PTSA Co-Presidents’ Message
Kathy Casey and Susan Schepens

We launched the PTSA sponsored Reflections Creative Arts Program on Monday, October 14th. The contest will run through Monday, November 17th. Teachers assisted the PTSA by welcoming posters promoting the program and providing the entry packets into their classrooms. The theme this year is “I am really happy when…” which sets us to thinking and we’ve come up with a few creative thoughts of our own.

“We are really happy when…”

1. **PTSA Membership increases.** We couldn’t be happier to report that last year we had 8 Staff memberships; this year we have 42! During staff orientation we asked the teachers to join us at PTSA and they responded with great numbers. We would like to see the Family memberships similarly increase. Last year we had 438 members of the PTSA; this year we are presently at 383. That means our family memberships are down. Please use the membership flyer included in this newsletter and join. For $12 you will receive the “2 for 1” card that provides savings in a variety of businesses in the Tri-Cities. Contact Heather Cleary at 627-3400 to join!

2. **Use of Albertson’s Cards increases.** This program can best be described as “easy money” – no candy bar, fruit, wrapping paper sales, simply scan a card in the check out line and up to $1800 per quarter ($7200 annually) comes to the PTSA for application to the programs we direct for the benefit of the school and community. Imagine that money sitting in a vault at Albertson’s and we engage parents with small buckets (the card) to go and retrieve our share. The more folks we have on that bucket brigade the more likely we are to reach our goals. Contact Terrie Cobb at 946-0622 for your card. Cards can be used by family members anywhere in the country and the dollars will still be credited to the RHS PTSA account. What a win-win program!!

3. **PTSA Board and General Membership Meetings are attended.** Nothing would make us happier than to have to give up our seats to an overflowing crowd in the library. Mark your calendars for the November 4th General Membership meeting. We will present a revised budget to reflect the Board’s intent to funnel the monies generated by this organization into programs that reflect the wishes of our membership. We are proposing as a Board to offer two scholarships to graduating seniors and we would welcome dialogue from the membership on this project.
4. **Reflections Art Program has increased participation.** Please encourage your student(s) to participate in this contest. The Board has proposed to award **cash prizes** to this year’s winners. With the approval of this recommendation at the November 4th meeting, we will be able to add extra incentive to those students who take time from their busy academic and athletic schedules to produce a creative art piece that reflects a different aspect of their selves, their families, and perhaps the community in which they live. Contact Gretchen Patterson 308-1780 for more information.

5. **Parents attend Teacher Conferences.** On November 12th and 13th, from 4 to 6pm in the Gym, teachers will be available to discuss your student’s progress. The PTSA will provide some light refreshments to make the waiting in line a little more comfortable. This is a chance to establish a positive relationship with your student’s teachers, to exercise your right and responsibility to voice concerns, to dialogue in a constructive way, and to thank school personnel when they are doing a good job.

6. **Parents volunteer.** Our programs would not happen without many volunteers. Laurie Williamson (627-2786), Julie Nelson (946-6988), and Kim Oates (627-4083) are spearheading the Senior Party Activities. Any parent that wants to be involved can serve on this worthwhile committee to provide our senior class with a safe, fun, drug-free activity following their graduation. This project requires a year of planning and fundraising to provide prizes, food, and entertainment for the evening.

7. **We hear from you.** Please contact any of the members of the Board to offer feedback. If you are unable to attend a meeting, you can still voice your opinion, concerns, or ideas through any member of the Board.

Kathy Casey
942-4499

Susan Schepens
627-1780

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*Celebrate the culmination of the week of ‘giving’ by participating in the*

**20th Annual**

**Walk for the Needy & Luminaria**

**Friday, November 28th**

**5:30 p.m.**

- Carols, cocoa, and community togetherness beginning
- At 5:00 pm in Jefferson Park.
- The procession will end at John Dam Plaza
- For the official lighting of the trees!

All donations will be distributed through

**The Salvation Army**

**& Tri-Cities Food Bank**
The Principal's Message
Steve Neill

The RHS staff is busily working on the Northwest Accreditation process and building renovation designs. The school calendar appears to be filling up with dates I will address.

The accreditation process is a self-study developed by the staff at RHS. Study groups have been formed to research individual topics. During the October in-service days, the staff continued group work, studied testing results, and discussed House Bill 1444 (harassment, intimidation, and bullying law). The study groups (consisting of eight to ten staff members), have a focus based on school goals. Test results, including individual students’ test history, are now available for teachers to review and make instructional modifications to lessons. Attached you will find Richland School District Policy 3207- Prohibition of Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying.

The building design for renovation is beginning to take shape. CKJT architectural firm is diligently working with staff to develop a building for the 21st century. The project will be bid on December ’04, with construction to begin January ’05.

