

Raymore-Peculiar School News



Published for patrons and friends of the
 Raymore-Peculiar R-II School District
 March 13, 2009

Teacher of the Year finalists announced

The Ray-Pec district announced finalists for the 2009 Teacher of the Year award:

- **Gina Cleveland**, Bridle Ridge Intermediate School
- **Lisa Coldiron**, Timber Creek Elementary School
- **Jerry Edson**, Raymore-Peculiar High School
- **Emily Gartman**, Peculiar Elementary School
- **Jennifer Gibson**, Eagle Glen Intermediate School
- **James Huffman**, Stonegate Elementary School
- **Wendy Huffman**, Stonegate Elementary School
- **Megan Jones**, Peculiar Elementary School
- **Kay Miller**, Timber Creek Elementary School
- **Steve Stiglic**, Shull Elementary School



District announces other nominees

These 30 teachers were also nominated for the Teacher of the Year award:

- **Janet Allen**, High School
- **Melissa Arenson**, High School
- **Barb Ayres**, Stonegate Elementary
- **Amber Beck**, Raymore Elementary
- **Mary Besse**, Stonegate Elementary
- **Adam Bozarth**, High School
- **Teresa Button**, Middle School
- **Matt Copeland**, Freshman Center
- **Andrew Dean**, Creekmoor Elementary
- **Julie Fisher**, Peculiar Elementary
- **Andy James**, Freshman Center
- **Gina Johnson**, Middle School
- **Cherie Kelly**, High School
- **Katie Kiger**, Shull Elementary
- **Jeff Moore**, High School
- **Lynn Noiralise**, Timber Creek Elementary;
- **Tammy Novak**, Peculiar Elementary
- **Jerome Ogren**, Middle School
- **Joe O'Neal**, High School
- **Nikki Rice**, Middle School
- **Elaine Riley**, Shull Elementary
- **Lisa Roberts**, Bridle Ridge and Eagle Glen
- **Pam Schnake**, Middle School
- **Lisa Swalwell**, High School
- **Theresa Trutzel**, Timber Creek Elementary
- **Brooke Urbina**, Freshman Center
- **Amy Van Rie**, Eagle Glen
- **Lezlie Waltz**, Creekmoor Elementary
- **Brandy Wiedenmann**, Middle School
- and **Kelli Yahmig**, Peculiar Elementary.

Banquet will honor teacher finalists

You are invited to attend the Teacher of the Year banquet to show support for the finalists. It is scheduled for 6 p.m. Monday, April 20, at Ray-Pec High School.

The banquet is sponsored by the Raymore-Peculiar Public School Foundation. The cost is \$20 per person.

To RSVP, or for more information, contact **Pam Steele** at the Administrative Services Center or 892-1311 or by e-mail at: psteel3@raypec.k12.mo.us.

Thanks for the help at Ray-Pec Physical Night

There were 325 students who participated in the Physical Night March 3 at Ray-Pec High School.

Athletic Trainer **Dan Schwarz** extends thanks to everyone who helped:

- Ten physicians: Dr. Danny Carroll, Dr. James Queenan, Dr. Brad Chrisjohn, Dr. Kevin Olson, Dr. Ann Gassman, Dr. David Williams, Dr. Douglas Bradley, Dr. Jan Hipp, Dr. Samuel Brewster and Dr. Christina Cantrell.

- Four Ray-Pec school nurses: **Jamie Bogner**, RN, Stonegate Elementary; **Rosie Broadhurst**, RN, Timber Creek Elementary; **Mary Rustemeyer**, LPN, Raymore Elementary; and **Linda Seba**, LPN, Peculiar Elementary.

- Four emergency medical technicians from the West Peculiar Fire Protection District.

- Many, many Ray-Pec coaches.

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*"Through collaboration among parents, students, staff and the community,
 the Raymore-Peculiar School District will ensure that each student masters specific and challenging
 learning objectives that maximize achievement and lead to lifelong productivity."*

Role expands for 2009-2010

Pat Odneal to also be assistant principal at intermediates

Pat Odneal has been named as assistant principal for both Bridle Ridge and Eagle Glen intermediate schools for 2009-2010. Pat is currently the district's Director of Student Support Programs in the Department of Instruction and Student Achievement, located at the Administrative Services Center.

Next year, her role will expand as she works as assistant principal at both intermediate schools. Pat will continue to work year-round, with responsibility for these district-wide initiatives as Director of Section 504 programs, English Language Learners (ELL), and Summer School. Pat has worked at Ray-Pec since 2003.

She came to Ray-Pec from the Lee's Summit School District, where she was a University of Missouri Fellows Mentor/Clinical Associate 2001-2003 at Woodland Elementary School. She was a classroom teacher from 1987 to 2001. She earned her bachelor's degree in elementary education, master's degree in elementary education administration, and an educational specialist degree in educational administration from the University of Missouri-Kansas City.



