

June 2014

Dear Parents,

This is our final newsletter of the school year. Believe it or not the end of the 2013-2014 school year will be here soon! The last day of school for students is June 19th, and it is a half day.

We are holding our "Tour & Talk", an informational meeting, for students entering grades 5 and 6 in the fall. This will be on June 12th from 6-7pm here at RDMS. This is for parents and students, and will include a walk around the school and ice cream provided by the Student Council. We hope to see you there.

We have lots of exciting end of the year activities coming up so please be sure to check our website!

On behalf of the staff, I thank you for your support and involvement in your child's educational experience at RDMS. You have helped to make this school year a successful experience for students and staff.

Be on the lookout this summer for information via mail and email regarding schedules for next year. The first day of school is September 2.

We wish you and your children a safe and enjoyable summer.

Sincerely,

Kathryn Hollicker
Principal

Congratulations to our Eagles of the Month (listed 5th, 6th, 7th): September: Angel Freeman, Noah Deabler, Brooke Post; October: Zach Healey, Georgiana Chammas, Matthew Shaw; November: Shilo Berry, Jaret Winchenbach, Ashley Young; December: Aidan Fogg, Maggie Tinker-Wadsworth, Noah Labbe; January: Autumn Harvey; Marcus Camber, Jasmine Bouchard; February: Ryker Weaver, Bailee York, Annaliese Poisson; March: Ryley Havener, Elayne Gustafson, Cole Stevens; April: Amariah Glaude, Steffani-Rae Jillson, Raechel Joyce; May: Norah Doyle, Alyssa Fischer, Gabby Straka

Congratulations to our monthly Agenda winners (listed 5th, 6th, 7th): September: Julia Porter, Bailee York, Gabby Straka; October: Marshall Camber, Mia Blumenthal, Bennett Penney; November: Lainie Hooper, Jade Philip, Jasmine Bouchard; December: Angel Freeman, Julie Sprayberry, Drew Simmons; January: Brandon Abbott,

Audrey Young, Noah Labbe; February: Lily Stratton, Steffani-Rae Jillson, Cole Stevens; March: Mariah St. Clair, Maggie Tinker-Wadsworth; Bea Weinand; April: Erin Corcoran, Chloe Courant, Wesley Dunkle; May: Jaska Malone, Hannah Simmons, Noah Labbe

Parents' Group Meeting Notice: The RDMS Parent Group is looking for volunteers! Contact the school for more information.

Visitors: All visitors must enter through the main front doors and sign in at the office and sign out when leaving the building. Please help us maintain a safe and secure school for your children. We also ask visitors to wear a "visitor badge."

Dress Code: The dress code, established in policy by the Board of Directors in 2002, will be enforced. Students will be given a T-Shirt to wear if necessary. Students must continue to adhere to the length of skirts over leggings. Leggings are not a replacement for slacks or jeans. Parents may be called to bring appropriate clothing.

Upcoming Dates & Events:

6/10: 6th grade field trip to Birch Point (6/12 rainedate)
6/11: RDMS Field Day
6/12: Talk & Tour, 6-7pm, for incoming 5th & 6th
6/16: Honor Roll Funtown Field Trip (6/17 rainedate)
6/18: 7th grade Farewell Breakfast, 8am, cafe

YELLOW TEAM NEWS – Grade 5

Mrs. Cornforth, Math: The third trimester of school has come and is going very quickly!! Not that it's over yet! This spring, students have put their skills in Math to the test...literally. From helping to pilot the Smarter Balanced Assessment in April on their iPads (which they will see next year for real) to the NWEAs in May, students tried their hardest and produced great results! 86% of the fifth grade students increased their scores in Math from last spring or this past winter. That is awesome!!! Well done, kids!!

In Math classes, students have been concentrating mostly on Fractions during this trimester. They have practiced a variety of skills in this area: comparing and ordering fractions, converting mixed numbers to improper fractions and improper fractions to mixed numbers, and creating equivalent fractions. These are the building blocks of fractions, which the students then use to add and subtract fractions with like and unlike denominators, as well as multiply and divide.

Also in Math class, the students have been reading about *HMS Titanic*. Learning about this great ship from 1914 has enthused the students. Did you know *HMS Titanic* was almost three times the length of RDMS? Students are using their skills in graph making to compare information about *Titanic*: pie graphs comparing the three classes of passengers and the survivor/victim percentages; bar graphs showing the pounds and pounds of food brought on board; and even comparing the length of *Titanic* to the tallest skyscrapers in the world today. On the floor of the conference room, some students mapped out specific dimensions of *Titanic*: sizes of its propellers, *Titanic*'s swimming pool (one of the first on an ocean liner), sizes of three different kinds of lifeboats, and the diameter of one of the four funnels that graced the ship. Seeing these dimensions mapped out has given the students a much better concept of the immense size of this ship (no wonder it was called "Titanic"). It has truly been a learning experience.

