Co-Presidents’ Message
Janice Miller and Sue Turner

As the parent of a Freshman I was very interested in the presentation about the Culminating Project that Mary Kaye Hergert arranged for our October PTSA meeting. Now I understand that it is required by law but the implementation may vary in different school districts. At our high school, input from college recruiters was an important part in deciding what went into the Culminating Project.

Whilst the Culminating Project is not a community service type project, a community service project would be a great thing to showcase in a Culminating Project portfolio. Our students have the chance to build their portfolios over the next 4 years with entries that demonstrate their skills, activities and achievements, all with the goal of having them well prepared as they take the next step in their lives after high school.

I hope everyone who came to the meeting found it informative and helpful; it was certainly nice to see so many people at a PTSA meeting. All our PTSA meetings are open and we would love to see you there, it is a great way to be involved in your child’s education. And don’t forget Parent Teacher conferences on November 8th and 10th!

Quote of the Month:
“Let parents, then, bequeath to their children not riches, but the spirit of reverence.” – Plato

THANK YOU

A big THANK YOU to those who helped with last months newsletter, parents Janine Bensussan, Teri Rowe, Sharon Kristofszki, Cheryl Husking; Jill Wulf, her assistants, Melinda Holden and Alison Hoyt, Jenna Blaski, Kaytlynn Roberts, Linnsey Amaral, and Life Skills Students: Elijah Barr, Rose Brady, Ruthie Brandt, Jeff Carpentiere, Ashley Collopy, Becky Heard, Mike Soto, Danny Wheeler, Lindsay Wright, and Emily Dirkes.
RHS – Under Construction and Still Delivering Excellent Instruction

School Improvement Planning is considered the foundation of great schools. According to the Washington State Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction, it is the single most important business of the school. It is the process schools use to ensure that all students are achieving at high levels.

WAC 180-16-220 requires the following in order for public schools to receive state funding:

At a minimum the annual approval shall require each school to have a school improvement plan that is data driven, promotes a positive impact on student learning, and includes a continuous improvement process that shall mean the ongoing process used by a school to monitor, adjust, and update its school improvement plan. For the purpose of this section “positive impact on student learning” shall mean:

(i) Supporting the goal of basic education under RCW 28A.150.210, “...to provide students with the opportunity to become responsible citizens, to contribute to their own economic well-being and to that of their families and communities, and to enjoy productive and satisfying lives...”;

(ii) Promoting continuous improvement of student achievement of the state learning goals and essential academic learning requirements; and

(iii) Recognizing nonacademic student learning and growth related, but not limited to: Public speaking, leadership, interpersonal relationship skills, teamwork, self-confidence, and resiliency.

RHS teachers and staff are now working hard to not only prepare for the upcoming physical construction of the building, but also to construct a School Improvement Plan that will ensure all students achieve at high standards. Study groups were formed based on needs that presented themselves following an extensive study of data regarding student demographics and performance and student, teacher, and parent perceptions.

Staff study groups are currently researching best practices in the following areas: Math, science, reading, and writing instruction; Culminating Project implementation, improving culture and climate for staff and students; improving freshman students’ transition into high school, and finding ways to engage students more in their learning.
Parent input is a welcome part of this process. I am looking for a group of parents who would be willing to meet with me periodically throughout the year to review the plans and provide input. Please call or e-mail me if you are interested in serving in this capacity.

Parents are also welcome to attend in-service days to gain information and provide input. Study groups will be sharing application research to the staff on the February 25 early release. Implementation Plans will be presented during the March 18 in-service day. Please call the school for exact times closer to those dates.

Teri Kessie
Teri.Kessie@rsd.edu
942-2517

**ELITE FLEET**
Becki Maki

The purpose of the Elite Fleet Program is to encourage all students to take pride in their behavior and work hard at their studies. Teachers are encouraged to include a wide range of students in their recognition: those who always do well and those strugglers whom teachers are prompting to improved performance. The three criteria are:

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

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

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

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SENIOR PARTY 2005!!!

