

Evergreen Bough

PAT E Field Day



Jeff (left), Patsy (middle), Sharron (right) discussing the tin can toss.

Laughter could be heard all around, words of encouragement and praise were constantly being given, and smiles could be seen everywhere. Program Area Team (PAT) E hosted a fun-filled Field Day on July 23. From 3:00 to 5:00pm, clients had the opportunity to engage in an array of activities including a slip and slide, tin can toss, face painting, hole-in-one beanbag toss, shaving cream paintings, disc golf, beanbag races, a chalk competition, dice rolling and so much more. Clients that attended the event had a blast; moving from station to station, enjoying each other's company, playing games, making art – making memories. After playing a carnival game, clients were able to choose a medal and a stamp of affirmation.

While a little overcast, it was still relatively warm which made the slip and slide the most popular attraction. It was incredible to see how the staff engaged and worked with all clients in attendance to ensure that each respective client was able to do any and every activity available. One particular client, who typically uses a wheelchair, was interested in going down the slip and slide. The staff worked together to grant the client's request with seamless ease. And that's exactly what this event is about.

Issue 16, August 2019

Contents



Field Day Cont. and Summerfest and Summerfest Pictures 2-4



Diamond Ceremony and CFD and Appreciation 5-7



Prize Winners and Picnic and Food Expo 8-10



HRC and Beyond Rainier School 11-13



Relay for Life, Chapel FMLA, Parking, Updates, Heroes, EDI, Service and Kudos 14-23



Transforming lives

DDA/Rainier School

PAT E Field Day Continued ...

Vivian Lane, a part of the Attendant Counselor Enhancement staff that made the event possible, stated, "We are all here in support of our clients and the sheer joy and excitement that surrounded the event is what we strive for every day." She continued, "This was the first large scale event that I've seen that staff and clients were asked to participate in, in equal measure [...] Field day was important because it brought us together as a PAT and also reminded us that we can have a great time and still meet our goals."

"PAT E's Attendant Counselor Enhancement (ACE) staff were challenged to find creative and fun ways to meet active treatment objectives. Each house came up with two activities that reflected the interests and abilities of the clients. The greatest challenge that many of us face is capturing our client's attention in a way that is fun and meaningful. Field day helped us to meet many of our collective active treatment goals such as traffic safety for clients getting to the event; engagement (clients being mentally invested in their task and therefore more receptive to learning new skills); socialization; peer interaction and so many more." added Lane.

"Ideally, we would like to see a large event like this once a month and now knowing what to expect we can accommodate clients outside of our own PAT with the support of other PAT staff. Additionally, if there are any activities that staff feel like clients would enjoy in the future please let your ACE staff know."

"We would also like to thank all the house staff that brought clients down to the event and helped them have a good time. In fact this event wouldn't have been possible without the support of CMO, Saskia Gorsuch, Stacey Holt, Derek Sleight, Laurel Delmore from the Recreation team and our PAT E Attendant Counselor Managers."

Field Day was an incredibly successful event. Thank you for what you do every day for Rainier School clients!

Written By: Vivian Lane & Antoinette Graham



Liz, Chelan ACE (left) and Brenda (right) getting butterfly facepainting.



PAT E staff assist client back into wheelchair after going down slip and slide.



Employees pose with wanted sign during parade.

Wild West Summerfest

Summerfest was a much anticipated event by clients and staff. Months of planning go into the event to make it a success and every year it gets bigger and better.

The campus buzzed with excitement knowing that the day would bring nothing but joy, prizes, good food, great company and plenty of western themed fun. The day kicked off with the traditional parade. Days prior to Summerfest, clients and staff transformed their transportation carts into western wagons. The floats were nothing short of masterpieces decorated with horses and everything fit for cowboys and cowgirls. Both clients and staff wore western attire with the proper boots and headgear to match. There was no shortage of creativity. Along with the decked out western floats, cheerleaders, miniature horses and mini coppers made its way through the parade.

Soon after the parade, the activities commenced. There were countless games including connect four, Kerplunk, Jumbo Jenga and the infamous dunk tank to name a few. The Tacoma Rainier's mascot Rhubarb made a special guest appearance; making for happy clients that wanted nothing more than a hug and picture from the famous mascot. The vendors that attended the event brought a variety of goods that piqued the interest of all that walked by. Clothes, jewelry, plants, make-up, candles, furniture, fruit, food and just about anything you could think of was available for purchase. The Guy Johnson band kept the music playing and allowed others to sing as well. Jayden Driscell, the family member of a Rainier School employee, sent a letter of thanks stating " I just want to thank everyone at Rainier School for allowing me to sing at Summerfest. Special thanks to the band for their time speaking with me about how to not be afraid of the mic. I have been here many times and I truly love the clients and all the good work staff do."

The hard work and preparation put into the event was evident and appreciated by all who attended. Clients, staff and community members alike look forward to Summerfest 2020.

Written By: Antoinette Graham



Wild West Summerfest 2019

Diamond Ceremony



Pat talks about the history of Rainier School during Diamond Recognition Ceremony.



Shelly (left), David (middle) and Vee (right) take a photo before the event begins.



Beautiful center-pieces decorated each table.

It is not often that we have the opportunity to formally celebrate our elders. Here at Rainier School, we created the opportunity to honor our 70 and over clients with a Diamond Ceremony. The celebration was held Thursday, June 13; it included live music, guest speakers, a glimpse into the history of our clients, recognition of the honorees and of course refreshments.

