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Dear RCS Family,

May 2018

I applaud our Parent-Teacher Fellowships. Our Board of Directors deserves a rousing cheer. At the March and April Board meetings, PTF representatives from MVE and KVE requested matching funds for a Maker Space. Unanimously, the Board approved \$8,500 for each campus. What is a Maker Space?

A Maker Space environment allows students to design, build, test, create, invent, and collaborate across a variety of disciplines. Specifically, students write code, 3-D print, build circuits, program robots, and experiment with a palette of conventional and digital art tools. Our S.T.E.A.M. Maker Space, (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math) aims to be a signature program.

One step into summer break, the MVE and KVE computer labs begin a slow transformation. When elementary and middle school students return in September, the Maker Spaces will greet them. I am thrilled to see RCS dish up a refreshingly new elective course.

Maker Spaces enhance our instructional program and facilities. Improving our facilities' appearance is another key priority. Please consider joining Operation Curb Appeal. Operation Curb Appeal prioritizes specifically designed projects for individuals and families who relish hands-on work. Where can you find more information? Over the next few weeks, a list of projects and sign-up information appears in the Principals and Pre-school Directors' newsletters. Thank you in advance for carefully reading their weekly communiqués.

Planned improvements to our instructional program, flow from God's providence, staff cooperation, parent input, and a Christian Education philosophy framed around five Rs. I squeezed all five Rs: Relationships, Relevance, Rigor, Research, and Response down below and onto the next page. Jesus Christ is our context for learning. However, a fair question is, what do the fine-grained details look like in 2<sup>nd</sup> grade math, 6<sup>th</sup> grade English, and 10<sup>th</sup> grade science?

A Christian Education Philosophy in 5Rs.

**Relationships**—Christian educators model biblical patterns of productive relationships to make a positive impact on student's lives and learning. From the beginning, God created individuals to be in relationship. The New Testament prioritizes a relationship of the Holy Spirit within believers, and believers belong to one another in Christ. Jesus' ministry and teaching pressed into the relationships with the twelve disciples and his followers. Jn. 17:21, 1Cor. 3:16, Rom. 12:5, 1 Jn. 4:7

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**Relevance**—a Christian context for learning offers an unequalled platform to understand a biblical worldview. Linking a biblical worldview to content or process standards, career or college readiness goals, and authentic or novel applications increases students' intrinsic motivation to learn, and their abilities to make meaningful connections. 2 Tim. 2:21, 2 Tim. 3:16

**Rigor**—in the parlance of cognitive taxonomies, rigor is best understood when students engage with opportunities to evaluate, apply, analyze, compare, design, create, or invent. Rote memorization and recall are useful for the basics of any subject, but cannot be the exclusive cognitive demands when designing assignments and assessments. Eccl. 1:13, 2 Tim. 2:15

**Research**—all truth is God's truth. Christian education must borrow from best practices found within educational research. High-quality research that addresses the domains of teaching, learning, assessment, innovation, technology, special needs, and school culture should inform practitioner's efforts and indelibly impact students' lives and learning. Action research and inquiry cycles are effective tools to spur professional growth and confirm or challenge empirical findings. Dan. 1:12-16

**Response**—in response to God's love, and learning in a Christ-centered context, Christian School communities share a calling to become creative force agents of change—inside and outside of the classroom. Community service, lavish giving, and extending common grace to all people characterize the mintmarks of a responsive Christian education. Gal 6:10, Eph. 2:10

I salute our K-12 staff response for confronting RCS' existing content standards and championing new recommendations. Interestingly, vetted standards offer program coherence and continuity, but vary considerably in advancing a biblical world view. That process takes time, energy, and input from all stakeholders. Starting on May 8, K-12 families receive access to the staff's recommendations. Expect a link from me. The comment period remains open until May 30. Starting this summer, the K-12 teachers focus on aligning new standards into their instructional units. With their efforts and planned feedback loops, RCS maintains the integrity of our mission and vision statements.

A statement from the RCS community deserves a standing ovation. Think auction results! Sarah Rickel, RCS Auction Coordinator, reported the net proceeds from our Friday and Saturday events totaled \$139,244. Sarah's target was \$150K, and the Lord honored 99.5% of her goal. Ten days after the auction, she picked up a check for \$10K from an anonymous donor. The donor wanted to close the gap, and brought the total to \$149,244. The Fund-A-Need portion of the auction, 50% dedicated for teacher salaries, and 50% earmarked for the building fund, set a new record, \$76,500. Thank you everyone for making a significant financial impact to our learning community.

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Following the auction, our Shuttle Bus and Parent Climate Survey windows closed. I thank all respondents for answering questions and providing comments. The details regarding subsequent analysis and reporting appear in the Enrollment Matters Campaign section—see initiative #11.

Finally, there is one important staffing transition to announce. The news directly impacts our MVE learning community. Principal, Weldo Melvin, officially submitted his letter of transition. Last Tuesday, the MVE staff were notified in person, and then the Board learned of Principal Melvin's announcement during their executive session. All MVE parents received a copy of the following note from Mr. Melvin. It is copied here in its entirety.

