

RAPPAHANNOCK COUNTY SCHOOLS PANTHER PRIDE NEWSLETTER

DR. GARY BLAIR, INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT

Community Supports RCHS Seniors

Over \$120,000 in scholarships to deserving students

On Wednesday, April 26, the high school hosted the annual Scholarship Assembly, in which our college-bound seniors were honored with the awarding of scholarships they had earned. The RCHS junior class was part of the audience, giving them a glimpse of the recognition and support that can come their way this time next year as a result of hard work in the classroom. The scholarship presentation ceremony lasted nearly two hours and featured the presentation of over fifty scholarships with a value exceeding \$125,000, easily a fifty-percent increase over last year's scholarship totals. While all of the awards were notable for their generosity and the value that they gave to our students and their parents, some merit special mention as follows:



Jack Massie was awarded the Harry F. Byrd Leadership Award, the first time a student from RCHS has received this honor and an honor given to only eleven seniors in Virginia, one from each Congressional District. The award comes with a \$10,000.00 stipend for winners to apply to their future endeavors.

Julia Estes was awarded the All State Foundation/Virginia High School League Achievement Award, one of only three students selected from Group 1A schools across the state to receive such distinction.

The Headwaters Foundation awarded over \$50,000.00 and managed scholarships to over thirty RCHS students.

The Rappahannock County Lion's Club awarded eight scholarships of a thousand dollars each to eight RCHS students.

A complete list of the scholarships awarded, and their recipients, has been submitted to the newspaper for publication and will be posted to the RCHS website. A very special thanks goes out to each and every one of the community members and groups who so generously gave of their resources to help our students take that next step in their learning adventures.

Congratulations to all the students who received these honors and the accompanying monetary support. As evidenced by the financial awards given out at the assembly, students were shown that hard work really does pay off. But the real payoff is yet to come, given the reality that it is the community who will reap the true rewards as these students leave the RCHS hallways and use what they have been given to go out into the world and make it a better place for all of us.

Enrichment Opportunity: Art Contest

The Commonwealth of Virginia Campaign (CVC), the annual giving campaign for state employees, has invited K-12 students to participate in the 2017 CVC Visual Arts Contest. The CVC plans to showcase the winning artwork statewide in posters, on the CVC website, and in a directory. Also, the selected entries will be exhibited across the Commonwealth. The theme for this year's giving campaign is "Virginia is for Givers."

A \$100 grand prize will be awarded to the student whose artwork is selected to create the campaign poster. Also, first- (\$75), second- (\$50), and third-place (\$25) awards will be awarded to students whose artwork is selected in the elementary, middle, and high school categories.

Interested students should seek guidance from their art teachers about this opportunity.

For more information, go to the CVC website at www.cvc.virginia.gov

RCES Gifted/Talented Art Class

Students study architecture with a unique perspective

Sixth and seventh grade students in the gifted art class have been working hard all year on a four foot square mural painting which depicts an architectural marvel from seven different cities across the globe. It is finally nearing completion and will be displayed permanently in the school. Initially, students were each assigned to draw and paint one building, but it has turned into a collaborative effort at this point in the year. In the picture below, the architectural marvels and young artists are, starting from bottom left, going counter clockwise: Taj Mahal (Agra, India) by Lilie Halko; Eiffel Tower (Paris, France) by Lilyan Jenkins; St. Basil's Cathedral (Moscow, Russia) by Ava Genho; Leaning Tower of Pisa (Pisa, Italy) by Camden Shanks; Big Ben (London, England) by Blake Keyser; Empire State Building (New York City, USA) by Maeve Ciuba; and Burj Khalifa (Dubai, U.A.E.) by Nicholas Plaksin. The students chose to decorate the night sky with brightly colored fireworks, an effort led by sixth grader Camden Shanks. The buildings are painted showing one point perspective, as if one is looking upwards at them.



