



Pathways

A Weekly Collection of Information, Thoughts, Reflections and Accolades for the Reading Public School Community

April 5, 2015

Volume 1, Number 29

Upcoming Dates

- April 6 – (3:15 p.m.) Expanding the Boundaries of Teaching and Learning Class; (7:00 p.m.) School Committee Meeting in the Superintendent's Conference Room
- April 7 – Town Election in the Hawkes Field House
- April 8 – (2:30 p.m.) RMHS PLC Meetings; (3:00 p.m.) Middle School PLC Meetings; (3:30 p.m.) Band & Chorus Jr. District Rehearsal in Lowell; (4:00 p.m.) RETELL Session 8 in Distance Learning Room;
- April 9 – (3:15 p.m.) Elementary PLC Meetings; (3:30 p.m.) Elementary Artsfest Rehearsal; (6:30 p.m.) Killam Learning Fair
- April 10 – RMHS Drama Elementary School Tour; (3:30 p.m.) Band & Chorus Jr. District Rehearsal in Lowell;
- April 11 – (9:00 a.m.) Band & Chorus Jr. District Rehearsal & Performance in Lowell; (10:00 a.m.) RMHS Drama Set Build; (7:00 p.m.) RMHS Playwriting

Reading Education Foundation Grants Announced

Reading Education Foundation is pleased to announce this year's awards totaling \$40,117.17 and impacting every school in the district. Please join us in congratulating this year's recipients.

HIGH SCHOOL GRANTS

Rockets Help Desk: Provide hardware and software to expand the reach of this worthwhile student-run technology integration group. RHD provides support to both students and faculty across the district, solving real world problems in the school setting and creating media to teach the public. *Grant proposed by Kerry Gallagher*

MIDDLE SCHOOL GRANTS

Reading in the 21st Century: Through the purchase of additional iPads, 7th and 8th Grade Coolidge students will have increased access to digital text and beneficial accompanying analysis software. *Grant proposed by Laura Warren*

Introducing...A Stage You can Actually See: By installing a pair of large-screen LCDs, approximately 200 seats in Parker's auditorium balcony will now have visual access to the stage. This will afford a dramatically-improved experience during school and community events. This will allow students, parents and community members to actively participate in existing events and include enrichment programs and events that previously could not be held in the space. *(Partial Funding) Grant proposed by Connie Quackenbush*

Interactive Projector for Coolidge 6th Grade Special Education: Projector provides technology that will improve the learning environment by allowing students to work collaboratively, participate in kinesthetic and tactile learning, and be fully-engaged during lessons. *Grant proposed by Margaret Guilbert*

Parker on the GO: The use of GoPro Cameras will spark students' natural curiosity, creativity and sense of fun. The program will promote collaborative learning and support home-school communication. *Grant proposed by Meg Powers*

Eating With a Social Conscience: Coolidge 8th grade students will expand their social awareness and develop a better understanding of where and how food makes

Festival in the Endslo PAC

- April 13 – (3:15 p.m.) RMHS Select Artsfest Practice
- April 14 – (9:00 a.m.) Parker Shakespeare Now Performance; (2:30 p.m.) Artsfest Rehearsals @ RMHS; (5:00 p.m.) Artsfest Celebration @ RMHS
- April 15 – (5:00 p.m.) Artsfest Celebration @ RMHS; (4:00 p.m.) RETELL Session 9 in Distance Learning Room;
- April 16 – (11:00 a.m.) Early Release PreK – 12; Annual Blue Ribbon Conference; (7:00 p.m.) RMHS Junior Prom @ Danversport Yacht Club
- April 17 – No School; Blue Ribbon Conference
- April 18 – (10:00 a.m.) RMHS Drama Set Build

it to their table through reading and related interdisciplinary projects about the plight of the migrant worker. *Grant proposed by Team Polaris, Mary Anne Cuscuna*

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL GRANTS

History Alive!: This extended pilot program of online enrichment resources for grades 3-5 will enhance the social studies experience district-wide. Through the use of technology, project-based learning, music and the arts (role-play and games), this common-core aligned program with its online interactive components and teacher resources makes learning truly "an experience". *Grant proposed by Jennifer Emmett-Conrad*

Numeracy is the New Literacy: This program will provide professional development with a hands-on workshop for up to 30 math teachers across the district in effective strategies and approaches to instilling meaningful numeracy in young students. *Grant proposed by Nancy Bentley*

Outside the Classroom Walls: This grant provides initial funding towards a multi-year plan to create an outdoor learning and play space on the Barrows campus. Funding will include providing mobile planter beds that will support first and second grade curriculum areas. *Grant proposed by Heather Leonard*

Preparing Our Children for the Creative Economy

By Marc C. Whitt



A seismic-like shift is occurring within the world's leading economies that should literally be music to the ears of music and arts educators, music parents, and school districts that value and support the arts.

