

# 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)

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Dear Rainier Families and Staff

Every child, Every Day, In every Way, We will find a Way. That is a perfect reflection of what I experience every day here in the Rainier School District. Every day, I am moved and inspired by what I see. Every day, I marvel at the incredible devotion of our staff and their unique ability to teach and inspire our children. Every day, I celebrate the amazing support of our parents and community.

I believe that the success of our schools is built on a foundation of mutual respect and inclusiveness. Every day, dedicated teachers and staff nurture a culture of fairness, love and caring, all focused on the goal of providing a safe learning environment for our students and families. The Rainier School District is committed to continuing this focus and supporting our families during the school day and beyond.

I am thankful that the Rainier School District continues to strive for excellence in each and every classroom, to grow stronger by our diversity, and to cultivate an open and positive school climate.

I want to share my gratitude and thank you for being such an important part of our children's lives. This is a wonderful time of the year to get together with friends and family to celebrate and be thankful for all the wonderful people in *our* lives.

May this beautiful holiday season fill your heart with love, your home with joy, and your life with laughter. Happy holidays! Wishing you and your family love, peace, and happiness!

Thanks  
Bryon  
Superintendent  
Rainier School District



## **RAINIER SCHOOL DISTRICT**

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

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

Highly Capable Nominations for the 2022-2023 school year will open February 1, 2023. Teachers and parents may nominate students to be considered for the Highly Capable Program from **February 1, 2023 to February 28, 2023**.

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 1st. They must be returned to your child's school office no later than **FEBRUARY 28, 2023**. 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.

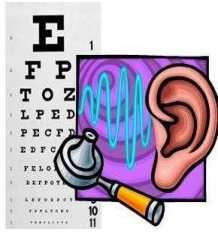
#### **HiCap Timelines:**

February 1st-28th	Parent/Teacher HiCap nominations open
March 6th-24th	Online screening and full battery testing
March 21st-April 21st	Notification sent to parents with results

Any questions about the highly capable nominations, please contact Kristin Robinson at [robinsonk@rainier.wednet.edu](mailto:robinsonk@rainier.wednet.edu) or by phone at 360-446-2205

Kristin Robinson  
Rainier School District  
Highly Capable Coordinator  
(360) 446-2205  
[robinsonk@rainier.wednet.edu](mailto:robinsonk@rainier.wednet.edu)

# Message from Nurse Kendra



Vision screenings are being held on December 6th by the Aberdeen Lions Club and Yelm Lions Club. I am so thankful to have them come and assist with my vision screenings this year.

If your student fails the vision screening; I will rescreen them and if they fail a second time a referral letter will be sent home. If they fail, it is recommended to have them evaluated by a health care provider.

Hearing screenings were completed on November 14th and rescreens will start soon. If your student fails the hearing rescreening, a referral letter will be sent home. It is recommended for them to be evaluated by their provider.

If you have any questions please email me, at [nursekendra@rainier.wednet.edu](mailto:nursekendra@rainier.wednet.edu)

Thank you,  
Nurse Kendra





# CHILD FIND NOTICE

- Are you worried about your child's development?
- Does your child have difficulty keeping up with other children their age?
- Does your child struggle to communicate with others outside your family?
- Does your child have concerning behaviors?
- Does your child have a medical disorder or a birth defect that interferes with their development?
- Does the child seem to have hearing or vision issues?

**ANY CHILD, BIRTH TO FIVE, WHOSE FAMILY HAS CONCERNS ABOUT THEIR CHILD'S DEVELOPMENT AND LIVES WITHIN THE RAINIER SCHOOL BOUNDARIES CAN CONTACT THE SCHOOL FOR A FREE SCREENING**



## **WHAT HAPPENS DURING A CHILD FIND SCREENING?**

Potential outcomes of a screening include recommendations for the family to implement in the home, a recommendation for a comprehensive evaluation through the school district or a referral to a community agency for support.



## **WHERE CAN I GO FOR A SCREENING?**

Rainier School District Special Services office: (360) 446-7406

**If your child or family is living in a temporary situation, you may still contact the local district for a screening.**

WAC 392-172A-02040: School districts shall conduct child find activities calculated to reach all students with a suspected disability for the purpose of locating, evaluating and identifying students who are in need of special education services and related services, regardless of the severity of their disability.

**360-446-7406**

**PO BOX 98 RAINIER, WA**

**[RAINIER.WEDNET.EDU/PAGE/443](https://rainier.wednet.edu/page/443)**





# Rainier Elementary School Cougars

Principal Rita Meldrum

Student Support Ben Sheaffer

(360) 446-4020

Fax (360) 446-4022

## Rainier Elementary Food Drive



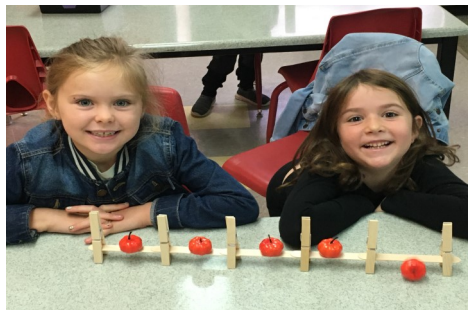
Thank you to all the Rainier Elementary students and families for the out pouring of food donations for the our local food bank. There was over 1500 items collected.