From start to finish, the ceremony bustled with excitement. Clients moved around the gymnasium to find better seats, staff shuffled in to celebrate with clients, speakers readied themselves to share their stories and memories, ceremony staff prepared the cake and drinks to match client diet textures, musicians played the classics and honorees sat at their designated tables soaking in the excitement of being celebrated.

The event officially began at 1:00pm but all were invited to come early to listen to music and dance. As the honorees were ushered in, they traveled down a red carpet and in true movie star fashion, were photographed. The singing of the National Anthem by James Houston signaled the official start of the event. Pat Bockelman's welcome speech and Katia Ramirez's poem reading followed the anthem. Katia Ramirez encouraged the audience to stand and applaud the honorees; a special applause was given to the eldest client who stands at 92 years young. Speakers included Cathy Frye and Kate Larson who shared their memories of the clients and lessons learned over the years of working at Rainier School. A short Rainier School introduction by Pat led the audience into a slideshow of images of past clients, old buildings and a seemingly different lifetime. Last but not least, 47 70 and over clients were individually honored with a certificate, cake and punch.

The Diamond Ceremony was beautiful through and through, from the decorations that lined the stage to the heartfelt sentiments presented. This event wouldn't have been possible without the hard work of many including: Vee Sauls, Katia Ramirez, Shelly Williams, Katie Weight-Taylor, Pat Bockelman, Kate Larson, Cathy Frye, the Adult Training Program (ATP) team, the live band, Marcus Goetz and the many staff that participated by bringing the clients to the ceremony. Rainier School staff are truly incredible, talented, creative, hard-working individuals who work tirelessly to ensure the clients receive nothing but the best.

Written By: Antoinette Graham

HUMAN RESOURCES COMBINED FUND DRIVE



WHAT IS THE CFD?

The Washington State Combined Fund Drive (CFD) mission is to empower Washington public employees and retirees to strengthen their communities through the funding and support of charities. We provide a service for public employees from state agencies, to universities and even through retirement by creating a fun, easy and enjoyable experience of giving through your paycheck by payroll contribution.

It's Easy

You can donate to your favorite charity using our fast and convenient Online giving tool.

It's Safe

The CFD encrypts and protects your donation details using the best technology available.

It's Your Choice

With more than 4,000 local, national and global charities, you're sure to find a nonprofit that connects with you.

It's Tax Deductible

All donations made through the CFD are considered tax-deductible.

It's Sustainable

The member charities of the CFD rely on the steady revenue that comes from CFD donors.

Payroll Contribution

- Over **16,000 employees** use this option every year.
- You can **choose** to give as little as \$1 per paycheck, either a monthly contribution, one-time donation, a personal check or a limited-time gift.
- You can check your donation and **change it anytime** through our encrypted and safe Online portal or use a paper contribution form.

Fundraising Events

- More than **900 state employees volunteer** across Washington to fundraise events large & small for charities in their communities.
- You too can **join in, or help out**, with these charitable events and pay with cash, check, or even a one-time credit card contribution.

Employee Appreciation Celebration

Written By: Antoinette Graham

The first Employee Appreciation Event of the year was hosted on Wednesday, July 10. The all-day event started at 12:00am to 3:00pm and resumed from 12:30pm to 4:00pm. Employees from all shifts had the opportunity to mingle with associates from many different houses and departments over beef tacos, cake and ice cream sundaes. One Attendant Counselor 1 on night shift stated, "It was fun seeing everyone that you normally don't get to see."

Coworkers and the like were also able to bond over good music, photo booth pictures with many different props to choose from, table trivia, a reminiscent slideshow, raffled prizes and the commonality of being appreciated. This Employee Appreciation Celebration had a fun, light-hearted, relaxed, happy, food-filled atmosphere. No matter the time in which an employee attended the celebration, laughter and excited shrieks, mixed in with conversations, smiles, handshakes and hugs could be seen in every corner of the room.

"This was great" and "I thought the event was a success" and "It was nice to see management serving the food ... beautifully decorated and fun" were among the many positive comments that employees had to say about the event. As can be expected in our work environment in which unpredictable situations are the norm, some employees were unable to attend the events in the Canteen and Wellness Center. However, those employees were able to call in their orders and have them delivered. It was as if Rainier School had its own Door Dash business for the day.

Along with the food that was delivered, our amazing delivery staff also delivered prizes to raffle winners. The prizes included glasses, Seahawks mugs, gift cards, books, baskets, candy, flowers and so much more. Everyone that attended or called in had their name entered into the raffle for a chance to win one of the 100+ prizes. When staff received their prize, there was a lot of excitement, cheering and laughter. Beyond the raffle, many people took pictures in the photo booth. There was an endless array of props available to use. Smiles from ear to ear and laughter filled the photo booth area.

There were so many moving parts and something for everyone to enjoy. The event was only successful because of the many helping hands that made it all possible. Some of the key players included: Shelly Williams, Scott Ward and the maintenance team, Jill Larsen, Pat Bockelman, Megan DeSmet, Dr. Philbrick, Mary Neff, Karen Leitch, Sandeep Kaur and the kitchen staff, Tom Farrow, Katia Ramirez, Kristi Maris, Callie Denning, Sherryl Fleming, Jeff Campbell, Sean White, Mike Crane, Derek Sleight, Kristin Galland, Chris Vanhoof, Shelley Wright and ATP staff, Karin Balsley, Tina Hiebert, Karlene Tuthill-McVay and the custodial staff and so many more.

