

ROCKET CITY NEWS



Dear Rocket City Community,

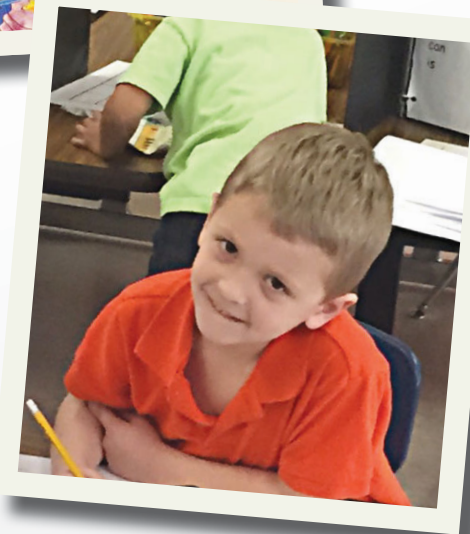
As a Rocket City dad, I often ask myself, "What do my two kids need to succeed?" As the Superintendent

here in Rocket City, I often ask myself, "What do my 4,000 kids need to succeed?" More often than not, the answer is the same for both questions, and more often than not, I find the answer by finding success stories to share, to celebrate and to emulate.

In the book "Switch, How to Change Things When Change is Hard," authors Dan and Chip Heath discuss the importance of "finding a bright spot and cloning it." Well, turn the pages in this issue of Rocket City News and you will see that we have a dazzling array of stars shining brightly here in Rocket City.

Please read about Reeths-Puffer's Top 10 Students. You will be amazed and inspired by their perseverance and determination. Read about our Rocket Scholars Foundation and the tremendous outpouring of support, enthusiasm and fun – all on display at our recent Rocket Scholars Night. You will be inspired by our Rocket Scholars recipients and how they are making our world a better place. You will be inspired by our extensive list of generous community businesses whose gifts of time and money have been of such benefit. You will be inspired by our incredible team of volunteers who put in so many hours to make Rocket Scholars Night so enjoyable and so successful. And maybe you will be a little envious of the lucky winners who shared the \$10,000 grand prize.

It's all here in this issue of Rocket City News, and it's all right here in Rocket City. Everywhere you look is a bright spot – a success story – and



everywhere you look, Rocket City is becoming brighter and brighter.

So how do I answer those questions about my two kids and about my 4,000 kids? I look for the bright spots. I invite you to do the same.

Sincerely,

Steven L Edwards

Steve Edwards
Superintendent of Schools

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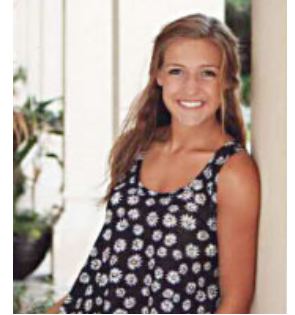
Reeths-Puffer High School Class of 2015

Top Ten Graduates

Valedictorian of the Reeths-Puffer High School Class of 2015 is Lindsey Meyers. Lindsey is the daughter of Grant and Kris Meyers. She has a weighted grade point average of 4.28. Lindsey is a member of the National Honor Society and the National Art Honor Society. She is involved in Student Council, is a class officer and plays Varsity Tennis. Lindsey plans to attend either Central Michigan University, where she is a recipient of the Centralis Gold Scholarship, or the University of Michigan to pursue a degree in Actuarial Science.



Kayla Hobby is graduating number six in the class. She is the daughter of Scott and Lisa Hobby. Kayla has a weighted grade point average of 4.214. She is president of the National Honor Society, president of Student Council, has played softball, basketball, and participated in Children's Theater for three years. Kayla is on the IMPACT Leadership Team, has coached Girls on the Run for two years, is interning with the Muskegon County Sustainability Coordinator, and also works part time. She is a 2015 Showcase Literary Arts Nominee. Kayla plans to attend the University of Michigan this fall to study Environmental Science and Sustainability.



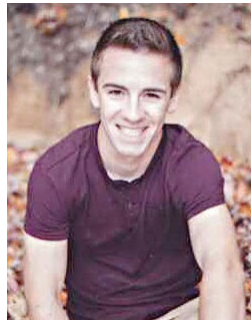
Salutatorian of the Reeths-Puffer High School Class of 2015 is Amanda Bolak. Amanda is the daughter of Kevin and Terry Bolak. She has a weighted grade point average of 4.278. She is a member of the National Honor Society, the IMPACT Leadership Team, and the Ski Club. Amanda is a member of the Marching Band, Symphonic Band, Wind Ensemble and the Jazz Band. She plays Soccer, RPYSC Travel Soccer and Softball. She is also active in her faith community. Amanda will be attending Grand Valley State University, (Frederick Meijer

Honors College) where she is a recipient of the Award of Excellence Scholarship. She plans to pursue a career in Biomedical Science.



Graduating number seven in the Class of 2015 is Naomi Parker. Naomi is the daughter of Tom and Perri Parker. She has a weighted grade point average of 4.20. She is a member of the National Honor Society, has participated in Wind Ensemble, Children's Theater, S.T.A.T.S., and coached Girls on the Run. Naomi has been on the Varsity Cross Country Team for four years, and the Track Team for two years. She plans to attend Grand Valley State University (Frederick Meijer Honors College), where she is a recipient of the Faculty Scholarship and Merit Scholarship. Naomi plans to pursue a degree in Biomedical Science.

Graduating number three in the Class of 2015 is Andrew Ostoin. Andrew is the son of Jason and Rebecca Ostoin. He has a weighted grade point average of 4.270. Andrew is secretary of the National Honor Society, and a member of the IMPACT Leadership Team. He is section leader in the Marching Band and Wind Ensemble. He is also active in his church and youth group. Andrew plans to attend either the University of Michigan or the University of Minnesota, to study Chemical Engineering.



Anna Schaadt is graduating number eight in this year's class. She is the daughter of Steven Schaadt and Tamlin and Paul Garibay. Anna has a weighted grade point average of 4.191. She has played Soccer and is Manager of the Varsity Lacrosse Team. She is involved in PALS, Yearbook and volunteers for the White Lake Giving Tree. Anna plans to attend Muskegon Community College in the fall, then transfer to either Ferris State University or Hope College to pursue a career in the Medical Field.



Taylor Szost is graduating number four in the Class of 2015. She is the daughter of Barb and Dan Szost. She has a weighted grade point average of 4.215. Taylor is a member of the National Honor Society, has played soccer, participated in RPYSC Travel Soccer, and plays Tennis. Taylor is also a member of the Marching Band. She plans to attend Grand Valley State University, where she is recipient of the Award of Excellence Scholarship. She plans to study Biomedical Science.



Sierra Boyd, daughter of Dr. Robert and Carla Boyd, is number nine in this year's class. She has a weighted grade point average of 4.191. Sierra is a member of the National Honor Society, plays Varsity Tennis, and coaches the middle school 100 Mile Club and Girls on the Run. Sierra attends the Lakeshore School of Fine Arts and volunteers for the Muskegon Child Abuse Council. She will be attending Ohio State University's Honors and Scholars College this fall to study Pre-Medicine.

Gwen Swanson, daughter of Sheldon and Sue Swanson, is graduating number five in the Class of 2015. She has a weighted grade point average of 4.215. Gwen is a member of the National Honor Society, the National Art Honor Society, plays Varsity Volleyball and Tennis and is active in her church youth group. She will attend Muskegon Community College in the fall, then transfer to a university to study Pediatrics.



Lauren Meyers is graduating tenth in the Class of 2015. She is the daughter of Grant and Kris Meyers. Lauren has a weighted grade point average of 4.18. She is a member of the National Honor Society, the National Art Honor Society, has played softball and volunteers at the Humane Society. Lauren plans to attend Baker College this fall, where she is a recipient of the Board of Regents Scholarship, to pursue a degree in Accounting.



