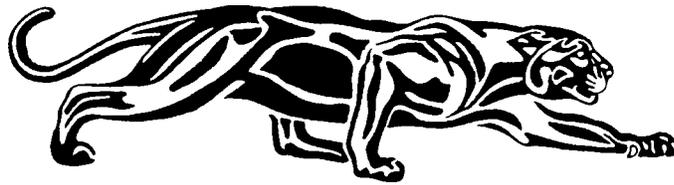




Raymore-Peculiar School News



Published for patrons and friends of the Raymore-Peculiar R-II School District
November 29, 2011

No findings cited in report

School board approves audit for 2010-11

The board of education on Nov. 17 approved 7-0 the audit of the district's finances for the year ending June 30, 2011. Brad Steele, a certified public accountant from Westbrook & Co., P.C., Richmond, Mo., presented a summary report.

Steele said the district had a clean audit with no findings. In audit terms, a "finding" is an area of weakness or deficiency that needs modification or correction. A finding may occur for a variety of reasons. For example, the auditors may note missing documents, improvements needed in travel procedures or recordkeeping, or make suggestions to improve cash handling or internal audit procedures.

The audit included fund balances as of June 30, 2011. Steele noted that the debt service fund was nearly \$10 million higher due to the sale of bonds. He reported on the district's outstanding long-term debt, as Ray-Pec continues to pay off bond issues for past construction and leases. During the 2011-2012 school year, more than \$14 million will be paid toward the debt.

He said the district's reserves were 25.39 percent on June 30, 2011. He said the balance indicates that the board and administration have been proactive and said the auditing firm likes to see "healthy" reserve balances at 20 percent and higher.

Westbrook & Co. also audited the district's federal programs. The district must follow strict guidelines in accounting for the expenditures of federal funds. There were no audit findings related to the federal programs for Ray-Pec. Steele said that is "not typical."

Steele was complimentary of district staff, saying that he would rank the Ray-Pec staff near the top, if not at the top, among the school districts with which he has worked. He noted that when findings were reported in the past, Ray-Pec was responsive and worked to make sure the issues were corrected.

After his report, Board Member Kim York thanked Steele for spending time with the board to answer questions. She is a former auditor, and she said that the clean audit is impressive. "It's unheard of to not have any findings," she said. "Our staff is fantastic."

You can view Steele's presentation and the full audit report here: <http://www.raypec.k12.mo.us/index.aspx?nid=565>

Thanksgiving dinners: That's a lot of hot rolls!

Districtwide, the district's Child Nutrition Department served about 8,000 turkey dinners. Parents, grandparents and guests attended the annual meals with students.

Board approves list of early graduates at RPHS

On Nov. 17, the board of education approved a list of students who have applied for early graduation. The students are: Iman Yusuf Al-Hassan, Hannah Arnold, Bailey Barnett, Lauren Bennett, Shelby Bouzek, Katie Brock, Matthew Brooks, Morgan Butterworth, Kelsee Carter, Shayna Crosswhite, Kailynn Cummings, Lisa Fairman, Cameron Green, Kayla Haling, Zana Hines, Mary (Tori) Holm, Melinda Johnson, Samuel Langley, Briceson Lee, Paige Leible, Janae Mitzner, Deron Moore, Breanna Rhoades, Shelby Shearer, Tiffani Sims, Hannah Troxel, Elissa Tusa, Taylor Valentour, Jessica Watson, and Kallie Williams.

RPEMS students to sing at Mavericks games

The Ray-Pec East Blue Notes are scheduled to sing the National Anthem at two Mavericks hockey games. The Blue Notes is the advanced choir group at the middle school. The dates are Dec. 3, 2011, and Feb. 4, 2012. Game time is 7:05 p.m. for each game. The National Anthem will be sung during pre-game.

Tickets may be purchased through Ray-Pec East Middle School for \$11 each. There is also an order form on the district web site: <http://www.raypec.k12.mo.us/index.aspx?nid=100>

*The Raymore-Peculiar School District is a community of learners partnering to:
maximize each student's achievement,
encourage lifelong learning, and
develop productive citizens.*

Board hears review of Special Education

Each month, specific programs are reviewed for the Board of Education.

Jacque Underwood, Director of Special Education grades ECSE-4, and **Linda Bass**, Director of Special Education grades 5-12, presented a report on Nov. 17 about special education at Ray-Pec.

The special education program impacts the 468 children who meet the eligibility criteria for one of the 13 categories of a disability as outlined in the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). The program also impacts their parents. At Ray-Pec, between 6 and 8 percent of all students have been identified for special education services. Statewide, the average is between 12 and 13 percent.

Linda and Jacque shared information about improving communication with parents and the importance of collaboration between regular education and special education staff. As a result of the rise in identification of students with autism, the district is ensuring that more staff members receive training specific to autism.

You may read the entire report at: <http://www.raypec.k12.mo.us/index.aspx?nid=85>

Board hears review of Early Childhood

(Each month, specific departments or programs review their programs for the Board.) **Lindsey Adamczyk**, Early Childhood teacher, presented the report on Nov. 17 to the school board.

The purpose of the Early Childhood program is to ensure that pre-kindergarten students demonstrate school readiness skills before starting kindergarten.

Lindsey noted that the goals for 2011-2012 are associated with the two areas where students need the most assistance: fine motor skills and communication. Students are screened in May prior to their attendance year. Students are assessed in October, December and May to show progress in specific areas.

You may read the entire program review report at: <http://www.raypec.k12.mo.us/index.aspx?nid=76>

More about standards-referenced grading

The board of education continues to learn about the district's work in the area of standards-referenced report cards and grading. Last month, four teachers shared their experiences at the regular monthly board meeting and board members also learned more during a work session.

During the Nov. 17, 2011, meeting, board members participated in an exercise to illustrate the benefits of standards-referenced grading.

Karen Hurst, Director of K-6 Curriculum and Assessment, showed the board a page with 24 letters arranged in a pyramid. She asked the board to look briefly at the letters. She then removed the page and asked them to write down the letters they remembered. Board members recalled from 1 to 16 of the letters. Board member Joe Anthuis said he identified which two letters were missing.

Hurst asked board members to consider how the activity might be graded. Should someone be considered proficient if he/she remembered all of the letters, half of the letters, five letters, or one letter? After some discussion, she shared that human brains can typically recall a series of seven letters, digits or shapes. She also had board members share strategies that they used to remember the letters.

