



## Celebrating 55 years of education-based ministry 1963-2018

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Dear Alumni,

September 2018-Alumni Edition

Hello, I wanted to find a meaningful way to reach out to RCS alumni. Our milestone anniversary offered a way to do so. This year RCS celebrates 55 years of God's faithfulness and provision. I trust our rich legacy, and fresh developments will gladden your hearts.

Across five decades, the Lord called individuals and families to pray, risk, serve, give, and engage. The collective impact is astounding and praiseworthy. Beginning with this monthly letter, please enjoy reading an inspiring anecdote from the archives. May you sip inspiration and draw strength from the saints who blazed the trail for Rainier Christian Schools. Throughout our history, God provided the right people at the opportune moment to make Rainier Christian Schools possible.

### The Beginning

In 1962, local pastors and congregants began meeting from various Maple Valley churches to discuss starting an interdenominational Christian school. As they talked and prayed, the plan took shape. In 1963, the newly formed Christian Enterprises Inc., started Maple Valley Christian School. Initially, one local church hosted the school, and then facilities were rented to keep the school operating.

A Christian School Board member who worked on an NIKE missile site in the 1950s learned the site was being surplused. The Board agreed to pursue the option, but failed to make contact with any representative. The Board and parents met at the site regularly only to find the gate always locked. Undeterred, they began to walk around the property fence line and pray for God's provision.

One Sunday afternoon after worship services, the group met for another "prayer walk." This day, they found the gate open and an army officer at the complex. They obtained contact information and ended up securing a rental agreement for the barrack and cafeteria. In 1967, the first classes opened in the lower building and gymnasium at Maple Valley Elementary.

In 1972, the Army Corp of Engineers (property managers) decided to sell the 50+ acre site. A group of engineers, Kent School District representatives, and Christian School Board members met to discuss the purchase. As they walked, the KSD Superintendent and the government sales rep discussed the entire parcel going to KSD. The Christian School Board members walking behind them and listening to the conversation continued to pray.

KSD wanted the entire site, and the Army Corps rep agreed. Since a sewer hookup was required for the Christian school to continue, the Army Corps rep pointed out there was no way for the school to afford the parcel and provide the proper infrastructure.

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However, one of the engineers walking with the Christian contingent remembered an abandoned 2" water line that ran from the property to Fairwood. He shared how the sewer effluent pumped through the line with the solids collected in the old septic tank could work. That idea enabled Christian Enterprises to obtain eight acres and the current buildings at Maple Valley Elementary.

I read the story as another example of Proverbs 21:30, "*There is no wisdom, no insight, no plan that can succeed against the Lord.*"

Do you have an inspiring story about Rainier Christian Schools? If so, please contact me. Have you considered relaying your positive experiences about RCS, but not sure what to do? A feature on our website, Raving Fans, makes uploading a short message easy. You may access the Raving Fans' feature by clicking on the shortened URL here— <https://goo.gl/R1jFJj>

### Returning to 2018

During August, the miraculous story of Jesus feeding the five thousand, became a focal point of study, John 6:1-12. In verse 12, the Scripture reads, "*When they all had enough to eat, he said to his disciples, 'Gather the pieces that are left over. Let nothing be wasted.'*" For several days, the phrase, "*Let nothing be wasted,*" kept clawing at my mind and spirit. Finally, one interpretation poked through. I sensed the Lord saying, "See how I prepared you through education and experiences to serve at RCS?" In an instant, I looked back through the decades and saw my faith journey stitched together. Thank you Lord, you prefer nothing to be wasted. The principle explains why I am grateful, thrilled, and honored to serve at RCS.

As students and families return to the rhythm of the school year, I pray we sense nothing is wasted. Our mission statement, "Educating and Developing the Whole Person for the Glory of God," aims to inspire students now and for their future. Together with the Maple Valley saints who envisioned RCS over 55 years ago, I trust our ministry touches each student and family for God's glory.

### New Developments at RCS

The fresh paint scheme for 2018-19 brightens our welcome-back message. Operation Curb Appeal volunteers and workers earn gold stars for transforming the building's appearance. Three families also stepped forward with significant donations to the Maker Space environments. Throughout the summer, more than fifty individuals contributed time, money, and effort to support a major RCS makeover. I am very pleased with the fresh and positive message ready to greet our students, staff, and families.

During July and August, our pre-design team for the multipurpose gymnasium, Scott and Julie Franzen, Brian Christian, and Don Garnand, met with Bassetti architects three times. They deserve a round of applause. The pre-design team recommended a design direction.

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At our October 30 general Board meeting, the architects from Bassetti plan to share a 30-minute presentation with Q&A about the process and details around the design direction.

As I close, I would love to learn more about our past. Your story is important to me. Please consider my open invitation to bring your story forward.

My best,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bruce Kelly".

Bruce Kelly

President, Rainier Christian Schools

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