

# 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. 40 No. 2

December 2023

## ***December Events***

### **December 2nd—Holiday Bazaar**

10am to 4pm at Rainier High School

This event is hosted by Rainier FFA, SkillsUSA Club and The Art Club.

The perfect opportunity to get your holiday shopping done at this “one stop & shop” FREE event! Shopping is open to the public so be sure to invite your friends & family and support our local vendors!

### **Winter Music Programs**

#### **December 4th—Middle and High School**

7pm in the Old High School Gym

#### **December 14th—Elementary**

6pm in the Mountaineer Gym

Please join us for our Winter Program.

Our Rainier Elementary students will be presenting a

“Winter Wonderland Holiday Concert”

### **December 18th-January 1st—Holiday Break**





# RAINIER SCHOOL DISTRICT

“Home of the Cougars, Mountain Lions and Mountaineers”

## February 13, 2024 Ballot: Renewing Educational Programs and Operations (EP&O) Levy

### NOT A NEW TAX

**Introduction:** On February 13, 2024, voters will be presented with an important ballot proposal aimed at sustaining the educational excellence of our community. The first proposal on the ballot calls for the renewal of a 4-year Replacement Educational Programs and Operations (EP&O) levy at a rate of \$2.50 per \$1,000 asset valuation. It is crucial to emphasize that this is not a new tax but rather a continuation of vital funding to support our educational system.

**Renewal of 4-Year Replacement EP&O Levy:** The primary objective of this proposal is to secure funding for the continuation of essential educational programs and operations within our community. By renewing the 4-year Replacement EP&O levy, the community ensures the availability of necessary resources to maintain and enhance the quality of education provided to our students.

**Not a New Tax:** It is imperative to clarify that this proposal does not impose an additional tax burden on the community. Rather, it seeks to sustain the existing funding mechanism that has been supporting educational programs and operations. By maintaining the \$2.50 per \$1,000 asset valuation rate, the community continues its commitment to investing in the future through education.

**Understanding EP&O Levy Support:** Educational Programs and Operations (EP&O) levies play a critical role in supporting various aspects of our educational system. These levies typically contribute to a wide range of essential components, including but not limited to:

**1. Maintenance and Operations:** These levies are crucial for maintaining school facilities, ensuring a safe and conducive learning environment for students and staff.

**2. Extracurricular Activities:** Support for extracurricular activities such as sports, arts, and clubs is facilitated through EP&O levies, contributing to the overall development of students.

**3. Classroom Resources:** The funds from EP&O levies help provide up-to-date learning materials, textbooks, and technological resources, creating an enriched and effective learning environment.

**4. Specialized Programs:** Funding from EP&O levies may also be directed towards specialized educational programs, catering to diverse student needs and enhancing the overall educational experience.

**5. Staffing:** EP&O levies often allocate funds to attract and retain high-quality staff, ensuring that our students benefit from a well-qualified and dedicated employees.

**Conclusion:** In summary, the February 13, 2024, ballot's first proposal for the renewal of a 4-year Replacement EP&O Levy at \$2.50 per \$1,000 asset valuation is a crucial step in sustaining the quality of education in our community. By understanding that this is not a new tax but a continuation of vital funding, voters can contribute to the continued success of our educational system and the well-being of our students. It is an investment in the future, ensuring that our community remains a place where education thrives and students are prepared for a successful and fulfilling future.

## **Capital Levy for Safety, Security & Maintenance**

**Introduction:** In addition to the renewal of the 4-year Replacement Educational Programs and Operations (EP&O) Levy, the February 13, 2024, ballot includes a second proposal: A Capital Levy for Safety, Security & Maintenance. This proposal seeks to establish a \$1.00 per \$1,000 asset valuation rate to address critical needs related to the safety, security, and maintenance of our educational infrastructure. Establishing a \$1.00 per \$1,000 Asset Valuation Rate: The second proposal on the ballot is a response to the imperative requirement for capital investments to ensure the safety and functionality of our educational facilities. By instituting a \$1.00 per \$1,000 asset valuation rate, the community is making a strategic investment in the longevity and resilience of its educational infrastructure.

**Understanding Capital Levy Support:** A Capital Levy for Safety, Security & Maintenance provides funding for specific areas that are essential to the overall well-being of our educational institutions. Here are key areas that a Capital Levy typically supports:

**1. Safety and Security Measures:** The funds from a Capital Levy will be allocated towards implementing and enhancing safety and security measures within school premises. This will include the installation of security systems, surveillance cameras, and other measures to create a secure learning environment.

