

MAY 2016

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THE DISTRICT NEWSLETTER FOR REETHS-PUFFER SCHOOLS

# ROCKET CITY news



On Friday nights in the fall, on high school football fields all over the country, you can count on seeing young athletes raising four fingers to the sky in unison. That fourth quarter message is clear: Finish strong!

Like a football game, a school year follows similar patterns. It's relatively easy to be motivated to start the game (or year). The first quarter is spent learning what is working and what isn't; what adjustments are

necessary and what aren't; who wants it and who doesn't. The second quarter is all about adjustments. It's all about using what has been learned to adjust and create the best possible outcome (learning in school). The third quarter is where teams (students, teachers, and parents) make their move. It's grinding and growing - learning the key content and concepts fully and deeply. And the fourth quarter is all about finishing strong.

For schools, spring is our fourth quarter.

Whether it is your family, your class, your school, or your community, it's the fourth quarter. What adjustments have we made? What have we learned as a family, classroom, school, and community about what works and what doesn't? Are we reading enough? Do we have a place in the house and a time period set aside for daily study? Is education the priority it needs to be? Do we value the struggle that is necessary for growth? Do we think, learn, adjust, and react?

One of my favorite motivational speakers says, "You can't make me want what I don't want!" Do you know what you want? Do you know what you want for your students, your family, and your community? Do you want school to be meaningful? Then make it meaningful! Do you want school to be enjoyable? Then make it enjoyable. Do you want to have options for your children and all of our children when they turn 18? Let's work so hard that every option available is waiting upon graduation.

As we move into the 4th quarter, I urge you to celebrate everything that has gone well and also to celebrate, just as joyously, the learning that you've had relative to things that didn't work out so well. It is that combination of thinking that will lead us to our greatest improvement. One of the reasons so many people are unhappy in life is that they sacrifice what they want most for what they want at the moment. What do you want most?

The whistle has blown to start the 4th quarter. Are you ready?

Steven L Edwards

## Rocket History



Time to test your Reeths-Puffer history! Did you know that our rocket inside of Rocket Stadium is a real rocket? Did you know that it was built in Germany and designed for space exploration? Well, now you do.

Thanks to Mr. Jack Moore, a World War II veteran and former R-P School Bus Transportation Supervisor, we know quite a bit about our beloved rocket. We have the upper section of a V2 rocket that was constructed in Germany in the 1940s, and

it was later purchased by Reeths-Puffer in the 1970s.

After World War II, many German scientists came to America, including a man by the name of Wernher von Braun. Mr. von Braun was the lead scientist responsible for the development of the V2, and when he first came to the U.S. he was working at Fort Bliss, Texas, which is where Jack Moore was stationed at the time.

In addition to his work on the V2 rocket, von Braun helped develop the Redstone missile and Saturn V. The Saturn V was the rocket that took the first men to the moon in 1969. Mr. von Braun would later relocate to Washington, D.C., where he was appointed as NASA's Deputy Associate Administrator for Planning at NASA Headquarters.

This rocket, designed in hopes of reaching for the stars, is an important and appropriate symbol for Rocket City, and for all of our Rockets who also continue to reach for the stars. Thank you, Jack Moore, for your service to our country, and for helping us tell this important Reeths-Puffer story for generations to come!

## From one Rocket City to another!

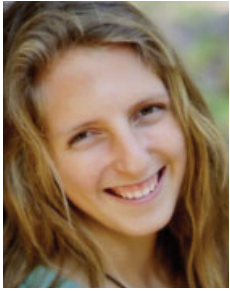
While helping America win the space war, von Braun did a great deal of his work in Huntsville, Alabama. Huntsville's nickname? Rocket City!

Reeths-Puffer Schools' Annual Education Report is now available.  
You may view the report online at [reethspuffer.org](http://reethspuffer.org) or get a copy from your child's school.



# Reeths-Puffer High School Class of 2016

## Top Ten Graduates



Valedictorian of the Reeths-Puffer High School Class of 2016 is Mackenzie Goltz. Mackenzie is the daughter of Grant and Gretchen Goltz. She has a weighted grade point average of 4.37. Mackenzie is President of the National Honor Society and Vice-President of the Senior Class. She is a member of the IMPACT Team, Student Council, and the Varsity Soccer Team. She is also a member of the Youth Advisory Council for Muskegon County. Mackenzie volunteers with the Kids' Food

Basket and, the Humane Society, and works at a veterinary clinic. She will be attending the College of Wooster, where she has received the Dean's Scholarship. Mackenzie plans to play soccer and study Biology and Environmental Studies to become a Wildlife Veterinarian and Conservationist.

Salutatorian of the Reeths-Puffer High School Class of 2016 is Deidra Boertman. She is the daughter of Tim and Lynda Boertman. Deidra has a weighted grade point average of 4.25. She is a member of the National Honor Society and the R-P Madrigals. She has been involved in Sideline and Competitive Cheerleading, and been a part of three high school musicals. Deidra will be attending Grand Valley State University this fall, where she is a recipient of the Award of Excellence Scholarship. She plans to pursue a degree in Engineering.



**Three students have tied for the number 3 position in this year's class.**



Isaac Patton, son of Karri and Jack Russell and Clark Patton, is graduating number 3 in the Class of 2016. He has a weighted GPA of 4.23. Isaac has been Captain, All-Conference and voted MVP of the Tennis Team. He has also coached middle school tennis. Isaac plans to attend Alma College this fall where he has been awarded the Alma Trustee Honors Scholarship and Scholars Summit Scholarship. He will also be playing on the Alma Tennis Team. Isaac plans to major in Bio-Chemistry and Philosophy.

Also graduating number 3 in the Class of 2016 is Jenna Stolzman. Jenna is the daughter of Ron and Jean Stolzman. She has a weighted grade point average of 4.23. Jenna is a member the Varsity Soccer Team and also plays for the Lakeshore Premier Soccer Club. She is involved in PALS and is in the Internship Program. Jenna will be attending Michigan State University in the fall to pursue a Mechanical Engineering Degree.



Katharine Uganski is graduating number 3 in the class. She is the daughter of Jeff and Stacey Uganski. Kate has a weighted grade point average of 4.23. She is this year's Senior Class President, Vice-President of the National Honor Society, a member of the IMPACT Team, and Student Council. She plays Varsity Volleyball and Soccer and she plays on travel teams. Kate plans to attend either Notre Dame or Hope College in the fall, where she is a recipient of the Presidential Scholarship. She intends to start with a degree in Chemistry or Bio-Chemistry and then on to Medical School to become a Pediatrician.

Matthew Johnston, son of Jeff and Jacqueline Johnston, is graduating number 6 in the Class of 2016. He has a weighted grade point average of 4.22. Matt is a member of the National Honor Society, the IMPACT Team, STATS, and the Cross-Country Team. He has been in the R-P musicals, Madrigals and Honor Guard. He has been awarded the STEM Stipend Scholarship. Matt will be attending Michigan State University in the fall to major in Computer Engineering.

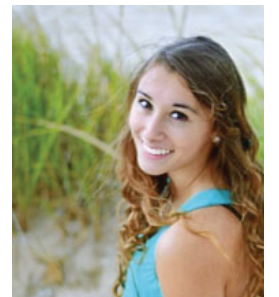


**Two graduates are tied for the number 7 position in the class of 2016.**



Haley Bogner, daughter of Kyle and Heidi Bogner, is graduating number 7 in this year's class. She has a weighted grade point average of 4.19. Hayley has been involved in the National Honor Society, has played volleyball and been a part of the Michigan Math League. She plans to attend Grand Valley State University in the fall, where she has received an Academic Scholarship. Hayley plans to pursue a career in Engineering.

