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THE DISTRICT NEWSLETTER FOR REETHS-PUFFER SCHOOLS

ROCKET CITY news



High School Musical a Success!

The high school's spring musical: Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat was an incredible success! What made this production so "Amazing" was the fact that it's the only high school production in Muskegon County that is run completely by students. Senior Kaitlyn Sander, the stage manager for the musical shared these comments, "My biggest thrill as stage manager was having the opportunity to work with the entire cast and crew. The "techie" speeches given at the conclusion of the production will stay with me always."

Over fifty students were involved in staging this musical. They would like to recognize Mr. Klairter, Mrs. Schlaff, Mr. Milder, Mr. DeYoung and Ms. Blais for their support as student advisors in the various supervisory roles they held throughout rehearsals and performances. R-PHS fine arts are the best!



*"Great Things Are Not
Done By Impulse, But
By A Series Of Small
Things Brought Together."*

-Vincent van Gogh



Whether it is a painting, a performance, a contest, or a student achievement outcome, very few things are completed or measured with or in just one aspect. A painting may take thousands of independent and seemingly disconnected strokes to come together in a masterpiece. A performance might take many instruments, or parts with all of their unique sounds and qualities coming together to create something none could have created in isolation. An athletic contest or game requires many positions to each master their own unique skills and bringing them together to best compete against a new and distinctive opponent.

A successful R-P graduate or student is no different. A successful Rocket requires thousands of seemingly unique and distinctive "brush strokes" to become the "masterpiece" to which all of our kids aspire. The "brush strokes" are applied by parents, teachers, counselors, peers, administrators, and other members of our community. The "performance" takes dedication, perseverance, tolerance, and passion from and for each individual student. We all have "roles" to play and "parts" to perfect!

As you read through this edition of the Rocket City News, please join me in celebrating all of the "small things brought together" in our schools, community, and the lives of our children.

Sincerely,

Steven L. Edwards

Steve Edwards, Superintendent of Schools

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Reeths-Puffer High School Class of 2014

Top Ten Graduates



Valedictorian of the Reeths-Puffer High School Class of 2014 is Danielle Schugars. Danielle is the daughter of Kim and Scott Schugars. She has a weighted grade point average of 4.31. Danielle is a member of the National Honor Society, sings with the Madrigals, and is a contributor to Free Verse, the school literary publication. She is also active in Girls Scouts, Book Club and her church Youth Group. Danielle is a National Merit Finalist and a Michigan State Academic Merit Semifinalist. She is also a recipient of the NCWIT Aspirations Award and been chosen to do research with a Michigan State

Professional Assistantship. Danielle will be majoring in Computer Science at Michigan State University this fall

Salutatorian of the Reeths-Puffer High School Class of 2014 is Kaitlyn Reed. She is the daughter of Jerry and Sheryl Reed. Kaitlyn has a weighted grade point average of 4.30. She is a member of the National Honor Society, Student Council, Spanish Club, and Michigan Math League. Kaitlyn performs with the Madrigals and in the high school musicals. She is also active in Girls Scouts and her church Youth Group. Kaitlyn plans to attend Central Michigan University in the fall, where she is a recipient of the Centralis Honors Scholarship, to study the Performing Arts.



Graduating number 3 in the Class of 2014 is Olivia Nelson. Olivia is the daughter of Lee and Angela Nelson. She has a weighted grade point average of 4.28. Olivia is a member of STATS (Straight Talk About Tough Stuff), the National Honor Society, Michigan Math League, and Spanish Club. She is also on the Youth Advisory Council for Muskegon Community Foundation and Captain of the Girls' Soccer Team. Olivia will be attending the University of Michigan this fall to study Biomedical Engineering.

McKenzie Richardson is graduating number 4 in the Class of 2014. She is the daughter of Dee and Teresa Richardson. She has a weighted grade point average of 4.20. McKenzie is a member of the National Honor Society, Student Council, Varsity Cross-Country, Varsity Track and her church Youth Group. She will be attending Lake Superior State University this fall, where she is recipient of the Laker Gold Scholarship along with Athletic Scholarships in Cross-Country and Track. She plans to pursue a career in Nursing.



Shelbi Adams, daughter of Larry and Lynn Adams, is graduating number 5 in the Class of 2014. She has a weighted grade point average of 4.14. Shelbi is involved in Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Book Club; she tutors other students and volunteers in the community. She plans to attend Muskegon Community College in the fall, where she is a recipient of the Board of Trustees Scholarship, then transfer to Central Michigan University to major in either Psychology or Accounting.

Cody Loss is graduating number 6 in the class. He is the son of Scott and Jenny Loss. Cody has a weighted grade point average of 4.13. He is a member of the National Honor Society, played four years of Varsity Soccer and is a Youth Soccer Camp instructor. Cody has participated in No More Sidelines, the Purple Games and volunteered on the Feeding America food trucks. He will be attending Muskegon Community College in the fall, where he is a recipient of the Board of Trustees Scholarship and a Soccer Scholarship. After two years, he will transfer to Michigan Technological College to pursue a career in Chemical Engineering.



Graduating number 7 in the Class of 2014 is Mackenzie Yaussy. Mackenzie is the daughter of Brian and Amber Yaussy. She has a weighted grade point average of 4.119. She is a member of the National Honor Society, First Priority, contributes to Free Verse, the high school literary publication, and is on the Varsity Swim Team. Mackenzie will be attending Hillsdale College, where she is a recipient of the Hillsdale Tradition Award, Tinsley External Grant and the Michigan Replacement Grant.

Sarah Schaadt is also graduating number 7 in this year's class. She is the daughter of Steven Schaadt and Tamlin and Paul Garibay. Sarah has a weighted grade point average of 4.119. She is a member of the National Honor Society, and tutors other students. She also volunteers her time at the White Lake Giving Tree and the Muskegon Humane Society. She has decided to put her college studies off for a year and move to Canada, where she will be volunteering her time at a bear sanctuary. Upon her return, she plans to pursue a career in Veterinary Medicine.



Nathan Grinwis, son of Randy and Julie Grinwis, is number 9 in this year's class. He has a weighted grade point average of 4.114. Nathan is a member of the National Honor Society, STATS (Straight Talk About Tough Stuff), and the Varsity Tennis Team, where he has been captain and MVP for two years. He also performs with the Madrigals and in the high school musicals. Nathan will be attending Michigan State University in the fall to major in Engineering.

Anika Sasinski is graduating 10th in the Class of 2014. She is the daughter of John and Ewa Sasinski. Anika has a weighted grade point average of 4.111. She is president of Student Council, a member of the National Honor Society, STATS (Straight Talk About Tough Stuff), IMPACT, and captain of the Varsity Tennis Team. Anika will be attending Michigan State University in the fall to study Biomedical Engineering.





Terri Portice
Director of Teaching
and Learning

Create Long Lasting Family Memories While Creatively Enjoying the Outdoors

Family Geocaching

Geocaching with kids can be a fun way to enjoy time as a family while exploring the outdoors. Search the web for "Geocaching with Kids" to find real-world treasure hunting activities in our area. Geocaching combines the use of mobile technology with the excitement of looking for a "hidden treasure". Geocaching activities can range from a simple outing that includes an easy-to-find cache in your yard, to multi-step directions using GPS technology. Tips for geocaching as a family include:

- Involve your children in every step of the learning process.
- Print the cache pages from the website to ensure you have the right coordinates.
- Bring paper and pen to record the coordinates of items being tracked.
- Bring a small shovel & gloves; you never know if you will have to dig around to find the treasure.
- Teach the sportsmanship of "take one, leave one".
- Make the treasure hunt and the location a learning lesson for the entire family. Have fun!

Camping or Telling Ghost Stories Around the Campfire

Camping is always a favorite family memory. Whether you are camping at a campground or camping in your back yard, the fun is all the same. Sitting around a campfire is the perfect time to read ghost stories together or to bring out the creativity of making up your own stories. This is an activity that is enjoyed by all members of the family no matter the age. Have fun and be creative!

Giving Back/Helping Others

You don't have to have money to help others or to give back to the community. Here are some simple ways to make our community a better place or to make someone's

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day while spending quality time together as a family.

