



# Pathways

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

April 9, 2017

Volume 3, Number 30

## Upcoming Dates

- April 10 – Passover begins at Sundown
- April 14 – Grade PreK – 12 Early Release @ 11:00 a.m.
- April 17 – Patriot's Day – No school & School Offices Closed
- April 17 – 21 – April Vacation – No School for Students
- April 24 – (7:30 p.m.) Town Meeting in the Endslo PAC
- April 25 – (7:00 p.m.) School Committee Meeting in the Endslo PAC
- April 26 – (after school) Secondary Building Meetings; (6:30 p.m.) Joshua Eaton Ice Cream Social
- April 27 – 29 – Parker Grade 8 Trip to Quebec
- April 27 – (after school) RISE/Elementary Building Meetings; (7:30 p.m.) Town Meeting in the Endslo PAC
- April 28 – (6:30 p.m.) RMHS Junior Prom @ Danversport Yacht Club
- April 29 – RMHS Opera trip to NYC
- May 1 – 12 – RMHS AP testing
- May 1 – (7:30 p.m.) Town meeting in the Endslo PAC
- May 4 – (7:00 p.m.) Parker Curriculum Night; (7:30 p.m.) Town meeting in the Endslo PAC

## ArtsFest A Complete Success!



*Combined Grade 6 Band*

Last Wednesday and Thursday, the Reading Public Schools held its 10<sup>th</sup> Annual ArtsFest Celebration of the Arts at the Endslo Performing Arts Center at Reading Memorial High School. Hundreds of students in Grades 3-12 performed in choral groups, small ensembles, or larger bands to packed audiences each evening. In addition, Visual 2-dimensional and 3-dimensional K-12 art work was displayed all along Main Street at RMHS. As Fine and Performing Arts Department Chair Kristin Killian stated, "ARTSFEST 2017 was one of our best yet....The students who had their art work displayed were so proud, and the energy and excitement from all of our performers was amazing! We certainly got to see our students at their very best."

A special thank you goes out to our outstanding K-12 Art and Music Teachers who helped make this happen with the countless hours that they work with students: RMHS Teachers Kristin Killian, Joe Mulligan, Borany Wicks, Sue Gilbert, Mike Radvany, and Kathy Dailey; Parker Teachers Jenny DiMuzio, Andrew Norton, Diane Davis, and Amy Ropple; Coolidge Teachers Cheryl Webster, Anna Wentlent, and Sarah Doane, and Elementary Teachers Melissa Steiger, Daniel Htoo-Levine, Holly Gallant, Amy Hussey, Christina Erb, and Beth Hurley. Also, thank you to Assistant Superintendent for Learning and Teaching Craig Martin for introducing each evening with his remarks about the importance of the arts.

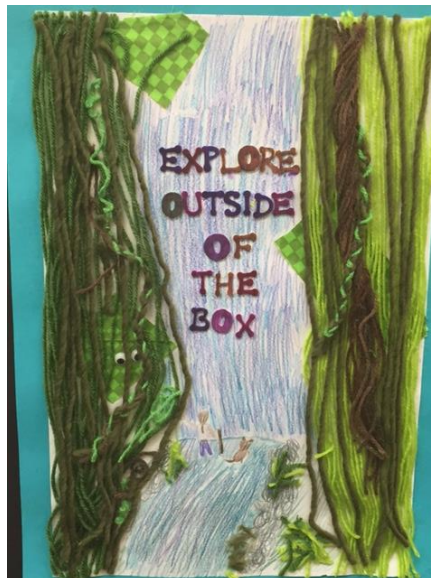
- May 5 – 6 (7:30 p.m.)  
RMHS Drama Production  
of “The Taming of the  
Shrew” in the Endslo  
PAC



*Grade 3 Chorus*



*Elementary 3D Art Work*



*Middle School Art Work*

[FY18 Budget Link](#)

- FY18 Budget Information



*High School Photography*



*Combined Grade 7 and 8 Middle School Band*



*Grade 7 and 8 Mixed Middle School Chorus*



## Kudos and Accolades

- Kudos to the Wood End and RISE @ Wood End staffs for very successful Spring Open Houses this past week.
- Kudos to our Fine and Performing Arts staff for their work in making the annual Artsfest a big success.
- Congratulations to the RMHS Symphonic Band who received a Silver Medal at the Massachusetts Instrumental and Choral Conductors Association (MICCA) festival last Saturday at Hopkinson High School.



