

AUGUST 2022

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THE DISTRICT NEWSLETTER FOR REETHS-PUFFER SCHOOLS



ROCKET CITY NEWS

What's Next?



“What’s next?” is a phrase heard frequently these days as we grapple with social, political, environmental, and pandemic-related topics.

There’s often a degree of resignation in the question, an expectation that the answer will be “more doom and gloom.” I suppose that’s not necessarily new. I

recall my grandma often saying, “this world is going to Hell in a handbasket” back in the 1970s.

But this mindset is not helpful for our kids, or for us either for that matter. I know that “hope” isn’t a strategy, and wishing alone is never enough. But it is **ABSOLUTELY** imperative that our kids are able to hope. They need to be allowed to be optimistic about the future, whether it’s next week or the next decade.

It would be denying reality to not acknowledge that the world is facing monumental challenges. A world without hope, though, is one with more stress and increased feelings of helplessness and doom.

There’s a phrase I’ve used over the years in my email

signature. “Have to ... or get to?” Let’s apply that same strategy to the phrase “what’s next?” and turn it on its head.

Philosopher Albert Camus once said “Where there is no hope, it is incumbent on us to invent it.” It’s time for Rocket City to be inventive.

“What’s next?”, said with enthusiasm and positivity, is a rallying cry that lets us take on bigger and bolder challenges. “What’s next?” is a response that encourages us to move on when things don’t go exactly as planned. “What’s next?” can focus on the future rather dwelling on the problems of the past.

Rockets, as we head into another school year, let’s continue to give our kids hope for a greater tomorrow by focusing on all of the positive “nexts”: the next teacher, the next lesson, the next new friend at recess, the next game, the next concert, the next test, the next ... everything.

Here’s to a great 2022-2023 School Year!
Go Rockets!

Steven L. Edwards

Steve Edwards
Superintendent

Central Families,

We extend a warm welcome to the 2022-2023 school year! We look forward to continuing our mission of maximizing the potential in all of our learners. To that aim, we are using the summer to grow and develop professionally through improvement and collaborative efforts that center on positive responsive culture, viable curriculum, instructional design, data practices, and school safety. As signaled last year, our continued focus from a school improvement perspective involves using strengths-based approaches to provide all students a joyful experience, rich in purpose and meaning.

We value the role you play in your child's education, and recognize the impact that strong partnerships between school and home can have on student achievement. Your support and input are essential to our ongoing success. In the ensuing months, please consider participating in engagement events, health and wellness activities, math and reading nights, and volunteering when needs are communicated. Additionally, please be sure to download the R-P app to follow our success stories as they unfold. While it will remain a priority to communicate pertinent information throughout the year, please be aware of a few important upcoming dates:

Office Reopens Wednesday, August 10

Welcome Back & Placement Letters Sent Out Week of August 15

Open House Wednesday, August 24

- K Only Orientation 5:30 - 6:00pm
- K-4 Open House 6:00 - 7:00pm

First Day of School Monday, August 29

We eagerly await our students' return. We look forward to an exciting year of learning, and 2022-2023 being the best year yet!

Yours in Education,

Cody Hamilton

Cody Hamilton, Principal
Central Elementary



Enhancing Learning through PBL/PBE



As signaled in previous Rocket City News articles, Central students and staff continue to improve our environment while enhancing learning through project-based experiences. Units of study within our EL curriculum continue to extend beyond the classroom, allowing that which is being learned within to go on full display outside of it. Students continue to apply their knowledge and make use of their skills and ideas in real life settings for the betterment of Central, the R-P community, and the greater west Michigan region. Moreover, recent and ongoing sustainability efforts are making these spaces functional year-round, and overall points of pride for our campus. Looking for inspiration this summer and thereafter? Consider taking some time to enjoy the native plants and animals being supported at Central. Pick a vegetable in the Kinder Garden. Visit Snug Harbor or the Winter Sports Complex to admire some of the trees our students have planted. Interact at the Lost Lake Trail to learn more about native frogs. Volunteer during a courtyard cleanup day. Adventure is out there as Central students continue to inspire as stewards!

Growing our Literacy Culture

The staff at Central continues to create moments and opportunities to grow our literacy culture through evidence-based approaches, using the Essential Instructional Practices as a guidepost for improvement. In particular, we've narrowed our focus on fostering engagement and motivation, small group and individual instruction, equitable classrooms, and parent engagement. As you look to support your child's literacy growth and trajectory at home, consider the following themes that have been woven into our reading month efforts these past two years:

Opportunity: Partner with the school and others, build your home library, and explore the many literacy resources in and around Rocket City! Provide, prepare, and position your child for an ongoing reading journey!

Excitement: When we generate excitement about reading and



writing, literacy engagement increases, and the desire to read grows. Create motivational moments of joy!

Success: Seek to build early confidence, establish goals, and identify an appropriately challenging sweet spot to shape literacy habits and launch sustained success.

Purpose: Motivation increases when students have opportunities to read and write beyond being assigned to do so, such as for enjoyment, to answer their own questions or wonderings, to address community needs, etc.

Choice: Daily opportunities for students to make choices in their reading and writing fosters engagement. Choice is motivating!

Collaboration: Regular opportunities for children to collaborate with others, especially in accordance with their interests, fosters literacy motivation. Kids have the best ideas!

Reward: Best practice around fostering literacy motivation involves avoiding non-reading related rewards and refraining from connecting reading to punishment. Reading itself is the prize!

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ROCKET CITY NEWS

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As the local food movement continues to grow, the RP Penn team and its students continue to learn about the benefits of supporting local food systems. Visiting local farms, the Muskegon Farmers Market, and learning about water, horticulture, dirt, the earth, xylem, nematodes, recycling, and composting, through their curriculum units throughout the year, these children embrace the fact that they are surrounded by science; science that matters!

Every spring for the past several years, the students at Pennsylvania Elementary visit the Farmers Market, interview the farmers about how far the food travels to get to the market, and wrap up their visit by purchasing a variety of local foods.

They end the year with a “Local Foods Picnic” at a nearby park.

We learn that buying local not only allows us to have a more intimate knowledge with where our food comes from, but it also provides small farmers with the income they need to maintain their business. What these kiddos come to realize is that a variety of vegetables, fruits, meats, spices, bread, eggs, and a variety of other foods, can be purchased, in their backyard.

Did you know that West Michigan has several Farmers Markets? Visit the National Farmers Market Directory at <https://nfmd.org/mi/muskegon/> to learn more.