**2. Building Maintenance and Renovation:** Capital Levies contribute to the ongoing maintenance and renovation of school buildings. This includes repairs, upgrades, and renovations to ensure that facilities are conducive to learning and meet modern safety standards.

**3. Technology Infrastructure:** With the rapid advancement of technology, Capital Levies may be used to invest in and upgrade the technological infrastructure of our schools. This can include improvements to networks, classrooms, and communication systems.

**4. Energy Efficiency Projects:** Funding from a Capital Levy will be directed towards initiatives that improve the energy efficiency of our school buildings. This not only reduces environmental impact but also contributes to long-term cost savings.

**5. Accessibility and ADA Compliance:** Capital Levies often address accessibility issues, ensuring that school facilities comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards. This promotes inclusivity and equal access to education for all students.

**Conclusion:** The second proposal on the February 13, 2024, ballot for a Capital Levy at a rate of \$1.00 per \$1,000 asset valuation underscores the community's commitment to the safety, security, and maintenance of its educational infrastructure. By understanding the targeted areas of support, voters can contribute to the creation of a secure and conducive learning environment for current and future generations. This investment in the foundational aspects of our educational system reflects a forward-thinking approach to education, ensuring that our schools remain safe, modern, and equipped to meet the evolving needs of students and educators alike.

**Learn more about our Replacement EP&O Levy and Capital Safety, Security and Maintenance Levy January 4th, 6:00 in the Rainier High School Commons.**

Thank you,  
Bryon Bahr  
Superintendent  
Rainier School District





# Rainier Elementary School Cougars

Principal Rita Meldrum

(360) 446-4020

Fax (360) 446-4022

Dean of Students Ben Sheaffer

## 62nd Medical Brigade

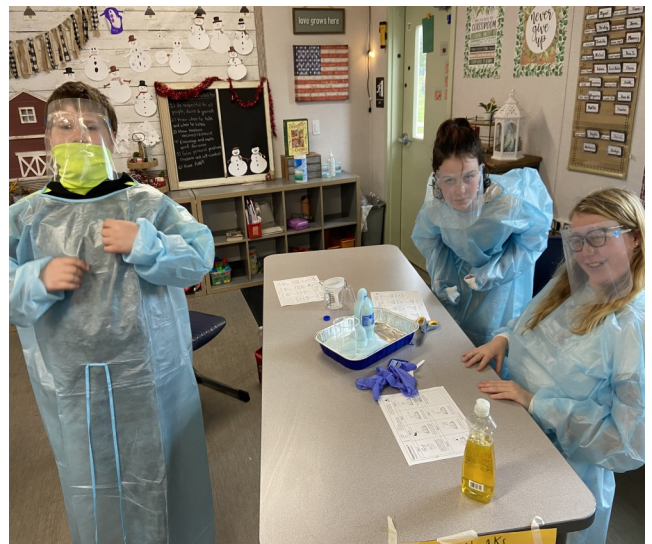
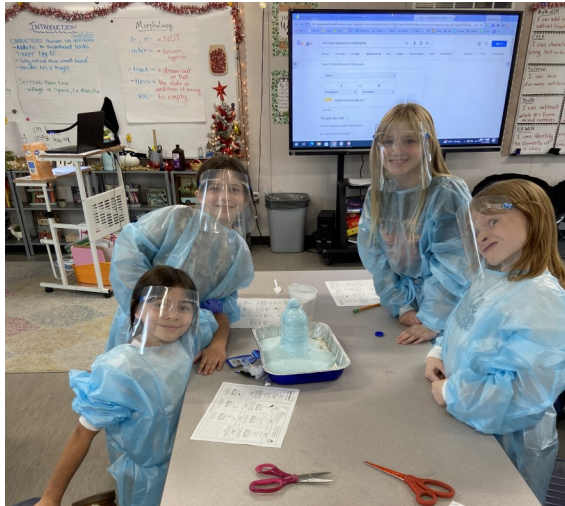
Thank you to the 62nd Medical Brigade from JBLM for partnering with Rainier Elementary School! Our students really enjoyed spending time with you on the playground during recess, having you listen to them read and having you read them stories, all while contributing to their educational experience. Everyone is looking forward to your monthly visits.





# Mrs. Mahan's Class

Students learning about chemical reaction during science lab!







# Rainier High School Mountaineers

Principal John Beckman

(360) 446-2206

Fax (360)446-2208

Dean of Students Kristin Robinson

## The SkillsUSA Club

The SkillsUSA Club has been cutting firewood and selling it this fall as a fundraiser. They are also donating one cord to the Rainier Education Foundation Auction.