Pat Odneal

News Briefs

Mascot, colors selected for East Middle School

The votes are in for a new mascot and school colors for Raymore-Peculiar East Middle School. The mascot will be the Huskies, and the colors will be Carolina blue and white, with black accents. Thanks to everyone who suggested mascots and colors, and to students who voted. The new middle school is under construction on M-58 east of Raymore. It is scheduled to open in fall 2010.

Spring Break

Students were not in session on Thursday, March 12, to allow staff to participate in planned professional development activities. School is not in session Friday, March 13, and Monday, March 16, for spring break. The Administrative Services Center will be open during spring break. Classes will resume Tuesday, March 17.

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: Dr. Terri Jamison, Associate Superintendent for Human Resources, Raymore-Peculiar School District, P.O. Box 366, Peculiar, MO 64078. 816-892-1300.



The Mrs. Redpath Award

Steele Chamberlain, owner of Collision Plus, left, presented the "Mrs. Redpath Award" to teacher **Kristan Gutierrez**, center. Chamberlain created the award to honor teachers who make a difference in children's lives. He named the award after an elementary school teacher who changed his outlook and encouraged him to make something of himself. Chamberlain offered to treat Kristan and a guest to a limousine ride and meal on the County Club Plaza. Kristan's husband was unable to go, so she was joined by her mother, at right. Kristan teaches fourth grade at Raymore Elementary School.

Hofmann to be new principal for Raymore Elementary

Michelle Hofmann of Kansas City will be the new principal of Raymore Elementary School.

Hofmann will replace **Susan Romeo**, who resigned to accept a position as principal of a new elementary school under construction in Lee's Summit. Romeo's resignation is effective June 16, 2009.

Hofmann is coming to Ray-Pec from the Raytown School District, where she has been the Director of Extended Learning and Director of the Smart Start Summer Team since 2006.

She had two other positions in the Raytown District: as a pre-K-12 instructional coach in mathematics from 2004 to 2006, and as a fourth grade teacher from 1999 to 2004 at Spring Valley Elementary School. She also was a summer school teacher from 2000 to 2005 in the Raytown district.

Earlier, from 1998 to 1999, she served as an elementary school teacher for one year in the Dominican Republic. That same year, she trained people who were teaching English as a Second Language to adults in the community.

She received a bachelor's degree in education from the University of Missouri, Columbia, and a master's in education from Southeast Missouri State University. She is currently pursuing her doctorate degree in organizational/educational leadership from Baker University, Overland Park, Kan., with an expected completion date in winter 2009. She lives in Kansas City.



Michelle Hofmann

Pleasant Hill fifth grader wins Cass County Spelling Bee

Pleasant Hill fifth grader Jacob Longmeyer won the Cass County Spelling Bee on March 10.

As winner, Jacob will advance to represent Cass County in the national spelling bee. He and a chaperone receive an all-expense paid trip to Washington, D.C., to participate in the 82nd annual Scripps National Spelling Bee the week of May 24. The prize includes airfare, lodging, meals, and a spending allowance.



Jacob also received an award plaque, a \$100 savings bond, a Cass County Spelling Bee medallion, a one-year subscription to Britannica, and a Webster's dictionary.

Runner-up in the spelling bee was Michaela Dickerson, a sixth grader from Belton. As runner-up, she received an award plaque, a subscription to Britannica.com, a dictionary and a \$40 Amazon.com gift certificate.

Other spelling bee participants, who each received a Cass County Spelling Bee medallion, were: Sullivan Parris, seventh grade, Harrisonville School District; Seth Acup, seventh grade, Heartland Academy, Belton; and **Jenna Wellman**, sixth grade, Ray-Pec Middle School.

Pronouncer for the spelling bee was **Genese Wright**, library media specialist at Ray-Pec High School. Serving as judges for the bee were: Steve Cheslik, Cass County treasurer and former Ray-Pec teacher; Teresa Hensley, Cass County prosecuting attorney; and Bob Huston, Cass County assessor.

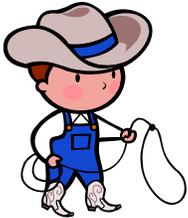
The Cass County Democrat Missourian newspapers is the official sponsor of the bee. The Peculiar Charitable Foundation contributed most of the funding for the event and prize trip. The Belton-Raymore Rotary Club also contributed to support the event.



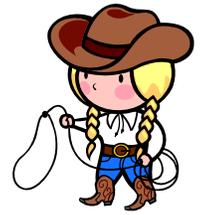
Jacob Longmeyer, a fifth grader from Pleasant Hill, center, won the Cass County Spelling Bee on March 10. He will represent Cass County at the Scripps National Spelling Bee in late May. At left is Ray-Pec Superintendent **Dr. Jeff Kyle**. The Raymore-Peculiar School District hosted the county spelling bee. At right is Mary Dobson, representing the Peculiar Charitable Foundation, which provides the majority of the funding for the spelling bee and prize package.

Ray-Pec School District Kindergarten Round-up is March 25

Parents of children who will be 5 years old before Aug. 1, 2009, are invited and encouraged to attend kindergarten round-up and enrollment on Wednesday, March 25. The purpose of kindergarten round-up is to receive information and register your child for kindergarten screening in May. Please attend one session for the school which your child will attend in the fall. If you are uncertain which school your child will attend, call 892-1300.