Also graduating number 7 in the Class of 2016 is Amanda Sasinski. Amanda is the daughter of Ewa and Jan Sasinski. She has a weighted grade point average of 4.19. Amanda is Vice President of the Student Council, a member of the National Honor Society, STATS, and the IMPACT Team. She is involved in Sideline and Competitive Cheerleading, Tennis, Cross-Country, and her church youth group. Amanda will attend Michigan State University this fall to pursue a career in the Medical Field.



**Two Graduates are tied for 9th place in the class.**



Shelby Godlewski is graduating number 9 in this year's class. She is the daughter of Denise Herlein and Brian Godlewski. Shelby has a weighted grade point average of 4.17. She is a member of the R-P Marching Band and Wind Ensemble and volunteers for Winterguard and Track competitions. Shelby plans to attend Grand Valley State University, Frederick Meijer Honor College, this fall to pursue a career in Biomedical Science.

Lindsie Traxler, daughter of Craig and Sandra Traxler, is also graduating number 9 in the Class of 2016. She has a weighted grade point average of 4.17. She has been Team Captain for the Cross-Country Team for two years, and is a member of the National Honor Society. Lindsie has spent countless hours tutoring young children, developing a desire to become a teacher. She plans to attend Muskegon Community College for two years, then transfer to Grand Valley State University to pursue a degree in Elementary Education.





# Family Literacy Night

On February 3rd, Central Elementary partnered with Western Dunes Reading Council and the Muskegon Area Intermediate School District to host an Interactive Read Aloud and Beginning Reading Strategies Night. West Michigan teachers, Mrs. Amy Miller from Grand Haven Schools and Mrs. Lynn Patrick retired teacher from Reeths-Puffer, came to share their expertise. They modeled thinking and questioning while reading, and shared ways to grow deeper comprehension in our students through Interactive Read Alouds. In addition, Mrs. Mason, Mrs. Hansen and Mrs. Patrick shared several skill building activities and strategies to help children with early phonics and sight words.

**Top right: Students and parents alike enjoyed the story and questions from Interactive Read Aloud.**

**Bottom right: Mrs. Patrick demonstrates a picture walk to students to start an Interactive Read Aloud.**

**Below: Mrs. Miller models Interactive Read Aloud for students and their parents.**



## ROCKET CITY NEWS

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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.

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## Vegas Night

Parents and students enjoyed the second annual Vegas Night on March 24 at Central Elementary. The evening included various math games that reinforce number sense, addition, subtraction, geometric shapes, fractions, and multiplication concepts that students and parents enjoy and learn from. A meal of hot dogs, chips and a drink was available for a small donation. It was another great family learning event at Central Elementary.

**Pictured above: Mrs. Mason reviews rules and strategies for one of our games.**





Jaydin Johnson



Mariah Scott

## Central's Authors and Directors

Back in February, the Reeths-Puffer High School Theatre students presented their depiction/creation of ten different stories that Central second and fourth graders authored. This was a partnership event, where Central students were given a prompt to create a story centered on a problem-solution and then our high school students selected a Top 10 list to act out. Thank you again to Mr. Klairter and the RPHS Theatre class. Congratulations to the following Authors/Directors:

Mariah Scott – The Cavity  
Alyssa Alexander – The Problem  
Grant Kulesza – Zombies  
Wyatt Farber – Kitty Robber  
Mariyn Peterson – The Grumpy Troll

Gage Hopkins – Where Are We?  
Layla Bolema – Cheer Practice  
Jaydin Johnson – The Haunted House  
J.T. Fansler – Nerf War  
Ava Bauder – Night of Halloween



## Author Visits Central Elementary

Mr. Taylor Overby, author of The I-Wants and the Gimmies visited all first grade classrooms on March 4th. During each visit, Mr. Overby not only read aloud from his new book, but shared writing strategies as well. Students learned that when Mr. Overby was a child, he was often heard saying, "I want" and "Gimmie" more often than he would like to admit. He encouraged students to reflect upon their own experiences and write about them. Everyone enjoyed his visit immensely! Thank you Mr. Overby!



## Math Strategy Night

On January 21st, over 40 families from Central Elementary participated in a Math Workshop Night geared at helping parents learn about current math practices, strategies and math tools their children use throughout the year. Most families came for a light dinner and then attended two different workshops from the choices of Counting and Cardinality, Beginning Addition and Subtraction, Advance Addition and Subtraction, and Multiplication and Division. The evening was a great success thanks to presenters Mrs. Farmer, Mrs. Smith, Mrs. Langlois, Mrs. Carlson, Mr. Burmeister, Mrs. Bos and Mrs. Wahr.

*Top left: Mrs. Carlson demonstrates an example of the Split Strategy to our parents. Top right: Parents got the chance to explore using various math tools such as Bundles and Sticks and the Rekenrek like their children use at school.*

## Central Boys Collect Water for Flint

Gage Hopkins, 4th grader at Central Elementary, proposed and put into action a project to help the Flint Water Crisis. During the week of February 29-March 4, Gage and several of his friends challenged Central students to give to this worthy cause. It was a tight race to the very end; however, when totals for classrooms were calculated, Mrs. Warren's class collected 184 gallons, followed closely behind by Miss Nauta's students with 167.5 gallons. Overall, Central Elementary collected 712 gallons of water, demonstrating our kids and families can and do make a difference. Beyond the philanthropy of this project, the boys also had to apply math skills to convert ounces into gallons making real life connections. Staff and students would like to thank Mr. and Mrs. Cregg, Mrs. Ross and other parent volunteers for their assistance. Sparky is very proud of



Central kids and thanks everyone who was able to contribute.

*Top: Mason Cregg, J.T. Fansler, Caiden Theisen, Gage Hopkins, and Bryce Ross relax after stacking water on day-4.*

*Bottom: Gage Hopkins, Chase Smith, Bryce Ross and Mason Cregg relax after loading the trailer for delivery.*







# Behavior Enrichment Group

Often times the inner workings of RPEL go unnoticed, unrecognized or dismissed. Walk into the cafeteria any given morning and you will see kids excited to be in school. Sleepy faces make way to bright smiles. Feelings change from melancholy to warmth, love and acceptance. What does staff attribute this drastic change to? RPEL's wonderful Behavior Enrichment Group (RPI/RPEL's "B.E.G." team)! These amazing people give TIRELESSLY to our students on a daily basis. They do this without recognition, without limit and without extra pay. Most volunteer their time, choosing to remain in our building between their shifts. They use their own resources, do their own fundraising. One hundred percent of their resources go to our students. They are the epitome of selflessness. This team has been an integral part of RPI/RPEL's Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports (PBIS) team! They have planned monthly luncheons, decorated the cafeteria, established meaningful routines, read to students, creatively made gifts to pass out to Rocket Slip winners, rewarded positive behaviors, helped maintain the Golden Tray Awards at RPEL and more. Their decorations are purposeful. During the month of February, they created a tree from decorated hearts. On each heart, students wrote reasons they "loved" school. Hanging from the windows were decorations made of flashcards with sight words, addition problems, multiplication problems, division problems and more. They pose questions to students in various places throughout the cafeteria to engage students in discussion. There is a daily and weekly quote on the entrance to the cafeteria, put there on a homemade chalkboard the B.E.G. team painted on the entrance door. They made a lighted board that spells out and hung it high for all to see. Staff cannot thank the B.E.G. team enough for all they do to help create lifelong learners! Trisha Mason, Tina Schoofield, Marie Antor, Kim Mrotz, Maryann Burks, Teresa Ripplow, Beth Rix and Randy Fortier - on behalf of RPI/RPEL students, their families and our staff, we THANK YOU for your tireless efforts, your undying passion and giving hearts. We know it takes a village and we are thrilled you have chosen to be a part of ours! Our school would absolutely NOT be the same without you!



