

Dear RCS Alumni,

December 2020

Hello, on September 9, we opened the doors for in-person learning five days a week. I felt confident school could be safe—in a pandemic, if everyone did their part. To God's glory, that it has happened. What does learning look like in the COVID era? The collage below tells part of the story across our PreK-12th grade programs. Thriving, learning, active, happy, and connected kids! All pictures of God's grace and provision.



This Fall marked the first time our signature fundraiser, the annual auction, occurred at the beginning of the year. The results are worth celebrating! Sarah Rickel, RCS Auction Coordinator, and her



wonderful team of helpers reported back that the Fund-A-Need raised a record \$50K!

The F-A-N dollars are earmarked for well-deserved pay raises of support staff and teachers. Next year, I trust we can return to in-person events and bring everyone together.

With the COVID restrictions in place, there is another shift to this year's Christmas programs. For 2020, a district-wide presentation will be featured on YouTube. On December 19, a separate email with the link to access performances is scheduled for delivery to your inbox. To peek at the details, tap anywhere on the image, Celebrating an RCS Christmas.



Speaking of Christmas gifts, are you looking for something to show your RCS spirit? If so, the Spirit Store may have what you're looking for in mens, womens, and youth sizes. Order today for delivery by Christmas. Link: [Spirit Store](#).

<p>Youth Moisture Wick Polo</p>  <p>\$19.99 \$16.99</p>	<p>Youth 1/4 Zip Sweatshirt</p>  <p>\$29.99 \$24.99</p>	<p>Youth Full-Zip Hooded Sweatshirt</p>  <p>\$32.99 \$27.99</p>	<p>Embroidered Long Sleeve Tee</p>  <p>\$19.99 \$14.99</p>
<p>Youth Dry Zone Hat</p>  <p>\$19.99 \$14.99</p>	<p>District Girls Tee</p>  <p>\$19.99 \$13.99</p>	<p>Youth Silk Touch Polo</p>  <p>\$22.99 \$19.99</p>	<p>Youth Hanes T-Shirt</p>  <p>\$18.99 \$13.99</p>

RCS Alumni are included and welcomed to add the following event to their December calendars. Consider Søren Kierkegaard's quotes as an appropriate segue. "Prayer is like a gyroscope, a practice that balances us come what may. The function of prayer is not to influence God," he said, "but rather to change the nature of the one who prays." The next president's prayer meeting, via Zoom, is scheduled for Tuesday, **December 15** at 6:30pm. [Click here for the prayer meeting.](#)

December closes the year and the opportunity for a year-end gift. This year, my request for help is tied to the personal protection equipment, PPE, purchased for students and staff. PPE was not budgeted for, and any help to backfill the expenses is greatly appreciated. For 2020, a one-time incentive applies to charitable donors and corporations.

<p>A Year-End Gift To</p>  <p>RAINIER CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS</p>	First Name: _____ Last Name: _____
	Address: _____
	City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
	Email: _____
	Check: I have enclosed a check in the amount of \$ _____ PO BOX 58249, Renton, WA 98058
	Credit Card: <input type="checkbox"/> MC <input type="checkbox"/> VISA <input type="checkbox"/> American Express in the amount of \$ _____
	Credit Card # _____ - _____ - _____ CVC _____
	Exp ____/____/____ Authorized Signature: _____ Date ____/____/____ Give online, https://form.jotform.com/92526886252163

For the 2020 tax year, there are two new tax benefits for donors!

1. A Universal Deduction for Donations Up to \$300

For the over 9 out of 10 people who no longer itemize their charitable giving, the CARES Act will allow these individual taxpayers to deduct donations to charity of up to \$300 on their 2020 federal tax return, even though they take the standard deduction. Married-filing-jointly taxpayers will get an above-the-line deduction of up to \$600.

2. Raising the Charitable Giving Deduction Cap

For those donors who are still able to itemize their deductions, and therefore directly write off gifts to public charities, the current deduction cap is 60% of adjusted gross income. Corporations are able to deduct charitable donations up to 10% of taxable income.

The CARES Act lifts these caps to 100% for individuals and joint filers, while corporations will see their cap lifted to 25% for 2020. These are truly substantial changes to the tax treatment of donations. For individuals, it could theoretically mean zero taxable income if someone gives big.

On the Christian calendar, the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, trumpets grand celebration and worship. I'll close this month's letter with a mix of something old and something new. St. Theresa's 500-year-old prayer, pregnant with hope and encouragement, is followed by an embedded link to one of my favorite Christmas songs, Little Drummer Boy, by King & Country.



St. Theresa's Prayer

May today there be peace within you.

May you trust God that you are exactly where you are meant to be.

May you not forget the infinite possibilities that are born in faith.

May you use those gifts that you have received, and pass on the love that has been given to you.

May you be content knowing you are a child of God. Let this presence settle into your bones and allow your soul the freedom to sing, dance, praise and love. It is there for each and every one of us.

Amen.

May God's favor richly bless you and your family this Christmas season. Thank you for partnering with Rainier Christian Schools.

My best,

Bruce Kelly

Bruce Kelly
president, Rainier Christian Schools