All of the hard work put in prior, during and after the Employee Appreciation Celebration was well worth it to show our appreciation for the amazing work that Rainier School employees put in daily. What you do is far from easy but I hope you know that you are appreciated. Thank you for serving our clients and transforming lives.



THANK YOU!

Employee Appreciation Prize Winners

At this year’s Employee Appreciation Event, all employees had the opportunity to enter their name into the raffle and win a prize. There were over 100 gifts, including glasses, Seahawks mugs, gift cards, books, baskets, candy, flowers and so much more. Please see the lucky winners below.

- MichaelRoberts
- JacobEarley LakeyshaAdams MboyoKangaj
- StaceyHolt JeremyPyle DebbraChapman LauraGoldbecker
- GregRichardson AutumCenkush CarolynCarter KaylenHankemeier ToddAnderson TeresaSchindle
- Sad'eMattson GinaYando ConnieSharp RebeccaGriffin
- GeorgeKinuthia TaraSingbeil LarryMcGeelIII
- TautaiailiiFalealii LynetteRyder
- SamKreidler KevinKistenmacher JustinDenning AmandaParker
- RobinWade PattiTaylor RoseViggue
- SherrylFleming JoeyDormady ReneWhite CrystalLePretre StevenYates KelliBumgardner
- JulieHeuschkel WesleySchaible JamesHeideman ShannonGarten CaseyHebert TreniqueBrewster-Richie
- MarvinFultz JulieKnowlton AnnetteKuehn Billie-JeanGiovannetti BlaineBaker KristiGalland
- KatieWeigh-Taylor KaylaHolm JessicaJones MarileaMarning MichelleNichols
- RuthMtembellkwa SharonFischer RickRose MariaMisely
- ChristyCollins TimMurra
- AvennDvette MichelleWagner
- HarrietShiloh MelissaVolk
- AshleyZemke KristaSteele ColtonHyatt SunnySwanson JoyceRichards
- AprilHasek LisaLane FredrickMungu DeidreMance MelissaHickerson
- JeffShurman KariKapotins JeffDietz NicoleBrandon PaulaPadillo ToddBurson
- AaronMeyer KristinaYates CathyFrye JeremiahHorton MargaretHyden CathlynKlassen JoshBuzzell
- AndyMcDovell ArielyContreras TobitHickenbottom LisaAllen RonnielynnSchmidt
- JenniferTennyson DerekSleight GwendolynBillingsley DixieVader
- EricMelgar RobinLucas KevinCooper TambriaBendickson KarenBarde TamekaLacroix
- JamesJohnson ErickaCoward CheyenneBruce PamTeernstra
- JennaTickle JustinBrown CourtneyHanson KathyMcGhan
- LaureceRust CourtneyCampbell AmandaNichols ChristinaRathburn JoshuaCooper
- DavidHayes ChristyFredrick MauricioCarrillo KarenLeitch JanineSalinas
- McKennaReagan CarolHumes KarenEscamilla KatieRahier
- AngelinaMcCoy TraciComstock
- HannahKozlowski



The longshore union members, volunteers and Rainier School employees take a commemorative photo.

Ron Magden Memorial Longshore Union Picnic

The delicious aroma of grilled hamburgers and sweet cotton candy filled the air. These wonderful scents signaled the beginning of the annual Ron Magden Memorial Longshore Union Picnic, a highly anticipated event by clients and staff alike. The picnic was held on a beautiful summer Sunday on July 21.

Yearly, members of the Longshore Union visit Rainier School to prepare and grill several hundred burgers. With the help of volunteers and Rainier School employees, burgers (or sloppy joe sauce) were placed on buns and the serving line prepared to feed hundreds of hungry people. There was so much delicious food to choose from including burgers and endless toppings, sloppy joes, macaroni salad, an assortment of cookies, cotton candy, snow cones and pop.

The wonderful DJ filled the air with classic sounds of familiar music. Clowns joked, painted faces and made creatively unique balloon animals. ATP staff braved the daring heat to make snow cones and cotton candy. The Office of Developmental Disabilities Ombuds passed out pens, coasters and important information about client rights. Tables lined the inside of the Canteen and the field outside, giving clients, families, employees and volunteers an opportunity to soak in the sun or take a break from it by stepping into the Canteen.

The picnic was a blast. This event has a special way of bringing families together. This was especially true for a family that came out to visit their sister. This client was surrounded by the love and happiness of six siblings. She smiled the entire event and that's exactly what the Ron Magden Memorial Longshore Union picnic aims to do.

Thank you to the wonderful Longshore Union workers and volunteers that came out to help and continue to do so year in and year out. A special thank you is also owed to Shelly Williams, Jeri Finck and the kitchen staff, ATP and the many other employees that made the event a success.

Written By: Antoinette Graham



The Client Food Tasting Expo dream team take picture before serving clients beef and chicken alfredo lasagna.

Client Food Tasting Expo

Drumroll please and the winner is ... chicken alfredo lasagna. On Wednesday, August 7 from 10:30 to 11:30am, clients had the opportunity to attend the Client Food Tasting Expo. Once clients arrived, they were given two types of lasagna: traditional beef lasagna and chicken alfredo lasagna. Both were received well, but the chicken alfredo won by a few votes. All in all, 53 clients attended the event from all different Program Area Teams (PATs) to taste and vote and what they hoped to have added to the menu.

