



Pathways

A weekly collection of information, thoughts, reflections, and accolades for the Reading Public Schools Community

January 29, 2017

Volume 8, Number 21

Upcoming Dates

- February 3 – (7:00 p.m.)
RMHS Drama presents
"Twelve Dancing
Princesses in the Endslow
PAC
- February 4 - (7:00 p.m.)
RMHS Drama presents
"Twelve Dancing
Princesses in the Endslow
PAC
- February 5 - (2:00 p.m.)
RMHS Drama presents
"Twelve Dancing
Princesses in the Endslow
PAC
- February 6 – (7:00 p.m.)
School Committee
Meeting in the
Superintendent's
Conference Room
- February 8 – (afterschool)
Secondary Building
Meetings – Collaborative
Proposal Meetings
- February 9 – (afterschool)
RISE/Elementary Building
Meetings – grade Level;
(7:00 p.m.) RMHS Junior
Parent Guidance Night in
the Endslow PAC
- February 15 – Grade 6 –
12 Early Release (1:15
p.m.) RISE/Elementary
District PLC Meetings;
(1:30 p.m.) Secondary
District PLC Meetings

FY18 Budget Update

School Committee Votes Unbalanced Budget to Restore Some Positions

Last week, was a very busy week in the FY18 budget process. On Monday evening, January 23rd, the School Committee reviewed the responses to the 93 questions that the School Committee and the Community submitted regarding the FY18 budget. You can access this document [here](#). On Wednesday evening, there was a Financial Forum, consisting of the Board of Selectmen, School Committee, and Finance Committee which was well attended by over 100 community members. Many in the room spoke of the need to have an override sooner than later.

On Thursday evening, the School Committee deliberated the FY18 budget and discussed different ways that a small amount of changes could happen in the budget, but nothing substantive enough to put back \$1,400,000 in reductions. To that end, the School Committee voted an unbalanced budget of \$41,889,661, which is \$588,000 higher than the Superintendent's Recommended budget of \$41,301,661. The following additions were included in the School Committee budget:

- 7.0 FTE Middle School Teachers= \$438,000
- Year 2 Science Curriculum = \$150,000

In addition, the following items were discussed and approved by the School Committee which were budget neutral:

- Increase full day kindergarten by \$250 per student to \$4450 per year, which will result in increasing the Full Day Kindergarten offset by \$50,000 to restore the 3.3 Paraeducator FTE's
- Keep the Athletics and Extra-Curricular family cap consistent with the FY'17 rates, decrease the offset taken from athletics and utilize savings from renegotiating the pool rates and ice hockey rates to offset the difference – no impact to the bottom line of athletics.

In addition, because of projected lower enrollment in Grade K and 1 next year, the 2.0 FTE Elementary Classroom Teacher reduction is not expected to have an impact on elementary class sizes because 2.0 FTE less classroom teachers are needed next year with current enrollment trends. Because there are two retirements at the elementary level next year, there will not be any projected personnel reductions at the elementary level for the 2017-18 school year.

Although the School Committee voted an unbalanced budget, there is still a long way to go into this process. With this vote, the School Committee is requesting that additional cash reserves be used to fund the unbalanced budget. This will require a

FY18 Budget Links

- Superintendent's Recommended Budget
- January 9th Presentation
- January 12th Presentation
- January 19th Presentation
- Full FY18 Budget Presentation (January 9-25)
- Q and A Document for FY18 budget

recommendation from the Finance Committee, and more importantly, an approval from Town Meeting.

