



MAP scores show improvement in areas

The Board of Education on Aug. 21 learned more about the district's 2008 MAP scores. MAP stands for Missouri Assessment Program, through which students in certain grades are tested each year in the areas of communication arts and math. (Some grades tested in science. Those results will come soon.)

Dr. Kevin Daniel, Associate Superintendent for Instructional Services, and **Maria Fleming**, Director of Assessment and 7-12 Curriculum, presented an overview of the results to the school board. (You can view charts, tables and supporting documents on-line. Instructions are given at the end of this article.)

For the most part, Ray-Pec's MAP results exceeded the state average, but the district did not show improvement from the previous year in as many subjects as in previous years. Here are the highlights from the 2008 results:

- Middle School MAP scores at both grades and in both subjects improved from the previous year and are at least 9 percent above the state average in each subject/grade.

- Elementary MAP scores (the percent of student in the top two categories) exceeded the state average for Communication Arts in all buildings, except for Shull third grade, Stonegate third grade and Timber Creek fourth grade.

(Continued on Page 2)



Meet the Superintendent

Peculiar Elementary School Kindergarten Teacher Kristine Shuey introduces Superintendent Dr. Jeff Kyle to her kindergarten class on the first day of school, Aug. 19. Dr. Kyle visited kindergarten classes to have a photo taken with each kindergarten student on the first day of school. The photos were mailed with a letter to the students' homes.

No school Sept. 1

Ray-Pec schools are not in session on Monday, Sept. 1, in observance of Labor Day. Classes resume on Tuesday, Sept. 2.

"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."

MAP scores show improvement in areas

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- Intermediate MAP scores exceeded the state average for both subjects in both buildings, except for Eagle Glen fifth grade in Communication Arts.

Some comparisons of cohort groups are possible this year, because students took MAP tests in consecutive years in the same subject. At this time, those results are mixed. Results generally stayed the same across years in Communication Arts, and tended to decline in Math, although this trend varies from school to school and level to level.

The presentation to the school board included charts showing results by grade level and school. There are also lists showing how Ray-Pec's MAP scores compared with other Missouri districts with enrollment of 10,000 and above, and with Missouri districts with enrollment of 4,000 to 9,500 students.

To view these charts and tables, go to the district web site: www.raypec.k12.mo.us and follow these directions:

1. Select Departments at the top.
2. Select Board of Education.
3. On the right side, select Board of Education Meeting Information (Board Docs).
4. When prompted to enter the site, select "Enter Public Site."
5. Meeting dates are listed on the left. Select the Aug. 21, 2008, Regular Meeting by clicking on the + sign next to the date.
6. Again, select the + sign to view the Informational Items.
7. Select the Adequate Yearly Progress and MAP update. Each supporting document will be displayed so that you can view it.

More open house dates

Some schools had open house events this week, but others are still to come. Here's the schedule:

- Thursday, Sept. 4 - Back-to-School Night from 5:30 to 7 p.m. at **Peculiar Elementary, Raymore Elementary, Stonegate Elementary and Timber Creek Elementary.**
- Tuesday, Sept. 9 - Back-to-School Night from 6 to 7:45 p.m. at **Shull Elementary.**
- Tuesday, Sept. 9 - Back-to-School Night is scheduled from 6 to 7:45 p.m. at **Bridle Ridge and Eagle Glen.**

Needed: Convertibles for use at Homecoming

Needed: Convertibles to transport the 2008 Homecoming Court during the halftime ceremony at the Friday, Oct. 3, Homecoming football game.

If you have a vehicle that you would like to drive during the Homecoming ceremony, contact Teacher **Melinda Hacker** at mhacker@raypec.k12.mo.us or 816/892-1400x2126.

Board sets tax levy

The Board of Education on Thursday, Aug. 21, approved the tax levy for 2008-2009. It is unchanged from last year at \$5.0397.

