PTSA CO-PRESIDENTS’ MESSAGE
Carla Chiotti & Terrie Cobb

Our seasons are changing rapidly along with our activities at Richland High School. The leaves are falling, our days have gotten shorter and winter is on the way! The winter sports have begun while RHS clubs, music, academics and extracurricular events are keeping our students involved. From the Veterans Day assembly, to the Fall Band Concert and Every 15 Minutes program, it has been a whirlwind of activity!

Even in the midst of our own RHS events, the current events of our world have kept us attentive with the war in Afghanistan, the aftermath of the terrorist activities and the most recent American Airlines crash. Our thoughts and prayers are not only with the members of our military services fighting to preserve our freedom, but the survivors and families of those directly affected by all of these tragedies.

Over the past few months, your PTSA meetings and informational programs are gaining wonderful reviews. Topics have ranged from career exploration/planning for education beyond high school to paying for the post-secondary education experience. These programs are excellent occasions to learn about the many opportunities that are available in a comfortable setting. Please join us for the next informational program on January 15th at 7PM in the RHS Library. Principal Steve Neill will speak on the topic “The State of the School”. We look forward to seeing you there! We can’t forget to say thanks again to everyone who has joined the PTSA, for only your membership makes all of the PTSA activities possible.

We’d like to encourage everyone to continue using their Albertson’s Community Partners Program cards! Just presenting your card when you’re shopping at Albertson’s is one of the simplest and best opportunities to support our PTSA activities. Thank you to everyone who has been very persistent in helping us work towards attaining the contributions from Albertson’s. Keep using those cards.

Enjoy reading our newsletter; it is full of information, upcoming activities and local school district news.

Thank you,

Carla Chiotti  Terrie Cobb
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Dec/Jan Calendar
1 - SAT 11th & 12th Grade
24-Jan 6 - Winter Vacation
Jan 15 - PTSA Meeting 7:00 PM
“State of the School”
Jan 18 - Early Release (Staff Inservice)
Jan 21 - No School (Martin Luther King)
Jan 28 - No School (Semester End)
THE PRINCIPAL’S MESSAGE
STEVE NEILL

As a new year approaches, the Richland High School staff would like to wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season. This is a time to cherish our loved ones and those near and dear to us.

Delivering a quality education to our students at RHS is paramount to what we try to accomplish. As a partnership with parents, communication is a vital link. The Steering Committee, comprised of parents, staff, and students, is dedicated in helping this cause. Starting in January, a Richland High School activities calendar will be available on our web page at www.owt.com/rhs. As a reminder, you may contact any RHS staff through their e-mail address which is posted on this web page. The Steering Committee will continue to work on ways to improve communication.

The Washington Assessment of Student Learning (WASL) for sophomores and Iowa Test of Educational Development for freshman is scheduled for April 23, 24, 25, 29 and 30th. During these dates there will be a late start schedule with testing for 9th and 10th graders beginning at 7:55 am. Regular classes begin at 10:00. Detailed information will follow.

The winter sports season is directly upon us. Please support our teams in their quest for excellence. The following dates for December are activities sponsored by our Leadership classes:

Dec. 4th Movie Night - How the Grinch Stole Christmas
Dec. 11th Mr. Richland - 7:30 Auditorium
Dec. 14th Reindeer Games 6:30 soccer field

Congratulations are in order to Assistant Principal, Vicki Buck, and Richland Police Detective, Randy Bricker, who were wed November 24th

“THE STATE OF THE SCHOOL”
Topic of January Informational Program

RHS Principal, Steve Neill, will be the featured speaker at the PTSA Informational program on Tuesday, January 15th. Mr. Neill will speak on “The State of the School”. In this annual address, Mr. Neill will give statistical information, review standardized test scores such as the Washington Assessment of Student Learning, and present information on progress toward academic learning goals at the high school. The presentation will begin at 7 PM in the RHS Library, upstairs Main Hall. A question and answer period will follow the presentation. A PTSA Board of Directors meeting will follow the talk. All parents are welcome to attend. Mark your calendar now! There will not be a newsletter in January.
On October 5-6, 2001 the 23rd annual Washington State PTA Legislative Assembly convened in Ellensburg, WA to set the priorities for PTA legislative efforts for the coming year. Over the course of the weekend, 199 voting delegates and 54 visiting or student delegates discussed a wide range of issues.

