



Pathways

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

April 26, 2015

Volume 6, Number 33

Upcoming Dates

- April 26 – (12:00 p.m.) RMHS Drama Q2Q
- April 27 – (3:00 p.m.) District PD Committee; (7:30 p.m.) Annual Town Meeting
- April 28 – 30 Kindergarten Screening (all elementary schools)
April 28 – (8:15 a.m.) Coolidge Daytime Open House; (6:00 p.m.) Wood End Spring Open House; (7:00 p.m.) School Committee Meeting in the Superintendent's Conference Room
- April 29 – (6:00 p.m.) RMHS Drama Dress Rehearsal
- April 30 – (9:30 a.m.) Killam W.A.S.H Committee Meeting; (7:00 p.m.) Annual Town Meeting
- May 1 – (7:30 p.m.) RMHS Drama Production – The Legend of Sleepy Hollow in the Endslo PAC
- May 2 – (8:00 a.m.) SAT Testing – RMHS is a Test Center; (7:30 p.m.) RMHS Drama Production – The Legend of

A Week to Celebrate Teaching and Learning!

The week leading up to April Vacation has, over the years, become a week to celebrate teaching and learning in our school district. The week began with ArtsFest, A Celebration of Student Achievement in the Arts, which showcased our music performing arts groups and our visual arts. Below are some photos from the event.



Grade 7 and 8 Chorus



Grade 3 Chorus

Sleepy Hollow in the
Endslow PAC

- May 3 – (2:00 p.m.)
RMHS Drama
Production – The
Legend of Sleepy
Hollow in the
Endslow PAC
- May 4 – 9 RMHS AP
Testing; Teacher
Appreciation Week
- May 4 – (7:30 p.m.)
Town Meeting in the
Endslow PAC
- May 5 – (2:00 p.m.)
RMHS MAJE Junior
Jazz Festival; (7:00
p.m.) Grade 4 Camp
Bournedale Parent
Information Night;
(7:00 p.m.) Parker
Grade 5 Parent
Orientation Night
- May 6 – Nurse
Appreciation Day;
Grade 6 – 12 Early
Release; (1:15
p.m.) Elementary
PLC Meetings; (1:30
p.m.) Secondary
PLC Meetings; (1:30
p.m.) Special
Education Vertical
Meetings; (4:00
p.m.) RETELL
Session 10 in
Distance Learning
Room; (5:00 p.m.)
Parker School
Council Meeting;
(7:00 p.m.) Parker
PTO Meeting; (7:00
p.m.) SEPAC
Meeting @ Coolidge
- May 7 – (3:00 p.m.)
Elementary Building
Meetings; (7:30
p.m.) Town meeting
(if needed)
- May 9 – (Afternoon)
MICCA Solo Festival
Recital



Grade 6 Band



Combined Middle and High School Chorus



Grade 7 and 8 Band

Kudos and Accolades

- Congratulations to the Girls & Boys Track and Boys & Girls Tennis, Boys & Girls Lacrosse, and Softball and Baseball who all posted wins recently.
- A big thank you to Administrative Assistant Lori Miller for all her hard work to ensure a successful Blue Ribbon Institute.
- Thanks to the Facilities, Food Service and Technology Departments for the great job in making the Blue Ribbon Conference successful.
- To RMHS Teacher Kerry Gallager, on being selected as a 2015 *PBS Learning Media Digital Innovator*! The blog post describing the recognition is located [here](#) and [here](#).
- To Parker Student Matteo Coelho who was selected as the middle school student to represent Reading in the Governor's Project 351 Initiative this year. Project 351 (<http://www.project351.com/>) celebrates the power of young people as a force for positive change in their communities and our Commonwealth. Through service, leadership development, enrichment, and friendship with a statewide community of peers, student ambassadors participate in a day of training and collaboration. As a culminating activity Matteo is leading a

Blueprint for Excellence Educational Institute

On Thursday and Friday, the Reading Public Schools held its annual Blueprint for Excellence Educational Institute which gave our staff and over 175 other educators from other school districts the opportunity to hear about the latest best practices and ideas in a variety of areas including the arts, curriculum frameworks, assessment, social emotional learning, technology integration, special education, and leadership. A special thanks goes out to all of the staff and students who presented at this Institute and shared their best practices with all of us.



