



# Bear Tracks

## Redmond Junior High School PTSA Newsletter

Lisa Schildt, President  
Diana Wagner, Editor

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Volume IX, Issue 1  
August,

### PTSA President's Message By Lisa Schildt

**Welcome to the start of the 2009-2010 school year!** The junior high school years are often eventful, sometimes exciting, and occasionally exasperating as our children experience the accomplishments and challenges typical for their age – academic, social, physical, and psychological. Parents and teachers want to foster emerging student independence and responsibility. Our children's increasing independence does not mean they need our support less. If anything, our understanding of, and involvement in, their lives is needed even more as they travel through the junior high years. However, we give our support and demonstrate our involvement in ways different from those we used when they were younger. Though we encourage our children to grow their wings, we need to be certain that they similarly are grounded with good roots.

The Parent Teacher Student Association (PTSA) at Redmond Junior High is an organization that provides many avenues through which you can continue your support and involvement in your child's development, as well as that of other students.

**What can you do with 92 cents a month?** PTSA annual membership dues of \$11 provide approximately twenty-five percent of the funding for all of the PTSA programs listed below, plus more –

- Student Recognition
- Reading Tutors
- Safe Arrival
- Special Needs
- Staff Appreciation
- Health Screening
- Legislative Advocacy
- Parent Education
- Emergency Preparedness
- Student Directory
- Reflections (RJH participation in the national PTSA program to recognize student excellence in visual arts, literature, music, dance, photography, and film)
- Support student government activities through volunteer help with the fundraising magazine sales drive, chaperones and tickets sales for dances, student elections, and other events.

Check out PTSA's new web-  
site -

### Fees and Forms Day and Picture Day - Yes, it's back to school time!

On August 18th and 20th, the office will be open for families to take care of all the fees and forms associated with the beginning of the school year. The office will be open for 2 sessions: morning and afternoon. During these days, families can purchase a student ASB card and yearbook, join the PTSA, and turn in paperwork and fees for sports. Also, student photos will be taken, so plan on coming in! New students will even have the opportunity to practice opening an RJH locker!

You can turn in your volunteer and PTSA registration forms in at Fees and Forms Days!

**PTSA Executive  
Committee  
President**

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lschildt@verizon.net

**Co-Vice Presidents**

Claire Ronneburg 868-2448  
claireronneburg@hotmail.com

Sheri Pardi 882-7806  
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**Secretary**

Heather Brown 558-9608  
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**Legislative Advocacy**

Brian Shutz 867-1941  
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**Bear Tracks**

Bear Tracks is the newsletter of the Redmond Junior High School. The purpose of this newsletter is to report information and news from the PTSA and RJH staff to the families of our school. Please submit info and articles to:  
**dianavwags@gmail.com**

You may also submit hard copy info by dropping off or mailing to the school to the attention of Bear Tracks.

Bear Tracks will be available online at rjhptsa.org. New issues will be published six times per year—August, September, November, January, March and May. Bear Tracks Newsletter will be mailed to those who have subscribed to receive a print copy through the mail.

Deadline for the next issue is **August 21.**



**Redmond Jr. High School  
PTSA 2.8.80**  
10055 166th Avenue NE.  
Redmond, WA 98052

**INTRODUCING BEAR TRACKS  
WEEKLY – SUBSCRIBE NOW!**

PARENTORGANIZER is now Bear Tracks Weekly!

This year, Parent Organizer will be replaced by a new e-newsletter called **Bear Tracks Weekly**, which will be delivered to your in-box each Monday morning. It will contain links to the RJH calendar, as well as information about school activities, sports, PTSA, and community events.

Don't miss out! To subscribe, please e-mail [weekly@rjhptsa.org](mailto:weekly@rjhptsa.org).