*Middle School Jazz Band*

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## Students from Ecuador Visit Parker Middle School

On Thursday, several eighth graders at Parker gathered for a farewell pizza party as a send off for seven girls from Guayaquil, Ecuador who have been visiting Parker for the past four weeks. The visiting students attended classes, engaged in interesting conversations, made many new friends, and even had a blast at a school dance. Ana Paula, Valerie, Alissa, Ariana, Isabella, Claudia, and Ursula prepared a slide show on Google Slides which they presented to more than ten groups of students highlighting different cultural areas such as food, clothing, pass-times, schooling, music, and holidays and traditions. Parker students made the girls a "Boston Bucket List" encouraging them to try New England clam chowder, see Boston sights like the Harvard and MIT campuses and Faneuil Hall, experience the ropes course, liquid fireworks, and Richardson's ice cream at Jordan's Furniture and grab a bagel from Bagel World. The girls did check off many of these items ensuring that they had a true Beantown and North Shore experience. While we are all sad about their departure, the students are thankful they will be able to remain connected through social media.

Below are some photos of the students at Parker. A special thanks goes to Parker Spanish Teacher Leah Cristi for arranging and organizing this visit.

**Superintendent's Office**  
**Hours this Week**

*All are welcome*

4/12 (2:15 -3:15 p.m.) -  
Parker Middle School

4/13 (7:15 -8:15 a.m.) -  
Reading Memorial High  
School



## Joshua Eaton Principal Announced

The Reading Public Schools is pleased to announce that LisaMarie Ippolito has been appointed as the Principal of the Joshua Eaton Elementary School. Ms. Ippolito is currently the District STEM Coordinator for the Wilmington Public Schools where she has been for the last 16 years. During that time, she has served in the roles of an elementary classroom teacher, a special education teacher, an elementary technology integration specialist, an elementary math coordinator, and a curriculum director. She comes with a very strong knowledge base in curriculum, instruction, assessment, and data analysis. Her leadership style, strong interpersonal skills and knowledge of curriculum and instruction will be an excellent match for the Joshua Eaton Elementary School Community.

Ms. Ippolito will begin as Joshua Eaton Principal on July 1st and will work with Mr. Sprung over the next few months in transition activities.

A special thank you goes out to the entire Joshua Eaton Community for their feedback during this process and to the Joshua Eaton Principal Screening Committee for all of their hard work in identifying four very strong finalists for the position.

Please welcome LisaMarie Ippolito to the Reading Public Schools.

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## Barrows Food Service Manager Wins State Award

Recently, Barrows Food Service Manager Dianne Ferguson was awarded the Massachusetts 2017 School Nutrition Association Manager of the year. Congratulations to Dianne on this prestigious accomplishment!



*Dianne Ferguson (Center) with Reading Food Service Director Kristin Morello*

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### Quote of the Week . . .



No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted.

-Aesop

## Passover and Good Friday Observed During Week of April 10<sup>th</sup>

*Religious Accommodation Policy in effect on April 11<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>*

There are some major non-national religious holidays, as defined in **School Committee Policy IMDA, Accommodations for Ethnic and Religious Observances**, coming up during the week of April 10<sup>th</sup>. They are as follows:

**First Day of Passover**-Begins at Sundown on **Monday, April 10<sup>th</sup>** and continues on **April 11<sup>th</sup>**. Passover ends on **Tuesday, April 18<sup>th</sup>**.

