



Dear RCS Families,

March 2021

During a sun break in February, the Maple Valley 3rd graders twirled ribbons in anticipation of spring! By contrast, one year ago the Governor ordered all schools closed.



In an instant, all the energy, shrieks, laughter, and spontaneity of children disappeared. When RCS opened on September 9, seeing and *hearing* happy kids enjoying school sent my praise heavenward. Last year's closure revealed I had taken the motion and noise of children for granted. Lesson learned. If you lean in, you can imagine the enthusiastic sounds bouncing off our spirited ribbon twirlers!

One distinctive for Rainier Christian Schools is our deliberate and intentional effort to partner with families during the life stages across PreK-12th grade. As parents, time accelerates faster than our perceptions. Each developmental year in a child's life is important and rapidly changes. With that in mind, the *For Parent's* tab on our website provides robust resources for navigating through the life stages of parenting. There are contemporary and tart topics indexed to biblical principles.

If you know of a family seeking answers during the parenting years, please point them



toward our *For Parent's* tab. Helping families raise kids according to God's ways drives the vision to be a resource beyond Rainier Christian. The current topics are featured below or can be found by clicking on the link, [For Parents](#).



As parents, we need answers and ongoing support. Someone once said, we only have 18 summers with our kids. Another person shared, the days are often slow, but the years go by fast.

Against that backdrop, and exuberance of Ps 127: 3- 5, being intentional is the best way forward.

"Don't you see that children are God's best gift?
the fruit of the womb his generous legacy?
Like a warrior's fistful of arrows are the
children of a vigorous youth.
Oh, how blessed are you
parents with your quivers
full of children!"

The Index of Resource offer intentional ways to address schooling, parenting, the Kelly family's idea about vacations, Fowler's stages of faith, the prickly topic of deconversion, and other contemporary issues.

At RCS, there is also a wisdom of practice readily available within and across our PreK-12th grade parent community. I encourage families to reach out with questions and prayer requests as soon as possible. Please don't wait. Our warm and helpful parent-teacher community is one of the best assets around.

Index of Resources

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Periodically, the Index of Resources is updated. I welcome new suggestions that align with the current realities of parenting. Thank you for partnering with Rainier Christian Schools!

As you may have heard, last week the RCS Board of Directors unanimously approved relocating the middle school to the high school for the 2021-22 school—barring any unforeseen circumstances. I want to thank principals Dave Rehnberg and Don Garnand, who began meeting weekly to plan around facilities, staffing, schedules, and transportation. Moving forward, expect more communication on this subject via their newsletters, meetings for parents impacted by the decision, and updates found on their respective school-page websites. A newly added

button, *Relocation Updates/FAQs*, reviews the five benefits of the move.



Moving on to another blessing, a shout out goes to Mancave-my men's

ministry group from Real Life Church. Vandals have repeatedly tried to smash into the pump house at the Maple Valley campus. Mancave came to the rescue. Pastor Steve donated the materials and another friend, Dan, generously opened his shop of cool tools and welding equipment for our weekly meetings. Together, we fabricated a security shield for the pump house, and it was installed last week. Thank you Mancave!



I also want to thank the Mustang parents who are asking for novel ways to satisfy the 15 hours/year volunteer requirement. COVID restrictions created more challenges than before, but fresh ideas have inspired authentic connections with families. For example, the gifts God has given parents as artists, contractors, electricians, mechanics, nurses, and in philanthropy have positively impacted our ministry. One new project for Kent View Elementary is scheduled

during Easter Break: gym-wall-padding installation. Principal Don Garnand and Mr. Brian Christian selected the dark-blue panel between the three options. The installation will require



helpers to attach 2' x 6' panels to the east and west ends of the gym. Click the following link to sign up, [Gym Wall Pad Installation](#).

There are two volunteer options that can be completed in less than one day, Garage Sale and Fireworks Security Detail. The sign-ups are linked separately here:

[Garage Sale Sign-Up Form](#)

[Fireworks Security Detail Sign-Up Form](#)



For the garage sale option, pick a sunny Saturday and sell your



unwanted belongings from 8:00am -1:00pm.

The proceeds flow toward our financial-aid program with 10% directed to Seattle's Union Gospel Mission. The firework's security detail is an overnight shift from 10pm to 6am. Also, consider the monthly prayer meeting to fulfill the requirement in one half-hour increments.

To access the Tuesday March 9th prayer meeting, use the following link and passcode, [Prayer Meeting](#), passcode: p01Gzx The prayer meeting begins at 6:30pm.

In closing, thank you for your full cooperation with COVID protocols as we pray and aim to keep the school doors open. I thank the Lord for allowing us to be open 5x/week and relish the sights and sounds of children enjoying school. The characteristics of young children, like our ribbon twirlers, explain the way to the kingdom of God according to Jesus.

¹³ People were bringing little children to Jesus for him to place his hands on them, but the disciples rebuked them. ¹⁴ When Jesus saw this, he was indignant. He said to them, “**Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.** ¹⁵ Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.” ¹⁶ And he took the children in his arms, placed his hands on them and blessed them.
Mark 10: 13-16.

With focused intention, enjoy the brief time with your children. Their traits of dependence, simplicity, love, faith, and humility help all us of understand the ways of God’s kingdom on earth.

My best,

Bruce Kelly



president, Rainier Christian Schools