BENEFITS OF BUYING FROM LOCAL FARMERS

1. Fresher food is available at your local market.
2. There is way less packaging involved.
3. Buying local helps the local economy.
4. Buying local helps support your neighbors.
5. You know where your food comes from if you buy it at the market.
6. Buying local is better for the planet.
7. The experience is way more fun.
8. You get to meet your farmers.
9. It can help you save money.
10. Buying local gives you the

Welcome back RPEL students and families, hopefully you have enjoyed an amazing summer in West Michigan! There is no better place to enjoy all that Michigan has to offer.

I had the incredible opportunity this summer to be a part of our Summer Acceleration Program. It was exciting to see the three RP Elementary Schools, Central, R-PEL and Twin Lake, explore and learn together this summer. We had so much fun!

We are looking forward to an exciting year of learning at Reeths-Puffer Elementary School. The upcoming school year is full of opportunities for our RP family to continue to learn and grow together. Please look for ways to engage within our school this year, we want you involved!

As we start the transition from summer fun and relaxation to the fast-paced scheduled days of school, please savor the rest of your summer and make the best of your remaining days. Students, **please continue to read every day, avoid the summer slide!**

Our building and grounds look great and are ready for students. The school office will be open Monday through Fridays from 8:00-4:00 each day. Student placement letters will be mailed out the week of August 15th.

Meet and Greet Information:

- August 24th - Meet and Greet at R-PEL
- 1st through 4th Grades - : 6:00-7:00 pm
- Kindergarten, Camp Kinder Parent Only Meeting - 5:30-6:30
- Link to my summer Parent Communication, this includes other important dates and information: <https://www.smores.com/7wnfc-summer-updates-for-families>

School Pictures will be available in our cafeteria on August 24th from 5:00-8:00 for anyone that would like their picture taken early. We will also be taking school pictures **during the school day on September 12th and 13th**. Order forms will be in the welcome back letter that will be mailed to individual homes in August.

Feel free to call me in my office, 744-4777 if you have questions or concerns. We look forward to seeing all of you this fall and we are excited about another great school year at Reeths-Puffer Elementary School.

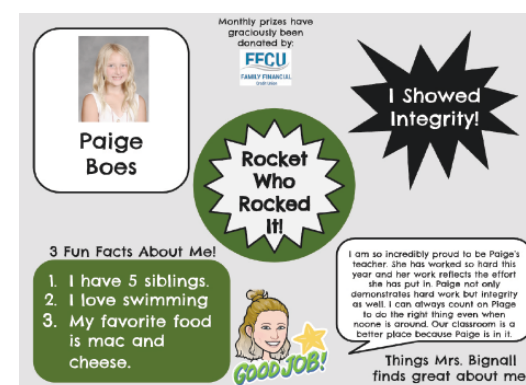
Paul Klimsza

Paul Klimsza
Principal, Reeths-Puffer Elementary School



RPEL had a fun and exciting year with many celebrations along the way! We began the year by challenging our students to fill our rocket with rocket slips earned throughout the year. Rocket Slips are earned by students that are demonstrating Respect, Pride and Integrity. Students first worked with their teachers to brainstorm rewards they would like to work towards, we narrowed the list down to common ideas and had students vote for their top 3 favorites. As students began to fill the rocket with their Rocket Slips, they reached different levels/rewards. The first one was reached in October and we celebrated with a school-wide ice cream party! Then in February, the second level was met and students earned a popcorn and movie celebration in their classrooms. In June (just in time!) the students of RPEL filled the whole rocket and Mr. Klimsza spent his day working on the roof! Mr. Klimsza surprised our students during their afternoon recess with water balloons. It was a blast and so exciting to see our whole building working together to accomplish a common goal.

We also celebrated individual student success and achievements each month as a whole school with 'Rocket Who Rocked It' assemblies. Teachers nominated a student each month that exemplified the 'Rocket Way'. Each student is recognized during the assembly and given a certificate that hangs outside their classroom that showcases them and why they are a 'Rocket Who Rocked It' along with a specialized water bottle. All 'Rocket Who Rocked It' students of the month are then put into a drawing for a gift certificate to a local business. It was amazing to not only see students feel proud of their hard work but also see their peers celebrate them as well. RPEL is fortunate to have established a partnership with FFCU, Family Financial Credit Union who supports our PBIS initiatives. Recognizing positive behavior and rewarding student achievement has had a positive impact on the culture and climate within our building.





Muffins with Mom and Donuts with Dad



Our Discovery Kindergarten classes were able to hold two special events to celebrate the special adults in our kids' lives! We held "Muffins with Mom" and "Donuts with Dad" right in our cafeteria. The first day included songs, a play, and a special painting canvas together. The second day we had a lot of great sports that let their kiddos "shave" their beards or arms, participated in a hands-free pie eating contest, and ended with decorating matching ties to wear and a photo op! We value the families who share their amazing little people with us each school year. It was great getting to be silly together before summer began!



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Earth Force in Action at RPEL

Students at RPEL had many opportunities this spring to gain knowledge to encourage them to be stewards of the Earth.



In April, in celebration of Earth Day and Arbor day, GE Aviation continued their yearly donation of saplings. Each child went home with a White Pine Tree.

In May, to wrap up the busy year Students from Mrs. Boes', Mrs. Sheffer, and Mrs. Medema's classes shared their hard work and displayed their year-long projects at the Youth Exhibition at the Career Tech Center. While there they also got to see the great work going on in local schools.

In June, RPEL hosted a Community Environment Day. We partnered with the Muskegon ISD and Muskegon Career

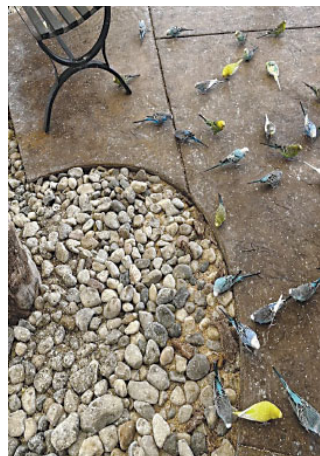
Tech Center to create a fun and engaging day for students. Prior to the day, students learned about different careers and zones. Thank you to all of our local partners that made this day possible (Muskegon Conservation District, Muskegon YMCA, Michigan DNR, Beekeeper from Waggle Dance Honeybees, retired educator from Reeths-Puffer, Family Financial Credit Union, Timberland Owner, and Environmental Scientist from GVSU).



