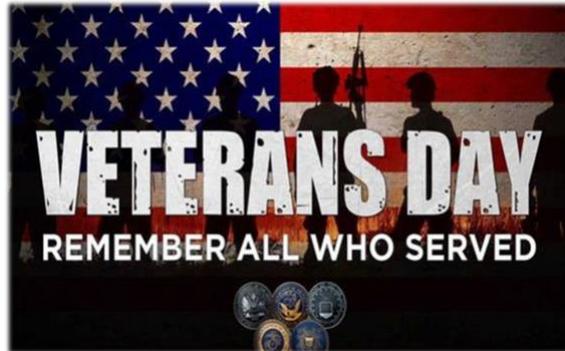




Dear RCS Families,

November 2021

As we welcome in November, honoring our veterans and deliberately giving thanks take center stage. Please join me in thanking all active duty, war, and combat veterans for their service to our country. The tradition at RCS is to honor veterans during a special a Veteran's Day



assembly. The assemblies mark an opportunity to express our gratitude and acknowledge their service and sacrifice. Veterans, thank you for your service to our country and may God bless you.

Later this month, RCS unwraps its signature fundraiser, the annual auction! The starred points show four ways to participate. ★ Donate an item or service and get your business recognized. ★ Bid during the on-line event from November 12-19. The pre-registration for on-line bidding is found [here](#). ★ Attend the live auction at Kent View Elementary on November 20, purchase tickets here, [Live Auction](#). ★ Give directly to the Fund-A-Need. Proceeds from the Fund-A-Need are earmarked for 125 student Chromebooks. Please join me for the Live Auction and enjoy a wonderful evening of drinks, appetizers, dessert, fellowship, and fun.



Incidentally, the first parent-teacher conferences of the year occur during the last two days of the on-line auction. I have shared this story about parent-teacher conferences before, but it offers a timely reminder.

When my daughters reached high school, I entertained the idea of skipping conferences altogether. Their exemplary grades raised little concern. My wife and I however, attended the twice-a-year meetings for all four years. Please know that our kids pay attention to our attendance and participation whether they say anything or not. With my daughters, the parent-teacher conference itself was not a game changer.

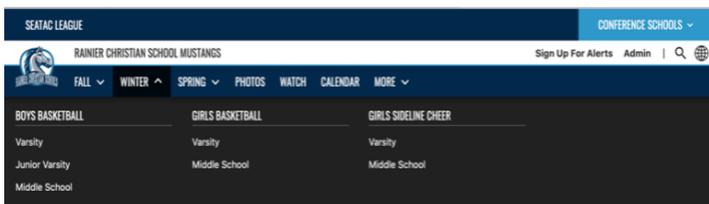
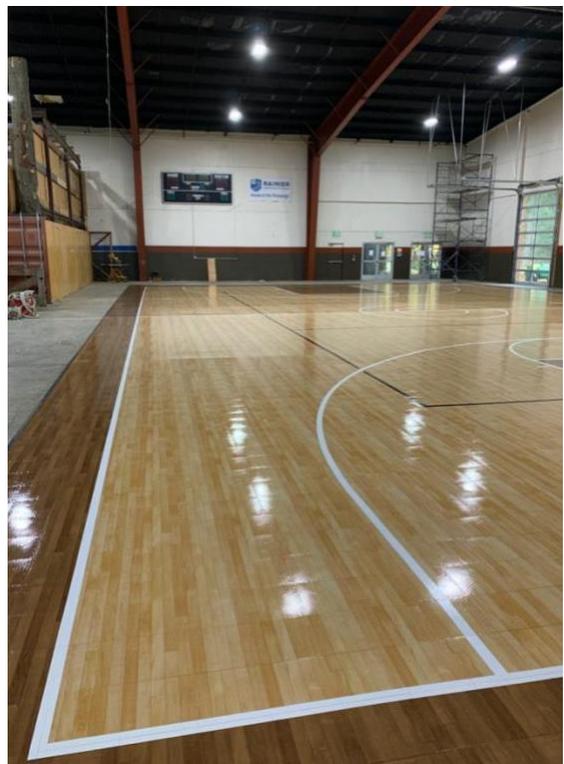
Eureka! It was our follow-up conversations with them. They hung on every word we relayed back to them from their teachers. Those indelible moments align with my mantra on parenting: be intentional.

Therefore, prepare for all three phases of Parent Teacher Conferences: Pre-Conference, Conference, and Post-Conference. The following pro-tips support making the most of the opportunity.

