

# Raymore-Peculiar School News



Published for patrons and friends of the  
Raymore-Peculiar R-II School District  
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## ***New school to feature energy-saving method***

### **Ray-Pec includes geothermal system in school construction**

The construction of the new Ray-Pec East Middle School on M-58 will include many “green” features, including a geothermal system for heating and cooling.

Geothermal systems use the natural thermal properties of the earth to help heat and cool buildings.

The U.S. Department of Energy explains it like this: “Like a cave, this underground temperature is warmer than the air above it during the winter and cooler than the air in the summer. The geothermal heat pump takes advantage of this by exchanging heat with the earth through a ground heat exchanger.”

A pump circulates a refrigerant liquid through pipes in the ground, heating the liquid. The liquid is then pumped

into the building, and the heat exchanged. The same technique is used to cool the building. Deep wells will allow the pipes to be installed vertically into the ground adjacent to the school.

Geothermal systems encourage conservation of natural resources by saving property owners in heating and cooling costs, compared to conventional systems. The installation price of a geothermal system is higher than that of an air-source system of the same capacity, but the additional costs are estimated to be returned in energy savings in 5–10 years.

An article in the Nov. 30 issue of *The Kansas City Star* provided a great, easy-to-understand description of geothermal systems. To read the story online, check out this site: <http://www.kansascity.com/238/story/907098.html>.



## ***Fine Arts Department presents winter drama***

### **RPHS to perform Sophocle’s ‘Antigone’**

The Raymore-Peculiar High School Fine Arts Department announces its production of *Antigone*. The play opened Thursday, Dec. 11. Additional performances of the play are scheduled for 7:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 12, and Saturday, Dec. 13, and 2:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 14, at the Academy Theatre at Ray-Pec High School.



Jean Anouilh’s *Antigone* is the modern adaptation of the Greek Sophocle’s play *Antigone*. When Creon, the country’s leader, creates an edict that no one can bury the traitor Polynices, his sister Antigone will stop at nothing to ensure her brother has a proper burial.

The cast includes **Alaina Sharp** as Antigone, **Jacob Gollither** as Creon, **Seth Jones** as Haemon, **Hayley Farrell** as Ismene, **Ellie Fowler** as the nurse, **Scott McMahon** as the First Guard, **Jaron Fowler** as the Second Guard, and **Connor Branson** as the Third Guard, **Meggie Hoffman** as the Messenger, **Sophia Brown**, **Nicollette Thompson**, **Elysia Gooding**, **Nellie**

*(Continued on next page)*

### ***Winter Break***

All Ray-Pec schools will have a full day of school on Friday, Dec. 19, to end the first semester of the 2008-2009 school year.

Schools will not be in session the weeks of Dec. 22 and Dec. 29. Classes will resume on Monday, Jan. 5, 2009.

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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.”*

## RPHS to perform drama 'Antigone'

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Maple, Lacey Brown, and Krissy Sellmeyer as the Student Resistant Chorus; and Elyssa Lemay, Mike Nolan, Jake Drake, Kelli Bullard, Mandy Lange, and Taylor Lininger as the Student Regime Chorus.

Working behind the scenes are Teacher **Kelly Freeland** as the director and Teacher **Karla Penechar** as the scenic designer and technical director. The assistant directors for *Antigone* are students **Jacob Meireis** and **Bree Besherse**. Stage managers are **Katie Donahoe**, **Ron Stephenson**, and **Rebekah Youmans**; the assistant stage managers are **Jaron Fowler** and **Mike Nolan**. Master carpenters are **Connor Branson**, **Jaron Fowler**, **Kyle Gruber**, **Mike Nolan**, **Ron Stephenson**, and **Marie Whelan**. The lighting designer and master electrician is **Devin Connelly**. The sound designer and sound engineer is **Jordie Smith**. The props master is **Meggie Hoffman**.

Reservations for the show may be made by calling the ticket reservation line, 892-3999, ext. 2400. Tickets are \$5 for adults and \$4 for students. Children under five will not be admitted. Free babysitting will be provided.

## News Briefs

### Election filing

Filing begins Tuesday, Dec. 16, for two school board seats up for election on April 7, 2009. The seats are currently held by **David Crabtree** and **Dana Hille**.

