



Pathways

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

June 14, 2015

Volume 1, Number 38

Upcoming Dates

- June 14 – (5:00 p.m.) RMHS Band Banquet
- June 15 – (1:00 p.m.) Move-Up Day; (3:00 p.m.) District PD Committee Meeting; (8:00 a.m.) Birch Meadow Field Day Rain Date; (7:00 p.m.) RMHS Band Ice Cream Social
- June 17 – (3:00 p.m.) Middle School Building Meetings; (2:30 p.m.) RMHS Building Meetings; (6:00 p.m.) Birch Meadow Grade 5 Ceremony & Party; (6:00 p.m.) Wood End Grade 5 Moving On Ceremony & Party
- June 18 – (9:30 a.m.) Killam W.A.S.H. Committee Meeting; (2:30 p.m.), Michael Scarpitto retirement celebration in the Patrick A. Schettini Library Media Center; (3:15 p.m.) Elementary Building Meetings;
- June 22 – (8:30 a.m.) Killam Grade 5 Celebration; (12:30 p.m.) Killam Grade 5 Field Day
- June 24 – (6:00 p.m.) Parker Grade 8 Promotion Ceremony

Reading Memorial High School Graduates 304 Students



Last Sunday, 304 students from the RMHS Class of 2015 received their diplomas on a beautiful cool and sunny day at the Walter Hawkes Field House. The graduation ceremony began with the traditional bagpipes playing, followed by the entrance of the Class of 2015 with the Processional played by the RMHS Band, under the direction of Dave Buntin. Student Council President James Bedingfield led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance followed by Senior Paul Sanford singing the National Anthem. The Valedictory Address was given by Class President Nicholas Stevens and the Salutory Address was given by Alexandra Sahagian. Nic Stevens compared their four years at RMHS to mowing the lawn and how each student is a blade of grass that grows at their own pace with their own set of experiences. He stated, "...what we must realize is that yes, we grow together, but at different speeds and to different heights, and yes we become green together, but in different shades and at different times, and most importantly that we all, everyone of us, thrive to sprout seeds, the seeds of ideas, and to spread them throughout our community and our world." Salutatorian Alexandra Sahegian challenged her classmates to "find what is outside your comfort zone and practice it as much as you can."

- June 25 – (9:30 a.m.) Parker Grade 8 Awards Assembly



RMHS Singers

During the ceremony, the RMHS Singers performed the song, *Omnia Sol (Let Your Heart Be Staid)*, under the direction Ms. Kristin Killian. Mr. Adam Bakr gave the Principal's address, followed by the presentation of the Scholastic Honors by Director of Guidance, Mrs. Lynna Williams. After the Scholastic Honors, Dr. John Doherty gave the Superintendent's Address, followed by the conferring of the diplomas by current School Committee Chair Charles Robinson, and past School Committee Chair Chris Caruso.



RMHS Graduate Kathryn DiMuzio, daughter of Parker Teacher Jenny DiMuzio receives her diploma from former School Committee Chair, Chris Caruso

Kudos and Accolades

- Congratulations to the Softball team who is playing in the North Sectional Final on Sunday



RMHS Assistant Principal Michael Scarpitto rings the RMHS Spirit Bell before the graduation ceremony

Special thanks goes to the Class Advisors for the Class of 2015, Beth Dalby and Frank Buono, and the Marshals for the Graduation Ceremony, Ellie Wilson and Parker Webb for an outstanding ceremony.

Wood End Raises Funds for Multiple Sclerosis



Recently, the Wood End Elementary School, raised over \$700 during a Hat Day fundraiser to support fighting the debilitating disease, Multiple Sclerosis. The funds were raised in honor of Josie Benassi, who has MS and will be bike riding tandem with her husband, Joe at the end of the month in a 150 mile Cape Cod getaway bike ride for Multiple Sclerosis. Recently, there was an article in the Reading Advocate, which can be accessed [here](#). Hats off to the Wood End Elementary School on a job well done!

Quote of the Week....



Do something today that
your future self will thank
you for.

Unknown

Four Key Qualities of a Successful Summer Reading Program

In this article in *Knowledge Quest*, Teri Lesesne (Sam Houston State University) salutes the idea of getting students to read over the summer but doubts that requiring certain books is an effective strategy for countering “summer slide.” For example, entering pre-AP ninth graders in one school were asked to choose from among these books: *The Crucible*, *A Farewell to Arms*, *Cannery Row*, *Antigone*, and *Siddharta*, and regular ninth graders had to choose from these: *Speak*, *The Witch of Blackbird Pond*, *Sleeping Freshmen Never Lie*, *The Outsiders*, and *The Chocolate War*. Instead, she suggests that we CARE about readers:

- Choice – When teachers give students a narrow choice of books, says Lesesne, they are in effect saying they know the best books and students can’t be trusted to find any. She suggests letting students choose from a much wider range of literature, including the Best Fiction for Young Adults lists www.ala.org/yalsa/best-fiction-young-adults or the Outstanding Books for the College Bound www.ala.org/yalsa/outstanding-books-college-bound. “Readers are more likely to read and to be engaged,” she says.

- Access – Some students find it difficult to put their hands on books over the summer, and schools need to create alternatives: loaning books from classrooms and the school library, partnering with public libraries, organizing transportation to libraries, and holding book drives as a service initiative. But in addition to physical access to books, Lesesne believes there’s an equally important second kind: “Books should be ones our readers can access intellectually, morally, culturally, and socially without assistance from an adult.”