Special Education Highlight: Occupational Therapy

Occupational Therapy (OT) is a health profession which engages individuals in activities that make up daily life. These occupations can be, but are not limited to, self-care skills, using school tools to include crayons/pencils, handwriting, transitions, vocational tasks or attending in class. For most of us, participating in daily 'occupations' comes naturally and we take it for granted, but for some it is a struggle. For those that struggle, the school system provides a variety of support services.

Within the school setting, OT is available as a Related Service to students receiving Special Education and is determined through the IEP process. A school-based OT's role is to assess the child and their circumstances, and use a task-analysis break down for an activity/occupation in order to determine the reason the child may be having difficulty. If the IEP team determines that a student requires OT to participate and experience success with regards to his or her annual goals, the OT then collaborates within the team to determine the type and amount of service required. OT service can be provided on a direct, consultative or monitor basis depending on the needs of the student and can include supports such as specific programs, adaptations, modifications, compensatory strategies and special accommodations. OTs can also observe entire classes and provide suggestions/strategies regarding students in general as well as make recommendations for classroom environmental modifications as time allows.

Barbara MacDonald, our fully licensed part-time Occupational Therapist here at RCPS, thinks there is nothing more rewarding than seeing the smile on a child's face and the sense of pride they feel when they finally experience success at any occupation that we so often take for granted. April is Occupational Therapy month, so please take a moment to thank Barbara for her important contributions to the RCPS school division!

Commit to Be Fit Update

Finishing healthy and strong

With Earth Day celebrated in April, Commit to Be Fit Wellness Integration Specialist, Jacqui Lowe-Barton, and Nutrition Specialist, Mandi Grove, seized the opportunity to provide specialized lessons on the importance of health and wellness and how the Earth is so integral to these processes. In Mrs.

Deal's first grade class, students discussed the Earth and read *The Earth Book*, discussing the benefits of recycling. Mrs. Lowe-Barton incorporated "brain breaks" into the lesson to enhance students' engagement and brain function during the lesson. Examples of brain breaks designed to heighten learning in the classroom are cross-lateralization movements, which require the right side of either the upper body or lower body moving simultaneously with the opposite side of the lower or upper body. Students perform these movements while



involving the brain in a learning function such as counting by 2's, 5's, or 10's. After these brain breaks, students discussed what it means to be a good citizen, taking care of your personal space, as well as shared places. The fun didn't end at the close of school on April 24. Mrs. Lowe-Barton held an Earth Day themed Kid's Yoga class for interested students in the auxiliary gym after school. Ten students attended and learned yoga stretches that pertained to natural elements of the Earth.



In the cafeteria, fresh and nutritious menu items are continuously being added to both school menus through the Commit to be Fit grant. This month at RCES, a grilled chicken Caesar bowl was featured. Nutrition specialist, Mandi Grove, tracks cafeteria sales and gathers student input to consider what new items

will become fully adopted. Seventh grader, Maeve Ciuba, recently partnered with Ms. Grove this month and ventured into the RCES cafeteria during breakfast to gather data on the new cinnamon fruit nachos and fruit yogurt parfaits. Overall, both breakfasts received a "love it" rating from survey participants. Maeve's full article on her findings can be found in the upcoming issue of the 7th grade newspaper.



RCES Students Immersed in Extracurricular Activities

Many students at RCES were busy thinking about events outside of our building this month. Service projects, math contests, and reading battles were on their minds. Seventh graders in Mrs. L'Amoreaux's class sent a fair amount of food to the local food pantry as part of a problem-based learning activity involving packaging and nets.





Students who joined the 24 Math Club this year from grades 3 through 7 vied for positions on the team that traveled to Orange County for the regional tournament. Though no medals were brought home, two third-graders, Andrew Duncan and Seth Shackelford, made it into the second round of tournament play. Fourth grader, Shelby Clem, was ecstatic that she had increased the number of points she earned overall. The team was happy to have competed well and is looking forward to next year's competition.

