
<td>Becky Stowe</td>
<td>628-1708</td>
<td><a href="mailto:GJ.STOWE@VERIZON.NET">GJ.STOWE@VERIZON.NET</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sophomores</td>
<td>Audrey Clark</td>
<td>946-5453</td>
<td><a href="mailto:LLCLARK@3-CITIES.COM">LLCLARK@3-CITIES.COM</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Juniors</td>
<td>Bette Potter</td>
<td>627-2719</td>
<td><a href="mailto:BURNINGBRITE@EARTHLINK.NET">BURNINGBRITE@EARTHLINK.NET</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seniors</td>
<td>Mike Young</td>
<td>946-4237</td>
<td><a href="mailto:MIKEYOUNG@BIGPLANET.COM">MIKEYOUNG@BIGPLANET.COM</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

As we try to increase our scores across the board, our Math and English departments will be piloting new programs this year. The Math department will provide extended learning opportunities before and after school Monday through Thursday. The English department will reduce class sizes in grades nine and ten to provide more individual help.

The dress code is an issue in schools across America. On pages 21 & 22 of our student handbook you’ll find the RHS dress code. Underlined is “Dress and appearance shall not be disruptive to the educational process or learning objectives.” Specifically, short shorts, backless, strapless, or low cut tops are not appropriate for school wear. Bare midriff (stomach area) is not allowed. Parents, we know you are supportive and will help us enforce this policy. We understand some of the new clothing designs do not fall under our policy.

Lastly, we are always looking for more parents to participate in parent patrol. The RHS parent patrol gives our school campus more adult eyes around campus before school, at lunch, after school, and at extracurricular activities. It is a great way to meet students and staff at RHS. If you are interested in volunteering time, please call John Dawson at 942-2500.

We are looking forward to another great year at Richland High School. Our goal is to improve student learning on a daily basis. Please feel free to call me at 942-2515.
A PTSA general membership meeting was held on September 12th prior to the parents visitation of classes at Richland High School. Current PTSA Board of Director members and committee chairs were introduced. Several items of business were conducted including approval of the standing rules and budget for 2001-2002. Also, a nominating committee was elected. Members of the nominating committee are: Rose Archer, Barb Finley, Vicki Piippo, and Carol Carier. They are charged with finding qualified candidates for officers for the 2002-2003 school year. The election of officers will be held at the general membership meeting on April 16, 2002.

At the PTSA general membership meeting on September 12th, several people suggested that Richland High School PTSA develop a web site. We are happy to announce that Mike Cline has volunteered to develop and maintain a web site for our PTSA. Mike has extensive experience developing and maintaining web sites for schools and non-profit organizations. We’ll let you know when the site is up and running. Thank you Mike.

Principal: Steve Neill 942-2500
Albertson’s Community Partners:
   D’ette Atkins 628-0882
Drug & Alcohol Awareness:
   Vicki Piippo 946-5168
Hospitality/Staff Appreciation:
   Rose Archer 946-0188
Legislation: Mike Duncan 946-9894
Membership:
   Heather Cleary 627-3400
   Laurie Williamson 627-2786
Newsletter Editor:
   Kathy Casey 943-4499
Newsletter Distributor:
   D’ette Atkins 628-0882
   Jean Schacht 628-9562

Audit: Mike Cline 943-4497
Golden Acorn:
   JoAnn Evans 942-2492
Reflections:
   Carol Carier 628-3487
   Carrie Conley 627-1445
Scholarship:
   Jeannie Martin 943-9339

**SECURITY**

John Dawson

Detention will be held after school on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays, starting at 2:40 PM until 3:45 PM. Thursdays and Fridays it will be held in the mornings at 6:45 AM until 7:45 AM. It will be held in the cafeteria unless otherwise noted. Missed detention will result in suspension. If you have any questions please contact Security.
PTSA OCTOBER PROGRAM
“BEYOND HIGH SCHOOL”

Richland High School parents are invited to attend a program on the topic “Beyond High School” on October 16th at 7:00 PM. Presenters will be John Richardson, RHS counselor, and Mary Kaye Hergert, RHS career specialist. They will discuss exploring career choices, making career decisions, and how to prepare for and apply to college and vocational programs. The program will take place in the Richland High School Library, upstairs Main Hall. Following the program, the PTSA board of Directors will hold its monthly business meeting. Parents are welcome to stay for the meeting.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW - PTSA November Program on November 20th

The October PTSA program is designed to give you information on how students choose careers and apply for training and education. In November, the panel of speakers will tell you how to pay for it. The program, “How to Pay for Post Secondary Education”, will be presented at 7:00 PM on November 20th in the RHS Library. Speakers will include: Mary Kaye Hergert, career specialist, speaking on resources available at RHS; Margaret Voy, an expert on Federal Financial Aid Programs, Denise Fry, educational representative for the Washington State pre-paid tuition program (GET program); and Katayun Razagh-Zadeh of Salomon Smith Barney speaking on 529 College Savings Plans.

THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS
Carla Chiotti

Let’s give a round of applause to the parents who helped prepare the back-to-school mailing in August. The mailing was collated and labels attached in record time! Thank you JoAnn Evans, Lenice Blair, Janet Urza, Donna Colson, Jill Lichfield, Paula MacFadzean, Vicki Pipippo, Susan Barber, Jean Schacht, Sally Anderson, Melissa Stoker, Karen Egbert and Peggy Estes.

Another group of volunteers helped prepare the mailing for Open House. They are Sally Anderson, Lenice Blair, Jill Lichfield, Jean Schacht, Karen Egbert, and Heather Cleary. Thank you all.

RHS - GRAMMY SIGNATURE SCHOOL 2001

Congratulations! The results are in! Your school has been selected by the GRAMMY Foundation as a GRAMMY Signature School for 2001!

We sincerely applaud you for your commitment to music education in your school. Your survey and printed materials were reviewed and adjudicated by an esteemed panel of music professionals and educators who deemed your school and its music program as a GRAMMY signature School!

As a GRAMMY signature School, your school will receive a framed certificate of recognition. In addition, this prestigious honor qualifies you as a finalist to be named GRAMMY Signature Schools “Gold” recipient. The three “Gold” recipients receive a $5,000 grant toward their school’s music department budget and a visit from a GRAMMY foundation representative.

One of the three “Gold” designees will be named the “National” GRAMMY Signature School and will be recognized in Washington D.C. in October 2001. “National” and “Gold” GRAMMY Signature Schools will be notified in August.

Congratulations again!
Early Drinking Linked to Problems Beyond Alcoholism

A new study states that drinking by children under age 15 seems to be related to a range of behavioral problems, not just a predisposition to alcoholism, according to an August 16 press release from the University of Minnesota. “We found that early age of first drink (AFD) is associated not simply with alcoholism, but with a wide range of behavioral outcomes that are indicative of a reluctance or inability to control one’s behavior,” says University of Minnesota psychology professor Matt McGue, who is first author of the study.

Past research has pointed to early-onset drinking primarily as a risk factor for developing alcoholism. McGue and colleagues also determined that early AFD runs in families and is passed down through male family members. In addition to alcoholism, other behaviors linked to early AFD were drug abuse, delinquency, antisocial behavior in adulthood, and a decline in educational achievement.

“Alcohol researchers had hoped that by delaying the age at which an adolescent first tried alcohol one could lower the rate of alcoholism,” said McGue. “But early AFD is associated with a broader range of behavioral problems, some of which precede drinking. It suggests early AFD is a symptom of something more basic.”

In another study, McGue and researchers determined that children with at least one parent who had an early AFD were more likely to be early drinkers as well.

The research is published in two papers in the August issue of Alcoholism: Clinical and Experimental Research.

Richland High School’s Alcohol & Drug Awareness Committee

Once again this year the RHS PTSA will be sending out birthday cards to 16 year olds for their birthday. Each month during the school year and also through the summer, students receive a yellow and green postcard wishing them a Happy 16th Birthday and reminding them to keep their dreams alive, stay drug free and always remember to buckle up. Parents, when your student receives their postcard, use this as an opportunity to sit down with your student and review with them your own family’s expectations and guidelines for driving safety and the dangers of alcohol & drug use.

This committee will also be providing the PTSA newsletter educational information on alcohol and other drugs. On the web, one excellent sight is: www.madd.org. It is full of information on alcohol and its effect on teens, research, reports and links to other sites. Locally, the Ben Franklin Substance Abuse Coalition at 783-3180 can answer questions you may have related to alcohol & other drugs.

CHAPERONES NEEDED

Amada LaRiviere

Chaperones for the Homecoming Dance are be sought out. The dance is Saturday, October 6th from 8:30 - 12:00 PM at the Shilo Inn. Pictures are free for all chaperones. If you are interested, please contact Amada LaRiviere, Senior Class Advisor, Amanda_LaRiviere@rsd.edu or call the school at 942-2500.
COMMUNITY PARTNERS CARDS  
D’ette Atkins

Albertson’s extended its community support in 1997 by creating and implementing the Community Partners Card program - a simple and innovative fund-raising program. This card represents a true partnership between Albertson’s, the community and youth-oriented, non-profit organizations (schools pre-12, churches and organizations directly benefiting youth). As supporters of qualifying non-profit organizations buy groceries, they also help their organizations. At the end of each fiscal quarter, the supporters’ purchases are totaled, the percentage is calculated, and Albertson’s forwards the earned contribution to the organization. When members of participating organizations, or friends and family, stop at their neighborhood Albertson’s to pick up dinner, rent a movie or fill a prescription, they’re helping to strengthen youth programs in their community.

