PTSA Co-Presidents’ Message

Kathy Casey and Susan Schepens

Recently seen above a local landscaping firm was the message “Mother Nature says: Spring it on!” We second the promotion.

Our winter sports are winding down with the Girl’s Basketball team clinching their first outright Big Nine title since 1998. The Boy’s Basketball team is tied for second place in the conference at the time of this letter. Jamie Chapados won the all round championship for the Big Nine/Greater Spokane League gymnastics competition and moves on to state competition with other teammates. Congratulations to all our winter sports athletes for their strong showing in conference competition. We also send out praise to the students and faculty involved with the school production of “Guys and Dolls.”

We would like to announce to students and their families the availability of two $500 scholarships to be offered to this year’s graduating seniors. The Richland High PTSA Service and Leadership Scholarships will recognize the contributions of two young leaders in their school, community, and places of worship. Our scholarship applications will be available March 1 through Mary Kaye Hergert’s Career Counseling office. Our selection process will incorporate portfolios and interview preparation, which is components of the Consumer Economics class, required of all juniors at RHS. Students who transfer from other schools who may have not completed a portfolio may substitute a resume and copies of their work. Applicants will be required to write an essay describing their service experience and be recommended by someone who has supervised their involvement in a service project. Students with grade point averages 2.8 and above will be considered for this award. The scholarship committee will select a panel of three independent judges from the community who have experience with young people in the service sector. The applications have a deadline for entry of April 15th. We are excited...
about these awards and request parents of service oriented young people to encourage their student to compete for this award.

At the last PTSA Board meeting RHS Principal Steve Neill presented the blueprints of the renovations to our school. Marvelous plans are in the works. The project consists of several phases of renovations that will take more than three years to complete. Imagine having a home remodeling project that would take that long...a real test of patience. In anticipation of the stress that the faculty will face with all that moving and shaking, a special "staff sensitive" committee has formed to help with the transition. At mid year that committee went into the teacher’s lounge/mailroom and did a little remodeling to create a more “collegial space” for the faculty. The PTSA was asked to contribute to this by purchasing two new large capacity coffee makers. The faculty sent abundant thanks to us for this gesture and we are passing on the praise to the membership. If anyone would ever be interested in providing a baked item for the teachers’ lounge on any Monday morning, please contact Karen Richardson in Business Education as she is coordinating this ongoing activity.

We invite you as always to attend our next meeting on March 18 at 7:00pm in the RHS library. We are still looking for a few members to rise up and work in leadership positions for next year. We trust that there are those out there who know that the work of the PTSA is just the right spot for their time and talent.

Kathy Casey
943-4499

Susan Schepens
627-1780

---

Bomber Bird “Bomb”bardment
Debi Stamper

Spring is just around the corner and the birds have returned home from their winter migration. Need a fun way to celebrate a birthday, anniversary or special occasion? Consider a Bird “Bomb”bardment. Call 942-0951 or E-mail Bomberbirdbandits@hotmail.com for more information. Tell all your friends about this great fundraiser!
The Principal’s Message
Teri Kessie, Assistant Principal

It Is Testing Time Again

Spring is just around the corner and with that comes TESTING time! As you help your students prepare for those grueling weeks in April, I wanted to help you understand the reason behind it.

In 1993, the Washington State Legislature voted into law House Bill 1209, the Education Reform Act, establishing guidelines for creating clear, rigorous academic standards for what every student is expected to know and be able to do upon graduation. The rationale behind the reform effort has been simply that we want your students to be able to live and work in a world of constant change and innovation.

To achieve this goal, the State has been concentrating in three primary areas:
1. Standards: to identify clear benchmarks for what students should know and be able to do in each subject matter.
2. Testing: to measure student progress toward meeting standards.
3. Accountability: to determine whether schools are meeting academic expectations and improving student learning.

Standards

Since 1993, groups of teachers have worked diligently to develop the learning goals for each subject area based on research about what skills they will need to be successful adults. These targets are called Essential Academic Learning Requirements (EALR’s). You can view them online at: www.k12.wa.us/curriculum/instruct/EALRs.asp.

As the Richland School district reviews each of our curriculum areas, committees make certain that the curriculum taught to your students is aligned with the EALR’s, thus preparing them for success in their future.

