



## 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 the Renton School District, 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



Superintendent  
Dolores Gibbons

“R’s” of basic education, 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 youth with a quality education. I am honored to be in a position to work with you to help our children succeed. Let’s make this another great school year together.

## Important dates for 2003/04 school year\*

September 1	Labor Day
September 2	First Day of School
September 24	Half-day (no PM K )
October 10	No School, Teacher Training Day
October 22	Half-day (no AM K)
November 10	No School, Grades K-5 Half-Day, Grades 6-12
November 11	Veterans Day
November 27-28	Thanksgiving Break
December 22-January 2	Winter Break
January 19	MLK Jr. Day
January 26	No School – Teacher Training Day
February	Education Levy Election
February 16-20	Mid-Winter Break
March 5	Half-day Grades 1-5
	No school Grades 6-12
March 24	Half-Day (no AM K)
April 12-16	Spring Break
May 19	Half-Day (no PM K)
May 28	Memorial Day
June 18	Last Day/Half-Day
May 31	Snow make-up day if needed

### GRADING PERIODS

<i>Elementary</i>	
End of 1st Trimester	Nov. 14
End of 2nd Trimester	March 5
End of 3rd Trimester	June 18
<i>Secondary</i>	
End of 1st Quarter	Oct. 31
End of 2nd Quarter/1st Semester	Jan. 23
End of 3rd Quarter	April 9
End of 4th Quarter/2nd Semester	June 18

### PARENT CONFERENCES\*

Grade K-5	Nov. 20-26
Middle School	Nov. 24-26
High School Black River	Nov. 20
Hazen	Nov. 20
Lindbergh	Nov. 20
Renton High	Nov. 23 & March 23

\*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

### • School meal prices:

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 (CACI)
- Renton Technology Coordinating Council (RTCC)
- 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, construction updates and more

[www.renton.wednet.edu](http://www.renton.wednet.edu)

# RENTON SCHOOL DISTRICT

## Education Maintenance and Operations Replacement levy scheduled for Feb. 2004 *No tax rate increase for this Replacement Levy*

The Education Operations and Maintenance Replacement Levy, which accounts for about 24 percent of the district's operating budget, will be on the February 2004 ballot. The levy is not a new tax; it replaces one that expires in 2004. The levy helps pay for such things as teacher and staff salaries, transportation costs, curriculum needs, books, paper and other education-related needs.

The passage of the district's Technology and Construction Bond measure in May will allow for the continued renovation of schools as well as technology improvements at every site. The district is working to sell bonds to acquire the funding. Like home mortgages, bond issues involve borrowing for big, upfront expenses that get paid off over time. Property taxes are collected until the debt is paid off. The sale of bonds now will take advantage of the current low interest

rates. Money saved can be better used to fund the improvement projects.

The bond measure, which differs from the Education Operations and Maintenance Replacement Levy, allows the district to continue keeping promises to taxpayers to renovate or build schools on time and within budget. Additionally, and just as importantly, it keeps the district from using funds in the operating budget to pay for any emergency repairs such as roof or boiler replacements.

A "Construction Update" page following construction progress at



*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.*

sites throughout the district can be found on the district's Web site at [www.renton.wednet.edu](http://www.renton.wednet.edu)

### Test dates

ITBS March 1-16  
Iowa Test of Basic Skills—for students in grades 3 and 6

WASL April 19-May 7  
Washington Assessment of Student Learning—for students in grades 4, 7, 8, and 10

ITED April 19-May 7  
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  
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.  
Kennydale 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?

Get employment information by calling 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? Please call the district's Community Relations Office at 425.204.2345.