To keep informed regarding events happening at RHS, please log on to www.owt.com/rhs/. Listed below are some of these events:

1. Wednesday, November 5th, Winter Sports Clearance Night
2. Tuesday, November 11th, Veteran's Day – No School
3. Wed./Thurs., November 12th and 13th, Parent/Teacher Conferences 4:00-6:00pm
4. Friday, November 14th, Early Release
5. Saturday, November 16th, Sadie Hawkins Dance 8:00-11:00pm
6. Wednesday, November 26, Early Release for Thanksgiving Vacation
7. Thursday/Friday, November 27 & 28th, Thanksgiving Vacation

As we head into the winter months and weather becomes inclement, please tune into local radio stations for information regarding school delays and closures. Have a safe and happy winter season.

THANK YOU!
Lory Allen

A special thank you to those who took time from their busy schedules to help assemble the October Newsletter. Lenice Blair, Kathy Casey, Brenda Casqueiro, Mary Chartrand, Mary Greer-Short, Janice Higgs, Mary Ann Kelley, Betty Teel and Margaret Valentine.
Richland School District Policy 3207 – Prohibition on Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying

The District is committed to a safe and civil educational environment for all students, employees, volunteers and patrons, free from harassment, intimidation or bullying. “Harassment, intimidation or bullying” means any intentional written, verbal, or physical act, including but not limited to one shown to be motivated by any characteristic in RCW 9A.36.080(3), (race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, gender, sexual orientation or mental or physical disability), or other distinguishing characteristics, when the intentional written, verbal, or physical act:

- Physically harms a student or damages the student’s property; or
- Has the effect of substantially interfering with a student’s education, or
- If so severe, persistent, or pervasive that it creates an intimidating or threatening educational environment; or
- Has the effect of substantially disrupting the orderly operation of the school.

Nothing in this section requires the affected student to actually possess a characteristic that is a basis for the harassment, intimidation, or bullying. “Other distinguishing characteristics” can include but are not limited to: physical appearance, clothing other apparel, socioeconomic status, gender identity, and marital status. Harassment, intimidation or bullying can take many forms including: slurs, rumors, jokes, innuendos, demeaning comments, drawings, cartoons, pranks, gestures, physical attacks, threats, or other written, oral or physical actions. “Intentional acts” refers to the individual’s choice to engage in the act rather than the ultimate impact of the action(s).

This policy is not intended to prohibit expression of religious, philosophical, or political views, provided that the expression does not substantially disrupt the educational environment. Many behaviors that do not rise to the level of harassment, intimidation or bullying may still be prohibited by other district policies or building, classroom, or program rules.

This policy is a component of the district’s responsibility to create and maintain a safe, civil, respectful and inclusive learning community and is to be implemented in conjunction with comprehensive training of staff and volunteers, including the education of students in partnership with families and the community. The policy is to be implemented in conjunction with the Comprehensive Safe Schools Plan that includes prevention, intervention, crisis response, recovery, and annual review. Employees, in particular, are expected to support the dignity and safety of all members of the school community.

Depending upon the frequency and severity of the conduct, intervention, counseling, correction, discipline and/or referral to law enforcement will be used to remediate the impact on the victim and the climate and change the behavior of the perpetrator. This includes appropriate intervention, restoration of a positive climate, and support for victims and others impacted by the violation. False reports or retaliation for harassment, intimidation or bullying also constitutes violation of this policy.

To obtain a copy of the Informal and Formal complaint process, please contact Mr. Neill at 942-2500.
September Elite Fleet Winners
Becki Maki

The Elite Fleet program encourages students to take pride in their behavior and work hard at their studies. There are three categories:

**Attitude:** Recognition of a “can-do” and/or positive approach to school, class work, and people.

**Improvement/Consistency:** Recognition of a student who has improved or persisted successfully in his/her performance and effort in class.

**Excellence:** Recognition of a student who is having solid academic success, maybe in comparison to others or relative to individual effort.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Richland High School</th>
<th>Monthly Winners</th>
<th>September 2003</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Department</strong></td>
<td><strong>Attitude</strong></td>
<td><strong>Improvement/Consistency</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>Jenny Le</td>
<td>Christina Forsberg</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fine Arts/Other</td>
<td>Jill Sampson</td>
<td>Kyle Rentaria</td>
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<tr>
<td>Foreign Language</td>
<td>Tanya Kerr</td>
<td>Alasdair Crawford</td>
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<tr>
<td>Math</td>
<td>Samantha Smith</td>
<td>Camden Richey</td>
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<tr>
<td>P.E./Health</td>
<td>K C Howell</td>
<td>Ciara Green</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science</td>
<td>Kayla Sax</td>
<td>Corrine Smith</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Studies</td>
<td>Jme Badden</td>
<td>Tayler Fluharty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vocational</td>
<td>Kristina Brown</td>
<td>Jasmine Meyers</td>
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Freshman Career Pathway Testing

As part of the school-to-work program at Richland High School, students at every grade level have opportunities and experiences to explore and plan for careers after graduation.

