PTSA CO-PRESIDENTS’ MESSAGE
Carla Chiotti & Terrie Cobb

Happy New Year! We hope you enjoyed the holidays with your families. Our students are just beginning the second semester, where they get underway with some of the best learning time of the school year - between Winter and Spring breaks. With few holidays and other distractions, the result is several solid weeks of instruction. Enjoy!

Unfortunately, in this new year we need to share an urgent PTSA concern, which is that the Richland High School PTSA is financially struggling. Although we are currently solvent, we are not bringing in as much income as we had projected for our annual budget. In an attempt to not besiege you with constant fundraisers, our sole fundraiser for PTSA is the Albertson’s Community Partners’ Program.

The Albertson’s Community Partners’ Program allows us to meet the financial cost of our largest expense, this newsletter. Our continued commitment each month in printing the newsletter places a heavy burden on our finances. D’ette Atkins, our past Newsletter Distributor, worked hard to find the most economical layout and print shop to produce the newsletter. However, the monthly costs can vary from $250 to $500 depending on the length.

You can help us out by using your Albertson’s Community Partners’ card each time you make a purchase at an Albertson’s store. Albertson’s contributes a percentage from the total spending of customers using the Community Partners’ card to Richland High School PTSA. It is possible for the PTSA to earn up to $1800 a quarter from this program, although up to this time, our largest quarterly benefit has been $580.

We are certainly very thankful to those of you who are presenting your card each time you shop at Albertson’s and we would like to encourage all of you who shop at Albertson’s to please participate in this program. If you would like a card sent to you, please contact Carla Chiotti (946-7217 or cchiotti@owt.com) or D’ette Atkins (628-0882 or DPAtkins30@aol.com).

We sincerely appreciate any and all of your labors to help the PTSA in this effortless fundraiser!

Feb/March Calendar

2/7-9 “Cinderella” RHS Aud
2/12 CBC Running Start Parent Info Night 6:30 RHS Library
2/14 Early Release
2/16 Tolo
2/15 No School
2/18 No School
2/21-22 ASB Elections
3/14 Early Release
3/15 No School
3/16 SAT - RHS Cafeteria
THE PRINCIPAL’S MESSAGE

It’s said that time flies when you’re having fun, and that is certainly true for me. I am enjoying my first year as assistant principal at Richland High School, and I welcome this opportunity to introduce myself and explain an exciting project that I am working on with the RHS staff.

My name is Teri Kessie. This is my 20th year in education, most of it right here in the Richland School District. I started teaching marketing Education and Consumer Economics at Richland High School in 1983. In 1992 I moved out of the classroom to the administration building where I served as the District’s Director of Career and Technical Education. About three years ago, I decided I wanted to work with teens again, so I completed my principals’ credential and was thrilled to return to Richland High School.

One of the things I am committed to is helping our students make connections between what they are learning and how they will put it to use. Research shows that students who can make these connections stay more engaged in learning, ultimately reducing the dropout rate. “Personal connection is the best gift that a teacher can give those students who traditionally have not done well in school. Thanks to brain research and the use of MRI’s we now know that the brain is a seeker of connections” (NASSP Curriculum Report 28(2), 1998).

This commitment led to my participation on a district planning committee for the new culminating project that was recently added as a state graduation requirement (class of 2008). Schools that have already implemented a culminating project have found it helps students bring complex ideas together, practice and refine good time management and goal-setting skills, and find relevance in their education. These schools report that the project provides valuable insight into a student’s progress in school and adds rigor to the curriculum, especially during the senior year.

A team of administrators, staff, students, and parents has been working to write a purpose statement and develop the components for the culminating project. The final recommendations of this group are outlined below. Soon standards will be written for each of other components and then an implementation plan will be developed. Please do not hesitate to call or e-mail me if you have questions, concerns, ideas, or if you would like to be involved with the planning team. Your input would be valuable.

**RSD Culminating Project Purpose Statement**

The culminating project is a student driven application capitalizing upon and showcasing a senior’s knowledge, ability and skills in the areas of communication, problem solving, time management, and organization.

