

Mustang Messenger

PTSA Presidents—Shelley Flores and Deena Polk

Redmond High School PTSA 2.8.100

Editor – Diana Wagner

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17272 NE 104th, Redmond, WA 98052

PTSA website www.redmondhsptsa.org

www.lwsd.org/rhs

Principal’s Message—Jane Todd, Principal

Dear Parents,

Several years ago when I joined Redmond High School, there were a few things that took me by surprise. One of those things was that we had established an unwritten, yet very active method of operation with parents. It went something like this: on our end, we had a recording on the phone so that (apparently) it would be so difficult to talk with a live person that a caller would eventually get frustrated and give up. Administration, and maybe quite a few teachers, (apparently) did not feel the need to return phone calls or e-mails if they ever did get through. I know this because many, many times in that first year I was met with stunned surprise and a, “Oh, you’re really calling me back?” reaction on the other end when I got back to parents. We were in defensive posture because we perceived many parents as . . . well, the ugly word “bullies” comes to mind. As I talked with parents that first year, I asked why it seemed that they waited until emotions were running very high before they attempted to resolve an issue. I asked why they would **start** with (metaphoric) guns blazing and demand a rather extreme resolution rather than work toward a solution in which everyone learns. I was told, over and over again, that the “word” on the street was that teachers would get back at the student if the parent tried to intervene. When I pressed and asked which teachers parents were talking about, almost always the response would be to tell a story of someone the parent knew who knew someone whose child in an elementary school had been made to feel . . . well, you understand what I mean. So, I attempted to put into place a policy which requires that students and teachers meet to attempt to resolve the issue before any decisions are made about changing classes or teachers. Frankly, that policy usually works best when students and teachers meet without parents present, with the help of an administrator or counselor to facilitate the conversation and keep the playing field level. That conversation can teach students they have the right to voice a concern or their opinion, they have the right to give critical feedback and request that a teacher adjust an approach so that they will learn better. It can teach them how to self-advocate. It can help to teach empathy to both parties. It can improve understanding and communication be-

tween the student and the teacher and can get to a better resolution sooner because it places the problem where it belongs: with the two people who know firsthand what the classroom looks like and are the ones most capable of creating the solution.

Since I’ve been and still am a bit of a mother bear where my own children are concerned, I completely understand the rush to defend and the emotion a parent feels when there is a suspicion that your child has been mistreated in some way. However, I also know that if two people see the same automobile accident and later give statements to the police, their statements will differ simply because they have different, individual perceptions of the same event. I know as well that my children’s middle name might as well have been “melodrama” during their adolescence. Everything was hyperbole. Everything was a crisis. Everything was awful, no good, very bad or the most wonderful, exciting, incredible thing ever.

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RHS PTSA Board

Co-Presidents

Shelley Flores
shelley.flores@comcast.net
Deanna Polk
deenapolk@hotmail.com

1st Vice President

Peg Hunt
peghunt@comcast.net

2nd Vice President

Inez Mobley
inezmobley@gmail.com

Secretary

Marie Kent
mariekent@ymail.com

Treasurer

Kathy Dennis
skdennis5@frontier.com

Advocay Chair

Matt Loschen
mattloschen@frontier.com

Mustang Messenger

The Mustang Messenger is the newsletter of Redmond High School PTSA. It is published once a month throughout the school year. The purpose of the newsletter is to report information from the PTSA and RHS staff to the school community.

Newsletter Editor

Diana Wagner
dianavwags@gmail.com

Newsletter Production

Karen Swanson
karens@msn.com

Please submit articles to:
dianavwags@gmail.com

Next issue: April 2011

Principal's Message, continued

So, while one part of me was ready to rush in where angels fear to tread whenever my child would bring home a story, the other part of me said, "Hmmm. I wonder what the teacher would say." Of course I was smart enough not to say that out loud.

So as I was thinking about this letter, I wondered what message my staff would want to send parents. I'll start with my own, but the rest come from assorted staff members:

Try hard to wait long enough to get the teacher's story and then decide if you need to be upset and with whom.

Sometimes your child has to fail in order to succeed.

Even at the high school level, "please," "thank you," and a smile go a long way.

Please allow your student to focus on his/her primary job during the six and a half hours with us. Please do not text or call students during class time.