Hurst then asked the board to look at a second series of letters, and told them to try to remember as many letters as possible in order from top to bottom of the pyramid. Most of the board members improved. Hurst said that knowing the learning target (recalling the letters in correct order) and using strategies (such as nonsense words or abbreviations) helped improve performance.

With a standards-referenced grading system, students are told the learning target before the learning takes place. Students and teachers work together to identify strategies to assist with learning. Students may re-take assessments to show mastery. And in the example at the board meeting, someone who recalled seven letters may be considered proficient, while someone who recalled 14 letters may be considered advanced.

To read more about standards-referenced grading, go here: <http://www.raypec.k12.mo.us/index.aspx?nid=749>



Reading is out of this world

"Reading is Out of This World" was the theme during the book fair the week of Nov. 14 at Peculiar Elementary School. Pictured are Kindergarten teachers **Kristine Shuey**, **Kelli Yahnig**, **Missy Lucas**, and **Courtney Reimnitz** with some of their students celebrating Out of This World Hat Day. Students are: **Gracie Lucas**, **Katie Stewart**, **Gage Lasswell**, **Rylie Jonas** and **Riley Johnson**.

Three Ray-Pec teams compete in Junior Robotics competition

After building robots from VEX robotic kits for six weeks, three teams of Raymore-Peculiar students took their creations to Lee's Summit High School for the Junior Robotics League Tower of Power competition on Nov. 19.

The robots had 30 seconds of programmed autonomous time. The students then drove the robots in the game arena where the robots had to pick up objects, place them on towers to score points and then drive up a ramp to finish the match.

After practice matches the night before, and a morning of competition, the teams were ranked for final competition. Team NOMAD ranked at 16th, Powerbots at 19th, and Roboticles at 21st. Both Powerbots and Team NOMAD

were eliminated in the first round. The Roboticles made it to the final competition and placed second out of all 30 teams.

Participating finalists from the Roboticles include **Danny Byous** from Bridle Ridge Intermediate School, **Noah Dorweiler** from Eagle Glen Intermediate School, **Spencer Harris** from Timber Creek Elementary and **Alex Moon** from Bridle Ridge.

Team NOMAD builders were **Carter Wilhite** from Ray-Pec East Middle School, **Shane Bruflat** from Bridle Ridge and **Max Gregory** of Lee's Summit.

The Powerbot team included **Andrew Burdick**, **Samuel Coleman**, **Byron King**, and **Jacob Scott**, all students at Eagle Glen Intermediate School.



Reading Rodeo

Peculiar Elementary had its first Reading Rodeo on Nov. 17. Families had fun putting friends, family members, and teachers in the Peculiar Pokey for a session of enforced reading. One popular station was the Book Trail Bookwalk where participants took a chance on winning Book Fair gift certificates. Storyteller Jacque Qualls entertained the crowd with her down-home stories and fascinating information about life in the old West. Tired cowpokes could rest by the campfire and take time out to read with the teachers. Warming by the fire is **Nicole Wilson** and her father.

News Briefs

School Board meeting

The next regular meeting of the Ray-Pec Board of Education is scheduled for 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 15, in the board meeting room at the Administrative Services Center, 21005 S. School Rd., Peculiar. The meeting is open to the public.



Veterans Day posters

Students at the Ray-Pec Academy (alternative high school) created posters for Veterans Day as a social studies project for Teacher **Jon Shawver**. Some Ray-Pec employees voted on the posters, and this poster by **Phillip Neugebauer** won first place.

Non-discrimination notice

The Raymore-Peculiar R-II School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age in its programs or activities. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies: Director of Human Resources, Raymore-Peculiar School District, P.O. Box 789, Peculiar, MO 64078. 816-892-1300.



Ray-Pec scarves

The Ray-Pec Panther Soccer Club is selling scarves as a fundraiser for the soccer program. The cost is \$16. The order form is located on the soccer page on the district web site. You may also send an email to Janet Boyce at: ninjamom3b@yahoo.com.



Veterans Day

Ray-Pec High School student **Valerie Lightle** took this photo of the flag raising ceremony on Veterans Day, Nov. 11, outside the north high school building. Valerie took the photo for a photojournalism project in a journalism class taught by **Tiesa Smith**.

News Briefs

ACDA honor choirs

Five singers were chosen from Ray-Pec for the 2012 Southwestern American Choral Directors Association Honor Choirs. The selected students were:

- Senior **Savannah Zielinski**,
- Junior **Josh Wagner**,
- Sophomore **Allie Shaw**,
- 6th grader **Kiara Galloway**
- 6th grader **Song Waltz**

These students will participate along with singers from across seven states at the end of February as part of the regional ACDA convention in Dallas, Texas. Students were sponsored by choir directors **Roxanne Martin** and **Stephen Rew**.



Veterans Day assembly

Special guests and their students join the student body in the gym for the Veterans Day assembly at Peculiar Elementary School. (See more information on next page.)

White Table on display

Peculiar Elementary honors veterans with reception, assembly

Peculiar Elementary recognized Veteran's Day with a reception for veterans, active military parents and relatives.

After the reception, students honored the guests at an assembly. Students put together a "White Table" while explaining what each item represented. The student body sang "God Bless America" and viewed a presentation featuring military relatives of staff and students.

Guests at the event were:

U.S. Air Force: Chris McClure, Joseph Staudinger, and Mark Spears.

U.S. Army: Tom Iseman, Chris Roller, Richard Ellis, Louis Freidline, Luke Echterling, and Mike Kane.

U.S. Army spouse: Melissa Boston.

U.S. Marine Corps: Corey Morgan, Jim Dougan, Loyd Ruble, Randy Norcross, Jason Austin, Matt Slusher.

U.S. Navy: Jerry Long, Wyatt Hunter, Mike Deal, and Jeff Mooney.



Guests gathered in the library for refreshments and enjoying an art show dedicated to our military.