Lewis Farms



First graders from RPEL took a trip to Lewis Farm in May. In first grade, students study birds in their literacy module curriculum in the spring. Lewis Farm was a great place to bring their bird learning to life. The students visited the bird aviary and fed real live birds. They learned many things, such as the different types of birds and how they use their body parts for survival. In their curriculum, students' study and write about the different types of beaks, feathers, and feet on each bird. Students were making great connections from their learning in the bird aviary. Relating classroom learning to the outside world is what teaching and learning is all about! This was a first farm visit for many of our students, and their families. It was so amazing to see the kids having fun teaching their parents about birds. Thank you to all the first-grade families for your support in our learning. I am so proud of the pride, respect, and integrity the kids showed at Lewis Farm. The "Rocket Way" was on display!





Books & Bagels



The Growing Readers in Mrs. VanderMeer's Kindergarten Class have worked very hard all year! To celebrate their accomplishments, we invited parents and grandparents for a time of "Books and Bagels". The Kindergarteners and their special guests enjoyed a story and encouraging words from the amazing Mrs. Goryl. This was a wonderful time of reading and fun!



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Serving Others in Our Community



On Friday, April 15th students from Mrs. Boes' 3rd and 4th grade class volunteered their time and service at a local church.

The third Friday of every month 5th Church hosts a Food Truck sponsored by Feeding America Northside Churches Outreach.

On this particular Friday they had 26 extra sets of hands. Students worked hard to unload the truck and organize the stockpiles of food. They then made countless trips filling up boxes with food, loading them into wagons, and delivering them to over 100 vehicles! When asked what the best part of this experience was, this is what some of them shared:



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"It taught me to be nice and put good in the world"

- Olivia 4th grade

"The best part of this field trip was helping all the people in need"

- Emma 4th grade

"The best part of this experience was how I got to give people a smile and food. It made me happy"

- Callie 4th grade

IMMEDIATE OPENINGS!

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School District



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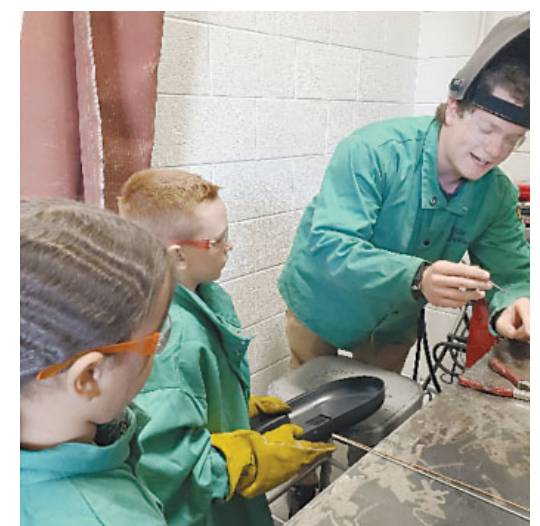
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Career Tech Center

Students in second grade at Reeths-Puffer Elementary School had a great opportunity to visit and learn at the Career Tech Center. In the Environmental and Veterinary Science program students were able to learn about small animal care and careers related to small animals. They were also able to learn about the parts of a plant as well as plant a seed and water it with information about the careers that involve plants. Students also visited the Welding area. They were able to wear the protective gear and actually weld. Some students observed the robot welding station. The Career Tech Center students led the learning for the second graders with staff facilitating as needed. This was a great experience that planted the idea of a few career opportunities for their future.





Water Day Fun

Three of our classrooms beat the heat at the end of the school year by holding a Water Day! Mrs. Sheffer, Ms. Julie, and Mrs. Reed met our local firefighters out on the practice soccer field to get our slip 'n' slide started with the firehose, the kids were even able to spray the hose themselves! We threw water balloons and built structures with PVC pipes. The pictures are worth a million words!



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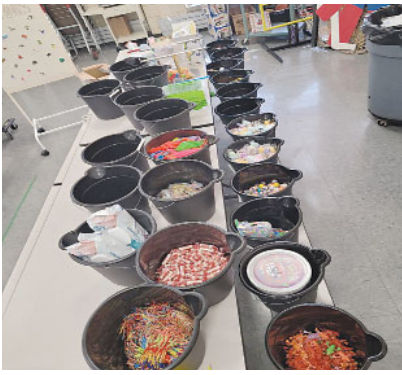
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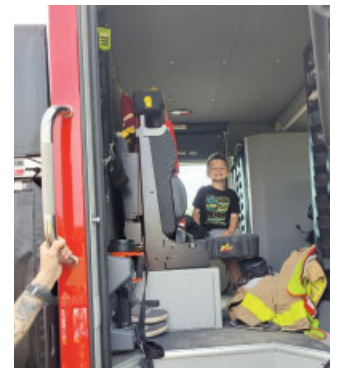
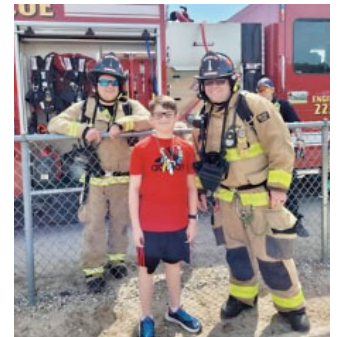
RPEL PTO Carnival

Back by popular demand, the RPEL PTO hosted their annual carnival. This year there were a few changes that made this event that much better. The carnival was held toward the end of the school year and outside, which meant delicious food from Dodger's Doggie's food stand, more inflatables, more games, and more prizes (the whistle being the obvious favorite prize of the kids). At this community event there were over 377 carnival goers in attendance. An amazing day in the Rocket Community. Looking forward to it next year.



RPEL PTO Walking Club

Another highly anticipated event returned again this year, Walking Club. Walking club is a huge hit with the students and staff at RPEL. During the month of May, students were able to earn foot token charms by walking laps around the playground at first recess. Four laps earn them one-foot token to add to their necklace chains. This year the PTO gave out around 8,550-foot tokens. That's a collective 34,400 laps around the playground which in turn equals 5,733.33 miles! To put that in slight perspective Anchorage, Alaska is 3,589 miles away from Reeths-Puffer Elementary! That's a lot of walking, way to go Rockets! This year there was also a day where Muskegon Township Fire Department came and had fun with the walkers by spraying them with the fire hose, walking with them, and cheering them on while they earned the foot tokens! Many of the 4th graders have been saving their feet since kindergarten and their necklaces are heavy with feet to prove it, definitely a keepsake from elementary to display at high school open houses!