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## Dash and Learn Muskegon YMCA at Reeths-Puffer Elementary



Dash and Learn is a new partnership with the Muskegon YMCA. This new after school program currently has 45 second through fourth grade students participating. Healthy fun is the main focus of the YMCA Dash and Learn program. Kids deserve a safe space to be active, be themselves and build healthy habits. Active games of physical activity and nutrition are how we keep kids moving and learning about healthy choices. This program has allowed Reeths-Puffer Elementary students to learn, grow and thrive! The program runs for six weeks and is held every Monday and Wednesday from 3:45 to 4:45.



## RPEL Got Caught Up In A Good Book!



In March, during Reading Month, RPEL celebrated with an all-school read of Charlotte's Web. A copy of the book was sent home to every family and chapters were assigned throughout the month. Staff members called home with comprehension questions and ideas to think about while reading. To go along with the reading, kids participated in lots of fun activities all month. They started with a kick-off assembly with local author Aaron Zenz. He showed the kids the whole story writing process, from getting

an idea to a published book. He also demonstrated the way he illustrated his book, The Hiccupotomus. Students also enjoyed Screen Buster days, research and writing projects, Hour of No Power, reading at home adventures, a Community Expo (which included a free book for all who attended) and All School BINGO. Students were also rewarded with prizes for reading during the month, with over 200 kids reading for more than eight hours and earning two free tickets to a Whitecaps baseball game in the spring. You could say all of RPEL really got caught up in March Reading Month!

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## RECESS NINJA

RPEL piloted a recess leadership group with our 4th graders to see if it could be implemented school-wide. This group, the Recess Ninjas, formed in late October after staff felt there were too many referrals for misconduct. This resulted in a brainstorming meeting and an attempt to turn a negative situation into a positive learning experience. The students were complaining that “there’s nothing to do,” claiming that boredom was a major reason for misbehavior. We asked them for their help.

The Recess Ninjas took the initiative to create and run game stations during each of their three recesses. They created a mission statement for their group, defined four goals to accomplish as a group and set expectations for their own behaviors as role models for others.

We are very proud of the work they have done! It has been entirely student-led, adult mentored. Their main goal is to make recess fun and safe while practicing peer conflict resolution, decision making and teamwork (they wanted to “chop” the number of injuries in half, “kick” boredom to the curb and stealthily create a positive environment during our recess times).

We are now in the process of recruiting Recess Ninjas in grades 1 through 4. Boxes are set in the cafeteria for students interested in becoming a Recess Ninja. We hope they can join and help support the positive play already taking place in our 3rd and 4th grades. Our first round of applications are out and we hope to have fully-implemented, student-led, jam-packed with fun student recesses by the middle of April!

We are always seeking creative game ideas to play with our students! If you have an idea for a fun, safe recess game, please pass it on and our students will organize it!



## Summer Garden

Do you like to garden or want to learn how to garden? Would you and your family like to help the Rocket City Community? Then consider joining us in the garden! The RPEL Community Garden will be in its fifth year this summer. Students, staff, and families meet in the garden every Tuesday morning from 9-11 AM and every Thursday evening from 6-8 PM throughout the summer. There are many jobs to do: weeding, planting, harvesting, mowing, and more. We work together as a team, complete projects, laugh a lot, and get to know each other better. We consider the day a success if we come home dirty and a little tired. Mark your calendars, grab the gloves, and come on out and join us! Contact Michelle Wahlberg at [wahlbergm@reeths-puffer.org](mailto:wahlbergm@reeths-puffer.org) for more information.







## Rocket City Garden to Cafeteria

Pennsylvania Elementary kindergarten cultivates children's love of learning, healthy food, and nature through garden-based education. They have recently built a hoop house and garden beds that will grow food through three seasons: kale, lettuce, spinach, tomatoes, basil, onions, potatoes, carrots, blueberries, cucumber, beets and a whole lot more. The food they grow will be shared with the Reeths-Puffer Food Service program and will



*Kate Tindall has packaged up some rosemary and cilantro; one of several bags of herbs that she and her friends grew, harvested and dried for the R-P Food Program.*



*Addison Mitchelson uses a cordless drill to build a 4' x 12' garden box for the hoop house. The students built six of them. Addison and her friends will participate in every step of this process.*

be served to other students in the District, thus the name, "Garden to Cafeteria." If kindergartners can do it, everyone can do it!

**Huge shout out to Connie Falbe, R-P Food Service Director, and her team for leading us to be a healthier community!**

## Camp Break a Leg! June 20-24

Announcing a great summer opportunity to learn skills, meet new friends and have a lot of fun. The Reeths-Puffer choir and theatre staff will present a week long summer youth camp. The students will work on singing, dancing and acting skills and also have the opportunity to learn and work in the backstage environment. At the end of the week, the campers will put on a production on the Rocket Centre stage.

The camp is open to students going into 3rd through 8th grades. Each camper will receive a souvenir t-shirt, a commemorative script, vocal CD and will be on stage during the show. Campers are encouraged to pick up the script and CD prior to camp. The camp will meet in the Rocket Centre at Reeths-Puffer High School. Full details and a registration form can be found on the District web site at [www.reeths-puffer.org](http://www.reeths-puffer.org). Deadline to register is May 20.

## Twin Lake Students Donate to Help Flint



During the month of February, second graders at Twin Lake Elementary worked on a philanthropy project to help families in Flint affected by the water crisis. Students were learning about water and water purification in science. They realized that a community in our state didn't have safe drinking water. They donated coins all month and then sent a check for \$275 to the United Way Office in Genesee County. United Way has a fundraiser going to buy water filters for families.



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# An Uncommon Approach to the Common Core

**Question:** If every school in Michigan is required to follow the Common Core State Standards, then where is there room for innovation?

**Answer:** In Rocket City! The truth is, Common Core is the destination. Getting there is where creative and thoughtful teaching comes into play, and that's the story behind **RockeTales: The Fractured Fairy Tales of Rocket City**.



The story is actually over two dozen stories – and over two dozen illustrations – all from the minds of young Rockets. Partnering with Wheeler Creative Studios, the 4th grade writers of Shari Krukowski (RPEL) and the RPHS art students of Jeff Hellman and Craig Olsen combined forces to create a published e-book that is for sale across the globe.



"The best part for me was watching the interaction between my high school students and the 4th grade students," said Jeff Hellman. "I saw a new and different side to my students that I was not expecting. That was really neat."

This real world learning project saw the writers and artists employ project management techniques, art direction, creative writing, advertising and more – all in line with the Common Core State Standards.

"The project was all that I hoped for and more!" said Shari Krukowski. "I remind my students as often as I can, that we are so lucky to be able to work on this real life application!"

Best of all, this real world learning project is for sale at [GoRocketCity.org](http://GoRocketCity.org) and through Amazon and through Barnes & Noble. You can meet the creators in person on Tuesday, May 17 in the RPHS cafeteria at 5:30 pm as we celebrate this wonderful success story. Writers and artists will be on hand, the original illustrations will be up for silent auction, and Bellacino's will be serving pizza and grinders. Put **RockeTales** at the top of your summer reading list, and join us on May 17!

# Thanks Kuerth's



A big thanks to Kuerth's Disposal for adopting Miss Schilling's classroom this year at Twin Lake Elementary! Miss Schilling used the money to purchase quality headphones for the listening center, new books, baskets, a shelf to put them on, inside recess games, and a new chair to read in. We love our community supporters!!