Assembling the White Table

Students at Peculiar Elementary assembled a White Table during an assembly on Veterans Day. The White Table has been a tradition since the Vietnam War. For more information, see the description at right. Students who put together the White Table were **Ally Halverson, Grace Lucas, Preston Bennett, Hailey Eaton, Drew Eve, Devyn Pinney, Mackenzie Jones, Hannah Urquilla, Dawson Jones, Micah Novak, Grace Schulze, Madison Boyd, Conner Boyd, Malichi Yearby, Sydney Lecuru, Nathan Caskey, Madelyn Zalewski, and Jolie McClellan.**



White Table

The White Table is a small table to represent one soldier's battle against many. The white cloth honors a soldier's pure heart as he fights for our country. A lemon slice and grains of salt on a plate show a captive soldier's bitter fate and the tears of the families waiting for their soldiers to return home. An empty chair is for the missing soldiers. The black napkin is for the sorrow of losing soldiers to captivity and the upside down glass for the meal that remains uneaten. A white candle is on the table for peace, and a red rose in a vase tied with a red ribbon is for the hope that all our missing will return. Students learned of the tradition from the book *America's White Table* by Margot Theis Raven.

State representative Chris Molendorp writes letter about after-school care

State Representative Chris Molendorp, R-123, sent a letter (below) in response to the Lights On event that the Panther Pride Child Care Program conducted on Oct. 18.

Panther Pride is the before and after school child care program offered for students in grades K-6 in the Ray-Pec School District. Sites are located at each elementary school and at Bridle Ridge Intermediate School.

Rep. Molendorp addressed the letter to **Sharon Perkins**, the program coordinator.

Dear Ms. Perkins:

Please share this letter with the elementary schools in the district. Also thank you for coordinating the effort to bring awareness for the need in retaining funds for after school programs. As I looked through the colorful light bulb drawings I noticed not only students' names but teachers and parents as well! Many folks in our community rely on after school programs for a variety of reasons.

The General Assembly will again be meeting in just a couple of months to start the budget review process and these drawings will certainly be a reminder to me of how very important these programs are to our community. Working on the state's budget is definitely the most challenging responsibility of being a State Representative. Many programs will again need to be reduced or even eliminated, but funding of our public schools will continue to be a priority for myself and hopefully my colleagues.

I take your concerns and those of the students and parents very seriously and I do appreciate everyone reminding me of the importance of after school programs.

Should you have any questions please feel free to give me a call.



Cooking at Creekmoor

Jackson Drecktrah and **Grant Richardson** are cooking up fun at the Panther Pride Before and After School Child Care Program at Creekmoor Elementary School. The school district offers before and after school care for students in grades K-6.



Spider friend

Karen Johnson, site coordinator of the Panther Pride Before and After School Child Care Program at Timber Creek Elementary School, poses with a spider that the children created. The before school program is offered from 6:15 a.m. until the school day starts. The after school program is available from dismissal until 6 p.m. The daily schedule includes indoor and outdoor activities, snack and homework assistance.

Students propose exhibits for Science City

Fifth and sixth graders enter projects in ‘Battle of the Brains’

Some Ray-Pec fifth and sixth graders spent time this fall using science, technology, engineering and math in a new way.

They entered projects in the Burns & McDonnell Battle of the Brains, a competition to design the next exhibit for Science City in Kansas City.

Six projects were entered by students at Bridle Ridge Intermediate School, and eight projects by students at Eagle Glen Intermediate School. Ray-Pec Teacher **Lezlie Waltz**, who works with students in the LEAP gifted program at both schools, helped LEAP students submit 13 entries. **Melissa Schmidt**, a sixth grade science teacher at Eagle Glen, worked with students after school on an additional entry.

The Ray-Pec projects were not among the finalists announced Nov. 11. But Mrs. Waltz said the project was a great learning opportunity. There were 560 entries from 128 different schools and 35 different school districts in the Kansas City area. A total of 2,465 students participated on 456 teams that submitted entries.

“This was an amazing growth experience for our students,” Mrs. Waltz said. “Many had never heard of

STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) concepts before, and by the end had brainstormed a science exhibit, indicating which STEM concepts it would teach.”

Students learned a new software program to draft images of the exhibit. They also created a spreadsheet of a product list with the prices of items necessary to make the exhibit a reality within an allotted “budget.”

“In this process, they saw that being a scientist, or being an engineer, is not beyond their reach,” she said. “They have the ability to step toward careers like these. They persevered through stress, frustration, and time restraints in working with a team, and we were able to begin to examine varying leadership styles and their effectiveness.”

Student **Logan Mangrum** said that he was proud of himself because he had never attempted anything as big as this – and actually completed it.

Ultimately, one group of students will be selected to work with Burns & McDonnell’s architects, engineers and builders to make their concept a reality at Science City in 2012.

In addition, several winning groups will receive funds for science, technol-

ogy, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education. The competition has two divisions: elementary (grades K-6) and secondary (grades 7-12). Grant funds will be awarded to winners, runners-up and honorable mention projects in each division.

Teachers who participated in the competition received Flip video cameras for their schools. Some teachers, who completed additional professional development training, received iPads.

To view the 20 finalist projects, go to: <http://battleofthebrainskc.com/>.

The public can now vote through midnight Nov. 18, on the finalist projects. The public voting will count for 30 percent of the final selection.

Eagle Glen 5th Graders

Emily Buasri, Noah Dorweiler, Katie Gregory, Erin Hill, Wesley Horner, Julia Fenaroli, Jessica Kies, Jaden Lanza, Laurana Mitchell, Cecelia Moss, Kaylee Pace, Jordan Pietschmann, Wyatt Quest, Jacob Scott, Kaleb Shukeat, Matthew Stewart, Megan Sundquist, Faith Swenson, Alexis Thornhill, Cate Wilhite, and Carson Zimmerman.

Eagle Glen 6th Graders

Dakota Bruer, Erica Cornell, Bailiee Cummings, Peter Dyreng, Lauren Erdman, Daniel Higgins, Tyler Kudron, Makenzie Meyer, Sarah Meyers, Elizabeth Montrose, Sarah Poisner, Will Reicher, CJ Russom, Alex Schaffer, and Song Waltz.

Bridle Ridge 5th Graders

Taylor Bates, Bailey Crabtree, Cam Gillespie, Madilynn Herrell, Grant Hutchings, Kamryn Martin, Shane Martin, James Mendenhall, Trent Oberlander, Faith Stillings, Megan Strauss, and Tammy Yang.

Bridle Ridge 6th Graders

Mason Anthis, Shane Brufat, Trevor Diepenbrock, Josh Figge, Hannah Hornbeck, Kira Horton, Molly Johnson, Logan Mangrum, Alex Moon, Jacob Sibert, Hayden Smith, David Stutzman, Lawson Sumler, and Addy Wright.