The club meets on Mondays at lunchtime in the RHS shop. Once a month they do a potluck lunch, where students bring in scrumptious dishes to share.

Club members have been coming before school to work on projects to sell at the SkillsUSA Club table during the Holiday Bazaar.



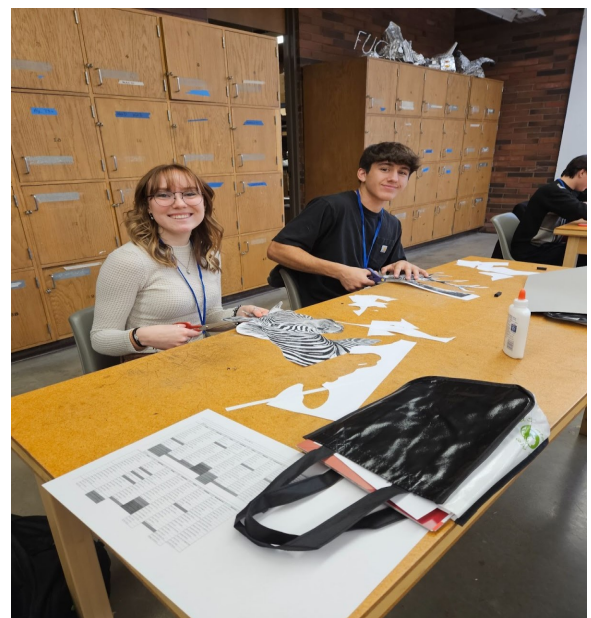
Cloe Cavanah, Ryleigh Cruse, Raychel Hansen, April Anguiano, Ella Marvin, Keira Anguiano, Jazzlyn Shumate, Dayton Gardner, Ryder Cruise, Justin Ziemathis, Skylar Weschler, Keira Anderson, Liam Hentze, Landon Kirkman, Steven Johnston, Connor Power.



Junior and Senior high school students who are interested in going into a field related to visual arts were invited to attend Central Washington University's College Art Day at the beginning of November. Students were able to visit the campus, see the various art studios to include Ceramics, Drawing, Painting/ Watercolor, Graphic Design, Jewelry/Metals, Photography, Sculpture, and Wood Design. Students participated in lessons led by college professors and were even able to have professors view their art portfolios and offer advice on how to improve their work and get prepared for college admissions to visual arts.



Go Wildcats!  
Attendees: Zander Peck, Madison Worthy  
and Genevieve Keyes



Working hard on a professor led drawing lesson





# CTE Advisory Committees Meet



October 4th was the first Career and Technical Education Advisory Committee meeting of the year. The community members that are involved are people in industry, they help and advise our CTE teachers in making sure our students leave us with REAL WORLD skills and an industry recognized certification. We value and appreciate their help!

# FBLA Guest Speaker

Future Business Leaders of America hosts a monthly guest speaker in varying career fields. Our first guest speaker this year was Starr Howells. She shared information about her career in the Health/Medical Field. The students LOVED it!

Thank you to Starr, for taking time out of her schedule to share and enlighten the students about the number one career field in need of workers.



# Homecoming 2023

The week of September 25th through 30th, Rainier enjoyed Homecoming Festivities. Spirit Week had dress up days, which included: PJ, favorite athletic team, decades day, dress to impress and orange & black day. There was also, lunch time competitions and a huge K-12 assembly finished out the week.

On Friday night King Buggy Borman and Queen Raychel Hansen were crowned after arriving in a Jeep parade, sponsored by Rainier Ruffians.

Rainier High School held its Homecoming 2023 dance in the old high school gym. The theme was Casino Night.

The week was fun filled and engaging for all!



Freshmen Royalty Jacob Hanson and Kinsley Barlow, Sophomores Dorien Cano and Zaylee Bravo, King Buggy Borman and Queen Raychel Hansen, Junior James Meldrum and Sarah Barry, Senior Dominick Hensen and Tristin Johnson



# ***RHS Floral Department***



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

**We can do all your special events such as anniversaries, birthdays, holidays and weddings.**



**Contact the RHS office to make your order at (360) 446-2205 ask for the floral department.**



## **Floral Prices**

**Vary by season and flower needs.  
Call for pricing.**



**We also have a floral cooler up by the HS office that has arrangements for sale daily. Feel free to drop by and pick something up.**

**We will deliver flowers and balloons to any school district building.**