Top classrooms: Mrs. Bellows' 4th grade, Mrs. Sheaffer's 2nd grade, Mrs. Ward's 2nd grade and Mr. Conklin's 4th grade.

We truly live in an amazing community!



### STEM Activities with Pumpkins!





## Rainier Landscape Students Accomplish a Hugelkultur Bed

Last spring, landscape students decided to build a Hugelkultur bed out in our back field by our small orchard.

Hugelkultur is a **centuries-old, traditional way of building a garden bed from rotten logs and plant debris**. These mound shapes are created by marking out an area for a raised bed, clearing the land, and then heaping up woody material (that's ideally already partially rotted) topped with compost and soil.

Our goals: to grow perennial flowering plants with little to no water needed that we can use in fresh floral arrangements in the fall, bring pollinators into our orchard, teach current trends in growing all while conserving water and resources.

Students began collecting branches, compost and soil. We spent some time at Mr. Lybecker's home loading up old cottonwood logs that he donated for the bottom of the pile. We collected 2 years of fruit tree pruning branches and 7 years of compost generated from our community garden and greenhouse production. We had another amazing community member donate over 20 yards of fresh ground wood chips to use in the layers as well.

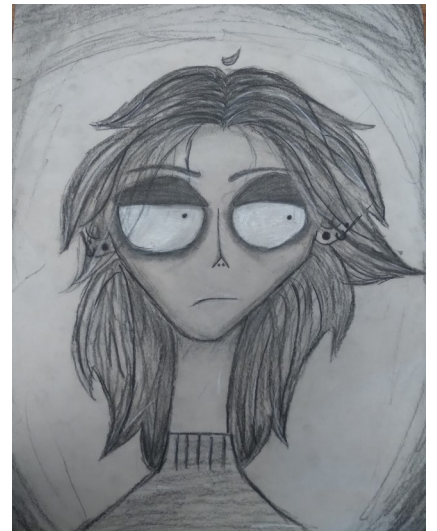
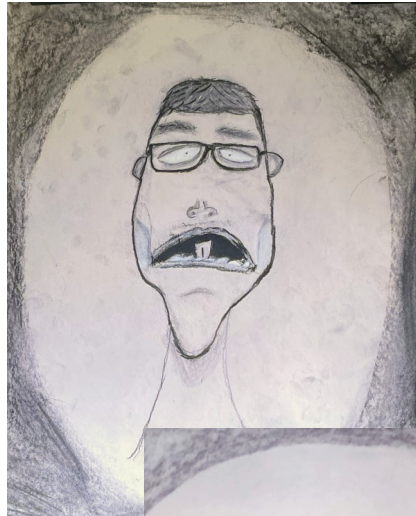
Once we collected our materials, students started laying the logs and adding green and brown layers until the bed was about 8 feet wide and 6 feet tall at the peak. Our initial idea was to let it sit and settle for the summer and start our plantings in the fall and spring of this current school year. Our compost that we added had a different idea and we had numerous types of squash, sunflowers, kale, dusty miller and lavender grow over the summer. We were able to harvest the produce for the Rainier food bank and we have been using the plants in some of our fall arrangements. As we finish harvesting the crops that volunteered to grow this summer, we will be changing over to plants that produce flowers and foliage to use in our floral program. I have included a few pictures of the building process.





# Art Department

Middle schoolers learned about a famous film maker and artist, Tim Burton. Looking at the characteristics Tim Burton uses, students created Burton style self portraits while learning how to use a new medium, charcoal!





High schoolers celebrated Bob Ross's birthday by completing a paint-along! Students learned new techniques, color mixing and composition while following Bob on the Grandeur of Summer painting! The results turned out some fantastic "happy little accidents" that look amazing!





# ***RHS Floral Department***



**Get your balloon and flower arrangements here !!!**

From birthdays, weddings, anniversaries, parties and more. We can make balloon columns, arches, bouquets and topiaries.



The Rainier High School floral department carries a full line of balloons and fresh flowers for the current seasons. We deliver flowers to any of the school district buildings or you can pick up flower arrangements at the HS office for personal deliveries outside of our buildings.



**It is a great way to say Happy Birthday or Thank You to students and staff!**



**Contact the RHS office and ask for Ms. Karnes.  
360-446-2205**





# Rainier High School Mountaineers

Principal John Beckman

(360) 446-2206

Fax (360) 446-2208

Assistant Principal Jerrad Jeske

## MISSION IMPOSSIBLE



### Homecoming 2022

October 10th -15th was an explosively fun week for RHS. There were dress up “movie themed” spirit days, “impossible” lunch competitions and a super fun and interactive pep assembly on October 14.

The game was at 7 p.m. and the “hot” parade of Thurston County Corvette Club escorted our homecoming onto the field at half time. It was AWESOME as we crowned King Chase MacFarland and Queen Alisha Adamski. The other royalty included ninth grade Catherine Garrard and Martin Berger, tenth grade Emma Mathson and Logan Hart, eleventh grade Madison Worthy and Jared Sprouffske with senior Gabrielle Green and Samuel Watkins.

We concluded our week with a dynamic dance with “secret agent” chaperones. It was definitely a “Red Carpet” event!



### Volunteer Opportunities here in Rainier!!

At the RHS ASB General Meeting on November 2, 2022, George Johnson from We Love Rainier and Rainier Senior Center came to share about the opportunities for RHS students to earn volunteer hours in our community.

George is posed here with ASB President Mathis Bosch.