- Creekmoor Elementary School: 1:30 or 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 25
- Peculiar Elementary School: 2 or 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 25
- Raymore Elementary School: 1:30 or 7 p.m. Wednesday, March 25
- Shull Elementary School: 2 or 7 p.m. Wednesday, March 25
- Stonegate Elementary School: 2 or 7 p.m. Wednesday, March 25
- Timber Creek Elementary: 1:30 or 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 25



Please bring these items to kindergarten roundup:

- One document verifying legal residence within the district. (A current utility bill showing name and address, such as a water, gas, electric or a closing agreement for a home being purchased or built within the district.)
- Child's birth certificate. The state certified birth certificate is preferred.
- Child's current immunization record.

Since the nature of kindergarten round-up is informational and an enrollment process, you are encouraged to leave your kindergarten-age child and pre-school children at home. Child care will not be available.

News Briefs

March 18 is next screening date for Ray-Pec 4-year-olds

The Ray-Pec Parents as Teachers program offers early childhood screenings for 4-year-olds in the district. The screening is for children who will not be attending kindergarten in fall 2009. (A different screening is administered following



Kindergarten Roundup in the spring for children who will enter school next fall.)

The free screening includes vision, hearing, speech, and the areas of motor, language, cognitive and social development.

Screening takes 60 to 90 minutes, and is by appointment only. Children who have turned 4 by the screening date listed may be scheduled for a screening.

The next screening date is March 18. To make appointments, call Parents as Teachers at 892-1938.



Using the Wii Fit

These students at Shull Elementary School are trying out the Wii Fit system. The school's PTA purchased the Wii, and a parent donated the Wii Fit program. Physical Education Teacher **Kim Kruse** is using the system as a station in her classes.

News Briefs

Scholar-athlete honored

Congratulations to High School Senior **Mark Sappington**, who was selected as one of 22 Scholar-Athletes by the Greater Kansas City Football Coaches Association. Mark was honored at a March 8 banquet in Kansas City. The award includes a \$1,000 scholarship.

Three RPHS wrestlers compete at state

Congratulations to three Ray-Pec High School wrestlers who qualified for the state tournament last weekend. Junior **Daniel Breit** placed third in the 145-pound weight class. Junior **Andrew Mueller** placed sixth in the 285-pound weight class. Junior **Brannon Beck** also qualified for state in the 140-pound weight class. Unfortunately, Brannon was injured in practice before leaving for the state tournament and had to default.

Basketball team places second in conference

Congratulations to the high school boys basketball team. The boys finished second in the Suburban Big 7 conference. This is the first year for the Panthers to compete with all the largest schools in Kansas City and come away with a second-place finish.

RP grads to wrestle in college tournaments

Four Ray-Pec graduates qualified to compete in college wrestling national tournaments.

Kendall Burke, a 2007 graduate, qualified for the NAIA national championships March 5-7 in Oklahoma City. He wrestles for Dana College in Nebraska.

William Forrest, a 2005 graduate, and **Travis Barbarick**, a 2004 graduate, both qualified for the NCAA Division II national championships March 13-14 in Houston. They both wrestle for the University of Central Missouri.

Mark Ellis, a 2005 graduate, qualified to wrestle in the Big 12 championships March 6-7 in Lincoln, Neb., and qualified to compete at the NCAA Division I national championship tournament March 19-21 in St. Louis. He wrestles for the University of Missouri, and is currently ranked number two in the country.



Raymore-Peculiar High School students fared well at the Future Business Leaders of America district competition Feb. 26 in Warrensburg. Four Ray-Pec students qualified for the state competition in April. Pictured here, from left, are: **Clint Quade**, **Nick Pasternak**, **Larry Flanagan**, **Aidan Swanson**, **Kelly Capper** and **Cera White**.

FBLA students qualify for state

Congratulations to Ray-Pec High School students on their performance at the Future Business Leaders of America district competition Feb. 26 in Warrensburg. Four students qualified to advance to the state FBLA competition in April. The students are:

- **Clint Quade**, first place, cyber security.
- **Jeff Allen**, first place, database design and application; and second place, networking concepts.
- **Aidan Swanson**, first place, emerging business issues team (performance event); and fifth place, introduction to business communications.
- **Kelly Capper**, first place, emerging business issues team (performance event).

Others who competed at the district competition were:

- **Larry Flanagan**, second place, business ethics team (performance event).
- **Nick Pasternak**, second place, business ethics team (performance event); and sixth place, economics.
- **Scott McMahon**, second place, business ethics team (performance event); and third place, personal finance.
- **Rachelle Spurgeon**, third place, computer applications.
- **Cera White**, fifth place, accounting; and fifth place, business law.
- **Carissa Nelson**, fifth place, impromptu speaking.
- **Stephanie Neumann**, sixth place, entrepreneurship team.
- **Rachel Turner**, sixth place, entrepreneurship team.
- **Heather Hopkins**, sixth place, entrepreneurship team.