- Ask questions when you have them.
- Advocate for your child.
- Be involved in your child's school.
- We welcome regular communication and involvement.
- Allow your child to suffer natural consequences and teach him/her to keep commitments.
- It's okay to send regular e-mails and offer ideas and advice (I can always learn.) If I don't answer an e-mail immediately, it's because I'm teaching your children.
- We feel pressured by deadlines like AP tests, just like your children do.
- As a teacher, I sometimes have to read technical material twice to understand it; maybe your child might have to do the same.
- Ask your child what he/she is working on. If you're specific with your questions, you might get a better answer than the "okay" you get when you ask how his/her day was or the "nothing" you get when you ask what he/she did at school.
- I do the majority of my grading at home and not during the day. Given that, please don't expect that a grade will be posted later in the day for a quiz or test taken first period.

And, of course

- Some textbooks that were checked out last year and due to be returned in June are now accruing fines to student accounts. Please check under the bed.

Happy spring, everyone!

Jane

PTSA Co-President's Letter Shelley Flores and Deena Polk

With daylight finally coming early enough so our kids are no longer arriving at school in total darkness, it seems amazing that we have already reached March in our school year. Third season sports will be starting soon, and before we know it, June will be here. For those of you who are parents to seniors, the next few months will be a blur of activities. Senior parents should be sure to mark their calendars for two very special events....Baccalaureate will be held at 7 pm on Tuesday, June 14th at City Church in Kirkland. More information will be available on this very special evening as it nears. The other "big night" is graduation itself, which will be held at Key Arena on the afternoon of Wednesday, June 15th....followed by a PTSA-sponsored all-night "Grad Night" event for the Class of 2011. Look for more "Grad Night" info elsewhere in this newsletter! A HUGE thank you goes out to everyone who supported the Capital Levy. A special thanks to the RHS students who supported the levy and stood out in the rain with their Support Lake Washington Schools advocacy signs. This levy pays for permanent space to address the immediate needs of overcrowding at Redmond and Eastlake High Schools. The plan is to have the construction completed by fall 2012. Redmond High will now have the funds to add a new wing next to the PAC in the grassy area. In addition portables will be placed on the soccer fields.

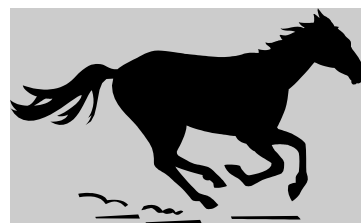
Redmond High is also fortunate to have some very special volunteers in our midst. At the annual Founder's Day Luncheon at Sahalee Country Club on Feb. 11th (Founder's Day is the anniversary of the founding of the national PTSA); two Redmond High parents were honored for their service to the PTSA Council. Matt Loschen was given the Outstanding Advocacy Award for his many years of dedicated service to PTSA and voicing his concern for our children's future in the Lake Washington School District. Michele Stanish-Walls was another worthy award recipient also being given the Outstanding Advocacy Award. Michele is the Interim Advocacy Chair at LWPTSA.

Each spring, PTSA completes a —Needs Assessment! with Redmond High staff. This is a process in which teachers are asked to submit —wish lists of items they believe would

make valuable additions to their classrooms to supplement curriculum. PTSA attempts to fund as many of these requests as possible. What is approved depends on the items requested and the amount of each request compared to the amount of available funds. We are hoping to approve valuable requests this year as well; we will keep you updated as the process evolves. You can be assured that your financial contributions to PTSA are very much appreciated and used so that every student benefits!

The Redmond High School PTSA offers Scholarships that are awarded to further the education of Redmond High School Seniors. This year we are proud to be offering three scholarships. The recipients may only use the money to pay for tuition, required textbooks, or room and board for on-campus housing. The Scholarship must be used by January 11, 2012. Before we can start the application process, we are in need of a Scholarship Chair or Co-Chairs. These chairs cannot be a parent of a senior. If you are interested in chairing this very important committee, please contact Shelley or Deena for more information.

We would like you all to consider attending the annual Lake Washington Schools Foundation "Legacy for Learning" Luncheon on Wednesday, April 20 at Juanita High School. The Foundation, a partner with PTSA and with the district, works tirelessly to bring enrichment programs to all schools in our district. Wouldn't it be wonderful for Redmond High parents to show their support and appreciation for the foundation's work by filling several tables! The luncheon is free, but you will be asked for a donation to the Foundation while you are there. If you would like to attend and sit at one of the Redmond High tables, please contact Deena Polk (deenapolk@hotmail.com).



