Co-Presidents’ Message
Sue Turner and Janice Miller

First we would like to wish everyone a wonderful New Year. A New Year brings the opportunity for New Year resolutions. Something we could all consider is our attitude. Attitude decides the size of our dreams and influences our determination when we are faced with new challenges. Each of us has the ability to put our unique human potential into action and to acquire a desired result. But the one thing that determines the level of our potential, which produces the intensity of our activity, and that, predicts the quality of the result we receive is our attitude.

For the PTSA the New Year brings the start of the cycle for preparing for next year’s PTSA board with the election of the nominating committee at the general meeting is January. We would encourage you all to take this chance to be involved, come to a PTSA meeting. As the school goes through its remodel there will be many opportunities for investing our PTSA funds and resources in our school.

Principal’s Corner
Steve Neill

Groundbreaking for the Richland High School renovation is scheduled for late February. Students and staff are being asked to make a few sacrifices during the process. We’re excited at the challenge and looking forward to what lies ahead.

There will be 17 portables on campus located in the southwest parking lot (Thayer Drive side). Renovation will occur in phases with the 300 wing and shop areas going first. Classes will be held in the portables while classrooms are remodeled. Teachers have been asked to help move during the holiday break.

Student parking is the next issue I would like to address. The Thayer Drive parking lot will be off limits to student parking once construction begins (end of February). The south parking lot (behind the gym) will be unavailable after spring break. Students will be able to park in three areas: the stadium parking lot; east of Dawald gym in the park; and below the swimming pool. To accommodate this, we’ve added five minutes to each lunch period.

Construction is expected to take approximately three years. The bids to choose a construction contractor will go out February 1st. We thank CKJT Architects for their diligence and hard work during the design process. CKJT listened to our staff and planned a very functional building for the future.
As usual, if you have any questions please call me at 942-2500. Drive safely during the winter months.

Sincerely,

Steve Neill  
Principal  
Richland High School

**REFLECTIONS PROGRAM WINNERS**

Congratulations to the following winners of the National PTA Reflections Program. These students work will go to the citywide program and will be on display at the Richland Public Library through the month of January.

**Visual Arts:**
1st Shelley Ni  “Four-legged Hero”  
2nd Shannon Hull  “Love’s Valor”  
3rd Christine Roe  “Mother Nature”

**Photography:**
1st Casey Brune  “Untitled”  
2nd Cassie Fussner  “Untitled”  
3rd Dan Guillen  “The Magnificent Hero”

**Literature:**
1st Danielle Krogh  “Untitled”  
2nd Darci Nelson  “The Hero in Me”  
3rd Becky Geluso  “The Power of Giving”

**Video:**
1st Andrew Mitchell  “The Legend of Zelda: Gladiator of Time”

**Music:**
1st Scott Stallings  “Summon the Heroes”  
2nd Bernadette Gochioco  “A Hero for Me”

Think it is okay for your kids to use marijuana because “it is not like they can get addicted”? Think again. Studies are showing that each year, more teens are entering treatment with a primary diagnosis of marijuana addiction than all other illicit drugs combined. Also, the earlier an adolescent starts using marijuana, the more likely they are to become dependent on the drug. Plus, adolescents are three times more likely to become addicted to marijuana than adults. In 2003, 69 percent of new marijuana users were under the age of 18.

Think it doesn’t matter what you think about your kids using drugs? Think again. Parents are the single most powerful influence on their children when it comes to using drugs. Fear of losing their parent’s respect is one of the primary reasons that two-thirds of 13-17 year olds choose not to smoke marijuana or use other drugs. Plus, kids who have learned about the risks of drug abuse from parents are 36 percent less likely to smoke marijuana. Staying involved in kids’ daily lives, establishing clear rules and consequences, and rewarding desirable behavior may help prevent drug use.

-Information take from the National Youth Anti-Drug Media Campaign (2004). Go to www.theantidrug.com to learn more about marijuana and other drugs.
Software Piracy and Your Student
Brian Smith
Technology Teacher – RHS

"Software is one of the most valuable technologies of the Information Age, running everything from PCs to the Internet. Unfortunately, because software is so valuable, and because computers make it easy to create an exact copy of a program in seconds, software piracy is widespread. From individual computer users to professionals who deal wholesale in stolen software, piracy exists in homes, schools, businesses and government. Software pirates not only steal from the companies that make the software, but with less money for research and development of new software, all users are hurt. That’s why all software piracy – even one copy you make for a friend – is illegal.” (Business Software Alliance 2004)

Software piracy cost the U.S. economy $2 Billion in 2002. The problem has grown significantly since then. Worldwide, $13 Billion and 105,000 jobs have annually been lost to piracy.

Because I am one of the resident computer geeks here at Richland High, I am asked almost every day if I will burn a copy of AutoCAD or Rhino or Windows XP or download some application for a student. When I tell them no, because it is illegal, I usually get a blank stare or the argument that if it wasn’t so expensive they wouldn’t have to download a hack. My argument back is that a Mercedes is also expensive, but that doesn’t give me the right to steal it.

Why am I writing this now? Many of you will be getting new computers for Christmas, and included with those computers are DVD/CD burners. The first two things your child will probably want to do are hook up to the Internet and download that great new song. With the wide availability of high-speed Internet access, not just songs are being downloaded. Within one day of its release in theaters, Star Wars Episode II was available on the Internet for download.

So were Finding Nemo, A Shark’s Tale and Shrek II.