REETHS-PUFFER SCHOOLS

End of Year School Calendar

| | |
|---------------|--|
| May 25 | K-12 No School - Memorial Day |
| May 31 | Baccalaureate, 2:30 p.m., Rocket Centre |
| June 1 | Senior Awards, 7:00 to 10:00 p.m., Rocket Centre |
| June 2 | Graduation, 7:00 p.m., L. C. Walker Arena |
| June 2 | 9-12 AM Only – High School Exams |
| June 3 | 9-12 AM Only – High School Exams |
| June 4 | K-12 AM Only - Last Day for High School Students |
| June 5 | K-8 AM Only - Last Day of School for K-8 |

REETHS-PUFFER SCHOOLS

End of Year Events for the Fine Arts Department

| | |
|---------------|--|
| May 14 | HS Choir Pops Concert, Rocket Centre, 7:00 p.m. |
| May 14 | MS Night of Theater at MS, 7:00 p.m. |
| May 15 | HS Choir Pops Concert, Rocket Centre, 7:00 p.m. |
| May 19 | HS Spring Evening of Theater, Rocket Centre, 7:00 p.m. |
| May 20 | Relay for Life Mock Rock, Rocket Centre, 7:00 p.m. |
| May 21 | RPI Band Spring Concert, Rocket Centre, 7:00 p.m. |
| May 22 | HS Jazz Band Steak Fry, VFW Hall, 5:00-9:00 p.m. |
| May 29 | MS Spring Musical, Rocket Centre, 7:00 p.m. |

ROCKET CITY NEWS

Rocket City News is published three times per year by Reeths-Puffer Schools, 991 W. Giles Road, Muskegon, MI 49445. Reeths-Puffer accepts advertising to defray the cost of production and distribution and appreciates the support of its advertisers. Reeths-Puffer does not specifically endorse advertisers or their products or services. Please contact Margie Bates with inquiries at (231) 719-3104, or email at batesm@reeths-puffer.org. Visit our website at www.reeths-puffer.org.

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Parents of Reeths-Puffer school children are hereby notified that the school often publishes for public view the names and/or pictures of Reeths-Puffer students. The purpose varies and may involve honor rolls, attendance lists, special awards, athletic rosters, etc. If, for any reason, you do not wish your child's name or picture to be published, please contact your school office immediately. This notice is in compliance with the Rights and Privacy Act, P.L. 93.380.

HELP SUPPORT YOUR ROCKET CITY NEWS

To become an advertising sponsor in future editions of the Rocket City News, call Mark Williamson at (231) 766-3038 or email mark@orshaldproductions.com.



Rocket City Book Exchange

As spring flowers begin to sprout, you may have also noticed Rocket City Book Exchange boxes popping up all over the community; 23 boxes to be exact. The book exchange is one way Rocket City is showing a commitment to our belief that reading is important. The idea behind the boxes is simple; each box is full of books with an invitation to take a book and leave a book.

Each book box was made possible due to many community sponsors and the hard work from numerous students, teachers, and volunteers. High School C.A.D. students took measurements to create a detailed design plan that students in Stagecraft then used to construct and paint the book boxes. National Honors Society enlisted the help of the community at a football game with a book drive and students in Read 180 worked hard to sort the books. Students of all ages installed the boxes at parks, schools, businesses, bike trails, and neighborhoods around Rocket City. A heartfelt thank you goes to the following individuals and businesses that generously supported the project financially: Carmichael Heating and Cooling (4 boxes), Creative Child Place, Hometown Creamery, Every Woman's Place, Webster House, Twin Lake PTO, Central PTO, McMillan PTO, RPEL PTO, Reeths-Puffer Elementary Earth Force Team, Jan and Jim Delaney, Jennifer Delaney and Dhammika Dharmapala, Mary Husid, Heather Starr (1992), Stacy Starr (1993), Stacy Starr (2009), Aidan Starr (2018), Brendan and Owen Delaney, Joe and Julie Milder, Rocket Enterprise, The Johnson Family, Terri Portice, and the High School Administration.

Security and Technology Millage Update

Thank you for supporting the Security and Technology Millage in June 2014. The objectives for our first year were to improve security throughout the district. Below you will find an overview of this year's projects.

Security projects identified in the initial 2014-15 budget year include:

- High school vestibule and security entrance (nearly complete)
- District-wide security with "The Boot" and security panels for exterior doors (in progress)
- Security/attendance and police liaison positions at the high school (complete)
- Updated strobe light notification systems, keyless entry systems, and AED updates (complete)

Technology projects identified in the initial 2014-15 budget year include:

- Network conversion to Active Directory and Google Vault (complete)
- Library/media center conversion to common Follett system (complete)
- Licensing for all buildings for online instructional materials from Discovery Streaming (complete)
- Calculator device and integrated software system for high school math (complete)
- Support and replacement for classroom technology equipment purchased in the 2010 Bond (on-going)

Dental Hygiene Lesson for Life



Mrs. Beck and her son Cohen

March is Children's Dental Awareness Month, and Mrs. Beck, dental hygienist and parent, came into Mrs. Whitaker's class to share her knowledge. Students learned healthy ways to keep their teeth in good shape and they watched a video on how to brush their teeth properly. Everyone got a bag full of goodies to help them with their dental hygiene which includes brushing their teeth every day.

Calling all students, teachers, families, and community members!!

We need YOU to represent the Reeths-Puffer community in the 34th annual Seaway Run/Walk!!



Igniting Minds, Fueling Wellness
Saturday, June 27th @ 7:15 am



In June of 2014, Reeths-Puffer Schools won the county-wide award, "The Stinky Shoe," as a direct result of the most students signed up for the Seaway Run/Walk event. This year, Reeths-Puffer would like to repeat the outstanding participation numbers and sign up 500 students and staff members! Thanks to grant funding, all students get a free entry and a free Reeths-Puffer t-shirt to wear during the race, to show Rocket Pride! Transportation will also be provided to and from the YMCA on the day of the race. To sign up for the race (online sign up only), please use the following link: <http://goo.gl/forms/b0Vbp2qSut> . A \$5 donation to your child's school is appreciated to offset program costs. Please look for an age appropriate training schedule to be sent home soon. It is a great way to get some family exercise time together.

Any questions, please contact Amy Niklasch at niklasca@reeths-puffer.org

Rocket City Radio is on the air!!

Tune in to 100.9FM (on air and online) every Saturday morning at 10:00 to hear the latest and greatest about Rocket City. Hosted by Steve Edwards and Tim Wheeler - and starring everything wonderful about your very own Rocket City!

Listen to archived shows
at GoRocketCity.org



Reeths-Puffer Play and Learn



Reeths-Puffer Play and Learn held its first playgroup at Central Elementary in March. Play and Learn is for children ages birth to four years. The children attend with an adult and have fun singing, dancing, hearing stories, painting, and playing. In March, the theme was dinosaurs. Play and Learn is held four times a month and travels to each R-P elementary building.



You may attend as many times a month as you would like. Like us on Facebook at [rppplayandlearn](https://www.facebook.com/rppplayandlearn) or visit the District's web site at www.reeths-puffer.org for more information and a calendar of events.



Sergeant Mack explains how he gets finger prints off of objects.

Mystery Unit Guest Speaker

After the third grade students at Central Elementary finished their reading unit on Mysteries, Sergeant Mack from the Norton Shores Police Department came in to share his expertise on being a detective. He has worked as a detective for 12 years and shared with students the tools used when solving mysteries. Students also had the opportunity to ask some great questions and see how detectives lift prints off a glass! Everyone was very excited and decided it was a nice way to wrap up the reading unit!

Central Celebrates Dr. Seuss' Birthday



Mrs. Farmer's class poses with their hats.

Kindergarten students from Mrs. Farmer's class at Central Elementary celebrated Dr. Seuss' birthday on March 2! Special guest readers joined students throughout the afternoon to read their favorite Dr. Seuss books. Thank you to all the moms, dads and grandparents who shared their love of reading! Students love to listen to Dr. Seuss stories because of the silly things the characters do. They also noticed his stories have lots of rhyming words, too!

WANTED!

Published R-P Alumni Authors

A Reeths-Puffer Authors collection will have its own section in each library in all District schools to honor past graduates whose works have been published.

- Books, Magazines, Newspapers
- Essays, Poetry, Lyrics, Blogs
- Movie or T. V. Screen Plays

Please reply by email! rpauthors@reeths-puffer.org

We proudly support Reeths-Puffer Schools!

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Kids at Central Buddy Up to Reading

Fourth grade students from Mrs. Warren's class partner with their reading buddies from Mrs. Farmer's Kindergarten class. The students come together to share their books and the love of reading every two weeks.



Photos, clockwise from top left:

Photo 1: McKenzie Fogle and Kairlyn Murray sit and enjoy books together.

Photo 2: Fourth grader, Ava Pierce shares her non-fiction book on *Flooding* with Zayden Zlotnicki.

Photo 3: CJ Pastor reads to Kindergartner Owen Moore



3rd Grade Swimming

For six weeks this winter, third graders at Central Elementary had the opportunity to learn about water safety at the Muskegon YMCA. Every student learned about staying safe in and out of the water. They also had the opportunity to practice lifesaving skills in case they fell through the ice, or if they encountered someone drowning. The most important lesson they learned was to never swim alone. Great words to remember as we get closer to summer.