PTSA Financial Report

As of 2/6/2011

PTSA General Account \$30,246.19

Baccalaureate \$618.54

Graduation Night \$9361.55



For a detailed treasurer's report, please go to the PTSA website, <http://redmondhsptsa.org>.

—Kathy Dennis, PTSA Treasurer

Baccalaureate Celebration— What It Is and Why Seniors and Their Families Should Come

Gayle Di Iorio, Baccalaureate Chair
rgdiiorio@msn.com

Each year in June, along with graduation, there is a very special event for Redmond High School-- especially for seniors and their families! Baccalaureate has been a tradition for many decades and is an inspirational event highlighting the words, songs and talents of seniors that want to share reflections upon their school years, express encouragement or gratitude or just want to inspire one another.

This year the event takes place at a venue large enough to hold all seniors and their families and guests. It will be at The City Church in Kirkland on **Tuesday, June 14th at 7pm**. It is for all cultures and faiths. There will be a chance for seniors to sign up for auditions at the upcoming Senior class meetings.

A letter will be mailed to every family of a senior in March as well as an invitation later in the spring. In the first mailing we are asking for donations to support this program. The cost of Baccalaureate relies on donations to provide this wonderful legacy that is often said to be more intimate and touching than any other ceremony the students will participate in during their senior year.

We thank you in advance for any donations you would like to share. If you can help with a donation, please make your check payable to: RHS Baccalaureate Fund and mail it to:

RHS PTSA Baccalaureate
17272 NE 104th St.
Redmond, WA 98052



Thank you!

SUPPORT REDMOND HIGH AND BACCALAUREATE!



PLANNING A PARTY? NEED ST. PATRICK'S DAY SUPPLIES?

Whenever you shop at EverythingPARTY

Just mention "Redmond High School"

to the store cashier at the start of your transaction

and they will donate

10% of your purchase price to the RHS PTSA

Baccalaureate Fund.

Redmond Location: 1781 Redmond Way

Thank you for your support!

Thank You, Thank You

MOCK SAT and PRACTICE SAT Thank Yous Shari Newton, Chair

It is the end of another year for offering and administrating the Mock SAT and Practice ACT tests. As always, you can never run a successful program without the help and support for many people. Special thanks goes to Pam Summa for being at the front desk to answer questions on the tests, taking care of the registration forms and keeping communications open between the school and the PTSA. The PTSA would also like to thank Paul Mullen and his staff and the library staff for making it possible to have the test.

The Practice ACT is always offered on a Wednesday right in the middle of the day. You would think it would be hard to find volunteers to volunteer to assist with implementing the test. Not at Redmond High School. Special thanks goes to Tori Elhert for offering to help with checking in the students for the Practice ACT. You don't find a lot of people willing to volunteer for 45 minutes. Don't forget the PTSA will be offering these tests again starting sometime in September.

RHS Staff Appreciation Update Celeste Lavender & Pam Adams, RHS Staff Appreciation Co-Chairs

Even though the holiday season in **December** is usually such a busy time for our parent volunteers, we still managed to put together a nice table of holiday cookies/desserts for the staff to enjoy. It was the perfect sweet snack for the staff before winter break began.

WOW.... The "Baked Potato Bar" luncheon we served to the staff in **January** turned out to be a huge success.

We served steaming hot baked potatoes with bowls & bowls of many delicious toppings. We also served green salad & iced green tea. The staff ate and ate... until only crumbs were left...

WE LOVE THE RHS STAFF... On **February** 14th, we decorated the staff lounge with red & pink and everything "Sweet".

Our volunteers brought in cupcakes, muffins, cookies, brownies, fresh fruit and more. The staff said that everything looked wonderful and **VERY SWEET!** They could smell the "sugar" all the way down the school hallways....

We thank all of our parent volunteers for helping us spoil the RHS staff with these fun monthly events.

The staff truly appreciates all that we do for them. And we couldn't do any of it without the help and donations from all of you.

We would like to recognize and thank the following volunteers: Donna Stopenhagen, Julie Westwater, Dana Young, Laurie Chirichigno, Nanci Wehr, Chris Robison, Sheri Pardi, Tori Ehlerz, Karen Dalton, Sheri Sanders, Claudia Ye, Gretchen Loschen, Kelly Cagle, Tricia Brazier, Anne Dardenne, Gayle DiIorio, Michele Seamons, Kelly Petty, Renee Grant, Caryn Wheat, Jannette Blacklund, Debbie Marchione, and Inez Mobley.