"To everything there is a season, A time for every purpose under heaven," Ecclesiastes 3:1

Being a Christian School principal enables me to enjoy combining both my experience as a pastor and my years as a classroom teacher. My 23 years in this position has enabled me to witness some amazing miracles and blessings from God. It has also brought me into contact with many wonderful people. However, like all things change is inevitable. Even though it is a difficult decision, it has become apparent that God is taking me in a new direction. It is my goal to model finishing well and strong for our students. June 29 is the last day of my contract but my hope is to see the Maker Space remodel completed for next year. My hope and prayer is for the success of this ministry and all of those who so faithfully give of themselves to educate and develop these children for the glory of God. Mr. Kelly has a great heart for the Lord and the call God has placed on His life for RCS. One of my regrets is to be giving up the opportunity to work and learn alongside him. With God's help he has the knowledge and ability to make RCS one of the greatest school systems in the country. Thank you all for allowing me to serve your students and families—Weldo Melvin.

A Celebration of Service for Mr. Melvin on June 1 is tentatively scheduled for 2:00PM. Please plan to join me at MVE to honor Principal Melvin at the Celebration of Service.

My best,

Bruce Kelly

**An update to our [Enrollment Matters Campaign](#) appears on the following pages.**

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	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Action Taken</b>
1	<b>Parcel Sale</b>	Yolanda Stroud, Office of Security, Facilities & Logistics Services, U.S. Dept. of Education, is preparing the abrogation packet to submit to the General Services Administration. RCS completed all DOE requirements.
2	<b>Master Plan Development</b>	The architectural renderings for the multipurpose gymnasium and permanent high school were unveiled at our formal auction on April 14. On April 18, RCS families received a pdf version showing both configurations. The initial cost estimate for Phase 1, the multipurpose gymnasium, is approximately \$4M.
3	<b>High School Relocation</b>	On April 20, Black Diamond Camps provided the lease agreement, and the RCS Board reviewed the agreement during the April 24 executive session. We are thrilled to have a new, and familiar home for RCHS!
4	<b>Norcliffe Foundation Grant</b>	The self-imposed grant submission deadline is August 15, 2018.
5	<b>Auction Nights</b>	The Friday and Saturday night auctions net income equaled \$139,244.00. With an anonymous, post-auction gift of \$10K, we realized 99.5% of the \$150K goal!
6	<b>Website Improvement and Updates</b>	There is a need for someone familiar with Adobe tools who can create new rotator images for the website. Contact Mr. Kelly if interested. Roughly 90% of inquiries for the high school come through our web site.
7	<b>Outreach to Christian parents with students in public schools</b>	All three health and science events were successfully completed.
8	<b>Radio Spots</b>	The KGNW and KCMS radio ads aired intermittently from January through April 12. Our Health and Science Outreach Events, Open Houses, and Annual Auction offered listeners three insights in our education-based ministry.
9	<b>55<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Alumni Roll Call Celebration and</b>	Board member, Ed White, continues to spearhead the effort to reconnect alumni and capture their stories. Whether someone attended RCS briefly or their entire K-12 experience, their stories are important. We need help to spread the word and reconnect with alumni.

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1 0	<p><b>RCS Community Impact Day Mt. 5:16</b></p>	<p>Pictured from left to right, Eydie Leighty, Manager MyHOA-online.com LLC, Rachael Hahn, President, Lea Hill Village HOA, Tami Kapule, Community Outreach/Code Enforcement, Community Development/Public Works, RCS junior-class officer, <b>Evan Lally</b>, Erika Klyce, Neighborhood Programs Coordinator, City of Auburn, Bruce Kelly, RCS President, and RCS junior class officer, <b>Raamiah Nelson</b>.</p> <p>Evan and Rammiah met with the Auburn team to plan, “Operation Love Thy Neighbor.” On June 1, the <b>Class of 2019</b> serves residents of the Lea Hill Village HOA to do good.</p> 
1 1	<p><b>Parent, Student, Staff Climate Surveys</b></p>	<p>The transportation and climate-survey windows closed April 20 and 27, respectively. The number of responses, N, for each survey are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shuttle Bus, N= 40</li> <li>• Staff Climate, N= 49</li> <li>• Parent Climate, N=117</li> <li>• 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Student Climate, N= 120</li> </ul> <p>Over the next month, Principals and Directors begin an analysis of the data with the goal of prioritizing actionable items for the 2018-19 school year. The data summary appears in the President’s June letter.</p>

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1 2	<b>Research Based Professional Development</b>	<p>The K-12 staff finalized their recommendations of content standards for core academic classes. On May 8, parents will receive a link to review their recommendations, post comments and offer feedback through the end of May.</p> <p><b>Next In-service: August 30</b> <b>Five Dimensions of Teaching and Learning,</b> Presented by Center for Educational Leadership, UW. 8:00AM- 4:30PM</p>
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