

RAPPAHANNOCK COUNTY SCHOOLS PANTHER PRIDE NEWSLETTER

DR. DONNA MATTHEWS, SUPERINTENDENT

CAREER DAY AT RCHS

Community partners share expertise with students

Last Monday, November 21, Rappahannock County High School hosted the annual Career Day Exposition with local industry representatives filling the gym and answering students' questions about possible career options. Catering to students who plan to attend college before embarking on a career, as well as those who plan to enter the working world a bit sooner, the Career Day Expo featured information from fifteen different industries, most of which had local business owners and employees as the industry representative.

A product of the Career and Technical Education (CTE) program of RCHS, the Career Day Expo brought to life the CTE classes that exist hand-in-hand with traditional academic programs in our schools. CTE serves both college-bound and career-bound high school graduates with its dual emphasis on providing job specific educational experiences for our students while also exposing students to as many career options as possible. This year's Career Day Expo was spearheaded by RCHS CTE teacher, Scott Schlosser, and Headwaters' Next Step Coordinator, Kat Habib, both ably assisted by the school division's CTE Director, Shannon Grimsley and the CTE department.

This year's Expo featured representatives from the hospitality industry, agribusiness, law enforcement, landscaping, banking and financial services, social work, legal services, healthcare, education, veterinary service, public utilities and historical services. Answering students' questions and in some cases providing some limited hands-on experiences, all of the exhibitors were on their feet and busy from 1:30 PM until the close of the school day at 3:15. Over 400 students visited the Career Expo, with seventh through twelfth grade students coming in to meet with them in shifts.



ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITY

National Youth Science Camp

The National Youth Science Camp (NYSC) is an intense month-long camp for young scientists conducted during the summer after they graduate from high school. In a rustic setting in West Virginia, students from around the country are challenged academically in exciting lectures and hands-on studies on current science topics. The program also offers participants the opportunity to experience a wide variety of outdoor activities that have minimal impact on the environment and are challenging for the experienced but accessible to those who have never participated in outdoor excursions. The NYSC is an all-expenses-paid program. The National Youth Science Foundation will arrange round trip transportation from an airport near the delegate's home to Charleston, West Virginia.

Two students will be chosen to represent Virginia as delegates to the National Youth Science Camp. Information about the National Youth Science Camp and an application may be obtained at the [National Youth Science Camp](#) Web site. The application must be submitted through the NYSC Web site by March 1, 2017.



The engaging displays motivated students to seek out employment information for their own benefit and also to complete an assignment requiring them to record information from presenters and then match each presenter with its CTE industry description. By days end, more than a few of the students had a possible lead on a job and most had new found realizations about opportunities available to them in the world of work.

Local business and individuals that participated in the Career Expo included CFC Farm & Home Center, Rappahannock Electric Cooperative, Rappahannock County Sheriff's Office, The Inn of Little

Washington, Union Bank, Rappahannock Landscaping and Nursery, Rappahannock Historical Society, Lord Fairfax Community College, Paul Kirchman, SGT, National Counseling Group, Rose Hill Veterinary Service, Steve Carroll, and Valley Health. Many thanks to our community presenters for providing our students with the information needed to make career decisions that can take them wherever they want to go or allow them to remain in their hometown here in Rappahannock County.



MARKET DAY SUCCESS AT RCES

Project-based economics exploration for 3rd grade

As a culmination to their unit on economics, third grade students enjoyed a lively and well attended Market Day in the RCES gym. Students learned to create an economy and follow basic economic principles in order to create their own product, advertise, and sell at this real-life simulation event. All students created a product or developed a service that could be marketed to their peers during the exciting selling and shopping event. This project-based learning curriculum involves a partnership with families and promoted discussions about economics both at home and at school.

Although the money that is used by the third graders is not real currency, it is very real to the students who spent several weeks doing class jobs in order to earn their salary. This year, the winning design for the Market Day currency was created by Carmen Pond and was called "Mr. Greens."

I'M DETERMINED TRAINING FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION TEAM

Following the parent introduction of the *I'm Determined* program at the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting on November 3rd, six RCPS staff members participated in additional training designed for educators to foster development of students' self-determined behavior. The group, consisting of teachers, the school psychologist, and administrators, heard presentations from Region IV representatives from the Virginia Department of Education's (VDOE) Training and Technical Assistance Center (T/TAC) who provided real-life examples of how the program is being successfully implemented in surrounding schools to improve students' sense of empowerment and ownership in their education. Attendees returned with an *I'm Determined* "tool kit" which included good day action plans, student generated models for goal accomplishment, and a graphic organizer to diagram strengths, interests, preferences, and personal challenges. Grounded in the philosophy of Positive Behavioral Interventions and Support (PBIS), this program provides students with required life skills outlined in the VDOE Profile of a Virginia Graduate to assist them in not only accomplishing their school goals but their postgraduate and career objectives as well. Special education staff will be meeting in the coming months to implement strategies from this training to support our students in making their own decisions and choices to improve their quality of life. Additional information on the *I'm Determined* Program and an annual Youth Summit can be found at <http://www.imdetermined.org/>.