- One time per month, as a family, go to a local park, beach, or school and do a one hour community clean up. You will be amazed at what just one hour can do to keep our community clean and looking great!
- Think about your elderly neighbors or grandparents who live close by. Think of one thing you can do to help them each week. Volunteer to bring their trash can to the road or back to their house each week. Offer to mow their lawn or help them weed their garden.
- As a family, volunteer your time at a food bank or make meals for a loved one or a family friend who is sick. Make it a family adventure. Helping others always makes everyone feel loved and important.
- Get involved in a community event – volunteer your time and give back to the community.
- Plant a family garden or collaborate with neighbors to create a community garden. Have your children take care of the garden and take notes on what they notice. Once the vegetables are grown enjoy the fresh and nutritious meals you can make together with your garden vegetables. If you find that you cannot eat all that you have grown, set up a fresh market stand to sell the extra vegetables to friends and neighbors.

Staying Active: Enjoying the Summer Months in Michigan!

- Get outside every day – encourage active play or general exercise for at least 60 minutes every day! Make this a family goal.
- Take time as a family to take a weekly ride down the bike path or walk along the beach.
- Look for family options like participating in a 5K walking or running event. Training and participating together creates healthy lifestyles while creating family memories.



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Making Math Come Alive

Keep learning playful while actively engaging children in purposeful life-long learning!

There are lots of activities you can do at home or throughout your daily routine, using everyday items, to help explore math with your child. You may feel that what your child is learning in school is different from how you learned math. Below you will find simple yet enjoyable ways to support your child in grasping important math concepts and applying them to real life math situations.

Younger Students

- **Create Number Books with your child.** Give your child a stack of papers and number each page in sequential order. Each day encourage them to decorate the page with drawings, stickers, math problems, illustrations, etc. to match the number on the page. Each day a new page can be added to the book. Simply changing the materials used for illustrating the page, can make the activity enjoyable. For older students, have them do the same, but encourage them to show multiple ways to represent the given number. For example #14 = 14 tallies, $7 \times 2 = 14$; seven circles drawn with 2 smaller circles in each of the seven circles, or $10 + 4$, etc.
- **Create Counting Collections:** Turn children's collections into math lessons. Children love to collect and gather items, especially at the park, beach, in the woods or even in the backyard. Use these natural habitats to encourage your child to sort their collections by types of items, size, color, shape, weight, or texture. If a child loves to be outside, you could encourage them to find a specific number of sticks, rocks, pinecones, etc. With an activity like this, the child is actively engaged in a real life experience that is based on his specific interests while learning important math skills of counting, sorting, or using the objects to create patterns.
- **Sorting and Classifying:** Besides sorting and classifying their counting collections you can do the same thing in the house. Have your children help you sort laundry (whites, light colors, jeans, etc.) or, on a rainy day have your child organize the pantry. They can count the number of cans of _____, or line up the boxes of cereal by height; they can sort the cans of fruits from the vegetables, etc.
- **Playing Games:** Play I Spy or other games to identify shapes, numbers and patterns. A great addition to any toy collection is a set of dice. Roll the dice and say, make or write the numbers identified. Roll the dice and add the numbers together to find the total.
- **Use Travel to Help Understand Time and Distance:** Here is a way to turn the dreaded "Are we there yet?" into a learning opportunity. Make or buy paper tickets. Give your child the pre-determined number of tickets based on time or distance of the trip. At the pre-determined given intervals, collect one ticket from your child, until all the tickets are gone ultimately arriving at your destination without going crazy with the "Are we there yet?" questions. For longer trips make the intervals for times that you plan to stop, such as when you stop for lunch, dinner, at the hotel, etc. This fun activity gives children a visual way to understand distance and time.

Any Age Ideas

- **Grocery Store Math:** Grocery shopping has so many opportunities for real life math application. Counting and placing objects in cart (need 4 cans of soup, etc.), comparing price differences (ratio and cost – which is the better buy?), reading labels to compare ingredients such as the amount of sugar in one brand vs. the next. Estimation is a great skill that can develop naturally over time by everyone making their estimate of the cost at the checkout and then discussing strategies on how the person closest to the actual cost won the estimation challenge.
- **Sports Facts and Trivia:** Encourage your sports-loving kids to identify numbers on the back of players' jerseys. Helping your child keep track of the score can be an early way for them to grasp addition. Older students may want to watch

and keep stats of their favorite athlete. Encourage your child to track the amount of time of the given sport based on the period, inning, quarters, sets, etc. Discuss the differences in the various times and how the different sports are set up. Talk about the shapes of the different playing fields and courts; estimate the area of the playing fields, etc. The ideas are endless, so have fun!

- **Fun in the Kitchen:** Encourage your children to help you make the family meals. Have them identify the temperature and cooking time on the recipe to determine when the food must go in the oven in order to be ready for dinner at a given time. Teach your child how to make accurate measurements using the proper measuring cups or spoons. Mix it up by having your child make a double batch of the given recipe. Encourage your child to figure out and record the new measurements for a double batch or a half batch of whatever you are making.
- **Restaurant Math:** Have your child figure out or estimate the cost of their meal, or the entire family meal. Play with various options such as how much could be saved if everyone drank water instead of ordering a soda/pop with a meal; what will it cost if we all ordered a dessert. Discuss how to determine the amount of tip to leave. Have the family members try and figure out how much change you will get back after paying for the meal with a twenty dollar bill.
- **Family Outings:** Involve your children in helping figure out what it would cost to visit Michigan Adventures or go to the movies as a family. Include the cost of transportation, ticket cost per person/family, food cost, etc. Discuss when the day pass versus the season pass ends up being the better buy; or the price differences between going to an evening movie versus the matinee show. Learning about money through real life experiences helps children gain an appreciation that money does not grow on trees and will help them think mathematically about how the world works.

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Reading Research

There is a wealth of research to support reading with your child every day. By simply reading with your child for 23 minutes (or more per day) you will be creating positive life-long habits for your child, as well as preparing them with a strong foundation for future learning. Reading is a way to “feed” the brain. Reading builds an understanding of the world around us; it builds a strong vocabulary base for future learning; all while helping your child learn and understand new information.

Did You Know?

- Overall research shows that families have the first and most significant influence on their children’s learning, development, health, safety and well-being. Your family reading time can play a key role in helping your child succeed in school and life.
- Children who have larger vocabularies and greater understanding of spoken language do better in school (Whitehurst and Lonigan).
- If children aren’t reading on grade level by third grade, they are four times more likely to leave high school without a diploma (Hernandez, 2011).

Just like anything else we do, the more you practice the better you become! The earlier you start reading with your child, the larger the life-long positive impact you will have on their overall reading abilities. By reading 23 minutes together each day, you will enjoy quality time with your child, as well as giving them the life-long gift of literacy.

Reading Tips for Birth to Age 8:

- Read multiple times per day to babies, toddlers, preschoolers, and early elementary children. Reading to and with them will build the necessary foundation skills needed for success in school and life.
- Talking, reading, listening, singing, and creating silly rhymes with your child, builds their vocabulary and helps them better understand sentence structure and other important pre-reading skills.
- Point out and talk about letters and words found in the world around you. For example, read posters, business signs, cereal boxes, car number plates, books, etc.
- Story-telling is a great way to extend your child’s language and listening skills, as well as expanding their imagination. Begin by telling them a story; over time encourage your child to tell or retell a story to you.

Reading Tips for Any Age:

- Model and talk to your child about how you read every day for different purposes. Examples of reading could include: reading recipes, greeting cards, calendars, shopping lists, food labels, instructions, maps, newspapers, emails, signs, and websites.
- Have a neighborhood book swap, this will allow kids to share a book and get a book at no cost. This also opens up opportunities for kids to talk to one another about books they have or are currently reading. Share a book today!
- Reading can take many different forms: books, magazines, newspapers, web-resources, college brochures, recipes, travel documents, audio books, etc.
- If grandparents live out of town, encourage your family to connect via online video connections such as Skype, Face-Time, or Google Hangout. These tools will allow grandparents to read to their grandchildren or for the grandchild to show off their reading skills to their grandparents. Technology opens the doors to share the love of reading no matter the distance between loved ones.
- As a family, join in on the Reeths-Puffer Summer 2014 Ultimate Reading Challenge!

Summer Writing Tips:

- Write notes to each other and leave them around the house
- Keep a writing journal of summer activities, books read, places visited, special sporting events, family vacations.
- Write captions for photographs in your family photo albums or in your summer writing journal.
- Instead of buying cards, encourage your child to make their own greeting cards, birthday cards, and thank-you notes.
- If you travel somewhere this summer, pick up a postcard of a favorite place and have your child send the postcard to a family member, a friend, and to the R-P District Office as part of the “Rockets Lift Off for Summer Adventures Travel Log”.