News Briefs

RP grad receives award to fund physics project

Jacob Swett, a 2007 Ray-Pec graduate, recently received a Marsh W. White award to fund his physics proposal to build a Ruben's tube. Jacob is a senior at Missouri State University and is president of the university's chapter of the Society of Physics Students. A Ruben's tube is a physics experiment that shows the relationship between sound waves and air pressure. To read the university's press release about Jacob's award, go to this site: <http://www.news.missouristate.edu/64356.htm>. To read the release from the Society of Physics Students, go here: http://www.spsnational.org/programs/awards/2009/mw_recipients.htm.

Spring picture days scheduled for K-6

Picture day is coming for students in grades K-6. Here is the schedule for class pictures:

- Wednesday, March 18, at Creekmoor
- Wednesday, March 25, at Shull

Facebook changes

The school district recently started a group page on Facebook, the social networking web site. It was created to provide another way to share information about district news and events.

On March 6, the district began to develop a new Facebook presence. You can now become a fan of the Raymore-Peculiar School District on Facebook.

If you previously joined as a member of the Ray-Pec "group", please become a "fan" of the district on the new page.

The group site will be deleted by the end of March. (The group site was tied to the personal Facebook site of Communication Coordinator **Michele Donahoe**. The new "fan" page will offer a more professional look for the district.)

If you are not a member of Facebook, you can go to: www.facebook.com to sign up. Please note: The security settings on Ray-Pec school computers are not being changed to allow access to Facebook. This is a site you can access away from Ray-Pec.

Two Ray-Pec students play lead characters

Missouri Thespians to perform all-state show at International Thespian Festival

Two Ray-Pec students are cast members in the Missouri Thespians All-State show that will perform at the 2009 International Thespian Festival.



The Ray-Pec students are both lead characters in the all-state production of William Shakespeare's "A Midsummer Night's Dream." Senior **Jake Gollither** is portraying Bottom. Senior **Sophia Brown** is playing Titania.

The all-state show will perform on the main stage at the festival June 22-27 on the campus of the University of

Nebraska-Lincoln.

Members of the all-state cast and crew hail from all over Missouri. In addition to Ray-Pec, cast and crew members are from: Belton; Branson; St. Joseph; O'Fallon; St. Peters; St. Charles; Wentzville; Joplin; Lee's Summit; St. Louis; Chesterfield; Florissant; Webster Groves; Nixa; Owensville; Ballwin; and Washington.

"Throughout the year, we send screeners to evaluate shows being considered for coveted Thespian Festival main stage slots," said Nancy Brown, Thespian Festival director. "The Missouri Thespians all-state production of A Midsummer Night's Dream ranks among the best high school productions previewed by screeners."

The International Thespian Festival is an annual, weeklong event for high school theatre students, celebrating student excellence in theatre arts.



Dress-up time

Josh Littrell at Bridle Ridge Intermediate School rewarded students for a good job with the cookie dough fundraiser. He agreed to dress up as a woman and allowed the top sellers to put make-up on him. Josh is the boys physical education teacher at Bridle Ridge and Eagle Glen intermediate schools.

News Briefs

Prowler dance team tryouts are March 17-20

Prowler dance team try-outs are March 17-20. A current physical must be on file to try out. Questions or concerns? Please contact Coach **Cheryl Gray** at: cgray@raypec.k12.mo.us.

Middle School dance

The middle school spring dance is March 20.

School board election set for April 7

Five people have filed for election to the Ray-Pec Board of Education. Two seats will be up for election on April 7, 2009. The seats are currently held by **David Crabtree** and **Dana Hille**.

Candidates are:

- **David Crabtree** of Peculiar,
- **Lisa Edington** of Peculiar,
- **Chad Heggem** of Raymore,
- **Dana Hille** of Raymore, and
- **Dr. Dennis Lang**, Lee's Summit.

The filing period ended on Jan. 20.

School board members serve three-year terms. Each year, two or three of the seven seats are up for election.

2008 Ray-Pec grad wins two track events

Vincent Howze, a 2008 Ray-Pec graduate, recently won both the 400-meter dash and the 60-meter hurdles at the MIAA Conference Indoor Track Championships. He is the first true freshman in the history of the conference to win double in those two events. His time in the 60-meter hurdles was also a provisional qualifying time for the NCAA Division II national meet.

Energy savings

The school board on Feb. 26 learned that the district's energy conservation program has resulted in savings of \$647,277 from December 2005 through December 2008.

Energy Manager **Van McLain** provided his annual status report during the board meeting. Van started tracking the district's energy-saving efforts in December 2005.

Nominations are due April 3

Wanted: Support staff nominations

The Ray-Pec School District is seeking nominations for the 2009 Support Staff Employee of the Year.

You may nominate any full-time or part-time employee who has worked a minimum of one year for the district. Examples of employees eligible for this award include those from the following areas: accompanist, accounts payable, buildings and grounds, child nutrition, crossing guards, lunch monitors, media assistants, para-professionals, Panther Cub Academy, payroll, safety and security, secretaries, teacher aides and technology. Administrators, teachers, counselors and librarians are not eligible.