Battle of the Brains

These Eagle Glen sixth graders are working together on their proposal for a new exhibit for Science City. Pictured, from left, are: **Sarah Poisner**, **Lauren Erdman**, **Makenzie Meyer**, and **Song Waltz**.

Timber Creek second graders follows travels of stuffed pony

A second grade class at Timber Creek Elementary school is learning about the world through the travels of a stuffed Webkinz pony named Zack.

Students in **Amanda Wallace's** class began the project based on the book "Second Grade Baby" by Ann M. Martin.

In the book, a shy second-grade student who was teased and called a baby allows her stuffed teddy bear to travel the world as a class project.

For the Timber Creek class, members of Mrs. Wallace's family have taken Zack, the stuffed pony, to Colorado, Florida, New Mexico, and Afghanistan. At each location, photos of Zack are sent back to the students, who enjoy seeing the pictures, reading the notes, and finding the locations on the map. Students are tracking Zack's travels on a world map.

Zack is headed to California, Wyoming and Arizona before returning to the second grade class before Christmas break.



Second graders in **Amanda Wallace's** class at Timber Creek Elementary are saying thank you to the men and women who serve in the military. The class sent the picture to Mrs. Wallace's brother-in-law, who is currently deployed to Bagram, Afghanistan. The class is following the travels of a stuffed pony. The pony recently traveled to Afghanistan.

News Briefs

Student places second in Shred Challenge

Brenna McLeod, a student at Ray-Pec High School, placed second in the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City's annual Shred Challenge. She received a \$75 savings bond.

The Shred Challenge is a competition that asks students to find ways to transform the unfit currency the Bank shreds every day into works of art that focus on a personal finance theme.

Following a finance lesson presented by Bank staff at area high schools, students were provided with \$800 in finely shredded currency and asked to create artwork that related to the theme: "Need dough? What are the essential ingredients to a successful financial future?"

Once their art was complete, the students visited the Bank for a special tour and presented their work to a panel of Bank employees. J.C. Harmon High School students placed first, third and fourth in the competition.



Pumpkins with Dads

First grader **Sam High** and his dad carved a pumpkin at the Stonegate Elementary School Pumpkins with Dads event.

Ray-Pec forensics/debate wins tourney

Congratulations to the Ray-Pec Forensics and Debate squad for winning the Lee's Summit West Tournament on Nov. 5. The squad received a first place trophy in Sweepstakes, as well as Individual Events. Here are individual results:

- **Rodney McDuffie** placed second in Lincoln Douglas debate.
- In Radio Speaking, **Tyler Wornell** was fourth, and **Jesse Edington** placed fifth.
- **Alesha Hall** placed third in Extemporaneous speaking.
- **Andrea Ambam** placed fifth in Oratory Speaking.
- Ray-Pec had an impressive showing in Storytelling. **Lauren Ellsworth** placed first, **Logan Schoessel**, second, **Abby Beck**, fourth, and **Madilynn Mansur**, sixth.
- Similarly, in Poetry: **Nellie Maple** placed first, **Madilynn Mansur** second, Hayley Farrell third, and **Grace Pennington** in fourth.
- Prose speaking: **Grace Pennington** was first, and **Zhahn Gonzalez** was fifth.
- The Duo team of **Dane Schnake** and **Bobby Turnbough** took fifth place.
- In Humorous Interpretation: **Dane Schnake** took first place, **Drew Brown** took fourth, while **Nathaniel Weber** came in sixth.
- Finally, In Dramatic Interpretation: **Hayley Farrell** took first place, **Bobby Turnbough** was third, and **Austin Loar** was fourth.



Rotary Student of the Month

Matt Hocker, president of the Belton-Raymore Rotary Club, left, congratulates **Janak Patel** as the club's November Student of the Month from Ray-Pec High School. Janak is a senior. After graduation, he plans to attend college to prepare for a career in the medical field. Each month, the club honors a student from Ray-Pec High School and a student from Belton High School.

News Briefs

RPHS JV Scholar Bowl team places seventh

Congratulations to the Ray-Pec High School JV Scholar Bowl team for finishing seventh out of 18 schools in the North Kansas City Tournament on Nov. 5. The team competed in nine rounds of 20 Toss-up questions and Bonus questions.

The questions covered all areas of study including Math, Science, World History, American History, Literature, Geography, and Current Events.

The team consisted of **Drew Geer**, **Derek Hockett**, **Matt Keith**, **Justin Mooney**, **Patricia Pollard** and **Tyler Trusk**.

RPHS checks for seat belt use, plans activities to increase usage

It was Seat Belt Safety Week during mid-November at Ray-Pec High School.

On Nov. 9, a group of staff and students audited seat belt usage as students arrived at school to determine the percentage who were wearing seat belts. Members of the Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD) club, and the Alternative Impact club, along with other students, club sponsor **Tina Fultz** and School Resource Officer **Audra Ayers** conducted activities and hung posters to educate students about the importance of seat belt use.

On Nov. 11, Sgt. Collin Stosberg of the Missouri State Highway Patrol visited Ray-Pec High School to talk about seat belt usage and the dangers of unsafe driving practices, such as texting while driving. He showed the highway patrol traffic safety video titled "Permanent." The video uses powerful testimonies along with traffic crash photos and pictures of young adults in high school and social functions. The video includes interviews with family members of fatality accident victims, as well as interviews of near-fatality survivors. The video includes an interview with **Katie Donahoe**, a 2011 Ray-Pec graduate, who survived a serious accident in September 2009 at Route J and Hubach Hill Rd.

A follow-up seat belt usage audit was conducted on Nov. 16. The results of the audits will be shared later this year. The seat belt campaign is done in conjunction with the highway patrol.



Peculiar Elementary recognizes students for responsibility

Students at Peculiar Elementary worked hard to show responsibility during the month of October. One student from each classroom was chosen as the most responsible student for that month. Those outstanding students are pictured. In the back row, from left: **Rebecca Glass, Mary Rios, Kendra Kincaid, and Kevin Oliver**. In the middle row are: **Kacy Pugh, Bailey Myrick, Madi Boyd, Gracie Lucas, and Emily Heath**. In the front row are: **Brooklyn Kelley, Avery Blake, Hannah Urquilla, and Dillon Wheeler**. Pictured separately are: **Destinee Shaffer and Devyn Pinney**.



