

# Rainier School District Newsletter

P.O. Box 98, Rainier, WA 98576  
Serving the Patrons of the Rainier School District #307

[www.rainier.wednet.edu](http://www.rainier.wednet.edu)

Vol. 36 No. 2  
December 2019

## Holiday Programs

### Winter Band Concert

**December 3rd at 7PM in the Rainier High School Gym**

Our District Band Teacher, Mr. Cornwall, will be presenting "*Music for the Season*" featuring our Elementary, Middle and High School Bands. Please come and enjoy an evening of music.

### Rainier Elementary presents:

#### Jinglebell Jukebox

**December 19th at 6PM in the Mountaineer Gym**

This year's Winter Concert will feature our kindergarten, first and second graders, Please come and enjoy some of your favorite holiday songs, sung by the cutest kids in the world!



### Rainier High School's Second Annual ASB Bazaar

**December 7th 10AM to 3PM**

**Please plan to attend and bring some friends with you. Perfect time to shop for those special unique gifts!**

There will be over 30 vendors, a food truck, live holiday music, a gift wrapping station and lots of local artisans, who will be selling their wares in the commons at Rainier High School.

Many of our school groups will be selling their handmade gifts too. Our FFA will have fresh wreaths and centerpieces. Our SKILLS USA will have metal and wood projects ready to buy or special orders for delivery to you before the holiday. This year, FBLA students will be manning a gift wrapping station, where you can bring your gifts (either bought at the bazaar or elsewhere). Get your gifts beautifully wrapped for only a \$1.00 a package.

The profits from the table rentals will go directly to the ASB and each vendor will have their own space.

If you have any questions, please contact, Sandy Rossmailer at [rossmailers@rainier.wednet.edu](mailto:rossmailers@rainier.wednet.edu)

### **City of Rainier's Annual Tree Lighting**

Please join us at Holiday Park  
(Gazebo by the Middle School)

**December 5th at 6 PM.**

We will have cookies, cocoa, cider, caroling and  
most importantly SANTA!

We can't wait to see all your smiling faces there!

Please call Rainier City Hall at 360-446-2265  
if you have any questions.



## ***Kid's Holiday Bazaar***

**December 6, 2019 from 6-8PM**

The Rainier Elementary Booster Club will be holding its annual Kid's Bazaar and Santa Social in the Rainier Elementary Gym. This bazaar allows the kids to shop without their loved ones seeing what they are buying for them. There will be many vendors providing affordable gifts ranging from 50 cents to \$10. If your child needs help shopping without you, they will be happy to help them. There is even a gift wrapping station!

Santa will be there for the kids to tell him their Christmas wish list. Please bring your own camera to capture the special moment. There will not be a photographer on site. They will be providing **free** cookies, cocoa, and coffee. There will be door prize drawings throughout the night. The kids can even make a fun craft project to take home.

To be a vendor at this event or if you have questions please contact: Joanne Franklin at [joannekay73@gmail.com](mailto:joannekay73@gmail.com)

**Mark your calendar and join us for this fun filled event!**





# Rainier FFA Wreath and Centerpiece Sales



Wreath	\$15.00
Centerpiece	\$12.00
Combo	\$25.00
Sleigh	\$17.00

**Where:** Rainier High School

**Why:** Students use the funds to help pay for transportation, chapter activities and state competition.

**How:** Fill out the order form and drop it off in the H.S. office, call us at 360-446-2205 or email your order to [karnesa@rainier.wednet.edu](mailto:karnesa@rainier.wednet.edu)

**General:** We will take special orders for additional charges. Just give us a call with specifics. Ex. Larger sizes, specific colors, swags, etc

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Wanted: \_\_\_\_\_

Order:	_____ Wreath (\$15.00)	Total _____
	_____ Centerpiece (\$12.00)	Total _____
	_____ Combo* (\$25.00)	Total _____
	_____ Sleigh (\$17.00)	Total _____

\* Combo is a wreath and centerpiece (not a sleigh)

**Please make checks to Rainier High School**



 **Vote February 13th!**

**Levies Support Learning!** 

## RAINIER SCHOOL DISTRICT

### Educational Programs and Operations Replacement Levy

#### What is a levy?

A levy is a local property tax which helps bridge the gap between what the State funds and what it actually costs to educate our students. The local levy provides 14% of the District's budget. Almost every school program receives some financial support from local levy funding.

#### Is this a new tax?

No. This levy will *replace* the current levy due to expire in 2020.



