

# Highlights

*We Are Rappahannock!*

Division Newsletter- October 2019



**Start with Hello Week**  
RCPS, in partnership with Sandy Hook Promise, a national, nonprofit organization led by several family members whose loved ones were lost in the tragic mass shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School took part in Start with Hello Week during Sept. 23- Sept. 27. Start with Hello teaches students how to reach out to and include those who may be socially isolated as well as to create a culture of inclusion and connectedness within their school.

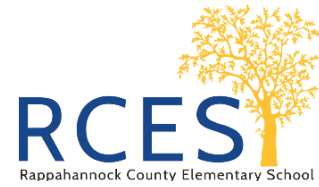
Rappahannock County Elementary School held a special spirit week which included daily themes such as Mix and Match Day (Mix and Match Your Friend List), Color Day (Link with Others), Sports Jersey Day (Invite Others to Join Your Team), Hello Hat Day (Say Hello), and Blue/Gold Day (Show Your Panther Pride). In addition, the students engaged in a variety of activities such as saying hello to someone they don't know and writing a positive message to someone.

At the high school, the students participated in a kind gesture theme week: Handshake Monday, Hi-Ten Tuesday, Dap-it-Up Wednesday, First Bump Thursday, and Hi-Five Friday. In addition, the RCHS Peer Mentors and Teachers for Tomorrow students visited the elementary school to eat lunch with the younger students two separate times during the week.

Photos by Dani Pond and Holly Jenkins







### SkyDome Planetarium

RCES students enjoyed visiting the SkyDome Planetarium presented by MobileEd Productions on Friday, September 27<sup>th</sup> in the RCES Auxiliary Gym. The students viewed planets and stars projected across the ceiling of the inflatable enclosure as they learned about the universe. The SkyDome Planetarium held two additional showings for the community later that evening.

Thank you to RLEP (Rappahannock League for Environmental Protection) and Headwaters Foundation for co-sponsoring this fun learning opportunity. Additionally, thank you to PTO for providing snacks for the evening event.

Left- Students were excited and eager to enter the large, inflatable planetarium.



### Peer Mentor Reveal Party

The highly anticipated Peer Mentor Reveal Party was held on Thursday, September 26<sup>th</sup> in the high school gymnasium. Students and staff wore festive Hawaiian leis to celebrate this year's theme, "Makin' Waves." During this exciting event, 8<sup>th</sup>-grade students discovered which upperclassman will serve as their peer mentor for the year. After the big reveal, the mentees and mentors gathered in groups to complete a series of 10 challenges. The team-building activities, such as building a human beach umbrella and showing someone getting rescued by a lifeguard at the beach, were designed to build relationships while sharing laughs among the students. Finally, the groups enjoyed eating an icy treat before returning to class.

Right- RCHS students bonded over silly activities and laughs.



### Important Upcoming Dates

- October 10<sup>th</sup>- Early Release (12pm)/Teacher Workday
- October 11<sup>th</sup>- PT Conferences (1-4pm and 5-7pm *by appointment only*)/ No School for Students
- October 14<sup>th</sup>- School Closed/ Holiday
- October 18<sup>th</sup>- 19<sup>th</sup>- Homecoming
- October 23<sup>rd</sup>- Unity Day-- Students are asked to wear orange to represent unity and bullying prevention.