Students practice their kicking techniques at the Y.



Soccer at 360 degrees - This summer's hottest tournament!



Join Rocket City on August 8 and 9 for the Second Annual Orbit 3v3 Tournament here at Reeths-Puffer Fields. As the name implies, this 3 on 3 tournament will challenge and reward players on a variety of levels. And with our patent pending round fields, it's action-packed soccer that everyone will love. We have youth and adult divisions, so everyone can join the fun.

You can find out more by visiting orbit3v3.com, and you can register your teams online as well. Please join us for Soccer in the Round this summer, and join us for a tournament like no other!



Volunteer Parent Engages Kids in an Art Experience



A Technology Thank You!!

From McMillan 3rd and 4th Graders!



The Greater Muskegon Optimist Club donated 12 new tablets and an academic math program called IXL to Ms. Pflaum's and Mrs. Westgate's classrooms. Students are so excited to practice with their tablets and IXL. Another benefit of the IXL Program is that it can be

used by students at home. A big "Thank You" to Muskegon Optimist Club members for caring about our children's education and providing McMillan with some great new technology.



She helps out with PTO, coaches basketball for McMillan boys and girls teams, volunteers with her family to help make McMillan a brighter place, both inside and out, and has come into her children's classrooms to share her artistic talents. So, when Robin Latsch offered to teach an after school art enrichment class too, we wondered how she could make the time.

Time didn't stop Robin, who is a full time art teacher in a neighboring district and mother of three. She worked with 10 McMillan students over a three week period to teach them about texture, contrasting color, dimensions and creating prints; all resulting in amazingly beautiful and unique creations that only children's art can portray.

Students who may have been less confident in academic areas blossomed in their ability to interpret and project their own art genius. Their art adorns McMillan hallways and you can feel the energy as you stroll through.

A "Rocket Three" to Robin for her dedication to her profession, desire to enable children to find their own creative genius and for caring about our kids enough to make a difference.



Family Reading Night with Mighty McMillan "Grad"



Muskegon Risers soccer team founder and Mighty McMillan grad, Matthew Schmitt, came back to his alma mater to read *The Giving Tree*, by Shel Silverstein, during the latest Family Read-In at Mighty McMillan. Matthew shared a little about the new Muskegon area soccer team and gave a sneak preview of the players who will be on the team. The focus, however, was on the importance of reading and finding ways to give back, which is the theme of Silverstein's book.

McMillan families also had a surprise visit from Clifford the Big Red Dog and students were able to get their pictures taken with the floppy, furry fella. Mighty McMillan has alternated their monthly family engagement evenings between math and reading this year, thanks to the response of our school community.



Student Involvement in Writing Encourages Life-Long Learning

Ben Franklin once remarked, "Tell me and I forget. Teach me and I may remember. Involve me and I learn." Mrs. Yarian's second graders have been involved in opinion writing. As they came to the close of their writing unit, students got together with their learning buddies to offer suggestions on ways to make their writing even better. Armed with a student-created check list, partners read their writing to one another, while the other reviews the list to make sure that the appropriate writing elements were found, and positive and specific comments are made along the way. "The question that you used to hook your readers worked for me. It made me want to read more," declared Daija to her partner Alivia. "I like the way that you gave details that made me understand your opinion," commented Hailey to her partner Arica.

Once Rydr and his partner read their stories to one another, ensuring that all was included, they were able to head back to their seats and write their final copy. "How long have you been working on this?" Mrs. Schmitt inquired. "A long time, but it's fun!" exclaimed Kaitlyn. This lesson is one that is mimicked in other second grade classes, as well as other grade levels, as a part of the writing lessons in the Common Core State Standards; encouraging hands on learning and partnership accountability.



Working Together to Make a Difference

"Why can't people keep trash out of the recycling containers?" This question, asked by Tanner, was enough to get Mrs. Sheffer's students fired up about persuading other students about the importance of recycling. You see, Mrs. Sheffer's students go through the building on Fridays and pick up paper and plastic that our school community wants to recycle. At the time, Mrs. Sheffer's students were also working on opinion writing and this frustrating experience shifted their writing focus. The team of students worked together to create a presentation and went to each McMillan

classroom to spread the word about the importance of recycling. It worked! Not only did the students inspire other students, they also grabbed the attention of the PTO. New recycling containers were purchased by the McMillan parent group and included a side for trash and a side for recycling water bottles. What started as a frustrated remark by a student turned into an opportunity for students to lead students. Thanks Tanner!



McMillan Kinder Toy Company

On March 6, McMillan Kindergarten students created push and pull toys using recycled items. Students had to design a toy using all the information

they learned about science.

They were given lids, containers, boxes, glue, pipe cleaners, and several other items donated by parents. The McMillan Kinder Toy Company was on display for parents to view at conferences and each child had to create a unique name for their toy. Some of the names were Santa's sleigh, Rockin' Robot, Money Truck, Beautiful Butterfly, and Air Water and Ground Car.



LINKS at RPEL



Reeths Puffer Elementary staff is extremely excited to bring the LINKS program to our school. To be an R-P LINK is to be a great friend. They teach **R**espect, **P**ride, **E**ffort and **L**earning to the students who have a disability. The program is about peer to peer mentoring so **ALL** students can be successful in **ALL** areas of school. The students that are the "LINKS" are gaining self-confidence and inner

satisfaction through this relationship. Students being mentored are demonstrating pride in knowing that they are learning the right things to do in all areas of the school.

On the Links Team we have 66 LINKS (students) who are linked with 13 students that are being mentored. RPEL also has many educators on the "Peer Team" to keep things running smoothly.

A Big Thank You to our partnerships this school year: G & L and the National Education Association.





Non-Fiction Text – It’s More Than Reading

First graders integrated and applied reading, writing, speaking, listening, and technology standards while studying non-fiction text. They chose topics and gathered and organized facts. Next, R-P students from 5th through 12th grade came after their school day to help 1st grade groups create PowerPoint presentations. First graders also applied speaking and listening standards while presenting to family and friends. Technology standards include using a variety of digital tools to:

- Work together to convey ideas or illustrate simple concepts relating to a specified project.
- Communicate ideas to classmates, families, and others.
- Learn, create, and convey original ideas or illustrate concepts.



www.team-mastermind.com



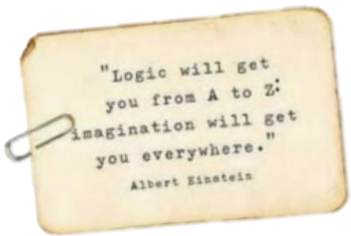
Learning is about more than just the three R's at Pennsylvania Elementary! It's about thinking way outside the box. That's why we

use TeamMastermind®, an innovative curriculum that not only fosters critical thinking, teamwork, self-evaluation skills and creative problem solving, it also empowers children to use their heads, hearts, and hands to learn. TeamMastermind® is a



breath of fresh air for teachers and students alike. It turns the classroom into a laboratory

where educators are encouraged to focus on the process rather than the outcomes, and students are challenged to step beyond their comfort zones as they work collaboratively to craft unique solutions to problems.



Helping students to become confident thinkers and creative problem solvers is an everyday occurrence at the

Pennsylvania Campus! It's exciting! It's fun! And it's vital to developing a child's whole potential! This program supports our philosophy on many levels:

WHEN WE TEACH...

The importance of innovation
That failure is a tool for success
Teamwork skills
Different methods to problem solve
That everyone has talents

CHILDREN LEARN ...

to be creative thinkers
to feel safe taking risks
to trust and rely on others
how to approach life's challenges
to value their contributions



A Twin Lake mom (also mom-to-be) receives her book bag from second grade students



Read Early, Read Often!

During the month of December, second graders at Twin Lake Elementary donated board books for their Christmas philanthropy project. Students decorated gift bags and put brochures and bookmarks in them that told about the importance of reading to your child from birth. During Christmas break, the bags were delivered to local doctors' offices and hospitals to be handed out to new parents.

The students were very excited to share their love of books and the value of reading with the families of Muskegon County.



TLE Thanks Community Businesses for Support

Twin Lake Elementary is fortunate to be at the center of a caring and giving community. Every year, TLE students benefit from many dollars and many hours of volunteer service. Staff and students would like to recognize the many businesses who have contributed this year!

Twin Lake Greenhouse - Provided a free flat to every third grader to grow flowers and vegetables for the school.

OneCoreIT - Adopted Mrs. Palazzolo's Kindergarten classroom. They purchased a classroom display easel and cart.