Lake Washington Foundation



A Legacy for Learning Luncheon. LWSF annual fundraiser will be held on Wednesday, April 20 at Juanita High School. This event, bringing together the communities of Kirkland, Redmond, and Sammamish (and even a little of Woodinville), is fun, informative, and brief (register from 11 to 11:15 AM, out by 12:30 PM), and comes with plenty of parking, good food, and good friends. Consider being a Table Captain and inviting up to nine education supporters to join you. Please contact Lisa Wylie at info@lwsf.org. Smaller table groups are welcome, too. This year you can register on-line! The event is free but we suggest a contribution of \$150 or more. Over the last six years, your donations have provided over \$700,000 in grants to the students in our District.

Help raise money for the Foundation through Amazon purchases. We encourage you to go to our website www.lwsf.org and click on the Amazon website button. For each purchase you make by accessing Amazon through LWSF portal, 7% is donated to the Foundation.

Volunteers Needed. The Foundation always welcomes volunteers. Volunteer for the luncheon (registration, planning, decorations, set-up), LINKS (the District mentoring program needs more caring adults to mentor students) grant writing, grant reading, marketing, publications, photography, program development & evaluation, event management or become your school LWSF Ambassador. High schools students are encouraged to help out at the luncheon (set up, serving, and clean-up) for community service hours.

Reaching for Success Grants. Each school is eligible to apply for a grant up to \$3,000 to help their school with its Continuous Improvement Plan. Grant applications are due on Friday, February 25, 2011. Check with your school principal for more information about your school's grant application(s).

Microsoft Donates \$130,000 towards Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM). Microsoft donated \$130,000 this year to enhance STEM education in our District. This grant is to develop STEM education for the WHOLE District, not any specific school. Thanks to Microsoft for their generous donation!

Community Partners

Thank you to our corporate and community partners!

RHS PTSA wish to gratefully acknowledge the following businesses for their support in helping us advance our mission and fund critical programs that support our teachers and students:

**Archimedes Clubs
Microsoft
Roos Orthodontics**

Student News - Grad Night and High School Proficiency Test

GRAD NIGHT TICKETS ON SALE AT SCHOOL.

Grad Night 2011 will be a safe, drug- and alcohol-free, all-night celebration that will be held on June 15, 2011.

Tickets are available for \$135 - and prices will go up each month, so purchase your ticket today!

Tickets will be on sale at school on **January 27th, as well as every second and fourth Thursday through May.**

Or, you can complete the [registration form](#), enclose it with a check payable to *RHS Grad Night*, and mail it to: Denise Larson, 9613 215th Avenue NE, Redmond, WA 98053.

Questions? Contact [Denise Larson](#) or [Cindy Swanson](#).

High School Proficiency Exam Date Changes

The district calendar published earlier this year notes when high school students will take the High School Proficiency Exam (HSPE). The state Office for the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) subsequently made a change to those dates. OSPI cancelled the pilot writing exam that added a third day to the high school writing test. As a result, writing will be administered on March 15 and 16 only. The reading exam that was scheduled for March 22 has been moved to March 17, the date that was originally scheduled for a third day of writing. There will be no testing on March 22.

In short, the HSPE testing schedule is:

March 15-16	Writing
March 17	Reading
April 12	Science

Students in the classes of 2011 and 2012 must pass the reading and writing exams or a state-approved alternative to be eligible to graduate. Students in the classes of 2013 and beyond must pass exams in reading, writing, science and math. The math requirement involves end-of-course exams rather than a HSPE test. Those tests will be administered between May 31 and the last day of school. Students will receive more information on these end-of-course tests from their math teacher. For more information, go to <http://www.k12.wa.us/assessment/StateTesting/default.aspx>.

Counselors' Corner

Cheryl Dennis, A – E; Jennifer Martinson, F-Ld;; Ellen Zambrowsky-Huls, Le – Rh; Anita Page, Ri– Z

SCHOLARSHIPS

Seniors are encouraged to pick up our Scholarship Bulletin either in the career center or online and look it over for possibilities. Applying for scholarships is self initiated; the counselors encourage your student to take the time and apply to those scholarships that appear to match his/her qualifications. Scholarships are not always looking for a 4.0 student. They could be looking for your student. Also, if your student has already been offered a scholarship to a college, please inform the Counseling Center by bringing a copy of the award letter to Mrs. LaBrie. It doesn't matter if your student plans to attend that particular school; please tell us anyway. This is the only way your student will receive recognition in the graduation program. Don't forget to check out our career center. Mrs. Davidson has updated lists of scholarships and application details!