Here is the breakdown by fund:

- Incidental Fund: \$2.75
- Teachers Fund: \$0.74
- Debt Service Fund: \$1.3392
- Capital Projects: \$0.2105
- Total: \$5.0397

Extra-duty hire

The Board of Education on Aug. 21 approved Teacher **Stefani Russ** as senior class assistant sponsor.

School board

The Ray-Pec Board of Education met Aug. 21, at the Administrative Services Center. A public hearing was at 6:45 p.m. on the district's tax levy. The school board meetings are open to the public.

To review action from the meeting, check the district web site, and select Departments, then Board of Education, and then Board Docs.

State and District MAP Averages in Top 2 Levels for 2008				
Grade	District CA	State CA	District Math	State Math
3rd grade	42.4	40.9	49	44.3
4th grade	53.1	45.6	49.8	44.7
5th grade	48.2	48.6	50.3	46.2
6th grade	55.1	47.6	58.1	51.1
7th grade	58.1	49.3	66.3	49.8
8th grade	61	48.4	59.2	44.3
High School	39	39.2	43.8	46.2

RP receives Advanced Placement results

School board members on Aug. 21 heard about the results of Advanced Placement tests taken by Ray-Pec High School students in the spring of 2008. Students usually take these tests, which are developed by the College Board, in conjunction with Advanced Placement courses.

Maria Fleming, Director of Assessment and 7-12 Curriculum, told board members that in 2007-2008, the district significantly increased its offering of AP courses, and that the number of students testing has also increased. The total number of AP tests increased from 57 in 2007 to 202 in 2008. AP tests include multiple choice and essay questions, and are scored on a scale of 1 to 5.

An Excel spreadsheet available on Board Docs has more detailed information about the scores of students taking AP tests. To access the spreadsheet, follow the directions listed in the MAP story above.

Some subgroups do not meet goals

District MAP scores meets state, federal standards overall

The Board of Education on Aug. 21 learned more about the district's 2008 MAP scores and how the scores are considered by the state and federal governments as indicators of success and performance.



Dr. Kevin Daniel, Associate Superintendent of Instructional Services, and **Maria Fleming**, Director of Assessment and 7-12 Curriculum, presented the information. (The report can be viewed on Board Docs on the district web site.)

The federal government views the district's MAP scores, and other data, through the requirements of the No Child Left Behind act, and considers the district in Level 1 of "District Improvement" status because some groups of students did not score in the top two levels on MAP testing.

The state views the district's MAP scores, and other data, through the requirements of the Missouri School Improvement Program, and has identified the district as accredited with distinction for performance the past two years based on academic achievement by our students.

The messages are mixed, and understandably, confusing. Kevin and Maria spent time reviewing the basics of the federal and state requirements.

Each year, NCLB requires a larger percentage of students to score in the proficient and advanced levels on the MAP, with an ultimate goal that all students will perform at this level by 2014. NCLB also considers the performance of students in nine specific subgroups. If a school or district has more than 30 students in any subgroup category, those scores are reviewed and help determine whether the district is making Adequate Yearly Progress.

This year, many Ray-Pec students met the federal standard, but some subgroups did not. The district did not meet the standard in Communication Arts for the subgroups of black students, students receiving free- and reduced-price lunches, and students with Individualized Education Plans (special education students). In Math, the subgroup of students with IEPs did not meet the federal standard.

As a result, Superintendent **Dr. Jeff Kyle** sent a letter to all district families explaining about the Adequate Yearly Progress requirements through No Child Left Behind.



Teacher of the Year ring

Superintendent Dr. Jeff Kyle presented Teacher of the Year Amy Van Rie with a special Teacher of the Year ring during a staff meeting Aug. 27 at Eagle Glen Intermediate School. For the past five years, Jostens has donated a ring for the district's Teacher of the Year. Each recipient is given the opportunity to choose the ring and stone color.

News Briefs

Girls' golf team update

Head Coach **Paul Carvan** said that the girls' golf team scored a victory over Grandview and Raytown in the first match of the year by shooting a 213. Grandview shot 239, and Raytown shot 236.

