

RAPPAHANNOCK COUNTY SCHOOLS PANTHER PRIDE NEWSLETTER

DR. DONNA MATTHEWS, SUPERINTENDENT

BUS DRIVER APPRECIATION WEEK

February 13-17th was Bus Driver Appreciation Week!

Each day our Rappahannock County Public Schools bus drivers are the first staff members to greet our students with a friendly “Good Morning!” and the last to see them as they walk down the bus steps to go home. We appreciate our drivers’ dedication to Rappahannock County Public Schools, and are so thankful for their vigilance in bringing our children safely to school and back home each day. In order to show our appreciation to these hard working staff members who have such a great influence on our students, they were treated to an appreciation breakfast on Friday morning. Please take a moment to let a driver know how thankful you are for them.



Enrichment Opportunity: **Young Scientist Video Challenge**

Discovery Education’s annual 2017 Young Scientist Challenge is accepting entries for its online video contest. Students in grades 5-8 are invited to create a 1-2 minute video describing a new, innovative solution that could solve an everyday problem. Ten finalists will be chosen for their passion for science, spirit of innovation and ingenuity, and effective communication skills. Through the video, students must explain the problem and how it impacts them, their families, and their community, describe a new innovative solution that could solve the problem with science, technology, engineering, and math behind their innovation, and illustrate how the solution could have a broader impact. For more information regarding the challenge, please visit: <https://www.youngscientistlab.com/challenge/about/rules>

Entries must be received by April 19, 2017.



Art Integration at RCES

Students Explore Artistic Expression

The arts are an essential part of the curriculum at RCES. Teachers work hard to integrate artistic expression in lessons, or at least encourage student artistic expression in projects. Below are some examples of recent student artwork integration:

Sixth grade artists designed, built and painted monster/characters for a fictional monster movie! These monsters were sculpted using paper, tape, and foil before being wrapped with plaster gauze and then painted.



Special Education: Meeting the Needs of the Whole Child

Physical well-being is essential to academic growth, and RCPS continues to address the connection of the mind and body by integrating health and wellness instruction within the regular instructional program through Commit to Be Fit (C2BF). C2BF's Nutritionist, Mandi Grove, and Wellness Integration Specialist, Jacqui Lowe-Barton, shared a lesson on wellness with 5th grade students in Ms. Alexander's class this past week. The benefits of a healthy lifestyle and examples of each food group using My Plate were presented along with kinesthetic learning techniques that allowed students to share answers, practice brain breaks, and get heart rates up. Heart-healthy foods were discussed as a means to celebrate our hearts for Valentine's Day and options that weren't so healthy were pointed out also. The students enjoyed every minute of this special lesson that offered an additional opportunity to improve reading skills involving fluency and comprehension, confirming that learning can happen in motion. A writing activity along with some cooldown stretches concluded the lesson and each student was presented with their very own fruit pen as a reminder to practice healthy life choices.



Students in the 5th grade art classes have been working on sculpting working maracas using natural earthenware. Each maraca is shaped like a realistic object, such as a cupcake or penguin. These maracas will be fired in the kiln at RCHS and then painted.

In connection with a social studies unit on ancient civilizations, third graders learned about functional pottery in Ancient Greece. Each child used simple hand-building techniques to create their own coil pot. These pots are about to be fired and then glazed before going home.



Continued Community Support

Thank you to the Lions and RCSSA!

RCHS extends a hearty thank you to the Rappahannock County Lion's Club, recent donors to two school causes. A \$350.00 donation was recently made to the RCHS Leo Club, the high school equivalent of the Lions community organization. An additional \$500.00 was donated by the Lions to the RCHS senior class, to be put towards expenses for their planned senior trip outing to New York City.

And the RCHS Athletic Department, along with the rest of the school, extend an equally hearty THANK YOU to the Rappahannock County School Sports Association, RCSSA, for their funding of charter buses to take our Varsity Wrestlers and our Scholastic Bowl teams to their respective State Championship tournaments. Thanks to RCSSA for their support of our athletic programs and our exemplary student athletes.



RCHS Students Begin YouTube Campaign Dunk and Donate for Duchenne

Joy Richardson's Flex Class may be the next YouTube sensation with their Dunk and Donate for Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy community service program. Inspired by the success of the Ice Bucket Challenges that raised awareness and funds for ALS research, the Duchenne M.D. Dunk and Donate challenge was adopted as a class project by Mrs. Richardson's Flex Class. This particular cause is a personal one for RCCHS students, having witnessed a classmate struggle with Duchenne's each and every day.

Weeks of planning and research into the disease have been conducted by the class, as well as learning how to help a video go viral and how to foster success with the challenge. Students are now working on contacting organizations, media outlets, celebrities and YouTubers to help spread the word and promote the challenge. Students also created their own Facebook Dunking video, which after just 36 hours of posting, had achieved over 2000 views. View (and share) the video here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eRsw04X7kkk>

Upcoming Events and Announcements

- ❖ February 17: C2BF Guest Lecture on Diet & Nutrition
RCCHS 7 PM
- ❖ February 18: Mini-Golf Band Fundraiser RCCHS 2 PM – 8 PM
- ❖ 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 3: Read Across America Assembly RCES 6:30 PM
- ❖ 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/>

Mini-Golf at RCCHS - This Saturday, February 18, the hallways of Rappahannock County High School will be transformed into a mini-golf resort via the award winning Panther Band's Indoor Mini-Golf FUN-raiser. Running from 2 to 8 PM, the mini-golf event will cost \$5 per 18 holes for adults, \$3 for students and children, with all proceeds going directly to the band.

Side games including mini-golf billiards and corn-hole will also be available and gamers are encouraged to show up hungry as concessions will be available and will include hot dogs, BBQ and coleslaw, candy, sodas and more treats. Be sure to come out to RCCHS on Saturday, February 18, from 2-8 PM and have some mini-golf fun and support the award winning Panther Band in the process!

RCPS Vision Statement:

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