Sandeep Kaur, Food Service Manager and Megan DeSmet, Superintendent believed that this was an important and needed event to receive feedback from the clients who indulge in the kitchen menu daily. Clients enjoyed the short but meaningful event. Not only did they get to eat two delicious types of lasagna, they were also able to vote on what would be the next new menu item.

While this is the first event of its kind, it won't be the last. Sandeep Kaur explains, "This event adds another fun activity the clients can participate in. We look forward to doing more food tasting activities in the future [...] seeing the clients excitement in being able to try new foods and being able to choose what they like" is rewarding and fun.

Many helping hands made this event possible: food service manager, dietitians, speech pathologist, diet cook supervisor, AM cook supervisor, a volunteer cook from the kitchen, ATP staff volunteer and all the staff who brought the clients to the event.

A special thank you to all that made this event possible.

Written By: Antoinette Graham

Volunteer Opportunity at DSHS' Rainier School

Human Rights Committee

Every Monday

1 - 4 p.m.

Rainier School
2120 Ryan Rd.
Buckley, WA

Rainier School is an intermediate care facility for individuals with intellectual disabilities. Our Human Rights Committee (HRC) advises the superintendent on issues involving clients' rights, treatment and quality of life. The committee will:

- Review and approve program interventions and policies to ensure they do not restrict the clients' rights
- Act as a council to the superintendent by recommending resolutions

To become an HRC member you must be:

- 18 years or older
- Able to pass a background check
- Available for training

Please contact Antoinette Graham at (360) 829-3061 or at Antoinette.graham@dshs.wa.gov for questions or sign-up information.



Barb Comley poses with 60lb halibut that she caught in Alaska.

Beyond Rainier School

As the saying goes “all work and no play keeps the balance away.” While we love our jobs (most days at least) it is important to, on occasion, take some time out to “play” and relax. That is exactly what Barbara “Barb” Comley did on her trip to Alaska.

“Alaska is breathtakingly beautiful and not too far away from Washington. We drove a truck/boat up through Canada and went by ferry. The trip took us three days with driving and ferry stops at Ketchikan and then Wrangell, Alaska. Flying usually takes a couple hours and costs around \$250.”

If you’ve never been to Alaska, you may be wondering “what is there to do in Alaska?” According to Barb, there are festivals, great places to eat and of course fishing.

“We travelled by boat [...] to Petersburg, Alaska for the weekend for The Little Norway Festival.

The Norwegian fishing town hosts a yearly event right in the middle of town. I was able to touch an iceberg and taste amazing Norwegian cuisine that included fish and “lefse” which is a thin potato pancake filled with butter, cinnamon, sugar and jam.

If you’ve never been to Alaska, you may be wondering “what is there to do in Alaska?” According to Barb, there are festivals, great places to eat and of course fishing. “We travelled by boat [...] to Petersburg, Alaska for the weekend for The Little Norway Festival. The Norwegian fishing town hosts a yearly event right in the middle of town. I was able to touch an iceberg and taste amazing Norwegian cuisine that included fish and “lefse” which is a thin potato pancake filled with butter, cinnamon, sugar and jam. The town dresses up like Vikings and their folk costumes.

Beyond Rainier School Continued ...

The festival was so much fun they had games, contests and plays. We also visited a historic 100-year-old wooden ship that is still used to pick up fish. We also did a riverboat tour and saw lots of wild life including wolves, coyotes, bears, deer, whales, eagles, moose, and fish. Wrangell has tours and is a great fishing town. I have also taken the Alaska Cruise with Princess Cruise Lines and that was amazing. It is truly a wonderful place to put on your bucket list.”

The highlight of the vacation, however, was the halibut fishing. Halibut fishing “is so much fun.” Barb caught a 60-pound halibut, her second largest catch after her 155-pounder in 2013. “I’ve been hooked on halibut fishing for about ten years.”

Barb’s best tips for making the perfect catch: patience and skill. She says, “Let the line drop then do 4 turns on the reel so, you’re not sitting on the bottom; move to a different location if no bites after an hour.” Barb continues, “Doesn’t really require to be in that deep of water either, I caught this 60-pounder (pictured above) in 40 feet deep, calm water in the inside passage, while watching the whale show in the distance. After hooking let in run and slowly reel it back in so it wears out. This will take some time, so have patience.”

After making an impressive catch, Barb stated, “we cut it and immediately froze it. On the return plane trip I took the box of fish to airport, they loaded it, and I paid the baggage fee. Alaska airlines makes this so easy. I fill my freezer with fish and always give it away to my friends and neighbors. I usually cook halibut at least once a week.”

Barb’s friends and neighbors are truly lucky because if you know anything about fish, you know that not only is halibut tasty it’s also expensive. While there is much time and preparation put into the specifics of the trip, it is well worth it for Barb.

If you have travelled in the recent past or plan to in the near future, please share your experience with us and include pictures. Contact Antoinette Graham at grahaad@dshs.wa.gov for more information or questions!

Happy Travels!