Interested candidates should contact **Pam Steele**, executive secretary for the Superintendent and Board of Education, at 892-1311 or at the Administrative Services Center.

The filing period continues through Jan. 20. School board members serve three-year terms. Each year, two or three of the seven seats are up for election.



### Accredited with Distinction

On Friday, Nov. 21, each school received a banner to celebrate the third consecutive year for the district to be accredited with distinction in performance. Superintendent **Dr. Jeff Kyle**, school board members and **Pam Steele**, secretary to the Superintendent and Board of Education, traveled to each school to deliver the banners, as well as a coke to celebrate American Education Week Nov. 15-21. This picture shows the delivery of the banner at the Ray-Pec Freshman Center. Pictured, from left, are: Assistant Principal **Kristina Martin**; School Board Member **Dana Hille**; Principal **Eric Arnold**; School Board Member **Ryan Wescoat**; and **Pam Steele**.

*Hundreds have registered*

## TAKE Foundation to offer self-defense class Dec. 17 at Ray-Pec High School

The Ali Kemp Educational (TAKE) Foundation is bringing its hands-on, self-defense training to Cass County, with a TAKE Defense class scheduled from 6 to 8 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 17, at Raymore-Peculiar High School.

As of Nov. 10, organizers said that 244 people had signed up to participate.

Women ages 12 and up are encouraged to attend.

To register for the class, go to: [www.takedefense.org](http://www.takedefense.org), and select "Classes and Events" on the left side. Then select Register. When you complete the registration information, you will be given an opportunity to select the Dec. 17 class at Ray-Pec High School as your session.

Scheduling of the program was a coordinated effort of the school district, Cass County Prosecuting Attorney Teresa Hensley, Peculiar Police Chief Dean Kelly, Raymore Police Chief Kris Turnbow and local citizens interested in crime prevention.

The event is sponsored by the Raymore-Peculiar Public School Foundation and Community Bank of Raymore.



## Mark your calendars!

# Schools announce winter choir and band concerts

Mark your calendars now for upcoming choir and band concerts across the school district.

### Dec. 16 -- High School Choir Concert

The High School choirs will present their Winter Concert at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 16, in the High School auditorium. Admission is free and all are invited. The high school choir director is **Roxanne Martin**.

### Dec. 16 -- Bridle Ridge Choir Concert

The Bridle Ridge Sixth Grade Choir Concert is set for 7 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 16, in the Bridle Ridge Intermediate School gym. The vocal music teacher is **Roni Williams**.

### Dec. 17 -- Middle School Band Concert

Middle School band students will perform on Wednesday, Dec. 17, at the Middle School gymnasium. This is a change from the master calendar for eighth graders. The concert will begin at 7 p.m. with the seventh grade band performing first, followed by the eighth grade band. The concert will last about one hour. **Linda Pierson** is the middle school band director.

### Dec. 18 -- High School Band Concert

The high school concert will be at 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 18, in the Ray-Pec High School auditorium. The Freshman, Concert and Symphonic Bands will perform. The music will range from holiday favorites to exciting band literature. The concert is expected to conclude by 8:15 p.m. Refreshments will be served after the concert. The band director is **John Wilson**. The assistant band director is **Dillon Jarrett**.



### Dec. 18 -- Eagle Glen Band Concert

The Eagle Glen Intermediate School Winter Band Concert is scheduled for 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 18 at Eagle Glen. Students should report at 6:30 p.m. The Eagle Glen band director is **Jeanne Kuhlman**.

### Dec. 19 -- Chamber Choir to go caroling

The Ray-Pec High School Chamber Choir plans to go caroling from 5 to 8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 19, on the Country Club Plaza.