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**Attendance Office 942-2527**

Carrie Conley - Attendance Secretary

I appreciate all the phone calls and notes excusing your student the day of the absence or the next school day. Teachers are able to see when students are ill or have an appointment. Students are asked to check out thru the office if leaving school. Please help us in reminding them to do so.

Richland High School has hired Carla Caudill to help in the attendance office in the morning. Her help has been greatly appreciated. Welcome Carla.

The new semester starts 1/29/02 and all absences start over. Everyone begins the new semester with a clean slate.
VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
FOR ASB ELECTIONS
Carla Chiotti

Parents are needed to staff the polls for ASB elections on Thursday, February 21st and Friday, February 22nd. The shifts will run 7:30 am to 10:00 am, 10:00 am to 12:30 p.m., and 12:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. If you are available during the day and would like to help, call or e-mail Carla at 946-7217 or cchiotti@owt.com. Thank you.

YARD SALE
Kris Klingeman

The Richland High School Instrumental Music Program is having a yard sale March 16th from 8:00 a.m. till 1:00 p.m. at the Fran Rish Stadium parking lot. The funds will support the Instrumental Music Program students, and the events they are involved in. To do this we need to have as much merchandise as possible, so we ask you to bring us your donations now. Donations will be accepted every Saturday from 10:00 to 12:00 noon from January 26th until the day before the yard sale, Friday March 15th. If these days do not fit into your schedule please contact Kris Klingeman at 946-5901 to arrange another time or day. Bring your priced items to the Bomber Band truck in the back parking lot of the auditorium at Richland High School. Remember you never know what another person’s treasure might be. Please know we appreciate all of your donated merchandise but would rather not have any clothes, and cannot accept large appliances (unless you pick up if they do not sell). If you have further questions please call.

RHS Activities Calendar now on the web site at www.calsnet.net/2001rhs2002

Reflection Winners

Congratulations to all those who participated in the 2001-2002 Reflections Contest. Twenty students submitted entries in Literature, Visual Arts, Music and Photography. Fourteen students had their creative works forward to the city-wide judges. All entries are on display in the Doris Roberts Gallery at the Richland Library. Winners in each category were announced at the City-wide Reflections Reception on January 23rd at Jason Lee Auditorium.

All Richland High Reflections participants and winners will be honored at a reception in early February.

Photography
1st - Rebecca Nelson
2nd - Amber Walters
3rd - Rebecca Nelson
Hm - Rebecca Nelson

Literature
1st - Elizabeth Wilson
2nd - Misti Lewis
3rd - Briana Hobbs
Hm - Maili Nelson

Visual Arts
1st - Laycee Lawson
2nd - Maili Nelson
3rd - Ashley Feser

Music
1st - Michele Krogh
2nd - Mike Wallenfels

RHS Drama & Band will present Rogers & Hammerstein’s “Cinderella” Feb 7, 8 & 9 in the High School Auditorium. Bring the whole family for a delightful evening of entertainment.
SENIOR PARTY
Peggy Frank

The Senior Party, an all-night, drug and alcohol free party, will be held Saturday, June 8, 2002 at the Cathedral of Joy. It takes a lot of parent teamwork to make this fun event happen for our seniors. The next planning meeting will be held on Thursday, February 21 in the Teen Center at the Cathedral of Joy. We need team members for the following activities: Fundraising, Prizes, Food, Bingo, Ticket Sales, Decorations, Chaperones, Casino, Karaoke, Photography, Carnival, Food, Security, Publicity.

If you have questions or would like to put your name on the team list, call Peggy Frank at 946-5566 or Melody O’Neal at 946-1510 or return this form to RHS PTSA Senior Party, 930 Long Ave., Richland, WA 99352. Thank you for volunteering!