SENIORITIS?

This is just a reminder that colleges request both a 7th semester and 8th semester transcript of your student. Even though your senior may have already been accepted to the college of their choice, if the admissions office does not like what it sees ("F's" or "D's", opting out of academic year long classes for easier, "less substantial" electives, failure to meet minimum requirements such as 2nd semester intermediate algebra or foreign language), the college can rescind its admission offer. Some colleges may also "require" students to take additional courses during the summer if they wish to attend classes on their campus in the fall. In other words, the message from colleges is strong and clear: seniors can not afford to develop bad study habits or lapse into senioritis. Help your student by helping us to keep your senior accountable 2nd semester, especially when the weather improves and graduation grows closer. And remember, colleges want to see four years of college preparation with solid performance that reflects both motivation and promise.

GETTING "GOOD" GRADES

As counselors, we are torn between encouraging students to take a tough academic load and balancing their program with a variety of electives. It is possible to find a balance throughout the high school years, though. The key to managing a successful program is increased devotion to good study habits and careful preparation for classes. The only way this can be translated into action is "DO YOUR HOMEWORK." Do it consistently; once behind, energies become divided--students must play catch up while at the same time continuing to do daily work. In sequential subjects like math and foreign language, it is especially important not to fall behind. Students need to seek extra help from their teachers early if they don't understand something. Students also need to take a look at their outside employment commitments; too many hours lead to exhaustion and, in some cases, to misplaced priorities. A high school student's first and most important "job" is high school. Make it count!



Counselors' Corner (continued)

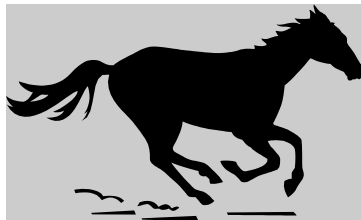
ADD TO YOUR JUNIOR'S LIST OF THINGS TO DO:

- Juniors need to register to take the SAT or the ACT this spring. If unhappy with their scores, they can retake SAT/ACT in the fall.
- Juniors also need to begin their college search this spring. Once they have their SAT/ACT scores, they will be able to find colleges where they'll be competitive.
- Juniors also need to talk to older students home from college. Ask them what they like/don't like about their school.
- Visit several campuses.

Refer to our list of college web resources online on our website. This is listed as *Web Resources for Post High School Planning* in the resources for students section.

TEST DATES FOR 2010-2011 - OUR RHS CODE IS 480-978

	Test Date	Registration Deadline
SAT	May 7, 2011	April 8, 2011
	June 4, 2011	May 6, 2011
ACT	April 9, 2011	March 4, 2011
	June 11, 2011	May 6, 2011



GO MUSTANGS!

REDMOND FOOTBALL KICKOFF

Redmond High School Football – 2011 Season Kick-off Evening and Ice Cream Social

Wednesday, March 9th from 6:30-9PM in the Redmond High School Cafeteria

If your son is interested in playing (or just finding out about) football at Redmond High School next year, then parents and students **MUST ATTEND** this event. This event is open to all current and incoming athletes to learn about the High School program.

Head Coach Jeff Chandler, and many of the assistant coaches will be on hand to discuss:

- RHS Football program overview and expectations
- Off-season training expectations and options
- Calendar/schedule of practices, camps and events for the upcoming season
- How to sign up to be kept up to date with Mustang Football events
- Overview of the RHS Football Booster club
- And we'll be serving Ice Cream!!

This is an important meeting for all parents and students to attend to get an understanding of the program for the 2011 season. If you are not able to attend due to other commitments, please send an email with "Redmond Football" in the subject line to jchandler@lwsd.org with your contact information.



HOST AN EXCHANGE STUDENT

BUILD A BRIDGE WITH ITALY AND HOST AN ITALIAN STUDENT THROUGH OUR PERSONALISED PROGRAM.

Our organisation, Ergon, is devoted to selecting high achieving and motivated students and matching them with host families.

We partner with Northwest Student Exchange in Seattle and are looking for American families willing to host 16-17 year-old Italian high school students for next fall semester or school year.

Our Italian students are attending Mercer Island, Garfield, Roosevelt and Ballard with excellent results. They are all enjoying school and community life and their close relationship with their American families.

