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Dear RCS Family,

April 2018

When I came to Christ at age 18, my questions really began. For several weeks, one question would not leave me alone. What is the most important thing in life? I do not know why that question plagued me like a nagging cough. Unexpectedly, on one Sunday morning, Pastor Don Meekhof, First Presbyterian Church in Ellensburg, began a memorable sermon with that question. “What is the most important thing in life?”

How did Pastor Don know my trouble over this question? Quickly, I scooted to the edge of the pew ready to hang onto every word. Pastor Don answered, “Relationships.” He unfolded the rest of the sermon this way: A relationship with God, relationships with others, and a relationship with yourself—in that order. That question never harassed me again.

A relationship with an unequal partner like God is a fantastic idea. However, the power imbalance is difficult to fathom—maybe like the relationship of the United States to the town of Ravensdale. (Ravensdale is a local gem.) Nonetheless, the intimacy within our relationship is unmistakable. Consider the revelation in Acts 17:28, “For in Him, we live and move and have our being,” and Col. 1:27, “...the glorious riches of this mystery, Christ in you, the hope of glory.” We are in Him, and He is in us.

C.S. Lewis shed glimmering light on the divine relationship in the book, *In Letters to Malcolm*. Lewis penned, “*We are always completely known to God, known like earthworms, cabbages, and nebulae, as objects of divine knowledge. That is our destiny whether we like it or not. But though this knowledge never varies, the quality of our being known can.*”

An ever-increasing quality in our relationships—with God, with others, and our selves gets very close to the most important things in life. At RCS, I trust our Christ-centered context for learning lifts all relationships upward. Thank you, families, for entrusting your children to the relational care of our amazing staff.

My opening story stretched much longer than expected. Please stay with me. I am very excited about the dazzling information and action items ahead!

First, the architectural renderings of our planned multipurpose gymnasium and permanent high school arrive on April 14—at the formal auction. Guests can mingle in and around the three colorful displays for a closer look. Along with the Board, I am eager to see the reactions and capture first impressions. We plan to conduct a quick poll during the evening about the designs. For those unable to attend our formal auction, an electronic link sent during the following week opens access to the high-quality images.

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Following the auction, the colorful renderings will be on display in the district office. Stand by for more information. I want to thank our Board members for attending all the meetings with the architectural teams.

Next, please join me in thanking the K-12 teaching staff and principals for rolling up their sleeves and confronting our curriculums. During the March 16 in-service, the staff examined RCS’ existing curricular maps through the lens of a continuously enrolled learner. Their God-honoring work continues through May 1. By May 8, an electronic copy of the staff’s recommendations becomes available for parent comments. Paper copies placed at each campus enable parents to review the work offline.

The table illustrates below a sample of work completed on March 16. The staff’s efforts also focused on the content areas of Art, English, Math, Music, Science, and Social Studies. Again, on May 8, expect a link to access, review, and comment on the recommended frameworks and content standards.

Draft: RCS K-12 Bible Curriculum Framework (Resource)	
K	Bible Truths (BJU)
1st	A Father’s Care (BJU)
2nd	A Servant’s Heart (BJU)
3rd	Following Christ (BJU)
4th	God and His People (BJU)
5th	Living in God’s Love (BJU)
6th	Redemption: God’s Grand Design (BJU)
7th	Survey of the Old Testament
	a. What are the key themes of the books of the Old Testament?
	b. How does the Old Testament point to the person and work of Jesus Christ?
8th	Survey of the New Testament
	a. What are the key themes of the books of the New Testament?
	b. How does Jesus Christ fulfill the themes of the Old Testament?
9th	Fundamentals of Faith
	a. What are the essentials of God’s Word, the Church and Christian Living?
10th	Life of Christ
	a. How is the eternal Christ revealed in the OT?
	b. How does the New Testament show that Christ’s life, death, and resurrection has secured our redemption?
11th	Biblical Theology
	a. Biblical theology and defense of the Christian faith.
12th	Spiritual Growth
	a. Christian life skills

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During the kickoff of our Enrollment Matters Campaign, initiative #11 introduced the idea of climate surveys. Climate surveys offer an unmatched way to collect feedback about our program, practices, and personnel groups. The results and feedback assist with ongoing improvement efforts. The implementation represents a new idea for our learning community. How does it work?

