

ROOSEVELT HIGH SCHOOL



Rider Record

December 2008

A PTSA Publication

Volume 19 Issue 3

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

Hello Rough Riders!! Before I get into the main topics of this newsletter, I want to congratulate all of our fall sports teams. The girls volleyball team went to the state tournament for the first time in history! Several other RHS students made their way to state competitions in boys and girls cross country, boys tennis and girls swimming. The football team had one of the most successful seasons in many years. The boys golf and the girls soccer teams continues to be competitive. Athletics are only part of what we do here at RHS but they provide an important role in developing students' skills like leadership, teamwork and goal setting. Over 400 students participated in fall sports this year. This is almost 100 students more than any other Seattle school.

Part of the reason for such a large number of participants is the involvement of our community and the leadership provided by parents, students, and teachers. This issue of the Rider Record is focused on the leadership groups on campus and what role they play at Roosevelt High School. This will also serve as a guide to the numerous initials you see representing the various groups, for example, BLT, IC, and Site Council. Each of these groups plays a critical role in shaping the future of Roosevelt High School. It is my hope that by sharing a brief outline of the function of each one, you will better understand where certain issues are discussed and decided upon.

Let's start with the Building Leadership Team (BLT). The BLT is made up of staff, students, and parents. This committee meets weekly to discuss building wide issues including school wide events, attendance, student activities and school climate. The BLT is also responsible for providing leadership and direction for professional development, the school budget and the school improvement (transformation) plan. The BLT co-chairpersons are Dan Pickard and Jon Bonelle.

Next is the Instructional Council (IC). The composition for IC is slightly different in that it includes all of the department heads, head librarian, head counselor, activity coordinator, student body president and a parent representative. The purpose of the IC is to provide leadership and direction to the school's instructional program. This includes looking at new course proposals, classroom policies, current best practices, etc. The IC chairperson is Tom Nolet.

Although the next group, Site Council, does not usually go by any abbreviations, it is still as important as the above groups. Site Council focuses on supporting "academic achievement and responsible citizenship for all Roosevelt High School (RHS) students in a world class, student-focused learning environment" (Site Council purpose statement). Members of the site council include parents, community members, teachers and students. Although Site Council does not have any decision making power per se, it can be influential in moving initiatives forward and being an advocate for the school in the community. The Site Council chairperson is Jeffery Grose.

These three groups, in concert with the support of the building administration and the Parent Teacher Student Association (PTSA), allow Roosevelt High School to provide our students the best high school experience possible. Roosevelt is a world class high school and through our collective efforts will remain a world class high school. Go Rough Riders!

Sincerely yours in education,
Mr. Brian Vance, RHS Principal

Communication at RHS

Did You Receive This Rider Record in the Mail?

We want to thank all of you who have "opted in" this year to receive the Rider Record via email. More than 1275 parents and guardians are on our email list – that's 40% of the families at RHS. Thank you so much for helping us save more than \$800 in postage and printing costs each year by simply opting in to receive the Rider Record through email.

For those of you receiving the Rider Record in the mail, do you know that you can help reduce these costs, along with reducing the volunteer hours for distributing the newsletter and your own paper recycling? If you have an email account, please consider this option for your family.

It's simple to opt in. Go to <http://rhsseattle.org/email.php>. Our email list is only used to send you RHS school information – weekly PTSA parent email bulletins, monthly Rider Records, occasional class-specific information and information from the RHS school administration.

You Can Still Opt Into the RHS Student Directory

Ever wonder how to reach a RHS student or parent? The RHS Student Directory may be just the thing to help you out. We have already distributed two versions of the directory this fall and will be distributing the final version in late January so you still have time to opt in. Go to <http://rhsseattle.org/email.php> for all of the information you need about the School Directory and to opt in.

PTSA PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE

As we hurtle towards the end of 2008, it's time to take a quick pause and reflect. How is the school year going for your student and for you? The PTSA is hoping that this issue about acronyms (the alphabet soup of programs and activities and groups) is helpful to you to keep up with what happens at RHS.

Let's start with the PTSA. It stands for Parent, Teacher, *Student* Association. So why does it change from PTA for elementary and middle school to PTSA for high school? It changes because the national PTA recognized that high school students are moving towards being young adults. They take on more responsibilities and challenges as high school students and the national PTA decided that students should be included as part of the considerations and decisions at their high school.

We can tell you from our own experience that students are part of the voice of this school. For example, when we were seeking a new principal, two students were part of the team that interviewed principal candidates. They developed and asked their own questions and had full voting rights. We were impressed with both their poise and their questions.

Also, student leaders come to the PTSA meetings to give updates on student life. It is wonderful to listen to these young leaders because you get the *real* story on how they feel. How was that dance? What's missing in the cafeteria? (Students lobbied for and got milk put into the vending machines last year.) What's coming up in student activities?