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## SUMMER CAMPS

Detailed information for all summer camps can be found on the District web site at [reeths-puffer.org/High\\_School/Athletics/youthcamps/](http://reeths-puffer.org/High_School/Athletics/youthcamps/)

### 2nd Annual R-P Baseball Summer Skills Camp

**June 20-22**

The R-P Fundamentals (K-8 Grades 2016-17 School Year)

Registration Starts at Monday 8:00 a.m. Camp/Instruction Runs from 8:30-12:00 Tuesday and Wednesday 8:00-12:00

Areas of Focus Include: Pitching Mechanics, Throwing Progression/Mechanics, Infield/Outfield Drills, Catching, Defensive Situations, Hitting, Base Running, Bunting, The Philosophy of Baseball, and The Importance of Academics. Cost \$50 Price Includes T-Shirt and Snack for the Day. For more details and to register your child visit [www:reeths-puffer.org/high\\_school/Athletics/youthcamps/](http://www:reeths-puffer.org/high_school/Athletics/youthcamps/)

### Future Rockets Youth Football Camp

**July 28**

Boys in grades 1 through 6 (2016-17 school year), are invited to register for football camp. For complete details including price and how to register visit the District web site at [reeths-puffer.org/High\\_School/Athletics/youthcamps/](http://reeths-puffer.org/High_School/Athletics/youthcamps/)

### Bowling Camp

**June 17**

A Bowling Camp will be held at Northway Lanes from noon to 4:00 p.m. for all age and skill levels. Cost is \$25. Please visit [reeths-puffer.org/High\\_School/Athletics/youthcamps/](http://reeths-puffer.org/High_School/Athletics/youthcamps/) for more information and registration information.

### Boys Basketball Skills Camp

**June 13-16**

The R-P Boys Basketball coaching staff and high school players will instruct boys in grades 3-8 in basic basketball skills. Instruction will include ball-handling, passing, shooting, offensive moves, individual defense, and team offensive and defensive sets. At the conclusion of the week, awards will be handed out at each session for tournament champions, free-throw shooting champions, and "hot-shot" champions.

### Boys Basketball Shooting Camp

**June 17**

Coach Johnson and Coach Mitchelson will instruct boys in grades 5 - 9 in shooting fundamentals. Time will be spent strictly on fundamentals and techniques of shooting, including the use of individual video to break down each player's shooting form. Space is limited and must be reserved ahead of time. Email Coach Johnson to reserve your spot now: [johnsonl@reeths-puffer.org](mailto:johnsonl@reeths-puffer.org)

### Summer Volleyball Camp

**June-27-30**

Students in grades 5 through 12 are invited to join in an exciting summer volleyball camp. Reeths-Puffer coaches will work with the players to develop their skills and to help get the girls ready for their upcoming volleyball tryouts. The camp will be held in the high school auxiliary gym. Registration deadline is June 17. For complete details visit the District web site at [reeths-puffer.org/High\\_School/Athletics/youthcamps/](http://reeths-puffer.org/High_School/Athletics/youthcamps/)

### Middle School Basketball Workouts:

**Tuesdays and Thursday June 14th - June 30th**

Boys will meet from 9:00 - 10:30 on 6/14, 6/16, 6/21, 6/23, 6/28 and 6/30

Girls will meet from 10:30 - 12:00 on 6/14, 6/16, 6/21, 6/23, 6/28 and 6/30

### Middle School Basketball Team Camp

**Monday, July 11th - Friday, July 15th • Cost is \$25**

Boys will meet from 9:00 - 11:00 and Girls will meet from 11:00 - 1:00

To register or for questions contact Coach Pallett at [pallettm@reeths-puffer.org](mailto:pallettm@reeths-puffer.org)

### Middle School Football Camps

No cost for camp, no sign ups. Interested kids should just show up. There are no cuts, so anyone who wants to play can attend camp all summer and MUST attend conditioning and practice days.

**Camp Dates: June 14 and 16, July 12, 14, 19, 21, 26 and 28, August, 2, 4, 9 and 11**

Time: 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Location: R-P Middle School

Equipment: Only cleats and tennis shoes

CONDITIONING

Date: August 15 –19

Time: 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Location: R-P Middle School

Equipment: Only cleats & tennis shoes

OFFICIAL PRACTICE

Dates: August 22 – 26 and August 29 –September 2

Time: 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Location: R-P Middle School

Equipment: Cleats, tennis shoes, mouthpiece, full equipment as directed by coaches

## FALL VARSITY SCHEDULE

### Volleyball - Girls Varsity

DATE	OPPONENT	PLACE	TIME
Saturday 8/20/2016	(Rocket Invitational)	Home	9:00 AM
Tuesday 8/23/2016	(East Kentwood Invitational)	Away	12:00 PM
Wednesday 8/24/2016	(Tri w/Union and Mona Shores)	Away	5:00 PM
Wednesday 8/31/2016	(Double Dual W/ Fruitport and Kenowa Hills)	Home	5:00 PM
Wednesday 9/7/2016	(Double Dual W/Muskegon and Jenison)	Away	5:00 PM
Thursday 9/8/2016	Grand Haven (Grand Haven Quad)	Away	5:00 PM
Saturday 9/10/2016	(Grandville Invitational)	Away	8:00 AM
Tuesday 9/13/2016	Kenowa Hills	Away	6:45 PM
Tuesday 9/20/2016	Jenison	Home	6:45 PM
Tuesday 10/4/2016	Grand Rapids Union	Away	6:45 PM
Thursday 10/6/2016	(Reeths-Puffer Double Dual)	Home	5:00 PM
Tuesday 10/11/2016	Mona Shores	Home	6:45 PM
Saturday 10/15/2016	(GMAA Tournament)	Home	TBA
Tuesday 10/18/2016	Fruitport High School	Away	6:45 PM
Tuesday 10/25/2016	Muskegon	Home	6:45 PM
Monday 10/31/2016	(Districts)	Away	TBA
Tuesday 11/8/2016	(Regionals)	Away	TBA



# FALL VARSITY SCHEDULE

## Football - Boys Varsity

DATE	OPPONENT	PLACE	TIME
Thursday 8/25/2016	Grand Haven	Home	7:00 PM
Thursday 9/1/2016	Orchard View	Away	7:00 PM
Friday 9/9/2016	Grand Rapids Union	Home	7:00 PM
Friday 9/16/2016	Mona Shores	Home	7:00 PM
Friday 9/23/2016	Muskegon	Away	7:00 PM
Friday 9/30/2016	Jenison	Home	7:00 PM
Friday 10/7/2016	Thornapple Kellogg High School	Away	7:00 PM
Friday 10/14/2016	Fruitport High School	Away	7:00 PM
Friday 10/21/2016	Kenowa Hills	Away	7:00 PM
Friday 10/28/2016	Districts (Other)		
Friday 11/4/2016	Districts (Other)		
Friday 11/11/2016	Regionals (Other)		

## Soccer - Boys Varsity

DATE	OPPONENT	PLACE	TIME
Saturday 8/20/2016	(Lakeshore Invitational)	Away	9:00 AM
Tuesday 8/23/2016	Northview	Home	6:45 PM
Friday 8/26/2016	Grand Haven	Away	6:45 PM
Tuesday 9/6/2016	Kenowa Hills	Away	6:45 PM
Thursday 9/8/2016	Jenison	Home	6:45 PM
Tuesday 9/13/2016	Grand Rapids Union	Away	6:45 PM
Thursday 9/15/2016	Mona Shores	Home	6:45 PM
Tuesday 9/20/2016	Fruitport High School	Away	6:45 PM
Thursday 9/22/2016	Muskegon	Home	6:45 PM
Saturday 9/24/2016	Kenowa Hills	Home	6:45 PM
Tuesday 9/27/2016	Jenison	Away	6:45 PM
Thursday 9/29/2016	Spring Lake	Home	6:45 PM
Tuesday 10/4/2016	Grand Rapids Union	Home	6:45 PM
Thursday 10/6/2016	Mona Shores	Away	6:45 PM
Tuesday 10/11/2016	Fruitport High School	Home	6:45 PM
Thursday 10/13/2016	Muskegon	Away	5:45 PM
Monday 10/17/2016	Districts (School)		

# Reeths-Puffer Flag Football



Reeths-Puffer is excited to offer an alternative to tackle football to the youth in our community. All games will be played at the high school practice fields on Wednesdays for a 6 week season. No practice once games begin. Sign up in person on August 13, 2016, from 10-11:30 a.m. at the high school, or online at the athletic website, and the season will begin the week of September 12th with the first game on September 21st.