The team hosted its Ray-Pec Scramble tournament on Aug. 27 with 19 schools competing. Ray-Pec finished third. **Kelby Shcroeder** and **Kristyn Stidham** earned a fifth place medal with a score of 81, and **Hayley Keith** and **Melinda Johnson** finished in eighth place with an 85.

Varsity softball update

The varsity softball team travels to Joplin for a tournament Aug 28 to 30. Head Coach **Bruce Sharp** that that 13 players and the entire coaching staff will make the trip. He is also pleased to welcome **Rachael Lowe** as the new C Team coach. He said she has brought excitement and fresh ideas.

Superintendent's stories

Did you know that 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. There is a link on the righthand side of the home page.

Pancake breakfast

You are invited to the third annual Ray-Pec Cheer pancake breakfast from 8 to 10 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 20, at the Belton Applebee's restaurant. Tickets are \$5 and may be purchased in advance from any squad member or at the door.

Job openings

Employment opportunities in the Raymore-Peculiar 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.

District sends letters to families about 'improvement' status under federal law

The Ray-Pec School District recently mailed a letter to each student household explaining that the district is considered in Level I "improvement" status under the requirements of the federal *No Child Left Behind Act* (NCLB).

The designation is given when a district or school does not make adequate yearly progress (AYP) under the requirements of the act. Although Ray-Pec achieved the standards district-wide, some subgroups of students did not. Here is the text of the letter:



Dear Raymore-Peculiar School District Parent or Guardian,

Under the federal No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act of 2001, each state is required to assess all school districts to determine if each district has made Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) toward meeting the academic testing standards and additional measures set by the state. AYP decisions are based on the results of state testing in communication arts and math and the district's attendance rate and graduation rate. If the district has not made AYP for two consecutive years in any one of the four areas, it is considered "in need of improvement."

Based on the results of this year's academic testing in communication arts and math and the district's attendance rate and graduation rate, the Raymore-Peculiar School District did not make Adequate Yearly Progress for the following reasons:

- Three sub-group populations did not meet the NCLB standards of 51 percent proficient in the category of communication arts.
- One sub-group population did not meet the NCLB standard of 45 percent proficient in the category of mathematics.

While the Raymore-Peculiar School District continues to experience annual improvement in academic achievement and has been accredited with distinction for the past two years, the challenge to meet the proficiency rates of the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act still exist. The Raymore-Peculiar School District is among 284 Missouri school districts (out of 524 districts in the state) designated as "in need of improvement" based on the NCLB Act's AYP goals.

Although the goals of No Child Left Behind, including accountability for student achievement, are worthwhile, the law's punitive nature fails to recognize a district's overall progress toward meeting the objective of success for each child. A district that does not meet NCLB proficiency targets in as few as one of nine sub-groups in either communication arts or math is given a designation of "in need of improvement" for the district as a whole in its effort to meet federal Adequate Yearly Progress goals.

Because of this designation, the district must develop a plan for improvement. One important component of this plan will be parent involvement in both the development and implementation of the plan. You can also help by increasing your understanding of the assessment, understanding the importance of good attendance and graduation from high school, visiting schools and becoming a volunteer, and engaging in reading and math strategies at home. Information about No Child Left Behind and what parents can do to improve student achievement is available at: <http://www.ed.gov/parents/landing.jhtml>.

Thank you for your continued support of Ray-Pec schools and your interest in your child's education. We look forward to a successful school year and will continue our efforts to meet the needs of each student.

