The Officers and Board of Directors of the Richland High PTSA extend a warm welcome to parents, teachers, and students. We are hoping that by the time this first newsletter reaches your home you are well into the swing of this new academic year.

We are proud to restate the news that we shared at the Open House General Membership meeting that this year we begin our year with a strong economic base. We have had encouraging success with the Albertson’s Partnership. We are able to receive funds up to a maximum of $1800 each quarter. Last year we doubled our income from this source by 100% from roughly $2500 in 2001-2002 to nearly $5000 last year. With everyone using the cards, we can receive $7200 annually. The cards can be used anywhere in the country and credited to the RHS PTSA, so we encourage families to share the cards with relatives who are willing to simply flash them in the checkout line to benefit our school. Contact Terrie Cobb (946-0622) for extra cards.

We invite those who have not yet joined the PTSA to fill out the form in this newsletter and volunteer to serve on the various committees. We spoke with the teachers prior to school beginning and we have had a 350% increase in membership in the faculty and staff ranks. We would challenge the families to meet and surpass the 400+ members we had in our ranks last year. Our various projects throughout the year require manpower and we appreciate the volunteers who assist us in our endeavors.

We are looking for people interested in offering leadership and ideas to our Scholarship committee. We hope to offer scholarships to graduating seniors as our funds allow and also provide study grants to teachers. Please contact Susan Schepens (627-1780) if you would be willing to serve on this worthy project.

Please encourage your student(s) to participate in the Reflections Creative Arts contest sponsored by the PTSA coming up in October. This contest offers our students a chance to compete in categories of Literature, Visual Arts, Photography, Music, Dance, and Film/Video. The theme for this year’s contest is “I am really happy when….” Winners from our school will compete against students from Hanford High at Council level. Those winners will be sent to state competition. Last year one of our RHS students Eddie Strickler was the only Richland district student to place at the state level. Call Gretchen Patterson (308-2567) if you would like to help with this project.

Our PTSA meetings are held in the Library at 7:00 pm. We welcome your attendance at all meetings, but especially at our General Membership meeting November 4, as we will offer a revised budget to the membership for approval. Your input is valuable to us and we would appreciate your contacting any member of the board with ideas.

We are most appreciative of our faculty and staff and we look forward to providing additional luncheons throughout the year to show our support. To help with this task and to see the contented expressions of well-fed teachers, contact Nancy Johnson (628-0930) and offer your services on the Hospitality Committee.

Plans are underway to provide a safe graduation night Senior Party. This project requires year long planning to accomplish the necessary fundraising and secure the night’s activities and prizes. You don’t have to be the parent of a senior to work on this project. Contact Laurie Williamson (627-2786) for this committee.
If you have any questions throughout the year, please do not hesitate to contact any of the officers or board members. Thank you for your support of the school and this organization. GO BOMBERS!

Kathy Casey (943-4499)
Susan Schepens (627-1780)

Principal’s Corner
Steve Neill

It’s like we never left for the summer! The 2003-04 school year is off to a great start at RHS. As of the writing of this newsletter, the enrollment is hovering around 1,935 students and we are excited about what this year holds in store for us. Scheduling, preparing for construction, and trying to improve test scores, we are ready to help students. 

How to maximize our teaching during the early release days has been a constant issue for the staff at RHS. The teachers would prefer to see all students the day of early releases (11:00). Therefore, students will attend ALL classes for twenty-five minutes these days. There will be an exception to this on Oct. 8th and 9th when we have back-to-back early releases. On Oct. 8th, students will attend periods 0,1,2 & 3. Oct. 9th, they will attend periods 4,5 & 6.

Questions concerning when the remodel of RHS is to begin and what it will look like are asked constantly. We are in the planning stage and construction will not begin until January 2005. Staff members are working with CKJT Architectural firm in this process. Actual construction will take three years. We are excited and know this will be a beautiful facility that will educate children for the next 30+ years.

We have received our WASL results. This year’s numbers again show us well above the state average in every category. To compare test scores of individual schools around the state, log on to www.k12.wa.us. Listed below are RHS’s ’03 WASL vs. state numbers.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>RHS</th>
<th>State Average</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>72.1%</td>
<td>59.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Math</td>
<td>52.6%</td>
<td>39.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing</td>
<td>76.0%</td>
<td>60.4%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Please mark your calendars on November 12th and 13th for parent/teacher conferences. The format is arena style and set up in Art Dewald Gymnasium. Plan to visit your child’s teachers. If you have any questions, please stop by my office or call 942-2500.
The Math Department at Richland High School will continue to provide the Practice After School for Math Enhancement (PAS-ME) tutoring program. The purpose of the program is to give students extra help with their math at no cost to you. It is an after school and evening tutoring program staffed by the current math teachers at RHS. All Richland High students are invited to attend any time they need some extra help. Their math teacher will refer students who are struggling in class to the program. We are asking for your support in making sure your student attends when the teacher refers them. We also ask that you encourage your student to voluntarily attend if they are having trouble with homework, studying for a test, or have been absent and missed some important material in class. Teachers will be able to help with all levels of math. Teachers will be available Monday through Thursday as scheduled below in Mac Hall beginning on September 2, 2003. Sessions will not be held on early release days before a holiday.