## Cheerleaders place fourth at state

The Ray-Pec High School competitive varsity cheerleading squad placed fourth out of 20 teams at the Missouri Cheerleading Championship on Nov. 15. This was the first time in school history for the cheerleaders to place in the top five at state. Pictured in front is Sophomore **Colin Peter**, alternate. In the second row, from left, are: Senior **Rachel Hegarty**, captain; Senior **Stephanie Neumann**, co-captain; Senior **Lindsey Sharp**; Junior **Courtney Morgan**; Senior **Whitney Hudson**, co-captain; Junior **Kiesha Hayes**; and Coach **Melinda Young**. In the third row, from left, are: Junior **Casey Nickle**; Senior **Katie Mincher**; Junior **Rachel Turney**; Junior **Heather Hopkins**; Senior **Christina DeCarlo**; and Freshman **Ashlie Dishong**. Not pictured are **Jessica Ballard**, alternate; **le'shia McDonald**, alternate; and Coach **Nikki Jaspersen**. The team was awarded a plaque, as well as individual medals.

# News Briefs

## School board meeting

The next regular meeting of the Ray-Pec School District Board of Education is scheduled for 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 18, at the Administrative Services Center, 21005 S. School Rd. The meeting is open to the public.

A few days before the meeting, you may preview the agenda by visiting the district web site: [www.raypec.k12.mo.us](http://www.raypec.k12.mo.us) and clicking on Board of Education, and then "Board Docs."

## Ray-Pec apparel

Many people have asked where to order Ray-Pec apparel. There is no current arrangement with an on-line vendor. Many stores in the community, including sporting goods, discount and grocery stores, sell Ray-Pec shirts, sweatshirts and other items.

## Panther Market

The Panther Market at Ray-Pec High School also sells Ray-Pec items. Check out the Panther Market at: <http://tinyurl.com/PantherMarket>. You can see pictures of the products, and contact information is listed if you would like to place an order.

## Panther wear on sale

Panther wear is on sale. Buy a hoodie for \$20, and get a T-shirt free. Or purchase a T-shirt for \$10 or two T-shirts for \$15. Buy items at home basketball games, or call Linda at 816-322-0338. Proceeds benefit Project Grad 2009.

## Diversity Committee sets theme days for year

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 for that month.

Upcoming dates and themes are:

- Jan. 16, Martin Luther King Jr.;
- Feb. 9, Black History Month;
- March 9, National Women's History Month;
- April 27, celebrate diversity in your own school; and
- May 11, Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month.



## Tearing up the field

It was a new look Thursday, Dec. 4, at Panther Stadium, as workers began to tear out the football field and track. The Board of Education on Nov. 20 approved a bid of \$1,170,300 from Nemaha Landscape Construction for the sub-base site work. This work will prepare Panther Stadium for the installation in 2009 of new synthetic turf and a new track. The bid approved on Nov. 20 did not include the new turf or track surface, but covers the work to prepare the site.



## Track and field demolition

On Thursday, Dec. 4, workers were tearing out the football field and track at Panther Stadium. This work will prepare the site for the future installation of synthetic turf and a new track.

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## Special football awards honor Ray-Pec players and graduate

Two Ray-Pec High School seniors -- **Andrew Wilson** and **Gavin Lutman** -- were honored at the annual Simone Awards ceremony on Dec. 9 at Blue Springs South High School. Ray-Pec graduate Chase Coffman was honored Dec. 11 at the Home Depot/ESPN College Football Awards in Orlando, Fla.

### Andrew Wilson

**Andrew Wilson** received the Junious "Buck" Buchanan Award honoring him as the most outstanding lineman/linebacker among large high schools in the metropolitan area. This includes Missouri Classes 5-6 and Kansas Classes 5A-6A.



### Gavin Lutman

**Gavid Lutman** was honored as one of four finalists for the Otis Taylor Award, which is given to the top tight end/wide receiver in the metro area. Marcus Lucas of Liberty received the award. This is only the second year

for presentation of the Otis Taylor Award.

### About the Simone Award

The Thomas A. Simone Memorial Award, the Frank Fontana Memorial Award, the Buck Buchanan Memorial Award, the Bobby Bell Award, the Gordon Docking Award, and the Metro Sports Kansas and Missouri Coaches of the Year are presented each December to top players, coaches and media members in the Kansas City area.

The ceremony is held each year at the school of the Simone Award winner. This year, Blue Springs South Senior Blaine Dalton received the Simone Award.

### Chase Coffman

Ray-Pec graduate **Chase Coffman**, who now plays football for the University of Missouri, received the John Mackey Award as the best tight end in college football. He was also named to the Walter Camp All-America Team.