**\*\*Please note that even if you were registered for Parent Organizer last year, you must re-subscribe to receive Bear Tracks Weekly.\*\***

**International Student Travel in 2010  
Jill Samppala, RJH**

If you are the parent of an 8th or 9th grader who will be taking a foreign language during the 2009-10 school year they are eligible to sign up for one of two trips offered to students. These trips are educational in nature, giving students first hand learning in a foreign context. They will gain language and cultural knowledge and create strong friendships with their fellow travelers. The first trip will take place during Spring Break (March 27-April 3) to Costa Rica and the second trip will be after school lets out (June 21-July 1) to Spain and Portugal. Check out the following sites to get information about the trips. Or email Spanish teacher Jill Samppala at [jsamppala@lwsd.org](mailto:jsamppala@lwsd.org) with any questions

Costa Rica: [www.myexplorica.com/samppala-4371](http://www.myexplorica.com/samppala-4371)  
Spain and Portugal: [www.myexplorica.com/samppala-6689](http://www.myexplorica.com/samppala-6689)

**Join PTSA Today!**

Look for the membership form in the student packet and sign up today! With your support we are able to continue providing numerous programs/services that

## Safe Arrival - Volunteer Opportunities By Suzie Connor, Chair

If you have 15 minutes to spare, once or twice a month (or more!), you may be interested in learning about volunteering for the Safe Arrival program. Our parent volunteers help in the office at 10:30 every morning. We call the homes of students who are absent and whose parents/guardians haven't yet called to alert the school their child is late / absent. If you live close to the school and have a bit of time available to help, this might be a fun way to volunteer at RJH. If you have questions or would like to add your name to the list of volunteers, please contact Suzie Connor at [connorclan5@comcast.net](mailto:connorclan5@comcast.net) or (425) 442-4768.

## Emergency Prep Co-Chair/ Committee Member Opportunity

Help wanted to make RJH students and staff better prepared for an earthquake or other disaster/emergency (and the days following an event). If you have any interest, now is the time to volunteer - you won't be alone.

Preparedness matters – and so does your participation!

## Bear Tracks Newsletter is now On-Line!

Check us out at [www.rjhptsa.org](http://www.rjhptsa.org).

All new issues will be announced via Bear Tracks Weekly.

If you don't have internet service and want a hardcopy of the Bear Tracks newsletter, fill out the form at Fees and Forms Days!

## Mark Your Calendars and Join Us!



## RJH PTSA Calendar

### August

- 18 & 20 Fees & Forms Day at RJH and School Photos!
- 21 Newsletter Deadline

### September

- 1 First day - 7<sup>th</sup> graders and new 8 and 9<sup>th</sup> students
- 2 First day - all returning students
- 4 Photo Retake Day
- 8 Curriculum Night, 7-9pm

## REMINDER TO READ! Just Read, RJH! Summer Reading 2009

This year all RJH students will be reading over the summer. Each student is required to read at least one book of his or her choice. Students then have a choice of how they want to share what they've read. This will be the first Language Arts grade of the 2008-2009 school year.

Check the RJH website ( <http://schools.lwsd.org/rjh/>) or Parent Organizer for details.

## COMING EVENTS

To see the Lake Washington School District tandem calendar: <http://lakewashington.intand.com/>

- Fees and Forms Days: August 18 and 20<sup>th</sup>
- Curriculum Night: September 8, 7-9 p.m.

•  
**Back to School Ice Cream Social –  
Watch for announcement in Bear  
Tracks Weekly**

## President's Message

....continued from front page

Membership in PTSA does not require you to be an active volunteer. However, many members find that volunteering does enhance their ability to understand what the day-to-day life of a student involves. With a variety of volunteer opportunities from which to choose, you can find a great fit for your skills, interests, and time available. Please take a look at the PTSA volunteer form enclosed in your August packet. You may be surprised to see the number of ways PTSA volunteers touch the lives of students at RJH. Some PTSA activities are "behind the scenes," while others involve direct contact with students and other families in the RJH community.

**What's going on?** RJH PTSA provides two great sources for information on school activities. The first is our newly-launched **Bear Tracks Weekly**, which replaces Parent Organizer. To be included in weekly updates and up-to-the minute bulletins of school-wide activities, please complete and return the *Bear Tracks Weekly* subscription form in your August packet, or you may email "Subscribe" to [weekly@rjhptsa.org](mailto:weekly@rjhptsa.org). The second source is the **Bear Tracks newsletter**. This August issue and second issue of the newsletter will be printed and mailed. Subsequent issues will be available online at <http://rjhptsa.org>. If you do not have internet access and you would like to continue to receive a print copy of the *Bear Tracks newsletter*, please complete and return the relevant form from the August packet to arrange for delivery of a print copy. Those with internet access will be able to print a hard copy from the RJH PTSA website. Online access permits relatives and friends to see the newsletter, regardless of their location.