#### Proposed Replacement Levy Amounts

Year	Levy Amount (Est.)	Levy Rate/\$1,000
2021	\$1,678,103	\$2.50
2022	\$1,879,475	\$2.50
2023	\$2,105,012	\$2.50
2024	\$2,357,614	\$2.50

#### Programs our Rainier Community values and expects!

This funding is vital, especially since recent legislation has underfunded most local school districts compared to the majority of our neighbors to the north. What does this mean for Rainier School District? It helps us shrink a budget gap. It also helps us avoid more reduction in force (layoffs) and preserve education programs our community has come to value and expect.



#### How will this levy affect the total amount of taxes that you pay toward the school district?

The amount of taxes that you pay for the school district is based on the total of the combined levy and bond tax rates that voters have approved. *In 2016, the voters approved a levy rate of \$3.77 per \$1,000 of assessed value. The replacement levy is lower at a rate of \$2.50 per \$1,000 of assessed value.*

#### Our District depends on local levy dollars to pay for the following:

Athletic Programs  
Extracurricular Programs  
Remediation Programs  
Special Education  
Security

Teachers  
Classified Staff  
Administration  
Counselors  
School Resource Officer

Utilities  
Maintenance and Renovations  
Food Service  
Custodial Staffing



*Join us for a community information session!*

January 8th, 6:00 PM @ Rainier Elementary School | January 13th, 6:00 PM @ Rainier High School

For more information: Contact Superintendent Bryon Bahr at (360) 446-2207 or [bahrbr@rainier.wednet.edu](mailto:bahrbr@rainier.wednet.edu)



## **RAINIER SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**"Home of the Cougars, Mountain Lions, and Mountaineers"**

### **Rainier School District Highly Capable Program**

Highly Capable Nominations for the 2019-2020 school year will open February 17, 2020. Teachers and parents may nominate students to be considered for the Highly Capable Program from **February 17, 2020 - February 28, 2020**.

If you would like to have your child considered for testing, nomination forms will be available in each school office as well as on the district website beginning on February 17th. They must be returned to your child's school office no later than **FEBRUARY 28, 2020**. All nomination forms will be reviewed and all students nominated will go through a screening process that includes a review of state Assessment scores, teacher input, online screening assessment (CogAT) and district assessment scores. Those students who advance through the initial screening process will then take the complete battery of tests (CogAT) online. Parents will be notified if their child will complete the full battery of testing or not.

A selection committee will review all the test results and other pertinent information such as full battery CogAT test, grades, creativity and information from parents and teachers. Those students considered highly qualified will be identified, and the students and parents will be notified.

Those elementary students who are identified as highly capable will be placed in advanced reading and/or the advanced math group. Middle school students will be placed in the Honors Programs, and the high school students will be placed in AP classes.

#### **HiCap Timelines:**

February 17th - February 28th Parent/Teacher HiCap Nominations Open

March 2nd - 6th CogAT Online Screenings for *all Nominations*

March 9th - 20th CogAT Full Battery Testing and Parents Notified of Screening Results

March 23rd - 27th Results to Parents of CogAT Full Battery Testing

#### **Contact Info:**

Kim Sackett

Rainier School District Highly Capable Coordinator

(360) 446-7406



# Rainier Elementary School Cougars

Principal Rita Meldrum

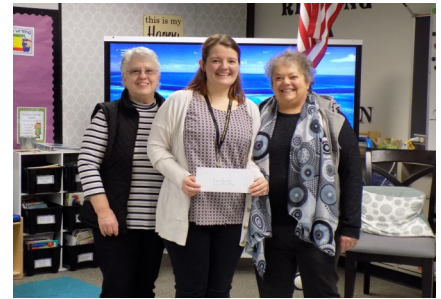
(360) 446-4020

Fax (360) 446-4022

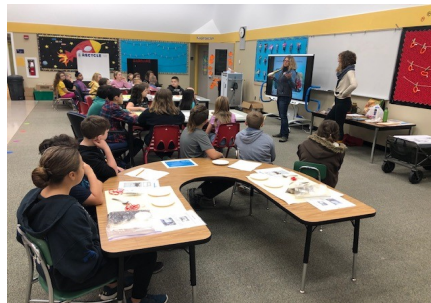
Student Support PK Deusen

## CONGRATULATIONS

The Thurston County Retirees' Association awarded 3 RES teachers with Mini grants. Mrs. Marvin's grant was for active learning chairs, Mrs. Taheri's for Rhythm instruments and Mrs. Edwards' for classroom books.



