

RAPPAHANNOCK COUNTY SCHOOLS PANTHER PRIDE NEWSLETTER

DR. DONNA MATTHEWS, SUPERINTENDENT

RECOGNIZING A SEASON OF PANTHER TEAMWORK

General Assembly Hears Commending Resolution

During the 2016 General Assembly session, Delegate Webert carried a Commending Resolution in recognition of the Rappahannock High School Wrestling team's outstanding season. The RCHS wrestling team finished the 2015-16 season as Conference Champion, Regional Champion, and State Runner Up in Group 1A . To celebrate the team's accomplishments in the 2015-16 season, Delegate Webert will present this resolution to Principal Tupper and the team on October 26, at 2:15. The presentation will be held in the RCHS auditorium.

For a link to the resolution, please click here:

<http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?161+ful+HR252ER>



Photo: 2015-2016 Rapp Wrestlers win Conference Championships

GIFTED INFORMATION:

The Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) has announced that the 2017 Governor's Summer Residential Program will include seven Summer Residential Governor's Schools (SRGS) and five Governor's Foreign Language Academies (GFLA). The SRGS offer academically advanced students opportunities for intensive study in academics, mentorships, and visual and performing arts. The GFLA offer full-immersion academies for French, German, and Spanish; a partial-immersion academy for Japanese; and a Latin Academy.

Students may attend only one Governor's Summer Residential Program during their high school career. Every school division is guaranteed representation in the SRGS academic programs, which include agriculture; humanities; and mathematics, science, and technology. However, slots are limited and a rigorous application process is required. For acceptance into the performing arts, musical adjudication is required. Acceptance into GFLA is competitive. A statewide selection committee reviews student applications, including submissions of unedited samples of oral and written work for full-immersion academies.

If your high school student is interested in learning more about these summer Governor's School programs, please contact Lilo Wolfe at

lwolfe@rappahannockschoools.us .

BOOK FAIR FUN

RCES Promotes Reading

Excitement was evident at the RCES Scholastic Fall Book Fair, with students, staff members, and parents enjoying the wide selection of books and gifts available last week in the RCES library. Students were able to visit the book fair with their classes and were given the opportunity to browse the book fair and purchase books. Staff members were able to pick up their favorites, and parents had opportunities after school and during parent teacher conferences to add to their family's literature collection. The book fair had something for everyone, with a selection of offerings ranging from picture books for early learners to chapter books for budding readers. Having a collection of books focusing on real life experiences, fun facts, and friendship ensured that everyone could find something of interest.



A special thanks to the teachers of RCES, community volunteers, and family members for nurturing and encouraging a passion for reading and supporting our students' efforts to improve their reading skills. Teachers received many generous donations to help stock their classroom libraries for all students to enjoy. Many students also participated in the book fair scavenger hunt on the night of parent teacher conferences for a chance to win a free book. The winner of the scavenger hunt for grades K-2 was Breanna Gilmore, and in grades 3-5, the winner was Julianna Butler.

Congratulations to Librarian, Amy Wayland, for helping to ensure that all students and families could find books that matched their reading levels and furthered their child's interest in reading. The excitement about reading will continue building as we look forward to upcoming reading incentives and to our next book fair to be scheduled in the spring!

SPECIAL EDUCATION

The concept of a free and appropriate public education in the least restrictive environment lies at the heart of the Individuals with Disabilities Act of 2004, and inclusion is the primary educational model used to ensure that all students are educated with their age and grade level peers. Inclusion involves placement in the student's local school in the general education environment to the extent appropriate for the student with supports, aides, and instructional adaptations designed for the unique needs of students with exceptionalities. Inclusion is accomplished through heterogeneous grouping practices and a program philosophy that emphasizes the value of diversity in the educational setting with the underlying assumption that students should always be included with their peers in the general education classroom and be moved to a more self-contained setting only when their needs are best served in that placement.