In addition, there is still \$813,405 in reductions with \$175,000 in user fees and offset increases in this budget. The remaining reductions and user fee increases are as follows:

Personnel Reductions

Cost Center	FTE Reduced in Superintendent Recommended Budget	Reduction	Amount in Superintendent Recommended Budget	Amount in School Committee Budget
Administration	1.0	School Business Assistant	\$40,000	\$40,000
Regular Day	3.3	Kindergarten Paraeducators	\$50,000	\$0
Regular Day	2	Elementary Classroom Teachers	\$105,000	\$105,000
Regular Day	7	Middle School Teachers	\$438,000	\$0
Regular Day	3.8	High School Teachers	\$273,000	\$273,000
Regular Day	1	Supervisor of Students	\$34,000	\$34,000
District Wide	1	Technician	\$50,000	\$50,000
Regular Day	0.6	RISE Preschool Teacher	\$30,000	\$30,000
Regular Day	1	Instructional Coach	\$78,000	\$78,000
Special Education	0.5	Special Education Administrator	\$40,000	\$40,000
Total	21.2		\$1,138,000	\$650,000

Non-Personnel Reductions

Cost Center	Reduction	Amount
Facilities	Cleaning Services-RMHS	80,000
District Wide	Technology Hardware/Computer Services	35,000
Regular Day	PD Expenses	20,000
Special Education	PD Expenses	20,000
Regular Day	Science Kit Coordination	8,405
Total		\$163,405

User Fee/Offset Increases

Cost Center	Reduction	Amount
Athletics	Increase User Fee	\$75,000
Special Education	Increase RISE Tuition	\$50,000
Full Day Kindergarten	Increase Tuition	\$50,000
Total		\$175,000

Kudos and Accolades

- Congratulations to the gymnastics, girls basketball, girls track, boys and girls hockey and swimming for recent victory.

The next step of the process is for the School Committee and the Reading Public School Administration to present the FY18 budget to the Finance Committee on March 15th. The Finance Committee is an Advisory Board to Town Meeting and they will advise Town Meeting on whether or not additional cash reserves should be used. Town Meeting will take a vote on the budget in late April or Early May.

If you have any questions, please attend the School Committee meetings or Superintendent's Office Hours, or contact the Reading Public Schools at 781-944-5800 or by email at john.doherty@reading.k12.ma.us.

Globe Scholastic Art and Writing Awards Announced

41 Reading Public Schools Students Recognized

This past week, the Boston Globe Scholastic Art and Writing Awards were announced. Forty-one Reading Public School students were recognized from RMHS, Parker, and Coolidge. Congratulations to the following students and to their teachers for a job well done!

Name	Grade	School	Award	Type
Gian Sabia	7	Parker	Honorable Mention	Drawing and Illustration
Kyla Atwell	12	RMHS	Honorable Mention	Mixed Media
Matt Baynes	12	RMHS	Silver Key	Painting
Matt Baynes	12	RMHS	Silver Key	Drawing and Illustration
Courtney Bedingfield	11	RMHS	Silver Key	Photography
Courtney Bedingfield	11	RMHS	Silver Key	Photography
Courtney Bedingfield	11	RMHS	Honorable Mention	Photography
Courtney Bedingfield	11	RMHS	Honorable Mention	Photography
John Blomquist	12	RMHS	Silver Key	Poetry
Steph Cameron	12	RMHS	Honorable Mention	Photography
Steph Cameron	12	RMHS	Silver Key	Photography
Steph Cameron	12	RMHS	Honorable Mention	Photography
Steph Cameron	12	RMHS	Silver Key	Photography
Aimee Casavant	12	RMHS	Silver Key	Drawing and Illustration
Aimee Casavant	12	RMHS	Honorable Mention	Drawing and Illustration
Aimee Casavant	12	RMHS	Silver Key	Drawing and Illustration
Aimee Casavant	12	RMHS	Gold Key	Drawing and Illustration
Aimee Casavant	12	RMHS	Honorable Mention	Drawing and Illustration
Aimee Casavant	12	RMHS	Gold Key	Drawing and Illustration
Mary Chipman	12	RMHS	Honorable Mention	Sculpture
Kara D'Arezzo	12	RMHS	Gold Key	Painting
Alana DiSpena	12	RMHS	Honorable Mention	Photography
Willow Machado	11	RMHS	Silver Key	Photography
Haley Malstrom	12	RMHS	Silver Key	Photography