A reminder to all students and parents: even though school ends on June 19, practicing Math skills at home during the summer is very important. If a computer is available, students have the opportunity to continue practicing on Moby Max as well as Khan Academy. If a computer is not available, flash cards are a good idea to keep up on basic facts in addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division to be ready for sixth grade next year. Might as well begin on the right foot and ahead of the game!

Thank you for all your support this year. A safe and healthy summer to all!

Mrs. Majunka, ELA: In Health class we have completed our study of the circulatory and respiratory systems. We used online sources, including videos, articles, and quizzes, as well as our textbook and some paper and pencil tasks, such as diagrams and vocabulary recognition. We are currently concentrating on personal safety topics: pedestrian, bicycle riding, being a passenger in a vehicle, and practicing safety with food and drugs.

In our ELA classes we are exploring nonfiction articles and discussing how reading strategies change when we are examining informational texts as opposed to reading fiction for pleasure. To get the most value out of informational texts, the reader must use different skills and a different mindset. We are continuing to practice spelling rules and grammar to help us better understand our reading and also to make us better and more appealing writers.

We will soon be out of classes for the summer. I urge all students and their parents to make visiting the public library a priority. Summer reading for fun and pleasure helps to retain and reinforce reading skills at all levels.

Have a safe, healthy, and fun-filled summer!

Ms. Slocum, Science/Social Studies: The Explorer Books are done! They should be arriving home soon. We were able to visit the ship *Amistad*. This was a chance to experience first-hand the type of sailing vessel that the explorers used (to a point).

Science classes have finished up a unit on landforms.

RED TEAM NEWS – Grade 6

Mrs. Tripp, Social Studies & ELA: In English class the students are working on writing a research paper on a Pacific Rim country. We are going through the process of taking notes using note cards, making an outline, writing a report and creating a bibliography. Please ask your student what country they are researching.

Reading: To go along with our Pacific Rim interdisciplinary unit, the students are reading *Year of Impossible Goodbyes*. The story takes place in 1945 when the Japanese controlled Korea. Each student has a *Year of Impossible Goodbyes* packet that they are working on. Each packet contains vocabulary, comprehension questions and free writes.

Social Studies: Our last unit of the year covers Ancient China. The students are currently working on dynasty projects. The 6th graders are researching the time period of their dynasty and accomplishments. Each group will present their dynasty to the class. We are also studying the geography and culture of China.

Mr. Crossley, Science & ELA: Reading: Students will be ending the year with reading the book, *Year of Impossible Goodbyes* along with continued work on reading comprehension strategies and Moby Max, an online reading and writing tool.

English: Students will be starting a research report on states. Students will choose a state and create a choice project about that state.

Science: Students are in the middle of our geology unit. We are studying earth's history and formation, plate tectonics, rock types and formation.

Ms. McNeilly, Math & ELA: As part of our interdisciplinary unit on The Pacific Rim, we are reading *Year of Impossible Goodbyes*. This is a historical fiction book about a 10-year old girl living in Korea in 1945. It is an incredible story about one family's love for each other and their determination to find freedom.

In English class we are going through the process of writing a research paper. The students are learning about writing note cards, preparing an outline and citing sources. The students have all chosen a country from the Pacific Rim to research.

In math class we have finished ratios and proportions and are starting area and volume of geometric figures. We will then be learning and applying the rules of positive and negative integers.

BLUE TEAM NEWS – Grade 7

Mr. Gallagher, Math & ELA: We have been very busy during this last trimester of the school year. Students have completed writing prompt, NWEA testing, a pilot of the new Smarter Balanced test, a post-test on ratios, a standardized test for the Assistments study, and the Orleans-Hanna Algebra Prognosis test.

We spent the last part of April and the first part of May working on improving skills with adding, subtracting, multiplying, and dividing fractions. Students have performed very well throughout all of this extremely busy time.

After Memorial Day we started our Bridges interdisciplinary unit. In Math students are learning how to write checks and balance a check register. They are also learning how to set up a check register on a computer and maintain an accurate balance that way. Our culminating activity for this unit will occur on Friday, June 13. Students will demonstrate what they have worked on and learned during this unit (especially in Science and Social Studies). Parents should have received a notice about this event, either via email or from an invitation brought home by your student.

I hope that everyone has an enjoyable and restful summer break (and that the weather fully cooperates every day).

Miss Campbell, Social Studies and ELA: In Social Studies we had a very successful Medieval Day in April. Since then we have been studying many different countries and their cultures to get ready for our Interdisciplinary Unit

Bridges. We've focused on their climates, vegetation, natural resources, native animals, landforms, current leaders, and much more! Now we are in the middle of our Bridges Unit and the 7th graders are working very hard on several projects while learning about a specific region's culture. They also have chosen a famous person to research and report on from a specific ethnic background as well as a country to study too. This entire unit is about comparing and contrasting our culture with several different cultures and being able to make connections with what we learn. The Bridges Cultural Fair will be held June 13th with the bridge breaking at 8:30 and the actual fair at 10:00.

