

RAPPAHANNOCK COUNTY SCHOOLS PANTHER PRIDE NEWSLETTER

DR. DONNA MATTHEWS, SUPERINTENDENT

“TAKE YOUR LEGISLATOR TO SCHOOL MONTH” Delegate Webert to visit 7th graders

Rappahannock County’s delegate to the Virginia General Assembly, Delegate Webert, will visit Rappahannock County Elementary School on November 10th to discuss the inner workings of the legislative process in Virginia with 7th grade students. This visit is encouraged through the Virginia School Board Association (VSBA) initiative, “Take Your Legislator to School Month,” designed to establish connections between local government bodies and school divisions, creating opportunities for students to engage in relevant dialogue about current issues being discussed at the legislative level. In addition, students receive a first-hand account about the process behind a simple idea turning into a bill and perhaps eventually becoming a law.



This visit is timely for 7th grade students who are actively engaged in civics class, learning from Mr. Matthew Hummill content about citizenship and government in order to prepare for the Standards of Learning (SOL) test in the spring. The visit from Delegate Webert will enhance this learning experience, adding real world application of the concepts covered in class. Webert plans to use relevant examples to help the middle school students get an authentic look inside the entire process, emphasizing the importance of citizens and political leaders working together to bring about meaningful change. RCPS is looking forward to welcoming Delegate Webert to the elementary school on November 10th.

ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITY

Kids’ Tech University

Kids' Tech University is a semester-long educational research program developed by the Biocomplexity Institute and Virginia 4-H, that puts scientists and engineers in front of children to encourage the exploration of intriguing topics in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM). On Jan. 21, Feb. 18, March 18 and April 1, 2017, 450 kids (ages 9-12 by Sept. 31st 2016) and their parents will come to Virginia Tech (Blacksburg, VA) to watch interactive sessions by renowned research scientists and participate in hands-on activities. Each day's events will center on common themes related to everyday life.

Registration will open on Oct. 24, 2016 at 6 pm. There is a \$100 registration fee and scholarships are available.

Please visit-

<http://kidstechuniversity.vbi.vt.edu>

PROFESSIONAL LEARNING COMMUNITY THROUGH CHILDREN'S LITERATURE

RCES unveils "One School, One Book" initiative

This week, all RCES students and staff participated in the unveiling assembly of the *One School, One Book* program. As part of the *One School, One Book* program, every staff member and student received a copy of the E.B. White book, *Charlotte's Web*, to be read throughout the month of November. RCES families are being asked to participate in this special project by also reading to their child at home and encouraging reading, anytime and anywhere. Each family received a reading calendar schedule to help families stay current with the readings for each day, along with reading tips to help encourage the enjoyment of home reading together as a family.

The unveiling was led by Librarian, Amy Wayland, and Reading Interventionist, Katherine Todd, complete with a video, song, and *Charlotte's Web* cheer to excite students and staff for the initiative.



Throughout the week, decorative clues lined the hallways of the elementary school, adding to the anticipation of the event. As part of the unveiling assembly, a special reading was conducted by the RCHS All Conference Actor and Actress of the Year, Trusten Murrah and Savannah Stevens. Students were captivated by the performance as Mrs. Wayland encouraged students to continue to read the story in class and at home to find out what happens next in the book.

Students at RCES will be reading the novel in a variety of settings with many enrichment opportunities to enhance reading skills. Activities focusing on the novel include class readings, DEAR time, trivia questions, spirit days, projects, and a grand finale movie night in December. We look forward to building a community of readers at home and at school, starting with this one title and leading to the discovery of many, many more.



RCHS TRANSITION CLASS

PROMOTES LIFE READY SKILLS

The Virginia Board of Education is redesigning the high school experience to better prepare Virginia graduates in "Life Ready" skills, which include: demonstrating a productive work ethic, making connections with the community through collaboration and civic opportunities, and maintaining health and wellness. The special services transition program at RCHS provides a broad-based curriculum that not only provides students with appropriate content knowledge, but emphasizes important life skills as well. This group of enthusiastic students participates in a special personal fitness class on a daily basis to work towards individual wellness goals under the guidance of Commit to Be Fit Wellness Integration Coordinator and PE teacher, Jackie Tederick. The class also attends a weekly swimming program at the Warrenton Aquatic and Recreation Facility (WARF) through a grant program funded by Headwaters. These students have been working on building social and collaboration skills by partnering with the transition class from Culpeper High School to attend movie outings to the Library of Congress at the Packard Campus in addition to attending their special prom each spring. These industrious students can also be found on a regular basis contributing to their school community by conducting weekly recycling of paper, cans, and plastic throughout the school, an activity that earned the class a special award for the 2015-2016 school year. Under the guidance of their teacher, Dave Roberts, and class assistant, Nanette Hogan, the transition program has already made huge strides in preparing our special needs students as life ready individuals who serve as wonderful role models in our school and surrounding community.