Ten finalists will be honored at a banquet on Wednesday, May 6, and one will be announced as the Support Staff Employee of the Year. Each finalist will receive an award and a certificate. The Support Staff Employee of the Year will receive a \$500 cash award, a plaque and a banner for his or her building or department. A photo of the winner will hang in the Administrative Services Center.

Nominations can come from staff members, parents, students or patrons. The program is intended to honor and show appreciation for support staff employees who make a difference.

Send a letter of nomination by April 3 to: Support Staff Employee of the Year Program, Administrative Services Center, 21005 S. School Rd., Peculiar, Mo 64078. You may also email nomination letters to Communication Coordinator **Michele Donahoe** at mdonahoe@raypec.k12.mo.us or to rpupdate@raypec.k12.mo.us.

School board approves mowing contract, and bids for artificial turf and track

The Ray-Pec Board of Education on Feb. 26 approved additional improvements at Panther Stadium. The board approved agreements for the material and installation of synthetic turf at a total cost of \$487,000, and for the material and installation of synthetic track at a total cost of \$225,906. In November 2008, the board approved a bid for the sub-base site work for the turf and track.

The school board on Feb. 26 approved a contract with Schweizer Lawn Service to provide mowing services March through October at Peculiar Elementary, Bridle Ridge, Stonegate, Eagle Glen, Raymore Elementary, Creekmoor and Timber Creek. The district will pay \$1,725 per mow. The total cost for the 2009 mowing season is estimated at \$43,000, which will be spread over two budget years. District grounds employees will provide the mowing services on the main campus.

During the board meeting, **Steve Meyers**, Director of Facilities and Support Services, provided an update on safety and security. **Steve Pillow**, Director of Technology, provided an update on district technology.

To review all school board action, go to: www.raypec.k12.mo.us and select "Board of Education" and then "Board Docs" to see action from the board meeting.





Goal-setting session

Dr. Kevin Daniel, Associate Superintendent for Instruction and Student Achievement, led a session on goal-setting on March 12. The session included secretaries for school buildings and district-wide departments.



Setting 'SMART' goals

Ray-Pec secretaries worked in groups to develop SMART goals. SMART stands for: specific, measurable, attainable, realistic and timely. At this group, pictured clockwise, from lower left, are: **Sue Pillow**, Timber Creek; **Penny Wilson**, Creekmoor; **Shelley Crane**, Stonegate; **Lynae Anderson**, Timber Creek; and **Sonya Neal**, Creekmoor.

News Briefs

New issue of Diversity newsletter is on-line

A new issue of the district's Diversity News is now posted on-line at: <http://tinyurl.com/ads93j>.

Cheerleading tryouts are March 23-27

Cheerleading tryouts are coming in March for students currently in grades 7-11. The tryouts will be from 3:30 to 5 p.m. March 23-27 in the Shull Elementary School gym. For more information, contact Teacher **Melinda Young**, head cheer coach, at: myoung@raypec.k12.mo.us or visit the RP Cheer web site at: <http://elearning.raypec.k12.mo.us/course/view.php?id=361>.



Making a mini pool

After hearing the Dr. Seuss story, *McElligot's Pool*, fourth graders at Raymore Elementary School made their own miniature pool. Here, high school student **Cera White** works with students from **Kristan Gutierrez's** class. The students are adding small plastic fish on string to the inside of a water bottle. Students also added aquarium rocks, small shells, water, oil and food coloring. Library Media Specialist **Victoria Hernandez** planned the activity as part of Read Across America Week.



Students recognized for honesty

These students were recognized at an all-school assembly at Peculiar Elementary School for exhibiting the February virtue of honesty. In the back row, from left, are: **Riley Bacca, Matthew Fabian, Tucker Farrell, Tabitha Wright, and Rebecca Glass**. In the middle row, from left, are: **Connor Bradford, Maizy Szudarski, Madelyn Zalewski, Emma Snider, Chloe Ford, Jackson Fogle, and Devon Jones**. In the front is **Dominic Austin**. Students who were absent are pictured below.

News Briefs

Freshman recognition

Congratulations to freshmen **Caleb Scott** and **Michael Parrish**. Their names were selected from the Student Recognition drawing for February. They each received a \$25 gift certificate.

Easter hams

The Ray-Pec Project Graduation Committee has teamed with Kurzweil's Country Meats to offer you hams for your holiday table. Hams are maple-cured and hickory smoked. Whole hams, which are 15 to 16 pounds, are \$55. Half hams, which are 7 to 8 pounds, are \$30. To place an order, contact Cindi Grim at cindigrim@comcast.net or call 816-377-8215. The deadline to order is April 8. The pick-up date is April 10.



Students recognized for honesty

These students were recognized at an all-school assembly at Peculiar Elementary School for exhibiting the February virtue of honesty. Pictured, from left, are: **Maddi Pinney, Wyatt Mooney, Anthony Page, and Conner Deardorff**. These students were absent when the large group picture above was taken.