Rockets Lift Off for Summer Adventures: Travel Log

We welcome all Reeths-Puffer students to share their summer travels with the community. Whether you travel near or far, we ask that students consider sharing their summer travels with us. Have your child send a postcard from your family adventures and include the following information:

- Student Name(s):
- Date:
- Location:
- A short highlight of their favorite travel activity

Send postcards addressed to Reeths-Puffer Schools, 991 W. Giles Road, Muskegon, MI 49445. All post cards will be displayed on wall maps (Michigan, United States, and a World Map) in the District Office. After the summer travels end, we will share pictures of the wall maps showing all the places that Rocket City families traveled, highlighting some of the trends in the summer adventures! Let the travels begin! Who will be the first to send a postcard to add to our wall entitled “Rockets Lift Off to Summer Adventures”?

The Ultimate “Read 23” Summer Reading Challenge

Read to Succeed – Read 23! Take part in the ultimate R-P Summer Reading Challenge. This challenge is being offered to students entering Kindergarten through 12th grade who are enrolled in one of our Reeths-Puffer Buildings and will be attending one of our schools in the fall 2014. This challenge is an opportunity to instill the love of reading as a life-long habit, as well as have the opportunity to win a Kindle Fire 7” tablet.

Thanks to a generous donation by a community member, we have 5 Kindle Fire 7” tablets to give away for those who complete the “Ultimate Read 23 Summer Reading Challenge” and submits the proper parent sign off for the reading documentation log. Any R-P student who completes the challenge will be placed into the appropriate “level” drawing. We will draw one name from each of the following levels on Monday, September 8, 2014. Students and families will be notified on Tuesday, September 9th as to the names of the winners at each level. Reading challenge forms will be available in each building office the final week of school; can be picked up at the District office at 991 W. Giles Road between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. during the month of June; or can be downloaded from the District website. (Go to Curriculum Department then to the Curriculum Corner for Parents)

District Drawing Categories:

- Elementary K - 2nd Grade Students
- Elementary 3rd and 4th Grade Students
- Intermediate School 5th and 6th Grade Students
- Middle School 7th and 8th Grade Students
- High School 9th – 12th Grade Students

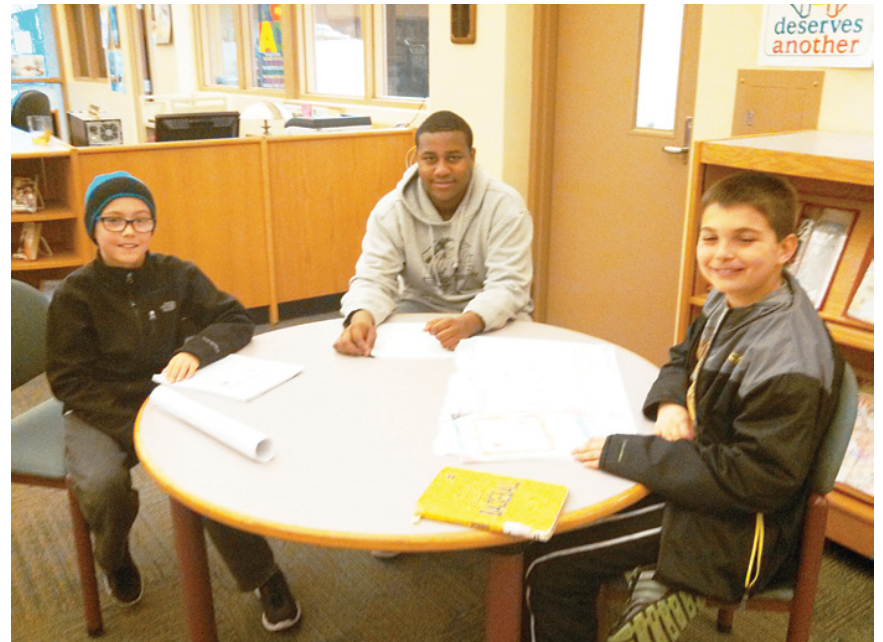
So What Does it Take to Meet this Challenge?

- Students read or are read to for 23 minutes every day. This can be family reading or individual reading.
- Date range of challenge include: June 9th through August 29th.
- **Five “free days” throughout the summer challenge dates are allowed to meet any unique family situations that may arise.

So What Counts for Reading?

- Reading together as a family, reading individually, or listening to audio books.
- Reading while being a passenger in the car, reading on the beach, in bed at night, at the breakfast table, by the campfire, etc.
- Turning on the closed caption and reading your favorite TV show instead of listening to it.
- Reading a book, a magazine, a how-to book, a website (researching colleges, vacations, etc.).
- Reading anywhere, anytime . . . be creative and have fun! Read to Succeed – Read 23!

Reading 23 minutes every day can make a life-long difference in both the short and long term success of our Rocket City families. Go Rocket Readers!



Reading and Writing Works Together

Fourth graders in Mrs. Warren's class completed their non-fiction reading and writing units. This was a 40 day unit involving reading and writing of non-fiction text. Students used books from their classroom, the school library, and public libraries. They learned about elephants, penguins, subway systems, fireflies, and the Civil War, just to name a few. Students realized they LOVE reading non-fiction and celebrated with a study trip to the middle school to share with the 7th and 8th graders in Mrs. Grant's class, and the kindergartners in Mrs. Farmer's class.

Top left: Mitchell Moore gets information on Dolphins from Audrey Darling and Arial Greeno.

Top right: Klay Grant and Logan Farmer share their information with Jamar.

Immediate left: Celebration

A New Way to Engage in Math Play

Kindergarten students at Central are benefiting from new MathRacks that were recently purchased. A MathRack simulates a tool more commonly used today in Kindergarten classrooms called "rekenreks". The rekenrek was designed by a mathematical researcher from the Netherlands to help develop number sense in children. These racks consist of two rows of 10 beads. Each row is made of five red beads and five white beads allowing students to make mental images of numbers. Students use 5 and 10 as anchors for counting, adding and subtracting. The goal in using the MathRacks is automaticity of basic facts. At Central, you might see students using MathRacks to replicate the seats on a double decker bus, to play a game called *Not My Number*, or to support the work students are engaging in at math stations.

Olivia Smith, Andrew Corradin, and Bailey Bohland are "racking" out their next solution.





Mr. Carr explains the difference between horns and antlers.

Fun with “The Animal Dude”!

Mrs. Frazier’s class at Central Elementary had a very exciting ending to their non-fiction unit in reading. After studying six different animals within their Book Clubs, Mr. Kevin Carr joined them to be wowed by all their animal knowledge. Mr. Carr brought in each animal the students read about so they could get up close to explore. They also were able to ask questions and create their favorite animal using clay or paint. Thanks again Mr. Carr for a super fun and engaging, learning celebration. Mrs. Frazier and her students would also like to thank Mr. Carr, owner of Integrity Builders, for sponsoring their classroom this year.



Above, left: Ian Wright checks out the physical features of a coyote.



Above, right: Azlynn Gordon investigates a black bear.



Donor’s Choose Helps

Donor’s Choose is a wonderful program that can provide funding for many projects that benefit our students. Ms. Brooks and Mrs. Reeths, special education teachers at Central, received funding for a project called “Let’s chill out and read.” Central was able to purchase a set of American Chillers books, rocker chairs, bean bags and tubelo listeners for the reading and resource room classes. Students really enjoy using the materials and love the books.

Pictured above: Makayla Rodriguez and Ryan Kobera are reading in the rocker chairs during Read 180 class.



We Love Our Volunteer

Our Read 180 class is fortunate to have a volunteer helper. Mrs. Tami Sheehy taught at Reeths-Puffer for 22 years before retiring. She loves retirement, but really missed working with kids. She comes in 3-4 days a week and helps in Mrs. Reeths’ Read 180 and System 44 classes. She listens to kids read, helps with their work, and brings writing projects for them to do. Mrs. Sheehy says, “I feel blessed to have been recycled. I love working with these kids. Reading is (fun)-damental.”

Above: Anthony Sydnor, Morgen Rosema, Mrs. Sheehy, Brianna Stawski, and Jace Ayala.



Reading Road Trip at Mighty McMillan!

March was reading month and the students at McMillan took a reading road trip across the United States to celebrate. Students were able to work as a group to fuel their Rocket City car from New York to California and back to Michigan. Students were even able to learn about a well-known author from each highlighted state. Students were

challenged to read as many hours as possible throughout the month. For each hour read, students received a car to place on the roads throughout the hallways. The students at McMillan collectively read for a total of 1,217



hours and were able to successfully fuel the Rocket City car across the country. A ton of great reading took place. All readers received a coupon from Hometown Creamery as well as a few Whitecaps Baseball cards. The top readers received a pair of sunglasses, two free tickets to a Whitecaps game and a special sundae party hosted by Hometown Creamery. Congratulations McMillan readers on your great work throughout the month!