Sincerely,
Dr. Jeff Kyle
Superintendent

News Briefs

School picture days

Here are dates for school pictures:

- **Tuesday, Sept. 9** - High School
- **Wednesday, Sept. 10** - Ray-Pec Freshman Center
- **Thursday, Sept. 11** - Ray-Pec Middle School
- **Tuesday, Sept. 16** - Peculiar Elementary
- **Wednesday, Sept. 17** - Eagle Glen Intermediate
- **Friday, Sept. 19** - Timber Creek Elementary
- **Tuesday, Sept. 23** - Raymore Elementary
- **Friday, Sept. 26** - Bridle Ridge Intermediate
- **Thursday, Oct. 2** - Stonegate Elementary
- **Thursday, Oct. 9** - Shull Elementary
- **Friday, Oct. 10** - Creekmoor Elementary



Help from HyVee

HyVee grocery store donated 90 backpacks to the Ray-Pec School District. School Social Worker **Karen Moore**, at right, accepted the donation on Aug. 26 on behalf of the district. Also pictured is Assistant Store Manager Lindsey Gilmore, left, and HyVee Store Director Brenda Slivinski, center.

RPHS 2008 ACT scores decline slightly, but more students test

Test scores for Raymore-Peculiar School District students on the ACT (American College Test) were down slightly for 2008. (See scores in table below.)

The district's composite score was 21.9, which was below last year's composite score of 22.3, but above the statewide average of 21.6. In every category, the Ray-Pec averages met or exceeded the state average.

Maria Fleming, Ray-Pec director of assessment and 7-12 curriculum, presented ACT score information to the Board of Education at its Aug. 21 meeting.

The report reflects the results of 225 Ray-Pec graduates who took the test, up from 216 in 2007. These students may have taken the test prior to their senior year.

Maria explained that the numbers reflect only the test results of students who graduated in 2008. If a student took

the ACT test three times, the ACT only counted the most recent test. If a student took the ACT only as a sophomore, the results are not reported until that student's senior year.

Through research with postsecondary institutions nationwide, ACT has set the following as college readiness benchmark scores for designated college courses:

- English Composition: 18 on ACT English test
- Algebra: 22 on ACT math test
- Social Science: 21 on ACT reading test
- Biology: 24 on ACT science test

A benchmark score is the minimum score needed on an ACT subject-area test to indicate a 50 percent chance of obtaining a B or higher, or about a 75 percent chance of obtaining a C or higher in the corresponding credit-bearing college courses.

Five-year Trends: Average ACT Scores

Grad Year	Number tested		Composite		English		Mathematics		Reading		Science	
	RP	MO	RP	MO	RP	MO	RP	MO	RP	MO	RP	MO
2008	225	47,240	21.9	21.6	21.7	21.4	21.0	21.0	22.5	22.0	21.9	21.4
2007	216	45,354	22.3	21.6	22.3	21.5	21.3	21.0	22.6	22.1	22.4	21.5
2006	181	42,885	21.5	21.6	21.5	21.5	20.4	21.0	21.8	22.0	21.9	21.5
2005	183	42,705	22.1	21.6	22.2	21.4	20.9	20.9	22.6	21.9	22.2	21.5
2004	188	42,862	21.6	21.5	21.8	21.4	20.4	20.9	21.9	22.0	21.7	21.4

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New positions for 08-09

Did you know that the district budget for 2008-2009 included several new positions? Here is a list of the new positions:

- Elementary teacher for Stonegate
- Elementary teacher for Creekmoor
- Fifth grade teacher, Eagle Glen
- Two core teachers, Middle School
- Instructional Coach (intermediate)
- 0.5 position math teacher increase for High School
- Finance Secretary
- School psychologist intern
- Behavior interventionist
- High School secretarial registrar
- Head track coach (extra-duty position)

Substitute pay increases

The 2008-2009 budget includes a pay increase for substitute teachers. Subs are now paid \$11 per hour, or \$15 per hour for long-term assignments.

School board action

On Aug. 21, the Board of Education:

- Approved an agreement with the City of Peculiar for the provision of law enforcement services on school property in Peculiar through the services of a School Resource Officer. Peculiar Police Officer Jennifer Hill holds this position.
- Approved two bid packages for construction of the new middle school on M-58.
- Reviewed enrollment numbers from Superintendent Dr. Jeff Kyle.
- Heard a review of the Buildings and Grounds Department from Steve Meyers, Director of Support Services.