Hosting an Italian student offers the opportunity to get to know a different culture and to build a bridge with Italy. Email Gunnel Tanimoto, Ergon Seattle coordinator, at italexchange@gmail.com.

PAST AND PRESENT HOST FAMILIES ARE OUR BEST REFERENCES AND WOULD BE HAPPY TO SHARE WITH YOU THEIR EXPERIENCE WITH OUR PROGRAM.



College Sorority Information Forum

Is your daughter interested in joining a college sorority? If so, don't miss the College Sorority Information Forum on Wednesday, March 2, at 7 p.m. The event will be held at the Bellevue Regional Library, 111-110th Ave. NE in Meeting Room #1. High school girls of all grade levels and their parents are invited to attend. The forum is free and registration is not required.

University of Washington sorority members and alumnae from the UW and other universities will talk about their experiences. Topics include the membership recruitment process, sorority life on campus, and the life-long benefits of sorority membership. Audience questions are encouraged.

The forum is sponsored by Overlake Alumnae Panhellenic, which will have applications its scholarship program at the forum. Registration forms for the UW Greek Preview will also be available.

For further information, contact Mary Anderson, 425-641-6922, Jean Cerar, 425-392-1821, or Anne Dumond, 425-883-8124 (scholarships), or visit <https://sites.google.com/site/overlakealumnaepanhellenic/home>.

FREE FLU SHOTS FOR UNINSURED

The US Department of Health and Human Services is partnering with Walgreens Pharmacies to disseminate vouchers for **free flu shots** to uninsured people in King County. All King County Public Health Centers will have the vouchers available for pickup by the first week of January. A link to these locations can be found at:

<http://www.kingcounty.gov/healthservices/health/locations.aspx>

The free flu vaccine vouchers are good for one flu shot (age 9 or older) at any Walgreens pharmacy in the US through April 15, 2011.

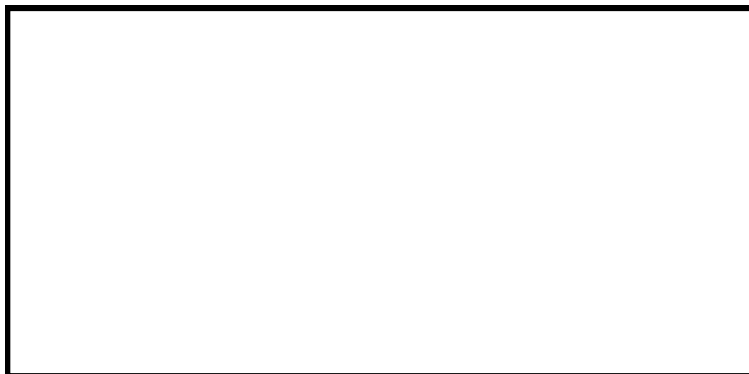
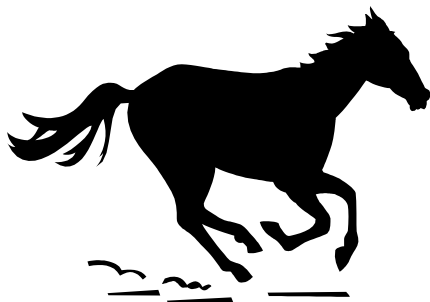
Thank you,

Rebecca L. Harbour RN, BSN, CSN
LWSD Nurse for:
Redmond High School
Sandburg/DCS Elementary & Preschool
Thoreau Elementary School
Cell: 425-495-5296

Mustang Messenger

Redmond High School PTSA
17272 NE 104th St.
Redmond, WA 98052
425-498-7130

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RHS Calendar of Upcoming Events

Dates subject to change; please be sure the check the PTSA website at www.redmondhsptsa.org or the school website at www.lwsd.org/school/rhs.

Saturday	March 5	TOLO Dance		8:00-11:00 pm
Friday	March 18	LEAP Day	No School	
Thursday	March 24	Mr/Ms Mustang		7:00-9:00 pm
March 28	April 1	Spring Break	No School	
	April 11	Last Day 3rd Qtr		
Wednesday	April 13	PTSA General Meeting	RHS Career Center	4:00-6:00 pm
	May 2-5	Staff Appreciation Week		
Thursday	May 5	ASB/Class Elections Assembly	RHS	
Friday	May 6	LEAP Day	No School	
	May 21	Prom	Shilshole Bay	9-12 mid- night