FIRST MEETING

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 28TH
7:00 PM

1933 Davison Avenue
richland

questions?

Call peggy frank
946-5566
connie Roberts
627-4339

Counseling Center Notes
Ann Springer

Senior Parents are welcome to attend the “Every 15 Minutes” assembly on Wednesday, November 17th at 10:00 am in the RHS Auditorium. This is an assembly for seniors only regarding the effects of drinking and driving.

COLUMBIAN NEWS
Robin Morris

The deadline for purchasing student ads for the 2005 Columbian is November 12th. There are limited spots available. Each block is $50 and will be in color. Blocks may be purchased from a member of the Columbian staff. The ads can be placed for any student – not just seniors.

Conratulate a student or a team for a job well done or just to say “we’re proud of you”. Parents/friends may design the ad themselves or leave the designing to the Columbian staff. Please do not submit pictures that are irreplaceable. We will make every possible effort to return pictures to the owner if we are given a self-addressed, stamped envelope. Pictures will not be returned until June. Please call Robin Morris at 942-2500 with any questions.
The Richland High Sandstorm earned three prestigious national awards for the 2003-04 school year. For the 7th consecutive year, the paper earned the George Gallup Award from Quill and Scroll, the international honorary society for high school journalists. The Gallup Award is the highest award given by Quill and Scroll. The paper earned superior in all categories. In the National Scholastic Press Association competition, the Sandstorm earned All American status with 5 marks of distinction for superior achievement. This is the most marks of distinction that the paper has ever received. The Sandstorm also earned a Gold Medal from the Columbia Scholastic Press Association.

2005 EUROPE TRIP!
Rich McDonald

Next summer students will have the opportunity to travel on a 22-day trip to Europe. The departure date is June 14, 2005. Roundtrip airfare from Pasco and two meals a day are included in the price. We will start in Switzerland and then travel to Germany and Italy where we will have stays in Venice, Florence, and Rome, with visits to Vatican City and Pisa. We then travel by bus to Nice, in the French Riviera, for three days, including a day trip to Monaco and a perfume factory. We then travel to Paris for three days and on to London for the final three days. The trip is open to adults. College credit is available through Eastern Washington University. The tour leaders are Rich McDonald who teaches at RHS, and retired gymnastics coach Rod Ostboe. Contact Rich McDonald at Rich.McDonald@rsd.edu for more information.

The Great American Smoke-out
Elizabeth Lee
Prevention/Intervention Specialist

This month marks a national tobacco awareness day called the Great American Smoke-out. This day originated November 18, 1976, when the American Cancer Society encouraged almost one million smokers to quit for the day. Tobacco prevention organizations have since been promoting November 18 as a day for smokers to “quit for the day”. This day is also important because cigarette smoking is the leading preventable cause of death in the United States. Smoking kills 400,000 Americans each year and someone in the world dies every 8 seconds due to tobacco use. It is vital that you communicate with your child on the dangers of tobacco use and where you stand on this topic. More than 3,000 kids will become regular smokers each day. Teenagers underestimate the power of addiction. In a recent survey, 95% of teen smokers thought they would not be smoking in five years. However, eight years later only 25% of these teens had quit. Richland High takes part in educating students about tobacco through Health classes and the SHOUT club, but I also encourage you to talk to your kids about tobacco. You are the most influential person in your child’s life and you can make a difference!

SEPAC
Special Education Parent/Professional Advisory Council

Special Education Parent/Professional Advisory Council (SEPAC) would like to invite and welcome parents/staff/professionals/friends anyone that would be interested in attending our informational meetings. The topics for the 2004-2005 school year are as follows:

- “Be a Professional Parent”  
  November 4, 2004
- Behavior Plans  
  December 2, 2004
- The Special Needs Child: Avoiding Sexual Exploitation  
  January 6, 2005
- Effective IEP’s  
  February 2, 2005
- Crisis Intervention & Anger Management  
  March 3, 2005
- What is Inclusion?  
  April 14, 2005
- SEPAC planning and evaluation  
  May 5, 2005

SEPAC meetings will be held in the Administration Building Boardroom located at 615 Snow Avenue at 7:00pm.