Bruce Taylor Presenting on The Role of the Arts in the Common Core



Student Emcees Charlie Kellogg and Andrea Nastri

service project with fellow students at Parker, under the guidance of Chris Copeland. The service project will benefit Cradles to Crayons.

(<https://www.cradlestocrayons.org/boston>)



Lunchtime Networking at Conference



2nd Grade Merengue Dancers from Birch Meadow Elementary School



Susan Campbell Bartoletti

Quote of the Week....



"To succeed, you have to believe in something with such a passion that it becomes a reality."

Anita Roddick



Barrows News Team Who Presented at Conference



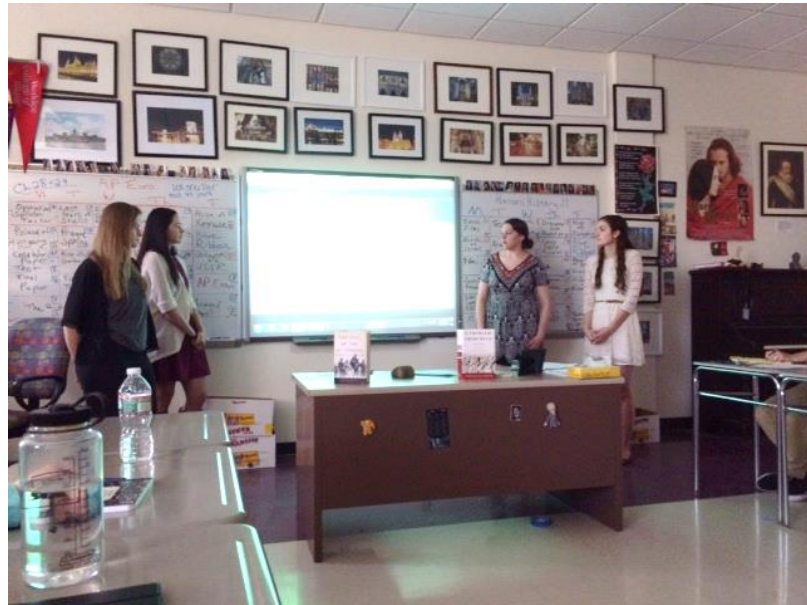
RPS Wellness Teachers Practicing the "Hungry Hippo" in a Team Building Workshop

Disney Tweet of the Week



"Live every moment as not to regret what you are about to do."