Home football games

Mark your calendars for this year's home football games. Game times are at 7 p.m. at Panther Stadium.

- Friday, Sept. 12, vs. Blue Springs South
- Friday, Sept. 26, vs. Blue Springs
- Friday, Oct. 3, vs. Lee's Summit (Homecoming)
- Friday, Oct. 17, vs. Springfield Central
- Thursday, Oct. 30, vs. Belton



10 years of service

Dr. Terri Jamison, Associate Superintendent for Human Resources, at right, congratulates these substitute teachers for 10 years of service to the school district. Dr. Jamison presented each with a pin during an Aug. 14 meeting for substitute teachers. Pictured, from left, are: **Ellene Powers, Margaret Tilly, Shirley Halbur**, and Dr. Jamison. Not pictured, but also recognized, were: **Celeste Finegan, Betty Breshears, Teresa Copenhagen, Catherine Fairchild** and **Lucille Romig**.

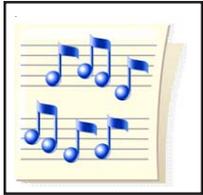


20 years of service

Dr. Terri Jamison, Associate Superintendent for Human Resources, at right, congratulates these substitute teachers for 20 years of service to the school district. Dr. Jamison presented each with a pin during an Aug. 14 meeting for substitute teachers. Pictured, from left, are: **Geraldine Hill, Paula Merrell, Garry Stice** and Dr. Jamison. Not pictured, but also recognized, was: **Maggie Andrews**.

Eagle Glen choir invited to perform at music educators convention

The Eagle Glen Sixth Grade Choir has been invited to perform at the 71st annual 2009 Missouri Music Educators Association Convention at the Tan-Tar-A Resort in Osage Beach, Mo. The choir was one of two elementary-aged choirs selected to perform from more than 140 applicants.



“This is a great honor,” said Music Teacher **Jennifer Gibson**. “The choir is so excited to be able to take part in this prestigious event.”

Those who attend the convention are not only Missouri music educators, but composers, conductors and educators from all across the United States. All who take part are there to see, encourage and to help the growth of students and music education in the state of Missouri.

The Eagle Glen choir is the first group from Ray-Pec to receive an invitation to this event.

Schools present Martin Luther King’s ‘I Have a Dream’ speech to students

Thursday, Aug. 28, was the 45th anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s famous “I Have a Dream” speech during the march on Washington, D.C.

In observance of this anniversary, each school created a plan for sharing the speech with students. In some instances, students read the speech; in others, the students listened to the speech.



The activity was suggested by the district’s Diversity Committee, which plans to offer activities and ideas each month for schools to incorporate.

The district’s District Committee will have its first meeting of the 2008-2009 school year on Sept. 3. Co-Chairmen of the committee are **Dr. Terri Jamison**,

Associate Superintendent for Human Resources, and **Renee Freers**, Director of At-Risk and Student Intervention.

Little Cheerleader clinic scheduled

The Ray-Pec High School cheerleaders invite children currently enrolled in grades K-6 to participate in a Little Cheerleader Clinic from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Sept. 23, 24 and 25 in the Ray-Pec High School auxiliary gym.



The Little Cheerleaders will perform at 6:30 p.m. Friday, Sept. 26, at Panther Stadium, just before a home football game. The cost of \$25 includes pom-poms and a performance bow. The little cheerleaders will learn motions, jumps, stunts, chants, a performance cheer and a performance dance.

Clinic check-in and registration begins Tuesday, Sept. 23. Parents may stay in the stands during the clinic. All participants should wear athletic apparel.

For more information, contact Cheerleading Coach **Melinda Hacker** at 892-3999, ext. 2126, or mhacker@raypec.k12.mo.us.