Kuerth's Disposal - Adopted Mrs. Olsen's First Grade classroom. They were able to purchase three (3) learning tablets for the classroom.

Kuerth's Disposal - Adopted Mrs. Miller's Third Grade classroom. The students selected nonfiction books. They especially love their new brain box books!

Sponsors for the First Annual Twin Lake Elementary/Chase-Hammond Golf Outing Fundraiser:

Chase-Hammond Golf Club
- Host/Sponsor
Creative Child Place
The Disselkoe Family
Flipz
Hometown Creamery

Kuerth's Disposal
Overboard Inn
Rupp Safety Associates
SB Community Federal Credit Union
Y-Knot Embroidery

You have touched the lives of Twin Lake Elementary children in so many ways. A huge THANK YOU for all you do!



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REETHS-PUFFER 2015 SPORTS UPDATE

BASKETBALL CAMPS - MIDDLE SCHOOL

• **July 6 - 10 at RPMS Gym**

7th – 8th Grade Boys meet from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

7th – 8th Grade Girls meet from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

• Contact Coach Pallett at pallettm@reeths-puffer.org

BASKETBALL CAMP - 2015 GIRLS YOUTH

Open to: All girls entering 1st through 6th grades.

Date: June 22nd through 25th

Time: 1st – 3rd grade, 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 p.m.

4th – 6th grade, 10:30 a.m. to noon

Location: RPMS

Fee: \$40 and includes a t-shirt. Camp entries need to be post marked by June 12. Any entries post marked after June 12 will not receive a t-shirt. All campers need to wear appropriate court shoes, t-shirt, and shorts or sweats. Please bring a water bottle to reduce down time for water breaks. To register go to high school athletics, youth camps, on the District web site (www.reeths-puffer.org).

CROSS COUNTRY - MEN'S & WOMEN'S

Snug Harbor Running Club: Starts June 21st at 6:00 p.m. Runners will meet at Muskegon State Park Snug Harbor parking lot by the shelter house. A great time to get into shape by running trails! This is every Sunday, Tuesday and, Thursday.

Summer Conditioning: Starts July 6th at 9:00 a.m. Runners meet at RPMS behind the high school between the weight room and field house. Conditioning runs and weight training will be held every Monday, Wednesday and, Friday.

Cross Country Camp: Open to high school students. Camp starts Sunday, August 2 through Wednesday, August 5.

Please Contact Coach Richardson (Women's Coach) at (231) 744-0781 or Coach Grant (Men's Coach) at (231) 288-4931

FOOTBALL - MEN'S & WOMEN'S

- April and May Varsity Football Players read to elementary students every Friday
- R-P Football Lift-A-Thon - March 30 to April 2 raised money for the program while also stressing the importance of the off-season strength training program.
- High School and Middle School Summer Football Calendars and Camps and registration forms are available at RPFootball.com
- Future Rockets Youth Football Camp registration forms are available at RPFootball.com
- 2015 Rockets Football Motto: "Rise as One"
- R-P Youth Football information can be found at: <http://www.rpyouthfootball.com/>
- R-P Youth Flag Football information can be found at: <http://rpfootball.com/rp-youth-football/rp-flag-football/>
- Parents, need information on how to go about the recruiting process? Let us help! RPFootball.com/recruiting

HOCKEY CAMPS

Youth Development Camp: July 13-16, 4:30-7:30 P.M.

4 to 12 year olds - beginning/intermediate players

Registration form is available at www.liftoffhockey.com

Elite Varsity Development: Grades 3rd - 12th - advanced players

June 8 -July 9

Mon. 5:30-7:30 p.m., Thur. 11:30-1:30 p.m.

Registration forms are available at www.liftoffhockey.com

SIDELINE CHEER – IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Sideline Tryouts will be held at Reeths-Puffer High School on May 18, 19 and, 20 for all interested high school students (9th-12th) from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m.

The Varsity Team will be attending a camp instructed by Cheer with Fast at Michigan State University July 24-26. The Junior Varsity Team will be attending a camp instructed by Champion Cheerleading at Alma College July 25-27.

Summer conditioning will take place every Monday from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. in the weight room and Wednesdays from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. for Varsity, JV, and Middle School cheerleaders who have made the 2015 Sideline Team.

Summer conditioning will focus on gymnastics, jumps, and stunting to improve strength and endurance. Cheer with Fast tumbling tour will take place Saturday, June 6 at Reeths-Puffer High School. Cheerleaders who attend the tumbling tour must have a backhand spring without a spot. Please contact Coach Hoffman at hoffmanb@reeths-puffer.org if you are interested in trying out for the 2015 fall sideline cheer team or for any questions you may have in regards to camp, fundraising and the summer schedule.

SOCCER CAMPS

July 13-16 • Grades: 3rd – 12th

Fee: \$55 – grades 3rd – 8th

\$35 – grades 9th – 12th

July 20-23 • Grades: Pre K – 2nd

Fee: \$35

Instructors: Coach Jeremy Tjapkes (girls varsity)

Coach Keith Knapp (boys varsity)

Coach Dylan Darga (girls JV)

Coach Britt Kleaveland (boys JV)

Registration forms and full details on the camps can be found on the district web site (www.reeths-puffer.org) under high school athletics, youth camps.

A \$10 fee will be added for registrations after June 30

VOLLEYBALL - SUMMER OPEN PLAY

• **Tuesday Night Inside Out 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 p.m. 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 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.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

REETHS-PUFFER 2015 SPORTS UPDATE

VOLLEYBALL TRYOUT REMINDER

Where: Reeths-Puffer High School AUX gym
When: Wednesday, August 12th to Friday, August 14th, 2015, from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m.
Who: 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.

All student athletes must have a current physical on file (current is after April 15, 2015) in order to tryout!

Reeths-Puffer Volleyball Practice - Volleyball practice starts Monday, August 17, 2015, for all levels and teams. Varsity will have two practices a day for the first week.

Varsity: 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

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

Freshman: TBA

WEIGHT ROOM AND SUMMER CALENDAR

• Current Weight Room Schedule

Starting the Monday after Spring Break, April 13, 2015, the weight room will be open right after school for the Volleyball girls to start working out. This is for any Middle or High School girl not participating in a Spring sport.

• 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 Thursday beginning June 8, 2015, 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. Contact Coach at hellmannj@reeths-puffer.org

Softball Warrior Challenge

Our Reeths-Puffer softball players who participated in the **2014-15 SOFTBALL WARRIOR CHALLENGE** were able to complete **more than 1,000 repetitions** this winter in hitting, throwing, fielding, and agility! These players signed up, showed up, and worked hard on their softball skills, while building relationships with Rocket softball players and coaches in the program!

THE FINAL RESULTS:

17 PLAYERS FINISHED GOLD!!!! (Only 1 player finished gold last year) Congratulations to the following players for demonstrating their ability to be a Softball Warrior by attending ALL Warrior competition dates and completing all 20 stations each week:

Alyssa Sahlhoff, 5th grade
Lexi Stephenson, 5th grade
Emma Brown, 7th grade
Kaitlyn Phistner, 7th grade
Kaitlyn Davis, 7th grade
Madison Sahlhoff, 7th grade
Sydney Edwards, 7th grade
Tori Krukowski, 7th grade
Abbey Mitchelson, 8th grade

Ashlyn Gonzalez, 8th grade
Makayla Thompson, 8th grade
Avery Sheffer, 9th grade
Jenna Grant, 9th grade
Makenna Johnson, 9th grade
Allison Frantz, 10th grade
Shelby Gordon, 11th grade
Joanna Skuse, 12th grade

6 players finished with SILVER! Congratulations to the following players for demonstrating their ability to be a Softball Warrior by attending five of the six Warrior competition dates and completing 15-20 stations each week:

Emily Morris, 7th grade
Madison Fulton, 7th grade
Mekenna Heikkila, 8th grade

Morgan Murat, 8th grade
Samantha Slusser, 8th grade
Rylee Rzepka, 8th grade

4 players finished Bronze! Congratulations to the following players for demonstrating their ability to be a Softball Warrior by attending 3-4 Warrior competition dates and completing 15-20 stations each week:

Caitlynn Duffey, 5th grade
Alexia Frederick, 8th grade

Ellory Farmer, 8th grade
Brooklynn Duffey, 9th grade

Great job to all participants who put in the time and effort to work on their game this winter! Gooo Rockets,



Hunter McCall and Jakob Slater capped off perfect, undefeated seasons!