Listening to these students speak is one of the highlights of our PTSA meetings. Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, January 21st at 7 p.m. in the Library. We hope to see you there.

Soon we will be announcing how you can help us guide the PTSA by participating in an online parent survey. Look for information in the Parent Bulletin via e-mail or on the RHS website.

Best wishes to every RHS family for a happy and safe holiday season!

Melissa Westbrook and Maureen Dahlstrom

RHS PTSA Co-Presidents

No Roughrider Left Behind

Summer 2008 WASL retake scores arrived in late October. Letters were sent to students the week of October 29th, indicating if students either met or did not meet standard. If your student was close to passing any portion of the reading (cut score of 400), writing (cut score of 17) or math (cut score of 400), I encourage you to request and examine their test. The following link provides the directions for this process (<http://www.k12.wa.us/assessment/Apppeals.aspx> <http://www.k12.wa.us/assessment/Apppeals.aspx>). Select the pdf document "How to see your child's WASL test booklet." Please contact me if you need further assistance.

Currently, the Pathways program is sponsoring after school math tutoring on **Monday-Thursday from 2:30 – 3:30 p.m.** Math tutoring is in room 305. Tutoring is available to all RHS students and is staffed by Roosevelt math teachers.

There are numerous students who were absent during various parts of the WASL last year. They still need to take the WASL and pass the reading and writing to earn a diploma and graduate from Seattle Public Schools. If they pass the reading, writing and math, they will earn a Certificate of Academic Achievement (CAA) in addition to a diploma. If they do not pass the math, they are required to continue to take math courses as well as take the math WASL until they graduate. There are a variety of alternatives to passing the actual WASL test. Please see the following link for a more detailed description of the CAA options.

<http://www.k12.wa.us/assessment/CAAoptions/default.aspx>

<http://www.k12.wa.us/assessment/CAAoptions/default.aspx>

It is very important that your student be present and on time for the WASL.

Dates to remember:

March 7	WASL reading workshop, 9 AM. to 12 PM
March 14	WASL writing workshop, 9 AM to 12 PM
March 16 and 17	Reading WASL
March 18 and 19	Writing WASL
April 11	WASL math workshop, 9 AM. to 1 PM
April 13 and 14	Math WASL
April 20 and 21	Science WASL (required to take, not required to pass)

Amy Schwentor alschwentor@seattleschools.org

Pathways Dean of Students 252-4824

RHS Parent

Involvement Policy

It is the policy of Roosevelt High School to encourage and support family involvement in education, at home, in our schools and communities and in school governance. We recognize the diversity of family structures, circumstances, and cultural backgrounds and respect families as important decision-makers for their children's education. We are committed to the creation and implementation of culturally inclusive and effective school-family partnerships throughout the school, and we believe these partnerships to be critical to the success of every student. (November 17, 2008)

What's New on the RHS Website?

The RHS website, www.rhsseattle.org, has a wealth of information for students, parents and staff. The **Home Page** is constantly changing with new Headlines, the student Daily Bulletin, the PTSA Parent Email Bulletins, the latest issue of the Rider Record, and a fun slide show of RHS activities.

- New Link to the National Honor Society – under Academics
- Updated 2008 School Profile – under Academics

Do you have ideas or suggestions for the website? Please click on the Contact Webmaster link on the left side of each web page to send us your thoughts.

The AP Human Geography Tutoring Center

The AP Human Geography Tutoring Center is open Tuesday – Thursday from 2:30 to 3:30 PM in room 239. It can help answer many perplexing questions:

Are you baffled by maps and data?

Do the changing demographics and social structures of contemporary cities keep you up at night? Does the analysis of population density, distribution and scale make your brain hurt? **Do you wonder about the patterns of race, gender, ethnicity and social status?**

Come find answers to these questions and more.

NOTES FROM THE COUNSELING CENTER

Roosevelt Counseling Office Is Here To Serve You

The Counseling Office is here to serve Roosevelt students and their parents/guardians. If you have a concern or a question, please call us at the Counseling Office, 252-4827 or contact individual counselors at the phone and e-mails listed below. Counselors are assigned based on the first letter of the student's last name.