Look for a link on April 9 to access the Climate Survey. The survey takes less than five minutes to complete. There are similar questions for all three audiences: parents, staff, and students in grades 6-12. These questions incorporate cross-sectional design for richer analysis. Importantly, all parents, staff, and student responses are anonymous. Thank you in advance for your participation. The survey window closes April 27 at 5:00PM, and your help is needed to realize the highest possible return rate.

Lastly, I want to thank the families who attended our Town-Hall meeting in February—RCHS at Black Diamond Camps. Helene Thomas wonderfully recorded a summary of the meeting—note the other attached file. The key topic of transportation surfaced several times throughout the evening. Many families wanted to know if the district could resume bus routes. If you are interested in transportation for your child, then I would appreciate your help. A transportation survey, designed to assist planning, is now open.

There are two steps required to complete the RCS Shuttle Bus Survey:

1. Open the link, <https://goo.gl/SvxvQi>
2. Click Submit when finished answering.

The Shuttle Bus survey window closes April 20 at 5:00PM.

In summary: view the architectural renderings at the formal auction, expect Climate Surveys next week, note our recommended curriculum frameworks arrive May 8, and share your opinions about the Shuttle Bus now. Whew!

I look forward to seeing you at our auctions on April 13 and/or April 14. Thank you to all for the energetic preparation and behind-the-scenes support. May both evenings spill over with spirited and lavish bidding.

My best,
Bruce Kelly

An update to our Enrollment Matters Campaign appears on the following pages.

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	Activity	Action Taken
1	Parcel Sale	The RCS Board completed the necessary steps to abrogate the parcel. We now wait patiently for the General Services Administration review.
2	Master Plan Development	Renderings for Phase 1, a multipurpose gymnasium, and Phase 2, a permanent high school will be unveiled at the formal auction event on April 14.
3	High School Relocation	The Q&A from the town-hall style meeting
4	Norcliffe Foundation Grant	The grant submission deadline is August 2018.
5	Auction Nights	Sarah Rickel, Auction Coordinator, reports everything is ready for our two signature events, April 13 and April 14.
6	Website Improvement and Updates	The website updates continue. Roughly 90% of inquiries for the high school come via the web.
7	Outreach to Christian parents with students in public schools	All three health and science events were successfully completed.
8	Radio Spots	Radio ads are currently playing on KGNW for our Annual Auction. From January through April, radio commercials aired for the Health and Science Outreach Events, Open Houses, and Annual Auction.
9	55th Anniversary Alumni Roll Call Celebration and	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	RCS Community Impact Day Mt. 5:16	Explored options with the city of Auburn Environmental Services, Parks and Recreation, and Community Services division supervisors. The consensus to scale the project to accommodate a smaller group aligned with everyone’s best interests. After conferring with Principal Evans, Friday, June 1 is selected as our first Community Impact Day. High-school juniors and staff will participate and provide support to Auburn Community Services. Typically, Community Service projects serve elderly residents or low-income families with chores they are unable to do. More details to follow next month.
1 1	Parent, Student, Staff Climate Surveys	The climate surveys open April 9 and close April 27. Your help to realize the highest possible return rate is valued and appreciated.
1 2	Research Based Professional Development	Our March 16 in-service training review RCS’ core curriculum areas for coherence and continuity, K-12. The RCS staff continues to comment and recommend a set of content standards for Art, Bible, English, Math, Music, and Science. RCS Staff recommendations are available for parents to review and comment on May 15. Next In-service: August 30 Five Dimensions of Teaching and Learning, Center for Educational Leadership. 8:00AM- 4:30PM

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