That global economic shift is called the Creative Economy and as music education advocates, I cannot think of a more appropriate and exciting social and economic movement to promote.

Prior to the 19th century, the United States economy was largely agrarian, before moving into the Industrial Age, which took place during the 19th and 20th centuries.

Today, many economies of the developed nations are being fueled by individuals who are innovative, entrepreneurial, and artistic. This new generation is driving what has become known as the Creative Economy.

In his bestseller *Rise of the Creative Class* (2003), Richard Florida predicted economic and social forces that would continue to reshape our nation's economy,

Kudos and Accolades

- Congratulations to the RMHS Robotics team for qualifying for the New England Championships at WPI April 9 - 11th
- Congratulations to the Coolidge students Isabella Collins, Lacey Douglass, Isabel Molettieri, Abby Young and Ashley Spear who competed in the recent Destination Imagination regionals, competing in the fine arts challenge and capturing second place overall.
- Congratulations to RMHS Hockey players Ali O'Leary and Sean Verrier for being honored as Boston Bruins-MIAA Sportsmanship Award recipients.
- To Parker Art Teacher Diane Davis who has been selected to attend a three day program at the Museum of Science during April vacation called, What is STEAM? This program explores the role of art education in STEM.
- To the RMHS Girls Hockey Team who had three members get selected for the Boston Globe Girls All Scholastic Team. Ali O'Leary was chosen as part of the "Super Team", Caroline Seibold was selected as an "All Scholastic", and Coach Michael Golden was chosen as "Coach of the Year."

our work environments, and our way of life. Artists, entertainers, engineers and scientists, architects, actors, writers, educators, physicians, and business executives will all work together as they bring their unique set of skills and talents to the workplace. Ideas, innovation and entrepreneurialism will be the driving forces for the Creative Economy.

The good news, music parents and music educators, is that music programs are already developing the Creative Economy workforce it must recruit.

Music in our schools deserves all the support we can muster. It is vital that Education, Business, Industry, Government, and of course, our communities including music parents, work together to support music and arts education in our schools.

The Creative Economy will have even greater dependency in the years ahead on recruiting young men and women who are creative and who can communicate effectively and think critically. With this being the case, it is fundamentally important that music and arts education be a fundamental part of our child's total educational experience - from Primary through College. Countless studies support this by providing empirical data.

According to Bloomberg Business, social media giant LinkedIn reported that the word most used by its members to describe themselves in 2011 was "Creative." The desire to be creative is part of our DNA as humans. We seek it. We thrive on it. We celebrate it. And now, we build economies by it.

The challenging news is that despite this global economic demand, we still continue to see headlines of school systems cutting or eliminating altogether music programs. In light of where our global economies are heading, this just doesn't make much sense.

In many ways, that's comparable to someone trying to light a camp fire while the person beside them douses it with water.

So as we continue to advocate for music in our schools, not only must we consider the vast benefits music and arts education provide our children, but be mindful how their educational experience will prepare them for a world much different than the one we had at their age.

Innovation. Entrepreneurialism. Critical thinking. Problem solving. Team work. Creativity. Sounds a whole lot like what music education has and will continue to offer our children. And in my book, that's worthy of our continued support, encouragement and teamwork.

Reading Public School Happenings

RMHS French Culture Day

Last week, students in all of the RMHS French Classes participated in a French Culture Day where they provided presentations of a country that has a rich French tradition.

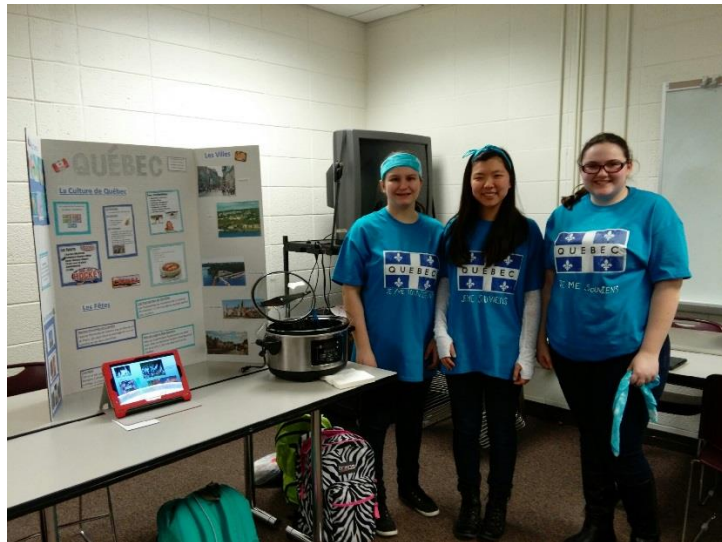
Quote of the Week....