After much debate, 13 issues were voted and prioritized for the 2001-2002 Washington State PTA Legislative platform. The following is a listing of the top ten issues in their ranked order.

All issues begin with the phrase: The Washington State PTA shall support/initiate legislation or policies that…

- Require school districts to develop a policy to prohibit bullying, harassment or intimidation of students on or adjacent to school property or at any school sponsored event and create a safe reporting atmosphere in every school.
- Protects I-728 funding and the expected implementation.
- Create flexible compensation packages and other enhancements to attract and retain high quality educators.
- Address the health, welfare and education of homeless youth and children in foster care.
- Provide sufficient funding to ensure every student and teacher have access to current technology, and teachers and support staff are adequately trained in delivery performance-based instruction through the use of technology.
- Fund a minimum of one certificated school counselor or certified school social worker for every 350 elementary school students who provides early intervention services to students in an effort to reduce the occurrence of violent behaviors.
- Create safe and healthy schools by reducing environmental hazards and continuing emergency preparedness efforts.
- Identify and provide appropriate educational programs for gifted and highly capable students.
- Provide the necessary family support funding for children with developmental disabilities.
- Direct the Department of Health to implement a public health education program aimed at reducing childhood exposure to lead.

The Nov. 20th informational meeting on “How to Pay for Post Secondary Education” was a huge success with approximately 50 parents and students attending. Mary Kaye Hergert, RHS career specialist, began the evening by speaking on scholarship opportunities and how to apply for scholarships. Much of her advice is covered in the pages following this article.

Margaret Novey, an expert on federal financial aid, reviewed the types of federal aid available such as Pell grants, Stafford subsidized and unsubsidized loans, and PLUS loans. She discussed the importance of completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) after Jan. 1st using as accurate tax information as possible. This form is used not only to determine federal aid, but often is required for grants and scholarships offered through colleges and for scholarship applications. She encouraged parents to not make assumptions about financial aid – it is best to go ahead and apply. Although Mrs. Novey recommends filling out the paper copy of the FAFSA, the form and more information is available on-line at www.fafsa.ed.gov.

Theron Lochner, a volunteer with the Washington State Guaranteed Education Tuition (GET) program, presented information on this pre-paid tuition program. Currently, units can be purchased at $42 a unit, with 100 units equaling an academic year. Up to 500 units can be purchased per student for a total of 5 years of college. This program locks in the current price of tuition for future use and can be transferred to another child. There is a one-time enrollment fee of $50. For complete information and applications go to www.get.wa.gov.

The final speaker of the evening was Kathy Razagh-zadeh, of Salomon Smith Barney, speaking on Section 529 College Savings Plans. Contributions to these plans will be tax-free after January 1, 2002 and are transferable to any immediate family member. The funds can be used not only for tuition, but for any college expense such as books and room and board. Anyone can open an account, regardless of income level, and anyone can be a beneficiary, regardless of age. For more information, Ms. Razagh-zadeh can be reached at 735-0192.
Planning Your Search

If you are serious, a scholarship search needs to become a project that you schedule into every week during the school year.

To maximize your efforts, you need the following tools: internet access, a lead sheet, envelopes, stamps and six storage envelopes or folders.

Step 1 - Finding Leads

There are four sources that can be used to access leads on scholarships. Your first step is to investigate the scholarships offered by the school you are planning to attend. Visit the website for that school and investigate the scholarship rules and procedures. A sample of Washington school procedures can be found in the “Working Through Your School” article below.

A second place to look is your parent’s employer. Ask your parents to inquire about scholarship opportunities. Typically, the human resource department of most companies handles scholarship programs.

