



Educating and Developing the Whole Person for the Glory of God.

Dear RCS Family,

April 2019

Earlier this week, I stumbled into a new student sitting inside Ms. Fujimoto's office. Since he just started classes, I asked him, "What stands out as different between your old school and here? He said, "I can tell that people really look out for each other here. There was a lot of bullying at my other school." I thanked him and left our conversation somewhat crestfallen knowing what he had remembered. However, his phrase, "People really look out for each other here," replayed for hours in my mind like an echo.

By design or by default, school cultures stamp indelible impressions upon students. Creating a culture of looking out for each other flows from an intentional stance mirroring Philippians 2:4. *"Let each of you look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others."* Individuals in fellowship with the Spirit, 2:1, reflect a rare ethos in today's schools and society. At RCS, evidence of warmth and grace from our Lord Jesus Christ abounds. Just ask a new student. My deep appreciation swells outward to RCS students, parents, and staff members. Thank you for looking out for each other's interests.

My relentless interest in the topic of answered prayer curled up to D.A. Carson's book, *Teach Us to Pray: Prayer in the Bible and the World*. Carson addresses the account of the boy possessed by a demon. The disciples asked, "Why couldn't we drive it out?" Jesus replied, "Because you have so little faith," Mt. 17:20. In Luke 17, the disciples said, "Increase our faith," and Jesus circles back to the metaphor about healing the tormented boy. "If you have faith as small as a mustard seed."

Forever, I've interpreted little faith as an exhortation to pump up belief like a weightlifter. Banish all doubts. Carson suggests that "little faith" is better understood as poor faith, i.e., faith of a different kind. If the type of faith is small like a kernel, then dialing up additional faith tangles with Jesus' mustard-seed repetition.

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For clarification, Carson points to the gospel of Luke and book of Acts.

“The point of Jesus’ reply is apparently that the disciples do not need merely ‘additional’ faith, but faith of a different kind however little it be—for they do not even have the least amount of the required sort.”

Elaborating about a different kind, he writes, “...faith which knows that God grants a particular request is charismatic faith, that is, a direct revelation or witness of the Spirit on the issue. In Acts, Luke signifies people whose lives are characterized by the rich activity of the Spirit. Luke may well have understood that a Stephen or Barnabas lived in such prayerful unity with God that their petitions were already in accord with God’s will, and that they would know almost intuitively when they asked outside of God’s purpose.”

While this topic can get prickly, a grand promise comforts. The Lord knows what we need before we ask Him, Mt. 6:8. Your continued prayer for Rainier Christian Schools means a lot to me. For all who joined our Prayer Walk last Saturday, bless you.

Prayer Requests and Updates

Grow RCS ministry to 440 students this year—New students joined our learning community during March, but growth remained flat as other students left.

A community grant partner to supplement the Norcliffe Foundation grant application—continue to pray.

New Principal hire for RCHS. Our ten-member student, staff, and parent interview team unanimously selected **Mr. Dave Rehnberg**. Mr. Rehnberg accepted the position and begins the principalship effective July 1. By way of a virtual introduction, learn more about Mr. Rehnberg here, <http://www.daverehnberg.com/about-dave/>



Dave with his wife Carol and son Luis.

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Look for a meet-and-greet-Dave opportunity during the first week of June. Stand by for the exact date, but our developing idea is from 5:30-7:00p.m.

I am looking for better ideas. Last April, the first Climate Survey opened new lanes of communication for parents, staff, and students in grades six through twelve. Their collective ideas commanded action. Specifically, the responses launched shuttle-bus service, technology improvements, digital marketing efforts, and the high-school retooling initiative. This second annual Climate Survey window is open! Please note the survey window closes Saturday, April 13 at 5:00 p.m.

Access the Parent Survey Link here, <https://goo.gl/forms/1UGjMpkFsFQmk05O2>

Moving ahead, let's open the auction window and peek at another reveal: Fund-A-Need.

For the Fund-A-Need segment of our auction, two priorities surfaced above all others to support ministry growth and educational opportunities. The first item is a shuttle bus. The extra shuttle adds a morning route from MVE to RCMS, and creates opportunity for an afternoon route from the high school to the middle school and back to MVE.

1. **Shuttle Bus** ~ \$26K with tax, licensing, and RCS graphics package.



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2. **120 Chromebooks** ~ \$55K To support retooling RCHS and replace many computers at KVE/RCMS and MVE.



Please consider your support for our Fund-A-Need priorities.

I look forward to seeing you on April 26 and/or April 27. Thank you to all for the dogged preparation and behind-the-scenes auction support. May both evenings spill over with spirited energy and lavish bidding.

In closing, the approaching high mark on the Christian calendar, Easter, carries triumphant implications for this life and life eternal. May you and your family sense renewed hope through the resurrection power of our Lord Jesus Christ.

My best,

Bruce Kelly
President, Rainier Christian Schools

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