Superintendent's Office**Hours this Week***All are welcome*

2/1 (3:00 – 4:00 p.m.)-
Coolidge Middle School

2/2 (7:45 – 8:45 a.m.)-
Birch Meadow
Elementary

Haley Malstrom	12	RMHS	Honorable Mention	Photography
Kathryn McReynolds	12	RMHS	Honorable Mention	Ceramics and Glass
Morgan Neff- Gatchell	12	RMHS	Gold Key	Ceramics and Glass
Marissa Pepi	12	RMHS	Honorable Mention	Photography
Sydney Raupp	12	RMHS	Honorable Mention	Photography
Jessica Squires	12	RMHS	Silver Key	Painting
Katherine Squires	12	RMHS	Gold Key	Photography
Katherine Squires	12	RMHS	Silver Key	Photography
Samantha Williams	12	RMHS	Honorable Mention	Photography
Samantha Williams	12	RMHS	Gold Key	Photography
Samantha Williams	12	RMHS	Gold Key	Photography
Samantha Brabeck	7	Coolidge	Gold Key	Short Story
Margaux Gellot	7	Coolidge	Silver Key	Short Story
Jenna Nadeau	7	Coolidge	Honorable Mention	Short Story
Tiffany Nguyen	7	Coolidge	Silver Key	Personal Essay
Braden Nowicki	7	Coolidge	Honorable Mention	Short Story
Olivia Pineau	8	Coolidge	Honorable Mention	Printmaking

United Through Art Youth Art Month 2017

Students in grades K through 12 from across Massachusetts have been selected to have their artwork displayed at the State Transportation Building in Boston. This exhibit, sponsored by the Massachusetts Art Education Association, is part of Youth Art Month (YAM), a national celebration held each year during March that emphasizes the value of art education for all children, and encourages support for quality art programs in schools.

Across Massachusetts there are numerous celebrations and exhibits happening in schools, in districts, and regionally. The Boston exhibit, United Through Art, is the only statewide YAM Exhibit in Massachusetts, and features student work from over ninety communities.

The show will be on display and open to the public weekdays 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. from February 13 through March 31.

(closed Presidents' Day, Monday, February 20, 2017)

Admission is free. Parking is available in the building for a fee.

Quote of the Week . . .



The future lies before you,
like paths of pure white
snow. Be careful how you
tread it, for every step will
show.

-Unknown

Students from Reading Memorial High School, under the direction of art teacher Susan Gilbert is representing grades 9-12 with sculpture as well as drawing and painting works in this year's YAM Exhibit at the State Transportation Building.

The young artists with work on display are:

Jane Kreppein, grade 9 self-portrait

Abby Frechette, grade 9 painting

Katie Delaney, Grade 9 painting

Sarah Looby, Grade 9 self-portrait

Morgan Neff-Gatchell, Grade 12 wire sculpture

Congratulations to these students and to Mrs. Gilbert on a job well done!

Saying "Thank You" Improves Your Health. How To Start Your Gratitude Practice

by Elizabeth Inglese, Senior Features Editor for [Mind Body Blog Website](#)

Manifest the year of your dreams by going inward. **Renew You 2017** is a month of mindfulness during which we'll share content that guides you to create a deeply rooted intention for the new year. We'll help you navigate inevitable obstacles with the latest science on habits, motivation, ritual, and more and equip you with tried-and-true techniques to outsmart even the toughest inner critic.

Here at mbg, we're big practitioners of gratitude. It's the key to enjoying the gifts in life and surviving the challenges that come your way. **Dr. Lawrence Rosen** rounded up some of the many benefits of gratitude: **In eight different studies, gratitude was shown to reduce feelings of depression.** It worked best when people chose to think optimistically and reframe events and situations in a positive way. It **lessens anxiety** and can be helpful for those suffering from severe conditions like post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). **It improves sleep**, which in turn has a positive impact on mood. And anxiety. And just about everything. **It improves overall cardiac health**, both indirectly through improving mood and attention to positive health behaviors like fitness and nutrition as well as directly through reduction in inflammation. It **strengthens memory**. For elderly adults, practicing gratitude was shown to improve their overall sense of well-being and quality of life. Introducing more gratitude into your life is a powerful way to pursue your goals in the new year without focusing negatively on what you lack.