- Response – How will students be held accountable for doing their summer reading? Traditional formats – book logs, quizzes, essays – run the risk of being an onerous turn-off. Lesesne has no specific suggestions for how to escape this trap but believes we need to experiment with better ways to allow students to enjoy and get immersed in their reading while still making sure they do it.

- Enthusiasm – Brief, high-energy booktalks are the best way to pique students’ interest, says Lesesne. She’s worked with colleagues to present as many as 50 of these in a half-hour (15-30 seconds for each book). She also suggests organizing Twitter chats, a Facebook page, and Google+ Hangouts among students to share books and build buzz.

Lesesne closes by citing the Katy Independent School District in Texas for its exemplary summer reading program (entirely voluntary). You can find information on this program at <http://elasummerreading.weebly.com>. “Summertime and the Reading Is Required?” by Teri Lesesne in *Knowledge Quest*, May/June 2015 (Vol. 43, #5, p. 18-21), no e-link available; Lesesne can be reached at doctorL@shsu.edu Reprinted from Marshall Memo 590.

Reading Public School Happenings

More Graduation Photos

Below are more photos from last week's Class of 2015 Commencement.



RMHS Jazz Band Performing Prior to the Ceremony



Julia Popken receives her diploma from Chris Caruso



Rob Foley receives his diploma from Chris Caruso



Class of 2015 leaving for the next leg of their Journey

Parker Teacher Appreciation

The Parker PTO, in conjunction with student members of Parker's Peer Leadership and Service, have recognized and honored the work of the school's staff this past week with a week-long celebration of surprises and delights. The staff have been treated to a Muffin Monday, Tulip Tuesday (see photo below), an appreciation luncheon as well as a Fruitful Friday. Special thanks to the Parker parents and students for such a memorable way to end this school year!

Disney Tweet of the Week



There are many voices around you, but you must listen to your own voice.

—Pocahontas (Pocahontas II)



RISE Picnic

Last Thursday, the RISE Community celebrated the end of the year with a picnic, entertainment and games. Below are some photos of the event. Special thanks goes to Director Debbie Butts and the rest of the RISE Preschool Staff for coordinating this event.





Wood End Senior Citizen Visit

On Wednesday the Wood End Student Council served a lunch donated on behalf of the school to the Senior Citizens at the senior center on Pleasant Street. The school won a free Olive Garden lunch for raising over \$2000 for leukemia and lymphoma society this year. This is the second year Wood End has done this and it's been a great experience for students and seniors. Kudos to the Wood End community!



Stepping Stones...

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

Middle School Special Education Teacher (Developmental Learning Center); Coolidge Middle School	JOB ID #1621122
Color Guard Coach; Reading Memorial High School	JOB ID #1629652
Long-Term Custodial Substitute (4); Reading Public Schools	JOB ID #1629522
5th Grade Classroom Teacher, Barrows Elementary School	JOB ID #1623062
0.5 FTE Kindergarten Teacher, Birch Meadow Elementary School	JOB ID #1638502
0.5 FTE Kindergarten Teacher, Barrows Elementary School	JOB ID #1640552
Anticipated High School Social Studies Teacher, Reading Memorial High School	JOB ID #1659182
Middle School Special Education Learning Center Teacher, Coolidge Middle School	JOB ID #1660622

Blazing Trails....

"Why Do We Separate the Teacher From the Tech?" "If we are serious about better educating our kids, then we better get more serious about educating their educators," writes ASCD EDge community member Tom Whitby. In a recent blog post, Whitby reminds readers that the greatest influence on students in the classroom is the teacher -- with or without technology in the classroom. He explains the importance of educating the teachers on technology before the devices can be used in the classroom. [Read More](#)

"Five of the Biggest Mistakes I Made as a New Teacher." "Don't be afraid to make the inevitable mistake or two in the classroom as you teach. Instead, be open to learning from your mistakes and using them to make your teaching stronger," writes ASCD author and EDge community member Robyn Jackson. In a recent blog post, Jackson shares the five biggest mistakes she made as a new teacher and shares advice on how new teachers can avoid making the same mistakes. [Read More](#)

"Redefining 'Smart.'" Students' concept of what it means to be "smart" can play a significant role in later success, writes Naphtali Hoff, an executive coach and consultant. In this blog post, Hoff suggests using various measures for student success. [Read More](#)

"Why Nonacademic Skills Matter." Educators and experts agree about the importance of nonacademic skills in education. This NPR article explores the various terms used to describe this "stuff," including character education, grit and soft skills. [Read More](#)

"Five Tips for Managing Mobile Devices." "Locking up devices because we fear they'll distract from learning is the exact opposite direction I want to see education heading," writes teacher Catlin Tucker. In her May ASCD Educational Leadership article, Tucker shares five strategies to help ensure that mobile devices enhance, rather than distract from, learning. She explains that teachers need to establish new norms that clarify responsible use, cultivate a culture of sharing, use devices to challenge and engage, and more. [Read More](#)

"OECD: Students in Shanghai Outperforming the World in Basic Skills." The students in Shanghai are outperforming their peers in other countries in basic skills by a vast margin, according to Andreas Schleicher, director of education and skills at the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, who shared the data during a recent education briefing. [Read More](#)

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Have a Great Week!