The first quarter of 2003 is complete and many parents made use of the Parent Teacher Conferences to get the low down on their student’s progress. We are headed toward the Thanksgiving Holiday and we find ourselves on the PTSA Board grateful for many accomplishments so far this year.

As we write this letter, the Girls’ Swim Team sent athletes to State competition and all four representatives swam in the finals. The Girls’ Soccer team advances to the State championships having claimed the District title. The fall play “Play On” and the Musical Theatre class’s “Night of Broadway Shows” wowed audiences with the acting and production talent of our RHS students. The school newspaper under the guidance of Robin Morris is boasting an outstanding colorful presentation of news around the school and community and is sending a team of students to the national journalism convention in Washington, D.C. The Dance Team is hosting an invitational competition for twenty high school dance teams in late November. Our students have submitted entries to the Reflections Creative Arts competition and local artists in the community are currently judging them. The PTSA general membership approved offering cash prizes to our winning students this year, awarding $40 for first, $30 for second, and $20 for third in each of the categories. The Band continues their fund raising drive to raise funds to march in the WWII Memorial Dedication in May of 2004. The band, Natural Helpers, and Key Clubs were involved in the activities associated with the Vietnam Moving Wall in early November. Our students are active, involved, and representing our school in a very positive way.
Our Staff memberships for this year are up from 10 last year to 53 – a 530% increase. While we are grateful to those who have joined in family memberships, our numbers in that category haven’t yet matched last year’s rates. We are currently at 352 for this year compared to 427 last year (a decrease of 18%). Pay attention to the teachers…that’s what our parents always said! It’s never too late to join up; call Heather Cleary at 627-3400.

We are including in this mailing an Albertson’s Partnership card. A recent notice in the national news ranked the most altruistic companies in the nation – Target and Albertson’s were in positions one and two in the top ten. These two companies donate roughly 2.5% of annual sales to local and national charities. Richland High is a most deserving local charity. Be a part of this effortless activity by exercising your option to vote for the charity of your choice by flashing this little card in the check out line.

Our next PTSA meeting will be January 13th at 7:00pm in the RHS Library. Please join us if you can. Have a wonderful holiday season!

Kathy Casey                      Susan Schepens               Co-Presidents
942-4499 627-1780

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR**

November 26       **Early Release** 11:00am
27,28              **No School**, Thanksgiving Holiday
December 2,3,4    **9th and 10th Grade Language Arts Exit Exam**
December 4        CBMEA Fall Jazz Night
                   Co-Hi Burbank 7:00pm
December 4        Senior Party Meeting
                   Carmichael Library 7:00pm
December 6        **SAT** – RHS Cafeteria 8:00am-12:00
                   6 TUBA Christmas 10:00am/Site:TBA
December 9        School Board 7:00pm
December 13       **ACT @CBC** 8:00am-12:00
December 15       Deadline for January PTSA Newsletter
December 18       Winter Choral Concert/Aud 7:00pm
Dec. 20-Jan.4     **Winter Vacation**
January 5         Classes Resume
(Assistant) Principal’s Message
Mike Edwards

It is hard to believe December is upon us as I go through my first year at Richland High. I have had the chance to meet a great staff and many wonderful students in various situations. The Richland High community has been very welcoming, supportive and understanding through this transition. I look forward to getting to know more parents as the time passes and thank you for your support thus far.

December will be a busy month with boys and girls basketball, wrestling and gymnastics beginning competition. Many students will be giving concerts and other performances to keep the evenings full. Your support in these activities is always appreciated. These various events depend on your time and encouragement. During the rush of the season, your time is the most valuable gift that cannot be bought and for your giving, I thank you.

Happy Holidays, Mike

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BOMBER BIRD BOMBARDMENT!
Debi Stamper

Don’t forget the Richland Instrumental Music Boosters have available a barrage of green and gold Bomber Birds just waiting to fly to someone’s yard for a special occasion or just to say Hi. We will put approximately 25 birds in each yard and they will stay for 24 hours before moving on to their next location. The “Bandits” are doing this fundraiser to help fund their upcoming trip to Washington, DC in May. If you have any questions or you’re interested in “bomb” barding someone, please call 942-0951, 946-8228 or email at BomberBirdBandits@hotmail.com.

THANK YOU!
Lory Allen

EXIT EXAMS
Jack Long

The Richland High School Exit exams for Freshman and Sophomores are scheduled to run December 2nd, 3rd, and 4th. Students should plan ahead for possible topic choice and understanding format. Freshman have to write a five paragraph persuasive paper and sophomores have a comparison/contrast paper. Both styles should be sure to provide an introduction with thesis, body paragraphs with strong specific examples, and a conclusion with thesis restated and a so what? for the importance of the topic. Following the three days of the exam, teachers will exchange and assess, and then return the tests. Those who do not pass will have the opportunity for remediation on the week of the 12th, then the second attempt will be given on December 15th and 16th. Please remember that if your child passes the first attempt, he or she does not have to take it again. However, passing the exam does not guarantee the student grades if the performance in class is not passing. If there are any questions, please contact your student’s teacher or Mr. Long at RHS.

