



## The promise of a new school year

The energy and enthusiasm is building as students, parents and educators prepare to head back to school.

A new school year holds promise and anticipation.

There is a spirit of renewal in education throughout America. In Renton, our extraordinary teachers and staff are working to create an environment for optimal learning and growth for all students. Students will remember their years here as a time of learning shared with classmates, enhancing their ability to listen and think, and developing a deeper understanding of self and the world. Teachers will stimulate intellectual and personal growth by building deep, practical knowledge and fostering sound judgment. Along with the three "R's" of basic educa-



Superintendent  
Dolores Gibbons

tion, students will learn to exercise judgment, make decisions, and take responsibility.

Children come to us with an extraordinary capacity to learn. They have big dreams and great ambitions, but they need guidance from caring adults to help them realize those dreams and ambitions. Teachers, principals and staff in the Renton School District are committed to working with parents and others in our wonderful community to offer every student opportunities to achieve.

I can't imagine a more important contribution to the nation's future than providing Renton's youth with a quality education. I am honored to be in a position to work with you to help Renton's children succeed. Let's make this another great school year together.

## Important dates for 2002/03 school year\*

September 2	Labor Day
September 3	First Day of School
September 25	Half-day (no PM K)
October 11	No School – Teacher Training Day
October 23	Half-day (no AM K)
November 8	No School – Grades K-5 Half-Day – Grades 6-12
November 11	Veterans Day
November 28-29	Thanksgiving Break
December 23-January 3	Winter Break
January 20	MLK, Jr. Day
January 31	No School – Teacher Training Day
February 3 (Tentative)	Bond Election
February 17-21	Mid-Winter Break
March 7	Half-day Grades 1-5 No school Grades 6-12
March 26	Half-Day (no AM K)
April 14-18	Spring Break
May 14	Half-Day (no PM K)
May 26	Memorial Day
June 19	Last Day/Half-Day
June 20	Snow make-up day if needed

### GRADING PERIODS

<i>Elementary</i>	
End of 1st Trimester	November 15
End of 2nd Trimester	March 7
End of 3rd Trimester	June 19
<i>Secondary</i>	
End of 1st Quarter	November 8
End of 2nd Quarter/1st Semester	Jan. 30
End of 3rd Quarter	April 11
End of 4th Quarter/2nd Semester	June 19

### PARENT CONFERENCES\*

Grade K-5	November 21-27
Middle School	November 25-27
High School	November 21

\*During conferences there will be early dismissal for all grades and full-day kindergarten. No half-day AM/PM kindergarten classes during conference week.

## FAST FACTS

• **Athletic fees increase.** Students participating in athletics this school year will see a slight increase in fees. New sports fee schedule:

- \$50 per sport per athlete;
- an athlete involved in more than one sport will pay no more than \$90 per year;
- total family rate is \$150 regardless of the number of athletes or number of sports played.

There are reduced fees for families on free or reduced lunch programs. Ask your school for details.

• **Meal prices for this school year:**

- Elementary Breakfast, \$1.00
- Secondary Breakfast, \$1.25
- Adult Breakfast, \$1.75

- Elementary Lunch, \$1.50
- Middle School Lunch, \$1.75
- High School Lunch, \$2.00
- Adult Lunch, \$2.75

• **Participate in local education.**

There are many citizens committees that help make decisions on district budget, curriculum and instruction, technology, school construction and more. Others such as Citizens for Renton Schools allow for activities outside of the district.

Opportunities/committees include:

- Citizens Advisory on Curriculum and Instruction
- Renton Technology Coordinating Council
- Budget Advisory Committee
- Initiative 728 Advisory Committee
- Capital Projects Advisory Committee
- Communities In Schools of Renton
- PTA
- Citizens for Renton Schools

For more information call 425.204.2345.

• **Visit the district's Web site** for quick, easy to read information on lunches, school closure information, start and dismissal times, test scores and more.  
[www.renton.wednet.edu](http://www.renton.wednet.edu)

\*Also see Renton School District calendar included in this mailing.

# RENTON SCHOOL DISTRICT

## Board mulls plan to run school building construction election in Feb. 2003

The Renton School Board is considering placing a school building improvement bond measure on the February 2003 ballot. Voters overwhelmingly endorsed the measure in February and April 2002, but the measure failed both times to meet the 60 percent supermajority requirement to pass school elections.

For 20 years school staff, parents, citizens and local business people have managed a three-phase plan to rebuild, remodel, or renew every school building in the district. Voters have supported the plan by passing capital facilities bonds to help pay for improvements in phases I and II. The district has built new schools where old ones cost too much to maintain and repaired those that are still serviceable. Projects have been well managed, and completed as planned. Two phases of the plan are complete or buildings included in those phases are currently under construction. This is the third phase of the plan.

Approval of the plan could mean a slight increase of about 50 cents per thousand of assessed value in current

tax rates for Renton schools, keeping the tax rate one of the lowest in the region.

Major projects on the ballot include rebuilding or remodeling the remaining four elementary schools: Benson Hill, Kenneydale, Hazelwood and Renton Park. On the outside, those schools appear to be in good condition. However, simply replacing electrical, plumbing, safety and other systems within the buildings would cost almost as much as rebuilding the schools.

New buildings offer more space to teach children, make better use of external light and heat to keep operating costs down and use building materials that last for decades. Other projects in the

*"It's great. I like this kind of progress."*

—Orville Radel, Renton citizen



**Orville Radel, 82,** stands in front of the new Campbell Hill Elementary School. Radel's children were among the first to attend the old school when it opened in 1956.

*"I voted in 1998 to build the new school. I like progress and I'll continue to vote for schools," Radel said.*

measure include technology improvements, earthquake preparedness upgrades, energy conservation efforts and other facilities and athletic field upgrades.

### Test dates

ITBS March 10-21  
Iowa Test of Basic Skills—for students in grades 3 and 6

WASL April 21-May 9  
Washington Assessment of Student Learning—for students in grades 4, 7, and 10

ITED April 21-May 9  
Iowa Tests of Educational Development—for students in grade 9

### Start/dismissal times

High Schools 7:20 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.  
Black River H.S. 7:30 a.m. – 1:40 p.m.

Middle Schools 7:55 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Elementary Schools:  
Benson Hill 9:05 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.  
Bryn Mawr 8:50 a.m. – 3:05 p.m.  
Campbell Hill, Cascade and Hazelwood 8:40 a.m. – 3:05 p.m.  
Highlands 8:55 a.m. – 3:05 p.m.  
Hillcrest 9:15 a.m. – 3:15 p.m.  
Kenneydale 9:05 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.  
Lakeridge, Maplewood Heights and Renton Park 8:40 a.m. – 3:05 p.m.  
Sierra Heights 9:05 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.  
Talbot Hill 9:05 a.m. – 3:35 p.m.  
Thomson and Tiffany Park 8:40 a.m. – 3:05 p.m.

### Looking for work?

How about joining one of the best school district's in the state?

Current available jobs include:

- math teacher
- language arts and social studies teacher
- special education
- part-time positions

For more information call the district's job line at 426.204.2305, or visit us on the web at: [www.renton.wednet.edu](http://www.renton.wednet.edu)

**Need clarification** on district issues you've heard or read about? Please call the district's Community Relations Office at 425.204.2345.