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Help Project Grad with used ink cartridges

The 2009 Project Grad Committee can benefit from your old toner and ink cartridges. If you drop off “original manufacturer only” cartridges at Home Town Toner and Ink, the company will reimburse Project Grad for each cartridge. Recycled cartridges are not eligible for the rebate. Home Town Toner and Ink is located at 1262 W. Foxwood Dr., next to Oriental Gardens restaurant in Willowwind Shopping Center on M-58.

Project Grad offers family portraits

Ray-Pec Project Grad again offers an opportunity for family portraits. Kerry of The Associates will take the portraits from 4 to 9 p.m. Friday, Nov. 7; from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 8; and from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 9, at Ray-Pec Middle School. Package A, with one 5x7, two 4x5s and eight wallets, is \$27. Package B, with one 8x10, one 5x7, two 4x5s and eight wallets, is \$32. Package C, with one 8x10, two 5x7s, four 4x5s and eight wallets, is \$37. You may make an appointment by calling Tammy at 318-1293. The sittings are open to anyone, and proceeds benefit Project Graduation.

Software purchases

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

If you are a Ray-Pec employee, go to the district website and click on the Foundation software purchase link. Select the sign-in link at the top of the page. If you registered at this site previously, you should still be registered. If you have not, click on the “register” tab. You will need to click on the first option “I have an institution-issued email address”. You will be asked to provide your school e-mail address and then complete the next page. You will receive a confirmation e-mail, and then follow the instructions in the e-mail. If you have questions, contact **Pam Steele** at 892-1311 or psteel@raypec.k12.mo.us.

Students, parents and patrons may also order the software, but they should send an e-mail to Pam Steele to obtain a registration code.

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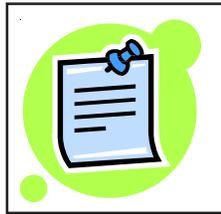
Adult supervision required for young students at evening district activities

Planning begins for Ray-Pec 2009 Paris trip

High School French Teacher **Melinda Hacker** is organizing a summer 2009 trip to Paris. Visit the Eiffel Tower and Notre Dame. See the Mona Lisa.

An informational meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 4, at High School Trailer 231.

The week-long Paris stay includes airfare, hotel, city transportation, daily breakfast, and daily dinner. If unable to attend or if you have questions, contact Hacker at mhacker@raypec.k12.mo.us or 816/892-1400, ext. 2126.



Attention parents/guardians of students in grades K-8: The district requests your help in keeping students safe at district activities. In order to provide a safe, orderly and enjoyable experience for fans, it is the policy of the Raymore-Peculiar School District that all students in grades K-8 be accompanied by an adult while attending district evening activities. This includes middle school athletic competitions, both indoors and out, which begin at 4 p.m. Students and families are encouraged to carpool

and share rides to accommodate busy working schedules. It is possible for inclement weather to move in quickly, potentially resulting in the need to move participants and fans to safety. Having parents or other responsible adults present assists in keeping children safe. Middle School Principal David Mitchell recently sent a letter to parents reviewing this information.



Ray-Pec 2008 Euro Trip

Ray-Pec students and teachers traveled last summer to Paris and the Provence region of France and Barcelona and the Costa Brava region in Spain. This picture was taken on the boardwalk overlooking the Mediterranean Sea.

In the back row, from left, are: Kayla Bogar, Danielle Dean, Priscilla Borja, Cara Graf, Teacher Cherie Kelly, Jessica Crozier, Becca Gerant and Sarah Bennefeld. In the middle row, from left, are: Allyssa Massie, Bailey Grim, Miranda Donnelly, Cece Duran, Breanna Orem, Emily Barnes and Sara Christopherson. In the front row are Randi Owens, left, and Teacher Melinda Hacker.

Teachers try blogs, school mail with ePals

In the spring of 2008, a group of Ray-Pec teachers began a pilot program with ePals. The Technology Department now offers this opportunity to all of our teachers.