All K-6 students are welcome. Everyone plays every position. Girls and boys are welcome. Registration will begin in August. Cost: \$50.00\*, includes NFL Jersey (\*Price break if parent is willing to coach). Equipment: Mouth Guard, Athletic Clothing and Cleats



- Anticipated Divisions**  
**Kindergarten (Coaches QB)**  
**1st Grade (6 players a team)**  
**2nd Grade (6 players a team)**  
**3rd Grade (6 players a team)**  
**4th Grade (6 players a team)**  
**5th grade (6 players a team)**  
**6th Grade (6 players a team)**

The focus of this league is to get kids exposed to football, with the emphasis on throwing and catching a football, along with teamwork. Games are roughly 30-40 minutes in length with a running clock. Five players (per team) on the field during competition.

If willing to volunteer time to assist in coaching, or anything related to flag football, please contact Nick Kunnen at [Kunnenn@reeths-puffer.org](mailto:Kunnenn@reeths-puffer.org) or Todd Farmer at [Farmert@reeths-puffer.org](mailto:Farmert@reeths-puffer.org). Questions or concerns about Flag Football, please contact Nick Kunnen or Todd Farmer. Also check out <http://www.nflflag.com/>

# RPI VOLLEYBALL



Ground: Jillian Singleton, Alaina Bouchard, Vanessa Rozycki  
Front: Emily Judd, Sophia Hekkema, Lauren Douglas, Jordan Jacobs, Erika Rudholm, Destinee Amos, Breeze Jones, Jordan McKinnon, Alina Barringer  
Back: Coach Mary, Summer Wyant, Jessica Lindsey, Maranda Cole, Sadie Boorman, Lauren Kleynenberg, Lexi Stephenson, Coach Jess, Morgan Huntley, Cloey Beebe, Analeesha Jenkins, Lily Johnson, Julia Mastenbrook, Coach Teresa  
Not pictured: Brooke Schauer, Kenzie Scott

The Intermediate Team had another successful season. The girls worked hard and learned a lot. They played in three tournaments and had a great experience. Coach Jess wants to thank everyone for a great time.





## Got Heart? Get Screened.

Student heart screenings are FREE and open to any high school student.

**FREE STUDENT HEART  
SCREENINGS** | July 13, July 27  
or August 17

All screenings will take place at the Youngberg Auditorium at Mercy Health Hackley Campus, 1700 Clinton Street in Muskegon, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., and are completed in about 15 minutes.

A student must be entering 9th grade in the fall of 2016 or currently in 9th, 10th, 11th or 12th grade.

Register today at [MercyHealth.com/StudentHeart](http://MercyHealth.com/StudentHeart).  
For more information, call 231.672.3080.

Every student who gets their heart screened will receive a **free t-shirt**.



## Corner

### Curriculum

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



The summer reading challenge is back for a third year!!! This challenge is being offered to students entering Kindergarten through 12th grade at Reeths-Puffer Schools in fall 2016. This challenge is an opportunity to instill the love of reading as a life-long habit, as well as to win an electronic tablet.

Thanks again to a community member's generous donation, five electronic 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 12, 2016. Winners will be notified on Tuesday, September 13th. **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 Levels:

- Kindergarten – 2nd Grade Students
- 3rd & 4th Grade Students
- 5th & 6th Grade Students
- 7th & 8th Grade Students
- 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: **June 13th through August 31st**
- 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!**

## Reeths-Puffer Honored to Receive Funds from the Edith B. Ebrecht Literacy Foundation



### Engaging Families in Children's Literacy

**Development:** This year, with the generous grant funds from the Edith B. Brecht Foundation, Reeths-Puffer Schools has been able to hold five early literacy nights at each of our three elementary buildings and at the McMillan Early Childhood Center. School Psychologist and Early Reading Expert, Nancy Jaskiw, has led this initiative throughout the District with the support of the teachers and principal at each building.

The goal of the workshop is to improve parent engagement with their children by building early literacy skills in a fun, family-oriented way so that reading



becomes a family activity, and children grow to enjoy and look forward to reading with their family. During the workshop, parents and students use the materials provided to create the various games and activities that the families take home and use to interact with between the five evening sessions.



This grant helped us fund part of the literacy materials used for the games/activities that the families take home with them to continue the learning at home. All the learning activities provided work to build a strong foundation for ongoing reading success.

The District would like to thank the Edith B. Ebrecht Foundation for the generous donation to make these family literacy nights possible. In honor of this gift and to recognize Edith Ebrecht, her family supplied a short summary that we would like to share with the community. We also would like to celebrate all that Edith did for the Reeths-Puffer community and help others understand why this grant was made available to Reeths-Puffer Schools and the students we serve.



“Edith Ebrecht placed a high value on reading and education. She started college when she was 40, earning a Bachelor’s degree from Western Michigan University and then a Master’s Degree. For years, she taught and served as a reading specialist at Reeths-Puffer Schools, helping children brighten their futures. After Edith passed away in 2013 - three days shy of her 100th birthday; her daughter Janice Schuler chose to start this fund to continue her mother’s legacy. The Edith B. Ebrecht Literacy Fund will provide teacher mini-grants that support literacy efforts for elementary students at Reeths-Puffer now and for years to come.

At her funeral a friend/fellow teacher shared a story of how Edith broke the glass ceiling before they knew it was there: the women wanted to be allowed to wear pants to work at Reeths-Puffer, so they convinced Edith to do it first...she did and they earned the right to wear polyester pantsuits. She was a pioneer.”

## Michigan Education Corps is Partnering with Reeths-Puffer Elementary and the GSRP Programs at McMillan Early Childhood Center

We are very excited to partner with the Michigan Education Corps beginning in the fall of 2016. In this partnership, the District will receive two full time elementary literacy tutors. The literacy tutors will work one-on-one with identified Kindergarten, 1st and 2nd grade students. The program’s goal is to support schools in providing literacy tutors to build the foundational reading skills for students who need additional support. The literacy tutors will use a specific set of literacy materials to support and enhance the reading skills of our youngest learners. We are very excited about this opportunity and hope to add our other two elementary schools next year.

### Looking for Tutors for the Program



Do you love working with children and have an interest in helping them increase their reading skills and succeed in school? If your answer is yes, consider joining the Michigan Education Corps Team. We are part of the largest AmeriCorps tutoring program in the country and make a difference in the lives of elementary-aged and preschool students! We provide training so no prior tutoring, formal education experience, or experience

with children is necessary, just a heart to help children become even better readers! In addition to training, tutors will receive on-site support from trained school literacy coaches. Our tutors come from many backgrounds and include recent high school and college grads, career changers, stay-at-home parents, and retirees.



Our benefits include a living allowance of approximately \$584.00 every two weeks, no cost health insurance coverage during the course of your full time service, an education award of up to \$5,775 that can be used to repay student loans and to pay for future education expenses. If you have student loans, they may be deferred during your service time. Tutors who are 55 and older by August 22, 2016, can transfer their education credit to a child, step-child, grandchild, step-grandchild, or foster child.

If you are interested in helping kids succeed in your school district and community, please consider joining our team this next school year. Contact Karen Renkema by email [krenkema@hopenetwork.org](mailto:krenkema@hopenetwork.org), by calling (616) 915-1165, or visiting our website at <http://mieducationcorps.org> if you are interested and want to learn more information on becoming a tutor. Our positions start on August 22, 2016. Don’t wait, call today for information on fall positions.