Measuring shadows

Fifth graders at Eagle Glen Intermediate School completed measurement activities for a Shadows Lab. The measuring tapes were donated by Lowe's in Raymore. The picture at left shows **Alexyss Hillyer, Alyssa Woodward and Kasey Boyd**. In the picture at right, **Muhammad Warraich** stands while **Sidney Nsude** marks the measurement. Over a one-week period, students measured their shadows at three different times of day for three days, resulting in nine measurements. The learning goal was, "I will make a logical argument for how the Sun's location in the sky effects shadows."

News Briefs

State releases new way to calculate graduation rates for high schools

The Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) has released new four-year, public high school graduation rates. The rate is being calculated in a slightly different way.

Using the new formula, Ray-Pec's graduation rate for all students is 93.3 percent.

The U.S. Department of Education now requires all states to report graduation data using a specified calculation, which — for the first time — will allow rates to be uniformly compared across the nation. Historically, states have calculated graduation rates using varying methods, creating inconsistent data from one state to the next.

Here is a link to the state web site: <http://dese.mo.gov/news/2011/four-year-grad-rate.htm>.

Here is a link to a story in *The Kansas City Star*: <http://www.kansascity.com/2011/11/21/3273773/four-year-graduation-rates-for.html>



Bridle Ridge fifth grade Students of the Month

Here are the fifth grade Students of the Month for October at Bridle Ridge Intermediate School. In the back row, from left: **Tammy Yang, Michael Wright, Hanna Skaggs, Joanna Ramirez, and Jaydon Piburn**. In the front row, from left: **Zach Odum, Olivia Grieve and Kamren Chalmers**. The character trait for the month of October was Respect.



Bridle Ridge sixth grade Students of the Month

Here are the sixth grade Students of the Month for October at Bridle Ridge Intermediate School. In the back row, from left: **Leah Rogge, Selen Valenzuela, Alexandra Green, Jackson Armor, and Jonathon Watkins**. In the front row, from left, are: **Destinee Sheehan and Jordan Van Schepen**. The character trait for the month of October was Respect.



Student of the Month

Sixth grader **Noah Austin** was also a Student of the Month for October at Bridle Ridge Intermediate School. He was absent when the group picture at left was taken.

News Briefs

RPHS marching band places 31 students in All-District Band

The Ray-Pec High School Panther Pride Band placed 31 students in the West Central All-District Band. This is a new school record.

The students auditioned Oct. 29 at the University of Central Missouri. Students were placed in two different bands that will perform in January at UCM. Here are the students selected:

- Flute: **Kelly Briner, Angela Bradford, Ashley Parker, Arricka Erwin**
- Clarinet: **Jackie Couturier, Rachel Lehman, Cody Hass, Patricia Pollard, Jordan Butler, Taylor Daniel**
- Alto Sax: **Taylor Byrnes, Rebekah Wratney, Jamie Berry**
- Tenor Sax: **Jack Renfro, Sawyer Henkle**
- Trumpet: **Zach Goodwin, Luke Balsiger, Dylan Kent, Andrew Taylor**
- French Horn: **Tyler Trusk, Nic Wilson**
- Trombone: **Brandon Jungling, Noah Goodwin, Nathan Parker**
- Tuba: **Logan Jungman, Seth Worden**
- Percussion: Snare - **Morgan Elliott, Tyler Trusk**; Mallets: **Kit Leonard, Will Whelan**; and Timpani: **Austin Coop.**

Kit Leonard, Logan Jungman, and Jack Renfro were the top-ranked students on their instruments for the entire district.

Adult mentors needed for Ray-Pec students

Studies show the presence of a positive adult role model in a young person's life: builds confidence, encourages kids to set and achieve goals, and helps young people succeed. If you're interested in being a positive adult role model, come to the Together We Can Mentor training from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Dec. 2 at the Administrative Services Center, 21005 S. School Rd, Peculiar. Please RSVP to Janet James at 892-1459 or jjames@raypec.k12.mo.us.



Eagle Glen fifth grade Students of the Month

Here are the fifth grade Students of the Month for October at Eagle Glen Intermediate School. In the back row, from left: **Ashley Preator, Makayla Mudd, Hannah Marolt, Ty Weatherly, and Sophia Phelps**. In the front row: **Hayden Rains, Daniel Patti, and Matthew Stewart**. Not pictured is Haley Gittings. The character trait for the month of October was Respect.



Eagle Glen sixth grade Students of the Month

Here are the sixth grade Students of the Month for October at Eagle Glen Intermediate School. In the back row, from left: **Cameron Charles, Hailey Welch, Emma Conner, Miles Goodwin, and Trevor Diepenbrock**. In the front row, from left, are: **Logan Daniels, Kennedy Elmore, Kyndal Bowie, and Christopher Ardito**. The character trait for the month of October was Respect.



Eighth grade October Students of the Month

Here are the eighth grade students of the month for October at Ray-Pec East Middle School. In the front row, from left: **Hailey Abbott**, **Hannah Abbott** and **Cole Vanbrunt**. Second row: **Ryan Herren**, **Kevin Russo** and **Ashley Ahrens**. Third row: **Blake Smith**, **Meghan Maher** and **Darby Webb**. Top row: **Logan Campos**, **Tasjia Thomas** and **Emily Johnson**.



Reading award

Zoe Shriner was the first fourth grade student at Stonegate Elementary School to finish reading all 12 of the Mark Twain award-nominated books this year. She is pictured with **Brenda Sehorn**, library media specialist at Stonegate. Zoe received several prizes, including a field trip to the Children's Literature Festival in Warrensburg and \$50 to spend at the Stonegate Book Fair. About a week later, **Alex Shuler** also completed all 12 books. Congratulations!

RPHS softball team announces post-season honors

Post-season awards for the Ray-Pec Softball Team were announced at its end-of-season banquet on Nov. 3.

Varsity

Jordan Bradshaw was named Most Valuable Player, Offensive Player of the Year, and Defensive Player of the Year.

The Panther Award was presented to **Bekah Mueller**. The Panther Award is for the player who best represents the all-around Ray-Pec softball player with skill, spirit and coachability.