A special thank you to those who helped assemble the November Newsletter: Mary Charntrand, Jill Wulf and the Life Skills Class.
CAREER CENTER NEWS
Mary Kaye Hergert

Messages in the Mail

- **Carroll College** invites you to attend the annual Information Program Dinner to be held Monday, January 26, 2004 at 6:30pm at the Red Lion Hotel, Kennewick. Please RSVP to Ty Eisbach at 503-524-5168 or teisbach@carroll.edu. Carroll is a great option for students contemplating careers in healthcare. All of the pre-med students were admitted into medical school last year and all of their nurses passed their licensing exam.

- All five **military academies** are sponsoring an information night on Tuesday, December 30, 2003 from 6:30 pm to 9:00 pm at the U.S. Coast Guard Support Center Gym, Pier 36, 1515 Alaskan Way South, Seattle. For more information please phone Commander Katie Thurman 206-484-1110. You must show photo ID (government issued preferred) to enter the Coast Guard Station.

- **Montana State University** has changed their non-resident achievement awards to renewable awards. More information about these opportunities is available at [www.montana.edu/wwwnss/scholarships nonres.shtml](http://www.montana.edu/wwwnss/scholarships nonres.shtml)

Thank You!

A big thank you to the Richland High School community for your support of mock interview and portfolio exhibition in our Consumer Economics classes. Fifty community volunteers interviewed 190 of our students and we appreciate their contribution. This activity couldn’t happen without you!

Senior Checklist

- Take the SAT or ACT (if your haven’t taken one of these assessments by December you will not meet the criteria for admission into a four year school.)
- Choose your top three to five schools offering educational opportunities matching your plan.
- Start collecting application materials for schools of interest
- Make a personal application deadline calendar
• Send in early admission or early decision applications (most of these deadlines are in November)
• Complete applications for regular admission
• Attend school visit workshops (A workshop calendar is available at www.rsd.edu/schools/rhs/hergert.)
• Attend a scholarship workshop
• Get your electronic PIN for your financial aid form

RHS EVENT UPDATE

Financial Aid representatives, Janet O’Neill, will host a Financial Aid workshop for families on December 10, 2003 at 6:30 pm in the Career Center. If you plan to complete the FAFSA, make plans to attend and get invaluable help navigating the paperwork.

RHS PTSA MEMBERSHIP FORM

Please clip and return

Please print all the information required and check one or more boxes below:

Parents name(s)_________________________________________________
ADDRESS______________________________________________________
E-mail address(optional)___________________________________________
Home Phone_____________________________________________________

$12 One parent/staff/family membership. I have included my check to PTSA for $12.
$20 Couple membership (2 discount cards). I have included my check to PTSA for $20.
$8 Student membership. I have included my check to PTSA for $8.

Parents- Please check one or more boxes below if you have any interest in volunteer opportunities:

Newsletter Assembly (daytime) Reflections PTSA Leadership
ASB Elections (daytime) Senior Party Food Donation/Baking

Parents-Please check the current year(s) your children are in school at RHS.
9  10  11  12

Please mail to: RHS PTSA, 930 Long Avenue, Richland, WA 99352
FROM THE DRUG AND ALCOHOL AWARENESS COMMITTEE:

Teen Safety Program Launches Video Game That Increases Awareness of Driving Risks – reprinted from the Mothers Against Drunk Drivers Website

*Road Ready StreetWise* is a new driving safety video game that increases teens’ awareness and understanding of driving risks. Teens who played the game were more likely to take steps to protect themselves from driving risks according to initial game research conducted by the University of Michigan Transportation Research Institute.

The video game is part of the official launch of the *Road Ready Teens* safety program, a Chrysler Group initiative to help parents ease their teens into driving while gradually exposing them to and educating them about the risks they face on the road.

The company also introduced a research-based guide for parents called *Get Road Ready: A Parent’s Guide to Safely Ease Teens Into Driving*, and they announced four new partners that will help spread the word about the new safety program’s resources. The American Automobile Association (AAA), HP, WildTangent, and Yahoo®Autos join Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) and the National Safety Council (NSC) as program partners.

Vehicle crashes are the number one killer of teens. In 2002, nearly 6,000 teens were killed, 300,000 were injured and more than 1.6 million were involved in vehicle crashes. According to research conducted by Chrysler Group earlier this year, driving safety is a top concern for six out of ten parents when it comes to their teens.

*Road Ready Teens* materials, including *StreetWise*, the *Parent’s Guide* and other resources are available at no cost on the program’s website at [www.roadreadyteens.org](http://www.roadreadyteens.org).