What is ePals? ePals is a safe and protected way to link classes, schools, and school districts globally via ePals SchoolM@il and ePals SchoolBlog. ePals is a community of collaborative learners, teachers, and academic experts in 200 countries and territories. ePals provides connections to students, classes, and school districts worldwide. ePals is a global platform for learning online.

Why use ePals?

1. ePals is easy. Whether you're a student, teacher, or administrator, ePals' options - SchoolMail, SchoolBlog, and Classroom Match - are free and easy to set up and use right away from any computer connected to the Internet. SchoolM@il is the global leader in school-safe electronic communications.

2. ePals is safe and protected. It is managed by teachers and administrators. All interactions are policy managed by school districts and teachers, including emails, blogs, and forums, and can be monitored and filtered according to any standard. And ePals blocks SPAM, pornography, and curse words.

3. ePals is a Collaborative Learning Experience. It has been specifically designed for primary-secondary use and is based on the latest research for effective Internet-based learning.

Judy Biggerstaff, Instructional Technology Specialist, provides training for teachers to implement ePals.

Ray-Pec Booster Club needs you

The Ray-Pec Booster Club promotes activities to support and enhance athletic programs in our district. The Booster Club is seeking participants to join our board and help coordinate activities.



The Booster Club is not-for-profit organization and funding comes from concession sales and an annual golf tournament. The board meets at 7 p.m. on the second Wednesday of each month at the high school.

For a booster club membership form, go to the district web site, and click on Parents and then Miscellaneous Forms. Complete the form and submit it to the Middle School, Freshman Center or high School.

Please contact **Tom Kruse**, Activities Director, at 892-1410 or tkruse@raypec.k12.mo.us, or **Tina Misner**, Activities Administrative Assistant, at 892-1411 or tmisner@raypec.k12.mo.us, with any questions.

2007-08 yearbooks ready for pick up

The High School 2007-2008 yearbooks are in and ready for pick up before and after school in room 202. Books will also be distributed Tuesday night at the High School Open House. Parents of 2008 seniors may request that their graduate's book be held in the office for pickup by emailing Journalism Teacher **Stefani Russ** at sruss@raypec.k12.mo.us.

News Briefs

MAP results going home

The district is distributing the results from the 2008 Missouri Assessment Program (MAP) tests to families. If your child took MAP tests last spring, you will receive his/her results. The results will be accompanied by a letter and information describing the scores.

Creekmoor champion

Congratulations to Superintendent **Dr. Jeff Kyle**, who won the 2008 Creekmoor Club Championship golf tournament Aug. 23 and 24. Dr. Kyle won in the men's open division.

24. Dr. Kyle won in the men's open division.

Raymore Festival

The Raymore Festival in the Park is scheduled for Sept. 18-20 at Raymore Memorial Park (behind Raymore Elementary School).

The carnival will offer arm band night on Thursday and Friday evenings, starting at 6 p.m.

Bands are scheduled to play nightly, including the Outtakes at 9 p.m. Saturday.

Other featured events include the parade and 5K on Saturday morning, a sand volleyball tournament, silent auction, baby contest (to take place the weekend before with results announced on Sept. 18), baking contest, car show, dog show, dance groups, pancake breakfast, and more than 50 vendors.

For more information, visit the web site at: www.raymorefestival.com.

Child Nutrition

Prepaying for lunch, breakfast and/or ala carte items is an efficient way to pay for your student's school meals. Money may be deposited on the student's account by sending cash or check with the student or sending it to the cafeteria manager of your child's school.

An online service for depositing money in the child's account is available from a link on the district web site at: www.raypec.k12.mo.us.

The cashier will verbally remind students when the account balance is getting low, but it is always a good idea for parents to keep track of the meals and snacks their child purchases.

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.

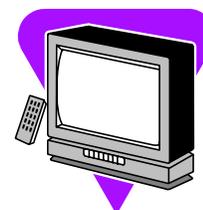
The Ray-Pec School District provided the following programs and activities, which were selected and designed to address district CSIP objectives for student achievement and safe and productive learning environments.

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