Things do not happen.
Things are made to
happen.
-- John F. Kennedy

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Disney Tweet of the Week



“May you have the courage to do the things that you are afraid to do.”

Cinderella

Hunt's Photo's School Pride Photo Contest Recognition (Update)

Congratulations to Reading Memorial High School student Sarah Bond who was awarded the Grand Prize in the first high school student photo contest hosted by Hunt's Photo & Video. Sarah's photo (below) is an action photo of a high school runner clearing a track hurdle. What makes this even more noteworthy is that this picture is a self-portrait using a tripod.

Sarah's photo was the best entry out of 11 other entries from eight communities, including -- actually a self-portrait taken using a tripod -- bested entries from 11 other entries from 8 communities including Lynnfield, Malden, Medford, Melrose, Peabody, Reading, Salem and Wilmington.

Hunt's customer service manager Chris Guinto, who supervised the contest, explained that the winning photographs were judged on technical performance as well as content. Forty submissions were received for the contest and 12 finalists were chosen for the Gallery Exhibit at Hunt's.



MIAA Sportsmanship Awards

Last week, RMHS Hockey players Ali O'Leary and Sean Verrier were awarded the 2015 MIAA Sportsmanship awards for their respective sports. Below are Sean and Ali with Former Boston Bruin Great Johnny Bucyk. Congratulations to Sean and Ali for this significant recognition.



Stepping Stones...

- We welcome the following new hires to our school district:
- Julie Stoelzel – 0.6 FTE Social Worker, RMHS
- Katianne Williams –8th Grade Earth Science Long Term Sub, Parker
- **We have posted** a position on School Spring. If interested, please visit www.schoolspring.com to view the job details.

2015-2016 High School Advisorships Reading Memorial High School	JOB ID #1374782
2015-2016 Middle School Advisorships Coolidge and Parker Middle Schools	JOB ID #1374542
2015-2016 Elementary School Advisorships Elementary Schools	JOB ID #1374552
2015-2016 District Advisorships, Reading Public Schools	JOB ID #1377912
Assistant Cheerleading Coach	JOB ID # 1026632

Reading Memorial High School	
5th Grade Classroom Teacher (2), Joshua Eaton Elementary School	JOB ID #1397732
4th Grade Classroom Teacher, Joshua Eaton Elementary School	JOB ID #1397752
Computer Technician, Reading Public Schools	JOB ID #1401602

Blazing Trails....

"Teach Love (?)." "More than anything, I want to teach empathy. And in the moments when I am teaching empathy and teaching it well, it is also being taught to me," writes ASCD EDge blogger Jessica Livezey. In a recent blog post Livezey explains why she focuses on a skill that isn't a state standard, can't be tested, and doesn't relate to her content. [Read More](#)

"Why PD Might Be Better Viewed as 'Personal Learning.'" "Professional development" may not be the best term to describe continuous learning among educators, Fred Ende, assistant director of curriculum and instructional services for the Putnam/Northern Westchester BOCES in New York, writes in this blog post. He suggests a personal-learning model instead and shares how his regional council makes it work. [Read More](#)

"Make the Work Public." Ensuring student work has an authentic audience is intricately tied to supporting students to create beautiful and transformational work. An audience can motivate, inspire, and even provide feedback to help students reach levels of work they did not know they were capable of creating. [Read More](#)

"Google Solutions for Schools: Chromebooks + Google Apps for Education = Cloud-Friendly Classrooms." Educators in a Texas school district say they have been able to tailor lessons to meet students' individual needs with Google Chromebooks, Google Apps for Education and other tools. By sharing resources via cloud-based technology, educators say they also are able to create a more collaborative environment. [Read More](#)

"Three cheers for failure! Wait, what?" Educators at the recent Consortium for School Networking conference were told it is fine to make mistakes as long as students -- and teachers -- learn from failure. One Washington, D.C., middle-school teacher shared his experience with a game-programming assignment in which some of his top academic performers quit, affording him the chance to teach the students about learning from mistakes and failure. [Read More](#)

"Goodbye, Math and History: Finland Wants to Abandon Teaching Subjects at School." Finland already has one of the best school education systems. It always ranks near the top in mathematics, reading, and science in the prestigious PISA rankings by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development. Teachers in other countries flock to its schools to learn from them. But the country is not resting on its laurels. Finland is considering its most radical overhaul of basic education yet--abandoning teaching by subject for teaching by phenomenon. [Read More](#)

Have a Great Week!

Contact Us
The Pathways newsletter is published weekly for the Reading Public School Community. If you have anything that you would like to share, please email your information to John Doherty at

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