**Pass the Hat?** Based on a literal meaning of passing a hat -- asking people to put money in a hat that is handed from one person to another -- PTSA's primary fundraising event each year at Redmond Junior High is called Pass the Hat. Through direct donations and matching funds from employers, we raise the remaining seventy-five percent of the funding that makes all of the PTSA programs possible. The PTSA "Taking Care of Business" form includes a portion for recording the amount of your contribution. Our goal is to raise \$12,000 through Pass the Hat direction donations and matching fund contributions. On the back side of the "Taking Care of Business" form is a list of what is made possible through your donations. Before you decide on your Pass the Hat amount, take another look at this list. Please consider the importance of these programs in each student's junior high experience.

**Ready. Set. GO!** Each family with a child, or children, at Redmond Junior High is starting off on a journey. We hope that PTSA will be a part of that YOUR family's terrific travels through the coming school year!

## OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS!

There are still a few PTSA committees with leadership openings. Your children will be spreading their wings in junior high. Why don't you do the same? Take advantage of these opportunities to make a difference at RJH! Interested? Contact Sheri Pardi ([tspardi@comcast.net](mailto:tspardi@comcast.net) or 882-7806) or Claire Ronneburg ([claireronneburg@hotmail.com](mailto:claireronneburg@hotmail.com) or 868-2448)

Chairperson openings are available in:

**Student Recognition:** Organize monthly recognition lunches with the principal, and locker decorations, for "students-of-the-month" selected by staff. Duration: school year

**Hospitality:** Coordinate refreshments for PTSA after-school and evening events. Duration: school year

**Emergency Preparedness** (co-Chair: share the position with an experienced Emergency Prep. Leader): Liaison between RJH administration and the school district PTSA Council regarding RJH emergency preparedness. Duration: school year

**Reflections:** Coordinate RJH students' participation in the national PTSA program to recognize student excellence in visual arts, literature, music, dance, photography, and film. Duration: Committee activity from September to January.

**Financial Review:** Conduct two audits of PTSA accounts during the year (January and July). A three-person committee uses a national PTSA checklist to conduct audits. Duration: Each audit requires approximately 3 hours.

## ***Where is my RJH PTSA Membership Form? Check the August Packet!***

The Membership Form is now part of the new **"Taking Care of Business" Form** created this year to combine information gathering for RJH PTSA membership, PTSA Student Directory, and contributing to the annual **"Pass the Hat"** fundraising campaign. **For only \$11 per member**, you can help make positive changes in education and stay connected to your child.

If you miss the **"Taking Care of Business" Form** in the August packet, you can also find the form in the kiosk in the Great Hall or on our newly launched website at <http://rjhptsa.org/Forms.aspx>.

**Join Us Today! We make good things happen!**

Questions? Please contact Shelley Flores at 425-556-9818  
[shelley.flores@comcast.net](mailto:shelley.flores@comcast.net)

*(Reminder: Your membership fees and contributions are tax deductible.)*

### **Vice Principal's Message** By Sean Cassidy

#### **Picture Day in August!**

This year, in partnership with LifeTouch Studios, we are offering and encouraging students and families to participate in taking school photos on Tuesday, August 18<sup>th</sup> and Thursday, August 20<sup>th</sup>, 2009. These are the same dates as our Taking Care of Business Days where we have traditionally asked parents and students to drop in and pay for fees such as ASB and athletic participation, register for PTSA and purchase items like PE uniforms, yearbooks, etc. Many local schools have bundled school pictures and these fees and forms days successfully for several years. Hosting picture day in August will help us prepare student ID cards for the first day of school and eliminate a significant distraction in the first week of school. In the past, students have not been able to have access to their cards until after the first week, which greatly impacts lunch and library services. Just in case, this year we will also have LifeTouch representatives taking pictures of students who miss these August dates on Friday, September 4<sup>th</sup>, but we do intend on transitioning to only August picture days in future years.