Alaskan Iceberg



Bigger Iceberg



Alaska Tour Guide

Written By: Barb Comley & Antoinette Graham

Relay for Life



Over a span of six weeks PATA collected donations for a chance to win a jar full of candy and gift cards. The winner was...Candice Tharge, FSW on 2010B had the winning guess of 653 items! Congratulations to Candice and a big thank you to everyone who donated to the cause. We were able to raise over \$400 for Relay for Life! (Pictured above)



Kate Larson headed the effort to purchase live butterflies. During the ceremony, people had the opportunity to purchase a butterfly and let it fly. The butterflies not only fit the theme "Let Cancer Take Flight" but it was also a beautiful experience. (Pictured to the left)

THANK YOU to all of you that came out Friday, rain or shine, to support our Relay for Life Event! Shout out to CMO Team, Finance Team, Shelly Williams, Mardella Park, and Recreation for all the behind the scenes actions. (If I forgot anyone, it was not intentional) Most of all thank you to each and every one of you that supported the cause, with fund raising, participation and moral support. It was because of all of you and your kind hearts and generosity that we were able to raise \$3500.00. Let Cancer Take Flight!!!!!! Color the Campus for a Cure winner was ...ASPEN House. We also have Honorable Mention going to: Naches House, Omak House, Alpine House, Haddon House and Chelan House. You all did an amazing job!!! We are already looking forward to next year!!! Remember anyone is welcome to participate and share their ideas. (Pictured below)



Relay for Life at Rainier School

Free cotton candy and hot cocoa, kettle corn and caramel corn, nachos and coffee filled the stomachs while sounds of “Sweet Caroline” filled the ears of all whom attended the second annual Relay for Life event at Rainier School on Friday, June 7. Clients and the community intermingled between 5pm and 10pm for a common cause dedicated to helping communities “let cancer take flight”.

Vendors kept everyone warm and energized and the DJ kept both the clients and community members actively engaged through playing a mix of old classics and new hits. Clients took breaks between walking relay laps to display their dance moves. Families and friends alike bobbed their heads along to the music while singing the songs that brought up past memories while simultaneously creating new ones. Even with the gloomy weather, the participants of Relay for Life shined and smiled brightly, enjoying the festivities and purpose of the event. In keeping with this year’s theme of “letting cancer take flight”, staff had the opportunity to purchase butterflies to release during the opening ceremony of the event.

Prior to Friday, June 7, our staff came up with creative ways to fundraise for the American Cancer Society including selling candy, baked goods, kettle corn, a guess jar competition and a boot donation drive. Between our awesome clients and amazing staff, Team Rainier was able to raise \$3,500!

Relay for Life was an experience to remember and was only made possible because of the dedicated staff at Rainier School. The Relay for Life committee that made this event possible deserves a special shout out CMO Team, Finance Team, Shelly Williams, Mardella Park, and Recreation. Special recognition is also owed to the many leaders that spearheaded fundraising events on campus as well; they include Mardella Park, Kiley Tinney, Cheri Rodriguez and Jessica Everton. Thank you to everyone who donated resources, spent time and offered support through the Relay for Life journey.



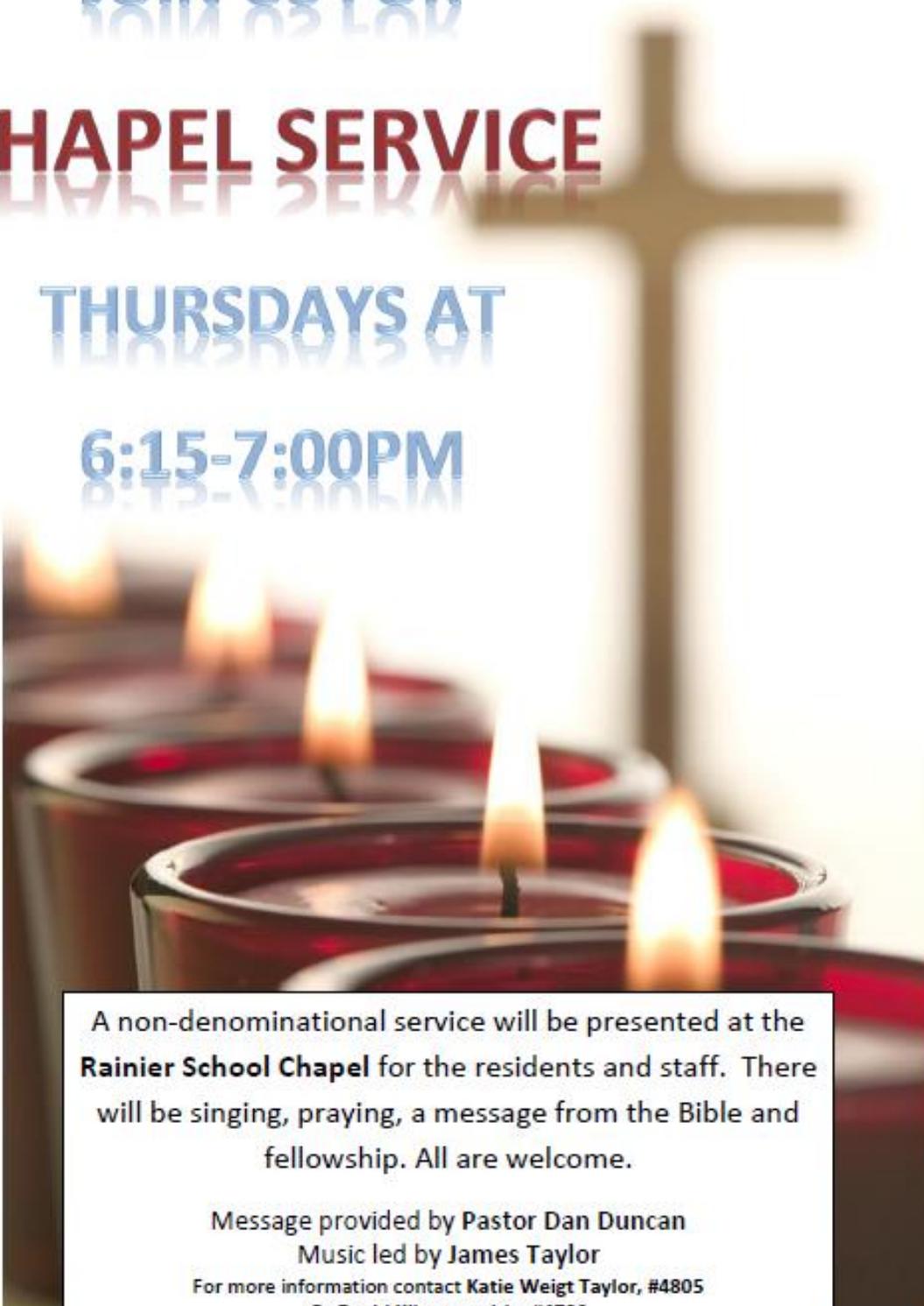
(Pictured above) ATP staff handout freshly made cotton candy during Relay for Life.