Information about Summer School 2009

“A Burst of Learning” will again be the theme for Ray-Pec’s Summer School. The dates for Summer School are June 2-26, 2009.

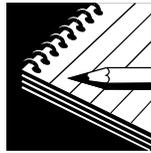
Enrollment information will be available soon.

Summer School sites will be:

- Creekmoor, Raymore and Shull for students entering grades K-4
- Bridle Ridge Intermediate School for students entering grades 5-6
- High School for students entering grades 7-12

Students who attend Stonegate during the regular school year will attend Creekmoor for Summer School. Students who attend Timber Creek during the regular school year will attend Raymore. Students who attend Peculiar Elementary during the regular school year will attend Shull.

All incoming fifth and sixth graders will attend Bridle Ridge. All students entering grades 7-12 will attend the High School.



Here is the daily schedule for students:

- 7:20 a.m. to 2:35 p.m. for grades 7-12
 - 8:15 a.m. to 3:15 p.m. for grades 5-6
 - 8:45 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. for grades K-4
- Student enrollment information will be announced soon.

Teacher and support staff applications are available on the district’s web site under the “For Staff” link. Go to: www.raypec.k12.mo.us and click on the staff resources link to find Summer School information. All applications should be sent to the Human Resources Department.



Middle School Students of the Month

Here are the Raymore-Peculiar Middle School Students of the Month for February. In the back row, from left, are seventh graders: **David Barberis** from Team Star Blazers, **Kaleb Schuler** and **Audrey Cetto** from Team Solar Storm; **Abby Goulding** and **Jared Logsdon** from Team Comets; and **Savanna Smith** and **Sal Sablan** from Team Voyagers. In the middle row, from left, are eighth graders: **Dillon Moore** and **Helen Aguilar** from Team Diamond; **Kayla Mentzer** and **Jacob Gurera** from Team Sapphires; and **Erin Bua** and **Ryan Thomas** from Team Emerald. In the front row, from left, are eighth graders: **Rachel Niswonger** and **Dakota Freight** from Team Jets; and **Britta Henkle** and **Dane Schnake** from Team Ruby. Not pictured is seventh grader **Rachel Folkert** from Team Star Blazers.

Wanted: Participants for Walk for Heart

It seems like a long time off, but the 15th annual Walk for Heart will be here before you know it. The event is scheduled for 9 a.m. Saturday, June 6.

The four-mile walk begins and ends at Research Belton Hospital, U.S. 71 and M-58. It is a fundraiser for the Research Belton Foundation.

Walkers are asked to collect contributions for the foundation. A walker can raise any amount. Walkers who raise \$100 or more receive a T-shirt. All walkers, regardless of total raised, are entered into drawings for door prizes.

If you'd like to participate in the walk, or form a team of walkers, please contact Communication Coordinator **Michele Donahoe** at 892-1314 or mdonahoe@raypec.k12.mo.us. (Individual packets for

walkers will be available in early April.) Some volunteers are also needed for the event. If interested, let Michele know.

The Research Belton Foundation uses the funds raised to award scholarships to students at Ray-Pec, Belton and Grandview high schools, and to pay for dental care for children in the community who do not have dental insurance.



News Briefs

Dental screenings

During the month of February, the Research Belton Foundation provided dental screenings for 866 third graders in the Ray-Pec, Belton and Grandview school districts.

In addition, 510 students had varnish treatments and 250 were identified as needing immediate or future care.

Area dentists, hygienists and community members volunteered to conduct and assist with the screenings. Screenings took place at all six elementary schools in the Raymore-Peculiar School District.

The Research Belton Foundation is a community foundation that pays for dental care for children who do not have dental insurance. The foundation also provides scholarships for high school seniors and college students pursuing education in nursing and other healthcare fields.

Eggzibit on display March 28 to Easter

The Downtown Peculiar Arts and Culture District presents the third annual Eggzibit.

This temporary children's art exhibit can be viewed from March 28 through Easter. Art students from **Jenny Mingus's** classes at Peculiar Elementary School and **Michelle Workman's** classes at Shull Elementary School, along with some other children in the community, have been busy creating works of art for this year's exhibit.

Some of the eggs that survived the Missouri spring wind, rain and cold from last year's Eggzibit will be included this year, along with the new pieces in downtown Peculiar. Look for them on the ground, in "baskets" and in the trees. About 150 large, egg-shaped art pieces will be on show.

Pancake breakfast

You are invited to a pancake breakfast fundraiser for some Ray-Pec girls who are going on a Chicago Performance Trip with Dancing Plus.

The breakfast is scheduled from 7 to 11 a.m. Saturday, March 21, at Springing Up, 223 Municipal Circle, behind Raymore City Hall. The meal will include pancakes, sausage, eggs and biscuits and gravy. The cost is \$5 per person.