REFLECTIONS  
Carol Carier

The PTSA Reflections Program is a National and Washington State PTA cultural arts competition. The purpose of this program is to provide an opportunity for students to use their creative talents by expressing themselves through their own original works. Reflections is designed to enhance, not replace, quality arts education. It provides a way for adults to create a positive learning environment for children to express their creativity. All works are centered around a theme. This year’s theme is “I hold in my hand…”

The categories for arts projects are:

• Visual Arts: painting, drawing, collage, computer art
• Photography
• Literature: poetry, drama, essay, short story
• Music: original scores by solo composers

Rules and Official Entry forms will be available in the office, library, and by contacting your Reflections chairperson. All pieces are due in the library by 2:45 PM on Thursday, November 1st, 2001.

Listen at school for announcements and reminders concerning this wonderful outlet for expressing your talents !!!!

For further information contact Carol Carier at 628-3487.

www.Technology4Kids.com  
D’ette Atkins

There is another new fundraiser at RHS this year. We have enrolled with www.Technology4Kids.com. This is a program that rewards the school with technology when supporters shop online. In three easy steps you will be helping us gain credit towards technology for our students. 1) Go to www.Technology4Kids.com. 2) Register to our school. 3) Start shopping. There are over 160 online stores. There are no extra costs to you. You start your shopping at Technology4Kids.com only to insure that our school gets credit. Then once you click to your favorite online store, you are shopping at their site, at their prices. Your personal information is never disclosed or sold. Credit card information is protected by each online store. If you purchase items online please consider using this site to help us gain points towards technology at RHS.
Welcome to the 2001-2002 school year. These are a few events that are happening through the counseling center. We will keep you up-dated throughout the year. Please contact the grade level counselor if you have any questions.

9th grade -
Ninth grade parent night in Library 6:30 PM, 10/24 - Transcript and requirements for graduation 11/14 - Drug & Alcohol information 12/19 - Career Exploration 01/23 - TBA 02/20 - Registration for 10th grade 03/20 - TBA

10th grade -
Tenth grade class visits by the counselor - 10/1 through 10/5 Pre-Scholastic Aptitude Test (PSAT) - 10/20 Washington Assessment Student Learning (WASL) - 4/22 through 5/10

11th grade -
Eleventh grade class visits by the counselor - 9/24 through 9/28 Pre-Scholastic Aptitude Test (PSAT) - 10/20 Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) - 10/13, 11/3, 12/1, 1/26, 3/16, 5/4 and 6/1 American College Test (ACT) assessment - 10/27, 12/8, 2/9, 4/6 and 6/8

12th grade -
Twelfth grade class visits by the counselor - 9/17 through 9/21 American College Test (ACT) - 10/27, 12/8, 2/9, 4/6 and 6/8 Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) - 10/13, 11/3, 12/1, 1/26, 3/16, 5/4 and 6/1 “Every 15 Minutes” assembly for seniors and their parents regarding drinking & driving - 11/14
Richland School District News
Steve Aagaard

Asbestos Inspection Successfully Completed

Richland School District No. 400 has successfully completed the mandatory three-year re-inspection of all school district facilities as required by the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA) of 1986.

AHERA regulations require annual notice to all workers and building occupants, or their legal guardians, about inspections, response actions including periodic inspections and surveillances. Up dated copies of the AHERA Management Plans are located in the district administrative office and administrative office of each school.

If you want more information, please contact Don Glaser, Director of Facilities for the Richland School District at 942-2590.

Keep Current with District Web Site

Parents can keep up-to-date with the Richland School District by going to the Internet. The address is www.rsd.edu. You’ll find current food menus, test scores, parent resource guides, news articles, school board meeting summaries, curriculum topics, a variety of education links, and other information. You’ll also find links to individual school home pages.

RHS PTSA Tax Exempt Status
D’ette Atkins

It was a long and exhausting paperwork hill we had to climb this past year. We made it! We have now changed our IRS tax exempt status to qualify with Albertson’s fundraiser. We are pleased to announce RHS is a member of Albertson’s Community Partner program.

What does this mean? All we have to do is present the Albertson’s checker with our scanner card when shopping and Albertson’s will donate a percentage of the total purchase to RHS PTSA. There is absolutely nothing to keep track of and no receipts to send in.

The amount Albertson’s will contribute is calculated on a sliding scale, up to a maximum of $1,800 per calendar quarter. We are planning to use the funds toward the cost of our newsletter. Printing is very expensive and during the 2000-2001 school year we exceeded our budget. This is an easy way to contribute and keep this vital communication between school and home for another year. We have also learned that you can use your scanner card when you purchase your prescriptions or rent videos at Albertson’s. It all counts toward our donation. So please help us with this easy fundraiser and remember your scanner cards when shopping.

If you need an extra card for yourself or relatives or just have a question regarding the program, please contact D’ette Atkins at 628-0882.