Greetings RPTLE Families,

Welcome to a new school year! Fresh beginnings are so exciting and your team at RPTLE is looking forward to facilitating an impactful year of learning. We've been using our time this summer to grow stronger in our practice and deepening our knowledge of curriculum, instruction and social emotional learning. Thank you for sharing your children with us, so that we can implement what we've learned this summer!

Classroom learning placements will be shared by Friday, August 19th, via email. We will be sharing newsletters and important information regularly via our Power School email system, so be sure to go into the Parent Portal to update your contact information. If you need help with this, please connect with our office, which will reopen on Monday, August 8th at 8:00 am.

Your family will have an opportunity to meet your child's teacher and reconnect with their learning mates during our Ice Cream Social on Tuesday, August 23rd between 6:00 pm and 7:30 pm. This includes our D/K-4th grade learners and their families. ***D/K families, please look for additional information regarding our Kindergarten Orientation times that evening, as your time with teachers will be a little more structured.***

We are looking forward to re-engaging our families as volunteers this school year. Your time and talents are greatly appreciated and we're eager to have your support! Your child's teacher and our PTO President, Yolanda Blaser, will have more information to share on August 23rd.

The best day of the year~the first day of school~will be on Monday, August 29th. This will be a full day of school. Please check out our district's website for our school year calendar at www.reeths-puffer.org.

Enjoy the beautiful Michigan summer and we'll see you very soon.

With great excitement,

Dawn Schmitt

Dawn Schmitt
Twin Lake Elementary Principal
and the rest of your RPTLE Team

Peter Pan



The 3rd graders at Twin Lake Elementary have been reading the book Peter Pan. They have spent time learning about the characters, their traits and what motivates their actions. To finish up our learning they completed a character project. The purpose of this project was to dive deeper into their character and learn more things about them. The kids had to choose a character from Peter Pan and write about some of the following things. How did your character change the story? What do others think of your character? What is important to know about your character? The kids put their writing on a paper bag and in the bag added 3 or 4 items to represent their character. The 3rd graders presented their projects to their classmates.



Grayson brought a flashlight to represent Tinkerbell's light.



Lily said Tinkerbell was mean, whiny, liar and she only cares about herself!

Welcome and welcome back RPI Families!

I hope that the summer months have treated you and your family well and have given your students the rejuvenation they needed in order to be ready to learn and grow this year! We will continue to focus on helping our 5th and 6th graders become the best version of themselves that we can and this year, we are excited to announce something new at RPI! Soon, you will be receiving information related to the teachers your child will have this year. New, however, is our RPI Launch Week! For the first 5-8 days of school (we are still in the planning phase of this) we will be working with our students on living out the Rocket Way...Respect. Pride. Integrity, supporting their social and emotional needs through community development within the classrooms and across the building and getting to know their unique learning styles through a variety of activities that are based on STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) concepts.

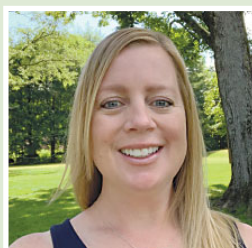
Look for more information in your email and mail regarding open house and information related to the start of school! Open house is currently scheduled for August 23rd from 6:00-7:30.

I am excited to also introduce a couple new staff members to the building! This year, Mrs. Tavra Wahr (previously a 4th grade teacher at Central Elementary) will be joining our 5th grade team! She will be partnering with Mr. Tyler Scott, a recent Central Michigan University graduate! Together, they are promising to be a dynamic duo of teachers who will help make the transition from 4th grade to 5th grade even more exciting and better than before! Here is a bit more about both of them:

Mrs. Wahr:

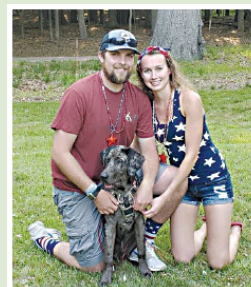
Hello Rockets! My name is Mrs. Wahr.

I was born and raised in the Muskegon area. My husband, Scott, and I will celebrate our 25th wedding anniversary this September. I have two children, Mackenzie and Trever. I graduated from Baker College of Muskegon and have been a proud



employee of Reeths-Puffer for the past nine years. Eight of my nine years of teaching experience have been in the 4th grade at Central Elementary. I am excited to move up and grow as an educator by moving to 5th grade as a language arts and social studies teacher!

I look forward to seeing old faces and meeting new students this fall.



Mr. Scott:

My name is Tyler Scott and I am a Muskegon native, ready to start my career as an educator at Reeths-Puffer schools! I grew up in Montague, Michigan where I graduated from in 2016. From there I attended Muskegon Community College, and then Central Michigan University pursuing my degree in order to achieve my goal of becoming a teacher.

Science and the outdoors have always been my passion. As I grew up, I spent time outside hunting, fishing, and riding quads/snowmobiles. During the school year, I found myself playing football, wrestling, and running track. In addition to sports and being outdoors, I am an avid dog and coffee lover.

I am truly looking forward to kicking off my career with a great school district and community! Go Rockets!

Enjoy the rest of your summer and please reach out should you have any questions!

Yours in Rocket Pride,

Scott Panozzo

Scott Panozzo, Principal
panozzos@reeths-puffer.org

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Long Walk...

Fifth graders spent 2 months learning about the global water crisis. We investigated where our clean water comes from and where our dirty water goes, we toured the Muskegon Resource Recovery Center as well as the Muskegon Water Filtration Plant. Students read the book *A Long Walk to Water* and learned about the Civil War in Southern Sudan, the thousands of “lost boys and girls” that spent 10 or more years in a refugee camp and the girls that walked for water twice a day every day. We were also blessed to welcome Mr. Deng Jongkuch into our classroom so that he could share his story with us. He was one of the original “Lost Boys.” He is now the executive director of a nonprofit organization called, Partners in Compassionate Care. He is working to bring health care and clean water to communities in Southern Sudan. Fifth Graders got on board to help and between setting up a walk-a-thon and holding a silent art auction, we were able to donate over \$3,000 that will be used to fund a water well at the Bor Medical Clinic in Southern Sudan! We are learning that our impact on the world and each other matters! #empathy



Walk-A-Thon for A Long Walk to Water...



SPANISH MARKET



The Spanish Fifth Grade classes talked about bartering and how to speak Spanish in a market. The students bought and sold their culturally made products with pesos.