Mighty McMillan READ 180 Students get their Parents Involved

In February, the READ 180 students at Mighty McMillan invited their parents to a parent involvement night to learn all about reading fluency strategies. Prior to the fluency night, students worked with Mrs. Worthing to video tape themselves modeling the fluency strategies. The night of the event, parents were able to watch the videos to gain a better understanding of how to implement the fluency strategies at home with their child. Students also worked one on one with their parents to practice the strategies. They were even able to give a couple of live performances. It was a great night of learning for everyone involved!



New Ways of Serving in Speech Therapy

An iPad? You Tube videos? You bet!! Our mighty speech teacher, Mrs. Symons, has been incorporating technology to support her students' in developing appropriate speech and language skills. With the addition of the iPad this year, Mrs. Symons has been able to use specific, research based applications to entice and challenge her students to meet their language goals. It's a little bit of trickery that she uses to motivate her students to persevere. And, it's working!

Mrs. Symons has also incorporated You Tube videos during her therapy sessions. This method has been helpful for her students in two ways: First, as her students are practicing and learning a new skill, the video tape can be used for feedback, where children analyze themselves and learn how to make corrections. The second is that the videos are used by parents, so that they know, specifically, how and what to practice with their children at home.

As we look for ways to intervene and provide for our children at an earlier age, without pulling them from their classroom, Mrs. Symons has found a way to support her students in their classroom environment. She pushes into our Kindergarten classrooms to offer guidance in the area of writing. Mrs. Symons looks forward to offering more of this kind of intervention next year. Mrs. Symons helps put the "mighty" in McMillan!



Rigleigh is in the House!

In an earlier issue of Rocket City News, it was explained that all students at McMillan were introduced to Rigleigh the therapy dog by learning how to approach a dog safely, and how a therapy dog can help people. Through research, staff and parents have learned the benefits of having a therapy dog present in the school. As a result, all students have been able to interact with Rigleigh in one way or another.

Last year, Rigleigh's job was to interact with 39 students known as "Rigleigh's Readers", where students had opportunities to curl up with Rigleigh, and read to her and then reflect on their experience by writing in their journals. This year, the percentage of students involved with her has increased dramatically! On a daily basis, Rigleigh prances through the halls, making the rounds before and after school to say good morning or goodbye to students and adults to help them start and end their day in a "pawsitive" way.

Along with "Rigleigh's Readers", some other responsibilities include picking up students who work with Miss Sparks, being available to those who need some extra love, and to be a good listener and encourage students to make "doggone pawsitive" choices. Since behavior referrals have decreased this year, the use of Rigleigh as a positive behavior strategy has been incorporated into McMillan's School Improvement process. Furthermore, from collecting data such as parent, staff, and student testimonials, the findings have been consistent that stress levels have decreased in both little and big kids! Thank you, Rigleigh!

Peanut butter bones, small squeaky tennis balls, and treats for doing tricks: \$50.00.

Coordinating doggy clothes, harnesses and leashes: \$250.00.

Dog informational and narrative texts for students to read: \$500.00.

Observing how many smiles appear on faces of students and adults when they pet Rigleigh...PRICELESS!



McMillan Students Visit the Capitol

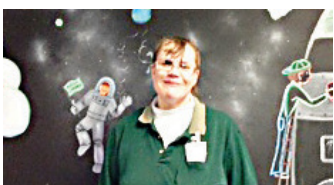


On March 14, third and fourth grade students from McMillan Elementary traveled to Lansing for tours of the Capitol Building and the Michigan Historical Museum. It was an exciting morning as students began arriving to school at 6:30 a.m. to board the busses. Twenty wonderful chaperones were on hand to help students along the way.

Students enjoyed the architecture of the Capitol Building as they heard the history of the building and learned about Michigan government. Some

favorite sights were the governor's office, the glass floor, and the dome with amazing artwork.

The Historical Museum gave students a chance to walk through the history of Michigan, beginning with learning about Native American life through the 1800s and 1900s. Some favorite exhibits were the mining and lumbering exhibits, complete with the Hackley House replica, and the history of the automobile. Overall, it was a successful and fun day of learning for everyone!



Paczki Paula

Mighty McMillan wants to give a big Rocket three to our Enviro-Clean Custodian Miss Paula. She surprised the staff with a Paczki treat on Fat Tuesday. She is "rocking it" in Rocket City. Thanks, Miss Paula!

Students Support Butterfly Habitat



The Karner Blue Butterfly is an endangered species in Muskegon County. Students at Twin Lake Elementary are supporting a habitat that will help this beautiful butterfly thrive. Money was raised to purchase lupine/wildflower seed mixture. The lupine flower is the plant the Karner Blue Butterfly needs to survive. Students will plant the seeds at home and then transplant them into their Nature Garden.

To raise the money for this project, students "paid" a quarter to bring a stuffed animal to school for a day, and they collected over \$300! Twin Lake students can be proud of their efforts to help an endangered species in our area.



Third Grade Rumbles

Did you feel the ground shake? Did you see ash in the air over Twin Lake? Over 50 volcanoes erupted recently in third grade. Third graders have been learning how the surface of the Earth is shaped and changed. One earth-shaper is volcanoes. Students studied how volcanoes are formed, how they work, and how they bring about change. They then used their knowledge to construct model volcanoes. The project was explosive!

“Rethink Reading” Family Celebration



What happens when you combine a Go Green theme, tons of nonfiction texts, and a focus on technology, teachers, students and parents – a wonderful parent involvement opportunity! Twin Lake teachers hosted an exciting daytime event for students and parents at the end of March to celebrate reading month, and it was a soaring success!

Parents chose four Information Stations to visit with their children. The Information Stations were hosted by classroom teachers. Families chose from The App Store, where they learned about many free apps and received a gift card to download the hottest literacy apps: an online scavenger hunt, Go Green games, vocabulary building projects, creating text features, using the Bookflix website to compare fiction and nonfiction, Earth-friendly art projects, recording a recycling rap video and more! Parents were able to choose a nonfiction text to take home, and one lucky student from each grade went home with a complete nonfiction library!

The world of screens, apps and websites may feel new to some parents and teachers, but to our students it is simply the world in which they live. The goal of the TLE family event was to help parents understand that reading can be about more than just stories. Although we want our students to develop their reading stamina and dig into complex fiction, we also want to teach them how to navigate complex nonfiction texts, how to filter busy screens of useful and not so useful information, and how to build vocabulary around a new topic. Our nonfiction focus, technology integration and vocabulary work is nothing new to the “digital natives” that fill our classrooms. Young students are not just learning to read, but also reading to learn.

Thanks to all the parents who made time in their schedule to spend the morning at TLE. This Title I sponsored event would not have been possible without the cooperation of classroom teachers, support staff ...and, of course, our wonderful Twin Lake families! Go Rockets!



Twin Lake Elementary Goes GREEN

Twin Lake Elementary has applied to renew their status as a Michigan Green School. Throughout this year, students have worked to learn about “green behaviors” and put them into practice. One of the behaviors focused on recycling. Students and staff worked to implement a school-wide recycling program. Items including copy paper, newspaper, magazines, plastic, aluminum, batteries, and cardboard are now collected in the school's Recycling Center.

Twin Lake students have also been composting at lunch. Compost buckets are used to collect fruits and vegetables. The collection buckets are emptied into three compost bins behind the school. The fresh soil from these compost bins will be used for gardening in the school's outdoor garden.

Other application highlights include the students' work to build and maintain animal habitat projects, habitat gardening, and making “green” connections to music and technology.






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2014 SPRING SPORTS SCHEDULE

Due to the amount of snow and conditions of athletic fields, the spring sports schedule is very fluid.
Please check www.schedulestar.com for up to date spring schedules.

