



16700 – 174th Ave. SE
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Dear RCS Family,

March 2018

Hooray! Lord, thank you for my six-month anniversary at RCS. I frequently share God answered a sabbatical-year prayer: “Lord, would you take the last 32 years of training and experience and place me somewhere for your kingdom and your glory?” During the sabbatical year, there were times I felt directionless. Like the writer of Proverbs 20:24, “A person’s steps are directed by the Lord, how then can anyone understand their own way?” Waiting for God’s final answer also opened the door for uncertainty, doubt, and insecurity. R.S. Thomas captures my mix of emotions poetically, *“Our prayers like gravel flung at the sky’s window, hoping to attract the loved one’s attention.”*

“Hoping to attract the loved one’s attention.” I am not alone feeling the uncertainty and hesitation. A recent poll conducted by Zondervan publishers revealed 96.7% of us do not enjoy a satisfying prayer life. The stain of dissatisfaction darkens with each unanswered prayer, and misunderstanding prayer’s purpose strains our commitment to pray.

Can Jesus’ seemingly unanswered prayer point to another purpose? In Luke 22:31,32, Jesus is quoted, *“Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift you as wheat. But I have prayed that your faith may not fail.”* I wanted to see Jesus’ rebuke, “No Satan, you cannot sift Simon like wheat.” Later in the same chapter, however, Simon disowns knowing the Lord three times. Simon is caught up in a level of incomprehensible spiritual warfare.

One helpful insight into Simon’s failure, unanswered prayer, and the purpose of prayer comes from Philip Yancey’s book, **Prayer, Does it Make Any Difference**. Philip writes, “We are trying to follow God in a place of active rebellion against him. I don’t expect prayer to make it any easier, any less problem-filled. I do expect it to give me strength to keep fighting. Prayer is not a means of removing the unknown and unpredictable elements in life, but rather a way of including the unknown and unpredictable in the outworking grace of God in our lives.”

Simon Peter’s eventual restoration allowed him to strengthen his brothers. The outworking grace of God in Peter’s life and the outworking grace of God in our lives is a key purpose of prayer. Prayer infuses us with inner strength and channels the outworking grace of God. To that end, I appreciate your continual prayer for the **students, staff, families, Board, and mission of Rainier Christian Schools**. Consider the rhythm of the school week as a weekly prayer guide, e.g., Monday for students, Tuesday for staff.

“Educating and Developing the Whole Person for the Glory of God”

Rainier Christian Schools- Elementary to High School, Preschool & Childcare - Serving South King County for 55 years!