A third option is to utilize the RIS Career Center website at www.otw.edu/rhs/Career.html. At this site, you will find a list of scholarships currently available in the Career Center. After noting the names of the scholarships you are most interested in, visit the Career Center and pick up applications. The applications are filed alphabetically in the scholarship box found on the counter in the center.

A fourth option is to use an internet scholarship search site. A list of helpful sites is located in the high-lighted box above.

Working Through Your School

The first step in your scholarship search should be at the financial aid office of the school that you are planning to attend. For a quick link to all Washington schools go to http://www.hecb.wa.gov/links/col-links.html on the internet. Here is a sample of the information that you will find at the schools most popular with RIS graduates.

WSU

Washington State University has a Uniform Academic Scholarship Application. This one form and essay is the only document...
Planning Your Search

(Continued from page 1)

ighted box on page one.
In general all of the search sites work in the same way. First locate the scholarship search prompt and click on it. Second answer the filter questions that help to narrow the selection of scholarships to those which suit you best. Carefully read the eligibility requirements of each scholarship on the list generated by the site. Copy the name, address and deadline on your lead sheet.

Step 2 - Contact your leads.
As you collect leads, send off a letter of request for application materials to each scholarship. In order to expedite this process, include a self-addressed stamped envelope with each request to insure a speedy response.
Using your lead sheet track when you send requests so you are certain you have received all of the materials you need.

Step 3 - Organize and prioritize your applications.
When you receive your applications make a photocopy of the form. Locate the deadline for application and label the top of the copy with the date two weeks prior to the deadline. For example if the scholarship is due on March 1, write February 15 on the application copy. Use your storage envelopes or folders as month files for your applications. File the applications by your new deadline.

Step 4 - Complete the applications.
Working a month ahead, use the tips on page four to help you complete your applications. Use the copy that you made as your practice document.
Ask for letters of recommendation from teachers, employers and community members. Allow at least two weeks for the completion of letters (see the article “Asking For Recommendations” on page three).
Photocopy your completed application and take the originals to Ms. Springer in the counseling office. She will add an official copy of your transcript and mail the entire package.

Working Through Your School

(Continued from page 2)

ation needed to be considered for all of the scholarships given by WSU. The application may be printed from the WSU website (http://www. myid.wsu.edu/scholar/) or a copy is available in the career center. The deadline is February 1, 2001. Applications are available at the end of each September.
WSU also offers Regents Awards to two students from each high school. Candidates for this award must have a 3.8 GPA and be recommended by the building principal.

CWU

Central Washington University utilizes a uniform scholarship application form. It will be available in mid-October and due on February 1.

CWU is once again offering a Trustees Award of $1800 for entering freshmen with a 3.9 or higher GPA. A Dean’s Distinction Award of $1500 is available for entering freshmen with a 3.5 or higher GPA. In order to qualify for these awards the student must complete a FAFSA form by March 1.

CWU is also a fastweb school. This means that all of the scholarships given by CWU are listed on fastweb.com. If you are planning to attend CWU get a free fastweb account.

EWU

Eastern Washington University utilizes a uniform application for scholarships.
This application is available in mid-October and due on February 1. Once the applications have been received they are sent to review where they are assigned to specific scholarship committees.
Eastern is also a fastweb school. All of their awards are placed on this service. Students seriously considering EWU should get an account.

(Continued on page 3)
Working Through Your School

(Continued from page 2)

The deadline for FAFSA forms is February 15.

CBC

Columbia Basin College has a uniform Foundation Scholarship Application. You will need to complete this form to be considered for scholarships. The deadline is February 21.

UW

Once you have been admitted into the University of Washington and have a UW webnet ID you may begin your search of over 350 UW scholarship opportunities. To conduct this search visit http://www.washington.edu/students/ugrad/scholar/special/index.html. The Undergraduate Scholarship Office regularly updates this site so you will need to continue checking for new options.

Check the web sites regularly so that you don't miss out!

An additional list that is available for immediate exploration is available at http://www.washington.edu/students/ugrad/scholar/special/index.html. The Undergraduate Scholarship Office regularly updates this site so you will need to continue checking for new options.

Asking for Recommendations.