A-E,	Sarah Chapman schapman@seattleschools.org A (2009 only)	252-4835
F-K	Wendy Krakauer (Head Counselor) wrkrakauer@seattleschools.org	252-4836
L-R	Dr. Littlebrave Beaston lbeaston@seattleschools.org	252-4825
S-Z	Frank Heffernan fheffernan@seattleschools.org A (2010, 2011, 2012)	252-4826

First Quarter Report Cards

First quarter report cards for the quarter ending 11/04/08 were mailed home shortly before Thanksgiving. If you did not receive your student's quarter grades in the mail, please call the Counseling Office. **After reviewing the first quarter report card, if you are concerned about how your student is doing, start by contacting your student's teacher(s).** If you are logged on to *The Source* (<http://source.seattleschools.org>), you can access staff phone numbers and e-mail through that website. Otherwise, you can call the counseling office (252-4827) or the main office (252-4810) for contact information. If you have concerns about your student's overall progress academically, and you have first talked to teachers with specific questions about grades in certain classes, then your student's counselor would be the appropriate next contact.

Plan and PSAT Results

Roosevelt students who took the PSAT, (practice for the SAT college admissions test) on October 15th and the PLAN, which 10th graders took on November 26th (practice for the ACT college admissions test), will get their test results back after the December break. In January, we will return the PSAT results for juniors in U.S. History classes. In January or early February we will go to 10th grade AP Human Geography classes to hand back both PLAN and PSAT results. We will give PSAT results to 9th graders second semester, during their individual appointments with counselors to complete their High School and Beyond Plan. If you or your student want additional information about the results, or if your student does not bring his/her results home, please contact your student's counselor.

Money! Money! Money!

As we informed you in the last issue of *The Rider Record*, if your senior needs a grant or loan to help with the costs of post-high school education or training, make sure that your family completes the FAFSA (www.fafsa.ed.gov). We suggest you keep handy for review the information provided about the FAFSA in the November issue. If you missed the **Financial Aid Workshop at Roosevelt on 12/09/08, 7:00 PM in the Roosevelt library, we encourage you to contact NELA. This is an excellent FREE resource for help in filling out the FAFSA, and about financial aid in general.** NELA is located at 309 23rd Ave. S, Seattle, across the street from Starbucks, phone 461-5474.

As some families have no doubt already discovered, depending on what post-high school institution your child wants to attend, the **CSS Financial Aid PROFILE** may additionally be required. You can get a list of colleges which require it, (primarily private schools) as well as other information about the Profile, by going to <https://profileonline.collegeboard.com/index.jsp>. There is a small registration fee charged to submit the PROFILE, but the fee will be waived for families who meet income guidelines.

Roosevelt Scholarship Application

Speaking of money, the Roosevelt Scholarship application form will be available as of November 26, 2008, in the Scholarship File in the Career Center, Room 108. This single application allows Roosevelt seniors who are going to two year or four-year post secondary schools to apply for access to a significant pool of money available for Roosevelt students only. **Completed applications are due 2:30 PM, Tuesday, January 6, 2009, in the Counseling Office.**

HEC Board Scholarships for Current 9th Graders

For 9th grade families looking ahead and worried about how to pay for college, the State Higher Education Coordinating Board last spring made available a scholarship for which middle school students should apply now. If they graduate from high school in Washington with at least a 2.0 GPA, are low income, and stay crime free, the scholarship will cover the amount of tuition and books at any public two or four year college in Washington, as well as provide an amount equal to public university tuition at many of the private colleges in Washington. This offer has been extended until June 30, 2009, for students in the class of 2012 (who were in middle school last year). Any 9th grader whose family meets the income criteria is encouraged to apply. Students can go online to see the eligibility guidelines and apply at www.hecb.wa.gov/collegebound. This is a fantastic opportunity, and we urge all families who think they may be eligible to look into it. If you have questions or want help with the application process, contact your student's Roosevelt counselor.

Finals Are Coming

First semester of the 2008-2009 school year ends 1/23/09. Finals will take place 1/21, 1/22 and 1/23. For those of you new to Roosevelt, and as a reminder to everyone else, the class schedule will be modified those three days, with not all periods taking place every day, and two hour meeting times for all final exams. The finals schedule is posted in this newsletter, will be sent out via the PTSA e-mail bulletin, will be available on line, and we have copies in the counseling office and main office. Students need to remember, however, that the key to earning good grades is not simply to show up for the final exam. **Rather, students should be attending every class every day and completing every assignment throughout the semester!**

Save the Date!

Join the fun and grab a foursome for the **Fourth Annual RHS Foundation Golf Tournament**, Monday, May 4, 2009. The tournament will be held at the Sand Point Country Club. To receive an invitation, complete the online form at: <http://www.rooseveltfoundation.org/golfregistration.php>.

For information about the Foundation, visit www.rooseveltfoundation.org.

PTSA, ASB, BLT – What Do They All Mean?

For a list of common acronyms, check out the *What's That Acronym?* section on the FAQ page on the RHS website at <http://www.rhsseattle.org/faq.php>.

ACT – American College Test. An achievement test measuring what a student has learned in school. The ACT has up to 5 components: English, Math, Reading, Science and an optional writing test.