Start your own gratitude practice

1. Sit and acknowledge how you feel in the moment. Don't pressure yourself to label your thoughts as anything other than they are.
2. Focus on the aspects of your life that bring you happiness. Hold them in your mind and say thank you for each item.
3. Focus on the struggles in your life. Say thank you for the unexpected gains they've led you to. Perhaps they've shown you your own strength or they've brought you

Disney Tweet of the Week



People change every day
till they find their own
way, so can you.

—Mrs. Jenkins
(Pocahontas II)

closer to loved ones. Now say thank you for the hardships, themselves, not the silver linings. They may offer you gifts you've yet to uncover.

4. Sit in silence for five minutes, meditating on the words "Thank you."
5. If you feel yourself holding tension, thinking negatively, or overwhelmed by sadness during your day, return to the mantra "Thank you." Repeat the words to yourself slowly as you breathe deeply.

More from mbg on gratitude

- [Gratitude Can Heal Your Mind](#)
- [How To Create A Yoga Practice That's All About Gratitude](#)
- [10 Gratitude Principles To Live By](#)
- [How Gratitude Is Expressed Around The World](#)
- [5 Everyday Ways To Teach Your Kids Gratitude](#)

10 Habits That Will Directly Improve Your Life

By Travis Bradberry for [Entrepreneur](#)

In Hans Christian Andersen's fable *The Red Shoes*, a young girl longs for a pair of pretty red shoes. She ultimately tricks the blind woman who cares for her into buying her a pair. Her love for the red shoes causes her to give them priority over the more important things in her life, and, as often happens in fables, karma is not on her side. The shoes become firmly stuck to her feet and force her to dance non-stop, to the point where she almost dies from exhaustion and starvation.

We can scoff at the little girl's foolishness, but, in real life, we often do the same thing -- we chase after the things that we *think* will make us happy and don't realize that we're heading down a dangerous path.

One study found that the people who experience the greatest job satisfaction aren't the ones in the big, fancy offices; they're the ones who approach their work as a calling, even when that work involves menial labor.

Another study found that simply seeing fast-food logos makes people impatient. It's not that there's some intrinsic characteristic of fast food that makes people impatient; it's the habits we've come to associate with fast food, such as always being on the run, eating on the go and never slowing down enough to enjoy a healthy meal, that bring out our impatience.

We have to be very careful in choosing our pursuits, because our habits make us. Cultivating the habits that follow will send you in the right direction. They'll help you to lead a more meaningful and fulfilling life, whereby you cultivate the best within yourself.

1. Stay away from people who erode your quality of life.

If merely seeing a logo for a fast-food company can make you feel impatient, just think how much more impact a toxic person can have on your life. They might be unhappy about your decision to stay away from them, and they might tell you very loudly just how unhappy they are, but isn't avoiding them worth the cumulative effects of years of their negative influence? There are always going to be toxic people who have a way of getting under your skin and staying there. Each time you find yourself thinking about a coworker or person who makes your blood boil, practice being grateful for someone else in your life instead. There are plenty of people out there who deserve your attention, and the last thing you want to do is think about the people who don't matter.

2. No more phone, tablet or computer in bed.

Important Websites

Help Desk (To submit a ticket)
help.desk@reading.k12.ma.us

RPS District Website
www.reading.k12.ma.us

Access Your Email
<https://login.microsoftonline.com/>

Baseline Edge
<https://baseline.ioeducation.com/Site/login>

Interface Health Services
<https://interface.williamjames.edu/community/reading>

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PARTNERS IN PREVENTION

This is a big one, which most people don't even realize harms their sleep and productivity. Short-wavelength blue light plays an important role in determining your mood, energy level and sleep quality. In the morning, sunlight contains high concentrations of this blue light. When your eyes are exposed to it directly, it halts production of the sleep-inducing hormone melatonin and makes you feel alert. In the afternoon, the sun's rays lose their blue light, which allows your body to produce melatonin and this starts making you sleepy. By the evening, your brain doesn't expect any blue light exposure and is very sensitive to it. Most of our favorite evening devices -- laptops, tablets and mobile phones -- emit short-wavelength blue light brightly and right in your face. This exposure impairs melatonin production and interferes with your ability to fall asleep, as well as with the quality of your sleep once you do nod off. As we've all experienced, poor nights' sleep has disastrous effects. The best thing you can do is to avoid these devices after dinner (television is OK for most people, as long as they sit far enough away from the set).