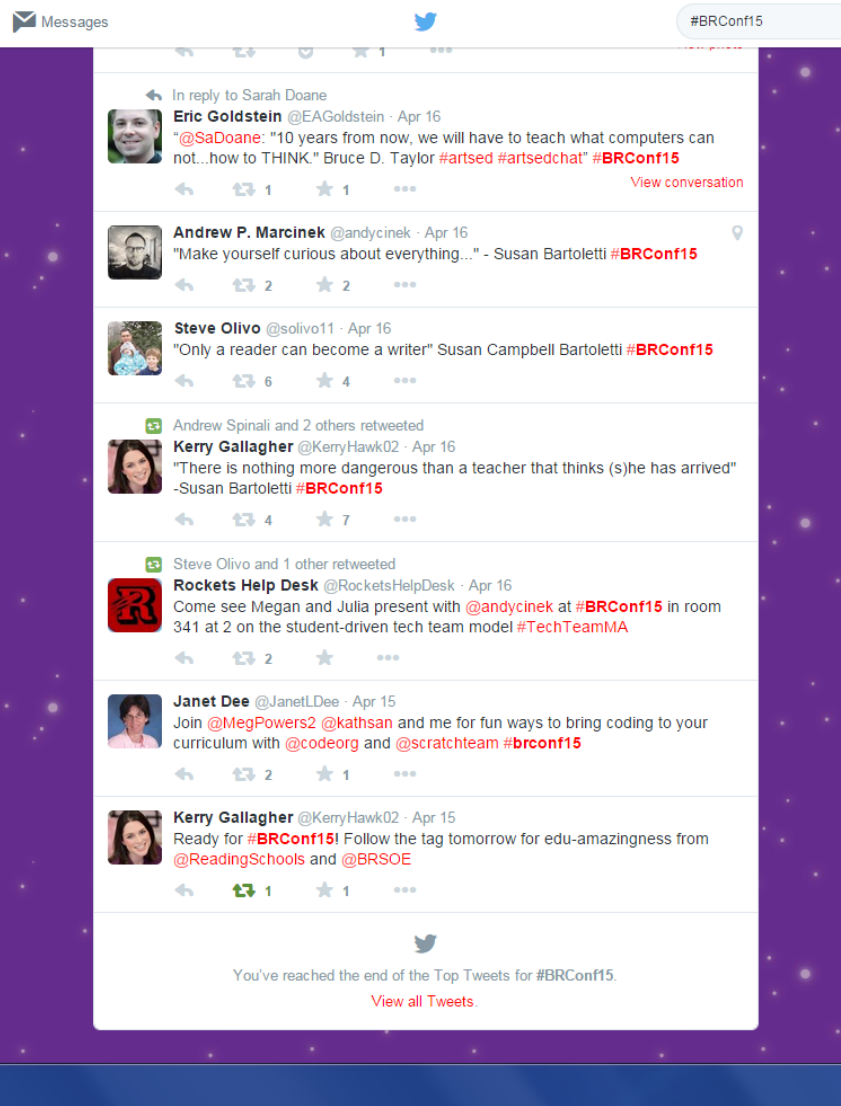
—Mickey Mouse



A World of Difference Students Presenting at Conference

Tweets from the Conference

There were several tweets from the Conference with the hashtag, #BRConf15. Some are listed below. To access them go to this [link](#).



A Student Steps Up

In this *Kappan* article, Washington State high-school teacher Patricia Beltran describes how a student's PowerPoint presentation on Elie Wiesel's book, *Night*, was interrupted by cries of "No, no, no!" from outside the classroom. Beltran guessed it was a student from a nearby class for students with significant social and emotional disabilities, and commented on the ironic juxtaposition of Wiesel's despair during his imprisonment and the real-time despair of a young man outside their door. She added that the student was surely getting support from a caring teacher.

But the cries of "No, no, no!" continued, and after a few more minutes, one boy abruptly got up, said, "I got to see that kid," and left the room. The despairing cries stopped and the boy returned to his seat. Beltran asked the class to think about what had just happened, and when no one responded, she asked the boy what he had done. "That kid just needed someone to hold his hand for a while to calm down," he said. "It's not right, it's not right."

"I found myself without words," says Beltran. He was a stocky, taciturn Mexican-American student who rarely contributed in class and was having difficulty with the work. "Nothing about him obviously suggested the kind of tenderness, compassion, and bravery this action demonstrated," she says. "He had done what Wiesel calls us to do... He didn't turn away or assume others would do something. He got up and took action. I was content to let my colleague handle the situation next door; this student was not."

She finally expressed her admiration for the student. After class, another student stopped and talked to him, also praising what he had done. Beltran and her special-education colleague nominated the boy for "student of the month" and called his father to tell him about the incident. As Beltran got to know the student better, he confided that his mother was in detention for an immigration violation and faced possible deportation. "The student had been dealing with his own despair since the beginning of the school year," she says. "I had no idea... He taught me that assumptions are easy and often wrong and that a young man who appears disinterested and mildly hostile can be facing despair but still have the courage to reject it and even conquer it."

"The Student As Teacher" by Patricia Beltran in *Phi Delta Kappan*, April 2015 (Vol. 96, #7, p. 80), www.kappanmagazine.org; Beltran can be reached at beltranp@bsd405.org. Reprinted from Marshall Memo 583.