# Mensaje de la Presidenta de *PTSA*

## Por Lisa Schildt

**¡Bienvenidos al comienzo del año escolar 2009-2010!** Los años en la escuela secundaria son emocionantes, y ocasionalmente exasperantes. Es un periodo durante el cual nuestros hijos experimentan los logros y los problemas propios de la adolescencia – académicos, sociales, físicos y psicológicos. Tanto los padres como los profesores tratan de ayudarlos en el ejercicio de su independencia y su responsabilidad. La creciente independencia de nuestros hijos no significa que ya no necesiten de nuestro apoyo. Al contrario, es durante su viaje por la escuela secundaria cuando más necesitan de nuestra comprensión y de nuestra participación activa en su vida. Sin embargo, tratamos de hacerlo de un modo distinto a como cuando eran niños. Aunque los impulsamos a volar con sus propias alas, también necesitamos asegurarnos de que han adquirido las bases apropiadas.

La Asociación de Padres, Profesores y Estudiantes (*PTSA*) de *Redmond Junior High* es una organización que proporciona una gran variedad de opciones para que usted continúe apoyando el desarrollo de su estudiante, así como el de otros estudiantes.

**¿Qué puede usted hacer con 92 centavos al mes?** La cuota anual de membresía de *PTSA*, con un costo de \$11, proporciona aproximadamente el 25% de los fondos para todos los programas siguientes, y más –

- Reconocimiento a estudiantes
  - Tutores de lectura
  - Llegada Segura a la escuela
  - Necesidades Especiales
  - Apreciación del personal
  - Chequeos de salud
  - Apoyo legislativo
  - Educación para padres
  - Suministros para emergencias
- Directorio Estudiantil

● *Reflections* (*RJH* participa en el programa nacional auspiciado por *National PTA* para reconocer la excelencia estudiantil en artes visuales, literatura, música, danza, fotografía y filmografía)  
Apoyo a las actividades de gobierno estudiantil a través de voluntarios para ayudar con la venta de revistas, chaperones y venta de boletos para bailes, elecciones estudiantiles y otros eventos.

Ser miembro de *PTSA* no significa que usted tenga que ser un voluntario activo. Sin embargo, muchos miembros encuentran que ser voluntarios incrementa su comprensión de las actividades en la vida diaria de un estudiante. Con la variedad de oportunidades para ayudar que tenemos para escoger, usted puede encontrar la actividad perfecta para sus habilidades, intereses y disponibilidad. Por favor revise la forma para voluntarios que se encuentra en su paquete de Agosto. Puede ser que le asombren las muchas maneras en que *PTSA* toca las vidas de los estudiantes de *RJH*. Algunas actividades de *PTSA* tienen lugar “detrás del escenario”, mientras que otras involucran contacto directo con los estudiantes y con otras familias de nuestra comunidad escolar.



## RJH Needs You! HELP WANTED:

**Student Class Schedules Distribution:** Volunteers are needed to hand out student schedules on the first two days of school, September 1 and 2. If you are available to help, please contact Claire Ronneburg (claireronneburg@hotmail.com or 868-2448) or Sheri Pardi (tspardi@comcast.net or 882-7806)

**Photo Day Volunteers:** RJH students are photographed for student ID cards and school district records. Volunteers are needed to help on August 18<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> (8-11 a.m. and 12-2:30 p.m.), on September 4 (7:50 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., split shifts possible), and for re-takes on October 9 (7:50 a.m. until completed, split shifts possible). If you are available to help, please contact Vicki Krum (vickikrum@hotmail.com or 881-6431).

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## Mensaje de la Presidenta de PTSA

Qué está pasando en la escuela? *RJH PTSA* le proporciona dos grandiosos medios de información acerca de las actividades escolares. El primero es nuestro nuevo **Bear Tracks Weekly**, que reemplaza a *Parent Organizer*. Para ser incluido en la lista de correo electrónico de nuestra publicación semanal, por favor llene la forma de suscripción que se encuentra en su paquete de Agosto, o envíe un email con la palabra "Subscribe" a [weekly@rjhpts.org](mailto:weekly@rjhpts.org). La segunda fuente de información es el boletín **Bear Tracks**. El presente ejemplar y el siguiente serán enviados en formato impreso. Futuras ediciones estarán disponibles en línea en <http://rjhpts.org>. Si usted no tiene acceso a internet y le gustaría seguir recibiendo una copia impresa de *Bear Tracks*, por favor llene y envíe de regreso a la escuela la forma correspondiente en el paquete de Agosto. Aquellos con acceso a internet podrán imprimir una copia desde el sitio web de *RJH PTSA*. El acceso en línea asimismo permite a parientes y amigos leer el boletín, sin importar el lugar en que se encuentren.