2014 FALL SPORTS SCHEDULE

Schedule Tentative

FOOTBALL - VARSITY

| DATE | LOCATION | PLACE | TIME |
|----------|---------------------------|-------|--------|
| 08/28/14 | Holland HS | Home | 7:00PM |
| 09/05/14 | Fremont | Away | 7:00PM |
| 09/12/14 | Grand Haven | Away | 7:00PM |
| 09/19/14 | Lowell HS | Home | 7:00PM |
| 09/26/14 | Zeeland East (Homecoming) | Home | 7:00PM |
| 10/03/14 | G.R. Union | Away | 7:00PM |
| 10/10/14 | Mona Shores | Home | 7:00PM |
| 10/17/14 | Muskegon | Home | 7:00PM |
| 10/24/14 | Kenowa Hills | Away | 7:00PM |

FOOTBALL - JUNIOR VARSITY

| DATE | LOCATION | PLACE | TIME |
|----------|--------------|-------|--------|
| 08/27/14 | Holland HS | Away | 6:30PM |
| 09/04/14 | Fremont | Home | 6:30PM |
| 09/11/14 | Grand Haven | Home | 6:30PM |
| 09/18/14 | Lowell HS | Away | 6:30PM |
| 09/25/14 | Zeeland East | Away | 6:30PM |
| 10/02/14 | G.R. Union | Home | 6:30PM |
| 10/09/14 | Mona Shores | Away | 6:30PM |
| 10/16/14 | Muskegon | Away | 6:30PM |
| 10/23/14 | Kenowa Hills | Home | 6:30PM |

FOOTBALL - FRESHMAN

| DATE | LOCATION | PLACE | TIME |
|----------|--------------|-------|--------|
| 08/27/14 | Holland HS | Away | 4:30PM |
| 09/04/14 | Fremont | Home | 4:30PM |
| 09/11/14 | Grand Haven | Home | 4:30PM |
| 09/18/14 | Lowell HS | Away | 4:30PM |
| 09/25/14 | Zeeland East | Away | 4:30PM |
| 10/02/14 | G.R. Union | Home | 4:30PM |
| 10/09/14 | Mona Shores | Away | 4:30PM |
| 10/16/14 | Muskegon | Away | 4:30PM |
| 10/23/14 | Kenowa Hills | Home | 4:30PM |

SOCCER – BOYS VARSITY

| DATE | LOCATION | PLACE | TIME |
|----------|-------------------------|-------|--------|
| 08/23/14 | Portage Invitational | Away | 9:00AM |
| 08/28/14 | Grand Haven | Away | 2:00PM |
| 09/04/14 | Sparta | Home | 6:45PM |
| 09/09/14 | Zeeland East | Home | 6:45PM |
| 09/11/14 | G.R. Union | Away | 6:45PM |
| 09/16/14 | Mona Shores | Home | 6:45PM |
| 09/18/14 | Muskegon | Home | 6:45PM |
| 09/20/14 | Western MI Christian HS | Home | 1:45PM |
| 09/23/14 | Kenowa Hills | Away | 6:45PM |
| 09/25/14 | Zeeland East | Away | 6:45PM |
| 09/30/14 | G.R. Union | Home | 6:45PM |
| 10/02/14 | Mona Shores | Away | 6:45PM |
| 10/04/14 | Fruitport HS | Away | 7:00PM |
| 10/07/14 | Muskegon | Away | 6:45PM |
| 10/09/14 | Kenowa Hills | Home | 6:45PM |

SOCCER - BOYS JUNIOR VARSITY

| DATE | LOCATION | PLACE | TIME |
|----------|-------------------------|-------|---------|
| 08/28/14 | Grand Haven | Away | 4:00PM |
| 09/04/14 | Sparta | Home | 5:00PM |
| 09/09/14 | Zeeland East | Home | 5:00PM |
| 09/11/14 | G.R. Union | Away | 5:00PM |
| 09/16/14 | Mona Shores | Home | 5:00PM |
| 09/18/14 | Muskegon | Home | 5:00PM |
| 09/20/14 | Western MI Christian HS | Home | 12:00PM |
| 09/23/14 | Kenowa Hills | Away | 5:00PM |
| 09/25/14 | Zeeland East | Away | 5:00PM |
| 09/30/14 | G.R. Union | Home | 5:00PM |
| 10/02/14 | Mona Shores | Away | 5:00PM |
| 10/04/14 | Fruitport HS | Away | 5:00PM |
| 10/07/14 | Muskegon | Home | 5:00PM |
| 10/09/14 | Kenowa Hills | Home | 5:00PM |

All dates are tentative and subject to change.

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R-P ATHLETIC SUMMER CAMPS AND TRAINING

All students wishing to participate in a sport during the 2014-15 school year must have a current physical on file (current is physical dated April 15, 2014 or later) in order to tryout!

BASEBALL CAMP

Baseball summer camp will be held June 16-19 at the high school arena for students in grades 3rd through 6th. Cost is \$30. Complete information can be found on the district website at http://www.reeths-puffer.org/High_School/Athletics/youthcamps/

CROSS COUNTRY

There will be a Cross Country Camp for high school athletes August 3, 4, 5 and 6. For complete details see Mr. Richardson's blog at <http://blogs.reeths-puffer.org/richardd/about/>

HOCKEY CAMPS

Summer hockey development camps at Lakeshore Sports Centre.

Youth Hockey Development Camp

- Open to all players 4-12 years of age (goalie instruction available)
- Youth Development Program
- July 14th – 17th
- Four day camp works to develop young players on ice skills as well as provide dry-land training to continue their development off the ice
- For specific times and registration information visit www.liftoffhockey.com
- Open to any player in 3rd through 12th grade

Elite Development Program

- June 9th – July 10th
- Open to any player in 3rd through 12th grade
- 3rd – 8th grade – Monday at 5:30 p.m. and Thursday at 12:00 noon
- 9th – 12th grade – Monday at 6:30 p.m. and Thursday at 11:00 a.m.
(On some weeks over-lapping of groups may occur for skating drills to allow for more ice time per student)
- Registration deadline – April 30, 2014
- For registration information www.liftoffhockey.com

SOCCER CAMPS

This year, there will be two (2) weeks of soccer camps.

July 10 -14: Camp for kids 3rd grade through high school

July 17 – 20: Camp for Kindergarten through 2nd grade.

All camps will be at the high school field. Brochures can be found at <http://reethspuffersoccer.com/>

SOFTBALL – SUMMER WORKOUTS

Reeths-Puffer Softball will have summer workouts (agility/core strength) with Aaron Szura every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 9:30 to 10:45 a.m. for 7th through 12th grade players. Meet in the high school weight room (there is no cost to attend).

VOLLEYBALL Weight Room & Summer Calendar

• **Mr. Aaron Szura Clinic.** The Reeths-Puffer High School trainer, Mr. Aaron Szura, will have a clinic for 5th to 7th graders on Speed & Sport Skill Development. You can choose either one of the two clinic dates and times. Mondays and Wednesdays, June 9th – July 30th, 2014, from 5:00 to 6:30 p.m. or Tuesdays & Fridays, June 10th - August 1st, 2014, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The cost is \$100. To learn more, email: szuraa@reeths-puffer.org

• **Summer Weight Room Schedule.** For next year's 8th to 12th grade Volleyball girls, the weight room will be run by Mr. Aaron Szura, Reeths-Puffer High School trainer. The Workouts will be held every Monday, Wednesday and Friday beginning June 9th, 2014, from 9:30 to 11:00 a.m. It is EXPECTED that all girls planning on trying out for the Volleyball team be there. If you are unable to make it, you need to make arrangements with Coach Hellmann prior to the end of the school year. hellmannj@reeths-puffer.org

SUMMER OPEN VOLLEYBALL PLAY

• **Tuesday Night Insideout Women's Quads.** Sign up for a Quads Women's beach volleyball league at Inside Out. www.insideoutvolleyball.org

• **Wednesday Night Open Beach Volleyball Play.** From 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. (later if need be), 1 to 2 nets will be set up at Pere Marquette Park Beach for open beach play. The nets will be set up by the playground area. All you need to bring is something to drink and a beach towel. For more information, contact Coach Hellmann at hellmannj@reeths-puffer.org

• **Thursday Open Volleyball Gym.** From 9:00 to 11:00 a.m., 1 to 2 nets will be set up at Reeths-Puffer High School for open Volleyball gym. The nets will be set up in the AUX gym. All you need to bring is something to drink and a towel. For more information, contact Coach Hellmann at hellmannj@reeths-puffer.org

SUMMER VOLLEYBALL CAMPS

Inside Out Volleyball - www.insideoutvolleyball.org Reeths-Puffer High School Camp

The coaches at Reeths-Puffer High School are offering a Skills Camp. This Four Day Skills Camp is June 16th to June 19th, 2014, from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. (grades 9-12) and 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. (grades 5-8). For more information, contact Coach Hellmann at hellmannj@reeths-puffer.org

• Grand Valley State University

Grand Valley State is offering One-Day Position Camps for setters, hitters and liberos; a Two-Day All Skills Camp; a One-Day All Skills Camp and a Two-Day Varsity Team Camp. For all the information, go to the Grand Valley State Volleyball site at www.grandvalleystatevolleyballcamps.com/

• Calvin College

Calvin College is offering several sessions of Volleyball Camps.