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### Creekmoor Spelling Bee

Library Media Specialist **Jana Stidham** awards prizes after the completion of the Creekmoor Elementary School spelling bee on Nov. 25. Fourth grader **Lauren Johnson**, front left, was the winner. Fourth grader **Valiante Waltz**, right, was the runner-up. Lauren will represent Creekmoor at the Ray-Pec School District Spelling Bee on Feb. 10, 2009.



### Top speller

Fourth grader **Lauren Johnson** won the Creekmoor Elementary School spelling bee on Nov. 25. She will represent Creekmoor at the Ray-Pec School District Spelling Bee on Feb. 10, 2009.



**Native American lessons**

Native American Dan Cantrell of Garden City tells Stonegate Elementary School students about his tepee, clothing and other artifacts during a visit on Nov. 25. The presentation was part of the school's plan to help students learn about Native American culture. He compared modern-day life with that experienced by his Native American ancestors long ago.



This tepee was next to the Stonegate Elementary School playground overnight Nov. 24 and all day Nov. 25 when Dan Cantrell visited to tell students about Native Americans. The structure is larger than it appears -- two classrooms could sit inside the tepee at once.

# Creekmoor third graders participate in annual Economics Day



**Jillian Killpack** offered "Awesome Photos" for sale during the third grade Creekmoor Economics Day.



Creekmoor Elementary School third graders conducted Economics Day on Dec. 4. more than \$1,500 in play money was spent on goods and services provided by third graders as part of their Social Studies unit on economics. This is **Rebecca Oshel's** class.



**Samantha Paddock** sold bookmarks during the third grade Creekmoor Economics Day. The activity helped students learn about supply and demand.

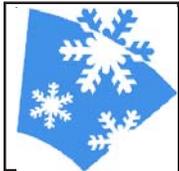


**Brittany Haley** sold bookmarks during the Economics Day at Creekmoor Elementary. Her Creekmoor business license is hanging in front of her desk.

# News Briefs

## Procedures outlined for inclement weather

In cases of snow or inclement weather, 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 more 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](http://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.



## First-place Prowlers

The Ray-Pec Prowlers dance team fared well at competition Nov. 22 at Fort Osage High School. The Prowlers competed with three routines and placed first in the high kick category, jazz, and in pom. The team also won the sweepstakes award for receiving the most points in its division. In the front row, from left, are: Co-captain **Kaleigh Sheridan**, **Anna Jablonski**, and Co-captain **Hayley Sexton**. In the second row are: **Ashley Trigger**, **Kristen Galant**, **Morghan Cooper**, **Kala Hille**, **Michelle Bennett**, **Ashley Vaters** and **Hayley Keith**. In the third row are: **Chasity Tyus**, **Alex Miller**, and **Maegan Burlison**. In the fourth row are **Hannah Hegarty** and **Melody Roberts**.



## Climbing wall

Some fourth graders at Creekmoor Elementary School try out the new climbing wall that was installed the first week of December. **Robert Zaner** is the physical education teacher at the school.



## Teachers talk Turkey

International Relations Council members listen to Kansas City area teachers Shannon Nickell (left), Marcia Huehn (center), Brenda Fishman (right), and Cassandra Kincaid (not pictured) at IRC's program "Teachers Talk Turkey and Students Share Insights" on Nov. 6 at the Kauffman Foundation.

## High School teacher tells about summer trip to Turkey

Ray-Pec High School Teacher **Marcia Huehn** was a guest speaker at the Nov. 6 meeting of the Kansas City International Relations Council to tell about her summer trip to Turkey.

The presentation took place at the Kauffman Foundation in Kansas City. Marcia and three other Kansas City area teachers told about their July 28 through Aug. 8, 2008, trip to Turkey.

Part of the trip was sightseeing and part was meeting with Turkish educators to discuss global cultural understanding.

Marcia applied for the opportunity to participate in the cultural trip. She was selected and received a grant of \$7,500 toward the \$8,000 cost of the trip.

Marcia teaches Advanced Placement World History at Ray-Pec High School.