(Pictured to the right) Carol and family snap a quick picture before releasing the butterfly.



(Pictured above) Kristi begins event with opening remarks.

Written By: Antoinette Graham



JOIN US FOR
CHAPEL SERVICE

THURSDAYS AT
6:15-7:00PM

A non-denominational service will be presented at the **Rainier School Chapel** for the residents and staff. There will be singing, praying, a message from the Bible and fellowship. All are welcome.

Message provided by Pastor Dan Duncan
Music led by James Taylor

For more information contact Katie Weigt Taylor, #4805
Or David Klingensmith, #4702

Paid Family and Medical Leave Deduction

Submitted By: Jill Larsen

Starting in 2020, Washington will be the fifth state in the nation to offer paid family and medical leave (PFML) benefits. This benefit offers partially paid leave to care for yourself or a loved one in times of serious illness or injury, to bond with a new child joining your home through birth, adoption or foster placement, and for certain military-connected events if you have a family member in active duty service. This PFML program is funded by premiums paid by both employees and employers, and is administered by the Employment Security Department (ESD).

Like non-bargaining unit employees who started contributing to the premium on January 1, 2019, as a state employee in a bargaining unit position, you too will see a new premium deduction in your July 10, 2019 paycheck. For 2019, the total premium is 0.4% of each employee's gross wages up to the Social Security cap of \$132,900. Employees will pay up to 63 percent of the total premium. To estimate your premium go to the [Paid Family and Medical Leave Premium Calculator](#) provided by ESD. The employer is responsible for contributing 37 percent of the total premium; so the state, as your employer are also contributing. Both your share and the employer's share will be collected by the employer and sent to ESD on a quarterly basis.

On January 1, 2020, you will be able to apply for paid family and medical leave when you experience a qualifying event and have worked 820 hours (about 16 hours a week, on average) in the year leading up to your date of leave. The 820 hours is cumulative, regardless of the number of employers or jobs held during a year. This isn't like paid sick leave; you will file your claim with the Employment Security Department (ESD), and you will receive a partial wage replacement from ESD rather than your employer. The wage replacement is generally up to 90 percent of your weekly wage. Typically, you'll have access to up to 12 weeks of paid leave, but may qualify for additional weeks in limited special circumstances. You can learn more about this program at [Paid Family & Medical Leave - How do I manage my Paid Family & Medical Leave account?](#)

Do you have questions? Ask your HR representative or ask your questions directly to the Paid Family and Medical Leave program at paidleave@esd.wa.gov. You can also find them on Twitter, Instagram and Facebook @PaidLeaveWA.

Motor Pool Parking

Written By: Scott Ward

Please follow the below instructions for returning vehicles back to Motor Pool during regular and after hours. Thank you.

1. All vehicles returned during regular and after hours, must be locked and parked inside Motor Pool parking lot inside locked gate then vehicle keys returned into key box.
2. Motor Pool gate padlock, is keyed to your (F) series key. Please make sure, gate is securely locked upon your exit.
3. Please make sure you do have your (F) series key before coming to Motor Pool.
4. If you find you were not issued and (F) key, please contact your ACM for assistance.
5. If for any reason you have any issues, please call Duty Office at **3010**.

Rainier School Updates

Water Available

Please note the locations of water dispensers available to all staff: each PAT Headquarters, CMO Headquarters, Staff Development, Medical area, HR/Finance/Recruitment, ATP Oakley, Administration, Kitchen, Wellness Center and Custodial. This water is for ALL staff; water should be in accessible areas for any staff to use (Departments please make sure staff can get to it.) It does not matter what area you work in, you are free to get water from any location. Water was put in heavily trafficked areas throughout grounds so anywhere you may be water is available near you. If you choose to keep a water cooler in your area that is private paid for convenience Mt Mist is prepared to offer you great pricing. If you already have a cooler and want to keep it please call the number provided and he will ensure you are getting discounted pricing. If you choose to add a private paid water cooler in your area again call the number provided and he will give you same discount pricing.