**Good Friday**-Is observed on **Friday, April 14<sup>th</sup>**.

State and federal laws require schools to make reasonable accommodation to the religious needs of students in observance of holy days. With respect to students, Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 151C, section 2B reads in relevant part as follows:

***"Any student in an educational or vocational training institution...who is unable, because of his religious beliefs, to attend classes or to participate in any examination, study or work requirement on a particular day shall be excused from any such examination or study or work requirement, and shall be provided with an opportunity to make up such examination, study or work requirement which he may have missed because of such absence on any particular day....No adverse or prejudicial effects shall result to any student because of his availing himself of the provisions of this section."***

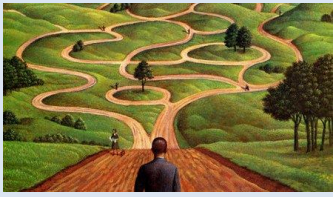
As with the implementation of any policy, communication is important. To that end, the school district will communicate at least one week before the religious holiday to remind parents to contact their child's school and let them know that their child will be absent for religious reasons. The main office shall let the child's teacher or teachers know the students that will be out on the religious holidays.

### **School Committee Policy IMDA**

In 2014, the Reading School Committee approved Policy IMDA, *Accommodations for Religious and Ethic Observances*. The full policy can be found [here](#). The main points of this policy are as follows:

- All students are entitled to individual accommodations which allow them to participate in their family religious or ethnic observances without detriment to their education or grades, including;
  - Extensions of due dates on assigned work (at a minimum the extension should be the number of days absent plus one additional day)
  - Opportunities to make up material missed in class, and
  - Reasonable accommodations as may be appropriate.
- Teachers, coaches, and advisors shall refrain from teaching difficult to make-up material, scheduling exam preparation, tests, quizzes, homework, as well as, scheduling other one-time events (field trips, athletic events, music performances, theatre plays and productions, auditions, and back to school functions), on major non-national religious holidays.
  - Long-term and group assignments will not be due the day of or the day after a major non-national religious holiday.
  - Any materials needed for make-up such as movies or media, should be easily and flexibly accessible within a reasonably determined time frame.

### Disney Tweet of the Week



It is not the destination  
so much as the journey.

—Jack Sparrow

- The policy should not prevent coaches and advisors from holding practices or rehearsals for these events on school days during major non-national religious holidays. However, students whose conscientious observance of a religious or ethnic holiday conflicts with participating in a practice or rehearsal will not be required to participate nor penalized for their non-participation.
- Administrators, teachers, coaches, booster groups, PTOs and advisors shall refrain from scheduling parent, student or school community events on major non-national religious holidays.

Please note there will be several students who will be celebrating religious holidays during the week of April 10th and will not be able to prepare for any tests, quizzes, homework assignments or other assessments on those days or the following day. These students may require extensions of due dates on assigned work, opportunities to make up material missed in class, and reasonable accommodations.

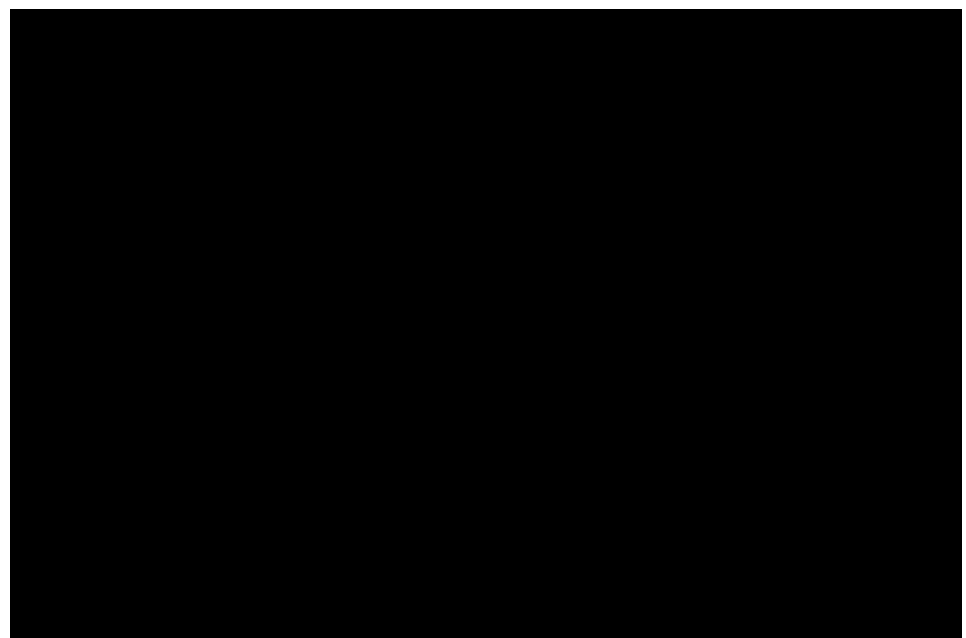
As you are planning your curriculum and assessments, please be aware of these holidays and other holidays in the calendar that may affect some students. We may not always be aware of families who practice different religions. For example, an interfaith family who is both Christian and Jewish may attend both temple for services during the Jewish holidays and church for Christmas services. To that end, please provide accommodations for those students who are absent for religious reasons to make up any missed work. Also, it is recommended that you refrain from giving tests or making due dates for significant papers/projects on or immediately after major religious holidays.