Scholarship screening committees rely heavily upon the information supplied through personal recommendations. Knowing this, it is important that you select appropriate individuals to write a letter advocating your selection.

Good letters take time and tools. The author of your letter should be given at least a two week window in which to write. Be certain to supply the person writing your recommendation with the tools he or she will need. When asking for a recommendation have the following items ready:

- Personal resume
- Criteria for the scholarship

- An envelope with your name and the scholarship name on the front
- A separate addressed, stamped envelope if they will be sending the letter themselves.
- The date the letter must be sent or collected.

Upon the completion of the letter it is appropriate to send the writer a thank-you note in appreciation of their effort on your behalf.

Standardized Testing

Many of the scholarships utilize SAT or ACT test scores as a screening tool for recipient selection. It is very important that students take at least one of these exams.

The testing dates for each of these exams may be found on page 12 of the Richland High School student calendar. It is recommended that students take an exam no later than December of their senior year. Scoring of exams takes approximately four to six weeks. After scoring the results are sent to the registrar on the RHS campus and attached to each student's test card.

If the scholarship you are applying for requires test scores, please request that a copy of your test card be included with your transcript and application prior to being sent. The registrar, Ms. Springer, can help you with this in the counseling office.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Scholarship</th>
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<tr>
<td>December 7</td>
<td>Benton REA Academic Scholarship</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 7</td>
<td>Benton REA Vocational Scholarship</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 8</td>
<td>High School Art Northwest contest sponsored by George Fox University. This</td>
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<td>juried exhibit will award cash prizes to winning participants.</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 2</td>
<td>Tri-Cities Chapter of the Washington Society of Professional Engineers</td>
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<td>January 11</td>
<td>Scholarship</td>
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<td>UMBC is offering three premier scholarship programs: the Humanities Scholars,</td>
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<td>The Linehan Artist Scholars, and The Public Affairs Scholars Program. Selected</td>
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<td></td>
<td>full scholars receive tuition, fees, and on-campus room and board. Selected</td>
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<td>finalists receive cash awards.</td>
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| January 11 | Discover Card Tribute Award Scholarship rewards Juniors with a solid academic record, leadership and community involvement. |
| January 31 | Richland Kiwanis Foundation is offering three scholarships in the range of $600 to $750 each. A signature of a member of the Richland Kiwanis is required on the application. Contact a Key Club advisor to locate a member. |
| February 1 | Johns Hopkins University Four scholarships offered to students: Hodson Success Scholarship, Woodrow Wilson Undergraduate Research Fellowship Program, Hodson Trust Scholarship, and The Charles R. Westgate Championships in Engineering. |
| February 1 | Central Washington University scholarships have arrived. Nine awards are featured in the applications available. |
| February 1 | Students planning to study communications are invited to submit an essay, video or audio tape to the Thoroughbred Horse Racing United Scholarship Trust for consideration in their annual scholarship contest. |
| February 15| Washington State Potato Foundation’s Scholarship. Offering scholarships up to $20,000 academic year for qualified applicants within the potato industry. |
| February 17| Linfield College Academic Competitive Scholarship program. Fifty scholarships given ranging from $10,000-$15,000. |
| February 21| Columbia Basin Foundation Scholarship for over 90 different awards. |
| February 28| U.S. Bank is awarding up to thirty $1,000 scholarships to high school seniors. Scholarship award recipients are selected through a random drawing process. Applications will be accepted from October through February, 2002. |
| March 1   | Lewis-Clark State College Foundation Scholarship. |
| March 15  | ITT Scholarship. |
| March 15  | Washington State Trial Lawyers Association Presidents’ Scholarship for students with financial need, academic achievement, record of commitment to protecting the rights of injured persons. |
| March 1   | Nursing Scholarship guides have arrived. This information booklet provides information on dozens of opportunities. |
| March 15  | Washington State Trial Lawyers Association Essay Contest. |
| Open      | Are you a senior without a plan for next year? Stop by the Career Center to get information about AmeriCorps programs and the $4725 scholarship available to participants. |