AP – Advanced Placement (college-level courses). Through AP exams, you have the opportunity to earn credit or advanced standing at most of the nation's colleges and universities.

ASB – Associated Student Body. The ASB is a student run organization, with officers elected by the students. The ASB organizes assemblies and are also active members of various school governing bodies.

BLT – Building Leadership Team. The BLT is grounded in the belief that collaborative site-based decision-making structures are key to accelerating student academic achievement. It consists of representation from school stakeholders: elected certified and non-certified staff, administration, student and community partners (i.e. parents). See Principal's article on Page 1.

IC – Instructional Council. A representative group of teachers, para-educators, specialists and administrators at the building level that meet monthly to address issues promoting student learning. See Principal's article on Page 1.

OSPI – Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction. Primary agency charged with overseeing K-12 education in Washington State.

PD – Professional Development. Teachers and support staff at Roosevelt participate in professional development on several late arrival and early dismissal days. RHS is working within departments to accomplish goals connected to curriculum and course alignment, while improving student learning through improved instruction.

PLAN – ACT's college readiness test. Helps 10th graders measure their current academic development, explore career/training options, and make plans for the remaining years of high school and post-graduation years. The PLAN is a predictor of success for the ACT.

PSAT – Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test. A standardized test that provides firsthand practice for the SAT Reasoning Test. It also enters you into the National Merit Scholarship Corporation scholarship program. The PSAT measures critical reading skills, math problem-solving skills and writing skills.

PTSA – Parent, Teacher, Student Association. RHS PTSA supports the school through volunteerism. The PTSA publishes a 5-times a year newsletter, maintain a website, provide e-communications and help to organize staff appreciation, first-week packets, and much more. Members also help the students with fundraising and planning throughout their four years at RHS. The PTSA also has representatives on various school governing bodies.

RSHF- Roosevelt High School Foundation. The Roosevelt High School Foundation believes it is the right of all students to receive a quality, personalized, public education that promotes academic excellence and helps students build the necessary skills, knowledge and self-esteem to become successful life-long learners and productive citizens. The Foundation provides grants to RHS teachers and staff for programs and classroom materials.

SAT – Scholastic Aptitude Test. An aptitude test, testing reasoning and verbal abilities. The SAT only has 3 components: Verbal, Mathematics, and a required Writing Test.

SCPTSA – Seattle Council PTSA. Supports the needs of local units while providing a common voice for PTSA members through representation on school district, city and state committees.

SITE Council – Established to support academic achievement and responsible citizenship and serves as an open forum for input from students, staff, parents and community members.

SPS – Seattle Public Schools. The largest public school system in Washington serving 97 schools and over 45,000 students.

WASL – Washington State Assessment of Student Learning. The WASL is a means of measuring student achievement of the state's academic standards in reading, writing, math and other core subjects. It is designed to help teachers refine instructional strategies, increase student achievement and provide data on the performance of schools and districts over time.

Northeast Seattle Coalition to Prevent Underage Drinking

When the Washington State Healthy Youth Survey found that Northeast Seattle experiences an unusually high rate of underage drinking, the area became one of twelve communities in Washington state to receive a grant award through the Strategic Prevention Framework-State Incentive Grant (SPF-SIG). In October 2006, the Coalition began meeting with coordinator Inga Manskopf to identify what contributes to the high rate of underage alcohol use in the area. The Northeast Seattle Coalition to Prevent Underage Drinking consists of representatives from schools (Eckstein, Roosevelt, and Nathan Hale), businesses, social service agencies, Children's Hospital, University of Washington, YMCA, law enforcement, as well as parents and concerned citizens from Northeast Seattle.

The Coalition has been hardworking and effective. In January 2008, a school-based curriculum for all 7th graders was implemented at Eckstein. The coalition started parenting classes (Guiding Good Choices) throughout the community; formed workgroups on cultural competency, sustainability, law enforcement and media advocacy; created a parent pledge and directory and a web site. Because of coalition decisions, there is a substance abuse prevention/intervention specialist working at Eckstein Middle School and Roosevelt and Nathan Hale High Schools. The coalition has also organized a regular meeting in which law enforcement, school personnel, and juvenile court staff discuss issues concerning youth in the area.

Recently, the SPF-SIG Project conducted a community survey. According to this survey 90% of parents do NOT think it is okay for teenagers to drink at parties. More than 90% of parents say that it is never okay for parents to offer teenagers, other than their own children, alcohol in their home. Ninety-one percent of parents always ask who their children are going to be with when they go out on the weekend. These statistics indicate that parents are concerned about the issue of underage drinking, which further indicates that the Coalition is working to help parents and teens in our area.

The Coalition meets monthly. For more information about the Northeast Seattle Coalition to Prevent Underage Drinking, contact Community Coordinator Inga Manskopf at Eckstein Middle School. 252-5010.

inmanskopf@seattleschools.org.