SESSION C (grades 7-10) Skills Camp; **SESSION H** (grades 7-12) Skills Camp; **SESSION I** (grades 7-12) Setters Camp; **SESSION J** (grades 7-12) Defensive Specialist Camp; **SESSION K** (grades 7-12) Hitters Camp; and **SESSION L** (grades 7-12) Middle Hitters Camp. For all the information, go to the Calvin College site www.calvin.edu/academic/pe/sports_camps/girlslacrosse.html
Click on the Volleyball Camp information tab.

GENERAL VOLLEYBALL INFORMATION

• Reeths-Puffer Volleyball Tryouts

Tryouts for Volleyball will be held at Reeths-Puffer High School in the AUX gym as follows: August 13 to August 15, 2014, from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. This is for all levels and teams at the High School - Freshman, Junior Varsity and Varsity. You MUST be at tryouts to make one of the teams.

Reeths-Puffer Volleyball Practice

Volleyball practice starts August 18, 2014, for all levels and teams. Varsity will have two a day for the first week.

Varsity – 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Junior Varsity – 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Freshman - TBA

If you have any questions or need more information about the Reeths-Puffer Volleyball program, please contact Coach Hellmann at hellmannj@reeths-puffer.org. You can also "like" the R-P Volleyball Program page on Facebook.



Youth Volleyball • 3rd and 4th Grade



Youth Volleyball • 5th and 6th Grade

Youth Volleyball Clinic a Success

Eighty-two girls, grades 3rd through 6th, met every Sunday in January at the Reeths-Puffer Middle School gym to learn the basic skills involved with playing the game of volleyball. During week one, skills such as passing, setting, serving, and hitting were introduced. Each consecutive week those skills were reviewed and new skills were added such as position numbers, rotations, and blocking. Multiple drills and games were implemented each week to make the learning fun and age appropriate. In the final week, the girls put all their newly acquired skills to good use as they played an actual game complete with rally scoring. Thank you to all the coaches, players, and parents for your help during the clinics.



Congratulations All-Stars

CONGRATULATIONS to the Reeths-Puffer Youth Football Club's (RPYFC) PeeWee Football and Cheer All-Star Teams who competed in the 5th Annual Battle on the Lakeshore Invitational football tournament.

The RPYFC All-Star Cheerleaders made their presence known by getting the fans excited and on their feet to cheer the football players on to victory with a 24-14 win over the Oakridge Eagles in the Championship game. The tournament was a true battle as the PeeWees matched up with wins against all tournament participants to include Beach, Montague, Mona Shores and ultimately Oakridge in the Championship game. Way to go PeeWees! You've made your Rocket City community proud!

PeeWee All-Star Cheerleaders:

Emily Bouchard, Payden Challinor, Karley Cook, Breanna Crawford, Ally Harwood, Taya Hekkema, Riley Kelenske, Amber Kovalcik, Kenzie McKee, Kaitlyn Pfhistner and Rylee Sheffer

PeeWee All-Star Football Players:

Brett Buchan, Logan Hekkema, Gary Humphrey, Paris Lane, Hunter McCall, Evan Moskwa, Justin Nelson, Thade Radosa, Kobe Schalk, Cade Schauer, Colby Stephenson, Matt Straley, Ayden Willacker and Jett Young



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RPEL Loves Reading Month!

It was an exciting March Reading Month at Reeths-Puffer Elementary! Students and families enjoyed many wonderful activities including a musical kick-off, several Screen Buster days, an Hour of No Power and a huge Family Night Community Expo! In addition to that, this was the first year that the entire building read the same book at the same time! Every family at RPEL received a copy of The Lemonade War by Jacqueline Davies. By following the Reading Month calendar, families read the same chapter on the same night and students could discuss what they had read with their class the next day. To top it off, at the end of Reading Month, Mr. Klariter's R-PHS theater group performed a part of the Lemonade War for the school. It was such a great month we can't wait for next March!



RPEL Community Expo

Reeths-Puffer Elementary School topped off reading month with a Reading & Writing Community Expo sponsored by Title 1. This fun filled event took place the evening of March 25th. RPEL hosted community agencies, health professionals, and area businesses that set up booths and informed students on how they use reading and math in their jobs. Families also had an opportunity to see the vehicles many of the agencies brought with them. Simultaneously, there was a parent expo with booths offering information on topics such as reading, math, bullying, and health. Families received goodies and information from each booth. Every child in attendance received a new book and a chance to win one of three Kindle Readers. It was an amazing evening that connected the importance of reading and math to a career in our community.



RPEL staff would like to thank the following participants for supporting their school community: Family Resource Center, Catholic Charities, R-P School on Bullying, Love & Logic and 23, Carmichael Heating & Cooling, Crisp County Acres, Dr. Blackburn (dentist), Dr. Swain & Dr. Koster (eye doctors), Dr. Vollink (chiropractor), Girl Scouts of America, Mercy Health Partners (Dr. Golz), Muskegon County Road Commission, Muskegon Township Police & Fire Departments, R-P Robotics, R-P Transportation, YMCA Healthy Living & Cooking Matters and Girls on the Run.

Earth Day Celebration



How will you celebrate Earth Day this year? Will you do something to help protect the earth? Will you provide a service for someone else in need? On April 22nd, students, staff and families from RPEL celebrated Earth Day by completing a park clean-up and beautification for Riverside

Park. This park has been "unofficially" adopted by the RPEL school community. Masses of students came equipped with wheelbarrows, shovels, gloves, rakes, tarps, and leaf bags. They brought about 30 seedlings to plant on the grounds. The seedlings had been generously donated by GE Aviation. They also planted flowers, cleaned bluebird nesting boxes, weeded and added mulch to the butterfly garden, they set up picnic tables and garbage cans, cleared brush from the nature trail, and more. Both the butterfly garden and bluebird nesting boxes were built and installed by students at RPEL last spring through a Great Lakes Stewardship grant. Muskegon Township workers partnered with RPEL on clean-up day. Their workers had trucks on hand for brush disposal and dumpsters for trash collection. The Township Police and RPHS students were also there to help guide kids safely across the street both to and from the park. The students at RPEL celebrated Earth Day the best way they knew how, by putting Riverside Park first and giving it the most love they possibly could on this special day!

RPEL Celebrates Earth Day Every Day!

Since 2008, our community partner, GE Aviation – Muskegon, has supported and continues to support our green initiative by donating white pine seedlings. Reeths-Puffer Elementary School is one of 13 schools in our area to receive over 1,800 trees this year alone – 15,000 trees (and counting) over the years! Not only is planting trees good for our planet, our learning benefits as well! Learners explore life cycles of plants, the functions and characteristics of plants, what plants require to grow (water, light, and air), and the many ways we use plants including food and building material.

Math Interventionist at RPEL

Reeths-Puffer Elementary School is piloting a brand new teaching position that is an incredible opportunity. RPEL has the one and only Title 1 Math Interventionist servicing K-2 students each day. Students and teachers are benefiting from new math strategies as we work together to improve our understanding of math concepts. Students are engaged in counting routines, number talks, math work stations and intense math instruction on a daily basis. Small groups of students are working on building conceptual understanding of number sense, structuring numbers, and addition and subtraction strategies based on individual needs. With the math teacher going into the classrooms each day, the continuity and sharing of ideas among teachers and students has had a positive impact on student learning. Mathematicians are creating math energy at RPEL!

Reeths-Puffer Elementary School is adding a Shed!



This spring, the Go-Green Earth Force Team is launching its newest project. The team at Reeths-Puffer Elementary School is building a shed for the Community Garden. This is not just any shed; this shed will serve multiple purposes. Not only will the new shed house the "tools" for the garden but it will also be the first one of its kind with a bio-green roof! The shed will also be equipped with a Farmer's Market window for sales during the summer. Please join us all summer long for Tuesday's in the garden at RPEL. Pictured is an example of what the shed will look like.



RPI Student Wins Essay and Helps Others

Paige Lacross won the Rocket City Water4Wisdom essay and a free trip to the Dominican Republic. Water4Wisdom was a 2013 Rocket City Game charity. Rather than spending the funds to buy a water filter, Dr. Hubers, founder of the non-profit Water4Wisdom, suggested we send a student on an experience. Dr. Hubers' is organizing a Dad/Daughter trip in which Paige and her dad will attend along with other community members. She and a team will be installing a water filter in a school that is in danger of closing for lack of clean drinking water. Serving a desperate area has a ripple effect for not just the area in need, but also the community of the person giving of his/herself.