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## Eye-Opening PSA Shows What A Normal Day Is Like For A Child With Autism

*"Understand autism, the person, and the change you can make."*

By **Caroline Bologna** for the **Huffington Post**



<https://youtu.be/xHHwZJX67-M>



## Important Websites

[Help Desk \(To submit a ticket\)](#)  
[help.desk@reading.k12.ma.us](mailto:help.desk@reading.k12.ma.us)

[RPS District Website](#)  
[www.reading.k12.ma.us](http://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>

### **Need help finding mental health care?**

 **WILLIAM JAMES COLLEGE**  
INTERFACE Referral Service  
  
The Town of Reading has contracted with a unique HELPLINE service staffed by licensed clinicians that can help children, teens, & adults in Reading become connected with mental health care. Get provider matches that meet your specific needs, accepts your insurance & has available appointments.  
Call 1-888-244-6843 (toll free) • M-F • 9am-5pm  
<https://interface.williamjames.edu/>

A powerful PSA is shedding light on the challenges so many kids with autism navigate every day.

To promote understanding during Autism Awareness Month, the U.K. organization, The National Autistic Society, released a video called “[Make It Stop](#).” The video follows a 12-year-old girl named Holly, who has autism. As she goes about an ordinary day, viewers see the way many seemingly simple interactions and sensory experiences can overwhelm her mind.

“I’m autistic, and sometimes I get too much information,” Holly explains in a voiceover. The video description on YouTube expands the message. “It’s as if my brain is too crowded — and about to explode. But by taking a minute, you can give an autistic person like me the time they need. Understand autism, the person, and the change you can make.”

“Make It Stop” is part of the organization’s “[Too Much Information](#)” campaign which kicked off [with a similar video last year](#).

For Holly, the campaign has even more personal meaning. She used the PSA to tell her classmates about her experience with autism for the first time and educate them about the disorder.

“If just one person sees the film and is more understanding to autistic people, I’ll be happy,” [Holly explained](#). “Sometimes I get really upset that people do not understand autism. But I hope this campaign will help improve understanding and make other people who are autistic feel more accepted.”

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## TOGETHER FOR TEWKSBURY EVENT ON APRIL 29<sup>TH</sup>

Join us for a 5k walk/run in Reading, Massachusetts on **Saturday, April 29th, from 9 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.** at Birch Meadow Elementary School to celebrate the life and work of Jolene Tewksbury. This event will honor Mrs. Tewksbury’s commitment to the current and former students of the Birch Meadow Elementary School. Registration begins at 9:00 a.m. and the 5K walk/run begins at 10:00 a.m. Immediately after the walk/run there will be music, snacks and raffles.

All proceeds from the event will endow the Jolene Tewksbury Memorial Scholarship. This perpetual scholarship will be awarded to a graduating Reading Memorial High School senior who attended Birch Meadow School. For information about donating to the scholarship fund, please visit the [Together for Tewksbury](#) website.

Registration fee is \$25 for individuals and \$45 for a family. Registration/check-in begins at 9am. The 5k will begin at 10am. [Register for the Race](#).