Testing

The Washington Assessment of Student Learning (WASL) was developed to measure how well students are learning the standards. The WASL is one piece of a comprehensive assessment system used by all schools to measure student achievement.

There are two types of standardized tests: “norm referenced” tests are “criterion referenced” tests.
Your freshmen will be taking the ITED, which is a norm-referenced test in reading, language arts, math, reasoning skills, and an interest inventory. This test is designed to provide national comparisons to see how your student’s and Richland High School’s performance compares to the performance of others across the country. This test relies on multiple-choice questions to measure basic skills and concepts. You will get the results back in the form of a ranking. For example, a percentile score of 55 means your student scored as high or higher than 55 percent of the students across the country that originally took the test.

Your sophomores will be taking the WASL. The WASL is a criterion-referenced test, which is designed to measure an individual student’s achievement of Washington’s rigorous academic standards (EALR’s). The WASL uses a combination of multiple-choice, short answer and essay questions to measure a broad range of skills and knowledge from the basics to more complicated skills such as writing essays and using math skills to set up equations and solve problems. You will see the results as a score that shows student performance relative to a high and fixed standard of achievement.

The testing window for this school year is April 19-April 30. We will be testing all freshmen and sophomores on Tuesday through Friday of those weeks. Please watch for exact times for school to start for juniors and seniors. You can help your student perform better on these tests by making sure they get a good night rest and have a nutritious breakfast.

If you have any questions about testing logistics, please call John Richardson or Teri Kessie at 942-2500. For more information regarding the reform imitative, the Washington Education Website is an excellent source. That website is http://www.k12.wa.us/parents.aspx.

THANK YOU
Lory Allen

We would like to thank Jill Wulf’s Life Skill’s class for helping to assemble the February newsletter: Elijah Barr, Rose Brady, Ruthie Brandt, Brett Carey, Amanda Dishman, Becky Heard, Michael Soto, Peter Todish, Daniel Wheeler, Lindsay Wright, Jenna Blaski (teacher’s assistant), Melinda Holden and Alison Hoyt (EA’s), and parents Nancy Sevigny, Tana Payne and Maggie Miller.
The Richland PTA Council  
2003-04 Reflections Awards

**Literature**

Danielle Krogh  First  
Heather Nicole Taylor  Third

**Visual Arts**

Shelly Ni  First

**Music Composition**

Aaron Phillips  First  
Scott Stallings  Second, Third  
Michael Wallenfels  Honorable Mention

**Photographs**

Lindsay Williamson  Second, Third, Honorable Mention

Danielle, Scott, and Shelley, our place winners at District Level, proceed to State for further competition. Congratulations to our winners and to all participants. You represented Richland High in fine fashion.

**PASME**

A reminder to parents that PASME, the math-tutoring program, is still available on Monday through Wednesday from 2:30 to 8:30pm, and Thursdays from 2:30 to 7:30pm. Parents, please encourage your student to seek out the help that is available and FREE!
Richland High School
Elite Fleet Monthly Winners
January 2004

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DEPARTMENT</th>
<th>ATTITUDE</th>
<th>IMPROVEMENT/CONSISTENCY</th>
<th>EXCELLENCE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ENGLISH</td>
<td>Nicole Blanchard</td>
<td>David Shaw</td>
<td>Briana Hobbs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FINE ARTS/OTHER</td>
<td>Russ Miller</td>
<td>Jon Holecek</td>
<td>Brian Basset</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FOREIGN LANGUAGE</td>
<td>Michael Demiter</td>
<td>Sabrina Mears</td>
<td>Heather Taylor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATH</td>
<td>Nathan Bailey</td>
<td>Katie Tierney</td>
<td>Justin Meinecke</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P.E./HEALTH</td>
<td>Nikita Dabling</td>
<td>Linda Older</td>
<td>Chantry Dage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCIENCE</td>
<td>Stacey Indall</td>
<td>Erik Fisher</td>
<td>Shelly Ni</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOCIAL STUDIES</td>
<td>Elizabeth Burrie</td>
<td>Christian Gardes</td>
<td>Kyle MacLean</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VOCATIONAL</td>
<td>Teresa Begalka</td>
<td>Jeremy Stumetz</td>
<td>Justin Meinecke</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Upcoming ASB Events:**

