

Rainier School District Newsletter



P.O. Box 98, Rainier, WA 98576

Serving the Patrons of the Rainier School District #307

www.rainier.wednet.edu

Vol. 38 No. 2

December 2020

Holiday Letter From Superintendent Bahr

Dear Rainier School District,

Thanksgiving and Christmas were my mother's favorite times of the year. Each year, our entire family would get together at my parents' home in Parkland, Washington and gather at the table with at least 25 people. The table was pieced together with a combination of the dinner table and 4 x 8 sheets of plywood on stands that my dad had built; it was beautifully decorated and complete with a place setting for each of us. The food seemed never-ending and we enjoyed every bit of it. My favorite tradition was our annual pie contest. The men would each make a pie and the women would be the judges, a tradition we have continued with my children and grandchildren. Of course, as Papa, I still make everyone's favorite pumpkin pie.

This year, Krestin and I will not be celebrating Thanksgiving or Christmas dinner with our children and grandchildren. My heart aches as I will be missing them all. We have decided to forego these holidays together so we can have many more in the future. We have a new grandson, Lincoln, and another grandbaby on the way, who we want to share many years of dinners and celebrations with. Our annual pie contest will be over Zoom and I am sure I will win this year!

It is obvious that COVID's impact on our lives is both significant and unprecedented. As educational systems, we are wrestling with new ways of being, and as individuals, many are wrestling with the profound changes in how we relate to others. Some are coping well and flourishing, while others are wrestling to navigate their days and simply survive. As I reflect on the blessings of this very unusual year, education ranks at the top of the list for me and many others. We have been faced with unbelievable challenges in caring for and educating our students during this pandemic. Each of you has done whatever it takes to ensure learning continues whether remotely or face to face.

Please try to rest during the Holidays. You all deserve that and so much more. Although your holiday plans may look much different this year compared to the holidays in the past, know that this will pass and we will get back to what some of us call a normal life. This pandemic will have an impact on our lives forever. This will be one of those memories we will never forget like the assassination of Kennedy, the twin towers falling, or Mt. St Helens erupting. I believe there are many positive takeaways from this past year including, more time with families, less rushing off to events, growing vegetable gardens, raising animals and adopting pets.

Before we know it, we will return to our fast-paced, crazy lives and smile and say, "Do you remember when we all had to wear a mask into the store? That was a crazy time!" Maybe our grandkids will remind us of certain out of stock grocery items when they ask, "Papa, what was up with NO toilet paper?!"

Thank you all for all you do and thank you for supporting the Rainier School District in these unusual times. Stay safe, stay healthy and make good choices.

Happy Holidays from my family to yours!

Superintendent Bahr



Linda Azzarella

We will miss you!!!

Linda Azzarella was a BIGGER THAN LIFE teacher for the Rainier School District for the past 10 years. She was the passionate, underdog champion, loving, generous, loud, boisterous, animal lover that every student at Rainier knew. She encouraged and taught art from the elementary school projects, middle school struggles to the high school age kids. She taught a love of culture, ethics, travel and doing the right thing. Linda had two popular sayings, that our kids will be able to repeat verbatim "GET FIRED UP AND READY TO GO" and "SIT UP, PUT YOUR FEET UNDER YOUR DESK AND ACT LIKE YOU HAVE SOME COMMON SENSE." The kids loved her and her passion and knew the way to her heart was through a hot cup of tea. Linda spoiled the kids with high standards, not accepting excuses and "cookies and milk." Yes, she will be missed tremendously, but remembered in a bigger way. She inspired and touched every soul she met, taught or knew. Linda, we know you are resting easy and giving God the business in your usual LOUD way.

We love and miss you.

Your friends, colleague and coworkers from Rainier High School.



Retirements!



On September 30, 2020, Shannon Patterson retired from the Rainier School District after teaching here for 27 years.

Shannon stated, "When I was hired, I knew that this would be my spot, its really true, when they say "Rainier Family". I have had a wonderful career here. I don't have any future plans of yet, but will see what comes my way". Thank you to everyone!!!

On December 31, 2020, Brenda Flaherty will be retiring from the Rainier School District. Brenda started working for the Transportation Department in the summer of 1994, after her son was born. She drove bus for 17 years.

In March of 2012 Brenda applied and received a position with the Maintenance Department.

As for her future plans; she hopes to go to Florida to see one of her daughters and two of her grandchildren. Otherwise, she will work on lots of projects at home.