- All-Conference First Team: **Jordan Bradshaw**
- All-Conference Honorable Mention: **Bekah Mueller**
- All-District First Team: **Jordan Bradshaw**, **Rachel McKinzie**, **Emily Ross**, **Bekah Mueller**

McKinzie, **Emily Ross**, **Bekah Mueller**

- All-District Second Team: **Sarah Shatford**

- District All-Tournament Team: **Rachel McKinzie**, **Jordan Bradshaw**

- All-Region First Team: **Jordan Bradshaw**

Junior Varsity

- Most Valuable Player: **Erika Carvan**
- Most Improved Player: **Tori Custardo**
- Panther Award: **Sydney Harmon**

C-Team

- Most Valuable Player: **Tori Custardo**
- Most Improved Player: **Mackenzie Koch**
- Panther Award: **Bailey Oser**

News Briefs

Ray-Pec offers before and after school care

The Panther Pride School Age Child Care program offers before and after school care for children (grades K-6). Sites are available at each elementary school and at Bridle Ridge Intermediate School. Sites are open from 6:15 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Students who attend Eagle Glen Intermediate may participate in the program at the Bridle Ridge site. A shuttle bus operates between Bridle Ridge and Eagle Glen. For information, including tuition and fees, discounts and enrollment forms, go to:

www.raypec.k12.mo.us/childcare or contact **Sharon Perkins**, School Age Child Care Coordinator, at 816-892-1668.

Project Grad announces ongoing fundraisers

The Project Graduation Committee has several ongoing fundraisers as it plans for the after-graduation party for the Class of 2012. You must mention Project Grad for the organization to receive donations.

Senior photos

Photographer Brett Pruitt with East Market Studios will donate \$100 (the sitting fee) to Project Graduation for every session of senior photos. To schedule your sitting, contact Brett at: www.bdpruitt.com or 816-674-3602.

Used toner cartridges

At Home Town Toner & Ink, you may turn in used toner and Project Graduation will receive a donation. Drop off at 107 N. Evans (same building as the orange storage office on M-58 west of Route J.

Massages

Unwind Massage will donate \$10 for each massage to Project Graduation, when you mention Ray-Pec Project Grad. Contact Bonnie Lesmeister at 816-678-6112 or www.yourtime2unwind.com



Seventh grade October Students of the Month

Here are the seventh grade students of the month for October at Ray-Pec East Middle School. In the front row, from left: **Nichole Johnson**, **Emma Thompson** and **Caleb Jones**. Second row: **Tyler Musgrave**, **Allison May** and **Aleena Shahid**. Third row: **Jesse Turos**, **Allison Graber** and **Matthew Greble**. Top row: **Austyn Wright**, **Raegon Wasson**, and **Delaynie Getty**.

Boys swim team ends season at conference

The boys swimming season ended Nov. 2 with competition at the conference meet. Although the regular season ended, **Daniel Newton** and **Kasey McMillin** were still trying for a chance to go to State.

Kasey McMillin was named to the All-Conference Honorable Mention team by placing 14th in finals.

Other top finishers included

Daniel Newton, 17th in the 50 Free and 100 Free;

Austin Smith, 17th in the 500 Free and 21st in the 50 Free;

Kasey McMillin, 18th in the 50 Free;

Caleb Peter, 18th in the 500 Free and 19th in the 200 Free;

Sean-Luke Clark, 22nd in the 200 free and 24th in the 100 Free;

Christian Baumgarten, 19th in the 200 IM and 18th in the 100 Breaststroke;

Ryan Dillon, 20th in the 100 Breaststroke and 23rd in the 100 Free; and

Tracy Vest, 24th in the 50 Free and 22nd in the 100 Free.

All three relays finished sixth.

When school is closed due to weather, here's how Ray-Pec will share the news

The winter months are here, and it is important to review procedures for closing or delaying the opening of school due to snow and inclement weather.

The Ray-Pec School District may delay the opening of school by two hours when it appears transportation conditions will improve after the more congested rush-hour traffic has passed. The decision to close school or to delay the opening of school by two hours will be made by 5:30 a.m. to allow time for media to broadcast this decision prior to most students preparing for the school day.



School closing information will be available on television stations 4, 5, 9, and 41 and most of the major radio stations. The information will also appear on the school's website at

www.raypec.k12.mo.us.

You may also call the school district cancellation information line at 892-3988 to hear a recorded message. An e-mail message will be sent to subscribers of "RP Update." Subscribers to the text messaging service will receive a text message. (To subscribe to RP-Update, visit www.raypec.k12.mo.us and use the RP-Update link.)

It is a good idea to listen to a radio or television station any time weather conditions are changing or in question. The district phone line and website will carry early school dismissal information as soon as decisions are made.

It is important to have plans for younger children when school is dismissed early. In the event a parent is not or cannot be home, arrangements should be made for the child to stay with a friend or relative. Parents should insist their children dress for protection against prolonged exposure to the weather as a safety precaution.

The decision to close school is always a difficult one. Every effort will be made to consider the safety of the students, the safety of the faculty, and the convenience to parents when making such decisions. Your cooperation and assistance is appreciated. It is always the parent or guardian's decision to determine the safety for their child during inclement weather. If you have questions regarding school dismissal, call the building in which your child attends or the district office at 892-1300.

When school is delayed by two hours, the high school will begin at 9:25 a.m., the middle school will begin at 9:35 a.m., the intermediate schools will begin at 10:40 a.m., and the elementary schools will begin at 10:45 a.m.. Regular school closing time will be observed on delayed opening days.

Parents as Teachers offers screenings

The Ray-Pec Parents As Teachers program offers free developmental screenings to all families in the Raymore-Peculiar School District with children ages 4 months to 5 years.

The ASQ screening will be used for children under age 3, and the DIAL-III screening will be used for children ages 3-5.

The developmental screening is designed to give parents a clear picture of their child's strengths, weaknesses, and emerging skills in the areas of language, social-emotional, intellectual, and motor development. Screening is a quick and effective way to look at your child in comparison with other children his/her age. Call Parents As Teachers at 816-892-1938 to schedule a screening.

News Briefs

Board hears review of Parents as Teachers

Each month, specific programs are reviewed for the Board of Education. **Cindy Watson**, Parents as Teachers Coordinator, presented a report on Nov. 17.

The Parents as Teachers program educates parents about child development and provide developmental screening opportunities for children in the district up to age 5 in order to monitor and identify developmental concerns before entering school.

Cindy outlined the program goals for 2011-2012. She also said that as of Nov. 1, 2011, parent educators had completed 135 home visits to families, 108 developmental screenings, and eight referrals for further evaluation.

You may read the entire report at: <http://www.raypec.k12.mo.us/index.aspx?nid=83>

Software discounts

You may purchase software at special prices through the Raymore-Peculiar Public School Foundation.