3. Appreciate the here and now.

Gratitude is fundamental to peace and happiness -- not wealth, glamour, adventure or fast cars, but simple appreciation for what you have. Just because you can't afford champagne and caviar doesn't mean that you never enjoy a meal. Hot dogs and beer on the back deck with your friends taste just as good. So, don't fool yourself into thinking that you need something that you don't currently have in order to be happy, because the truth is that if you can't appreciate what you have now, you won't be able to appreciate the "good life" if you ever get it.

4. Realize that things aren't always as you perceive them to be.

This goes along with appreciating the here and now. That person you envy because they seem to have the perfect life might be dealing with all kinds of problems behind closed doors. That "perfection" could be a total mirage. Your employer's decision to move the office might seem like a huge hassle when you first hear about it, but it could end up being one of the best things that ever happens to you. You're not omniscient and you're not a fortune-teller, so be open to the possibility that life might have some surprises in store, because what you see is not always what you get.

5. Get started, even though you might fail.

Most writers spend countless hours brainstorming their characters and plots, and they even write page after page that they know they'll never include in the books. They do this because they know that ideas need time to develop. We tend to freeze up when it's time to get started because we know that our ideas aren't perfect and that what we produce might not be any good. But how can you ever produce something great if you don't get started and give your ideas time to evolve? Author Jodi Picoult summarized the importance of avoiding perfectionism perfectly: "You can edit a bad page, but you can't edit a blank page."

6. Get organized.

People joke about new ideas being in short supply, but I think that the one resource that's really scarce is spare time. Do you know anybody who has some? Yet we waste so much of it by not being organized. We touch things two or three times before we do something with them (like tossing the mail down on the counter then moving it to the table so we can cook dinner) and once we've put them away, we spend even more time looking for them. Have a place for all of those little things you need to take care of when you get a minute, whether it's your child's permission slip for a field trip or an overdue bill, and then get to them in a timely manner; otherwise you'll be searching through a huge stack of stuff for the one thing you need.

7. Start a collection of the things that truly resonate with you.

Have you ever come across a quote or a meme that so perfectly summed up your feelings that you wanted to keep it forever? You know that it's in one of those coats you wore five winters ago, and you really hope it's not the one you gave to Goodwill. When you come across something that resonates with you -- whether it's something that expresses who you are or who you want to be -- have a central place to keep those gems. It doesn't matter whether it's a spiral notebook, a leather binder or a folder on Evernote, have a place to collect the things that matter so that you can revisit them regularly.

8. Do something that reminds you who you are.

We all joke about having "me" time, but what is that, really? It's making time for those activities that we feel most authentically ourselves doing, when all the masks are off and we can just *be*. Whether it's going for a run or dancing around with your 80s favorites blaring at top volume, make time for those moments. They're incredibly rejuvenating.

9. Say no.

Research conducted at the University of California in San Francisco shows that the more difficulty that you have saying no, the more likely you are to experience stress, burnout and even depression, all of which erode self-control. Saying no is indeed a major self-control challenge for many people. "No" is a powerful word that you should not be afraid to wield. When it's time to say no, emotionally intelligent people avoid phrases like "I don't think I can" or "I'm not certain." Saying no to a new commitment honors your existing commitments and gives you the opportunity to successfully fulfill them. Just remind yourself that saying no is an act of [self-control](#) now that will increase your future self-control by preventing the negative effects of over commitment.

