

RAPPAHANNOCK COUNTY SCHOOLS PANTHER PRIDE NEWSLETTER

DR. DONNA MATTHEWS, SUPERINTENDENT

NATIONAL COUNSELING WEEK

This week around the nation, schools honor those who provide assistance to families in the form of academic, social, and emotional counseling. Do you know who these amazing people are at RCPS?

RCES Guidance Counselor, Candy Lamma



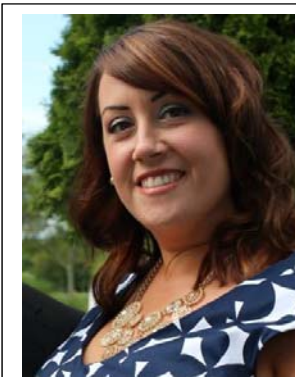
For more than 30 years, Candy Lamma has helped children in grades K-7 in her role as guidance counselor. In that time, she has created a character education program, served on various committees, such as the OLWEUS anti-bullying committee, provides career and transition services and private counseling to students, and manages and oversees student records at the elementary school. On top of these regular duties, she also assists with GT screenings and identifications, testing, and English as a Second Language programs.

RCES Guidance Counselor, Dani Pond

Dani Pond has spearheaded the PRIDE Program for the high school the last two years, as an extension of the OLWEUS anti-bullying efforts at RCES. She has also received a grant from the PATH Foundation to begin the 8th Grade Academy, a bridging program to help transition 8th graders to the high school. On top of these exciting initiatives, Mrs. Pond manages Academic and Career Plans, assists with the English as a Second Language Program at the high school, testing, and scheduling.



Guidance Director, Michelle Papa



Michelle Papa, guidance director for RCES, has been in charge of scheduling and was largely responsible for one of the smoothest starts to the school year in terms of schedule changes. Ms. Papa also oversees SOL testing at the high school, the Naviance computer-based counseling program for scheduling, curriculum, and career connections, and collaborates with the Next Step Program to help students find additional opportunities for enrichment, scholarships, and college options. Ms. Papa is also responsible for organizing the graduation ceremony.

Enrichment Opportunity:

The Virginia Holocaust Museum is now accepting entries for its 20th annual Visual Arts Contest. This year's theme is "Impact," which encourages students who have been inspired by either the Holocaust Museum itself, or by the events of the Holocaust from lessons at school, to share through artistic expression the impact this event has had on them. Students in grades 6-12 are eligible to enter the contest. Cash prizes in the amount of \$500, \$250, and \$150 will be awarded in each division to the winning pieces. The divisions are junior (grades 6-8) and senior (9-12). All entries must be original, and if references or resources are used from online or print sources, they must be appropriately cited. The guidelines for submitted work requires that 2-D entries should be no bigger than 24" x 24" in size, and 3-D entries must be sized to sit on a small pedestal. Entries must be matted and mounted on a firm support, such as foam core, wood, or frame, making sure the piece is rigid. A hanging method must be a consideration for all 2-D entries as pieces will hang from the left and right sides near the top. Any charcoal, pencil, or pastels that are submitted need to be sprayed with a fixative to prevent transfer and smudges, and framed works should have eye hooks securely anchored at the top. All artwork will be on display from April 1st through June 2nd, and it will be the responsibility of the student or teacher to pick up artwork. Awards will be presented on April 23rd, 2017 at the Virginia Holocaust Museum, and the winning artwork will be on display in the museum lobby until June 2018. For more information, please visit: https://www.vaholocaust.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/Art-Contest_2017-1.pdf

RCPS thanks our wonderful guidance counselors for all the work they do daily to ensure our students' experiences at school are positive.