Nondiscrimination Policy Statement

Rainier School District provides equal opportunity in programs and employment and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin/language, creed/religion, sex, sexual orientation-including gender identity, disability, or the use of a service animal by a person with a disability, age, marital status, honorably discharged veteran or military status and HIV/Hepatitis C status. The district also prohibits discrimination of a mother breastfeeding her child at events that are open to the public. Rainier School District will also take steps to assure that national origin persons who lack English language skills can participate in all education programs, services, and activities. For information regarding translation services or bilingual education, contact the following:

Title IX Coordinator: Jerrad Jeske P.O. Box 98, Rainier, WA 98576 360-446-2205 jeskej@rainier.wednet.edu

Section 504/ADA Coordinator: John Beckman P.O. Box 98, Rainier, WA 98576 360-446-2205 beckmanj@rainier.wednet.edu

Bilingual Programs: Kim Sackett P.O. Box 98, Rainier, WA 98576 360-446-4020 sackettk@rainier.wednet.edu

Rainier School District #307

Superintendent: Bryon Bahr

Board of Directors:

Chairperson Jerry Sprouffske, Rebecca Stillings,
Cherie Davis, Dana Spivey and Barry Greenwood

Important Phone Numbers

District Office: 360-446-2207

Transportation: 360-446-2209

Elementary School: 360-446-4020

Middle School: 360-446-2206

High School: 360-446-2205

Food Service: 360-446-2207/360-446-9133

Special Education: 360-446-7406

Asbestos Management

Rainier School District is required to inform the public about asbestos in the schools annually.

Rainier has an asbestos management plan that is kept at the District Office and can be view Monday through

Friday, 8:00am to 4:00pm. The district designated person can be contacted at the Rainier Maintenance Office at (360)-446-7403.



Rainier Middle School Mountain Lions

Principal John Beckman
(360) 446-2206

Assistant Principal Jerrad Jeske
Fax (360) 446-2208

Congratulations **2020-2021 Middle School** **ASB Officers!**

President—James Meldrum

Vice President—Jordyn Jeske

Secretary—Faye Hervieux

Treasurer—Conner Mounts

Student Representative—Jazzlyn Shumate

Sergeant at Arms—Janess Blackburn

Rainier High School Mountaineers



Principal John Beckman
(360) 446-2206

Fax (360) 446-2208

Assistant Principal Jerrad Jeske

Rainier-Tenino Food Drive Competition

During the week of November 16-20, RHS Alyssa Lofgren (helped by Lauren Percic) chaired our Food Drive to benefit our community Food Bank. We were in competition with Tenino HS!

Congratulations to Tenino High School Leadership Team for delivering 6006 pounds of food to the Tenino Food Bank. Rainier Leadership Team came through with 2525 pounds for the Rainier Food Bank. Now Tenino is a bit bigger but ...

Rainier challenges Tenino to a re-match this spring! Both Food Banks were so thankful for the donations that will feed many families at a time that the shelves were quite bare.

Leadership Teachers Stuart DesRochers (THS) and Sandy Rossmailer (RHS) are both so thankful and appreciative for our communities and local businesses that helped our students be able to help others.

It was difficult for our students during this no-contact time and we have lots of notes to help us improve our drives in the future.

The revolving trophy (made by RHS Arrowen Lathrop) will be on display until Spring at THS, then the new winner will take possession. This event was such a fun and engaging way to participate in a healthy and beneficial competition; look forward to a repeat this Spring!

Thank you all so much for your help in feeding others.



Congratulations Karissa Beckman

Karissa Beckman was named one of the best K-12 teachers in the "Best of Nisqually" for the year 2020!



Rainier FFA Presents

Rainier's Festival of Trees

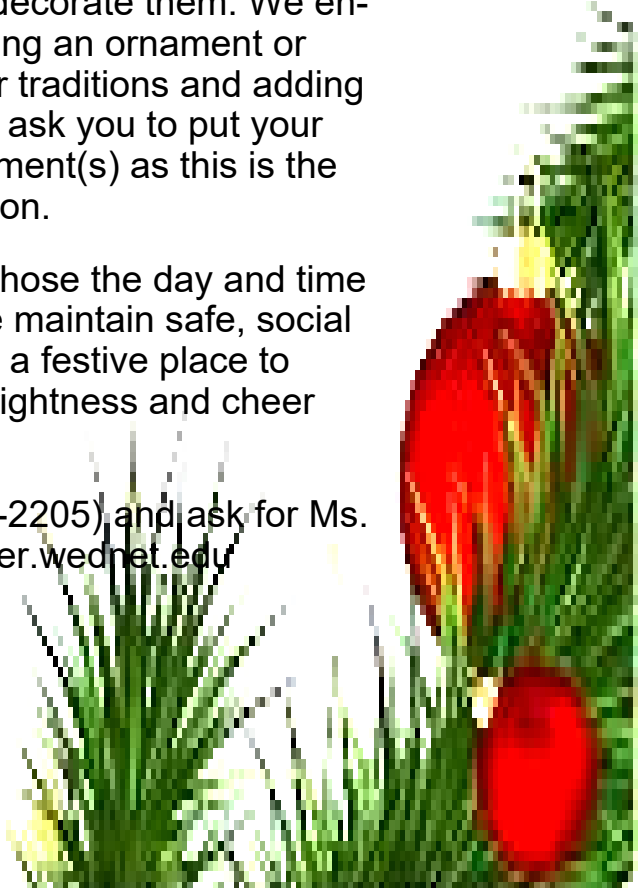
Calling all members of our amazing community. You will soon see some trees (both real and artificial) popping up in the downtown area. These trees have been donated by individuals and companies in our community. The purpose of the trees is to give individuals and families a safe and festive place to enjoy this Holiday season.