Reading Public School Happenings

A World of Difference Youth Congress

On Friday, April 17th, 15 students from both Parker and Coolidge attended the ADL's A World of Difference Youth Congress 2015 at the Sheraton Hotel in Boston. This year's theme was "breaking barriers". Students heard from Senator Elizabeth Warren and athlete Kathrine Switzer, the first female to run the Boston Marathon in 1967 before women were allowed to participate. In the breakout sessions that followed, four Parker student leaders facilitated a middle school workshop made up of students and teachers from around the state of Massachusetts on the topic of breaking barriers. The four students, featured in the picture below are Lucie D'Entremont, Portia Restuccia, Julia Nardone, and Alex Wheeler.



Parker Hosts Students from Ecuador

Over the last several months, Parker Middle School has hosted students from Ecuador. Below are some photos. Special thanks to Parker Spanish Teacher Leah Cristi (pictured in second photo) for coordinating the visit.



RMHS Participates in Banking Competition

Members of the RMHS/Reading Cooperative Bank Retail Banking Course competed in the Massachusetts School Bank Association's (MSBA) annual competition at the Federal Reserve in Boston. Students competed in the areas of Marketing, Product Development, and Banking Trivia Bowl against 22 other area schools/bank programs. Members of the Product Development team (Ryaan Moss, Chris Synan, Kathryn Kalogeris, and Simran Poudyal) came in second place for their Budget Buddy product they created. Below is a photo of the Retail Banking students at the Federal Reserve. Special thanks to Reading Cooperative Bank and Mike Foley for supporting this course and our students participating in this worthwhile event.



Stepping Stones...

- **We have posted** a position on School Spring. If interested, please visit www.schoolspring.com to view the job details.

8th Grade Spanish Teacher (One Year Assignment), Coolidge Middle School	JOB ID # 1429862
High School Math Teacher, Reading Memorial High School	JOB ID #1435492
Freshman Field Hockey Coach, Reading Memorial High School	JOB ID # 1439362
Board Certified Behavior Analyst (Anticipated Opening), Reading Public Schools	JOB ID #1441492

Blazing Trails....

"Why Cheryl's Birthday Makes Us Happy." A test question for Singapore's elite high schools has gone viral and stumped people worldwide on social media. The question, which offers clues to determine a person's birthday, has drawn debate and humorous comments online. [Read More](#)

"The Importance of Everyday Communication for School Leaders." Communication that leads to common ground and builds rapport is rooted in school leaders' emotional intelligence and is required in their everyday interactions, write Bryan Goodwin and Heather Hein of McREL in this ASCD article. "A moving speech or a well-penned newsletter article is all well and good -- but to influence school performance, it must be backed up with effective, ongoing relationship building and communication," they write. [Read More](#)

"What is the Right Type of Feedback for Students?" Teachers should make sure they are providing the right kind of feedback for students, suggests educational consultant and online educator Andrew Miller. In this Edutopia blog post, he shares several strategies that encourage students to think, rather than teaching them to replicate what teachers do. [Read More](#)

"5 Ways to Find Focus, Balance as the School Year Ends." The pace of the school year often accelerates for teachers and students, even as the school year draws to a close, writes Elizabeth Stein, a special education/UDL instructional coach and new-teacher mentor. In this blog post, she suggests five ways to help teachers pause and take time to find balance and focus. [Read More](#)

"All I Have To Do Today is Smile!" Instead of spending the first 30 minutes of the school day wrangling problems, Dan Kerr, principal at Shanghai Community International School in Shanghai, China, now walks through his school and counts the times students make him smile. This new routine helps him start his day in the right frame of mind, he writes. [Read More](#)

[Schools Swapping Letters For Standards-Based Grading](#)

Education Dive

Color-coded standards-based grading, which allows families to see what skills their child has mastered or is struggling with, is rising in popularity and replacing traditional letter grades...

Have a Great Week!

Contact Us

The Journey newsletter is published weekly for Reading Public School Staff. If you have anything that you would like to share, please email your information to John Doherty at

john.doherty@reading.k12.ma.us