Reeths-Puffer Intermediate PTO

Also, making a return to RPI is our newly rejuvenated Parent Teacher Organization! We are excited to work with a group of parents who want to help bridge the gap between school and home and bring some fun and engaging activities into the school and classrooms.

Here is the link to the Reeths-Puffer Intermediate PTO Facebook page: <https://bit.ly/3yJOU9R>
and their email address is RPIintermediatePTO@gmail.com.

Here is a little more about the PTO's mission:

Our mission as a Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) at R-P Intermediate is to support the students and staff by developing closer connections between school and home by encouraging parent involvement.

Our purpose is to:

- Enhance the educational experience by supporting and providing enrichment activities.
- Improve the environment at our school by providing volunteers and raising funds for school supplies or programs that fall outside the school budget.

Welcome to RPMS

It won't be long before we open our doors for the 2022/23 school year and we can't wait to meet the incoming 7th grade class while continuing our journey with our 8th grade group! As the Principal of Reeths-Puffer Middle School, it is my pleasure to welcome students back this fall. Our staff are preparing to provide the best experience possible for RPMS students! Collectively, we recognize that this is a formative time in students' lives filled with many opportunities to conquer new challenges and persevere by failing forward. As a middle school student, you will experience a level of independence, voice, and decision-making that comes with a great deal of responsibility. We look forward to supporting students through this time of transition by engaging in positive interactions and providing the tools, knowledge, and experiences necessary to be successful.

We will continue to stress the importance of "The Rocket Way" by encouraging students to demonstrate respect, pride, and integrity at RPMS. Additionally, we will have a renewed focus on our mission and vision to promote confidence, collaboration and critical thinking in support of our students becoming thriving citizens.

As we begin the 2022/2023 school year, it is important to place the following events in your calendar:

Registration and Student Schedule Pickup

During registration, work stations will be available for parents to complete the registration process online. You may complete the registration process in advance to make the process quicker. Parents must have a **Parent** Powerschool account (get a code from our office if needed). Specific registration directions will be e-mailed in August. Once registration is complete, schedules will be provided and the building will be available to walk your schedule, take your school photo, & find your locker.

- Tuesday, August 16th (12pm-3pm & 4pm-7pm)
- Wednesday, August 17th (8am-12pm & 5pm-8pm)

Open House

Opportunity for parents, students, and staff to connect on building and classroom information.

- Thursday, September 8th (6:30pm-8pm)



RP Pride at RPMS

Pride Day 2022 at RPMS was a blast thanks to all the hard work and preparation by student leaders and staff that helped to make a special day filled with memories! The day started with students competing with their classes in a school-wide trivia contest based on RP history and fun facts about staff. Students then filled the auditorium as 7th grade and 8th grade continued their year-long matchup, competing in musical chairs, a three-point shootout, and dodgeball vs staff. After the dust had settled, the 8th graders emerged victorious, while Mr. Hernandez fell defeated in his challenge with Mr. McClary at

the balloon-popping race. Winning students who had demonstrated the Rocket Way all year and followed the Ride with Pride pledge were selected and won prizes, including a longboard, an electric scooter, an Xbox Series X, a PS5, and more! Students then went outside to participate in a fitness challenge with "colorful" checkpoints along the way. After enjoying a cookout-style lunch, students spent the afternoon playing yard games, jumping in the inflatable obstacle course, competing in the basketball tournament, and dunking their favorite staff members in the water tank. RPMS Pride was on full display all day!





Understanding Climate Change Through Project Based Learning

Eighth grade students in Mrs. Mark's and Mrs. Knapp's science classes worked on projects in and out of the classroom while learning about climate change. During the unit, students were able to engage with guest speaker Dr. Stryker from Annis Water Research Institute, helping students make connections on how climate change affects West Michigan. Students created an educational campaign to inform others about the causes and impacts of climate change, while also completing an action project to support mitigation of the impacts of climate change. Mrs. Mark's class supported a planting project at Central Elementary, helping 2nd graders plant a rain garden. Mrs. Knapp's class planted a rain garden along Mona Lake at the Mona Lake Boating Club. Rain gardens help filter phosphates and reduce flooding and thermal pollution to local waterways. Both projects proved to be a great way to engage our students and make a positive impact in our community. We are so grateful to the Howmet Aerospace Foundation for their generous donation to fund our project. Many thanks also go to Weesies Brothers for supplying our plants and the Muskegon Conservation District for their support.





So Much to Be Proud Of

On June 7th, the stadium was full, the weather was perfect, and the words from our student speakers couldn't have been any more meaningful. The students spoke about the value of perseverance, setbacks, relationships, and community pride through the challenges and celebrations of the last four years. The students that spoke, represented their peers well and made clear that their collective experiences over the last four years has resulted in teens that are empathic, connected, resilient, driven, balanced, inquisitive, and thoughtful.



The senior celebrations started with Senior Sunrise, a new tradition that brought the class of 2022 together bright and early in Rocket Stadium for reflection and celebration. As the sun rose, students reflected on the start of their last week together and celebrated with music, food, and games. Before the final celebrations concluded with fireworks after graduation, the class of 2022 also fit in a parade, Honors Ceremony, Pride Day, Ride With Pride car giveaway, paper toss, breakfast, and Seniors Last Blast. At the Honors ceremony, we celebrated that the academic, athletic, artistic, and leadership efforts of this group resulted in over 1.4 million dollars in scholarship money earned. The class of 2022 has worked through many challenges over their high school career and we are so proud of their accomplishments.

Welcome RPHS Students!

We can't wait to welcome students back for a great school year. The year in front of us is filled with opportunities. RPHS is proud of the broad array of choices and options available both during the school day as well as after 3:00. The support and relationships of the staff along with advanced courses, specialized fine and performing art experiences, athletic opportunities, and a variety of clubs make Reeths-Puffer High School the perfect place to explore passions, foster friendships, and develop lifelong skills.

To assist in the start of a great year together, below are some important events to place on your calendar:

Registration and Schedule Pick Up Information

You can begin pre-registering your student from home in August. An e-mail will be sent to parents and students with specific directions. Workstations will be available at registration to access the on-line process if assistance is needed. Once the on-line portion is completed, during registration, you will get your schedule, be able to walk your schedule, get a parking pass if needed, and take your school photo. Complete your on-line registration in advance to make the process quicker. Like years past, you must have a parent Powerschool account.

Schedule Pick-up/ Registration at High School:

	8-11:00	12-3:00
Thursday August 18	Juniors & Seniors	Juniors & Seniors
Friday August 19	Sophomores & Seniors	Sophomores & Seniors
Monday August 22	Freshman	Freshman

For 10-12th grade students, plan on 30-60 minutes.