THE CATCH: We need you to decorate them. We envision families/individuals bringing an ornament or two that represent you and your traditions and adding it to one of the trees. We would ask you to put your name and the date on the ornament(s) as this is the start of a new community tradition.

NO set date and time. Please chose the day and time that works for you. This way we maintain safe, social distancing, give people/families a festive place to take Holiday photos and add brightness and cheer this Holiday Season.

Questions? Call RHS (360-446-2205) and ask for Ms. Karnes or email karnesa@rainier.wednet.edu

DON'T have an ornament??? Please visit the Shell or Chevron station, City Hall or the Post Office and help yourself to a wooden ornament that you can decorate and add to a tree.

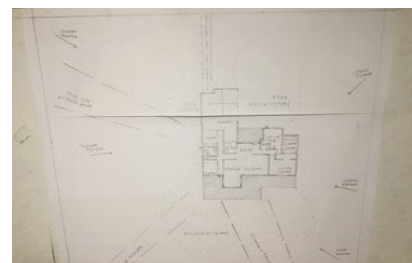
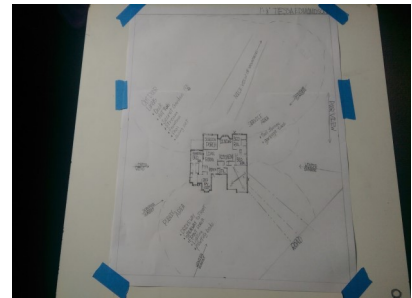


Rainier Floral and Landscape Classes

Rainier Floral and Landscape students are still making hands-on projects while learning from home. Through generous donations from Michaels, floral students are able to pick up supplies to make many floral designs for their homes and families. Students were originally given a floral kit with everything they needed to make bows, Hershey Kiss roses, boutonnieres, shoulder corsages and wrist corsages, along with the basics of wiring and taping. Originally this was because we were planning for being remote during the first quarter. Since then, students have been able to learn and make some of the basic designs and learn many of the design principles. Unfortunately, we are still out, but that won't keep the floral students from experiencing making arrangements for the Winter Holiday season.

Next week they will be coming by to pick up supplies to make door wreaths, table centerpieces, bows and a basket arrangement and the advanced students will also be making a tall arrangement and an arrangement in a sleigh.

While it has been difficult to teach some of the early components of the Landscape class without being in person, students have rallied and they are in the process of making great landscape drawings. Again, students came up to the school and picked up drawing boards, t-squares, architectural triangles, papers and other drawing tools to put to good use. They have learned about formal lettering, how to draw walls, windows, plants, decks, etc and they have also learned how to measure a house plan and put it down on paper. They are currently designing what they would want their home landscape to look like with all the hardscaping materials like patios, decks, driveways, pools, gazebos, etc. Then they will work on grass and planting areas. While learning from home can be a struggle for students, teachers and parents alike, I believe that our students are still working on quality projects and developing lifelong learning skills.



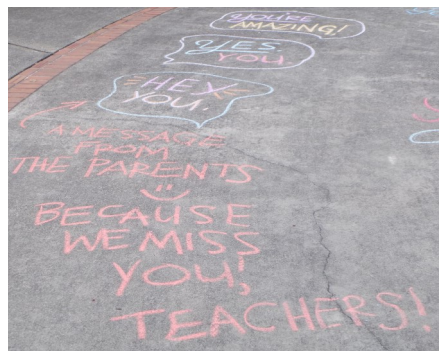
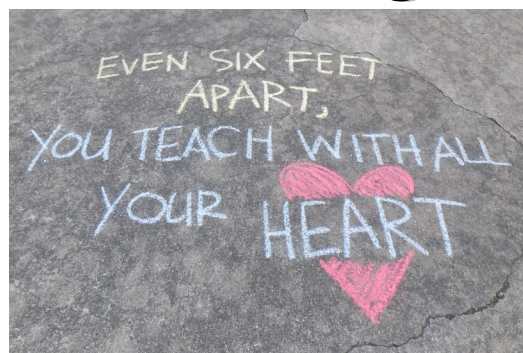
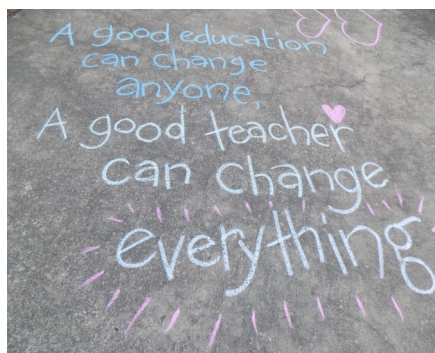


Rainier Elementary School Cougars

Principal Rita Meldrum
(360) 446-4020

Student Support Ben Sheaffer
Fax (360) 446-4022

Thank you for the heart felt messages!



Congratulations Mrs. Marvin!



Mrs. Marvin was recognized for her outstanding distant learning efforts. She was one of three teachers in Western Washington to receive the "University of Washington-Extra Yard for Teachers" Award.