Mountain Mist
Matt Batie
253-535-6447
253-405-5337 Cell
1-800-232-7332
mbatie@mountainmist.com

Orcas for All Staff

Orca cards began being issued on Wednesday, July 17. You may come to the finance office to pick up a card during business hours. Please familiarize yourself with the use and regulation of the card if you choose to obtain one. You will be required to sign the Employee Agreement when you are issued a card.

Pride Month at Rainier School

Rainier School celebrated Pride Month in June by participating in raising the Pride flag in June. Since 2015, Governor Jay Inslee has been a model for the nation by raising the Pride flag over the state capitol building in the month of June. The act of raising a Pride flag above our offices tells staff and clients on the LGBTQ spectrum that they matter. It tells them we are willing to demonstrate our support for them with all the color and vibrancy the Pride flag brings. It says we recognize and appreciate our LGBTQ employees and commit to ensuring our LGBTQ workforce can bring their full and authentic selves to our offices. This year, state agencies were invited to raise the Pride flag wherever their offices have flagpoles.





June 7, 2019

Kristina Bachmann
Rainier School
2120 Ryan Rd
Buckley, WA 98321

Dear Kristina:

Thank you for serving as coordinator for your recent blood drive on Wednesday, June 5. During this drive, there were 18 participants and 2 people who donated for the first time for CRBS and our community. Your efforts and the contributions of your donors are greatly appreciated.

For 70 years, Cascade Regional Blood Services has provided blood to patients at hospitals in Pierce and South King Counties. Your donations directly support our area hospitals including [MultiCare Tacoma General Hospital](#) and [Mary Bridge Children's Hospital](#), [MultiCare Good Samaritan Hospital](#) and [Auburn Medical Center](#).

Blood drives like yours furnish close to 60 percent of our community's supply. CRBS relies on blood drives sponsored by our community partners to help us fulfill our mission to provide the blood products needed. Thank you again for the support you and your donors provide. Blood donors truly do save lives.

Sincerely,

Jared Yslas
Director of Donor Services



Rainier School
June 5, 2019

SILENT HEROES

RONI BARNES

SARA CARROLL

CHARLES COWART

MEGAN DESMET

SHELBY ELLIS

NADER GHATTAS

DEAN GROVER

MARRIE HASEK

MARTHA PANITCH

ALEXANDER PARK

DAVID PEARCY

AVIS PEARSON

LEAH RAMBERG

LACEY ROSS-MOLLENKOPF

WESLEY SCHAIBLE

CONSTANCE SHARP

KAREN TAYLOR

MARJOREE UDULUTCH

Dates to Remember

We live in a diverse country that allows us to intermingle with persons of different cultural, religious, political and social backgrounds. We face people with differing views in all aspects of our life, often challenging our own perceptions, traditions and beliefs. This is particularly true in the workplace. It is critical to recognize the differences that our coworker's exhibit, welcome the diversity and make it our mission to create an organizational culture that is inclusive.

Both Washington State and the federal government observe ten holidays (though with slight variation of which holidays are observed). The commonly observed holidays amongst the state and federal government are New Year's Day, Martin Luther King Jr. Day, President's Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Veteran's Day, Thanksgiving and Christmas Day. While ten days are observed there are hundreds of other holidays celebrated and observed throughout the United States. Below you'll find a few "untraditional" holidays acknowledged by Time and Date.

National POW/MIA Recognition Day- Many Americans across the United States pause to remember the sacrifices and service of those who were prisoners of war (POW), as well as those who are missing in action (MIA), and their families. All military installations fly the National League of Families' POW/MIA flag, which symbolizes the nation's remembrance of those who were imprisoned while serving in conflicts and those who remain missing. September 20

Rosh Hashana - Many Jewish Americans observe Rosh Hashanah, known as the New Year in the Jewish calendar, for two days, while others celebrate the event for one day. It is a time of family gatherings, special meals and sweet foods. Many Jewish people celebrate Rosh Hashana by eating challah bread and apples dipped in honey. September 30

Feast of St Francis of Assisi - Many churches in the United States celebrate the Feast of St Francis of Assisi on October 4 each year. The feast commemorates the life of St Francis, who was born in the 12th century and is the Catholic Church's patron saint of animals and the environment. It is a popular day for pets to be "blessed".

Diwali is one of the biggest Hindu festivals celebrated among many people and communities in the United States. Many schools, community groups, Hindu associations, Indian organizations and corporate businesses get involved in celebrating Diwali. Politicians, including governors and past presidents, previously made public announcements expressing their greetings and well wishes to Hindus on Diwali. October 27

All Souls' Day in the United States is dedicated to prayers for the dead. The Day of the Dead is also celebrated on this day. Many western churches annually observe All Souls' Day on November 2 and many eastern churches celebrate it prior to Lent and the day before Pentecost.

American Indian Heritage Day, also known as Native American Heritage Day, recognizes the native American heritage, history and contributions. It's the Friday after Thanksgiving Day in the United States. Some states recognize this day as a legal holiday or observance. November 29

Years of Service

Congratulations to the following staff members who have reached their years of service milestones during the months of June, July and August 2019.