For incoming 9th grade students, plan 90 minutes.

Ride With Pride

Excitement does not begin to describe the feeling that these photos hold. Reeths-Puffer in conjunction with the STATS program launched Ride With Pride this year at all schools in our district. This program starts with a partnership. A partnership between the district, law enforcement, community partners, teachers, staff and students. This partnership has one goal to work towards a safer, healthier school and community. Students sign a pledge to do the right thing, stay safe, stay away from drugs, work hard in school. Throughout the year this message is reinforced through presentations and conversations both in assemblies and in the classrooms. At the end of the year, names of students who have upheld the pledge are placed in drawings for various prizes from \$10 gift cards to bikes to a car. Of course, this would not be possible without the help of our many very generous donors: Preferred Auto Group, Enviro Clean, Southwest Food Service (SFE), Sehi Computer Products, Joe's Creative Expressions, West Michigan Driving Academy, Radium Photo, Alma part of the My Auto Group, Assured Comfort Heating and Cooling, Dicks Sporting Goods, Dean Transportation, Trinity Health and the Ride With Pride coalition.

Central Elementary bike winners were Marion Kempke and Ryder Terry

Twin Lake Elementary bike winners were Braylyn Eldridge and Dylan Jolman.

RPEL bike winners were Cade Alvarado and Addyson Matz.

Reeths-Puffer Intermediate semifinalist winners were Isaiah Anderson, Emma Kissling, Aiden McKee, Addison Mitchelson, Christian Ochoa, Cooper Ross, Sophie Somerville, McKenzie Weight. Mountain bike winners were Chloe Boone and Luke Firehammer.

RPMS winners included Parker Samuels (longboard), Lainey McDaniel (Electric Scooter), Taryn Gill (PS5), Zaden Grenell (Game System of choice)

RPHS semifinalists were Jordan Bays, Alison Jakobi, Eric Jesperson, Elena Kass, Jaelyn Kiesgen, Julia Krause, Caiden Theisen, Carson Turcott and Blaze Van Noord.

Thanks to a very generous donation by Preferred Auto Group and Jim Ferez, Carson Davis won a 2016 Ford Fusion at our end of the year celebration.

Congratulations to everyone who participated and won prizes throughout the year. Thank you for all of your hard work in doing what is right.





Nate Smith
Director of Instruction
and Learning

Google Read and Write

This fall our kids will have more access to content and flexibility with their chromebooks K-12. Our district has spent the last 10 years building infrastructure with bandwidth, piloting best products for a 1 to 1 environment and monitoring the patterns of use with staff and students on their devices.

This “research” model of integrating technology into classrooms and student learning routines has

led us to use google environments, through google classroom and google drive. These tools have offered families the ability to see weekly work in classrooms and student access to class materials 24/7 on their chromebooks. It allows students that are traveling or at school related events to make up work and to communicate with their teachers through the google classroom. It also has allowed us to integrate a management system where teachers can see real time work the students are doing, in groups or within their class assignments, to give real time written feedback.

Most recently, during the pandemic with distance learning, teachers increased their use of video and providing recorded information in their google classrooms. Assessments have been converted to digital form and hard copies of graphics are now in folders for students to pull up on their phones and or chromebooks. Students who live in two homes have access to all materials instead of needing to remember to take it from one home to the next. The idea that google environments have reshaped learning is obvious.

NEXT STEP: Based on all the information and research, we have to ask ourselves a question, it’s a very simple question but it’s hard to do. **WHAT CAN WE DO TO INCREASE ACCESS TO THE CURRICULUM?** In a classroom a student has access to peers, visual supports on the walls, tech departments and teachers. How can a student have what they need at home or while traveling to access the curriculum?

This has led us to installing Google Read and Write on our chromebooks district wide. This application has resources that are set up to increase accessibility to students utilizing google classroom and resources that the teachers provide in the classroom. Tools that are consistent and will be available on the “kids” menu with in google will include:

1. Ability to highlight text on websites and within documents that are PDF.
2. Convert highlighting to note sheets for studying terms and concepts.
3. Voice to text for oral to written form connections.
4. Text reader for auditory access.
5. Convert text to recorded readings for listening on planes, in cars and

phones.

6. Text complexity adjustments to change text to a level that students can access content at a text level that is independent.
7. Removal of ads from online resources in articles to remove distractions
8. Text tracking that highlights words as text readers is being utilized.
9. Text block out to black out text that is not part of needed reading.
10. All resources will be in a toolbar within google documents.
11. It is web based so access on home computers and family devices as each student will have a license.
12. Directions read to all students if needed.

We believe that our next step in technology is not better devices but continuing to ask the question: **WHAT CAN WE DO TO INCREASE ACCESS TO OUR CURRICULUM?**

Learning by Demonstration

“You can observe a lot by just watching.” Yogi Berra

“I learned how to lead a group and work together.” R-P 10th Grade Student

“It was fun to set up the community event and see people enjoy it.” R-P 8th Grade Student

“I had no idea that I was good at this, until the debate in AP English.” R-P 12th Grade Student

“My favorite part of school this year was feeling how Salva felt about water.” R-P 5th Grader

Demonstration of Learning: Observation of skills and performance of tasks in a targeted environment for training and proficiency.

This idea that the ultimate evaluation of learning is demonstrating the ability to perform a task to a reasonable level is not new in our culture. Mentors and Apprenticeships have allowed for access to amazing opportunities in the lives of many. Learning is most easily observed when it is being demonstrated. This observation also allows us to find and build on the amazing assets our students have to contribute to the world around them. Demonstrating learning continues to be a way that our kids find their own strengths, roles that they either excel or fail in.

Our students will be inheriting a world that is more connected and built around options. Navigating these options and moving forward to solutions in life, business, relationships, finances, careers and challenges takes many hours of training doing the skills that lead to the ability to navigate these challenges and opportunities. So, at R-P we try to set up many low stake trainings, directly connected to standards, that build skills to navigate this world. Taking detailed notes is an important skill, but it can also be done with voice to text, auto trader, camera phones, audio recorders, google read and write, etc.

A teacher might start a class with a survey asking students, “How do you like to take notes?”