For more information on Water4Wisdom, visit <http://wwcs.org/water-4-wisdom/>

For information on Rocket City Games, visit rocketcitygames-rp.org

Pictured above is Paige and Dr. Hubers.

Extending Learning Opportunities through the Use of Technology

RPI is reaching out to find alternative ways to meet the diverse learning needs of their students. Jim Kauppila, an Assistive Technology Consultant from the Muskegon Area Intermediate School District, is working with some 6th grade students in Mrs. Niklasch's Social Studies class to train them in using the Chrome books as part of a pilot program. These students have the opportunity to use the Chrome books throughout their school day to support and extend their learning. The free applications on the Chrome books allow students to access learning in multiple and alternative ways. Ultimately, students are learning to process and extend the learning that is being taught in their various courses. Students are taking ownership in their learning and have found alternative ways to access, process and submit their work electronically. The use of online applications provides the students with a means to process what they are learning at school and continue the learning process at home through the use of these same web-based applications. These students are beginning to understand that learning takes place anytime, anywhere!



STEM Engineering Night at RPI (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math)



RPI is one of only a handful of schools in West Michigan to implement a STEM Engineering Night. The cafeteria was filled with over 50 eager, creative and determined 5th graders and their families for the first RPI Engineering Night! Families were treated to an evening of problem solving by local engineers, scientists, Muskegon Area Intermediate School District staff, teachers and Rocket City administrators. There were 18 hands-on centers based on Science, Technology, Engineering and Math. Families had time to build, problem solve, design, fail and try again as they moved through the centers. After the event, Mr. Bob Boyd led families through a real life artificial hand design challenge that launched 50 different creations to find a solution. RPI is committed to creating a problem solving culture!

Softball Warrior Workout Competition

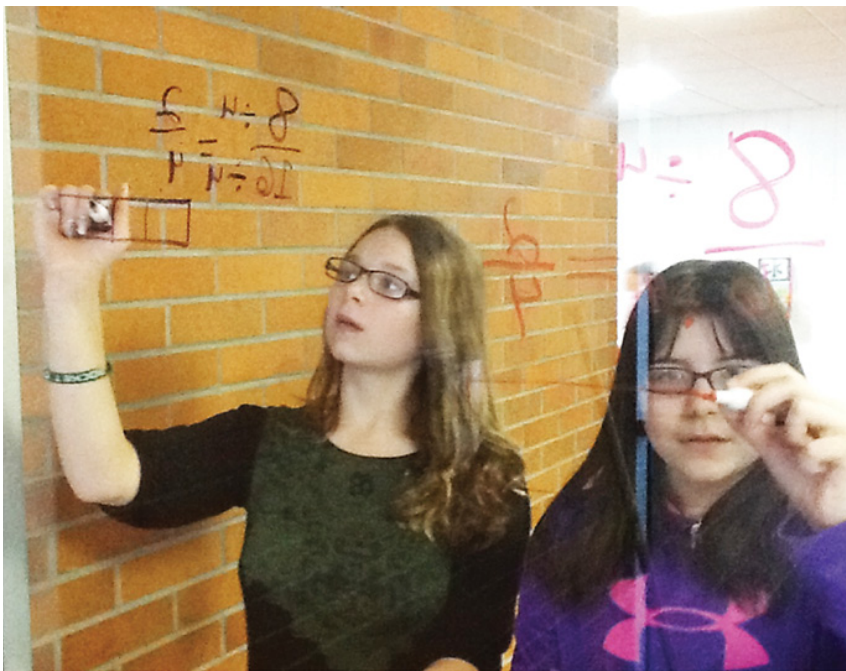
All Rocket City softball players, 3rd-12th grade, had an opportunity this winter to participate in a SOFTBALL WARRIOR WORKOUT COMPETITION! During this competition players had the opportunity to complete more than 1,000 repetitions in hitting, throwing, fielding, and agility!!

THE FINAL STANDINGS:

One Rocket City softball player finishes with the GOLD! Congratulations to **Sydney Edwards** for showing her ability to be a true softball warrior on 11 workout dates!!!

Six players finish SILVER! Congratulations to **Rylee Rzepka, Emily Morris, Abbey Mitchelson, Meagan Cook, Jenna Grant, and Madison Sahlhoff** for demonstrating your ability to be a softball warrior on 9+ workout dates!!

Four players finish Bronze! Congratulations to **Alyssa Sahlhoff, McKenna Heikkila, Ellie Bletch, and Ashlyn Gonzales** for demonstrating your ability to be a softball warrior on 7+ workout dates!



ROCKET TIME IN ACTION at R-P INTERMEDIATE

Rocket Time is a 30 minute learning block where students experience content and a level of instruction that is matched to their needs for acceleration or support. All students at RPI spend 30 minutes a day in a Math group or Language Arts group. These flexible groups allow for students to experience learning in a different way and develop strategies to use in their core classrooms. This flexible grouping and targeted instruction for 600 students is something that only 5th and 6th grade students at Rocket City experience four days a week. The fifth day is a meeting that is specific to each grade level where staff and students explore “23” strategies for achievement and to support behavioral needs. The intention is to support a positive, creative and collaborative learning culture!



College Night 2014



**“But for each of us,
isn’t life about determining
your own finish line?”**

*Diana Nyad,
world record distance swimmer*

Understanding that finish lines for students vary in topic, length, and intensity, our students must first imagine crossing their own finish lines. As ludicrous as it would be to see a runner come to a screeching halt at the tape, so would it be if students felt completion at the end of 6th grade or even high school.

Helping students envision their own finish lines while providing the abilities and agility to reach them has been a theme at RPI this year. Curriculum was created to help students explore careers, education opportunities, and techniques to overcome obstacles.

For months, a group of staff members worked to encourage college and university representatives to attend a college night specifically for students who were wide open to all the possibilities a college experience may offer. After many hours of phone calls and emails, 25 colleges agreed to attend. With excitement, all K-8 students and their parents were invited to join the Intermediate community - and show up in enthusiastic numbers they did.



Representatives who are accustomed to fielding questions from juniors and seniors quickly adapted and realized the value in the night. They answered questions from young learners while simultaneously guiding the students to deeper possibilities. To fully appreciate what the evening brought, antidotes need to be shared. At

the University of Michigan table a learner approached with Baker Culinary Treats smeared on his face and shirt and asked, “I like language arts. Can I study language arts at Michigan?” He was rewarded with a huge smile and unprecedented attention, “Why yes. Let’s talk about what specifically you like about language arts.” One Dad grinned as he talked about his 8 year old insisting they return to a university table to ask “one more question.” “Can I study political science here? I want to be a senator.” Crowds of eager learners gathered around the MI Tech table to solve engineering tasks, while across the room financial advisers talked to parents about how to make the eagerness translate into a future reality.

College night was only one step in the process. Sixth grade students were given the opportunity to board buses and head to university campuses. Walking amongst college students who had created finish lines beyond high school, our students were greeted, encouraged and high fived. Grand Valley, Aquinas, Central, Alma, Western, Ferris, & Michigan State University welcomed young Rockets with amazing experiences leaving a sparkle in the eyes of promising 12 year olds.



“This is a gift,” remarked a chaperon as she watched kids’ eyes widen with excitement. True, they loved the dorm food and imagined how they would arrange their dorm loft, but they were also thrilled with the invite to work and study among top nuclear physicists. MSU is top in the world for astro-physics and our Rockets were invited to join them this summer for a camp and again in 2020, graduation year for the group and unveiling of the new \$730 million cyclotron on campus. Meeting Ferris, MSU, & Western football players and walking in football facilities was a blast, but so was creating posters with the Marketing Department at Ferris. Listening to our learners pepper the Fragile X researchers about how they were going to solve the cause of autism while their autistic peers listened intently was humbling. They saw themselves as more than sixth graders; they were solution seekers working for good beyond themselves.

Pride doesn’t describe how our young Rockets engaged in their unique opportunities. When college presidents, professors and reps email the school requesting to be included in 2015 college night and invite Rockets on their campus, our young Rockets have shown they will know how to run through the tape.

Student Leadership Team ‘Reaching Higher’



At R-P Middle School, students have the opportunity to put their leadership skills into action, helping to make the school a better place to learn. This year's Leadership Team agreed to partner with the middle school PTO to hold the first ever "Princess Ball" at the middle school. These students helped to organize the event and their work contributed to an incredible evening for 'princesses' at R-P Schools.

This event helped raise funds for the middle school LMC, which is in need of new books. In collaboration with the PTO, the Leadership Team helped achieve the vision of increasing book titles our students have access to. They are increasing the opportunities to reach toward "23" and they gave R-P families an evening to remember!