International Relations Council member Mike Wizniak speaks with Ray-Pec High School Teacher Marcia Huehn about her trip to Turkey. Marcia and three other teachers spoke about their cultural trip to Turkey.



## Visiting the University of Central Missouri

On Nov. 20, students enrolled in certain dual credit business classes visited the University of Central Missouri in Warrensburg. Here are students from the Dual Credit Accounting class and the Dual Credit Computer Applications class. In the front row, from left, are: **Sarah Hagemann, Mark Sappington, Raul Quinones, and Patrick Noyes.** In the back row, from left, are: **Josh VanCamp, Ryan Gingrich, Hannah Bertram, Sara Heidelbech, Jamie Green, Jordan Fox, Jon Koenig, Michael Sumora, Tiffany Bussard, John Peery, Taylor Littleton and Kenny Todd.**



On Nov. 20, Ray-Pec High School students enrolled in Dual Credit Accounting, taught by **Tina Fultz**; Dual Credit Finance, taught by **Joel Braden**; and Dual Credit Computer Applications, taught by **Janet Allen**; visited the University of Central Missouri, Warrensburg. They toured the campus and sat in on college classes. The department chairs told students about job opportunities available to UCM graduates. University representatives also gave the students information about scholarships, tuition, dorm rooms, the library, the student union and college classrooms. Ray-Pec High School currently offers these classes through UCM: Dual Credit Accounting, Dual Credit Finance, Dual Credit Computer Applications I and II, and Dual Credit College Algebra.



Walking through the library at the University of Central Missouri are Ray-Pec High School students, from left: Taylor Fristoe, Patrick Noyes, Josh VanCamp, Jamie Green and Ryan Gingrich.

# News Briefs

## Bridle Ridge band

The Bridle Ridge Intermediate School Winter Band Concert has been rescheduled from Dec. 11 to 7 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 29, at the school.

## Service projects

Several schools are conducting service projects to collect items for area families. Working in conjunction with the Raymore Chamber of Commerce, the Raymore Mayor's Christmas Tree fund, local food pantries and other agencies, students and employees are donating non-perishable food items, personal hygiene items, new toys and clothing for cold weather. Items collected will be given to families in our community who need a little extra help this holiday season.

## RP nurse supervisor featured in journal

Ray-Pec Nurse Supervisor **Kim Neal** was featured in an article in the Nov. 2008 issue of National Association of School Nurses. The article was titled "School-Based Curriculum Helps Students Get Ready, Set, Fit!" It was written by **Mary Theobald**, who has a daughter, **Emily Theobald**, who attends Ray-Pec High School.

## Shull Holiday Shop

Shull Elementary School is having a Holiday Shop for students Dec. 15-18 in the school library. Students will be able to purchase inexpensive gifts for family members and friends.

## Project Grad meeting

The Project Graduation meeting has been rescheduled for Tuesday, Dec. 16, in the high school library media center. The meeting is scheduled from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

All parents of high school seniors are invited to attend. The more volunteers, the better, to plan a successful event on May 15. Project Grad plans and implements a drug- and alcohol-free party for seniors on graduation night.

Please note: If school is canceled on the day of a Project Grad meeting, the meeting will automatically be canceled.



## We love the Wii

Peculiar Elementary School Physical Education Teacher **Chris Roller** was excited to receive a Wii and Wii Fit from the Peculiar Elementary School PTA. He plans to use the new equipment with his physical education classes and also the after-school Patriot Fit Club students. At right is PTA Board Member **Kim McCauley**.



## Freshman Students of the Month

Here are the Ray-Pec Freshman Center Students of the Month for December. In the back row are: **Blake Cambron**, left, and **Sam Wilson**. In the front row, from left, are: **Ruby Rios**, **Haley Crane** and **Mallory Misemer**. Not pictured is **Walker Evans**.

## Raymore Elementary students donate items for animal shelters

During the month of November, students at Raymore Elementary School donated items for local animal shelters as a community service project.

The items collected included food, treats, toys, blankets, collars, leashes, cleaning supplies, and puppy pads.

Speech Therapist **Nancy Parkman** helped to coordinate the service project and took the donated items on Nov. 26 to these area shelters:

- Raymore Animal Control, operated by the City of Raymore
- HELP, located in Belton
- Lee's Summit Animal Shelter.