Parents Name _________________________
Phone: (Day)_________ (Evg)__________
Team I would like to help with: ________________________________

Thank You Richland High School
PTSA Volunteers

We would like to take a minute to thank the many PTSA volunteers who have been busy behind-the-scenes with various activities.
• Mike Duncan represented our PTSA at the legislative assembly in Ellensburg in October. His report of the conference was in the December newsletter.
• Carol Carrier and Carrie Conley are the chairs of the Reflections contest. An article in this newsletter lists the talented winners and participants of this contest in the categories of Visual art, Music, Photography, and Writing.
• Our hospitality and staff appreciation chair, Rose Archer, has organized refreshments for parent conferences and surprised the staff with small gifts in their mailboxes.
• Thanks to Vicki Piippo, Drug and Alcohol Awareness Committee Chair, students receive cards on their 16th birthdays reminding them to buckle up and stay drug and alcohol free.
• Laurie Williamson and Heather Cleary are running a very successful membership drive for PTSA with 385 members so far this year.
• Kathy Casey, D’ette Atkins, and Jeanne Schacht are responsible for publishing and distributing the RHS/PTSA newsletter.
• Mike Cline has set up and is maintaining our first PTSA web site. Check it out at www.rsd.edu/schools/rhs/ptsa.

All of our hard working volunteers deserve a round of applause.

STATE OF THE SCHOOL
Carla Chiotti

At the January PTSA meeting, Principal Steve Neill presented information on the progress of students at Richland High School. Mr. Neill reviewed 10th grade Washington Assessment of Student Learning (WASL) scores for the past three years in the areas of Reading, Math, Writing, and Listening. The state legislature has mandated that students must pass all sections of the WASL to receive a high school diploma beginning with the class of 2008.

Richland High School Reading scores have increased slightly in the last three years. Almost 76% of last year’s 10th graders passed the reading portion, compared to 62% statewide. In Writing, 57.5% of RHS students met standards,
compared to about 47% statewide. In order to increase the passing rates in Reading and Writing, RHS staff members have instituted several instructional programs such as lowering class size in freshman and sophomore English classes; starting a summer reading program for students who fail 9th grade English; and beginning a remedial reading/writing class and an after-school writing lab.

The passing rate on the Mathematics section of the WASL was 52.2% compared to about 39% statewide. Although the WASL is given during the sophomore year, algebra and geometry are necessary to solve many of the problems. To support learning in math, RHS has begun an afternoon and evening tutorial program called PAS-ME. A certified teacher as well as tutors are available in Room 404 from 3 to 8 PM, Monday through Thursday. Also, class size has been reduced in Pre-Algebra classes and a hands-on approach to math, Applied Mathematics Made Easy, is being implemented in some classes.

More RHS students met standards on the listening section than on any other section of the WASL. 92.2% of last year’s 10th graders passed this test.

Overall, 39.5% of last year’s 10th grade students passed all four sections of the WASL. This is compared to 29.5% statewide. Passing all sections of the WASL and completing a culminating project will be required for graduation for the class of 2008. The culminating project is a student driven application of the student’s knowledge, communication, problem solving, and organizational skills. At Richland High School the culminating project will be part of the Consumer Economics Class.

A Parent’s Guide to Sober Teen Celebrations
Vicki Piippo

Prom time, graduation and other special occasions in your teenager’s life are the events which make those wonderful memories! Unfortunately, these festive times all too often are destroyed by teens using alcohol and other drugs. This consumption can tragically result in injury or loss of life in traffic crashes.

As parents, you may hear lines like “Gosh, Dad, all the other guys have some beer…I’d be too embarrassed to have my friends over unless we’ve got something…Maybe, Mom, just a few wine coolers…”

Watch out! In most states it’s an offense for an adult to serve alcohol to a minor. There has been increasing interest in preventing alcoholic beverage service to minors by social hosts.

What can you do to help prevent your teenager from being served alcohol? Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) offers the following action steps:

At the state level:
• Review state law on service to minors. Does it include all adults, not just salespersons? Is driver’s license suspension one of the penalties for providing alcohol to minors?
• Review civil liability laws. Do they provide for social host liability for serving sober as well as intoxicating minors?