The Building Leadership Team (BLT)

The BLT participates in the governance of Roosevelt High School. It is involved in organizing staff development for Professional Days, student activities, school goals, and school climate. Currently, the BLT is considering the Continuous School Improvement Plan for Roosevelt for the 2008-2009 school year.

The BLT Parent Representatives are the voice of parents on this team, which also consists of the principal and staff representatives. For parents, serving on the BLT provides an opportunity to be knowledgeable about the issues facing the school and to represent the opinions of parents.

The BLT Parent Representatives attend weekly BLT meetings and monthly PTSA Board meetings, where they report on topics discussed and/or decisions made. The Parent Representatives also gather parent input on various topics that come before the BLT.

This year the parent representatives are Lee Martin (leeannemartin@comcast.net) and Renee Notkin (rjbnnotkin@comcast.net). You may contact either of them with questions and concerns.

Roosevelt Teen Health Center

The Roosevelt Teen Health Center provides a wide range of services to students. We are located in Room 255 and are staffed by nurse practitioners, mental health counselors and a clinic coordinator. The THC is administered by Neighborcare Health, a non-profit organization dedicated to the goal of providing quality healthcare to all our community, regardless of economic status, race or religion. Your student can come and register for competent, confidential and caring services that include sports physicals, mental health, flu shots, general health concerns and reproductive health concerns.

Students who come to see the school nurse do not need to be registered with the clinic but all others do. No parent signature is required unless you want your student to receive general medical services. Mental health and reproductive health services need only a student signature. We are bound to respect the privacy of all our clients but are open to consult and work with parents when appropriate.

For students who are registered at the Teen Health Center, all recommended childhood and adolescent immunizations are available free of charge. Examples of available immunizations include the flu vaccine, hepatitis A and B vaccines, the meningococcal vaccine, tetanus/diphtheria/pertussis boosters, and the HPV vaccine (recommended for all girls ages 9-26). If your child is out of compliance with required childhood immunizations, we can get them caught up free of charge. If you have questions or would like to make an appointment for your child to get vaccinated, call the Teen Health Center at 527-8336.

Backstage News from the Drama Department

It's been a busy fall, with an even busier winter coming up for Roosevelt Drama. Thanks to all who made our 21st Annual LUTS (Light Up the Stars) another success! We raised close to \$40,000 to keep the program alive and well for yet another year and we couldn't have done it without you!

December brings our Thespian Induction on December 6th, Musical Auditions on December 10th, 11th and 12th, with the cast list posted before Winter Break. In case you haven't heard, this year's Musical will be....*Cats!* Sorry, tickets don't go on sale until May 1st.

Please join us on Thursday, January 8th at 7 PM in the Theatre for our 2nd Annual IE (Individual Events) Showcase. You will get to see a variety of scenes, songs and terrific performances by our Thespian Troop, who will take their shows on the road to the Regional IE Festival at Redmond HS on January 10th. Friday, January 16th at 7 PM at the Seattle REP, you'll be able to see another side of the talent at RHS, at the Playwright Production, *Spilt Milk*, where 3 plays written by RHS students, and directed by professional REP directors, will be performed. A group of over 30 students will be off to NYC to do some workshops and see a few shows at the end of January – luck-y! But wait, there's more to come during 2nd semester, so mark your calendars for our Winter Production of *Agatha Christie's, A Murder Is Announced* on Feb 26, 27 and 28. Details can be found on our web site at www.rooseveltdrama.org.

The Roosevelt Music & Drama departments have been nominated and have moved to the finalist stage in the Grammy Signature Awards 2009. Congratulations!!

RHS Band-Music, Marching and Madness

This fall over 100 musicians participated in five football games and put on three half-time field shows at Memorial Stadium. RHS' Homecoming game against Ballard was especially exciting—the RHS student section was packed with kids, the "Script R" looked great, we honored our senior band members, andoh yeah, the football team won the first annual Anchor Bowl trophy! Go Riders!!!

On the day after Thanksgiving, the RHS Marching Band marched in the Macy's Parade in downtown Seattle. The parade ended up at Westlake Center.

As you know, the RHS band is more than just marching. The Holly Berry concert is coming up on Thursday, December 18th at 7:30 PM. Come early to enjoy bake sale yummies and support the hard-working band and orchestra programs.

In support of the band, we will be selling beautiful fresh green wreaths and garlands again this year. Details weren't available at press time, so ask a band parent for more info. One reason that the Roosevelt Band Boosters fundraise is to purchase instruments to maintain the high quality of RHS band. So far this year Mr. Brown has been able to purchase a bass drum and stand, a bassoon, a pair of cymbals, and a mellophone. He hopes to purchase French Horns. For information contact co-chairs Luis Benito luisbenito@comcast.net and Sharon Ruff sharoneruff2@aim.com

Orchestra News

The Roosevelt Symphonic Orchestra held their annual retreat Nov. 14 - 16th at Pack Forest in Eatonville, WA. A great time was had by all. The first week of December the orchestra will be busy with poinsettia sales and their annual online auction, both successful fundraisers.