## Pacific Shellfish Institute Visits RES!



# Rainier Middle School Mountain Lions



Principal John Beckman

(360) 446-2206

Fax (360)446-2208

Assistant Principal Jerrad Jeske

## RMS Football



## RMS Cross Country

## RMS Volleyball





# Rainier High School Mountaineers

Principal John Beckman

(360) 446-2206 Fax (360)446-2208

Assistant Principal Jerrad Jeske

## Congratulations!!

Congratulation to Mia Guizzetti on being chosen to represent Rainier High School in the PLU Honor Band. Come see her performance at PLU on January 11, 2020. The time of the concert is dependant on a final audition the day before.

### BAND

Our band received almost \$6,000 from Music Aid Northwest to purchase 2 new timpani for the band! Thank you to Music Aid Northwest.

The band is showing it's colors with our new banner! Thank you to our RHS Booster Club for helping the band look sharp!



## CTE ADVISORY COMMITTEES

Our Career and Technical Advisory Committees are already hard at work, evaluating and advising our 5 CTE Programs. Rainier has 5 programs for students to choose from: Agriculture, Business, Family and Consumer Science, Technical Industrial Arts and STEM/Robotics. The committees are made up of local citizens who give advice on the program goals/facility based on their experience in their chosen field. If you have questions please contact CTE Director Sandy Rossmailer at the high school.

The picture is Superintendent Bryon Bahr as he addresses the committees kick off meeting asking them to search for innovation with the CTE programs. How can we get our graduates to be in the high demand, high pay employment bracket.



# Homecoming 2019



Homecoming 2019 was a busy, fun filled week. Dress up days, lunch competitions, coronation of royalty, grades 6-12 pep assembly, a football game with half time parade by Prairie Street Rod Association of royalty, crowning and the culminating Elegant Masquerade Dance completed this year's Homecoming celebration. Sami Stang, Lorrell Hughes, Tia Galbraith, Branden and Emily Ziemathis and Lauren Pericic helped chairperson's Montanna Spivey and Vanessa Champlin complete the week with grace and style. The royalty were: freshmen Casey VanElsacker and Jake Jeske, sophomores Carrie Johnson and David Cano, Juniors Isabel Pacheco-Ortiz and Carson Edminster, Seniors Vanessa Champlin and Lukas Gibson and Homecoming Queen Brooke Klumpp and King Brody Klein. Thank you to our teachers, Principal Beckman, Vice Principal Jeske and Superintendent Bahr for the support and flexibility of an unforgettable week.

## Blood Drive

On November 5, RHS hosted the Blood Works Blood Mobile our community, staff and teachers donated enough blood to help save the lives of 57 local patients in the community.

Kylie VanElsacker, Makala Cook-Gray and Elayne Paarlberg chaired and ran the event.

**Our Mountaineer Pride is showing.**



## SKILLS USA CLUB



SKILLS USA Club built another trebuchet this year. They launched a pumpkin 333 feet for the first place finish in the high school division at Hunter Farms.

This year Jeremiah Nubbe became the lead engineer and construction foreman. Evan Henson & Brandon Ziemathis were instrumental in the design and construction. It took me long hours & multiple skill sets to finish the winning trebuchet.

# FFA



Rainier FFA Rocks State Fair. Bringing home Grand Champion in Fitting and Showing and competing in Round Robin was a 1st for Lauralee Moore and she was very excited for the experience. Mikayla Mantegna brought home many ribbons and Champion Herdsmanship for Dairy Cows. Kayleigh Brown was awarded Champion Herdsmanship for rabbits and also best educational display along with all of her show ribbons. She also brought home champions and blues with her goats. Emily Karnes and Megan Roberts brought in many champion ribbons in beef cattle and they along with Lauralee received Champion Herdsmanship in beef. Rainier FFA was well represented. The large black and white ribbon from the photo was won by Rainier FFA (all the showman present) for their amazing educational displays from barn to barn. This award can be given out by the State Fair Commissioner if they find an area deserving and if they do, they may only give out one black and white per fair. He stated that he was very impressed by our decorations and knew where Rainier was upon entering each barn, as we do the same thing for each species. Students work together prior to fair to design their fair theme and work together to build all of their design. This year they focused on a Blue and Gold FFA theme which included 12 X 18 posters of each student with a picture of their animal and a statement of "I believe in agriculture and FFA because...", they also had hand painted pallets with sunflowers and daisies and the FFA motto. Breed posters and FFA facts rounded out the educational piece and each animal had their name painted on large ear tags that were made out of plywood and painted in the FFA colors. I am very proud of our "little" chapter and how they come together to teach our community about the importance of agriculture.