## Summer Math Challenge: Calling All Mathematicians

Upon the request of math advocate, Conner A., Rocket City will now also have a Summer Math Challenge! Thank you Conner, I appreciate your advocacy and would invite you and all R-P mathematicians to participate in the First Annual Summer Math Challenge. The summer math challenges will be fun, hands-on, thought provoking, and will show you fun ways to math through everyday life.

At the end of the summer, each mathematician is invited to submit, with parent sign off, as many “Summer Math Challenge Grids” they completed over summer break. Each grid will go into a drawing for a variety of prizes. Mathematicians, get ready . . . and let the fun begin.

We will draw 50 math grids from all that are turned into the District Office, or your respective building, no later than Thursday, September 8, 2016. Winners will be notified on Tuesday, September 13. The “Summer Math Challenge Grids” 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.; or can be downloaded from the District website. (Go to Curriculum Department then to the Curriculum Corner for Parents)

Below you will find a sneak peak of a sample math challenge grid with twenty five different types and levels of activities that may show up on a “Summer Math Challenge Grid.” More information and additional ideas will be supplied in early June.

### Sample Math Grid

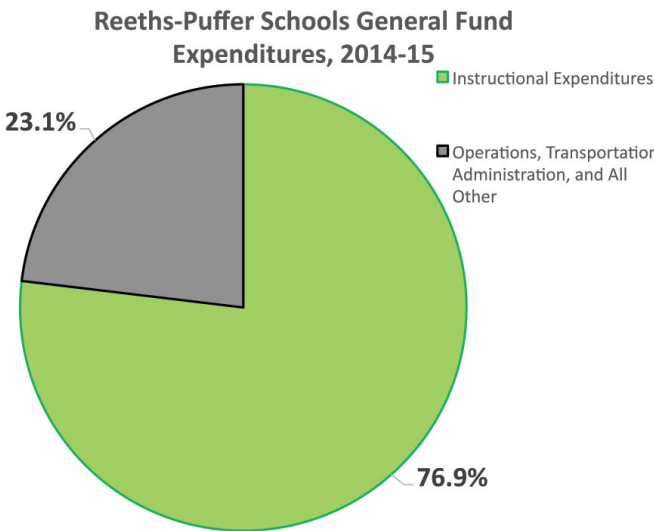
(Grids will be different based on the age of the Mathematician)

Cooking activity with the family that involves measurement.	Make a list of 50 places where you find numbers in or around your house.	Outdoor Math Grid – Jump to show your answer to the given problem.	Grocery Store Shopping Activity Sheet 1	Your Choice (name the activity)
Represent today’s number	Take a picture or draw a picture of a repeated pattern you created using items from nature.	Play a math game with your family.	Outdoor Math Grid – Jump to show your answer to the given problem.	Figuring gas mileage and total cost for a trip to visit a friend.
Addition/Multiplication Hopscotch (5 rounds)	Make a list of fractions that you find in your house.	Interview 3 adults asking them how they use math in their jobs.	Using your Estimation Skills Activity	Counting Activity (forward and back)
Grocery Store Shopping Activity Sheet 2	Restaurant or Menu Math	Represent today’s number in 10 different ways	Beach Ball Fact Game	Play a math game with your family.
Determine the number of gallons of water used for activities in the house. (Running the wash machine; taking a shower, etc.)	Measure 5 things in your house using both a standard and non-standard method for measuring the items.	Cooking activity with the family that involves measurement.	Determine the best cost item when comparing the price based on the ratio of size and cost.	Grocery Store Shopping Activity Sheet 3

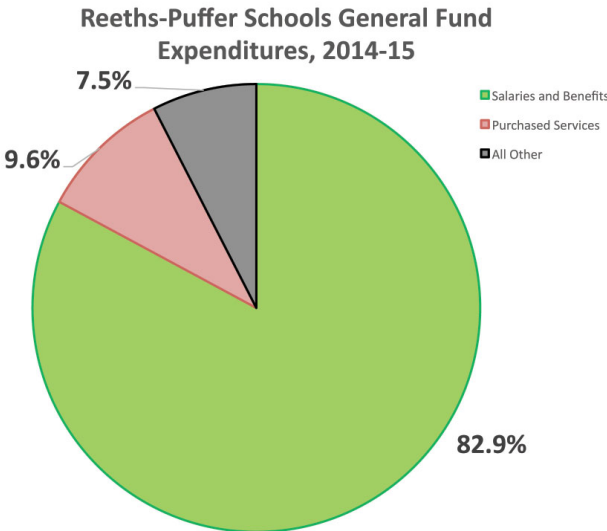


# How Do We Spend Our Money?

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 that 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, 2014-15, these areas represented approximately 77% of all general fund expenditures, as shown below.



Another way to better understand our budget is to ask, what do we spend on our money on? Our industry is driven by people, and as you may guess, we spent the majority of our budget on those people. Nearly 83% 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 92.5%. Everything else – utilities, supplies, fuel for our buses – comprises around 7.5% of the total, as shown below.



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

# Are We Engaged?

Engagement is a word used at RPI to describe the involvement our learners demonstrate with their minds, emotion, behaviors, movements and culture that lead to deep levels of learning.



To engage all students, there needs to be some "look fors" in place throughout our instruction and classrooms. These "look fors" should be evidenced throughout our school and carry over to conversations at the dinner table and car rides after school. For our team, this is the level of learning that we strive for and continue to explore with all our efforts!

**Intellectual Engagement:** Lessons and projects are designed around student feedback and interests. Their curiosity is welcomed throughout classroom experiences. Teachers encourage students to choose their topic, and demonstrate their learning.

**Behavioral Engagement:** Clear classroom and building-wide expectations that foster a positive learning environment. In the classroom, teachers have flexible groupings and seating and there are many variations to the routine that stimulate learning.

**Physical Engagement:** Teachers may use activities that promote physical activity and movement throughout the day of instruction. In the classroom, teachers ask students to write answers in different locations around the room, move to groups and move learning to other locations in the school.

**Social Engagement:** Teachers promote collaboration and interactions between students for learning. Learners are often paired, grouped, switched and gathered based on interest and conversational knowledge building. This often may include competition within a learning task.

**Cultural Engagement:** RPI promotes diversity and cultural backgrounds connected to immigration, heritage and family. Teachers and students will openly talk about stereotypes, acceptance, injustice and all diverse populations in our world.

Thank you for supporting a more engaged Rocket City!

Mr. Smith

# The Power of Voice

Caitlyn Duffey, Kaden Edwards, and Alex Johnson decided to use their voices and share their opinion about school funding. Caden and Alex gathered signatures from the 5th and 6th grade students to protest against the unequal funding of public schools across the state. Caitlyn Duffey wrote an argumentative letter to express her beliefs and objection to the funding difference. All of these important examples of student work were sent to Governor Snyder's office. Students are learning the power of their voice when exercising their rights in an appropriate fashion.



# There is more to Writing at Rocket City

Our students write in all four cores each day, explaining their thinking, justifying their claims, analyzing resources and creating published pieces that engage their audience to read more. One area that continues to be a growth area is in our planning of writing. This was reinforced when our graduated Rocket students came to RPI to discuss their need for ideas when planning large writing pieces in college classes. We used the feedback and are engaging all 6th grade students in a six-week program submerging their minds in strategies to create highly effective writing pieces.

Students are creating a "Brain Frame" on a self-chosen topic. This planning strategy allows students to create an essay that stays on topic. This was supported by multiple strategies using language choices, hooks and cause and effect relationships. Students are learning that good writers plan for engaging their reader.



## 6th Grade Game Creators



In 6th grade Spanish classes, our students engaged in creating a game that all directions, play, and teaching took place in Spanish. Students had to work in collaboratives while creating the game, define key vocabulary and create the game board with Spanish vocabulary. After this process, they had to teach the game to their peers as their assessment within the unit. What an engaged group of 6th graders fully investing in their learning!



