



RAPPAHANNOCK COUNTY SCHOOLS PANTHER PRIDE NEWSLETTER



DR. DONNA MATTHEWS, SUPERINTENDENT

RCPS HONORS VETERANS

Annual RCHS Veteran's Day Assembly

On Friday, November 11, Rappahannock County High School hosted its annual Veteran's Day Program in the RCHS gym. The award winning Panther Marching Band performed a medley of patriotic songs, including a dramatic presentation of Taps, in honor of veterans of the armed services of the United States. Boy Scout Troops 36 and 316 presented the colors and RCHS Class of 1984 alumnus, Mike DelGrosso, Captain, United States Marine Corps (ret.), was the speaker of honor, delivering a heartfelt message about service to country and Rappahannock pride.

The entire RCHS student body, along with the RCES 7th grade, was in attendance and the event was also well attended by many members of the local community. A special thanks to the RCHS Band Boosters' Club members who helped with setup for the program and the serving of refreshments to our guests, which was provided through a donation from the Rappahannock Lions Club. RCPS sends a heartfelt thank you to all Rappahannock's men and women who have served for freedom.



STUDENTS SHOWCASE WORKPLACE READINESS

Last month, RCHS students in the Web Design and Multimedia Technologies class participated in a video contest through VSBA showcasing workplace readiness skills. Career and Technical Education (CTE) teacher, Linda Petty, and Director of Administrative Services, Robin Bolt, directed students in the use of movie making programs, videography, timing, and theme in order to meet the criteria for the contest. The rules stated that each school division could enter one video depicting workplace readiness in the schools with one catch, videos could be no more than 30 seconds in length. Students worked for nearly two months compiling the video, and a local panel committee chose the video to send to VSBA for judging. The video submitted to VSBA was created by Sydney Murphy, Amber Smoot, Sebastian Vonsteinner, and Karley Wharton, and can be found here: <https://youtu.be/-6TiswvkFr4>

The other three videos submitted by the class can also be viewed at the following links:
<https://youtu.be/gPYXeCp9bTM>
<https://youtu.be/xeWpqQVwh3g>
<https://youtu.be/JTQG0A-Xpg4>

RCPS is so proud of the work these students have done above and beyond the classroom to promote the wonderful experiences they have at school.

SCA OFFICERS ELECTED

Votes are in for student council members at RCES

RCES students in grades four through seven have elected a new panel of SCA officers. The structure of the student council includes president, vice-president, secretary, and historian. The officer candidates delivered well prepared speeches and were voted into office for the 2016-2017 school year.

Cassia Gainer was elected president. Her duties will include leading the meetings and coordinating the actions of the SCA. Cassia will also bring ideas and questions to the principal. Cassia is a 7th grader, her favorite class is science, and she participates in soccer, cross country, and Girl Scouts. She is also a member of the 4-H club. When asked why she chose to run for office, she replied, "To make a change in our school." She believes her biggest accomplishment as an officer will be creating a recycling fundraiser for the school.



Victorious in her run for vice-president was Ava Genho, also a 7th grader. Duties of the vice-president include assisting the president and leading committees. Ava's favorite subjects are English and science, and her extracurricular activities include cross country, soccer, church youth group, and crafts. Ava stated, when asked why she chose to run for office, that she wanted to give back to the school because she has loved the time she has spent at RCES. This year she hopes to encourage students to establish friendships with students in other grade levels.

Sixth grader, Maeve Ciuba, was voted in as secretary. Her duties include taking neat and legible notes at all meetings as well as publicizing events. Her favorite class is history and she enjoys horseback riding, ballet, choir, and theatre. She hopes to keep all students up to date with items discussed at SCA meetings.

Another sixth grader, Emma Jenkins, was elected as historian. Her favorite class is math and her extracurricular activities include softball, 4-H, choir, 24 Club, and Battle of the Books. Emma wants to capture memories that will help our RCES family grow and provide future classes the opportunity to look back to the accomplishments made this year.

The RCES SCA officers will be sharing student ideas and interests. They will promote school-wide activities, including social events and community projects. SCA recently sponsored a school dance, collecting canned goods to benefit the Rappahannock County Food Pantry at the same time by having donated food items as the cost of admission. We wish our new officers the best and we are proud of all those who ran for office.

