

RAPPAHANNOCK COUNTY SCHOOLS PANTHER PRIDE NEWSLETTER

DR. DONNA MATTHEWS, SUPERINTENDENT

RCHS STUDENT RECEIVES PRESTIGIOUS LEADERSHIP AWARD

In keeping with the high achievements earned by Rappahannock County students, RCPS is pleased to announce that senior Jack Massie is the recipient of the 2017 Harry F. Byrd Leadership Award. Recognizing Virginia's outstanding high school seniors, the Leadership Award was established by Senator Byrd himself in 1994 to recognize and reward young men and women who excel academically and demonstrate qualities of leadership. Senator Byrd's intention in establishing this award program was to cultivate leadership among Virginia's young men and women, believing as he did that these young citizens will advance both our educational system and our government with their leadership skills.

The Leadership Award Program has a threefold purpose; to create a desire for excellence among students, to enhance student's self-assurance, and to provide recognition and financial assistance to students with outstanding leadership qualities. Each award winner, one from each of Virginia's eleven congressional districts, receives a \$10,000.00 honorarium, with no restriction on its use. To date there have been 187 recipients of the award.

Every high school in each congressional district nominates a student for consideration, with three top nominees chosen from each district. Those nominees are then interviewed by the award committee, with one chosen from each of the eleven districts. The award committee is chaired by the Chief Justice of the Virginia Supreme Court and the committee itself includes attorneys, judges, university presidents, and accomplished businessmen, all of whom are noted for their records of character and accomplishment.

Award winners will be presented with their prizes and noted for their accomplishments on Wednesday, February 15, 2017, at the Virginia Supreme Court Building in Richmond, Virginia. RCHS Guidance Director, Michelle Papa, along with Principal, Mike Tupper, plan to be in attendance to join in the honoring Jack Massie. Congratulations to Jack and his parents for this outstanding accomplishment, the first ever by a RCHS student. And congratulations to Jack's classmates and teachers, all of whom, as Jack would be the first to say, played a role in helping him to attain this and other notable achievements.



Enrichment Opportunity:

The Marine Corps Scholarship Foundation believes that career and technical education is pivotal for our society, and is passionate about increasing the number of scholarship recipients that pursue additional career training. The scholarships are for children of Marines and Navy Corpsmen pursuing a post-secondary education at any accredited school, whether that is a career training, trade school, community college, or four-year university. The Foundation's financial needs scholarships are available to every eligible applicant. Since 1962, the Scholarship Foundation has provided more than 37,000 needs-based scholarships, valued at nearly \$100,000,000.

The scholarship application is open year-round for students enrolled in career and technical education programs that are less than 12 months in length. For programs longer than 12 months, the application is open from January 1 to March 1 each year. Students can apply at www.mcsf.org/cte.



Team-Building Day at RCES An OLWEUS Anti-Bullying Initiative

The OLWEUS Bullying Prevention Committee planned and coordinated a Team Building Day at RCES on Friday, January 27. Students in Kindergarten through 5th grade participated in the activities with enthusiasm! Each student was assigned to a small group and experienced four different activities which emphasized working together to reach a common goal. Skills that



were highlighted included linking arms with team members to move through various patterns without breaking the chain, climbing over and under ropes without touching them while remaining in contact with teammates,

silently completing puzzles by sharing pieces with teammates, building towers using only string and rubber bands, and climbing through hula hoops without touching them. Team members cheered each other on during these fun activities. The success of this event was seen in the smiling faces of students and their positive interactions with their peers.

Team building activities are an important part of personal and group development. These activities help to strengthen children's social and emotional skills, confidence, and good sportsmanship. Students will conduct a survey discussing what they enjoyed most and what they learned from these experiences. The students' comments will be used in planning next year's team building activities. Thank you to the many staff members and volunteers who made this fun and memorable day happen!

Special Education: Fitting Instruction to Student Need

There is nothing more gratifying than seeing students who are excited and confident about learning to read, and the RCPS primary special services reading class provides a prime model of this inspiring opportunity. Research show that success in reading by the end of third grade is directly related to later success in school, and under the guidance of Ms. Kaitlyn Ghelfi, our special needs students in grades 1-3 are receiving the specially designed instructional environment that is needed to help them to accomplish this goal. The classroom is arranged to meet a variety of unique learning and sensory needs, including access to manipulatives that promote concrete learning and "wobble stools" that support kinesthetic learning styles through strategic movement. With the able assistance of instructional aide Crystal Jenkins, Ms. Ghelfi provides a broad-based approach to reading instruction that focuses on sight-word mastery, phonics instruction through the Wilson reading program, and SOL skills instruction in a supportive and encouraging environment that enables students to succeed at a pace that is appropriate for their specific learning needs. During a recent visit, students were observed building words using letter beads, making predictions by utilizing prior knowledge, as well as accessing the Smart Board for dictionary skills practice. These eager learners were not only motivated to read, but given additional support to ensure a feeling of accomplishment- a recipe guaranteed for success in any book! Through continued support, these students will not only learn to read, but become proficient at reading to learn.



Commit to Be Fit in the Classrooms

Students learn about nutrition and fitness

Commit to be Fit's (C2BF) Nutritionist, Amanda Grove, and Wellness Integration Specialist, Jacqui Lowe-Barton, have been visiting classrooms to teach the importance of nutrition and physical activity to RCPS students. This week's lesson included a reading passage about creating a healthy meal and then a proverbial trip to the grocery store. After reading about and discussing what foods make up a balanced meal following



the USDA's MyPlate recommendations,

students went shopping to create their own

meal. The lesson was designed kinesthetically, so students could be active and have

fun while learning. Increasing students' knowledge, skills, and confidence to make

healthy choices is a goal of the Commit to be Fit program in order to promote healthy living in the Rappahannock community.



Upcoming Events and Announcements

- ❖ February 6: C2BF Great 8 Countdown Workshop 6 PM, Aux Gym Band Room
- ❖ February 6: PTO meeting at 6:30 PM
- ❖ February 7: Progress Reports Go Home RCES
- ❖ 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.