For Parents of Teens Hosting a Party
• Set your ground rules with your teen before the party.
• Stress shared responsibility for hosting the party and jointly plan the party activities. Plan on being home during the entire party.
• Carefully select the location for the party to allow for comfort and adequate supervision. Replenish the food trays and the drinks. Your presence will help keep the party running smoothly and give you a chance to meet your teen’s friends - but do not hang around!
• Remember it may be illegal to offer alcohol to guests who are under 21 or to allow guests to use other drugs in your home. Let your teen know the laws and the consequences.
• Alert yourself to the signs of alcohol or other drug use by teens. Guests who try to bring in these substances should be asked to leave. Be willing to call the police if unwanted guests refuse to leave.
• Notify the parents of teens who arrive at the party drunk or under the influence of any other drug to ensure the teen’s safe transportation home.
• DO NOT LET ANYONE DRIVE UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF ALCOHOL OR OTHER DRUGS!
• Notify your neighbors of the party. Limit the party attendance and set start and ending times.
• Make a guest list, issue invitations and restrict party crashing. Guests should not be allowed to come and go. This will discourage teens from leaving the party to drink or use other drugs elsewhere and return.
• make sure that a parent will be present
• be sure that alcohol and other drugs will not be permitted.
  • know that your teen will get to and from the party and, if needed, be available to provide transportation. We should all make it a habit to check with the parents of our teen’s friends with a simple phone call.
• Urge your teen NEVER to ride home with a driver who has been drinking. Set the time teens are expected to return home.
• Be awake, or be sure to have them awaken you when they arrive home. If your teenager stays overnight with a friend after the party, check with the parents of the friend to verify that:
  • they want your teen to stay over and they will be home
  • you both agree on the length of the stay and other basic rules.
  • Avoid spontaneous “sleep-overs” when possible.

Remember, teen celebrations should be fun, not fatal! It is hoped that the tips included in this article will assist you in planning safe, chemical-free activities for your teens throughout their high school years.

Parents of Teens Attending a Party
• Be sure you know where your teenagers will be. Obtain the address and phone number of the party host or hostess. Let your teen know that you expect a phone call if the location is changed. Contact the parents of the party-giver to:
  • verify the location
  • offer assistance
Upcoming Events

February 7—Financial Aid Open House from 7-9 pm at the RHS Library. This open house is designed to give families individual help with completing the FAFSA. Bring your forms and questions.

- February 8 — Careers in Art Local high schools working in conjunction with ESD are sponsoring an exhibition and workshop exploring art education and careers. For more information contact Robert McMinn.

- February 21—"Where the Jobs Are" A Community and Technical College Fair. Meet with representatives from technical schools, community colleges, apprenticeships and the military at this Open House sponsored by area high school and Tri-Tech.

Summer Programs

U-DOC U-DOC is a high school summer enrichment program offered by WSU and University of Idaho Medical Programs. It is a six-week program for students who have completed their junior or senior year in high school. The goal of the program is to encourage high school students interested in medical professions by helping them to explore health careers and get an introduction to college life.

Application Deadline: February 15, 2002

PNNL Student Research Apprenticeship Program SRAP is an eight-week summer research-based experience for students who are members of ethnic groups traditionally underrepresented in science and engineering. (Hispanic, African American or native American)

Application Deadline: February 8, 2002

United States Naval Academy Summer Seminar The US Naval Academy sponsors summer seminars for students interested in attending. Seminars are held June 1-6, 8-3 and 15-20. Apply on-line beginning February 1 at www.usna.edu

Math and Science Summer Workshop The University of Idaho is sponsoring a pre-engineering program for Juniors that includes classes, labs and first hand experience of the life of an engineering student.

Apply on-line at www.uidaho.edu/engr/jems/

Application Deadline: May 3, 2002

Music and Fine Arts Camp The University of Idaho is sponsoring an interdisciplinary fine arts camp for teens. Theater, Music, Dance and Visual Art sill be explored. Additional information available by phoning 1-208-885-6237.

Cougar Quest

Cougar Quest is for you if you are entering grades 7 through 12 fall 2002. It is an exciting week long camp where you choose your route to discovery. Your days will be filled with hands-on activities led by world class Washington State University faculty in various fields. The session for Grades 9-12 will be held July 28-August 2. Apply on line at www.cougarquest.wsu.edu or pick up an application in the Career Center.