**¿Pass the Hat?** Basado en el acto literal de pasar el sombrero – pedirle a la gente que ponga dinero en un sombrero que pasa de mano en mano – es el principal evento anual de recaudación de fondos para *PTSA*. A través de donaciones directas y donaciones por parte de corporaciones que igualan las donaciones de sus empleados, es que recolectamos el 75% restante que hace todos nuestros programas posible. La forma titulada "Taking Care of Business" incluye una porción en la cual puede escribir el monto de su contribución. Nuestra meta es recolectar \$12,000 por estos medios. En la parte posterior de esta forma hay una lista de todo lo que su donación hace posible. Antes de decidirse por un monto, por favor vea esta lista, y considere la importancia de estos programas en la experiencia escolar de nuestros estudiantes.

**En sus marcas. Listos. ¡Fuera!** Cada familia con hijos en *RJH* está comenzando una jornada. ¡Esperamos que *PTSA* sea parte de las aventuras de SU familia durante este año escolar!

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Don't miss out! Get your updates via Bear Tracks Weekly!  
To subscribe, please e-mail [weekly@rjhpts.org](mailto:weekly@rjhpts.org).

# RJH PTSA 2009-10

## Board of Directors/Committee Chairs

### Executive Committee

		<b>E-Mail</b>	<b>Phone</b>
President**	Lisa Schildt	lschildt@verizon.net	558-2601
Co-Vice President**	Claire Ronneburg	claireronneburg@hotmail.com	868-2448
	Sheri Pardi	tspardi@comcast.net	882-7806
Treasurer**	Carrie Casanas	c_casanas@hotmail.com	883-8603
Secretary**	Heather Brown	heathertbrown@hotmail.com	558-9608

<b>Committee</b>	<b>Chair(s)</b>	<b>E-Mail</b>	<b>Phone</b>
Advocacy Chair**	Byron Shutz	bcshutz@comcast.net	867-1941
August Packets	Lisa Schildt	lschildt@verizon.net	558-2601
Back-to-School Event	Andrea Quenneville Shelley Flores	andreaquenneville21@gmail.com shelley.flores@comcast.net	867-5386 556-9818
Emergency Prep**	Robin Laurence Co-Chair Available	robin.laurence@verizon.net	556-0299
Financial Review	AVAILABLE		
Grizzly Grams**	Becky Holtzinger	b.holtzinger@comcast.net	881-5572
Health Screening	Suzie Connor Alina Mars	connorclan5@comcast.net alina.mars@verizon.net	442-4768 869-5426
Hospitality**	AVAILABLE		
Library	Tracy Shaffer	tracyshaffer@comcast.net	443-9096
Membership**	Shelley Flores	shelley.flores@comcast.net	556-9818
Newsletter (Bear Tracks)**	Diana Wagner	dianavwags@gmail.com	869-7316
Ninth Grade Celebration (Boat Dance)	Claire Ronneburg Sheri Pardi	claireronneburg@hotmail.com tspardi@comcast.net	868-2448 882-7806
Parent Education	Joanne Hall	jjahall@juno.com	882-1388
Parent Communications** (Bear Tracks Weekly)	Mary Bourguignon	mb@steeple-jack.com	702-0501
Photo Day	Vicki Drum	vickikrum@hotmail.com	881-6431
Reflections	Bryn Parish	brynparish@msn.com	283-3968
Safe Arrival	Suzie Connor	connorclan5@comcast.net	442-4768
Special Needs**	Ronna Saunders	saundersjw@yahoo.com	822-6914
Staff Appreciation**	Stephanie Wilkins Andrea Quenneville Heather Brown	stephaniewilkins@juno.com andreaq21@hotmail.com heathertbrown@hotmail.com	881-1399 867-5386 558-9608
Student Directory	Kathy Dennis	skdennis5@verizon.net	883-2340
Student Recognition**	AVAILABLE		
Tutoring	Tina Monsaas	tinamonsaas@msn.com	

If you would like to work with any of these committees, please fill out the PTSA volunteer Form in this newsletter and return to Fees and Forms Day. With your help we can continue to offer valuable programs for all RJH students. Thank you!