<b>Pro Parent Tips for Teacher Conferences</b>	
<b>Pre-Conference</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Ask your child how things are going at school.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• What would they like you to ask their teacher?</li><li>• What do they like best about school?</li><li>• Are there any subjects that they are having trouble with?</li><li>• If they could change anything about school what would it be?</li></ul></li><li>2. Write down what you want to ask their teacher(s).</li></ol>

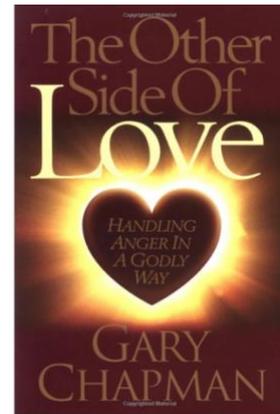
<b>Conference</b>	<p>This is your chance to get detailed feedback on your child. Since most conferences are brief, stay focused. Asking about basic school policies contained in the handbook isn't a good use of time. If you have a specific question or issue that doesn't come up, be sure to ask.</p> <p>Establish rapport with the teacher. Get started on the right foot and listen to what the teacher has prepared to share. Frame your questions around that information.</p> <p>Try not to get defensive. As parents, we may only expect to hear glowing reports. Remember, a key purpose of the meeting is an assessment of how your child is doing and where your child has room to develop.</p> <p>Take a note pad and pen. Doing so offers a tangible way to show that you're actively participating.</p> <p>Provide the teacher with relevant information. Are there any significant changes at home?</p> <p>Lastly, find out about the teacher's communication preference. Let the teacher know the best way to reach you too.</p>
<b>Post Conference</b>	<p>Tell your child how it went. Linger, OK, really linger with all the praise-yours and the teachers. Then share any area(s) of concern. By following up with your child, you powerfully model your commitment to their educational success, well-being, and reinforce the importance of the parent-teacher partnership.</p> <p>Stay in touch with the teacher. Don't wait until the next conference. Reach out in a few weeks if you have an update related to the first conference.</p>

In November, the Chinook and SeaTac Leagues tip off the basketball season for middle-school and high-school athletes, respectively. Thanks to a generous gift from the **St. Clair Flo Foundation**, our stunning volleyball and basketball court is home. Home of the Mustangs! Wow, It looks fantastic! Later this month, RCS will host our first home game. The game schedules are posted on the SeaTac League website and found by clicking on the image below.



The new floor and venue also created several court side-sponsorship opportunities. Contact Athletic Director, Marcus Johnson, [Marcus.johnson@rainierchristian.org](mailto:Marcus.johnson@rainierchristian.org) for information about showcasing your business in the gym. **GO MUSTANGS!!**

In my monthly letter, I feature a particularly helpful resource discovered during the active parenting years. This month, Dr. Gary Chapman’s book, *The Other Side of Love, Handling Anger in a Godly Way*, is my top recommendation.



Growing up as a non-Christian, I witnessed the emotion of anger being handled in unproductive ways. Like the famous Bobo Doll Experiment, unwittingly, anger modeling rolled right into my parenting. Until I read *The Other Side of Love*, I did not fully understand how a parent’s anger reshaped a child’s spirit and emotions. Mishandled anger may permanently distort a young person’s memories.

As a confession, my harsh tone altered the mood of more than one evening at the dinner table. Mea culpa! I cannot redo those days, but apologies for my behavior nourished wounded spirits. Interestingly, one sharp, role-related verse in scripture, Col. 3:21, leaps forward, “Fathers, don’t scold your children so much that they become discouraged and quit trying.”

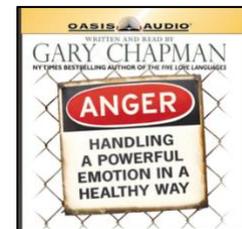
	
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Perhaps there are better translations of this verse, but the admonition is clear.

Dr. Chapman's real-life illustrations, biblical world view, and practical insights redirected a critical dimension of my parenting. Productively managing one's anger migrates across a wide arc of relationships. The scriptures reveal Jesus got angry. However, it is our response to anger that carries the impact. Gal 4:26: "If you become angry, do not let your anger lead you into sin, and do not stay angry all day."

The implications transcend our families, to work, and interactions in the community.

Today, add the book or a companion audio book, shown at right, to your parenting library. If you struggle with managing anger with your children or spouse, get this book.



In closing, as we honor our veterans and celebrate Thanksgiving, I am reminded that November is a wonderful time of the year. The holidays dish up opportunities to think of others. Thank you for trusting your children to the care and nurture of the RCS staff. Your partnership with Rainier Christian Schools is deeply appreciated. May God bless you and your family throughout the entire month of November.

My best,

Bruce Kelly

*Bruce Kelly*



president, Rainier Christian Schools