RCES THEATER CHAMPIONS

Thespians clinch third victory in a row

Last Wednesday, RCES hosted the Virginia High School League Conference 43 Theater Festival in the high school auditorium. Bringing together theater troupes from Essex High School, Colonial Beach High School, the “other” Rappahannock High School, and our own RCES thespians. The RCES auditorium was transformed into an off-off-Broadway venue, showcasing the remarkable talents of not only our own students but also those of our competitors.

Per competition rules, each troupe had five minutes to set up their stage props, thirty-five minutes to perform their piece, and then five minutes to take down their props. Timing was strictly monitored, with disqualification a penalty for any team that exceeded the allotted time. Once the lights went down, the schools were free to perform any type of drama or comedy they chose. On this particular night the crowd was treated to a Holocaust inspired drama, a comedy involving alien abduction, an original Shakespeare-inspired drama that included pirates, and a tearjerker drama based on the horrors of modern war.

When the last bow had been taken and the last light dimmed, the judges retreated to their private room to evaluate the performances. To fill the time, RCES theater coach, Russell Paulette, led most of the young dramatists in some impromptu theater games that delighted the crowd almost as much as the performances. Finally the judges gave a thorough critique to each of the casts, giving out well-deserved positives and well-received tips for the future. And then the moment came that all had been waiting for: the presentation of the trophies and medals.

Athletic Director, Brandon Burley, first presented Actor and Actress of the Year trophies, with RCES student, Savannah Stevens, taking the Actress of the Year Award. Burley then presented five all-conference theater medals, and RCES, Trusten Murrah and Mikayla Zook, took two of the five awarded. Finally, the runner-up and champion trophies were awarded, with the awarded teams also earning a ticket to the Region 1A East Theater Festival on November 19 at Essex High School. It was a sweep by Rappahannock, as the “other” Rappahannock took the runner-up trophy. For the third straight year, our own thespians took the Championship trophy.

Coach Paulette’s troupe will perform their play, an original script by Mr. Paulette entitled “Thieves of Mercy,” at the regional festival on November 19, and plans are underway for a public performance at RCES the week before the competition. In the meantime, congratulations to Mr. Paulette and his very large and very amazing cast for attaining the rare three-peat in the VHSL Conference Theater Competition.



Spotlight on GT Art

Students in the GT Art group are collaborating with each other along with RCES art teacher, Amy Grady, to create a graphic mural for the school to communicate the concept of “world understanding.” In addition to daily enrichment blocks, students identified for services in the gifted art group meet monthly in a block of time to concentrate on honing their craft as well as incorporating fundamental art concepts and thematic critical lenses.

Recently completed were independent projects centering on the work of Austrian painter, Gustav Klimt, who often used metallic gold paint in his pattern-filled work. Students are working on developing these skills through silver scratchboard designs in addition to the collaboration project work on the mural.



Upcoming Events and Announcements

- ❖ November 5: Volleyball Conference playoff game at home, 6 PM
- ❖ November 7: PTO meeting at RCES, 6:30 PM
- ❖ November 7: Volleyball Regional Playoff game at home, 4:30 PM
- ❖ November 8: ASVAB Testing at RCHS
- ❖ November 8: JV & Varsity winter sports tryouts begin
- ❖ November 8: School Board Meeting, RCHS band room, 6 PM
- ❖ November 10: Delegate Webert to visit 7th grade
- ❖ November 10: Volleyball Regional Playoff game at home
- ❖ November 11: Veteran's Day Program, RCHS gym at 10 AM
- ❖ November 11: State Cross Country Championship at Great Meadows
- ❖ November 12: Regional Theater Festival at Essex HS
- ❖ November 16: Interim reports go home
- ❖ November 17: PTO fundraiser pickup from 3:30 – 7:00 PM
- ❖ 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 will begin the week of November 7th. Please click this link to schedule your check-in appointment with one of our Wellness Integration Specialists: <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090b4ba5a629a3fe3-c2bf/>. 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.