Jim Qualheim

- Spring Sports Clearance Night: February 16, 6:30pm/RHS Cafeteria
- RSD Jazz Night: February 19, 7:30pm/RHS Auditorium
- Communications Day: February 25
- ASB Voting: February 26 and 27
- Pep Assembly: March 5
- Talent Show Try-Outs: March 8, 3:00-9:00pm/RHS Auditorium
- Talent Show: March 31, 7:00pm
RHS ALUMNI BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT
Zorba Manolopoulos

Announcing the 2004 Richland High School Alumni Basketball tournament on June 25-26, 2004 at the Richland High School Art Dewald Gymnasium. The RHS Alumni Basketball tournament is open to all graduates of richland high school who wish to play, including the class of 2004. For more information and applications go to http://www.rhssf.org/tournament or contact Zorba Manolopoulos at zorba@rhssf.org. Portions of the registration fees collected will go to the RHS Scholarship Fund (http://www.rhssf.org).

District News

Land Purchased for School Site

Richland School Board recently approved the purchase of land for a future elementary school in the southwest area of the District (near the intersection of Keene Road and I-182). The 16-acre parcel is located five miles from Badger Mountain and three miles from Wiley. Purchase price was $530,000. The new school is scheduled to open in 2008.

MAP is Powerful Assessment Tool

Assistant Superintendent Jean Lane reported that the Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) assessment has become a powerful tool in measuring students’ skill levels in reading and math. MAP results identify a student’s specific weakness (such as number sense) and enables school staff to help a student improve in that specific area. 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 strengths and weaknesses.

District Opposes More WASL Tests

The school board and district administration have come out against a state proposal to add more WASL tests at third, fifth, sixth and eighth grades. “We don’t need more WASL tests,” stated Superintendent Rich Semler. “The state already has enough data and these tests take a lot of time to administer.” Semler outlined the impacts of adding more WASL tests: 1) Additional clerical staff would have to be hired. 2) Students currently lose five days of instructional
time when taking the WASL. The testing schedule disrupts teaching and learning
time for the last two weeks of April. These disruptions and lost academic time
would be expanded to four more grades. 3) Board members and administration
are proposing that OSPI give school districts the choice of using either the
additional WASL tests or an alternative assessment method such as Measures of
Academic Progress (MAP). MAP is more efficient, less time consuming and less
expensive than WASL, and has been received favorably by District teachers and
principals.

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>March 4</td>
<td>Concert Band Invitational</td>
<td>7:30pm</td>
<td>TBA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 9</td>
<td>School Board Meeting</td>
<td>7:00pm</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 16</td>
<td>Rhythm Choral Concert</td>
<td>7:00pm</td>
<td>Aud.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 18</td>
<td>ASV AB Test</td>
<td>11:00am</td>
<td>Lib.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Early Release</strong></td>
<td>Running Start Asset Test</td>
<td>2:30pm</td>
<td>CBC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>CBMEA Solo/Ensemble</td>
<td></td>
<td>HHS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 19</td>
<td>School is Open SNOW MAKE UP Day</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 23</td>
<td>School Board Meeting</td>
<td>7:00pm</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 24</td>
<td>MS/HS Orchestra Large Grp</td>
<td>All Day</td>
<td>Kamaikin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 25</td>
<td>RSD Choral Showcase</td>
<td>7:30pm</td>
<td>Gym</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 27</td>
<td>SAT-RHS</td>
<td>8-12am</td>
<td>Café/Lecture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 28/29</td>
<td>Natural Helper Retreat</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 31</td>
<td>HS Band Large Group</td>
<td>All Day</td>
<td>Pasco</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 2</td>
<td>Third Quarter Ends</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 3</td>
<td>ACT at CBC</td>
<td>8am-12:15</td>
<td>CBC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>April 3-11</strong></td>
<td>Spring Break</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 13</td>
<td>School Board</td>
<td>7:00pm</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 19-23</td>
<td>WASL/IOWA Testing</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 21</td>
<td>ASSET Testing</td>
<td>7:30-10:30am</td>
<td>Cafeteria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 26-30</td>
<td>RHS Seniors attending CBC in Fall</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 27</td>
<td>School Board Meeting</td>
<td>7:00pm</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>