Thanks to the students and families that supported the project.



These students at Raymore Elementary School pose by donations that students and families made during the month of November for area animal shelters. Pictured, from left, are: **Max Scavuzzo**, **Coy Treat**, **Ashley Scott** and **Hailey Evans**.

## News Briefs

### PAT offers screenings for 4-year-olds

The Ray-Pec Parents as Teachers program offers comprehensive early childhood screenings for four-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 dates are Jan. 21 and March 18, 2009. To make appointments, call Parents as Teachers at 892-1938.



### Weather presentation

Don Harman from Fox 4 News talked about weather when he visited with students Nov. 20 at Bridle Ridge Intermediate School. He showed video clips of bad weather and answered student questions. He also showed the Bridle Ridge students on the morning news the next day.



### Coloring contest winners

These students at Peculiar Elementary School won a citizenship coloring contest sponsored by the Peculiar Police Department and Sonic Drive-In in Peculiar. They each received a free Wacky Pack meal. In the back row, from left, are: **Michael Rexroad, Janae Thurston, Alisa Cahoon, Nathan Johnson, Brooke Birkett** and **Jacob Padgett**. In the front row, from left, are: **Ali Ervin, Bobbi Posey, Kyla Ridenour** and **Sydney Lecuru**.



### Citizenship award winners

These students at Peculiar Elementary School were recognized at a Nov. 20 school assembly for displaying the character trait of citizenship. In the back row, from left, are: **John Denham, Jacobey Ervin, Brittnie Morrison, Kale Williams, Ellie Lucas** and **Margie Gish**. In the middle row, from left, are: **Laurel Fager, Kamren Chalmers, Aimie Keesler, Zach Skivers,** and **Tyler Wagner**. In the front row, from left, are: **Jade Rupard, Jessica Siders, Mary Rios, Brandon Ball, Chloe Adams, Makenna Hilbers** and **Jessica Wilson**.

# Students, staff and patrons suggest 90 mascots; hundreds of colors for new Middle School



More than 160 people suggested possible mascots and colors for the new Raymore-Peculiar East Middle School, scheduled to open in fall 2010. The deadline for suggestions was Dec. 9. In all, there were 90 different mascots suggested, and hundreds of different color combinations.

The Eagles were the most popular, with 12 people suggesting that mascot. Placing second were cougars and pumas, with eight nominations each. Many people suggested other members of the cat family, including lions, jaguars, wildcats, tigers, bobcats and others. Other popular suggestions included hawks, falcons, chimps, dragons, and bulldogs.

Team Ray-Pec (a district-wide committee of employees) will narrow the suggestions to five finalists. In January, students in grades 5-12 will vote on the finalists. The results are planned to be presented to the Board of Education in January for final review. Please note: The colors and mascot selected for the new middle school will NOT necessarily be the colors and mascot for a second high school planned for construction in the future.

The eagle was most frequently suggested as the mascot for the new Ray-Pec East Middle School. Many people also suggested large cat mascots (These are sample designs from [www.schoolrockcafe.com](http://www.schoolrockcafe.com).)



## Middle School Students of the Month

Here are the Raymore-Peculiar Middle School Students of the Month for November. In the back row, from left, are eighth graders: **Devon Stubbings** and **Morgan Purvis**, Team Ruby; **Mitchel Gardner** and **Larissa Dougherty** from Team Emerald; and **Dusti Diener** and **Caenin Marshall**, Team Jets. In the middle row, from left, are seventh graders: **Shelby Scrivener** and **Zac Setzer**, Team Star Blazers; **Alex Ritchie** and **Shay Brown**, Team Solar Storm; **Grant Elliott** and **Jamie Berry**, Team Voyagers; and **Crystin Wilson** and **Noah Goodwin**, Team Comets. In the front row, from left, are eighth graders: **Keegan Smith** and **Tyler Trusk**, Team Sapphires; and **Michael Thurman** and **Brooklyn Garrett**, Team Diamond.

