

November 2017

Dear RCS Family,

My thoughts speed toward Thanksgiving Day when the month of November arrives. One soft undertone of the holiday is the Thanksgiving prayer. As a noticing, many holiday-themed movies characterize Thanksgiving prayers as formal proclamations. That posture stands in sharp contrast to the descriptions about prayers of thanksgiving found in the New Testament. The Bible reveals that prayers of thanksgiving are continual, overflowing, and universal, Eph. 5:20, Col. 2:7, and 1Th. 5:18.

Interestingly, a Bible query for the phrase, thanksgiving and prayer, turns up an obscure character from the book of Nehemiah. His name is Mattaniah. “Mattaniah son of Mika, the son of Zabdi, the son of Asaph, **the director who led in thanksgiving and prayer...**” Nehemiah 11:17.

Mattaniah, the director who led in thanksgiving and prayer, nudges a novel idea forward. While I exercise a disciplined prayer life, the act of leading in thanksgiving would look like I tried to flex a flabby muscle. Therefore, under the inspiration of Mattaniah’s example, I am thankful for God, His favor, and my family. I am thankful for God’s providence that opened the door to serve at RCS. My spirit of thankfulness is also directed to the RCS Board members, interview team, administrators, teachers, and support staff who have made me feel welcome and included.

The smoothest transition between leading in thanksgiving and our Enrollment Matters Campaign is, I am thankful for progress—please see the following page. There are pockets of success to report, as well as areas of concern. The need and ask for prayer continues. Wednesday, November 29 is a day devoted to continuous prayer for the high school relocation. The high school and middle school learning communities have scheduled continuous prayer for that day. Your participation is welcomed and encouraged.

One new effort that welcomes your feedback is the revised RCS Parent-Student Handbook. From November 1-27, parents and students are invited to send me feedback via email. Copy and paste the following link into your browser to access the DRAFT version. Replying with the word, “Handbook” in the subject line streamlines the review.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B9h7mm4DfHw4aEJTRzZWZHB3Qjg/view?usp=sharing>

As I close, please accept my sincere appreciation for all you do to make RCS a better place. May you and your families enter the season of Thanksgiving full of gratitude, and renewed by God’s love and abundant blessings.

My best,

Bruce Kelly

	Activity	Action Taken
1	Parcel Sale	At the last Board meeting, a real estate specialist very familiar with the parcel recommended a course of action. The first step is to conduct a title search for the 34.5 acre parcel. The results of the title search are expected next week. We are standing by to learn if the property is saleable. Securing the documentation a buyer needs for all rights to the parcel may require contacting the U.S. Department of Education.
2	Master Plan Development	With the amount of time and energy invested with the high school relocation effort, the Master Plan is in a holding pattern. Once the relocation site is identified, the Board and President will reconnect with the vision around the multipurpose gym.
3	High School Relocation	There are 16 potential sites identified. Dialogue between other parties has begun, and the Board and President continue to work the Phase 2 of the relocation plan
4	Norcliffe Foundation Grant	Our grant submission deadline is August 2018.
5	Auction Nights	Procurement for the auctions is underway. Please save the dates of April 13 and 14 to attend and support RCS.
6	Website Improvement and Updates	New rotators (images) and sections to the website are completed. Please take a fresh look at the website.
7	Outreach to Christian parents with students in public schools	The events are scheduled, and distribution of promotional materials begins in late November. Radio spots will air in January.
8	Radio Spots	After meeting with the Salem Media Group, a.k.a., KCIS, Christian Teach Talk, a draft message for the radio spots is completed. The radio spots will feature our outreach, auction, and alumni roll call.
9	55th Anniversary Alumni Roll Call Celebration and	A better idea with the intention to reach RCS alumni surfaced from within our community. The new initiative is reframed as the 55 th Anniversary Alumni Roll Call and Celebration. Expect additional details about the roll call next month.
10	RCS Community Impact Day Mt. 5:16	There is no movement to report on this initiative.
11	Parent, Student, Staff Climate Surveys	The climate surveys are on track to distribute April 9-27.
12	Research Based Professional Development	Professional Development, PD, supports began on August 31 and will continue through the school year. A PD calendar has been added under What We Do section of the website. The RCS Special Needs Survey results were provided to Principals and Directors.