The Holly Berry concert will be held on December 18th. Highlights for the orchestras are selections from the "Nutcracker Suite" by Tchaikovsky and Wagner's "Die Meistersinger von Nurnberg. The chamber orchestra will perform the Tchaikovsky Serenade.

Several Roosevelt musicians performed at the Nov. 12th Memorial to the Tuba Man at Qwest Events center. Musicians were: Dan R, Laura G, Michael D and Grant O. Kudos to all involved in this tribute to a Seattle institution.

RHS Artfund

We just convened our first Artfund meeting on October 28, 2008, in the Library at RHS. Faculty, students, alumni and parents were in attendance. Other interested parents were unable to attend, but have offered their expertise and services. We had meaningful discussions about accomplishments, ideas and possibilities. The following information will update you about what we are attempting to do.

Seed money of approximately \$6,000 (left from the Class of 2005) is available to begin this fund at RHS. By creating a 501 C3 organization, money can be donated, held separately and allocated for specific art projects. With six to eight committed parents and alumni, along with faculty and students, we will have a dynamic mix for this undertaking.

Since the recent remodel, three faculty members have generously given their time and have catalogued most of the archived pieces at Roosevelt. Grants, as well as significant funds donated by the PTSA and Roosevelt, supported the restoration and re-hanging of historic art pieces. Once we have assessed the needs, further restoration can occur, new possibilities discussed, and donations accepted.

Our priorities at the next meeting are: student art gallery and projects, plexiglass protection on the art windows in the Commons, a 501 C3 update and developing a mission statement. Future meeting times will be posted on the parent email system or contact Michelle directly.

Questions? Call Michelle Krippaehne at 524-9636 or at michellek144@comcast.net.

Roosevelt Jazz Band

The Roosevelt Jazz Band is proud to present its ninth annual performance of Duke Ellington's "Jazz Nutcracker," at the Roosevelt High School Performing Arts Theatre on December 5th at 7:30 PM, December 6th at 7:30 PM and Dec. 7th at 2:00 PM. General Admission \$20.00; Seniors \$15.00; Students/Youth \$10.00. Seating is limited. Purchase tickets on line at www.RooseveltJazz.org or call 206-420-3931.

Composed toward the end of Ellington's career, this Nutcracker is an outstanding example of one great composer (Ellington) re-thinking and re-imagining the work of another (Tchaikovsky). Ellington renamed the movements in Tchaikovsky's Christmas-time classic with jazzy titles such as "Toot Toot Tootie Toot" and "Sugar Rum Cherry." The Roosevelt Jazz annual Nutcracker concert is a favorite holiday tradition for many Seattleites; don't miss this new take on a classic.

Junior Corner

Thank you to those parents who have already generously contributed to our Junior Class '08, '09, '10 Fundraising campaign. It's not too late to contribute and help raise funds to offset some of the costs of the many graduation events ensuring that **all RHS students in the class of 2010 can participate** in Senior Prom, Senior Luncheon, and the Senior SPREE. Your generosity will enable all students in our class to enjoy the end of the year senior activities in 2010. If you didn't receive information in the mail earlier in October, please contact Maureen Dahlstrom.

The class officers are busy planning the **RHS Tolo** this year at the Woodland Park Zoo Rain Forest Pavilion on March 14, 2009. It will be a fabulous event with a great DJ, special lighting and decorations in a beautiful setting.

We're planning another Spring Fling, our adults-only dinner party, hosted by 2010 parents in mid-May, 2009. Look for your invitation to our spring 2009 event after the first of the year. The evening will include dinner, libations and a mini silent auction with time for visiting and mingling with other 2010 parents. Last year's party was a great success and we're hoping this year's event will be even more fun. If you're interested in helping, please contact one of the class parents.

Junior Class Parent Reps

Karen O'Conor - kj.oconnor@comcast.net
Kathy Briggs - kdbriggs@hotmail.com
Maureen Dahlstrom - mmjdahl@aol.com
Lindy Odland - lindyace1961@aol.com
Jen Anderson - janderk@comcast.net

Are You Interested in Hosting an Italian High School Student?

ERGON, an Italian organization and partner of Northwest Student Exchange here in Seattle, is looking to place Italian high school students (16 to 17 years old) with American families for the 2009-10 school year. Ergon has already placed two Italian students at Garfield and Mercer Island HS during the current school year. Both the students and their host families are enjoying this experience very much. Other Italian students would be happy to live the same experience and spend an academic semester in Seattle. Roosevelt High School looks very attractive to them because of its outstanding academic standards and wonderful facilities.