Go to www.raypec.k12.mo.us/foundation, and click on the software purchase link on the left. Select the sign-in link at the top. If you previously registered, you should still be registered. If not, click on the "register" tab. If you have questions, contact **Pam Steele** at psteele@raypec.k12.mo.us or 892-1311. Students, parents, and patrons may also order the software, but they should send an e-mail to Pam Steele to obtain a registration code.



Find us on Facebook

Find us on Facebook! You can now become a fan of the Raymore-Peculiar School District on Facebook.

More than 2,950 people are fans of the district on

Facebook. Go to: www.facebook.com/raypec. It's free to create your own account at www.facebook.com.



News Briefs

Birthday greetings

You can now have happy birthday greetings placed on the large lighted marquee sign in front of the Ray-Pec High School south building. The cost is \$5, and payment must be received at least one week before the birthday.

The \$5 payment may be sent to **Dianne Harmon** at the high school. Names will be listed on the actual birthday only. Proceeds will help support student activities. For more information, you may contact Dianne Harmon at: dharmon@raypec.k12.mo.us.

Parent Portal

Attention parents: You can electronically update information on file with the school district using Parent Portal.

After logging into Parent Portal, the screen that appears lists the current information and allows you to enter any needed changes. Once you have entered the changes, click the "Submit changes" button to send the changes to the district for approval.

You can enter phone numbers, emergency contacts, and other information for students. If you don't yet have access to Parent Portal, contact your child's school to complete a sign-up form.

Superintendent's Blog

Superintendent **Dr. Jeff Kyle** has a blog. A blog is an online journal, or "web log." To read Dr. Kyle's blog, go to the district web site: www.raypec.k12.mo.us. There is a link on the left side of the home page for "Superintendent's Blog."

You can follow Ray-Pec news on Twitter

You can view Ray-Pec information and become a follower of Ray-Pec School District news updates by clicking on "join today" at <http://twitter.com/raypec>.

To learn more about Twitter, visit www.twitter.com.

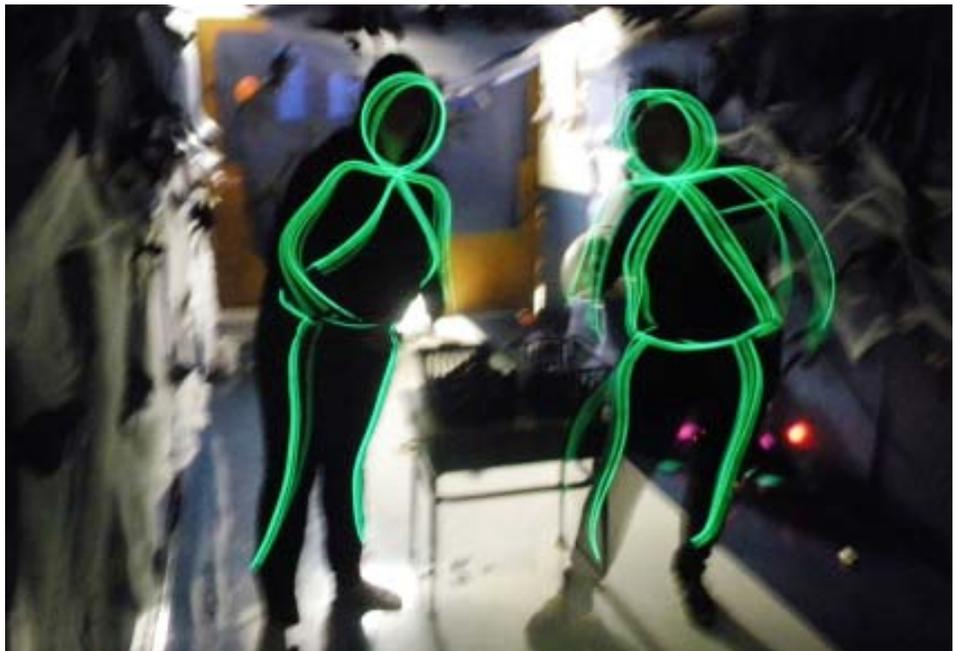


You can create an account and view a video. Twitter is a free online service. Through Twitter, users may update family, friends or professional peers in short messages delivered to cell phones or through the Internet.



'Wizard of Oz' characters

Hundreds of little ghosts, goblins, and fairy princesses roamed the hallways of Peculiar Elementary on the night of October 28. It was Trick or Treat Hallways night for teachers and staff to hand out prizes and candy to the costumed students. The Wizard of Oz characters came to life in the form of **Chris Roller**, **Erin Hillier**, **Tammy Novak**, **Jenny Bullock**, and **Stephanie Thomas**.



Trick-or-treat hallways

Neon figures (Teachers **Kristine Shuey** and **Missy Lucas**) handed out treats during Trick or Treat Hallways on Oct. 28 at Peculiar Elementary School. Teachers stationed in twenty-five decorated doorways handed out 10,000 pieces of candy and 10,000 toys to the crowd.

Panther Cub Academy offers child care for children ages 3-5

The Panther Cub Academy offers year-round educational experiences for children ages 3 to 5 who are potty trained. Panther Cub Academy is located on the lower level of Raymore Elementary School at 500 S. Madison St., Raymore.

Panther Cub Academy is open from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday. Panther Cub is closed for inclement weather if Ray-Pec schools are closed. It is also closed on specific holidays, winter break and spring break. Tuition is \$110 per week for full-time status, or \$30 per day with a two-day minimum. A non-refundable enrollment fee of \$40 is required.

Panther Cub Academy provides snacks, but does not provide breakfast or lunch. Children may bring breakfast or lunch, or they can open a lunch account with the school district. When school is not in session, Panther Cub children must bring breakfast and/or lunch.

For more information, contact Director **Marie Davis** at 892-1943 or mdavis@raypec.k12.mo.us.

News Briefs

Activity telephone line

Call 892-3988 for daily activities and sports information updates and cancellations. Call after 1 p.m. for weather-related cancellations.



Text messages

To sign up for text message alerts from the School District, visit the district web site at: www.raypec.k12.mo.us. There is a link on the left. Each subscriber must self-enroll and submit an authorization code that will be provided during the enrollment process. Country Club Bank of Raymore sponsors the service.