## News Briefs

### Project Grad thank you

Project Grad 2009 would like to thank the community for its support during the high school home football games. Through the Chiefs tickets drawing and the 50/50 raffles, including one unclaimed ticket, there was a total of \$1,435 donated to Project Graduation. Thank you for your support of the substance-free graduation night celebration.

### Project Grad is selling smoked hams, turkeys

Project Graduation is working with Kurzweil's Meats to sell smoked hams and turkeys for Christmas. Each item will come freeze-wrapped, boxed and thawed.

Large turkeys are \$50, and small are \$30. Whole hams are \$55, and half-hams are \$30. For information, contact Cindi Grim at 377-8215 or email [cindigrim@comcast.net](mailto:cindigrim@comcast.net).

### Freshmen honored

Congratulations to Freshmen **Brittany Stark** and **Gunnar Kodas**. Their names were selected from the Student Recognition drawing for the month of November. They each received a \$25 gift certificate.

### Artwork on display

Ray-Pec Middle School students have artwork on display at the Administrative Services Center. The display includes pieces gby students of Art Teacher **Johnna Dotson**.

### Dr. Kyle to participate in Polar Bear Plunge

Superintendent **Dr. Jeff Kyle** has agreed to again participate in the Polar Bear Plunge, a fundraiser to benefit Special Olympics of Missouri. Dr. Kyle is raising funds in conjunction with Ray-Pec High School. If \$15,000 is raised, Dr. Kyle will enter the frigid waters of Longview Lake on Jan. 31. To donate toward the cause, go to Dr. Kyle's Polar Plunge web site at: [www.firstgiving.com/jeffkyle](http://www.firstgiving.com/jeffkyle).



### Readers Theatre skit

Teachers at Peculiar Elementary School performed a Readers Theatre skit during a character education assembly Nov. 20. The skit focused on compassion and kindness. Pictured, from left, are: **Michelle Jackson** as Mother Robin, **Michele Sherron** as Baby Robin, and **Mike Koder** as Baby Sparrow.



### Character education assembly

Teachers at Peculiar Elementary School performed a skit during a character education assembly Nov. 20. The skit focused on compassion and kindness. Squirt the Squirrel, portrayed by **Donna McCullough**, center, gets hurt and finds that taking the time to help others makes a difference. At left, is Taxi (a turtle), played by **Judy Copeland**. At right is Baby Sparrow, played by **Mike Koder**.

# News Briefs

## Superintendent's stories

Superintendent **Dr. Jeff Kyle** has started a blog. To review his blog, which is called "Superintendent's Stories," go to the district web site:

[www.raypec.k12.mo.us](http://www.raypec.k12.mo.us). There is a link on the righthand side of the home page.

## Ray-Pec Foundation offers software

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

Go to the district website at [www.raypec.k12.mo.us](http://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 at this site, 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](mailto: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.

## Panther Cub Academy

Panther Cub Academy has a few openings for full-day child care and preschool for the 2008-2009 school year.

Panther Cub Academy, located in the lower level of Raymore Elementary School, offers year-round, quality and affordable educational experiences and full-day child care for children ages 3 to 5. For more information, call 892-1943 and ask for **Marie Davis** or **Susan Shuler**.

## 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.

## Job openings

Employment opportunities in the Ray-Pec School District are posted at the Administrative Services Center and listed on the district web site at: <http://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.



## Thanksgiving helpers

Employees from the Technology Department helped serve the Thanksgiving meal at Shull Elementary School. Pictured, from left, are: **Judy Biggerstaff**, **Linda Portman**, **Norma Mann**, **Anthony Whelan** and **Shelley Presley**.



## Strategic planning

Office professionals from across the district gathered together on Wednesday afternoon, Dec. 3, for a strategic planning session. Facilitators for the sessions were **Jay Harris**, Associate Superintendent for Management Services, and **Pam Steele**, executive secretary to the Board of Education and Superintendent. Jay and Pam are pictured standing at left.

## 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](http://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](mailto: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.

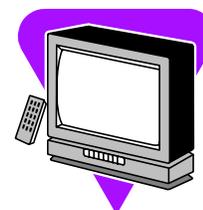
The Ray-Pec School District provided the following programs and activities, which were selected and designed to address district CSIP objectives for student achievement and safe and productive learning environments.

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](http://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