10. Stick to realistic goals.

How many people start January by proclaiming, "I'm going to lose 30 pounds by March!"? Big, scary, crazy goals can be incredibly inspiring -- until you fall short, and then, instead of inspiration, you're left with disappointment and guilt. I'm certainly not suggesting that you stop setting goals that push and challenge you, just that you try to stick within the bounds of reality.

Bringing It All Together

Your character is determined by your attitude and how you spend your time, and so is happiness. Stop chasing the things that you think will make you happy, and start [realizing](#) that your peace and happiness are entirely up to you.

[Reading Public Schools Happenings](#)

RMHS Science Olympiad

Last weekend, the RMHS Science Olympiad Team competed in the MIT Science Olympiad Invitational Meet at MIT. Congratulations to Will Bresnahan and Kelly Ward (both in red RMHS Science Team shirts in the photo below), who placed 5th in the Rocks and Minerals event against a very competitive group of students, many who are outside Massachusetts.



Parker Geography Bee

On Thursday, 10 Parker students participated in the school level National Geographic Bee. These students showed their knowledge about our country and the world with their answers to many challenging questions. Congratulations to all participants, especially our school winner, Jack Mendez, who will be taking a test to qualify at the state level. The photo below includes Jack, Mr. Twomey and Ms. Costa.



RMHS High Five Winners

Below are this week's RMHS High Five Winners, awarded to two Seniors each week for their contribution to the school. Special thanks to RMHS teacher Steve McCarthy for providing the information.

Sarah Dudinski, Class of 2017

Sarah Dudinski is being recognized for excellence and perseverance in academics, athletics, leadership, and service. Academically, Sarah is an Honor Roll student who particularly enjoys

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 info to John Doherty at: john.doherty@reading.k12.ma.us

and excels in anatomy/physiology and history. Last year, she received the perseverance award in health and wellness. Athletically, Sarah is a three year member of the Girls' Varsity Basketball team and serves as a co-captain this season. Coach DeBenedictis describes her as: "a great leader who brings people together, is positive, welcoming and believes in her teammates and works as hard as anybody". Sarah has helped lead a young Rockets team to a solid 7-5 record at this point in a very competitive Middlesex league. She is especially proud of the recent decisive victory over a strong Melrose team this past week. Sarah has also been a three year member of the outdoor track team and is a co-captain as a thrower in both discus and shot put. In terms of service and activities, Sarah is an officer of the A World of Difference Club and the Leo Club, and volunteers at Winchester Hospital assisting patients and medical staff. Additionally, Sarah has volunteered over the past two years as a Eucharistic Minister at St. Agnes and also works at Home Goods in her spare time. Next year, Sarah will be attending college and will be pursuing a career in nursing. Congratulations, Sarah!



Sarah Dudinski, Class of 2017

Liam O'Donnell, Class of 2017

Liam O'Donnell is being recognized for his outstanding achievement in academics, athletics, activities, and service. Academically, Liam is an Honor Roll student who particularly enjoys history and accounting. Last year, Liam excelled on his genealogy project in history 11 where he got the chance to trace his family history back to Ireland. Athletically, Liam is a two year member of the Boys' Varsity Basketball team, who is described as a hardworking, tenacious defender on our competitive Rockets team. This season, Liam helped the basketball squad to a last second victory over a strong Lincoln-Sudbury team. Liam is also especially proud of a first round tournament win last season in front of a capacity home crowd against Gloucester High School. In terms of activities, Liam is a three year member of Samantha's Harvest Club, helping to organize and participate in the annual Samantha's Harvest Race and "Buddy Walk" at Lake Quannapowitt in Wakefield. Liam has also volunteered over the past three years at Sunday Swim at the Reading YMCA helping children with disabilities learn how to swim and play various water activities. Additionally, Liam works with the Reading Recreation Department, refereeing basketball for elementary and middle school aged kids, and serving as a counselor during the summers at Rec camps. Next fall, Liam will be attending college and majoring in business.



Liam O'Donnell, Class of 2017

Stepping Stones...