Hosting an international student is a great opportunity to share American life with a person from another country, learn about a new culture, and build international friendships.

If this is something you would be interested in or you would like further information please email Gunnell Tanimoto, the Seattle Coordinator at gunnelt@gmail.com.

SEMESTER FINAL EXAM SCHEDULE

1/21/09	8:30-10:30 AM
	Period 6 Final
	10:35-12:10 p.m.
	Period 3
	1 st lunch 10:35-11:10 AM
	2 nd lunch 11:35-12:10 PM
	12:15-2:15 PM
	Period 1 Final
1/22/09	8:30-10:30 AM
	Period 5 Final
	10:35-12:10 PM
	Period 4
	1 st lunch 10:35-11:10 AM
	2 nd lunch 11:35-12:10 PM
	12:15-2:15 PM
	Period 2 Final
1/23/09	7:45-9:45 AM
	Period 4 Final
	9:45-10:00 AM break
	10:00-noon
	Period 3 Final
	12:05-12:35 PM
	box lunch/salad
	12:40 PM
	Make up or as arranged

What's Up With Those Houses South of RHS?

I'm sure many parents (and students) having been wondering about the boarded-up houses around RHS. This area has a landlord who owns about 60 houses in Roosevelt and Ravenna neighborhoods. As you can see, there isn't a lot of upkeep to them. The landlord has finally decided to develop some of the properties. The SE block directly across from Roosevelt and the SW block down from RHS both have separate development deals. Both of the developers want to build mixed use buildings with retail on the bottom and housing on the top.

I am a resident of this neighborhood and I have been attending Roosevelt Neighborhood Association meetings. There was a workshop held recently by the RNA and the developers of the SE block came to talk to neighbors about what we wanted to see. At the workshop, there were many great ideas put forth. "Green" buildings, set-back buildings, good, sustainable businesses at the street level and other ideas came out of discussions.

As you may also know, the block starting at 12th NE and NE 65th street (the music store on the corner) and continuing down to the QFC block are to be where the new light rail station is located when it gets to this part of the city. Neighbors here are excited about it and we realize that our neighborhood is likely to become more densely populated.

The crux of the issue is that the developers of the SE block (they only have air rights so the property still belongs to the landlord) want to build higher than what is zoned (between 4-6 stories). Neighbors are firm on not wanting to see tall buildings creating a canyon along NE 65th. As well, we don't want to see a large development towering over Roosevelt High School which is considered a jewel in our neighborhood. But, the landlord is firm in his desire to build taller. So there is an impasse about what may happen because neighbors are unlikely to support any higher limits to building and the landlord would need the support of the neighborhood to ask the City Council to change zoning for this area.

The SW block has a different developer who is willing to build within the zoning heights. There has been a slowdown towards starting work on that block because of one tree that the City had questions about taking down. I will try to keep up on this issue and let you know what is happening in the area surrounding RHS.

Melissa Westbrook

Sophomore Class

Thank you to all the families who have participated in the Class of 2011 fundraiser "**Four for 2011**"! This will help make the senior activities (prom, luncheon, graduation and spree) more affordable. Our goal is to have everyone who wants to attend these senior year activities to be able to do so and remove cost as a barrier. It's not too late to get involved. For more information email Holly Jacobsen at bhjacobsen@comcast.net or click on the web site www.rhsseattle.org/class-fundraising.php. Any donation is welcome!

The class of 2011 will be this year's **Winter Ball on December 13th**. There will be some **volunteer opportunities** including: ticket taking, decorations, treats etc. For those interested in helping please contact Amy Eernisee at ameeee@comcast.net. If you have further questions, feel free to contact any of the parent reps listed below. Thank you for all your support!

The Sophomore Class Parent Reps

Amy Eernisee (ameeee@comcast.net), Alicia Kutsunai (akutsunai@comcast.net), Tina Owens (tdowens3@comcast.net), Martha Woodworth (marthawoodworth@comcast.net), and Jean Shearer (jkshearer@comcast.net)

Italian Cultural Exchange

In October, 21 Roosevelt students travelled to Riva del Garda in northern Italy to live with Italian students and their families. Instituto Giacomo Floriani and Roosevelt High School formed this partnership in the Fall of 2007. The Italian students visited Seattle in May of 2008. Our trip to Riva completed the first exchange with another trip planned for 2010. Our students visited Venice and Florence as well as the smaller towns of Trento and Verona. The experience of travelling, meeting new people with a different language, a different educational system and a different cultural history is the goal of the program. This first group had a great time and built friendships that will last for a life time.