## Math lessons you can sink your teeth into!



Fifth grade students in Mr. Carter, Mrs. Hazard, Mrs. Spring, and Mrs. Overway's classes have been engaging with fractions in math class. At the end of one unit, students had the opportunity to put their newly learned skills into action. Students were given a cookie recipe. Before they could make their cookies, they had to use

their fraction skills to change the recipe amount. Some students had to double or triple the recipe. Others had to cut the recipe in half or in thirds. Approximately 110 students worked in the cafeteria at the same time. They had to find and mix all of the ingredients and then spoon out the right amount of dough onto the cookie pans. Our awesome kitchen ladies did the actual baking for us. In the end, we got to eat our project! To complete the project, in Language Arts, the learners had to write about their experience and in math they had to answer follow-up questions about the differences between the recipes. Great lessons that tasted great as well!



## Boys in the Boat

*"The very problems you must overcome also support you and make you stronger in overcoming them."*

**George Yeoman Pocock**

The non-fiction book, *Boys in the Boat*, is pulled from the depths of the Great Depression. Nine University of Washington crewmen do the improbable. With backgrounds very different from their Ivy League competitors, they used true grit, powerful hope, and

resilience to earn their way to the 1936 Berlin Olympics. With Hitler looking on, the young working-class boys defeated the commanding German team to win a gold medal.

During Rocket Time at RPI, multiple groups of students have been able to digest this intense story of unflappable determination. Identifying with the characters, young learners empathetically felt the loss, unfairness, determined effort, optimism and finally celebration as they discovered character strengths that never get outdated.

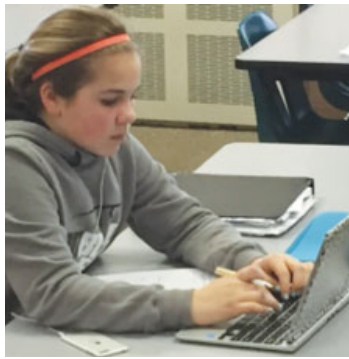
A few groups were able to travel to the MSU boathouse to meet with current crewmembers and the coaching staff. Coach Matt Weise talked to the young academics of how grit, optimism (understanding how one's effort will make a difference), academic/athletic time management are not new requirements but requirements for success whether the success is in athletics, academics, or professional employment.

While on campus, the group also observed an actual department meeting with researchers in the Biosystems Engineering Department. They learned that a career in research requires one to manage disappointment. Collaboration, pulling one's own weight, and optimism are all necessary for discoveries to be made.

Understanding the lessons from rowing and how they easily transfer to work at RPI was seamless. Watching professional research scientists use those very skills to positively impact the world put meaning into the power of hard work, resilience, grit, optimism, self-control, empathy, patience, and persistence.







# Just Ask

Why do people drive around for hours looking for a destination that could be easily found if they were to just ask for help? Perhaps it's because they are not sure how to ask. Imagine what learning would look like if all students knew how to ask for and accept help. Would asking for and accepting help close the gaps in learning?

When our Rockets are seeking solutions and solving problems to new challenges, they are encouraged to advocate for help. Prior to asking for, accepting, or acting on help and guidance, Reeths-Puffer Intermediate (RPI) learners should consider a few things like...

- Have I given my brain enough time to come up with an answer? (Grit & Perseverance)
- Is my question something that an adult or student should help me with? (Help vs. Drama)
- Do I truly need help solving this problem, or am I just trying to get someone in trouble? (Reporting vs. Ratting)
- Would the person helping me have my best interest in mind?
- Will asking for help and guidance make me a better learner?

While asking for help is important, accepting help is just as valuable. Our Rockets may find they are offered help even when they are not looking for or asking for it. Being offered guidance without asking for it could be viewed as criticism, but it is also an opportunity for coaching. Coaching is defined as training or development in which a person (coach) supports a learner in achieving a specific personal goal. At RPI, unsolicited help is coaching!

Coaching is a valuable part of learning and essential to achieving success! Many United States Presidents have reported using coaches on a regular basis, so we know that coaching is important. Accepting coaching is just as important as receiving it. Rockets, accept coaching, and use it to become better learners!

Advocating for and accepting guidance play a significant role in academic success. From learning in the classroom to dealing with unproductive behaviors, the staff at RPI is here to coach and support. RPI is a safe place to explore and climb the ladder of education while learning to ask for help and accept coaching!



## Nonfiction Work

Fifth grade students engaged in crafting and developing their voice through nonfiction writing and high interest topics. The only thing more powerful than knowledge is having the voice and courage to share it with others!

## Lumberjacks And A Growth Mindset

At Reeths-Puffer Middle School, we are focused on helping our students embrace challenge and frustration as part of the learning process, be open to feedback for improvement,



persevere through difficult tasks, and crave life-long learning. We invited players from the Muskegon Lumberjacks to share their personal connections with a Growth Mindset. Eight of our students served as talk show hosts in all corners of the building and drilled the players

with tough questions about learning from failure, embracing challenge, and how to stay focused on reaching a goal when things get tough. They even talked about the Muskegon Area Promise. The Lumberjacks could make a comparison between hard work on the ice and hard work in the classroom to earn the Muskegon Area Promise. It was a great day of learning and reflection for everyone!

## RPI Singers and R-P Vocal Music Faculty Represent in Lansing!

March is Music Advocacy Month and our R-P Music program had the opportunity to take advantage of some great opportunities in our State Capital to celebrate. Congratulations to Lucy Ackerman (4th grade), Wyndham Ross (5th grade) and Leo Ackerman (6th grade) for being selected for the 2016 Elementary Honors Choir. These performers were selected from over 250 students in the State of Michigan to perform in this weekend event. The select choir rehearsed and performed under the direction of talented conductor and educator, James Cummings. Great job musicians and what an excellent way to use your talents to represent Rocket City!



Mrs. Deidra Ross was invited to attend several meetings and meet with elected officials to discuss a bill that would bring equal access to music education to all students in the state. She is very proud to serve not just Rocket City students, but all students who deserve the chance to have a well-rounded education.

**Top right: Mrs. Ross (left) meets with State Senator Marty Knollenberg in Lansing. Bottom right: Leo Ackerman, Wyndham Ross, Lucy Ackerman**

Start. Stay. Succeed.

[www.muskegoncc.edu/apply](http://www.muskegoncc.edu/apply)

Muskegon Community College

in f t





## A Magical Evening At The Princess Ball

The cafeteria was decorated, the cookies and crafts were set up, the music was playing, and photographers were prepared, but the real magic happened when over 375 girls arrived with a special guest to Reeths-Puffer

Middle School for the Princess Ball. The event was sponsored by the Middle School PTO and supported by adult and student volunteers. The dancing, laughing, and number of princesses that had to be carried out in exhaustion were all signs that the girls had a great time. Look for the annual event again next year.

## Congrats to the RPMS Treble Makers and Soloists!

On February 6th, the R-P Choir Program hosted the District 7 Solo & Ensemble Festival at our very own RPHS facility.

The R-P Choirs represented themselves well as Rocket Ambassadors and performers. Reeths-Puffer Middle School sent one Choral Ensemble, The Treble Makers, and five Solo Performers. All participants received Division 1 "Excellent" ratings. Three of our students received an "Excellent with Superior Distinction" rating, and had perfect scores! Wow!

Congrats go out to Hallie Ackerman (7th grade), Noah Bowne (7th Grade), Jonathon Krause (8th grade), Nicole Peterson (8th Grade), Brett Schlaff (7th grade) and the RPMS Treble Makers for their outstanding dedication and work!

