

RAPPAHANNOCK COUNTY SCHOOLS PANTHER PRIDE NEWSLETTER

DR. DONNA MATTHEWS, SUPERINTENDENT

RCPS READING/MATH INTERVENTIONIST/ SPECIALIST GEARS UP FOR READ ACROSS AMERICA WEEK

Rappahannock County Schools' Reading Interventionist, Katherine Todd, is gearing up for another spectacular reading initiative on the heels of her very successful *One School, One Book* event, which had the entire community talking about the colorful characters in *Charlotte's Web*. Read Across America Week is an annual reading motivation and awareness campaign that calls for every child across the nation to celebrate reading the week of March 2, the birthday of beloved children's author, Dr. Seuss. Last year, Mrs. Todd captivated the school community through a week



full of fun to celebrate the event. Through her use of federal funding to support reading, and her active participation and collaboration with the RCPS PTO, Todd was able to facilitate reading activities for all students, an assembly

featuring Dean Allen, the Wizard of Reading, as well as an evening performance and book swap. Every student received books and t-shirts to celebrate reading, and teachers incorporated Dr. Seuss themed lessons in order to ignite the passion for learning. This year, Mrs. Todd promises another fun-filled event to inspire all students to learn to love to read. We look forward to Read Across America the week of March 2nd.

Enrichment Opportunity:

The Society of Women Engineers at the University of Virginia invites high school juniors, sophomores, and seniors to apply to the High School Visitation program on Saturday, April 1st, 2017. The program gives young women a comprehensive look at engineering fields and UVA's engineering curriculum through informative speakers and hands-on design activities. The program is designed to benefit participants with all levels of engineering experience, but particularly targets those students who are not yet familiar with the field and may be interested in applying to engineering schools or pursuing a STEM career.

To apply, students should complete the [HSV Spring 2017 Application](#). This spring session particularly targets high school juniors, but sophomores and seniors can also apply.

The application must be completed online by 11:59 pm on Saturday, February 25th, 2017.

"You have brains in your head. You have feet in your shoes. You can steer yourself any direction you choose!"

~ Dr. Seuss

RCPS Chromebook Initiative

Computers in every classroom!

Rappahannock County Public Schools is pleased to announce the implementation of Google Chromebooks in our classrooms.

A Chromebook is a personal computer that runs Google Chrome as its operating system, meaning most of its applications and documents are stored in the cloud rather than on the device.

The Chromebook is made to connect quickly to the Internet and supports apps that are on the web, not ones that are downloaded to the device. A pilot study, graciously funded by Headwaters in November 2015, was conducted in the district to examine the effectiveness of using Chromebooks in the classroom. The pilot was a success! 500 Chromebooks are now being placed in our classrooms with the purpose of equipping students with a 21st century tool for their success.



As we work toward meeting the Virginia Department of Education's goal of project based learning and assessment, Chromebooks will become an integral part of the process. Chromebooks enhance student communication and collaboration opportunities. Gmail, calendars, and video conferencing, all available on the Chromebooks, will support students in connecting with others and keeping up to date with assignments. Chromebooks allow students to work together while completing group projects, reports, a PowerPoint, or videos. Teachers have received training on using Chromebooks in their classroom and are very enthusiastic to begin implementing them in their lessons.

RCES Celebrates the 100th Day of School

Students in kindergarten and first grades recently celebrated the 100th day of school at RCES. They participated in many different types of activities all related to the number 100. These fun activities included counting by ones, fives, and tens to 100, creating edible necklaces made of 100 Fruit Loops and beautiful crowns displaying sets of tens. Students enjoyed participating in activities in which they began with a prediction about how many times they could complete various activities such as solving 100 addition problems, doing 100 jumping jacks, and writing their name in 100 seconds.

Students also worked in teams to build castles using 100 cups. RCES families participated in the celebration by helping their first graders dress as 100 year old men and women to get the fun filled day started. Our kindergarten students created projects at home displaying collections of 100 items. This engaging day of learning was enjoyed by teachers and students at RCES.



Special Education Parental Involvement

Parental involvement in the educational process is a key factor in serving students with exceptional needs. Parent/guardian participation is sought throughout the identification, implementation, and service phases of special education because of the critical knowledge these family members possess regarding the needs and goals of their child. Children whose parents/guardians take an active interest in their education display a more positive attitude towards school, demonstrate better achievement, and display increased self-esteem. Additionally, family engagement results in parent/guardians who feel more confident and empowered in their ability to support their child in the educational process.

Many opportunities for family involvement are offered by RCPS throughout the school year including:

- parent teacher conferences;
- advisory committees;
- a Parent Teacher Organization;
- special events, programs, festivals; and,
- volunteer opportunities.

Parents/guardians of special needs students are also invited at least annually to participate in the development of an Individual Education Plan for their child. The reality of work schedules and personal obligations for many families often makes it difficult to participate in some school activities. The staff at both schools are always willing to accommodate parents' schedules for meetings and conferences to ensure that ample opportunity to participate in their child's education is provided. Parents/guardians should feel free to contact school staff to schedule appointments as needed.



RCHS Hosts District 10 Skills USA Culinary Competition Students Receive Feedback from Local Culinary Experts

Fresh on the heels of hosting a Skills USA prepared speech competition (as reported in last week's newsletter), this past week the RCHS culinary classroom was the host site for a District 10 Skills USA prepared foods competition. With competing students from four counties - Rappahannock, Warren, Shenandoah and Madison - and six high schools along with visiting judges from three local premier restaurants, the culinary room was a beehive of activity, mirroring the everyday actions of a busy restaurant.

Judges from The Inn at Little Washington, The Thornton River Grill and The Griffin Tavern, were all on hand to oversee the students' performances from the initial prep of the raw food to the final presentation of the finished plate. Students worked at a fast, precise pace, timing and coordinating their preparations and cooking to meet the strict Skills USA guidelines while also creating gastronomic gifts for the palate.

When the final garnish was delicately displayed on the plates, the judges took over and totaled their scores, as RCHS culinary teacher, Kurt Streu, looked on as anxiously as the students. In the final tally, RCHS student, Deana Abdullah, took second place honors, matching her award earned last week in a baking competition, and RCHS Madison exchange student, Helaina Posey, placing fourth.

All students were also treated to a critique of their efforts from the judges including Rachel Rowland of the Griffin Tavern, Edwin Garcia of the Thornton River Grill, and Adam Jankowski and Tim Moore of The Inn at Little Washington. As the judges pointed out, the skills demonstrated in the competition can be directly parlayed into successful careers any place in the world or in one of the many fine restaurants right here in Rappahannock County.



Commit to Be Fit Check-ins Hurry and reserve your appointment

Monthly check-ins are concluding on Tuesday, January 31st. If you haven't already checked in, click the link to sign up for your appointment. Space is available on both Monday (Jan. 30th) and Tues. (Jan. 31st). Even if you have not seen the results that you had hoped to, checking in with the Wellness Integration Specialists and/or Nutritionist is a great way to reenergize your commitment to better health.

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090a48a8a828a6fc1-monthly1>



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/>



Search: C2BF Team on YouTube and subscribe for workout videos and nutrition demos. See the latest C2BF video on making Beginner's Luck Green Smoothies:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ozuiEiAbJjs>

RCPS Vision Statement:

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