5 Years of Service

Linda S. Ortiz
Darey A. Philbrick
Michelle Tracy
Bradley P. Davis
Carol Sue Denison
Samantha Jo Keehan
Keri E. Ortega
Ashley L. Ostenson
Valerie L. Burson
Martha A. Doggett
Shelby L. Evenson

15 Years of Service

David Howard
Shirley D. Adams
Deborah Arth
Shari Crow
Brandy K. Hanson
Kirk Nilsen
Harriet L. Shiloh

30 Years of Service

Wesley D. Sonmore

35 Years of Service

Stanley V. Hunt
Richard D. Lapinski
Deborah A. Davis
Charlene Tarahonich

20 Years of Service

Lisa A. Cruz
Barbara J. Kain

10 Years of Service

James L. Heideman

40 Years of Service

Robert C. Gregory
Julie A. Felchlin



First Year Awards

Rainier School started a new awards program in January of this year recognizing the employees that have completed their first year in their new position. Congratulations to the following staff members who have reached their first year of service during the months of January to August.

Cassandra M. Boston
Janet A. Clayton
Quinn A. Farrell
Mikayla S. Smith
Janelle K. Lewis
Mark E. Kester
Valyn L. Peasner
Crystal L. Romero
Lisa M. Tate
Katelin I. Anderson
Danielle S. Carter
Elvis Mpia Nkamba
Christina L. Saunders
Colleen M. Johnson
Christopher D. Lewis
Eric L. Melgar
Denise E. Mori
Diane R. Riebe
Julie A. Fedde
Katiaangelica P. Austria
YvonneT. Aflague
Erik J. Carter
Zackery A. Cope
Crystal A. Mcmanus
Tamarrah M. Mugrage
Naeemah A. Webb
Kelly L. Caldwell
Saundra L. Richie
Nicole A. Riley
Gary D. Weinberg

Sydney T. Fisher
Carol J. Humes
George W. Kinuthia
Andraea B. Mcfarland
Francis C. Tabansi
Patricia S. Taylor
Lindsey A. Wahl
JoshuaM. Cooper
Adam S. Dawson
Cortney D. Huffman
Diana R. Lane
Vivian H. Lane
Shirra D. Mcfarland
John C. Mclellan
Leah M. Vandestreek
Marcella V. Davis
Laurie E. Ayers
Annette D. Harrison
Shirley J. Higginbotham
Niradey R. Lopez
Charis S. Vululleh
Darlene M. Hazen
MeseluC. Woldemariam
Joyce A. Williamson
Marcia L. Mendiola-Campbell
Gail E. Clarke
Marcella V. Davis
LetishaA. Leyva
Carol L. Chavez

Shanece R. Johnson-Wilson
Joseph K. Kinyua
David Ngugi
Cheyenne M. Passmore
Jamiesha A. Pritchett
Charitty Sebastiani
Daniel O. Sebers
Britney S. Snider
Trevor L. Snyder
Dawn L. Stone
Rhonda L. Wasson
April R. Williams
Mary W. Kiiru-Kamau
Mandi L. Victoriano Marquez
Gail K. Bailey
Hayley Burnett
Corey N. Burson
Anne C. Busitzky
Laterica Coleman
Billie J. Cox
Marlowe F. Gilmore
Christie J. Howard
Guadalupe R. Martinez Urbano
Kyle J. Wiest
Elijah W. Wixom
Cody J. Butler
John Simmons
Darci A. Mcvay
Jerald D. Kenyon



Congratulations!

Employee Kudos: Who are You Thankful for?

Cindy Bentley & Chris VanHoof, Quality Assurance

These two are continually tackling new projects and requests from many directions, following up on staff work and using creative energy to find ways to help Rainier improve their systems. They are very supportive and polite with the people they work with, even though they rarely get recognition for the hard work they do. The information they gather is helpful to the recipients in getting them to meet federal regulations and best practices, but not often viewed that way. They are a true picture of team players willing to help for the betterment of the residents who live here. - Audrey Pitigliano

Mary Neff, Courtney Hansen, Callie Denning, Lisa Argo, Sherryl Fleming, Shannon Callison, Brandi Bachmeier, Crystal Shelton, Todd Pierson, Staff Development

I would like to extend my greatest appreciation for all of the hard working people in Staff Development. Throughout my brief time involved with the department I have found each member to be fully engaged in teaching opportunities and have truly felt blessed being around such positivity and progression. Thank you all for what you do. I appreciate the opportunity to be able to share time with you. - Ben Stoyanoff

Billie Greenside, PAT A LPN4

Billie has gone above and beyond in the care she gives to the clients since the day I started working here 23 years ago...She has always helped all the staff when they need it, I can't even put into words what she has REALLY meant to Rainier School. She is an extraordinary person that deserves any and all recognition she might get. - Jeffrey Jacobs

Crystal Shelton

Crystal through her efforts in recruiting nurses has managed to fill all of our vacant positions. We had a 40% LPN vacancy rate in 2018. Thanks to her efforts 29 nurses were hired from March 2018 to December 2019. - Joanne Kicken

Erin Marty, Grounds Keeping

Erin has demonstrated a true respect for not only her job and all that it entails, but the surrounding people she encounters daily. Not only does Erin take pride in the end result of each day's work, in the Grounds Keeping Department, but also, it is obvious she believes in the work she does-that it improves the overall impression of Rainier School. Erin is very aware of the people around her and takes extra steps in ensuring that a client will not be afraid or startled by the mowing machine noise or movement; she will move it away from and shut down the machine well before a client is near. She is always very respectful, genuine and gracious to everyone. What a terrific example of a stellar employee, and we are glad she is at Rainier!!

Callie Denning & Lisa Argo

These ladies put on an interactive, engaging Therapeutic Options class. Kudos for making it fun! – Tambria Bendickson