## Trick-Or-Eat



Every year for Halloween the Rainier FFA Chapter participates in Trick-Or-Eat. Trick-Or-Eat is where the Rainier FFA goes around the Sunday before Halloween and hands out bags to all the homes in Rainier. Then on the night of Halloween members of the group go around and pick up the filled bags. Inside the bags are non-perishable and canned foods that are then donated to the food bank. Last Thursday on October 31, 2019, the Rainier FFA Chapter participated in the annual Trick-Or-Eat. There were four adults that volunteered to help drive the FFA members around to pick up the cans. With help from the members of the community the Rainier FFA was able to donate 2,082 pounds of canned food to the local Food Bank that evening and over 2,300 lbs with food that has trickled in afterward.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Barry Greenwood  
Kathi Jo Moore  
Dana Spivey  
Jerry Sprouffske-Board Chair  
Rebecca Stillings



SUPERINTENDENT:

Bryon Bahr

BUSINESS MANAGER:

Debi Holmes

## **RAINIER SCHOOL DISTRICT**

Dear Parents and Guardians,

The winter season is upon us. Our district staff understands that our decision to open or close schools in bad weather has a big effect on families. We also understand that our students are better served - both academically and socially - by being in school. But as always, our top priority is the safety of our students.

### **HOW DO WE MAKE OUR DECISION?**

Please understand that we make the decision to open or close the schools in bad weather based on a careful analysis of all relevant factors, such as:

- Information on road conditions from transportation staff and from the police. We must give careful consideration to the most dangerous roads in the district. Even if your street looks clear, travel elsewhere in the district may be dangerous. Also, we must consider that some high school students drive to school.
- Amount of snow and ice accumulated.
- Whether precipitation is continuing.
- Building conditions (such as whether we have electricity and heat).
- Parking lot conditions. Administrators talk to maintenance and custodial staff members who are responsible for clearing and treating school parking lots and sidewalks.
- Temperature and wind chill. Please remember that some of our students walk to school and some must wait outside for the bus.
- Weather predictions. We prefer not to make our decision based on weather predictions, which are not always accurate. But sometimes this is unavoidable.
- What other school districts are doing. We also share information with other local districts and check whether they are opening or closing.

### **WHO MAKES THE DECISION?**

As superintendent of schools, I am responsible for the final decision, based on the above factors and recommendations from the director of transportation and the director of building facilities.

### **HOW IS THE PUBLIC NOTIFIED?**

Tune to local radio stations (KGY 95.3 and MIXX 96.1 FM radio) for up-to-date information on school closings. You can also follow our district on our district website [www.rainier.wednet.edu](http://www.rainier.wednet.edu). Families will also be notified by text, voice and email if you are in our system.

## WHEN IS THE DECISION MADE?

I must make the decision by 5:30 am or earlier so we can notify radio and TV station and post the decision on our website. If I wait longer to announce a closing, some parents will have already left for work, leaving their children unsupervised.

## TRANSPORTATION

When there are icy or snowy conditions, buses will run on designated snow routes. Check out the transportation web site for snow route information.

If you or your teenager normally drive to school, your student is welcome to take the bus on snowy or icy days. Our bus transportation will pick up and drop all Rainier School District students at designated bus stops. You may call Transportation at 360-446-2209 or check our website for route information.

## WILL WE CLOSE SCHOOL IF CONDITIONS WORSEN?

Keep in mind, even if weather conditions worsen, we cannot reverse our decision in the morning without endangering students. Once we make the decision to open the school, many parents rely on it and leave for work. If we then send students right back many will return to unsupervised bus stops and empty houses. If conditions get worse during the school day, we may need to have an early dismissal, but we will give adequate notice to all parents first.

Although my staff and I do our absolute best in this process, we know that often no perfect decision exists. If, based on current weather conditions, you do not feel as though it is safe for your child to attend school, use your best judgment on whether he or she should attend. Also, discourage teenagers from driving in bad conditions and offer them alternatives if weather conditions worsen.

We hope that this explanation helps everyone understand the process that our district staff uses to make the best possible decision for all in the district.

Yours truly,

*Bryon Bahr*

Superintendent Rainier  
School District