Panther Robotics

The Ray-Pec High School robot, center with number 2357, is pictured competing in preliminary rounds on Feb. 27 at the Kansas City Regional Competition at Hale Arena. The main day of competition was Feb. 28. There were 61 teams in the competition. The Ray-Pec team advanced to the quarter-finals before it was eliminated. Sponsors of the Robotics Team are Teachers **Bryan Moore** and **Gavin Wood**. (Photo taken on-site by Superintendent **Dr. Jeff Kyle**, who attended part of the Feb. 27 competition to cheer on the Robo-Panthers.)

News Briefs

Ray-Pec Academy

Students at the Ray-Pec Academy (alternative school) have been busy with a variety of projects.

Eighteen students donated blood at the recent blood drive sponsored by the National Honor Society. Students sponsored two teachers in the Polar Bear Plunge to benefit Special Olympics.

In addition, the sophomores made 90 Valentine's Day cards that were delivered and distributed to patients at Children's Mercy Hospital.

Diversity theme days

The Raymore-Peculiar School District Diversity Committee has selected a theme or topic each month during the 2008-2009 school year. Each school is encouraged to plan activities or lessons around the theme.

During March, schools are having activities and lessons related to National Women's History Month.

Upcoming dates and themes are:

- April 27, celebrate diversity in your own school; and
- May 11, Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month.

Cross Country plans half-marathon in June

The Ray-Pec Cross Country team will sponsor a 5K walk/run and Half-Marathon road race on June 20.

It will be a family event including a free kid's race, child care during the event, awards, post-race food, and lots of prizes to be raffled off. Visit this webpage for more information <http://www.RayPecCC.com>. For questions, contact Teacher **Jamin Swift** at jswift@raypec.k12.mo.us. For on-line registration, visit www.active.com and search for "Lucky 13.1."

Trip to Costa Rica

Planning is beginning for a trip to Costa Rica in June 2010. The trip is not school-sponsored, but is open to all students, past and present, parents and staff. For more information, contact Spanish Teacher Heidi Lanksbury at hlinksbury@raypec.k12.mo.us.

Discounted Chiefs ticket opportunity

The Kansas City Chiefs are offering a limited number of \$250 full season tickets for Ray-Pec School District staff and their friends and family.



The 2009 schedule includes the Dallas Cowboys, New York Giants, Pittsburgh Steelers, Cleveland Browns, Buffalo Bills, Denver Broncos, Oakland Raiders, San Diego Chargers, and two preseason games.

Anyone interested in these or any other Chiefs Ticket Packages can contact Darren Adams at (816) 920-4849 or via email at dadams@chiefs.nfl.com with any questions or to reserve seats.

Mobile recycling program to begin



Mobile recycling collection units will be available on the second weekend of each month at the Freshman Center parking lot. The units will be available from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. each scheduled day. The units will return on April 11 and 12 to the Ray-Pec Freshman Center.

These items will be accepted: aluminum and steel (tin) cans, newspaper, office paper and junk mail, shredded paper in paper bags, paperboard, cardboard, magazines, catalogs, telephone books, paperback and hardback books, and plastics. You do not need to sort the materials; the items will be commingled in one container.



Rotary Student of the Month

Ray-Pec High School Senior **Cera White** was honored as the Rotary Club Ray-Pec High School Student of the Month for February. Presenting her with a certificate is Roger Hamacher, president of the Belton-Raymore Rotary Club. Cera was honored at the March 4 luncheon meeting of the club.

Applications are due March 31 Wanted: Crafters and exhibitors



The ninth annual Peculiar Spring Festival is scheduled from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Saturday, May 16, on the grounds of Peculiar Elementary School. Organizers are now seeking crafters and exhibitors.

If you or someone you know would like to submit an application for booth space, please contact Joelle Orrange at joelle.orange@jjmj.net with "Spring Festival" in the subject line. Each booth space measures 10-feet by 10-feet for \$60. Certain non-profit organizations may have space for free. Canopies are \$40 and electricity and other considerations are available for additional cost. Applications are due March 31.

News Briefs

Procedures outlined for school cancellation, late start, early dismissal

In cases of inclement weather or other situations (such as utility failure), the school district may close school. The district may delay the opening of school by two hours when it appears that transportation conditions will improve. The decision to close school or to delay the start of school will be made by 5:30 a.m. to allow time for media to broadcast the news before most students leave home.



Times for delayed starts

When there is a two-hour late start, the Freshman Center will begin at 9:20 a.m.; the high school will begin at 9:30 a.m.; the middle school at 9:35 a.m.; the intermediate schools at 10 a.m.; and the elementary schools at 10:45 a.m. Schools will dismiss at the regular time.

TV, radio broadcasts

School closing information will be provided to television stations 4, 5, 9 and 41, as well as most major radio stations in the Kansas City metropolitan area. (This notification takes place through a cooperative effort of the media outlets.)

Web, e-mail and texts

The information will also appear on the school district's web site at: www.raypec.k12.mo.us.

You may call 892-3988 to hear a recorded message.

Subscribers of RP Update will receive an e-mail message. Subscribers of the text messaging service will receive a text message.

School Reach calls

In addition, the school district will use the School Reach automated calling system to call the contact phone numbers for staff and students in the event of school cancellations or delayed starts.