Middle School Wrestlers CHAMPIONS

The Reeths-Puffer Middle School Wrestling team capped off an excellent season earning a championship trophy in the Greater Muskegon Wrestling Invitational, which was hosted in the high school arena. Nine teams from throughout the county competed, and the Rockets cruised to victory on the strength of five overall weight class champions, including Chad English, Jack Tivrucht, Noah McKinnon, Hunter McCall and Jakob Slater. Cementing the team victory were runners-up Gerrit Andrus, TJ Waters and Hunter Shingler. Consolation round medals were earned by Cade Schauer, Aaron Riedinger, Christian Chick and Colby Stephenson.

Congratulations to the entire team!

Corner

Curriculum



Rockets Lift Off to Summer Adventures

It's time for the 2nd Annual Rocket Lift Off to Summer Adventures. Reeths-Puffer families are encouraged to share their summer travels with the community. Whether you travel near or far, all

members of Rocket City are asked to share their summer travels with the District. Please send a postcard from your travels and include the following information:

- Student/Family Name(s):
- Date:
- Location:
- A short highlight of your 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, or a World Map) in the District Office. After the summer travels end, pictures will be shared of the wall maps showing all the places Rocket City families traveled, highlighting some of the trends!

Let the travels begin! Who will be the first to send a postcard to add to the "Rockets Lift Off to Summer Adventures" maps?



Summer Mathematics

Early mathematical thinking involves understanding that:

- Numbers are composed of smaller numbers.
- Numbers can be taken apart and combined with other numbers to make new numbers.
- Numbers are organized into groups of tens and ones (and hundreds, tens and ones and so forth.)
- Combining numbers to make 10 helps students understand numbers to 100 and beyond.

Help build your child's mathematical understanding

- Have your child explain the problem in words and illustrations. This helps students clarify their own thinking.
- When children are solving a problem mentally (no paper and pencil) it helps them to rely on what they know and understand about the numbers instead of just memorizing procedures.

- Allow your child to use concrete materials to guide them in solving problems.
- Count with your child when you are in the car or waiting in line. If you are counting forward to a given number, remember to always count backwards from the same number. You can push your child's understanding of counting forward or back by beginning to count from any given number.
- Play games that encourage breaking apart numbers in different ways.

Math in our world!

Math is not just found in the classroom, it is found everywhere we look and in every part of our lives. Summer is a great time to learn how math relates to the real world.

- Open a lemonade stand. (measurement and money skills)
- Enjoy a baseball game. Have fun at the game while having your child keep track of the score or the number of runs each player makes. Have your child determine how many more runs to win the game, all while enjoying the game as a family.
- Bring math alive by cooking as a family. (measurement, time)
- And my favorite is shopping. Most middle and high school students love to shop. Shopping is a great place to practice adding prices together, estimating amounts, solving percentages, practicing money skills, and of course learning self-control.
- Math is a bonus for learning through gardening. Have your child help you measure the space between plants as you plant your garden. Have your child chart the produce that is grown, and if you sell your produce at the farmers market, have your child help collect and make change for the customers.
- Make the family calendar come alive. As a family, chart the special events of the summer on a family events calendar. As you anticipate an upcoming event, have your child figure out how many days left until the event. Have your child keep track of the number of days, hours, and minutes.
- Going out to eat is a great way to practice real life math skills. Restaurant math is perfect for practicing addition, subtraction, tip percentage, and money-counting skills.
- Take a family walk and look for patterns all around you. Ask your child to find things that are the shape of a square, rectangle, or circle.

To read more on Family Education check out: <http://school.familyeducation.com/summer-learning/math/70200.html#ixzz3UyXMLCHv>

Read to Succeed! Take part in the Ultimate Read 23 Summer Reading Challenge

The summer reading challenge is back for a second year! This challenge is being offered to students entering Kindergarten through 12th grade at Reeths-Puffer Schools in fall 2015. This challenge is an opportunity to instill the love of reading as a life-long habit, as well as to win a Kindle Fire tablet.

Thanks to a community member's generous donation, five Kindle Fire tablets are available to win. All R-P students who complete the "Ultimate Read 23 Summer Reading Challenge" and submit the proper parent signed challenge form will have a chance to win. One name will be drawn from each of the following "levels" on Monday, September 14, 2015:

- Kindergarten – 2nd Grade Students
- 3rd & 4th Grade Students
- 5th & 6th Grade Students
- 7th & 8th Grade Students
- 9th – 12th Grade Students

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Middle School Summer Fun!



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June 15-18 & June 22-25, 2015

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Winners will be notified on Tuesday, September 15. Reading challenge forms will be available in each building office the final week of school, can be picked up at the District office (991 W. Giles Road) during the month of June, or can be downloaded from the District website. (Go to Curriculum Department then to the Curriculum Corner for Parents)

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: June 8 through August 31.
- 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, while sitting 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. Good Luck Rocket Readers!

How can I help my child find academic success?

According to research, the most accurate predictor of a student’s achievement in school is not income or social status, but the extent to which that student’s family is able to:

1. Create a home environment that encourages learning.
2. Communicate high, yet reasonable, expectations for their children’s achievement and future careers.
3. Become involved in their children’s education at school and in the community.

These three seemingly simple steps require dedication and commitment from all students, parents and school personnel. The resulting benefit of this investment in time and effort is well worth the future aspirations and success of every child.

At the middle school level, parents are encouraged to:

- Discuss school activities.
- Monitor out-of-school activities.
- Volunteer and attend parent-teacher conferences and other school events.

At the high school level, parents are encouraged to:

- Guide their student toward postsecondary education.
- Make sure they read and do their homework.
- Stress the value of education.

Helping your child plan for college and career:

At the beginning of high school, sit down with your child and their teachers, counselor, or other advisor to discuss what it will take for your child to graduate, your child’s goals, and his or her plans after high school. Create a plan together to help your child reach these goals, and review it every year to make sure he or she is on track. This plan should include:

- An appropriate course sequence to meet your child’s goals. For example, if your child wants to study biosciences in college, he or she will likely need additional or advanced math and science courses to be prepared for college-level coursework.
- The most appropriate extracurricular activities for your child. For example, if your child is interested in journalism or photography, encourage him or her to sign up for the school newspaper or yearbook. These activities will help your child expand his or her learning outside of school and may help foster new hobbies or interests.
- Ways you can help your child prepare for college or a career. For example, if your child is interested in a particular field, look to see if internships exist to build his or her work

experience in that subject area. Look for college fairs to attend, and encourage your child to visit colleges in which he or she might be interested.

- Finding ways to pay for college or advanced training. College can be expensive, but there are lots of ways to get financial help, such as scholarships, grants, work study programs, and student loans. You need to make time for you and your child to do the research. You can start by helping your child fill out the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) during his or her senior year. Visit www.fafsa.ed.gov for help and more information on FAFSA and financial aid.

This information was taken directly from the Michigan Department of Education. The name of the packet is entitled “Collaborating For Success” Parent Engagement Toolkit and can be found at the link below.

http://mi.gov/documents/mde/4a_Final_Toolkit_without_bookmarks_370151_7.pdf

Is Your Child Ready for Kindergarten?

Having your child enter Kindergarten is sometimes an emotional decision for parents. This is true for first time parents, as well as for parents with children already in the educational system.

Kindergarten marks the start of a child’s educational journey in formalized learning in the areas of reading, writing and math. As a child’s first school experience, it may influence the way he or she feels about school for many years to come. It is important to look at your child from characteristics they possess rather than a day of birth. Planning for your child’s entry into a formalized setting in which they begin to learn and participate is not an exact science. Below are some basic questions that may help you decide if your child is ready to find school an enjoyable place for learning and growing.

As parents ask yourself the following questions:

- Is my child used to being separated from me and the family for extended periods on a daily basis?
- Does my child listen to two-step instructions and then follow them independently?
- Is my child independent enough to dress themselves?
- Does my child show an interest in books as a family activity and independently and stays focused for extended periods of time?
- Does my child look for environmental print to read? (i.e., things like McDonald’s signs or cereal boxes in the grocery store, finding letters in their name in books, etc.)
 - Does my child find interest in counting objects, creating patterns with objects, joining in on counting activities (forward and backwards) with you?
 - Does my child show a natural interest in drawing pictures, coloring, writing their name or writing a note to you?
 - Does my child show an interest in and have a genuine curiosity of learning new things?
 - Can my child take turns and play or learn with others in small groups?

If you answered “yes” to most of these questions then your child is probably ready to begin Kindergarten. If you answered “sometimes” to these questions your child may be ready for Kindergarten. A conversation with your building principal about options might be helpful. If you answered “no” to many of these questions, then your child may benefit from another year of a formal preschool before entering Kindergarten.

