



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

Dear RCS Alumni,

February 2019

For many reasons, February is a wonderful month. My wife and I met on Valentine's Day, 1986. While that sounds romantic, our first blissful encounter happened at a teacher's convention hosted by the Principals' Association of Christian Schools. In February, our country salutes President's Day and honors Black History Month. February's quirkier days draw attention to Bubble Gum, Ground Hogs, and Toothaches.

February's letter is devoted to thanking everyone for choosing our Christian school. For most parents, the choice is a blessing and a sacrifice. The financial commitment is significant. Staff members feel the squeeze too. For all who have sent their children or served here, a heartfelt thank you is due. Thank you for choosing Rainier Christian Schools.

Your collective commitment gusted into a tail wind of personal gratitude. In response, revisiting what is a distinctively Christian education seemed fitting.

Unsurprisingly, the literature swirling around the topic of Christian education is complex. A simpler way forward leans into the adjective phrase, Whole Person, from our mission statement. The phrase is intentional. Students are much more than containers in which we pour the right Christian ideas, facts, and doctrines into to ensure proper behavior. The agency of Christian education runs wider and deeper than cognitive development. It is about formation, including character, desires and affections. One valuable reference on this topic is James K. A. Smith's book, [Desiring the Kingdom, Worship, Worldview, and Cultural Formation](#). He adeptly summarizes the purpose of Christian education across the axis of the whole person.

Smith writes, "We are desiring creatures, who are, every day being formed by impulses surrounding us. What defines us is what we love. Thinking, arguments, and beliefs are crucial as a means of moving the heart, but ultimately, we are what we adore. Being the kind of person who loves rightly, who loves God and neighbor, and is oriented to the world by the primacy of that love speaks to the formation of our desires."

Shaping the mind, heart, affections, and desires is central to Christian education. At RCS, integrating faith and learning, nurturing desires, and influencing affections reshape the whole person. Jesus inspired our mission statement's essence in the great commandment, "*That you love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength,*" Mk.12:30. RCS aims toward that purpose through academics, athletics, and extra-curricular activities for the Glory of God. Thank you again for choosing Rainier Christian Schools.

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Turning the page gets back to a standard feature in my letters, is prayer requests. Your prayers make a difference, and I appreciate all who bring lift our petitions and praises to the Lord.

Current requests and updates—

- Grow RCS ministry to 440 students this year—New students joined our learning community during January.
- A community grant partner to supplement the Norcliffe Foundation grant application—*continue to pray.*
- Invitation to submit a full grant application to the Murdoch Charitable Trust. *Answer: We received a pleasant reply from their Senior Program Director. He directed us to come back after securing 40% of the grant request. Typically, MCT does not fund outside of the six-county region of Vancouver, WA.*
- New Principal hire for RCHS. Parents, staff, and students have the opportunity to participate in the screening and interview process. Within this first week of posting the position, three applications were received. Please contact me if interested.

A look back

Elmer Bisset, one of early MVCS administrators wrote an opening letter to commemorate the school's first 25 years in 1989. Elmer served with distinction at that campus and a scholarship in his honor continues to day. The scholarship award goes to graduating senior each year.

“God is leading us on into the next 25 years with new vigor and zeal, but with the same vision in our hearts and minds. In unity, the school, the home, and the church will continue as co-workers in an effort to make tomorrow become a day of even a greater spiritual atmosphere...a beautiful training ground to work in together until we are finally called home. Paraphrasing the Psalmist, ‘We thank God for all this and we courage for the future.’”

Mr. Bisset’s understanding of “unity as co-workers,” is a valid today as it was 30 years ago. RCS enjoys a rich legacy from individuals with a remarkable vision. It is an honor to serve here in the slipstream of their leadership.

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To close I want to highlight a freshly designed promotional flyer. Our new website contains over 200 pages of content and directing prospective families there is important. Copies of the 8.5" x 11" glossy materials become available next week at each campus and the district office. If you know someone looking for information about RCS, consider hand delivering a copy. Capturing the QR (quick response) code sends users to our website.

www.rainierchristian.org info@rainierchristian.org
425-255-7232

RCS Campuses and Programs

- Maple Valley Preschool and Childcare
- Little People Preschool and Childcare
 - Maple Valley Elementary
 - Kent View Elementary
- Rainier Christian Middle School
- Rainier Christian High School
 - Homeschool Enrichment
 - International Students
 - Summer Adventure

International Students
Mustang Way
Parent Login
Parent Student
Handbook
President's Letters
Registration
Summer Adventure

Application Process (Kindergarten to Grade 12)

Step 1: Create an account and submit the application with a \$75 application fee.

Step 2: Additional paperwork, interviews, and possible testing.
* Immunization Form/Exemption Form
* Birth Certificate

Step 3: Upon acceptance, an email will be sent with the instructions for creating a ParentsWeb account and directing you to fill out the online enrollment packet. A registration fee/technology fee is due upon submission of the packet.

For our **Preschool programs**, please contact:
Little People Preschool and Childcare, lppc.admin@rainierchristian.org
Maple Valley Preschool and Childcare, mvpcc.admin@rainierchristian.org

My best,

Bruce Kelly

Bruce Kelly
President, Rainier Christian Schools

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