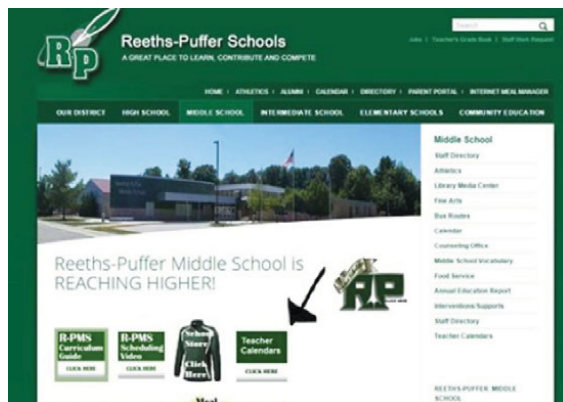
**Top right: Solo & Ensemble (Left to right back row: Jonathon Krause, Brett Schlaff, Noah Bowne. Left to right front: Nicole Peterson, Hallie Ackerman). Bottom right: The RPMS Treble Makers**



## Digital Footprint Begins Now

Have you ever watched a middle school student laugh excessively about something that wasn't that funny? Part of the explanation is that a chemical in our body (dopamine) that is connected with pleasure, behaves differently during the teen years. At the same time, the frontal lobe, which is the portion of the brain responsible for filtering our decisions, is not fully developed. When you combine the difference in pleasure seeking chemicals and a brain that is not fully prepared for decision making with the huge amount of technology that our students have at their fingertips every day, the result is a need to support, guide, educate, and provide clear boundaries for the online behavior of our students. The decisions that our students make today about what they post or tweet on social media and the images they share, have the potential to significantly impact future options available to them. At Reeths-Puffer Middle School, we are taking an active role to educate our students on the legal, emotional, and social consequences of sharing inappropriate images or information. While these conversations are not the easiest to have at home, they are as important to your child's safety as teaching them to look both ways before crossing the road. It is never too early to talk to your student about the information and images they share electronically. Support for middle school students should include regular monitoring of the activity and apps on their electronics (not just phones) as well as constant conversation about the consequences of the choices they make. For more information about supporting your middle school student, please go to the middle school webpage and click on the Parent Resources button

## Parent Communication Tool



Middle School years are a very important time for students to establish ownership of their homework and studying routines. Reeths-Puffer Middle School developed a tool to help parents support their student in building good habits. If you have not checked it out already, go to the Reeths-Puffer Middle School page on the District website ([www.reeths-puffer.org](http://www.reeths-puffer.org)) and click on the Teacher Calendars button. You will find a list of teachers and the courses they teach. When you click on a course, you will be taken to a calendar that shows the assignments for that class. A common method for all classes makes it easier for parents to support their students in building good habits. Good habits now are successes tomorrow.

## 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!

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at [GoRocketCity.org](http://GoRocketCity.org)**





# Advantages and Pitfalls of Social Media



Social Media provides connections in so many avenues for teenagers today that it's difficult at times to keep pace with the apps that students use among one another. We are all familiar with

Facebook, Twitter and Snapchat as what we (adults) might consider the primary social media sites of our students. Some of the other sites that students use (but not limited to) are: Tumblr, Kik Messenger, Tinder, Burn Note, Yik Yak, ooVoo, Pheed, WhatApp, Vine, Skout and Whisper. That's a lot of sites!

A growing concern in counties across our state is the misuse by teenagers within these social media sites. Inappropriate use is real. It's not only present in our schools in Muskegon county, but probably more prevalent than what we would hope it to be. With this information, a decision was made to assemble our students and provide clear, concise and thorough information specific to the topic of inappropriate and sometimes illegal uses of social media.

Our guest for each of our assemblies was Muskegon County Prosecutor, Mr. D.J. Hilson. Mr. Hilson informed our students of not only the dangers of inappropriate uses of social media, but also what laws are in place for people who unwisely choose to engage in this practice.



## Storytime Theatre

This fall, Reeths-Puffer High School's Theatre II Class had the opportunity to perform in Storytime for Reeths-Puffer Elementary students. In this, they taught students the seven parts of a story: Characters, Setting, Activity, Problem, Solution, Title, and Imagination. RPEL students then used the parts of the story to enter into a writing contest for the theater class to act out later in March. The winners were Lexi Daggett with her story "Emily and the Woods," Lindsay Jeroy with "The Rainy Day," Ayana Doom with "Three Pig Friends," Sierra Riggs-Easton with "The Dog Who Couldn't Wait," and Ian Cook with "Ferret Football." It was a wonderful time for both the cast and the students, and they hope to have even more participants next year!

## Choirs Bring Home the Blue Medals!



Congratulations to the RPHS Choirs for their performances at District Choral Festival in Grand Haven. Rocket Ladies Choir was awarded an Excellent in Performance and qualified for State, Rocket Harmonix and Madrigals together earned an Excellent rating with Superior distinction and qualified for State, and the R-P Madrigals were awarded an individual Excellent rating with Superior distinction and qualified for State! That's 157 blue medals in one days' work...Great job RPHS Singers!

## Rocket Alumni Share Success Stories



said the "real world" is tough and having a positive attitude every day makes things go better. Kaylie has a supportive family and a wonderful aide (Bobbie) to help her meet her daily needs. She enjoys the freedom her power-chair gives her as she really is an independent-minded woman.

Steven Santo (Class of '07) lives with three other people who are also in wheelchairs. Steven has been a guest speaker on many occasions, sharing his success story of living on his own and the determination it takes to live happily with CP. At birth, his family was told that he would probably never speak or walk. Steven's a living testimony to what a positive and determined mindset can do for any person. Mrs. Burkett shared, "Both Kaylie and Steven want people to know they don't want to be babied or pitied, they just want to be treated like everyone else." Their visit to campus couldn't have been more successful!



Two VIP's came back to campus to share their personal success stories about how they live very successful lives with CP (Cerebral Palsy).

Kaylie Malinowski (R-P Class of '09) is pictured to the left with some of Mrs. Burkett's students. Kaylie shared that after leaving high school she found that people weren't as nice as they were in school. She

## REETHS-PUFFER SCHOOLS 2015-2016 School Calendar

<b>May 19-20</b>	High School Choir Pops
<b>May 24</b>	Spring Evening of Theater
<b>May 26</b>	Relay for Life Mock Rock
<b>May 27</b>	Jazz Band Steak Fry
<b>May 30</b>	K-12 No School - Memorial Day
<b>June 6</b>	Senior Awards
<b>June 7</b>	9-12 AM Only – High School Exams
<b>June 7</b>	Graduation
<b>June 8</b>	9-12 AM Only – High School Exams
<b>June 9</b>	K-12 AM Only - Last Day for High School Students
<b>June 10</b>	K-8 AM Only - Last Day of School for K-8





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# Showcase 2016

Showcase is an annual fine arts competition among schools in West Michigan. The competition traces its roots back to 1981. Reeths-Puffer has had a strong connection to the show since its inception as we have participated with talented acts and have provided the stage crew each and every year. The awards in the four performing categories are: 3rd place – \$300.00, 2nd place – \$500.00 and 1st place – \$1,000.00. There is also an overall “Showstopper” award given out which carries a \$1,000.00 prize as well.

Our duo performance pair was Jarrett Bassett and Josh Robidoux. They performed a dialogue by BrITANiCK called “A Monologue for Thee.” In the piece, Jarrett struggles to find his line and Josh takes Jarrett on a circuitous journey to get back on track. Their performance was spot-on and earned them the coveted “Showstopper” award!



## RPMS Brought Disney's The Lion King to the Stage!

Thanks to a generous grant by the Michigan Council of Arts, the RPMS Choir students went deep into Africa to bring the story of Simba, Mufasa, Nala, Rafiki, Timon and Pumbaa to life for their production of Disney's “The Lion King Jr.” The popular musical, inspired by the Broadway spectacular, featured beautiful choreography, costuming, puppetry and African drumming all on the Rocket Centre Stage!

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