We know that every child develops at their own pace and we need to take each child where they are and encourage them to grow with a passion for curiosity and life-long learning. With the more rigorous curriculum expectations, some children may benefit from a second year of Kindergarten. Parents may find that their child’s learning is just beginning to click at the mid or end of their child’s Kindergarten year.

If this is the case, we recommend that parents and teachers work collaboratively to determine the right placement for the upcoming year. Some parents may decide to have their child complete another rotation

of Kindergarten. A two-year Kindergarten rotation is not viewed as a retention, rather as a way to meet the learning needs of individual children in order to set them up with a solid foundation to have success throughout their entire educational journey. Education is not a race, rather it is a journey. Each child has a different journey ahead of them, but the end goal will be the same for all; graduating from high school being college and career ready.



Senator Hansen Reads to TLE Students



Michigan Senator Geoff Hansen stopped by Twin Lake Elementary to read to students for “March is Reading Month!” Senator Hansen selected **Mousetronaut** by Mark Kelly to read to third grade students. Fourth graders enjoyed **Mackinac Bridge** by Gloria Whelan.

Students were excited to share their experience. Claire and Connor felt it was “pretty amazing” to have the State Senator come in. “When he read the story to us, I got sucked in to the book, and I felt like I was there, walking the bridge with him!”

Senator Hansen stayed to visit, and the kids asked him a few questions. Whitney asked, “what was the craziest thing you ever did?!” He climbed on the post that holds up the bridge! She thought it was pretty awesome that someone so important read to her class.

Several students wanted to know about Senator Hansen’s work. “What do you do?” “Do you work with the President?” “Why is your schedule so crazy?” One TLE student, Hayden, said he would like to work with the Senator, but another student, Brayden? “Not really.”

After reading to students, the Senator shared some advice: “You have two choices, either read to become a better reader, or struggle with school.” He encouraged kids to read every night with their brothers and sisters, older and younger, because everybody benefits. Mrs. Turner liked this advice best of all:

“Pick up the remote and press the magic button... the off button.”

Reeths-Puffer Schools Wins the Certificate of Excellence Award

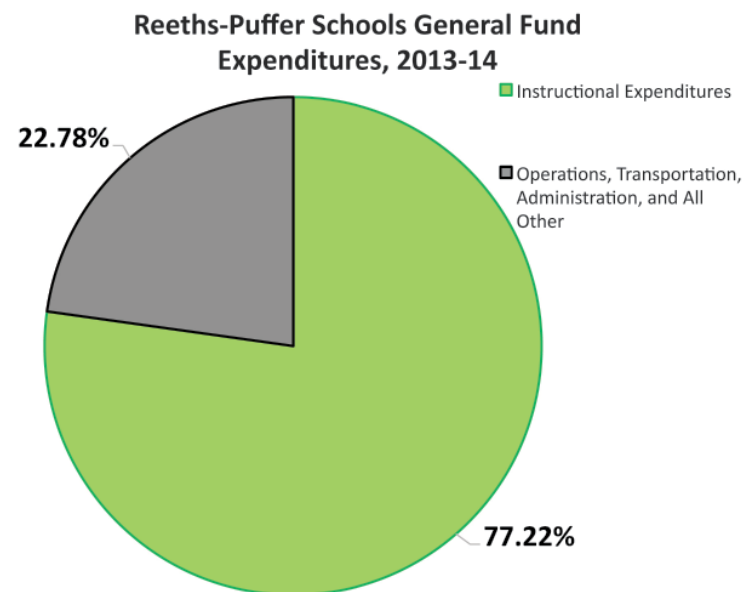
The Association of School Business Officials (ASBO) International has awarded Reeths-Puffer Schools its Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting award for having met or exceeded the program’s high standards for financial reporting and accountability.

The District was recognized for its Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for the fiscal year ending 2014. This was the District’s first submission for the award. District leadership committed to this new undertaking during the 2013-14 fiscal year. The Finance Department, led by Finance Director Jason Helsen, compiled the necessary information in time for the annual audit. Brickley DeLong, certified public accountants, assisted with some technical aspects of the first-time submission.

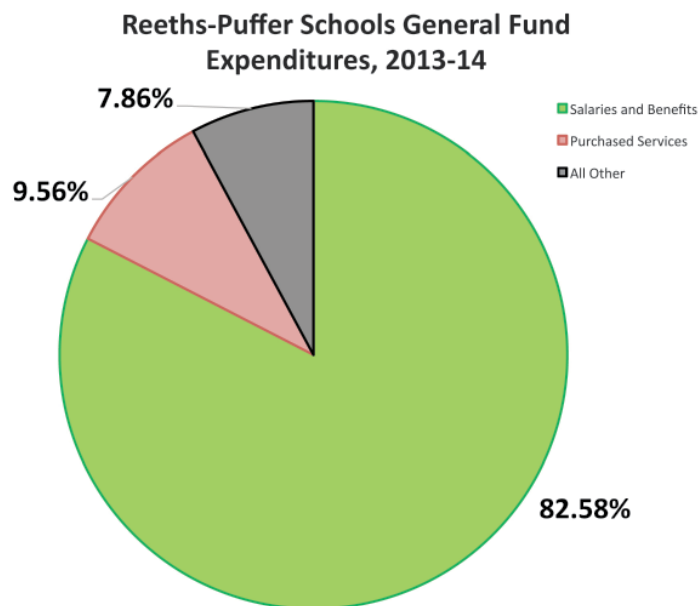
The Certificate of Excellence (COE) award confirms the District’s commitment to financial accountability and transparency. The District’s Strategic Plan includes the valued goal of “the open sharing of District financial information.” This award is another symbol of the District’s commitment to this goal.

Reeths-Puffer Schools is the only district in Muskegon County that is a current recipient of this award, and one of only a handful in the West Michigan region and the State of Michigan as a whole. ASBO International staff said of the work performed by Reeths-Puffer staff is, “Truly great work for a first-time application.” The Reeths-Puffer Comprehensive Annual Financial Report can be retrieved on the District website at www.reeths-puffer.org.

As we enter another year of the budget planning process, a question that is invariably asked is, *How do we spend our money?* The board of education has consistently stated that teaching and learning is the number one priority when making budget decisions. One measure we use to gauge whether we’re following that priority is how much of our budget is spent ‘in the classroom’ versus in other areas. Within our general fund budget, instructional expenditures include direct instruction (teacher salaries and benefits, teaching supplies), pupil support services (guidance counselors, itinerant staff providing special services), and instructional support services (curriculum work, professional development opportunities for teachers). In the most recently completed year, 2013-14, these areas represented over 77% of all general fund expenditures, as shown below.



Another way to better understand our budget is to ask, *What do we spend our money on?* Our industry is driven by people, and as you may guess, we spent the majority of our budget on those people. Over 82% of our budget is spent for salaries and benefits for our employees. When we include contracted personnel, which includes things like substitute teachers, the figure jumps to over 92%. Everything else – utilities, supplies, fuel for our buses – comprises less than 8% of the total, as shown below.



If you have questions about the district’s budget, please see the district website (www.reeths-puffer.org) or contact Finance Director Jason Helsen at (231)719-3110.

RPI Special Events

Divergent Thinking Day for 5th graders brought a wide-range of professionals together to share possible career paths.

Professionals from DeVos Emergency Room, the Van Andel Institute, the Muskegon City Manager, Northern Michigan University, a physicist from MSU, a Google/Apple consultant from Visualhero, a doctor focusing on wellness, a product designer from Medallion, a STEM specialist, a fine arts educator from Penn School, a realtor from Nexes, a marketing copywriter from Wheeler Creative Studios, several leaders from the Career Tech Center, a leader from Girl Scouts of America, and a Continuous Improvement Leader from Herman Miller. Nine presenters came directly from Rocket City! Students enjoyed listening to and learning from these volunteer educators.

College Night brought the opportunity for students and parents to speak with representatives from 25 colleges and learning institutions. One rep after another commented on Reeths-Puffer's involved parents and the number of students interested in education after graduation. It was a great evening and learning opportunity for everyone involved.

Intermediate Choir Students Selected for Lansing Honors Choir



Photo: Hallie Ackerman and Brett Schlaff with R-P Intermediate music teacher, Ms. Laura Janik.

Hallie Ackerman and Brett Schlaff performed with the Michigan Music Education Association's Elementary Honors Choir directed by Kyle Zeuch on March 21st. Hallie and Brett were selected to perform with the choir from their audition tapes and a recommendation from their music teacher, Ms. Laura Janik. Both students learned most of their music on their own, and attended rehearsals in Lansing. Students also had the honor to work with composer, Stuart Chapman Hill, during their rehearsals.