Running With a Stick is Fun!

Boy's lacrosse is a club sport at RHS, played during the Spring Season. Captain's practices have just begun. Consider joining in on the pre-season play—M, W, Th, 2:30-4:00, meet in front of the RHS gym for a mix of weight training, cardio and play. Must bring full game gear. For information, contact parent board member, George Ridell (george@victorystudios.com).

Latin News

For the past several decades, Latin students at Roosevelt High School have been privileged to participate in one of the largest student-run organizations in the world. The National Junior Classical League, better known as the **NJCL**, works in conjunction with both state and local Classical leagues. Each year, the Washington/British Columbia Junior Classical League, or **WA/BC JCL**, puts on a convention for Latin students in the Northwest. Students from Roosevelt's **JCL** annually prepare for competitions in athletics, academics, oratory, drama, and art. In 1994, five of Mrs. MacDonald's seniors formed the first-ever Washington/British Columbia Senior Classical League, the **SCL**. Today, the WA/BC SCL is largely responsible for keeping our conventions alive and operating smoothly.

Formed in 1936, the National Junior Classical League (NJCL) is an organization of junior and senior high school students sponsored by the **American Classical League**. Composed of local and state/provincial chapters across the United States, Canada, and Australia, it is the largest Classical organization in the world today with over 50,000 members. Its purpose is to encourage an interest in and an appreciation of the language, literature and culture of ancient Greece and Rome and to impart an understanding of the debt of our own culture to that of Classical antiquity.

How Can a School Join JCL?

The **National Senior Classical League (SCL)** is an organization composed of high school graduates and college students who wish to continue their affiliation with the classics and the Junior Classical League. SCL's goals include enhancing and promoting the appreciation of the classics in post-secondary education and assisting the Junior Classical League in its endeavors.

Mrs. MacDonald and students spent Saturday, November 15 in Portland, Oregon for yet another exhilarating Reed College Latin Forum. Please encourage your students to consider taking advantage of this opportunity next November!

We are turning our attention to the upcoming Roosevelt in Rome 2009 (**R in R**) itinerary. Transportation, museum visits, and exciting visits to the Bay of Naples in the South as well as Hadrian's Villa in the Northeast are on the calendar. Roosevelt in Rome is open to students in second, third, and fourth year Latin only. Please consider signing up for the next R in R trip to Italy! ~Nora MacDonald

2008 - 2009**First Semester Calendar**

Dec 5-7	Jazz Nutcracker Performance, Theater
Dec 9	Drama Booster Meeting
Dec 9	2 hour late arrival – RHS PD
Dec 9	Financial Aid Workshop 7PM Library
Dec 6	Thespian Induction
Dec 10-12	Drama Musical Auditions
Dec 13	Winter Ball
Dec 11	December Jazz Night – 7:30 PM
Dec 18	Holly Berry Concert - 7:30 PM
Dec 19	1 hour early dismissal – Winter Break

Dec 22 - Jan 2	No School – Winter Break
Jan 5	Athletic Boosters Meeting
Jan 6	RHS Scholarship Apps Due
Jan 8	2nd Annual Individual Events Drama Showcase
Jan 19	Regional IE Festival at Redmond HS
Jan 13	2 hour late arrival – RHS PD
Jan 13	Drama Boosters Meeting
Jan 19	No School – ML King Jr. Holiday
Jan 21-23	Finals
Jan 23	Last day of semester
Jan 26	No School – day between semesters
Feb 26-28	Winter Drama Production

For the most current information, check the School Year Calendar on the RHS website at www.rhsseattle.org.

Extra Donations Sought for 2008-09 PTSA Mini-Grant Program for Teachers

This fall the Mini-Grant Committee received 28 applications totaling \$11,376.70. *This was almost twice the number of applications and over \$8,000 more requested funds than last fall.* The Committee was able to fully fund 12 requests and is seeking to raise an additional **\$1,109.67** to apply to 7 grants that were partially funded. Even small donations would be greatly appreciated and can make a big difference! Please make checks out to RSHS PTSA (be sure to note "Mini-Grant Donation" on check) and send to the main office.

The Mini-Grant program received \$5,000 in donations from parents, graduates, community members, students and staff for 2008-09. Mini-grants fund curriculum materials, equipment, events, or other needs that arise which may not be met by other sources of funding and are limited to \$300 per grant unless submitted by more than one staff member.

Submissions

The RHS Rider Record newsletter is a great way to reach RHS families when you have information to share or an announcement to make. Please send your article in a Word attachment, along with your contact information to Wendi Gardner, Rider Record Editor, at wendilgardner@msn.com. **Submit your articles for the next RHS Rider Record by January 16, 2009.** The topic of the next issue is RHS clubs and groups. It will be distributed mid February.

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