While the intended benefits of inclusive practices are evidenced by the social and academic benefits afforded to students with special needs, there are unintended benefits for all students who participate in an inclusive classroom. All students benefit from specialized instructional and behavioral strategies offered by special education practices. Additionally, respect, tolerance and appreciation for the unique needs and perspectives of persons different from ourselves is made possible in the inclusive setting. Finally, inclusion offers opportunities for students without disabilities to master activities by supporting and teaching others which prepares them for adult life in an inclusive society.

All RCPS classes provide sections or groups for inclusion through collaboration between regular and special educators in heterogeneous grouping. With an emphasis on social, emotional, civic, and academic gains for all, every student does indeed win through the inclusion process.



RCCHS GIVES BACK TO THE COMMUNITY

Panther Marching Band Provides a Service

While many students were enjoying a rare mid-week day off last Thursday due to parent teacher conferences, the student musicians of the award winning Panther Marching Band marched to the beat of a different drummer. Coming into school in the morning hours, they packed up their instruments and boarded a bus for Charlottesville to give a community service performance at the Rosewood Village Assisted Living Facility.

Performing their marching music (Bohemian Rhapsody and We Will Rock You) along with the RCHS Fight Song, the band played to an audience of about thirty residents. The audience members were treated to what was described as a fantastic performance and the band members themselves enjoyed what Drum Major Cydney Chambers termed, “an amazing experience.”

RCHS Band Director, Jason Guira, reports that the band members had discussed a community service performance for some time. This specific venue in Charlottesville was particularly close to home for two of the Rapp band members, given that their grandfather is a resident at Rosewood. The RCHS Panther band intends to add more community service performances to their busy schedule in the future, with Mr. Guira noting that these outings are “a great way to spread our love of music and give back to the community.” Plans are already in the works for similar performances by the RCHS Jazz band in the coming spring. The award winning Panther Marching Band will make their final home appearance next Friday, October 21, when they perform their Bohemian Rhapsody show at halftime of the Homecoming football game.



RCPS CELEBRATES SCHOOL NUTRITION WEEK

Themed “Show your Spirit” in Food Services

Monday kicked off School Nutrition Week, which was themed “Show Your Spirit.” In order to show our spirit for school lunch we invited all of our students K-12 to participate in both a school lunch survey as well as their first taste test for the school year. Similar activities will be performed at different times throughout the year with the hopes of creating a healthier, but student-approved, menu. Both cafeteria managers, Julie Banks and Karen McCracken, are continuously looking for new and improved items to offer their students. The elementary school will be offering a salad bar once a week to help encourage students to “taste the rainbow.” The more colorful their plate, the better the nutritional value.

The high school has recently introduced smoothies into both their breakfast and lunch menu items along with a salad bar type item. Our school menus will continue to reflect our division-wide focus on health and wellness. With help from the Commit to Be Fit funds, we have been able to bring on board a school nutritionist, Amanda Grove, who is eager to work with the cafeteria staff and students. We have a very exciting year ahead of us in school nutrition.





WOW! WHAT A SUCCESS!

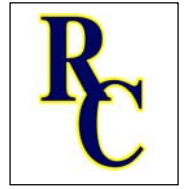
7th Graders Explore the Worlds of Work (WOW!) Career Expo

All Rappahannock County seventh grade students participated in the Lord Fairfax Community College (LFCC) Career Pathways Consortium second annual career expo, “Explore the Wow!” on Thursday, October 13th. The LFCC Career Pathways Consortium is a small group of career and technical education directors from seven counties in the LFCC service region, including Rappahannock, who partner with the community college’s high school outreach department to provide additional career opportunities to high school students. Part of this work was to increase awareness of possible career paths for middle school students in order to better prepare them for developing the state mandated Academic and Career Plan (ACP) to help guide their high school schedule. The ACPs are created using data generated from student interest inventories, aptitude testing, and course availability through the guidance department. One of the major challenges that was brought before the LFCC Career Pathways Consortium was the need for additional, hands-on exploration of the available career clusters offered in each school’s career and technical education departments. As a solution to the issue of students not having enough experience with career options, the Consortium created the WOW! expo to provide real-world, hands-on career activities to help students better understand each career “cluster.”