Finally, the RCES sixth and seventh grade Battle of the Books team traveled to Warrenton Middle School for the final battle! The students were accompanied by most of the parents and the eighth grade team from RCHS. Great job to the Battle of the Books team!



RCES Students Earn Governor's Congratulations

Economics and Personal Finance State Champions!

Governor Terry McAuliffe congratulated the winners of the Governor's Challenge in Economics and Personal Finance. The winners emerged from a pool of 148 students who participated in a day-long championship competition held at Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) on April 26. Those students were selected from the more than 2,500 high school students, from all across the Commonwealth, who took part in the open, online competition.



"I would like to congratulate all of the winners of the 2017 Governor's Challenge in Economics and Personal Finance," **Governor McAuliffe said.** "Developing and honing skills in personal finance and sound economic decision-making are essential to ensuring life-long success in the new Virginia economy. These are the kinds of high-demand skills that employers the world over are looking for, and the winners we are announcing today prove that the Commonwealth is ready to answer that call."

Teams competing in the Personal Finance division were required to develop recommendations based on a case study. Teams competing in the Economics division faced off in a Quiz Bowl. **Rappahannock County High School took first place** in the Economics and Personal Finance (EPF) competition, earning the State Championship title and an invitation to compete at the national contest. EPF classmates, Savannah Stevens, Mahlet Yirgu, Bryce Jones, and John Paul Riedel, coached by EPF teacher, Linda Petty, earned the first place trophies.

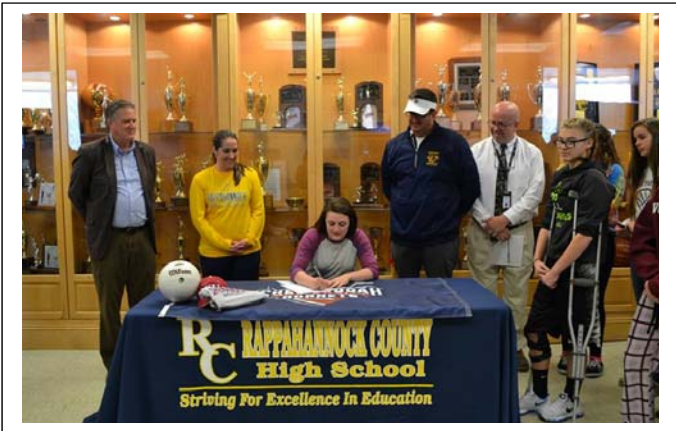
"Congratulations to the winning teams and their teachers and to all of this year's Governor's Challenge participants," **Superintendent of Public Instruction Steven R. Staples said.** "The challenge is a great opportunity for students to apply what they have learned and for schools to earn recognition for their success in preparing students to be smart consumers, savers, investors, entrepreneurs, and citizens."



Upcoming Events and Announcements

- ❖ April 29: Spring Musical, *School of Rock* at RCHS 7 PM
- ❖ April 30: Spring Musical, *School of Rock* at RCHS 3 PM
- ❖ May 1-5: Teacher Appreciation Week
- ❖ May 7: Senior Banquet
- ❖ May 8: PTO meeting at RCES library 6:30 PM
- ❖ May 9: School Board Meeting at RCHS 6:00 PM
- ❖ May 12: DARE Day
- ❖ May 13-16: Senior Trip
- ❖ May 17: Pre-K graduation at RCES 2:00 PM
- ❖ May 19: Last day of school
- ❖ May 19: 7th grade graduation at RCES 9:00 AM
- ❖ May 21: Baccalaureate at RCHS 7 PM
- ❖ May 26: Graduation at RCHS 7 PM

For upcoming athletic events visit the RCPS Sports Page:
<http://rappahannockcountyhs.schoolteams.com/>



Senior, Kayla Robey, signing to play volleyball at Shenandoah University.



Senior, Jack Massie, signing to play football at Shenandoah University.



Senior, Gavin Jenkins, signing to run track for VMI.

RCPS Vision Statement:

To empower every student to reach his or her full potential.