Under the guidance of Mrs. Kriesel and Ms. Stingle, the Leadership Team also partnered with high school students and brought the Kindness Campaign to the middle school. This campaign is designed to promote the types of behaviors and actions that create a supportive and nurturing environment at the school. The group collected pledges on bird-shaped slips of paper, and asked students to "Help Set Kindness Free at R-P." In addition, members of the Leadership Team selected quotes to read each day on the announcements reminding students to think of ways they can spread kindness to others in their own lives.

EXTRA, EXTRA!

Below is a partial listing of the clubs, activities and EXTRAS R-P Middle School students have the opportunity to get involved in:

| | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Student Leadership Group | Men of Honor | Ladies of Honor |
| Airplane Club | Student Council | Art Club |
| Destination Imagination | Science Olympiad | 100 Mile Club |
| Girl's on Track | Endurance Adventure | Winterguard |
| Ski Club | Polar Plunge | Treble Makers |
| Calling All Colors | First Priority | Recycling Team |
| Reading Buddies | Cross Country | Lacrosse |
| 7th Grade Football | 8th Grade Football | 7th Grade Volleyball |
| 8th Grade Volleyball | Track | Softball |
| Wrestling | 7th Grade Boys Basketball | 7th Grade Girls Basketball |
| 8th Grade Boys Basketball | 8th Grade Girls Basketball | |

As you can see, R-P Middle School students have many opportunities to get engaged and involved in their community and each other inside and outside the school day! They also have opportunities to connect with community speakers during the day. Whether it comes in the form of connecting with judges, lawyers, and corrections officers during Law Enforcement Day, raising funds for Special Olympics during the Polar Plunge (2014 Muskegon County School Champions), or putting design and engineering skills to use in the Airplane Club, there are opportunities to connect and engage in excellence for whatever it is that makes your child tick!

If your student is looking for ways to get involved, or would like to start a group here at the Middle School, please contact the Middle School!

Testing the Test

In March, 8th grade students at R-P Middle School took part in "testing the test" during the pilot of the Smarter Balance Assessment. This new computer based test is scheduled to replace the MEAP for students across the state. The test will also be taken by students across the country next year.

So, what did our 8th Grade students think about this test? Here are some of their comments:

- "It was similar to the MEAP because they are both tests for the state. It was different from MEAP because MEAP you have to write - but on here you just type it on the computer. I prefer this because I would way rather type than write and I like it a lot more than MEAP."
- "It is different because you have to type out answers and it's not just choose A, B, C, or D."
- "This test has more writing/typing, but this test kept me interested. I found that I liked the fact that there were multiple types of questions, instead of just filling in the bubbles. I definitely like this test better."

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EXTRA EXTRA EXTRA EXTRA EXTRA

Summer FUN



for middle school students

Incoming 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students can explore exciting careers June 16-19, & June 23-26, 2014 at the Muskegon Area Career Tech Center.

DO MORE THIS SUMMER



Call 231.767.3600 or visit muskegoncareertech.com to enroll

Muskegon Area Career Tech Center

Middle School Important Athletic Dates

Middle School Football - official start date 8/25/14

Middle School Volleyball - official start date 8/26/14

Middle School Cross Country - official start date 9/4/14

All students must have a current physical (after April 15, 2014) in order to try out.



State Championship for Winter Guard

This hard working group of students and coaches made their way to Saginaw Valley State University this spring, and returned as the 2014 Michigan Color Guard Circuit Middle School State Champions! The hours of practice, grit and determination gave these students an edge over their competition and represented the commitment to excellence that brings home the hardware! Join us in congratulating this group of Middle School Students on their success!

Reading Month Brings R-P Football Players into Elementary Classrooms



The Varsity Football team paid a visit to Reeths-Puffer elementary classrooms in what has become an annual tradition during the month of March. Central Elementary, RPEL, and Twin Lake Elementary all welcomed the Varsity players to read to their young Rockets and to get to know the future of Rocket City.

Subsequent Q/A sessions brought plenty of laughs between Rockets young and old in addition to some great stories. Not the least of which was one that took place in the classroom of

Mari Rice, a fourth grade teacher at Twin Lake Elementary, when an unlikely source dropped some surprising wisdom on senior, Buck Tottingham. After being asked by the youngster what he scored on his ACT, Buck promptly replied, "25". Evidently already enamored by Buck, the youngster was so inspired by the fact that this was two points higher than the district goal of "23," that he swore he would do the same. Buck would later say that he quietly told the youngster "to do better."

Buck's story wasn't the only one that made waves during the players' visit. The day was full of prideful interactions that would make any R-P alum smile. At Central Elementary, this was on visual display at recess time when a seemingly harmless football game transitioned to the Varsity players being tackled head-to-toe by what seemed like grades two through four. Hilarity ensued as Stephen Hanson, Corey Plichta, Matt Hoover, and Brandon Mullen fended off the youngsters the best they could but to no avail.



Special thanks go out to Laura Veihl, Kelly Griswold, Tracey Hanson, Amy Ross, Stephanie Cooper, Tamlin Garibay, Mari Rice, Shawn Garza, Barb Miller, Pam Turner, and Paul Klimsza for welcoming the players into their buildings and classrooms and making this day possible. Go Rockets!

Rockets, register now!
Classes Start August 25



Muskegon Community College

muskegoncc.edu/register



First Annual “Art in the Moment” A Creative Success!

Seven local schools sent a team of artists to our campus to compete in the first annual Art in the Moment competition and the results were amazing! R-P art instructors, Jeff Hellmann and Craig Olson crafted the vision, collected the supplies, invited the schools, secured the judges and facilitated this wonderful event for our area artists.

The inaugural theme was “Secret Message” and teams used their collective talents to shape their artwork from a table of what many people would consider junk. As they say, one man’s junk is another man’s treasure. The teams were given a 4x4 piece of plywood to create their art piece along with the same supply list relative to paint, brushes, sand paper, power tools, etc.

The competition began at 10:00 a.m. with final judging completed at 4:00 p.m. The art team from Montague won first place with North Muskegon placing second.

Above, R-PHS Artists: Ari Norris, Sarah DeYoung, Taylor Kruszynski

NHS Blood Drive A Huge Success

The blood drive hosted by the R-PHS National Honor Society was a big success. Their goal, set by the Red Cross, was to collect 71 units of blood and the Rockets surpassed that goal by collecting 83 units! R-PHS is the only high school that has held a blood drive for 25 years and counting.

Every year the Red Cross staff comment on how well R-P’s drive is organized and how wonderful our students are. This year, again, they commented on the great behavior and attitude of the student donors and the hard work put forth by the NHS student volunteers. Just another example of how important Reeths-Puffer is to our community, Rocket City!



Career Speakers Forum 2014

The Career Speakers Forum is an event bringing over 70 professionals on campus to share their career and experiences with our freshmen and sophomore students. Students were organized by their career pathway choices according to their educational development plan. There are six career pathways:

- Arts and Communications
- Business/Management/Informational Technology
- Engineering and Industrial Technology
- Health Services
- Human Services
- Natural Resources and Agriscience

It was refreshing to hear from the speakers, their enthusiasm regarding the community forum and R-P’s desire to have community professionals share their career and experiences with students. Overall, it was a great day for our students and community partners.



REETHS-PUFFER SCHOOLS End of Year Calendar

| | |
|---------------|--|
| May 26 | K-12 No School - Memorial Day |
| June 1 | Baccalaureate, 2:30 p.m. Rocket Centre |
| June 2 | Senior Awards, 7:00 p.m., Rocket Centre |
| June 3 | High School Graduation, 7:00 p.m. L. C. Walker Arena |
| June 5 | K-12 AM Only - Last Day for High School Students |
| June 6 | K-8 AM Only - Last Day of School for K-8 |

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JV Volleyball Team Enjoys Hosting No More Sidelines

Earlier in the school year, the JV Volleyball team hosted an evening full of fun thanks to the addition of the No More Sidelines group. Cortney Blair, Reeths-Puffer alumni, contacted Coach Linda Westerhof early in her season to see if she would host the group. Linda was excited to do so and happily scheduled a date. This was the first time that the No More Sidelines group had tried the sport of volleyball. Both the JV players and the No More Sidelines players discovered that volleyball is not an easy game to learn or teach. Throughout the night, players learned the basics of passing, hitting, setting, and serving. For the last half hour of time together, the JV players mixed with the No More Sidelines players and they all played a few games of volleyball. A great time was had by all. Thank you Cortney and No More Sidelines!

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