As a math department, we are excited about PAS-ME. We hope to improve WASL scores and student’s grades and also provide a relaxed, comfortable place where students can work individually with a teacher to improve their understanding of math. The success of the program depends on the cooperation of teachers, students, and parents working together to insure the success of the individual students in their math class. If you have questions, please call Dave True, Renee’ DeBuigne or your students math teacher at 942-2500, or email us at Dave_True@rsd.edu or Renee_DeBuigne@rsd.edu.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7-7:30 AM</td>
<td>Mrs. Smith</td>
<td>Mrs. Smith</td>
<td>Mrs. Smith</td>
<td>Mrs. Smith</td>
<td>Mrs. Smith</td>
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<td>Room 409</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>2:30-5:30 PM</td>
<td>Mr. Baker</td>
<td>Mrs. Baird</td>
<td>Mr. Larrabee</td>
<td>Mrs. Ward</td>
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<tr>
<td>5:30-8:30 PM</td>
<td>Mr. Mills</td>
<td>Mrs. DeBuigne</td>
<td>Mr. True</td>
<td>Ms. Cranford</td>
<td>(5:30-7:30)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Room 404</td>
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Fall Sports
Dan Chubb

The Fall Sports season is off to an exciting and successful start. Our student athletes are performing well in their individual sports and in the classroom. This is evidenced by our team GPA's.

The winter sports season begins on November 10, 2003 for Gymnastics and on November 17, 2003 for Basketball and Wrestling. Our annual winter sports registration night will be on November 5, 2003.

Thank you for your support of Bomber Athletics!
**Special Education**

Tricia Degroot

The Special Education Parent/Professional Advisory Council (SEPAC) would like to invite all new and current parents that have children on IEP’s to attend our monthly meetings. SEPAC would also like to extend a special invitation to teachers and staff of the Richland School District to attend our monthly meetings. The topics for the 2003-2004 school year are as follows:

* "Professional Parent” in special education
  • Behavior Plans on the IEP
  • Speech and Language programs in the Richland School District
  • Nonviolent Crisis Intervention
  • Transition Services/Community programs
  • Assistive Technology and Reading
  • Social Skills curriculum/Anti-bullying policy in the Richland School District
  • Parent-Teacher communication (or IDEA update)
  • SEPAC planning

The next SEPAC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 2, at 7:00 pm in the Board Room at the Administration Building located at 615 Snow Ave. Monthly meetings will be held the first Thursday of the month at 7:00 pm in the Board Room. Please come, enjoy, and learn. Any questions or concerns please contact Tricia Degroot at 946-8083.

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**Richland High School’s Alcohol and Drug Awareness Committee**

The RHS PTSA will be sending out postcards to 16 year olds for their birthday this year. Each month during the school year and also through the summer, students will 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 review with them your own family’s expectations and guidelines for driving safely, and the dangers of alcohol and drug use.

This committee will also be providing the PTSA newsletter with educational information on alcohol and other drugs. On the web, one informative site is: [www.madd.org](http://www.madd.org).
**Instrumental Music Boosters**  
Debi Stamper

Looking for a clever way to say “Happy Birthday”, “Congratulations”, “Good Luck in the Big Game”, or just maybe “Hi”? The Instrumental Band Boosters has just the answer: Bomber Bird “Bomb”bardment! For $30 you can have someone’s yard decorated with green and gold “Bomber Birds”. After a 24 hour landing, the cluster of birds will migrate to their next destination with the assistance of the Bomber Bird “Band”its. The IMB is using the Bomber Bird “Bomb”bardment as a fun way to raise money and awareness of the trip they have coming up in May to perform at the dedication of the WWII Memorial in Washington, DC. If you’d like to order a “bomb”bardment call 942-0951, 946-8228 or email us at BomberBirdBandits@hotmail.com.

**2004 Senior Party!**  
Laurie Williamson

Planning for the 2004 Senior Party has begun! To get on the committee’s email list or to get more information, please contact Laurie Williamson at 627-2786. You will receive meeting highlights, info about how to offer your assistance, and reminders of upcoming meetings or fundraising events.

**Keep Current with District Web Site**  
Steve Aagaard

Parents can keep up-to-date with the Richland School District by going to www.rsd.edu. You’ll find the district calendar, bond projects updates, food menus, test scores, parent resource guides, news articles, school board meeting summaries, curriculum topics, education links and much more. You’ll also find links to individual school home pages.

**Emergency Preparedness**  
Steve Aagaard

For the safety of students, employees and visitors to school facilities, the Richland School District has an Emergency Response Plan in place that includes procedures for evacuations and for locking down buildings. Our plan’s objectives are to respond to any emergency, crisis or disaster; to know where our students are; and to communicate with parents and the media.

Our plan includes evacuating students and employees to a backup location should the need arise. This enables the District to more easily account for students and employees, and to provide a safe place until students are reunited with their parents at the backup school, or at home if the students are transported.

If you have any questions about the District’s Emergency Response Plan, contact Robin Emmingham, Executive Director of Support Services, at 942-2594. If you want to review a specific school’s emergency plan, contact the school principal directly.
RSD Bond Issue Update-October 2003

New Middle School in West Richland

- The educational specifications phase is complete and the design phase has begun.
- Loofburrow Architects shared some initial site configuration and building concepts with board members.
- The District will soon be hiring a firm to perform a site survey and geotechnical investigation at the site on Paradise Way.
- Cascade Natural Gas is negotiating with the City of West Richland in regards to bringing natural gas to the site.
- The city of West Richland is reviewing options to transfer its irrigation water rights to the District.

Richland High School

- The educational specifications phase is complete and the design phase has begun.
- PBS Environmental, Kennewick, has conducted an environmental inspection of the Richland High site. A report of the findings has not yet been completed.
- CKJT Architects completed a site survey and determined an accurate square footage figure for the school. The figure of 281,000 sf is 9,000 sf more than the existing survey had shown.