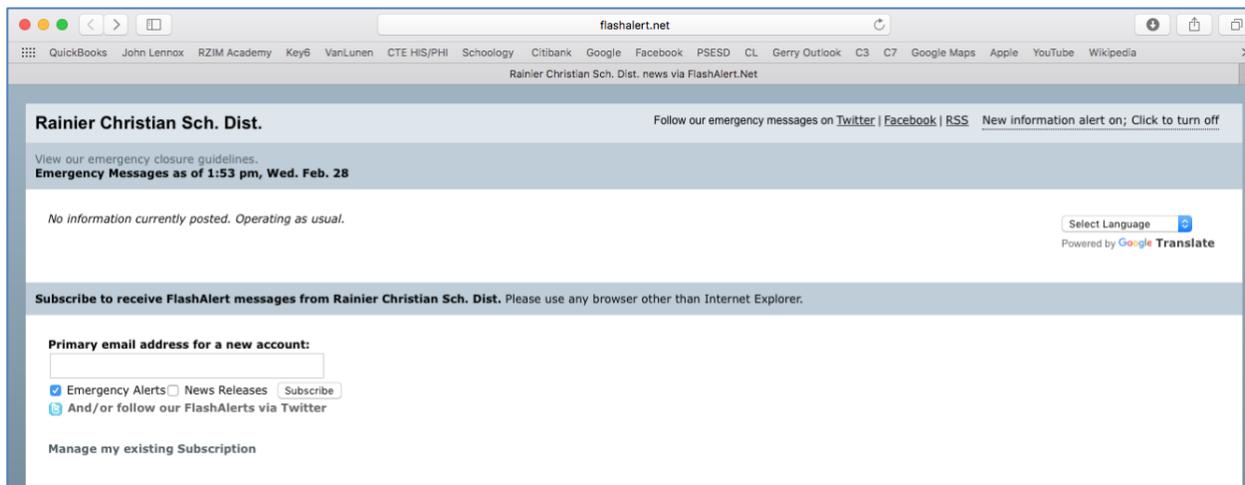


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Turning the page, I want to shift the focus toward safety and communication. The recent tragedy in Parkland, Florida and snow delay underscore multiple concerns. Safety is paramount, followed closely by communication. Our safety drills and protocols adhere to OSP's guidance-- <http://www.k12.wa.us/safetycenter/Drills/default.aspx> All RCS campuses routinely conduct safety drills, and classroom doors are locked during instructional time.

What about communication? In the event of an emergency, snow delay, or early dismissal, our primary communication channel is **Flash Alert**. Sadly, our records reveal 216 out of 360 families have active accounts. I would appreciate your help moving the needle from 60% participation to 100%. There are three easy steps to activate an account:

1. Click the link. <http://flashalert.net/news.html?id=4361>
2. Enter your primary email address.
3. Click subscribe.



Once again, I close by wearing my entrepreneurial hat. In last month's letter, I referenced the AmazonSmile program. Amazon is **tripling the donation amount** to 1.5% when customers make their first eligible smile.amazon.com purchase from **March 12 - 31**. This wonderful opportunity increases donations to RCS. RCS does business as Christian Enterprises Incorporated, a 501(c)(3) entity. Other payback and employer match programs exist, but more time is needed to organize the information. Your support is deeply appreciated.

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	Ron Dawes, State of Washington, Certified General Appraiser, completed the appraisal report on February 15. The report was forwarded along with a letter from the RCS Board to the Facilities & Logistics Services, Office of Management, U.S. Department of Education. These two steps complete our side of process to abrogate the parcel.
2	Master Plan Development	In my second meeting with the Auburn Economic Development Manager, I left with concrete suggestions on how best to move forward with a multipurpose gymnasium and permanent high school. The next step is meeting with architects from Helix to walk the site at KVE and develop a one-page site plan-no elevation. Doug Lein, Auburn’s Economic Development Manager, agreed to convene a meeting with his planning team and me once the simple site plan is prepared.
3	High School Relocation	I am thrilled with this development! Beginning with the 2018-2019 school year, RCS students in grades 9-12 will call Black Diamond Camps their new home. A town-hall meeting is scheduled for March 5 at Real Life Church and starts at 6:00PM . All families are welcome. After a short presentation, the majority of the town-hall style meeting is dedicated to answering questions from families.
4	Norcliffe Foundation Grant	The grant submission deadline is August 2018.
5	Auction Nights	Procurement and communication for the auctions is underway. Our goal is to have 100% participation for the April 13 and 14 signature events.
6	Website Improvement and Updates	Updates are completed, and edits continue.
7	Outreach to Christian parents with students in public schools	All three health and science events are completed.
8	Radio Spots	Radio ads are currently playing on KGNW and KCMS for our Open Houses at KVE, MVE, and RCMS.

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9	55th Anniversary Alumni Roll Call Celebration and	Board member, Ed White, is spearheading the effort to reconnect alumni and capture their stories. Whether someone attended for a short time or their entire K-12 experience, we would love to hear their story. One way to organize the alumni is through a virtual family tree. The branches represent different decades since 1963. The idea is to attach names and stories like leaves to the branches. We need help to spread the word and reconnect with alumni.
10	RCS Community Impact Day Mt. 5:16	We are invited to participate in Auburn’s Earth Day initiative, Clean Sweeps, on April 23 rd . I also want to explore a day later in May during school hours to good for the city of Auburn.
11	Parent, Student, Staff Climate Surveys	The climate surveys are on track to distribute April 9-27.
12	Research Based Professional Development	<p>Our February 20 in-service training provided practical tips and tactics to support and strengthen K-12 teachers’ assessment skills. Teachers appreciated new ideas to help them make a positive impact on students’ lives and learning.</p> <p>March 16 Content Strand Meetings AM Session— 8:30-11:15, PM Session—12:00-2:45 Five Strands: Bible, Science, English, Technology, and Music</p> <p>August 30 Five Dimensions of Teaching and Learning, Center for Educational Leadership. 8:00AM- 4:30PM</p>

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