

Janet (Adams) Wall has worked as a guidance counselor on the East Coast

By: LaRAYNE WATTS

Janet Elaine was born in Raymond on January 15, 1953 to Russell and Beryl Adams joining older brother Jim. Her father who died in 1989 was the manager of the P.U.D. Her mother who worked at the State Employment Office now gives generously of her time to numerous organizations and her church.

Janet remembers one particular day from elementary school. She said "I remember standing in Mr. Bacon's class and watching blacktop school ground roll as an earthquake traveled through Raymond." Janet also said, "I remember the fun that several of us had in Mr. Dall's after school 'science club,' where we developed interesting experiments with chemicals from Mr. Gates' supply closet."

Janet recalls another teacher, "Mrs. Wilson (4th grade) created a wonderful imaginary bus trip for us fourth graders when we 'toured' Washington State. "Tragically I remember how stunned I was when she was killed on a real bus trip during her Christmas vacation a year or two later."

Janet graduated from Raymond High School in 1971 with a class of 76 students. While in high school Janet recalled, "I played lots of sports- flag football, basketball, ran track in the spring and played softball during the summer." In addition she was a member of the Pep Band and was in a few plays. She was class representative on the student council then served as the secretary of the student body and later as president. Outside of school she was active in her church youth group and in the choir.

She remembers several of her high school teachers fondly, and said, "I remember the personal qualities of Mr. Beatty who arrived in Raymond as a math teacher and opened his apartment to young people offering extra math help at night or a chance to talk about life in general. He encouraged me to read "little Prince" that emphasized the truth. It is only with the heart that one sees rightly what is essential is invisible to the eye."

Janet remembers especially the school spirit at Raymond. "I can almost smell the popcorn in the gymnasium" she says, "and see the red vests of the Pep Band Members. The fans streaming in to locate a seat and Mr. Anderson scurrying from the ticket table to the concession stand to greeting towns people to reminding rowdy youngster to settle down. Those were evenings to remember that brought us all closer as a school and as a town."

After graduating from RHS Janet went to Washington state University. She turned down the offer to spend her junior year in Japan because of her fathers' ill health and spent that year in Maine instead. She attended the University of Maine for one year and explored much of New England and Nova Scotia. She returned to Washington State for her senior year graduating in 1975.

She returned to Maine and worked at Bowdoin college for one year. She settled in Brunswick, Maine a historical and quaint of New England college town, where she had lived since 1976. She finished her masters degree in counseling and worked for ten years at a local regional school, the last five as Director of Guidance.

In 1985 she was the speaker at the New England College Board meeting. There she met Ed Wall a dean of admission at Amherst College. They were married in 1986 and have two sons Chris and Thomas in the ninth and seventh grade respectively.

For the past 17 years Janet has worked as the Director of College counseling at Governor Dumme Academy, the oldest independent boarding in the U.S founded in 1763.

Both as a single adult and with her family Janet has traveled across the country many times to return to Raymond to spend time with her mother and father and visiting cherished friends. In addition they have taken their children to Europe, Australia, New Zealand, Fiji and to 47 of 50 states.

Janet's advice to this year's seniors is, "Treat everyone with kindness and respect and take the time to tell someone you care every day. Believe in yourself and chase your personal goals with confidence. Develop your faith in goals knowing that life is easier when you can lean on this constant presence to confront and guidance. Seek beauty from others and your surroundings. Remember to enjoy each day by laughing at one's self as well as at the many situations we all find ourselves in from time to time, and at the end of each day give thanks for all that you do have. Each new day will bring new opportunities, challenges, and strengths those pursuits.



RHS Alumnus Janet (Adams) Wall, 1971