One student might say, “I don’t take notes, I take pictures of whatever is shared on google slides.” Another student might say, “I use many colored markers and draw pictures that connect with the content.” Another

student could say, “I write everything down and then highlight things that the teacher puts on the study guide.” Yet another might say, “I have never taken notes.” The process of taking notes is not the important thing, it is that it works so that our kids can contribute to class discussions and the challenges around them in positive ways. After they complete their group work and produce something from the information they took notes on, a teacher might ask them, “How did your notes help you?” “What would you do differently to have more initiative or contribute more?” For a teacher this could ultimately be a way to obtain their knowledge of content but also monitor their “skills” that are needed to navigate.

As our students share more about what they need to engage in classes, we are seeing that many of our Rockets are ready to take their learning beyond testing and begin to apply their ideas to the world around them. When they demonstrate their skills, practice observation to learn, they will be more equipped to demonstrate great things in the world.

Place Based Learning, Problem Based Learning, and Project Based Learning

In the year 2022, our kids will have more on demand information stored in their cloud or just a quick scroll away on their handheld devices than a person had access to in 65 years of life before the 1950’s. If someone says something that we don’t understand, we simply talk into our handheld computer and it will tell us the root meaning, give a picture of the word and its slang use. If we see something that we like, we spend the next 30 minutes looking at pictures of it and finding similar things in Google images. It’s amazing to think about the access we have to information, and the opportunities to see, and know, things well beyond our neighborhood, and how easy it is to find networks of people globally that might have similar interests, challenges and connections.

So...at Rocket City we continue to make experiential learning a way to apply knowledge, touch and feel google images, and take learning beyond our walls. We build a sense of belonging together through learning in ways that have actions and outcomes that reach into our community. We cannot do this without your help in just a 6.5-hour school day. It takes all of us, as a community, realizing that learning can take place anywhere, anytime and around any topic as long as our kids and community are engaged.

The 3 ways that Google and Twitter information become knowledge and life skills are Project Based Learning, Placed Based Learning, and Problem Based learning.

Project Based Learning: Creating a final product that is shared with people in the community to improve life within the community. The students spend time researching, connecting with experts, and designing a way to communicate information that engages an audience and contributes to the community around them. This helps kids feel a sense of belonging to R-P, their community, city and region. It also allows students to activate a sense that they make a difference and it is their world they are making a better place.

Examples: Project Based Learning

1. Identifying a need in a 3rd world country and creating experiences that allow for the need to be shared, supported and helped. How can we support water shortages in other parts of the world when we have an abundance of fresh water? What can we do as students at R-P to help? What is needed?

2. Where in our community can we enhance the experience that visitors have in our community? We are learning about frogs and their role in an ecosystem, how can we share our knowledge with visitors?

Place Based Learning: Connecting our students to their community. The student researches content, then goes to a place of importance to experience and engage in the content within an actual location. Traditionally, we called them field trips or study trips but in place-based learning the students build prior knowledge, have questions that need to be answered while out in the community spaces, and have a direct connection between the classroom content and the application in the community. These community connections lead to our students having the confidence to apply their knowledge for solutions to community challenges here in Muskegon and around the world as well.

Examples of Place Based Learning

1. To better understand the ideas, we are trying to implement in our class we will be meeting at the pond behind the school. Here we will perform measurements and impacts of the recent high-water table. Your team will be responsible for creating a presentation to share at a local community forum.

2. Tomorrow a local food truck will be coming to the school to explain product management, overhead and capital investment in a mobile kitchen. Let’s identify 3 questions that are driving our conversation with our expert.

Problem Based Learning: Asking a question that has a real application and possible solutions. The students have their lessons, talents, and interests lead into solving or figuring out potential solutions to the problem. Students often will have small snippets of information shared, and have more questions asked of them by their teacher. Students often feel an increased value as they present their information and findings to experts or share their learning with decision makers to influence the processes in the community, team or classroom.

Examples of Problem Based Learning

1. Our opponent has a 6’ 7” wide receiver that averages 3 touchdowns a game. Based on his film, our defensive strengths and our film from past games, what tactics should we potentially use?

2. The Causeway is going to be shut down, for a month for repairs in both directions. How do we reroute traffic this summer to create an opportunity for Rocket City? Over the next few weeks we will consider business, tourism and local impacts. You will eventually have a chance to share your findings and potential solutions to the civil engineers working on the challenge.

These 3 ways to take a traditional learning environment and turn it into a way we can learn anytime and anywhere will connect our kids to the idea that they belong and can make a difference.

Update From Our Food Service



Hi my name is Jackie Blomeke-Griffin.

I am your Senior Food Service Director for the Reeths-Puffer School District. I am very excited to be a part of Rocket Nation. My husband and I moved here from Carmel IN. I have over 28 years of Food Service experience and I have spent the last 6 years in school food service in the Indianapolis market. I graduated from Johnson &

Wales University with a Culinary and Business degree. We are excited to get the students back in the Café to offer good nutritious meals and most of all choice and variety. My team and I look forward to serving you and your students. If you have any questions with regards to Food Service, please feel free to reach out to me at 231-744-4736(office) or email at blomekej@reeths-puffer.org

Children need healthy meals to learn.

Reeths-Puffer Schools offers healthy meals every school day.

Breakfast

\$1.25 grades K-6

\$1.50 grades 7-12

Lunch

\$2.90 grades K-6

\$3.25 grades 7-12

Your child/ren may qualify for free meals or for reduced-price meals. Reduced price is:

Breakfast

\$.30

Lunch

\$.40

To apply for free or reduced-price meals go to www.familyportal.cloud



REETHS-PUFFER SCHOOL DISTRICT



Check out your awesome new school menus!

Daily Breakfast and Lunch Menus

You can easily view information about what is on our school menu each day. You can see an image and description for food items, as well as nutrition information.

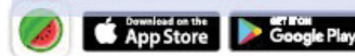
Our innovative and interactive site and mobile app make our school menus more convenient and informative than ever before!

Nutrislice is brought to you by Southwest Foodservice Excellence.



Menus above represent sample menus and not actual menu items at your school.

Search for "School Menus by Nutrislice" on Google Play or the App Store or visit yourdistrict.nutrislice.com



See your school menus at reeths-puffer.nutrislice.com

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Reeths-Puffer Schools Wins the Certificate of Excellence Award

The Association of School Business Officials International (ASBO) has awarded Reeths-Puffer Schools the Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting (COE). ASBO International's COE recognizes districts that have met the program's high standards for financial reporting and transparency.