Taking "The Ride" for RPI

RPI students and an active Endurance Adventure team made up of Lilly Wypa, Claire Watson, Morgan Smith and Andrew Bowman decided to partner with Grand Haven students to form a team that raised money for local Muskegon health organizations. These students were willing to take their passion for health, riding bikes and philanthropy to participate in the Mercy Health Partners "The Ride." Students are looking beyond RPI and finding ways to engage in the community.



Body Systems, Nutrition, Farming and Learning

RPI 5th Grade learners have partnered with the YMCA, local farming groups and health advocates to support their understanding of the body and its use of calories, nutrients and the impact of choices on their bodies. Students are tasting, learning and engaging in partnerships that will impact the rest of their lives in positive ways. Students are continuing to understand the connections between their learning at RPI and the community around them.

All Learners, 100% Engaged, All Day

“Engagement” is something we strive for every day and every minute at RPI. Students are challenged to be in the moment with their learning all day long. Students set their own learning goals to challenge themselves to be better than the day before. They are not just asked to comply with teacher requests and behave in class, they are asked to debate evidences in social studies, defend their claim in science and justify their answers in math. As we all learn to be more engaged in the moment there are some “look fors” that show our Rockets are “engaged” in their learning.



1. Your child is talking about ideas they discover in school.
2. Your child sees things at home, in their community, or on the computer and makes a connection to learning at school.
3. Your child seeks information about topics on his/her own.
4. Your child asks questions about things they learned in school.
5. Your child wants to do more, learn more or turn something they are learning into action outside of school.
6. Your child is having conversations with friends that are based on the learning at school.



As we engage more in our learning we begin to see that it goes well beyond our walls!

Middle School Choir News



2015 Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp Scholarship Winners:

Cassidy Briggs, Ray Brock, Riley Higgins, Jayde Potter & Kami Seewald received scholarships to attend Choir Camp for a week this summer and will work with top-level conductors and educators while having a blast outdoors.

Students have “A-Chaired” the Attire!

After two years of fundraising, the 7th and 8th grade choir has raised enough money to outfit all 102 singers in new formal attire! Staff and students thank the R-P Community and Choir Families for supporting this project!



Middle School Choirs to present... Shrek the Musical Jr:

Make room for ogre-sized family fun as the greatest fairy tale never told comes to life in a whole new way in this breathtaking Broadway musical adaptation of the hit movie Shrek! All 7th and 8th grade Choir students will be in the cast! The Show is Friday May 29th at 7:00 p.m. in the Rocket Centre located on the high school campus. All seats are \$5!

Middle School Students Reaching Higher

Congratulations to the Students of the Month who are Reaching Higher at the Middle School. These students were nominated by middle school professional educators in the areas of Citizenship, Fine Arts, Athletics and Reaching Higher (putting forth exceptional effort), which speaks volumes of our learners and their accomplishments!

Volunteers – Win, Win!

“Real, sustainable community change requires the initiative and engagement of community members.” Helene D. Gayle, MD, M.P.H. CEO Care International

Volunteering is a win/win for everyone. Volunteers are happier, have lower depression rates, and live longer. Community members who are happy, purposeful people are volunteering at an all-time high within Reeths-Puffer Intermediate, and the results are profound. Not only do students see role models, they see hope and possibilities for themselves.

One volunteer comes in each week and tutors a small group of students in math. The gains these students make are significant in not just math, but in how they view themselves as learners. This community member is a game changer for the students she helps.

A grandma comes in most days to help with copies, laminating, sorting, etc. The amount of time she has freed up for teachers to spend on instructing is helpful and impacts teachers and students.

By helping with any of the programs in Rocket City such as Endurance Adventure, R-P's Wellness Committee, an athletic team, a fine arts program, etc. you will surely be enriched along with the students you serve. Whether ad hoc or a long term commitment, adding your special talent to Rocket City programs will have a positive impact. The Rocket City Games are another fantastic opportunity for individual and family involvement. Your great ideas are needed: contact Kelley Peel at peelk@reeths-puffer.org



January:

- Citizenship: Andi Elder, Abby Fansler
- Fine Arts: Madison Wentworth, Evan Hodson
- Athletics: Jett Young, Alyza Winston
- Reaching Higher: Lexus Bilek, Jonathan Chick



February:

- Citizenship: Carson Aerts, Emily Policka
- Fine Arts: Brooke Tennison, Ben Olsen
- Athletics: Robert Blawat, Bridgett McHugh
- Reaching Higher: Cheyenne Cross, TJ Waters



Rocket City to the Windy City!

The 7th and 8th Grade Choirs traveled to Chicago on March 27 for a performance tour of the city. The trip included

a choral clinic at VanderCook College of Music, a visit to the Museum of Science and Industry, the Magnificent Mile, Giordano's Deep Dish Pizza and a production of Disney's Beauty and the Beast on Broadway! Thanks to Mrs. Ross, our young performers had the opportunity to see a great performance and experience the clinic on a College Campus to help make the connection between Middle School, High School, College and performing for authentic audiences in the real world!

Middle School Exceeds at Solo & Ensemble



In February, *The Treble Makers* received an "Excellent with Superior Distinction Rating" at Solo & Ensemble Festival! This select female ensemble was comprised of singers from the 7th and 8th grade choir program. Singers auditioned to be in the group, and rehearsed once a week. The girls enjoyed building their

music literacy and singing skills while making lasting friendships.

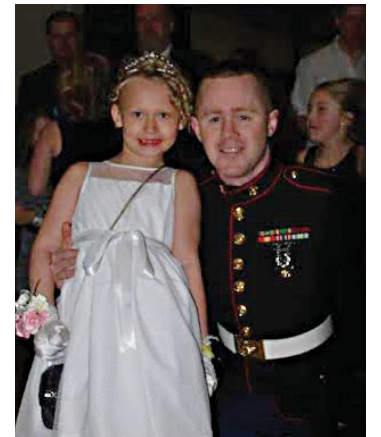
Congrats to solo performers at Ensemble: Anna Compton (Excellent), Riley Higgins (Excellent), Kami Seewald (Very Good) and Ray Brock (Excellent/Superior)

Princess Ball and March Madness



Over 370 Princesses accompanied by their "King" attended the 2nd annual Princess Ball at Reeths-Puffer Middle School in March. It was a magical evening filled with crafts, cookies and lots of dancing. Thanks to our local Family Video, Olaf made a special appearance and had fun dancing with the girls.

This year's Princess Ball was sponsored by the Middle School PTO and students. Many thanks to the Middle School Choir and Rocket Reach Out for helping to make this event such a success! Our student leaders greeted princesses as they arrived, helped hand out corsages, passed out cookies for decorating, put together crowns for the girls and helped to tie necklaces. They even helped lead the dancing! It was a great evening in Rocket City!



March Madness with Mom was a fun time for our elementary aged boys to enjoy an evening of fun activities designed to get their blood pumping and allow them to compete against one another and mom. Guests worked as a team playing a life size version of hungry-hungry hippo, and against one another during the spirited dodgeball games. Being active is a great goal for all students, and helps promote health and wellness now and for years to come. Middle School staff and students want to thank the Middle School PTO, and the Middle School Student Athletes who help make this event possible!

All money raised from these events goes back to Reeths-Puffer Middle School so students can keep Reaching Higher!



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Top Ten

Back Row L-R: Sierra Boyd, Naomi Parker, Gwen Swanson, Anna Schaad, Lauren Meyers
 Front Row: Taylor Szost, Lindsay Meyers, Andrew Ostoin, Amanda Bolak, Kayla Hobby

College Plans: Sierra will attend Ohio State University to study biomedical sciences, Naomi will attend GVSU to pursue a medical degree, Gwen will attend MCC to begin her degree towards pediatrics, Anna will attend MCC to begin her study in the medical profession, Lauren will attend Baker College to study accounting, Taylor will attend GVSU to study biomedical sciences, Lindsay will attend Central Michigan University to study actuarial science, Andrew will attend the University of Michigan to study engineering, Amanda will attend GVSU to study biomedical sciences, and Kayla will attend U-M to study environmental science.

Showcase 2015

RPHS was well represented at Showcase 2015! For those that don't know about Showcase, it is a two-night production staged at the Frauenthal Theatre in downtown Muskegon where all schools in the greater Muskegon County present their "very best" in the areas of: Academics, Athletics, Literary Arts, Performing Arts and Visual Arts.