Science Fair at RCES

Students investigate their world

It's Science Fair time again at RCES! 6th and 7th grade students, teachers and parents have been diligently working on experiments to present in the science fair. Students select a project in the fall and then complete a research paper to build knowledge about the experiment. They then conduct the experiment at home and return from winter break to work on the boards to display what they have discovered and learned from their projects. The boards were judged on Thursday by former regional science fair participants, Mountain Vista Governor's School students, exploratory teachers, and staff members. The judges studied the projects and interviewed students most of the day on Thursday and decided on the finalists. Sixth and seventh grade students gathered on Friday afternoon to hear the results. The overall science fair winner was seventh grader, Cassia Gainer. First place went to 7th grader, John Cody Clark. Seventh grader, Ava Genho, earned second place and sixth grader, Elijah Settle, took third place. Seventh grader, Clint Snead received honorable mention. Additional participants who made it to the interview process then received a ribbon and participation certificate included



Special Education: Transition from School to Work

One of the most important responsibilities of our special education program is to ensure that our students are ready for the world of work. To support accomplishment of this important goal, each special education student's individual education plan (IEP) contains a section that addresses "secondary transition" by identifying the student's postsecondary education goals, vocational training opportunities, needs regarding independent living skills, and employment interests as well as the designated persons and agencies who can help the student to accomplish these goals. Students may be referred to the Department of Rehabilitative Services (DARS) which provides employment services to help people with disabilities get ready for, find, and keep a job. DARS has a residential training and medical rehabilitation center known as the Wilson Workforce and Rehabilitation Center in addition to field offices located across Virginia. The agency also partners with a network of Employment Services Organizations that help to provide employment and vocational services throughout the state. For students with disabilities moving from high school to further education, work or independence, DARS collaborates with schools in facilitating transition services.

RCPS has been fortunate to coordinate our relationship with DARS through Culpeper representative Lynn Stephenson, a Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor who meets with eligible students at RCHS several times each year to chart a course for their future steps after graduation. For additional information on how to schedule an appointment with Mr. Stephenson, please contact Carol Johnson at 540-227-0023 or cjohnson@rappahannockschools.us.



seventh graders Blake Keyser, Morgan Banks, Olivia Gibson, Heather Williams, and Josh Jones along with sixth graders Nicholas Plaksin and Sam Reed. There were many great projects to choose from and we are proud of all of our students who participated in the science

fair this year. Top winners are invited to the Regional Science Fair at UVA in March. We wish them the best of luck!

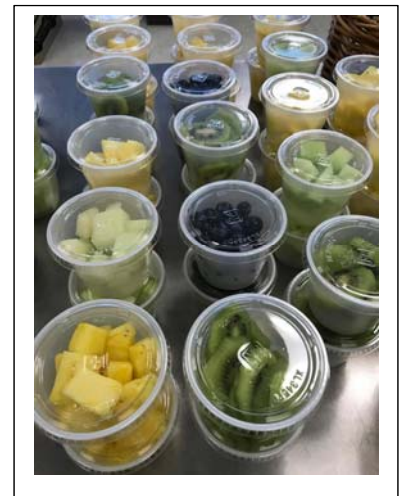




Commit to Be Fit in the Cafeteria

New menu items added

Commit to be Fit's (C2BF) Nutritionist, Amanda Grove, introduced new items this week in the cafeteria at RCHS, including a chicken pasta and broccoli dish. Students were able to sample this new dish while in the cafeteria line before purchasing lunch. Ms. Grove also brought the samples into the commons for those who packed lunch in case they wished to change their minds. The samples were well received and students are excited to see what items await on the



March menu. Students were also able to color their plates with a variety of fresh fruit options, including pineapple, kiwi, blueberries, honey dew, cantaloupe, pears, oranges, and strawberries. C2BF will continue its work toward healthier school lunches.

Upcoming Events and Announcements

- ❖ February 15: Reality Store for 8th Graders
- ❖ February 20: Early Dismissal for Students 12:30 PM
- ❖ February 20-24: Book Fair at RCES
- ❖ February 21: After School Tutoring Begins
- ❖ February 27-March 3: Read Across America Week
- ❖ March 2: Early Dismissal for Students 12:30 PM
- ❖ March 2: Parent Teacher Conferences
- ❖ March 6: Winter Sports Awards Celebration
- ❖ March 9: End of 3rd Quarter
- ❖ March 21: Report Cards Go Home
- ❖ April 8: Prom
- ❖ April 29-30: Spring Musical, *School of Rock*

For upcoming athletic events visit the RCPS Sports Page:

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



RCPS Vision Statement:

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