

# NASELLE-GRAYS RIVER VALLEY

## School District No. 155

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November 23, 2021

Mossyrock School District,

Just a quick note of appreciation for your kindness and compassion as we journeyed and competed at the State Volleyball Tournament in Yakima. We are certainly grateful for having you as both neighbors and competitors. I write to extend our sincere gratitude and wish you a happy holiday season. We are so thankful for you!

Below is a note I stole from my niece's Facebook page in case you are unaware of the full story. I think Kayti summarizes it the best! Kayti is one of Naselle's assistant coaches, so she writes from that perspective.

"As many of you know, our Lady Comets just placed 5th at volleyball state!

After being hit by a large rock on the road to Yakima, one of our school vans completely broke down - leaving some of our girls stranded, and nearly running late for the only practice they would get on the East side, before their first game at the SunDome. We were all out of cell-phone service, and no matter what we tried, the van would not start... Just as we were about to start panicking over these logistics, we looked up and saw Raymond's school bus turn around and pull alongside. Their coach got out, with a mask on his face, and a halo over his head, and offered to take our girls to state. That's how many of our girls got there, you guys. From the kindness and hospitality of another team.

We certainly appreciate encountering a friendly neighbor.

Then, while Tawnya and I stayed back with the broken down van, a woman named Sara, from Willapa Valley, also pulled over to check in on us, having had noticed our school's name on the van. She offered a ride and food, and even once we all separately made it to the Dome, sought our team out, and inquired again about the van, and wouldn't leave until she was SURE there was nothing more that she could do to help.

Later, during our first game, we heard a roaring of cheers coming opposite of our crowd. The girls looked over and saw Raymond's team rooting us on. It gave us an unbelievable boost, and from my knowledge, for the first time in this division, our girls won in the first round at state.

In addition, during a hard-fought loss against Oakesdale (the State Champions), we looked up in our stands and saw Mossyrock's team, who were our league rivals, standing in the front of our crowd, insistently encouraging and motivating us while we played.

In return, our girl's found Raymond and rooted for them. And immediately after winning 5th place, they also rushed over to the championship, in total support of Mossyrock.

While I am proud of the way our lady comets played at state, what I value more is the way they carried themselves all year while getting there. These girls have gotten countless compliments from other teams, not only on their skills, but also about their encouraging attitudes, respectfulness, and sportsmanship. And for them, in the long run, it's turned rivals into allies, it's placed other teams and towns in their crowd, and... it gave them a LITERAL ride to state...

Way to go, Lady Comets! And a BIG shout out to Raymond's volleyball team, coach, and athletic director, Sarah from Willapa Valley, and Mossyrock's 2nd place team!"

Thank you ALL again for being AWESOME! You are truly appreciated.

Lisa Nelson