Survivor Island at Stonegate

No, it's not the Iditarod. Staff members at Stonegate Elementary School participated in a team-building activity on Feb. 25. That's Principal **Doug Becker** standing in shirt and tie. For the "Survivor Island" activity, staff members wore bandanas indicating their team color. Each team had to work with five pieces of equipment to reach a final "island." Feb. 25 was an early-release day for students to allow staff to participate in professional development activities. In addition to the team-building activity, Stonegate staff participated in a book study about "Reading with Meaning" by Debbie Miller; reviewed Professional Development and Professional Enrichment plans, and had a writing workshop.

News Briefs

Superintendent's stories

Superintendent **Dr. Jeff Kyle** has a blog. To read "Superintendent's Stories," go to the district web site: www.raypec.k12.mo.us. There is a link on the right-hand side of the home page.

Job openings

Employment opportunities in the School District are posted at the Administrative Services Center and on the district web site at: www.raypec.k12.mo.us.

If interested in a position, obtain an application in person or on-line, complete it, and submit it to: Ray-Pec Schools Human Resources, 21005 S. School Rd., P.O. Box 366, Peculiar, Mo. 64078.

RPHS 1989 reunion

The RPHS Class of 1989 has scheduled its 20-year reunion for July 31 through Aug. 2, 2009. Please see the Facebook "Ray-Pec Class of 1989" web page for updates and details.



In appreciation

Superintendent **Dr. Jeff Kyle**, standing, visits with some employees from the Child Nutrition Department. Dr. Kyle and the Board of Education hosted a catered lunch on Feb. 25 for the district's Child Nutrition staff in appreciation of all the hard work and effort. He praised their efforts and especially noted the thousands of extra meals that are prepared when schools invite parents and grandparents to attend Thanksgiving dinner with their students.

Ray-Pec Public School Foundation offers memorial envelopes



The Raymore-Peculiar Public School Foundation now offers memorial envelopes. You can make a donation to the foundation in memory of a specific individual. (See sample envelope below.)

The envelopes are available at each school and the Administrative Services Center.

The Foundation awards scholarships each year to graduating seniors, and awards mini grants each fall to staff members. The Foundation also sponsors the Teacher of the Year and Support Staff of the Year recognition banquets. The mission of the Foundation is to acquire and manage alternative resources to enhance educational opportunities for the benefit of students, staff and community. For more information, contact **Pam Steele** at 892-1311 or psteele@raypec.k12.mo.us.

Ray-Pec Foundation offers software

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

Go to www.raypec.k12.mo.us and click on the Foundation software purchase link. Select the sign-in link at the top of the page. 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.

RAYMORE-PECULIAR PUBLIC SCHOOL FOUNDATION

In Loving Memory of _____

General fund Scholarships Other _____

Please make checks payable to the Raymore-Peculiar Public School Foundation

Name _____
Address _____
City/State/Zip _____

PO Box 366
Peculiar, MO 64078
816-892-1311

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.

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 Ray-Pec School District, visit the district web site at:

www.raypec.k12.mo.us

Each subscriber must self-enroll and submit an authorization code that will be provided during the enrollment process. Allen Bank and Trust of Raymore is sponsoring the service.

RP Update

To receive e-mail news from the school district, send a message to: rpupdate@raypec.k12.mo.us. In the body of the message, type "Subscribe RP Update." RP Update is sent out on Tuesday.

Safe and Drug Free Schools Federal Grants Title IV Annual Report

School districts in Missouri are required to present an annual report to the public describing school programs that were funded with Title IV, Safe and Drug Free dollars, and to identify how these programs support the district's Comprehensive School Improvement Plan (CSIP) objectives.

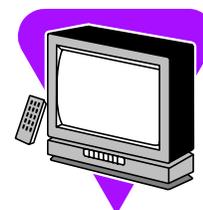
The Ray-Pec School District provided the following programs and activities, which were selected and designed to address district CSIP objectives for student achievement and safe and productive learning environments.

Stop Violence Now programs on bully prevention, prevention of violence in school, prevention of substance, alcohol and tobacco abuse and anger management skills were presented throughout the school year.

Funds also supported instructional supplies and materials for classroom and small group guidance lessons with students. Small groups and some after-school groups focused on such topics as: stress management, friendships, diversity, tolerance, peer pressure, conflict resolution and building social skills.

At the secondary level, funds also helped support an online alcohol education program to help tutor students to make good decisions regarding social pressures dealing with alcohol use or experimentation.

Title IV funds also helped support the mentoring program "Together We Can," which provides adult mentors for elementary students. Adult volunteers meet with students on a weekly basis to offer assistance with school work, or just be a friend to a student identified at-risk socially or academically.



For more news and information
about the
Raymore-Peculiar School District,
check out:

Comcast Cable Channel 15

and 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 366, 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: Dr. Terri Jamison, Associate Superintendent for Human Resources, Raymore-Peculiar School District, P.O. Box 366, 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 366
Peculiar, MO 64078