The district was recognized for its Comprehensive Financial Report for the fiscal year ending 2021. This was the district's eighth submission for the award and the eighth year it was received. District leadership has been committed to this undertaking and is very proud of this accomplishment. The finance department, led by Finance Director Tracey French, compiled the necessary information in time for the annual audit. Brickley DeLong, certified public accountants assist with some technical aspects of the submission.

"The COE's mission is to promote and recognize excellence in financial reporting," ASBO International Executive Director David Lewis says. "The

Annual Comprehensive Financial Report informs stakeholders about the financial and economic state of the district, making it an important communications tool for building trust and engaging with the school community."

By participating in the COE program, school districts demonstrate their commitment to financial transparency. A district's participation in the COE program can facilitate bond rating and continuing bond disclosure processes. Reeths-Puffer Schools' 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. The Comprehensive Financial Report for Reeths-Puffer can be retrieved on the district website at www.reeths-puffer.org.



Muskegon Northside Lions Club

We Serve!

The Muskegon Northside Lions want to thank the community for helping support these local service projects in 2022:



- Mini-Grants for R-P and NM educators and staff
- 2 - \$1,000 scholarships for NM and R-P grads
- Kids Christmas shopping program
- Financial support for the R-P and NM grad parties
- Food trucks, Eyeglass recycling, and more!

For more information about Lions, see:

www.muskegonnorthsidelions.org



Muskegonnorthsidelionsclub

First Congregational Church



1201 Jefferson St.,
Muskegon, MI 49441
231-726-3254
www.fccmuskegon.org



First Congregational Church Muskegon gratefully participated with a booth at the Muskegon Pride festival! Stay tuned to our website for information on upcoming LGBTQ+ forums and activities. Come see us in person or check us out online for services Sundays at 10:30AM. We embrace into our full life and ministry persons of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender



STATS, Straight Talk About Tough Stuff is excited to be back for another year of spreading the message Freedom from Drugs, Alcohol, Tobacco and Vaping. Last year we were able to add an Elementary component to our program in conjunction with Ride With Pride. RPHS students went into the elementary classrooms and read stories and talked to the kids about being kind, staying safe and being a good student. Our middle school teams were able to travel to three middle schools in Muskegon County to present on the dangers of drugs and how to get help. This year we are continuing these efforts and adding some more community engagement.

Please join us on Oct. 29th at The Playhouse at White Lake from 12pm - 3pm for Cartoonversation 2022. We will be partnering with Wheeler Creative Studios to read stories for elementary students, provide an eye-opening experience for parents along with resources and launch STATS very first graphic novel written by STATS students. Kids will receive free books, candy and don't forget your costume, it is Halloween weekend after all.

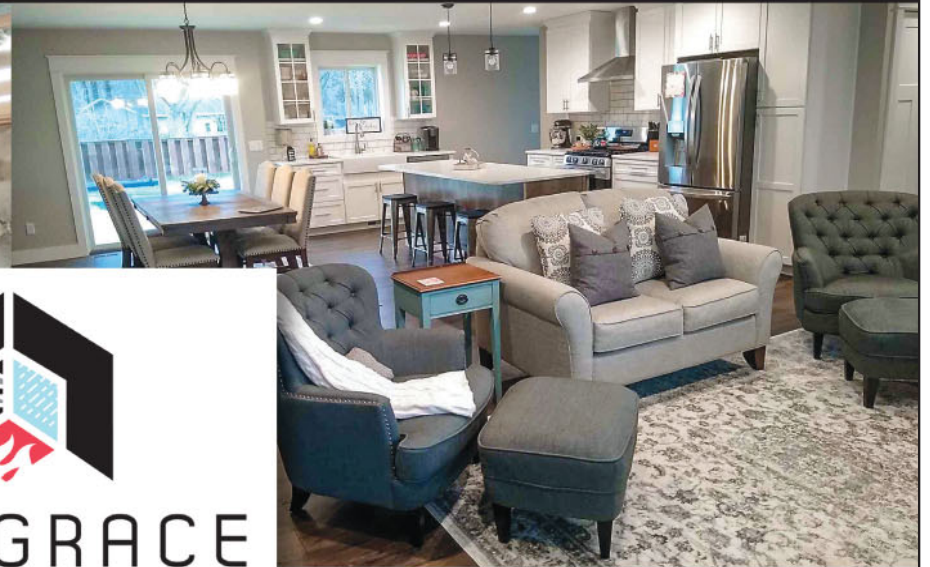


Looking to get involved? High School students watch for sign-ups the second week of school or stop by room 200. Parents, guardians and community members please e-mail Jen LaChapelle at lachapellej@reeths-puffer.org if you are interested in getting involved.

Looking to get involved? High School students watch for sign-ups the second week of school or stop by room 200. Parents, guardians and community members please e-mail Jen LaChapelle at lachapellej@reeths-puffer.org if you are interested in getting involved.



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Reeths-Puffer WELLNESS

The Reeths-Puffer Wellness committee would like the community, staff, students and families to help us plan opportunities to promote physical and nutritional wellness of rocket city. Click the QR code below to view our activities. This document is always changing, dependent on guest speaker's availability and the events we plan. Check back regularly for updates.

**Be Well, Alyssa Nauta and Denise Sheffer -
Co-chairs of the Rocket City Wellness Committee**



Rocket Scholars - Ticket to the Future

What is Rocket Scholars? A scholarship fund foundation for RP students. **We offer up to 10, \$1,000 scholarships** to RP students, looking to further their education or enter a trade program beyond high school.

Annual Event- Ticket to the Future: Our annual event is held once a year in the spring, and allows the committee/foundation to continue to offer scholarships. The event is a reverse raffle with a **potential to win \$10,000**, with 50/50 drawings, 2nd chance goodie bags, food, fun and raffle drawings.

What is a reverse raffle? One ticket purchased is good for entrance for two, two drink tickets, Hors D'oeuvres and a night of fun! Your ticket number is placed in a drum and in time increments, 10 tickets are drawn out...you hope yours isn't drawn or you are out. If you are in the top 10, you are eligible for up to \$10,000.

Join us: Friday June 2nd, 2023
6 - 9 pm

Hilt Building in downtown Muskegon

Visit the RP website for more information or contact a Committee Member

Stacy Carmean-Johnson
Corey Johnson
Lynelle Brainard
Jenny Fansler
Dan Beckman
Shalyne Harris
Denise Sheffer



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SAVE THE DATE:

Rocket City Kickoff

August 24th, 2022

Come kick off the start of the 2022-23 school year. Our first home football game will feature a free 5k and showcase many community resources available to students and families of Rocket City!



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