- Our thoughts and prayers go out to Coolidge teacher **Mary Beth Hetherton** on the loss of a loved one recently.
- Our thoughts and prayers go out to Parker teacher **Jennifer Webster** on the loss of a close family member.
- We welcome the following new staff to the Reading Public Schools:
 - ✓ Sarah Hildreth, Extended Day Substitute
 - ✓ Theresa Deroo, Substitute, District
- **We have posted** a new position. If interested, please visit <https://reading.tedk12.com/hire/index.aspx> to view the job detail

1.0FTE Long Term Substitute Elementary Guidance Counselor or Social Worker, Joshua Eaton Elementary School https://reading.tedk12.com/hire/ViewJob.aspx?JobID=216
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Extended Day After School Teacher, Killam Elementary School https://reading.tedk12.com/hire/ViewJob.aspx?JobID=217
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Extended School Year School Psychologist/School Adjustment Counselor https://reading.tedk12.com/hire/ViewJob.aspx?JobID=218

Extended School Year Physical Therapist https://reading.tedk12.com/hire/ViewJob.aspx?JobID=219
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Extended School Year Occupational Therapist https://reading.tedk12.com/hire/ViewJob.aspx?JobID=220
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Extended School Year Speech-Language Pathologist https://reading.tedk12.com/hire/ViewJob.aspx?JobID=221

Extended School Year Special Education Paraeducator https://reading.tedk12.com/hire/ViewJob.aspx?JobID=222
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Extended School Year Special Education Teacher https://reading.tedk12.com/hire/ViewJob.aspx?JobID=223

Extended Day Before School Teacher, Joshua Eaton Elementary School https://reading.tedk12.com/hire/ViewJob.aspx?JobID=224
Extended Day Before School Teacher, Killam Elementary School https://reading.tedk12.com/hire/ViewJob.aspx?JobID=225
1.0FTE Long Term Substitute Elementary Guidance Counselor or Social Worker, Birch Meadow Elementary School https://reading.tedk12.com/hire/ViewJob.aspx?JobID=226
Extended School Year School Nurse https://reading.tedk12.com/hire/ViewJob.aspx?JobID=227
Boys Freshman Lacrosse Coach, Reading Memorial High School https://reading.tedk12.com/hire/ViewJob.aspx?JobID=228

Blazing Trails...

Practice Tests Coming for Next-Generation MCAS: Starting on or around February 1, 2017 and continuing on a rolling basis, ESE will release practice tests to help educators and students prepare for this spring's next-generation MCAS in English language arts and math in grades 3-8. The practice tests will represent a full MCAS session and will be available on paper and in a computer-based format and will be posted on the [MCAS support page](#). A guide to the computer-based equation editor tool for math tests is already posted. More information is available in the most recent [Student Assessment Update](#).

"Does Homework Help?" Homework is an age-old tradition, but it could inequitably penalize students in poverty. For students who lack income security, food security, or housing, a small thing like homework can be an insurmountable task. In this ASCD Express article, this is prompting some educators to consider whether to redesign it or stop assigning it. [Read More](#)

"Is Homework Bad for Kids Everywhere?" Homework is a hot topic in many schools across the globe. But one thing is sure: students hate it. It takes away their "childhood." So, should you get rid of it or should you give less or more? What are the effects of homework? Blogger Lucie Renard did some digging into the "no homework policies" and into homework in different countries around the globe and its impact on the students. [Read More](#)

"Helping Struggling Students Build a Growth Mindset." Educators can use various strategies to foster a growth mindset, authors Donna Wilson and Marcus Conyers write in this blog post. They offer five strategies, such as using success files, to help educators get started. [Read More](#)

"How to be a Global Thinker." Global competence requires more than knowledge and skills; it requires that students know when the situation calls for using these abilities and an ongoing, long-term inclination to do so. Global competence thinking routines can promote students' disposition to inquire about the world, understand different perspectives, engage in respectful dialogue, and take responsible action. Read more from Veronica Boix Mansilla in the ASCD December 2016/January 2017 issue of *Educational Leadership*. [Read More](#)

Have a Great Week!