This year we are having a parent/professional social time staring at 6:30, just prior to our monthly meetings. This will give you an opportunity to socialize/build relationships with parents and staff on a personal level. Refreshments will be provided.

Please come, enjoy and learn. Any questions/concerns contact Tricia Schouviller at 946-8083 or Karen Cichy at 943-5117.
Old Band Instruments Needed!

The Richland School District has students who would like to participate in our band program, but do not have the funds available to purchase an instrument. If you or anyone you know has an instrument that is no longer used, it would be greatly appreciated if you would consider donating it to the Richland School District in order to help more students participate in the band program. Please contact Jim Jamieson at 942-2379 or email him at jim_jamieson@rsd.edu to make arrangements for the donation. We will be happy to provide you with a receipt for tax purposes.

Keep Current with the District Website:

Parents can keep up-to-date with the Richland School District by going to www.rsd.edu. You’ll find the district calendar, bond project 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.

Bond Issue Projects Update

Here is the latest information on the bond issue projects. For more detailed information, go to: www.rsd.edu/bondprojects.

Hanford High School Renovation Project
• The educational specifications phase is complete and the design phase has begun.

Richland High School Renovation Project
• Blue prints and other construction documents are being prepared.
• The job will go to bid in November
• Renovation will begin in January.

Enterprise Middle School Construction Project
• The groundbreaking ceremony was held in June.
• Construction is proceeding at a rapid pace. Progress photos can be viewed at: www.rsd.edu/bondprojects/ems/photos.html
PTSA Leaders needed:
If you too would like to share in the “adventure” of serving on the PTSA Board or a committee, please consider joining us. Our most pressing needs are for a volunteer to head the “Audit” Committee (audits done January and July), a chair for the “Golden Acorn” Committee (awards), and a Council Representative. One thing to remember is that any committee chair “position” may be shared by two people. This helps share the load, but both people still get to be actively involved.

We also have a “Drug and Alcohol Awareness” Committee that needs members. This Committee did not have a checklist on the membership form, so we do not have a list of those interested. Please let us know if you would like to be involved in this vital part of the PTSA. Remember, the PTSA is for Parents, Teachers and Students!

Parent Patrol helpers are always needed. This is a program that will need additional help as the school begins its construction phase. If you have some time during the school day, this is an excellent way to learn more about how school life affects your son or daughter during lunch and before and after school.

Please call or email Sue Turner (627-1034; sturner@3-cities.com) or Janice Miller (943-1442; janicedmiller2@yahoo.com) to let us know how you would like to be involved.

Reflections Contest:
This year’s Reflections Contest will be held LATER THAN PREVIOUSLY ANNOUNCED. This contest has had to be delayed due to unforeseen difficulties. Please ask teachers for information as we will keep them appraised of NEW DATES via the school mail.

Contact Julie Lowery (946 - 9962) for more information on the RHS Reflections contest or go to www.pta.org for general Reflections information.

This year’s theme is: “A Different Kind of Hero”. The program covers six categories for competition at the state level and four categories (starred*) at the national level:
- Literature*
- Musical Composition*
- Photography*
- Visual Arts*
- Choreography / Dance
- Film / Video

Kudos / Thank-yous
Our PTSA Secretary, Calleen Antilla, has been a big supporter of RHS and Carmichael PT(S)As with her time, talents and herself. This is Calleen’s second year as PTSA Secretary, and she helps keep us (even outside the meetings) focussed on the pertinent subject. Calleen was also PTA Secretary for Carmichael Middle School. We appreciate her level-headed guidance as a wonderful addition to the PTSA Board of Directors. She has a freshman in the school this year, so we are hopeful she will continue with her dedication to helping make RHS and even better school.