In 2002, 44 million homes in the United States had Internet access. That number is close to 60 million now. Virtually every student in the United States has access to the Internet either through school or the public library or home. Because of this universal availability, the problem of software and music piracy cuts across all socioeconomic boundaries and classes. No one is immune.

...Today’s pirates operate not on the high seas but on the Internet, in illegal CD factories, distribution centers, and on the street. The pirate’s credo is still the same—why pay for it when it’s so easy to steal? The credo is as wrong as it ever was. Stealing is still illegal, unethical, and all too frequent in today’s digital age. That is why RIAA continues to fight music piracy. (RIAA 2004).

Definitions of Piracy

“Music Piracy” generally refers to the illegal duplication and distribution of sound recordings.

Online piracy is the unauthorized uploading of a copyrighted sound recording and making it available to the public, or downloading a sound recording from an Internet site, even if the recording isn’t resold. Online piracy may now also include certain uses of “streaming” technologies from the Internet. (RIAA 2004).

In the recording industry, there are usually two copyrighted works involved:

The copyright is the musical composition, i.e. the actual lyrics and notes on paper. This is usually owned by the songwriter or music publisher.

The copyright in the sound recording, i.e. the recording of the performer singing or playing a given song. This is usually owned by the record company. (RIAA 2004)
The Days Pay-Per

Downloaded copyrighted music from the Internet is a Federal Crime. Title 17 and 18 of the U.S. Code protects copyright owners. If you download music for “Commercial Advantage or Financial Gain” the penalties are quite severe. A $250,000 fine and 5 years in prison can be levied. Repeat offenders can be sentenced to 10 years in prison.

Stealing music and other downloading hacks of programs hurts everyone, not just the artists. I hear the argument that the singers or bands make tons of money and they are too rich anyway. But music and software piracy hurts a lot more then the artist. It really hurts the secretary and custodian and recording engineer and people who work in the warehouse. Before I came back to education, I worked for AutoDesk, Inc., the makers of AutoCAD. At the time, it was the 2nd most pirated program in the world. We lost millions of dollars every year to illegal copies. That money came directly out of the pockets of the employees of our company, and I was not making a “ton of money”.

Besides the obvious illegal aspect of software and music piracy, the danger of accessing viruses and pornographic websites is always present. Right next to the listing for that cool hack of Halo on a warz site is a link to a video of two (or more) people doing things you just thought were anatomically impossible. The same people who are downloading pirated music or videos frequently access pornography sites. A main transmission avenue of computer viruses is as attachments to music files. The illegal aspect of piracy is bad enough. Unknowingly downloading the “Spammer Virus” and sending it to all of your friends in an email will make lots of people really unhappy.

Your best bet to prevent these dangers from entering your house is, as always, education. A lot of people today just think downloading music and videos are just one of those benefits of the Internet. Tell them that it is wrong – illegal – not a gray area. The issue is black and white. Software piracy is a crime.

THANK YOU

Thanks to all those who helped assemble last month’s newsletter: Life Skills students: Rose Brady, Ruthie Brandt, Brett Carey, Jeff Carpentieri, Ashley Collopy, Mike Soto, Danny Wheeler, Lindsay Wright; aides: Jenna Blaski, Emily Dirkes, Doug Sly, Mike Dimiter, Lynnsey Amaral, Kaitlyn Roberts; staff: Mrs. Wulf, Melinda Holden, Allison Hoyt; and parents: Nancy Wittman, Mary Chartrand, Dawna Woolsey, and Melissa Stover.

SEPAC NEWS:

The Special Education Parent/Professional Advisory Council (SEPAC) would like to invite and welcome parents, staff, professionals, and friends to attend our informational meetings. The topic for the Thursday, January 6th meeting is “The Special Needs Child: Avoiding Sexual Exploitation”. SEPAC meetings are held in the Administration Building Boardroom located at 615 Snow Avenue at 7:00 pm.

BOMBER BIRD BOMBARDMENT

The RHS band students are taking orders for the Bird Bombardments to raise money for their trip to Vancouver, B.C. in May. A flock of green and yellow birds can be placed in a yard for 24 hours for just $30. Need a fun way to celebrate a birthday, anniversary, or special occasion? Consider a Bomber Bird Bombardment! Call 942-0951 or email Bomberbirdbandits@hotmail.com.
RICHLAND HIGH SCHOOL
ELITE FLEET MONTHLY WINNERS
NOVEMBER 2004

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**DISTRICT NEWS:**
Steve Aagaard

Emergency Preparedness

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 plans 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 John Steach, Executive Director of Support Services, at 942-2594. If you want to review a specific school's emergency plan, contact the school principal directly.

Richland Kiwanis Club

The Richland Kiwanis Club invites parents and students to learn about the world by attending the 2005 Travel and Adventure Film Series. Each film is narrated in person by the videographer who shot the film.

The three films to be shown this year are:

January 3 – Lewis and Clark: Confluence of Courage and Time
February 7 – Denmark and Sweden: The Kingdoms of Scandinavia
March 7 – The Real World of New Zealand

Each film will be shown at Chief Joseph Middle School Auditorium beginning at 7:00pm. Single show tickets are $5 for adults and $3 for students.

**SANDSTORM NEWS:**
Robin Morris

Congratulations to the Sandstorm for placing in the top ten at the National Scholastic Press Convention in Atlanta in November. The staff submitted their November election special, which came in 6th. The edition included information on local, state and national candidates, explanation on three of the initiatives and a column by a first time voter. It also provided the results of a poll of how students would vote in the presidential election.