TEAM APPROACH TO 8TH GRADE MATH

The hallmark of an excellent instructional program is the ability of the teacher to customize instruction to meet the needs of the individual. The eighth grade math teachers at RCHS have implemented a novel team approach that is designed to not only provide appropriate access to the general education curriculum for all students, but also crafted an instructional plan to address the unique needs of each student. Special Education Department Chair, Jennifer Jobber, in conjunction with the eighth grade math department, has assisted in developing a scenario for math that envisions the entire eighth grade as one class that is divided into three skill-based groups of approximately nine students each. The math program is tailored to match teacher strengths to student needs while reaping the benefits of small group instruction. These fluid groups promote time on task by rotating teachers rather than students to address needs that are observed on a daily basis, giving every student the opportunity to thrive. Instructional emphasis is placed on math vocabulary, problem-solving, and calculation through authentic student engagement and collaboration. The creative team approach being utilized by these innovative teachers exemplifies best practices for serving students with special needs in addition to supporting our general and gifted student populations. By providing student-centered instruction that is intended to ensure learning for all, this collaborative model not only supports achievement but also promotes the division's mission to "empower every student to reach his or her full, individual potential."



RCHS LEOS ADOPT A HIGHWAY

A community partnership

Last Tuesday, November 1, members of the RCHS Leo Club led a trash pickup along 2.2 miles of Rock Mills Road, from Route 211 to Hunters Road. The RCHS Leo Club is sponsored by the Lions Club of Rappahannock County. Organized in 2004, the purpose of the club is to promote service activities among the youth of the community and develop the individual qualities of leadership, experience, and opportunity.

Participating Leo Club members included John Norris and Mikayla Johnson, Mahlet Yirgu, Galen Sanborn, Heather Smith, Lauren Petty, JoJo McKinney, Josh Racer, Mikayla Zook, Macy Montgomery, and Bryce Jones along with participation from community members in the Lions Club. A special thanks also goes out to the Sperryville Volunteer Fire Department who generously loaned an emergency vehicle with flashing red lights to alert drivers to the roadside presence of the volunteers, both students and adults.

Thirty-seven bags of trash were picked up from the roadside, in addition to multiple random car parts and one lawn chair. The goal of the Leo Club, in addition to beautifying this spot of our county, is to complete the trash pickup on a semi-annual basis. Doing so will earn the club an official VDOT sign that notes the adoption of that stretch of Rappahannock roadway by the RCHS Leo Club. We extend thanks for the extensive planning and preparation by Mrs. Lilo Wolfe and Mrs. Beth Gall, faculty Leo Club

sponsors. Because of the collaboration between students, staff, and community members, this was an event that epitomized the service learning focus of RCHS, as well as the mission of the Leo Club itself. The effort was a great example of the wonderful support our schools receive from the community.



STUDENTS AS TASTE TESTERS

RCPS Food Services moving toward healthier options for students

Last week, Food Service Director, Stacey Whitt, and Cafeteria Manager, Karen McCracken, ran a taste-testing cart during the high school lunch periods to gather student input on taco soup, helping to determine

whether the item should appear on the November menu. The taste tests are part of the Commit to Be Fit project to promote healthier, nutritional choices for students in the cafeterias. To this end, the cafeteria staff has been working with Stacey Whitt and Nutritionist, Amanda Grove, to create recipes using the guidelines required by USDA and Virginia's school nutrition laws, creatively expanding options using the ingredients to offer additional options for students. The program began several weeks ago, and all students were surveyed to determine what items they would like to see added to the menu. The results have been compiled, and Amanda Grove has designed a rotating schedule to begin in January, "Tasting Tuesdays"



every week, alternating between schools, to gather data to find the tastiest, but healthiest, options. The tasting last week was taco soup, which was so popular that it was immediately added to the November menu. Also this week, students at the elementary school were able to test pumpkin pie smoothies, another prospective item to offer to students depending on their preferences. The ultimate goal of the project is to involve students in the process of designing new, healthier options for lunch.



Upcoming Events and Announcements

- ❖ November 12: Volleyball regional playoff game at RCHS 6 PM
- ❖ November 15: Volleyball State playoff game at home 6 PM (if team wins on 11/12)
- ❖ November 16: Interim reports go home
- ❖ November 17: PTO fundraiser pickup from 3:30 – 7:00 PM
- ❖ November 19: Regional Theater Festival at Essex HS
- ❖ November 21: Career Day at RCHS
- ❖ November 22: 3rd Grade Market Day from 1:30 PM to 2:30 PM
- ❖ November 23-25: No School—Thanksgiving break

For upcoming athletic events visit the RCPS Sports Page:

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



Commit to Be Fit check-ins have been going great this week! So many people are making amazing progress. If you were unable to check-in this week, please contact one of our Wellness Integration Specialists as soon as possible (hjenkins@rappahannockschoools.us, or jlowebarton@rappahannockschoools.us).

We will be unable to record check-in data after Nov. 18th, and these check-ins are vital for documenting our success and making the case for continued grant funding. There will be a drawing for a mountain bike and a Fitbit for all those that check-in, and you will be able to log 200 points for your November C2BF log. Remember, part of the C2BF challenge is to document your own personal health journey. These check-ins and incentives are designed to empower you to see the results of all your hard work in multiple ways.

RCPS Vision Statement:

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