As the excitement mounted, parents arrived early to assist their students in setting up shop! Together they spread out bookmarks, birdseed pinecones, baked goods, Christmas ornaments, origami, and many other products, then waited patiently for the bell to ring to mark the beginning of the market. Some students chose to stay at their booths to sell their product while others ventured out to other shops to find great buys. Parents and visitors were generously given a small amount of “Mr. Greens” to enjoy shopping for treasures. Students put their economics knowledge to use as they discussed their products or services and used effective marketing strategies to make a sale. Mathematics played a key role as students making the sale counted out correct change for their customers. These hardworking third grade students earned well deserved compliments from visitors, students, and school staff.

RCHS LATIN STUDENTS EARN ACCOLADES

A strong performance at the VA Junior Classical League Convention

We are proud of our RCHS Latin students who recently competed in a state event and brought home impressive finishes! RCHS Latin teacher, James Sharpe, along with parent chaperone, Tasha White, took a bus full of Latin class students to the annual Virginia Junior Classical League (VJCL) Convention, held over a two day span at the Richmond Convocation Center in Richmond, Virginia, on November 20 and 21.

The VJCL convention brings together over two thousand Latin students from over one hundred schools in Virginia. Students compete in oratory contests including dramatic interpretation and storytelling of classical myths. Other academic contests include classical geography, grammar, reading comprehension, and classical history, and there are also several art contests featuring student produced work. There were a total of three test sessions given throughout the convention, with most students attempting one test per session and anywhere between 50 and 200 students competing against one another in each test. When the final oratory had been delivered and the last piece of artwork had been judged, RCHS students brought home a remarkable 6 top five finishes and 15 top ten finishes, including one first place award in classical geography.

Reflecting the variety of talent our students display, many competed and placed in multiple events within each test session. Kayla Compton, for example, attempted seven tests and finished in the top 10 in each, including a remarkable first place finish in geography. The top ten finishers for the RCHS contingent were led by Kayla Compton with a first in geography, 5th in grammar, 7th in vocabulary, 7th in pentathlon, 9th in reading comprehension, and 9th in derivatives. Additionally, Skye Kirchman placed 3rd in the art/dolls category, Emily Preston 4th in art oils/acrylics, Macy Montgomery





4th in art/quotes, Hannah Dowd 9th in grammar, Tatyana Yates 8th in storytelling, Serenity Cortez 6th in geography, and Savannah Stevens 6th in mythology and 8th in poetry reading comprehension.

A special thanks goes out to the Headwaters Foundation and the RCES Parent Teacher Organization, both of whom were generous financial supporters of the Latin Convention trip. Thanks to their generous support and to the fundraising of the Latin students themselves and support from the RCPS administration, all of our participating RCHS students were able to attend and enjoy this amazing event at a minimal cost to their families. Buoyed by the strong community support, our Latin students took to heart the words on a plaque at RCHS, *Carpe Diem* (seize the day), and went to Richmond determined to make the most of their time and bring honor to their school.

VARSITY VOLLEYBALL CHAMPS EARN STATE RECOGNITION

The Virginia High School League announced its First and Second All-State Team players, along with its highly anticipated *Player of the Year* and *Coach of the Year* accolades, in a press release this week. Rappahannock's undefeated Panther Varsity Volleyball Team took top honors this year, with three players making the First Team All-State slate as well as both *Player of the Year* and *Coach of the Year* titles. Julia Estes not only made the First Team All-State roster, but also earned the *Player of the Year* title, a great way to end her senior volleyball season career at RCHS. Joining her on the First Team All-State list are seniors, Kayla Robey and Brianna Settle. Coach Courtney Atkins earned the *Coach of the Year* recognition for her leadership and inspirational guidance, ultimately resulting in an undefeated volleyball season and a state championship title. RCPS is incredibly proud of this amazing team. Go Panthers!





Upcoming Events and Announcements

- ❖ December 5: PTO Penguin Patch Shop opens at RCES
- ❖ December 5: PTO meeting at RCES 6:30 PM
- ❖ December 5: End of Course SOL testing window opens at RCHS
- ❖ December 6: Varsity Theater Festival at Monticello HS 4:30 PM
- ❖ December 10: District Band auditions at RCHS 7:00 AM - 4:00 PM
- ❖ December 10: East Coast Pro Wrestling event at RCHS 7:00 PM
- ❖ December 14: Band and Choir concert at RCES 6:30 PM
- ❖ December 19: Kindergarten performance at RCES 6:30 PM
- ❖ December 19 & 20: RCHS semester exams

For upcoming athletic events visit the RCPS Sports Page:

<http://rappahannockcountyhs.schoolteams.com/>



Commit to Be Fit check-ins will be held on Monday, Dec. 12th – Tuesday, Dec. 20th. Use this link to schedule an appointment:

www.SignUpGenius.com/go/4090B4BA5A629A3FE3-c2bf1

Or, come to our open check-ins at the School Board Office on the following dates:

Friday, December 16- 7:30am-1:00pm
Saturday, December 17- 9:45am-11:00am
Monday, December 19- 3:00pm-7:00pm
Tuesday, December 20- 2:00pm-7:00pm

Collectively, as a community working toward greater health and wellness, we are already seeing great results. At our first check-in, we recorded a total community weight loss of 214.8 lbs! Total waist inches lost: 119.15"!

Keep up the great work. We can do this together.



RCPS Vision Statement:

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