In my ELA the 7th graders spent a lot of time perfecting and organizing their autobiographies. They were able to present them to their families during our open house in May. Students presented and showed off their many writing pieces throughout the year as well as other work they were proud of. It will forever be a keepsake for them to reflect on some day! In the last few weeks of our ELA class we spent time learning Latin vocabulary and the history of the language and the people. It's been a wonderful year and I will miss all of my students very much!!

Mr. Roberge, Science & ELA: For the third trimester students in 7th grade science learned the basics of chemistry. We covered atoms and molecules, heat energy, types of bonds, sub atomic particles, valence shells, types of reactions and acids/bases. Students did activities and readings as well as watch teacher demonstrations of reactions. To end the year the science classes are building toothpick bridges. The bridges will be tested to see which design holds the most weight. Finally to the students, enjoy your summer!

ALLIED ARTS TEAM NEWS

Mrs. Groene, Resource Room 5-7: In Mrs. Groene's ELA class, we will continue to work on activities to enhance reading skills and comprehension. We have been learning how to improve our writing and editing paragraphs. In our math program, we are working on measurement, word problems and continue to practice math facts. Our excursion to the replica of the Amistad in Rockland Harbor was quite enjoyable and informative. Hope you have a fabulous summer.

Ms. Spring, Library: The end of the school year is upon us. Please check with your students to see what books or magazines or audiobooks they have still got checked out and have them returned to the library. There are no fines

charged, so no worries about that. We just need to have all the materials returned before the end of the year. This is especially true of our 7th graders who will be leaving for another school next year.

Thank you for checking and helping to get the books back so that next year's students will be able to use them.

Miss Nash, Band: Band at RDMS has come to a successful end! We just had our spring concert and the students all played fabulously. The beginning band students played two beginning band arrangements and the 6/7 band played a variety of pieces, from lively to slow and sweet. The students have all worked very hard this year and I am extremely proud of all of them!

Mrs. McMackin, Read 180/RTI 2 classes: My sixth and fifth grade classes are working on the novel *Phantom Toolbooth* by Norton Juster. We have been working on idioms, synonyms, alliteration, and adjectives to making better sentences. A major theme of the book is learning how to choose your words wisely, as people may misinterpret what your meaning is. It's been a fun book to read and look at other people's point of view on things. We'll be ending the unit with a viewing of the movie. The 7th grade has been working in their Bridges Unit in their regular classes during the past two weeks.

Mrs. Johnson, Art: The music and art department joined forces to put on a Fine Arts Festival that had a piece from each student on display. Students worked on hard on turning recycled materials into art - totem poles from cans and making paper clay from egg cartons.

Mrs. Duke, Health and PE: You don't have to avoid the sun completely. And it would be unwise to stay inside if it would keep you from being active, because physical activity is important for good health. But too much sunlight can be harmful. There are some steps you can take to limit your exposure to UV rays. Some people think about sun protection only when they spend a day at the lake, beach, or pool. But sun exposure adds up day after day, and it happens every time you are in the sun.

Sun Safety Tips:

- Seek Shade
- Protect your skin with clothing
- Wear a hat and sunglasses
- AVOID tanning beds
- Wear sunscreen!

The physical education units covered this trimester will be fitness, lacrosse, ultimate Frisbee, track and field, and recreational games.

In health education we have been studying puberty, family life living, and human sexuality.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Mrs. Rogers, RASA After-School Clubs Rockland After-School Alliance (RASA): RASA finished up the 13/14 school year with a showcase on June 5th. Youthlinks is offering 2 weeks of camp and Arts in Action this summer. If you have any questions about the after-school programs call Youthlinks at 594-2221, or contact Club Coordinator, Sarah Rogers, at 975-5495 or srogers@rsu13.org.

Ms. Schierman, School Nurse: As you all know, we are very close to the end. The sun has arrived in all its glory: the grass is growing, plants are flowering, and skin is burning! Please remind your children (and yourselves) to wear sunscreen and limit time spent in the sun. With rising heat it's important to drink lots of water to replace what you're losing as you sweat. And it's a good idea to take breaks and sit in the shade, or go inside to cool off.

Although ticks are around all year, we start to see a lot more on people as we are spending more time outside. This area is known to house ticks that carry diseases, so please be sure to do frequent and thorough tick checks: feeling areas of your skin that you cannot see, and looking at the areas that you can. Remove ticks as soon as they are found. There are tick repellent products (natural and chemical), and it's always a good idea to wear light colored clothing and keep your skin covered (even tuck your pants into your socks!!) if you know you'll be spending time in an area where there could be a lot ticks. Check for ticks when you come inside and when bathing/showering (and any other time you feel like it!).

Mosquitoes, also, have been found to carry some diseases. While they are difficult to avoid, the disease carrying mosquitoes are most often out at dawn and at dusk – so, be extra vigilant at those times! Best defenses are mosquito repellents and staying indoors when there are lots of them buzzing about!