RP Update

To receive e-mail news from the school district, send a message to: rupdate@raypec.k12.mo.us. In the body of the message, type "Subscribe RP Update." You may enroll yourself by following a link at: www.raypec.k12.mo.us

Job openings

If you applied for employment with the Raymore-Peculiar School District prior to Nov. 22, 2011, or wish to apply for future openings, you must complete a new application as our application management system has changed. You can access the new system, called AppliTrack, by visiting the district web page at: <http://www.raypec.k12.mo.us/index.aspx?NID=753>

Standard Complaint Resolution Procedure for Improving America's Schools Act Programs

This complaint resolution procedure applies to all programs administered by the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education under the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB).

A complaint is a formal allegation that a specific federal or state law or regulation has been violated, misapplied, or misinterpreted by school district personnel or by Department of Education personnel.

Any parent or guardian, surrogate parent, teacher, administrator, school board member, or other person directly involved with an activity, program, or project operated under the general supervision of the Department may file a complaint. Such a complaint must be in writing and signed; it will provide specific details of the situation and indicate the law or regulation that is allegedly being violated, misapplied, or misinterpreted.

The written, signed complaint must be filed and the resolution pursued in accordance with local district policy: The Board recognizes that situations of concern to parents/guardians or the public may arise in the operation of the district. Such concerns are best resolved through communication with the appropriate staff members and officers of the school district, such as the faculty, the principals, the Superintendent or the Board.

The following steps are proper procedures to be followed by persons with questions or complaints regarding the operation of the school district:

Matters concerning individual students should first be addressed to the teacher.

Unsettled matters from (1) above, or problems and questions concerning individual schools, should be directed to the principal of the school.

Unsettled matters from (2) above, or problems and questions concerning individual schools, should be directed to the Assistant Superintendent.

Unsettled matters from (3) above, or problems and questions concerning the school district, should be directed to the Superintendent.

If the matter cannot be settled satisfactorily by the Superintendent, it should be brought to the Board of Education. Questions and comments submitted to the secretary of the Board in letter form will be brought to the attention of the entire Board. If necessary, a Board hearing will be scheduled to resolve the complaint. However, the decision of the Board shall be final.

The Board considers it the obligation of the professional and support staff of the district to field the questions of parents/guardians or the public.

If the issue cannot be resolved at the local level, the complainant may file a complaint with the Missouri Department of Education. If there is no evidence that the parties have attempted in good faith to resolve the complaint at the local level, the Department may require the parties to do so and may provide technical assistance to facilitate such resolution.

Any persons directly affected by the actions of the Department may file a similarly written complaint if they believe state or federal laws or regulations have been violated, misapplied, or misinterpreted by the Department itself.

Anyone wishing more information about this procedure or how complaints are resolved may contact local district or Department personnel.



For more news and information about the Raymore-Peculiar School District, check out: our web site at: www.raypec.k12.mo.us

Raymore-Peculiar School District Public Notices

Children with Disabilities

All responsible public agencies are required to locate, evaluate and identify children with disabilities who are under the jurisdiction of the agency, regardless of the severity of the disability, including children attending private schools, highly mobile children, such as migrant and homeless children, and children who are suspected of having a disability and in need of special education even though they are advancing from grade to grade. The Raymore-Peculiar R-II School District assures that it will provide a free, appropriate public education (FAPE) to all eligible children with disabilities between the ages of 3 and 21 under its jurisdiction. Disabilities include: autism, deaf/blindness, emotional disorders, hearing impairment and deafness, mental retardation, multiple disabilities, orthopedic impairment, other health impairments, specific learning disabilities, speech or language impairment, traumatic brain injury, visual impairment/blindness, and young child with a developmental delay.

Raymore-Peculiar School District assures that it will provide information and referral services necessary to assist the State of Missouri in the implementation of early intervention services for infants and toddlers eligible for the Missouri First Steps program. Raymore-Peculiar School District assures personally identifiable information collected, used or maintained by the agency for the purposes of identification, evaluation, placement or provision of FAPE of children with disabilities may be inspected and/or reviewed by their parents/guardians. Parents/guardians may request amendment to the educational record if the parent/guardian believes the record is inaccurate, misleading or violates the privacy or other rights of their child. Parents have the right to file complaints with the U.S. Department of Education or the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education concerning alleged failures by the district to meet the requirements of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).

The Raymore-Peculiar School District has developed a Local Compliance Plan for implementation of State Regulations for the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). This plan contains the agency's policies and procedures regarding storage, disclosure to third parties, retention and destruction of personally identifiable information and the agency's assurances that services are provided in compliance with the General Education Provision Act (GEPA). This plan may be reviewed at Raymore-Peculiar R-II School District, Administrative Services Center, 21005 School Road, Peculiar, Missouri, 816-892-1300, during business hours.

This notice will be provided in native languages as appropriate.

Americans with Disabilities Act

It is the policy of the Raymore-Peculiar R-II School District to make our services, facilities, programs and accommodations accessible to all individuals, including individuals with disabilities. The District continues to upgrade its facilities in accordance with its ADA Transition Plans.

If a disability prevents you from fully using our facilities or enjoying our services and programs, we would like your input and ideas on how we can better serve you.

Please direct your input in writing to:

ADA Coordinator, Raymore-Peculiar R-II School District
P.O. Box 789, Peculiar, MO 64078

Non-Discrimination Statement

In accordance with the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Title XI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (as amended), Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972, P.L. 93-112, and Section 504 of The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the regulations hereunder, it is the policy of the Ray-Pec School District that no person shall, because of age, sex, race, disability or national origin be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or subjected to discrimination under any district education program or activity, including employment. Written policies about the rights and responsibilities of employees and students are available for inspection at the district's administrative offices. Inquiries about protection against discrimination under the above-named acts may be directed in writing to: Director of Human Resources, Raymore-Peculiar School District, P.O. Box 789, Peculiar, MO 64078.

Notification of Asbestos Plans

Asbestos Management Plans for the Raymore-Peculiar School District include two components: a general plan for the entire district and a specific plan for each school. The entire plan is located at the Administrative Services Center, 21005 S. School Rd., Peculiar, MO 64078. Each school office has a copy of plans for that school. Plans may be viewed during regular business hours. To view plans, make an appointment with the Asbestos Program Manager at least one (1) working day in advance. Any request to view the plan must be honored by the Asbestos Program Manager within five (5) working days of the receipt of such request. Document copies are available from the Administrative Services Center at a cost of 25 cents per page.



Raymore-Peculiar School News

Raymore-Peculiar School District
21005 S. School Rd., P.O. Box 789
Peculiar, MO 64078