The students that represented R-PHS are presented below:

Lindsay Meyers: Academics
 Brandon Young: Athletics
 Kayla Hobby: Literary Arts

Sam Anderson: Performing Arts
 Morgan Nichols: Visual Arts

Showcase not only provides the honored students that are chosen to represent their school with a platform to "Showcase" their talents, but also provides scholarship awards through a judging process in the amounts of: \$1,000.00 for First Place, \$500.00 for Second Place and \$300.00 for Third Place in the Literary, Performing and Visual Arts categories.

RPHS had two students earn \$500.00 each for winning 2nd place in their talent category! Sam Anderson won 2nd place for his theatrical and vocal performance of "Santa Fe" from the Disney Broadway Musical Newsies. Morgan Nichols won 2nd place for her art piece titled The Rhythm of Art, (Wood & Old Piano Keys).

Reeths-Puffer staff are very proud of the students that represented our District as they made their mark on Showcase 2015!

RPHS Choirs and Soloists Receive Awards at Solo & Ensemble



Pictured: Mad Men

On February 7th, the Reeths-Puffer High School Choirs hosted the MSVMA District Solo & Ensemble, welcoming hundreds of area singers. At Solo & Ensemble, choir students performed classical songs and received critiques afterward from professional adjudicators. Reeths-Puffer's ensembles had the pleasure to work with Dr. Clayton Parr,

Professor at Albion College. Our ladies ensemble, MadriGALS, achieved an Excellent with Superior Distinction, and our men's ensemble, Mad Men, also achieved an Excellent with Superior Distinction. All of the soloists qualified for State Solo & Ensemble, results are as follows: Morgan Perez - Excellent, Courtney Boersema - Excellent with Superior Distinction, Abby Clark - Excellent with Superior Distinction, Jesse Miller - Excellent with Superior Distinction. Congratulations to all our Rocket Singers!

Career Speaker Forum at R-PHS

Over 70 professionals from all over Muskegon County came onto campus to share information about their career with R-P underclass students with a focus on Michigan's



Six Career Pathways. Students were able to listen in on four panel presentations. The six career pathways that generated our speaker list are:

- Arts & Communication
- Business/Management/Information Systems
- Engineering & Industrial Technology
- Health Sciences
- Human Services
- Natural Resources & Agriscience



RPHS Choir Awards from MSVMA District Choral Festival...

On March 18 & 19, the Reeths-Puffer High School Choirs travelled to Grand Haven High School to compete at District Choral Festival. They were given ratings for their performances and for sight-singing as well. They also had the opportunity to work with professional adjudicators on their music. Forty-nine choirs from District 7 competed at the Choral Festival, and our R-P Madrigals was one of only 5 choirs that received an Excellent Rating with Superior Distinction, the highest rating possible. Rocket Men's Choir & Mad Men received an Excellent Rating, Rocket Ladies received a Good Rating, and Vocal Fusion received an Excellent Rating. Congratulations to all the choirs on such a successful festival.

To left: Vocal Fusion

RPHS Choirs Premier Award Winning R-P Alumni's Composition



The R-P Madrigals premiered award-winning R-P Alumni Eric Hester's work "Perplexed Music," an a cappella song set to the poem by Elizabeth Barrett Browning at The Festival of Choirs Concert on March 24. Eric composed the work as a gift to high school choir teacher, Regina Schlaff, honoring her 20th year of teaching at Reeths-Puffer High School. "This is really the ultimate gift for a music teacher to have a song composed in their honor by a former student. Eric was such a great

singer and performer in high school, and so kind and brilliant. I am so proud of all he has accomplished with his young life already," stated Mrs. Schlaff. Eric Hester will graduate from Western Michigan University with his Bachelor's Degree in Music Composition this May. He was the recipient of the 2014-15 Franklin G. Fisk Award for Chamber Music in recognition of his string quartet, Grapeshot, and he collaborated with Emmy-Award winning musician Vanessa Vo for a performance of his piece, Confession III, this past February. As part of the Accelerated Degree Program at Western Michigan University, Eric will continue his enrollment for one more year to receive a Masters' Degree in Music Research.



Above left: Eric Hester. Above: R-P Madrigals

Rocket Scholars Foundation 7th Annual Fundraiser A Huge Success

The Rocket Scholars Foundation is made up of Reeths-Puffer alumni, parents and involved citizens. They had a vision; a vision of more Rockets continuing their education after high school. Their goal is to see students succeed and continue to challenge themselves to reach higher and achieve academic success. Reeths-Puffer has a rigorous curriculum, many great extra-curricular opportunities for students and a highly educated and motivated staff. What more can we do to encourage students to challenge themselves and to continue their education beyond Reeths-Puffer High School? The committee decided scholarships offered a great way to support students and encourage them to dream big. The Rocket Scholars Foundation partnered with the Community Foundation for Muskegon County to raise money for scholarships for graduating Rockets! To see what inspires the Rocket Scholars Foundation in their efforts to raise money for more scholarships, just scan the pages of this paper.

On March 26, The Rocket Scholars Committee held their annual \$10,000 Ticket to the Future fundraiser. A great group of Rocket City supporters came together to raise money for Reeths-Puffer students. The evening was a huge success thanks to many volunteers. The Scholarship Committee would like to thank the following businesses for their support: Agards, American Royal Travel, Applebee's, Archer's Plaza, Mr. B's Pancake House, Barry's Greenhouse, Bellacino's, Bernio's, Big Apple Bagel, The Bird House, The Boar's Belly, Brann's, Buffalo Wild Wings, Campus Den, Central Elementary PTO, Central Michigan University, Chalet Floral, Cinema Carousel, The Coffee Brew House, Craig's Hardware, Family Farm and Home, Flowers by Ray and Sharon, Frauenthal Box Office, Fricano's, G & L, Go-Gear, Grand Valley State University, Hearthstone, Hobo's, Holiday Inn, Joe Chan's Bistro, Kuerth's Disposal, Lakewinds Chiropractic, Lefty and Romo's, Lemon Creek Winery, McDonald's Candy, McMillan PTO, Meijer, Muskegon Risers SC, Northside Pub, Northshore Ace Hardware, Olive Garden, Overboard Inn, Party Light Candles, Pompa Do's, R-P Elementary PTO, R-P Middle School, Red Lobster, Red Robin, Russ' Restaurant, Starbuck's, State Farm, The Station, Steak and Egger, Tire Wholesaler, Toast and Jam's, Top Shelf, Twin Lake Elementary, Twin Lake Greenhouse, Unruly Brewery, Westshore Symphony, and Y-Knot Embroidery.

And the winners of the \$10,000 Ticket to the Future are...

RPHS Choirs Pops Concert, Dancing Through the Decades!

The Reeths-Puffer High School Choirs will present their annual Pops Concert, Dancing Through the Decades! on May 14 & 15 at 7:00 p.m. The choirs will present music from the 50s to the present day with choreography, soloists, and the usual Rocket Centre "light show." Tickets at the door are only \$5 for this family friendly show.



Rocket Ladies Choir



SUPPORT APPRECIATED!

Mark "Pops" Steinberg and Consumers Energy came through again for Rocket City and the R-P Cross Country Team. Consumers Energy, through the volunteer work of Mark Steinberg, has given a generous donation of \$550 to the Reeths-Puffer Cross Country Teams. Mr. Steinberg has been volunteering his time and energy for over 18 years to the CC teams. He maintains the trails, transports runners, assists in coaching and much more. The kids appreciate his never ending encouragement. The Rocket City community is blessed to have companies like Consumers Energy and volunteers like Pops to support us. A big thank you to Consumers Energy and Mark Steinberg. Go Rockets!



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ECRWSS POSTAL CUSTOMER

Preschool Fall of 2015

Preschool registration for the 2015-2016 school year is taking place in our local school district. If you, or somebody you know, has a child that will be 3 or 4 by September 1, 2015, please call White Lake Area Community Education at 231-893-1091 for information.

There are several preschool options available for your family.

- **Great Start Readiness Program (GSRP) FREE**
Available for children who will be 4 years old by September 1, 2015 who qualify.
- **Head Start Preschool FREE**
Available for children who will be 3 or 4 years old by September 1, 2015 who qualify.
- **Lighthouse Learning Center Tuition Preschool TUITION BASED**
Available for children who will be 3 or 4 years old by September 1, 2015.
- **Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE) FREE**

For ECSE, GSRP, & HEAD START, Please Bring:

1. Birth Certificate
2. Current Shot Record
3. Proof of Residency (Utility bill)

GSRP & HEAD START also Require:

4. Medicaid or Insurance Card
5. Income verification (2014 w2's, 2014 Federal Return, DHS grant statement)



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