This year’s event hosted more than 3300 7th graders from across the region with 70 local business and industry partners providing the activities. One of the most popular worlds included the Health Science World, where students were able to wear scrubs, touch real organs, draw blood, and run lab tests, all while exploring the importance of this occupation. The other Worlds representing the expo providing similar field experiences were the Agriculture World, where students could feed animals, work on tractors, and learn about harvesting; the Public Service World, where students could put out digital fires with a fire hose, put on rescue gear, climb aboard an armored vehicle, and perform CPR; the Transportation and Logistics World, which allowed students to run diagnostics on various vehicles; the Manufacturing and STEM World, exhibiting math and science as integral processes to development in a variety of fields; the Communication and Finance World, which provided real-life scenario based money games and digital communications for business and industry; the Hospitality and Tourism World, which gave students a behind the scenes look at what it takes to run and manage restaurants and hotels; and the Construction World, which provided a look at the various careers involving heavy machinery and development. All students who attended received a cinch sack with a passport and a career booklet. The passport was stamped in all the various worlds by the exhibitors only if students engaged with the presenters and participated in the activities. To prepare for the event, booklets were given to students prior to attending for teachers to work through the various worlds and career clusters, orienting students to the Worlds of Work. Lessons explored included career options in each world, average salaries earned in each career field, the pathway in education necessary to obtain a career in each world, and contacts to local business leaders in the area. Guidance counselors will extend this experience further as they begin to develop personal academic and career plans with our students and their families.





Upcoming Events and Announcements

- ❖ October 17 & 18: 3rd Graders to Shenandoah National Park
- ❖ October 17-21st: Homecoming Week
- ❖ October 21: Homecoming Game 7 PM
- ❖ October 22: Homecoming Dance 8-11 PM
- ❖ October 25: Report Cards Go Home
- ❖ October 25-27: SOL Writing Tests at RCHS
- ❖ October 28th: Kindergarten to Graves Mountain
- ❖ October 28: Harlem Superstar Basketball
- ❖ November 1st: 8th Grade Field Trip to Holocaust Museum
- ❖ November 7: PTO meeting, RCES at 6:30 PM
- ❖ November 8: ASVAB Testing at RCHS 8:30 AM
- ❖ November 23-25: No School—Thanksgiving break

For upcoming athletic events
visit the RCPS Sports Page:

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

RCPS Vision

Statement:

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

Comprehensive Plan Update: The division is seeking input from parents concerning the next six year Comprehensive Plan. The draft plan has been loaded on the Community page of the website as well as on Board Docs. Please feel free to send comments to your principal or contact your school board representative with comments. School board representatives are as follows: Chairman John Wesley Mills, Jackson District; Vice Chair Aline Johnson, Piedmont District; Chris Ubben, Wakefield District; Larry Grove, Stonewall-Hawthorne District; Lucy (Pud) Maeyer, Hampton District.

RED RIBBON WEEK OCT. 23-31

SADD & MADD Encourage Drug and Alcohol Prevention

Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD), in collaboration with our community MADD partners, encourage citizens to participate in drug and alcohol prevention awareness. Students will be participating in education activities during the month of October. Please support our students during Red Ribbon Week.



Transportation Update:

The Virginia Department of Transportation will close Route 628 (Fodderstack Road) bridge over the Rush River in Rappahannock County for approximately four weeks for bridge replacement.

The bridge, located 0.4 mile north of Route 1101 (Gay Street) and 3.8 miles from Route 606 (Fodderstack Road), will be closed beginning Oct. 17. Weather permitting, the road is expected to reopen to traffic on Nov. 11. Bus transportation will be affected by this change. Parents who live on Fodderstack Road will be contacted via transportation coordinator, Eddie Gore, for change in pick up locations.