On November 14, 2003 freshman will participate in a career pathway assessment to prepare for a career exploration project in second semester English classes and course selection for their high school experience. The pathway assessment helps to identify clusters of jobs that are aligned with your interests and abilities. These organizational clusters are **pathways**. RHS pathways include Business, Social Services, Science, Technical and Arts related career clusters.

Students that plan coursework connected to their career plans or pathways have a considerable advantage. They are capitalizing on the chance to check out a career by taking classes that are free rather than waiting to explore in after-high-school classes that cost money. A list of pathway related opportunities is available at our website [www.rsd.edu/schools/rhs/hergert](http://www.rsd.edu/schools/rhs/hergert).

**WOIS – The Career Information System**

The Richland School District once again purchased access to WOIS The Career Information System. Students use this online resource for career and college research. WOIS has a new password policy. Each September Richland High School will be given a new password to access the on-line information at [www.wois.org](http://www.wois.org). Our new password is **vgb427**. Our username continues to be **richlandhs**. You must have this password and username to access the research information and to access the electronic portfolios you established in your English or Consumer Economics classes. Internet Explorer is the best platform for accessing all of the resources in this site.

If you would like your student to establish a portfolio to store a resume, cover letter, career and college research or you have forgotten your portfolio username and password stop by the Career Center or call 942-2087. Instructions are available and Mrs. Herbert has the master list of usernames and passwords for portfolios.

**FAFSA Update**
Free Applications for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) will be available in the RHS Career Center the first week of December. On-line applications and worksheets are currently available at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov) and significantly reduce processing time.
Plan to file in January to qualify for your aid package. Many colleges have February deadlines for receipt of FAFSA documents. You can apply on-line (at the above address) for your PIN (personal identification number), which allows you to electronically sign your documents now. Please allow several weeks for your PIN to arrive.

Richland High will also be sponsoring a financial aid workshop in December. The date has not been confirmed. Please check the RHS website or next month’s newsletter for more information.

**Parent Bulletin**

If you would like to receive periodic updates on school visits, career workshops and scholarship lists via e-mail a new bulletin service is right for you. Several times each month a Parent Bulletin will be sent to subscribers. There is no cost and you may discontinue the bulletin anytime. To receive the bulletin e-mail Mary_Kaye_Hergbert@rsd.edu and request to be placed on the list!

**November Events**

November 5 and 6, 2003 Mock Interviews for Consumer Economics Students

November 12, 2003
Carroll College will sponsor a lunch workshop in the Career Center at 11:00 am.

November 14, 2003
Freshman Career Testing

**Parent Preview Program for RSD’s High School**

**HIV/AIDS Education Programs**

Vicki Bricker

Parents Preview Program for the HIV/AIDS Education Program for grades 9-12 will take place on Thursday, November 20, 2003, at Chief Jo Middle School, room 119. The video presentation will begin at 7:00pm. Student HIV/AIDS programs will take place at various times throughout the school year in each high school. State law mandates student instruction for grades 5-12. Parents may excuse their students from the instructions but the parents must first preview the education program. HHS and REHS parents may call Rosanne Cramer, School Nurse, at 371-2609 for more information. RHS parents may call Vivienne Parizek, School Nurse, at 967-4107 for more information.
SENIOR PARTY NEWS!

SENIOR PARTY 2004 COMMITTEE HAS HELD THEIR FIRST FUNDRAISER!
Our next one will be to sell Mrs. B’s pies. A table will be set up at Parent Conferences to purchase them or you may pick up order forms at the next meeting.

Ticket Sales. It is very important to sell party tickets in advance. The funds generated through ticket sales will help us purchase prizes at discounts; thus, have more to give away. Early ticket sales also allow the committees to work within a budget and plan more specifically for this event. Please fill out the enclosed ticket sale form and mail it in. ONLY $25 FOR A FULL EVENING OF ENTERTAINMENT, FOOD, AND HUNDREDS OF PRIZES-PRICE INCREASE AFTER DECEMBER 31!

PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS
Thursday, December 4th       Senior Party Meeting       7:00 pm. Carmichael Library

To Volunteer or Receive Senior Party Updates,
Please Send Us Your Email Address at:
Jnelson@cbadams.com or call Julie Nelson at 430-6187

RHS CLASS OF 2004 TICKET ORDER FORM

STUDENT NAME___________________________________________________

PARENT NAME ___________________________________________________

PHONE NUMBER (to confirm receipt)__________________________________

E-MAIL ADDRESS__________________________________________________

Checks only: $25 through December 31
Make Checks Payable to RHS 2004 Senior Party
Ticket pickup at graduation rehearsal
Mail form with check to:

Lenice Blair
254 Riverwood Street
Richland, WA  99352
Questions: Lenice (627-0647)
REMINDER: Parents of 9th and 10th Grade Language Arts Students
Jack Long

The first round of Exit Exams will be held on December 2, 3 and 4, 2003. It will be the first of three chances to pass the exams. Students will have remediation available between rounds of the test. If parents have any questions, they should talk with their students, contact their student’s teacher, or they may contact Mr. Long at Richland High.

THE COLUMBIAN
Stephanie Mayfield

The Columbian is once again offering parents and students the chance to buy student ads for the 2004 yearbook. All ads will be in full color and are $50 for one box (each box is an eighth of a page). Multiple block ads are also available. The purchaser designs the ad and if space is available, designs will be accepted until October 31. Since we do have limited spacing, we work on a first come, first served basis. We recommend that you turn in your ad as soon as possible. Contact advisor Robin Morris at 942-2500 for more information.

SANDSTORM IS AWARD WINNER!
Kelsey Remsen

The Sandstorm has added a few more awards to its collection for the 2002-2003 school year. This time, the awards are the George Gallup Award from the Quill and Scroll Society, the Gold Medalist from the Columbia Scholastic Press Association, and First Class from the National Scholastic Press Association.

The Quill and Scroll is an International Honor Society for high school journalists. The Gallup Award is given to the top 40 high school papers in the country. The Sandstorm was the only one in Washington to win this award.

“This is the Sandstorm’s sixth consecutive winning of this award,” said senior Amelia Veneziano, Sandstorm Editor. The paper submitted six issues from the last year for the competition. “We do an outstanding job covering student and community events. We have talented writers and people skilled with layout and design. It is genuinely a first-class paper,” Veneziano said. The paper scored 956 out of a possible 1,000 points.

“Last year’s staff worked hard to win this award. I’m particularly pleased that we were the only school in Washington to earn the George Gallup,” said Robin Morris, Sandstorm advisor.

Rated a first class paper by the National Scholastic Press Association, the Sandstorm ranks along with top papers in the country. The Sandstorm earned 3,045 points out of a possible 4,000.
News From the Richland School District Office

A Better way to assess reading and math ability

Richland School District parents are going to be hearing more and more about an effective new assessment tool called Measures of Academic Progress (MAP). The computer-administered test is given to third thru ninth grade students each fall and spring. MAP results are known immediately after students complete the test (not five months later as with the WASL or ITBS tests) so teachers have real time knowledge of each student’s abilities in reading and math.

- MAP is an accurate way to assess student progress over time and is a valuable tool in evaluating the effectiveness of academic programs.
- Staff uses MAP scores to place students in the kinds of classes that fit their academic needs.
- MAP results are helping secondary schools develop master schedules that are data driven and based on student needs. It also helps staff determine how many sections of specific classes should be offered.
- Administering MAP takes much less time than the WASL.

Teachers become WASL writing scorers

Richland School District elementary and middle school teachers became WASL scorers during the October staff workshop day. Teachers first learned how to evaluate writing samples using the WASL scoring system. They then put that training to practical use as they scored the responses from a writing prompt which was given to every elementary and middle school student in the District.

National Family Week

The Tri-Cities Family Resource Alliance encourages all families to celebrate National Family Week November 22-29 by spending meaningful time with your family. Consider bringing your family to National Family Volunteer Day on Saturday, November 22, 1:00-3:00pm, at the Richland Community Center. Parents and children will create fun and meaningful projects that will be donated to Kadlec Medical Center, foster families and Meal on Wheels.
MARK YOUR CALENDAR

November
1  SAT RHS Cafeteria, 8:00-12:00
4  Election Day
   PTSA General Membership, 7:00pm, RHS Library
5  WSU Jazz Festival – Pullman, WA  ALL DAY
6,7,8 Fall Play – Play On – Auditorium, 7:30 pm
11 NO SCHOOL – Veteran’s Day
   School Board Meeting, 7:00 pm
12,13 Teacher Conferences, Gym, 4:00-6:00pm
14,  EARLY RELEASE
   Musical Theatre-Broadway Scenes-Auditorium, 7:30pm
17  Reflections Arts Program Deadline, Library, Lunch
   String Thing Concert – Auditorium, 7:30pm
25  School Board Meeting, 7:00pm
26  EARLY RELEASE
27,28 Thanksgiving Break

December
6   SAT – RHS Cafeteria, 8:00am-12:00
9   School Board Meeting, 7:00
13  ACT, CBC, 8:00a-12:-00
18  Winter Choral Concert, Auditorium, 7:00pm
19  Winter Vacation Begins

January 5, 2004 Classes Resume