Please check out the website at <http://togetherfortewksbury.com/> and like us on Facebook @TogetherForTewksbury

Any questions, please contact [TogetherForTewksbury@gmail.com](mailto:TogetherForTewksbury@gmail.com)

Want to learn how you and your child can **focus more and stress less**? Then come hear **Dr. Chris Willard** talk about...

## **“Growing Up Mindful or Growing Up Stressed”**

May 15 at 7pm

Parker Middle School



Mindfulness in children can improve attention, concentration, and academics as well as lower stress and anxiety. It can also help children regulate emotions, feel compassion and empathy towards others, and have a more positive outlook.

Dr. Willard is the author of *Growing Up Mindful*. He has been featured in various publications and news organizations such as ABC News, the *New York Times*, CNN, and *Parents Magazine*. For more information, visit <http://drchristopherwillard.com/>.

Sponsored by the Reading Educational Foundation (REF) and by the Reading Public Schools' PTOs. Brought to you by the Joshua Eaton WASH Committee.

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### Reading Public Schools Happenings

#### **RMHS Students Receive Award for Retail Banking**

On Friday, April 7th, the students from RMHS's Retail Banking Course, competed in the Massachusetts School Banks Association's (MSBA) annual competition held at the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston. RMHS was one of over 25 school bank programs presented at this event competing in Banking Knowledge, Marketing, and Product Development. The Product Development Team's E-Track product won them second place. The E-Track is an electronic tracker on your debit or credit card which assists in finding your card if it is lost or stolen.

Below is a picture of the team: Nick Burpee, Matt Sannella, Jake Del Signore, and Jake Pineau.



*RMHS Retail Banking Students*

### **RMHS High Five**

Below are the RMHS High Fives for last week. Congratulations to these students!

#### **Julia McGurn, Class of 2017**

Julia is being recognized for her outstanding achievement in academics, athletics, and service. Academically, Julia is in the top 10% of the Class of 2017 and is a member of the National Honor Society and Spanish National Honor Society. She is a dedicated student who exemplifies scholarship, taking three Advanced Placement courses this year and earning the Hamilton Book award and a Bronze Medal on the National Spanish Exam last year as a junior. Julia has particularly enjoyed her studies in Calculus and Missing Voices. Athletically, Julia is a three member of the Girls Varsity Soccer Team, serving this year as one of the team's captains. Playing sweeper, Julia helped lead the Lady Rockets to their first appearance in the State Tournament in 8 years. Julia also helped the team to a big win against undefeated Winchester during the regular season. In basketball, Julia has been a 4 year member of the Girls Varsity Team and served as co-captain this season. She helped lead the Lady Rocket hoop team to a berth in the State Tourney for the first time in a few years and also to a big victory against an outstanding Woburn team on Senior Night. Julia is also a 4 year member of the Varsity Softball Team and is a co-captain this year. Her favorite memory as a member of the softball team was reaching the State Championship in her sophomore year. In terms of service, Julia finds time to coach youth basketball clinics for elementary age children in Reading. She also volunteered with her fellow NHS peers at the annual Fall Reading Town Faire, as well as at the Reading Tree Lighting event this past December. Next year, Julia will be attending college and will be pursuing a major in the sciences.





**Patrick Drummey, Class of 2017**

Patrick is being recognized for his excellence in academics, activities, and service. Academically, Patrick is a member of the National Honor Society and the Spanish National Honor Society. He consistently strives to challenge himself; this year he is taking a rigorous course load consisting of four Advanced Placement classes. Patrick has particularly enjoyed his studies in Spanish and in Physics during his four years at RMHS. Athletically, Patrick has been a 4 year member of the Baseball Program and will be playing catcher this season for the Rockets who open this Monday against Burlington. Patrick was also a member of the Summer League Rocket Baseball Team, who went on to win the Senior Babe Ruth Middlesex League Title and is hopeful that this spring season will bring similar results for the Rockets. In terms of activities, Patrick has been a 4 year member of the competitive RMHS Mock Trial Team, serving as President of the club this year and as the Head Lawyer over the past two years. He has also been a member of Model United Nations for the past three years, the Robotics team for one year, and a Social Chair for the Class of 2017 since his sophomore year. Patrick has also distinguished himself in his commitment to service, umpiring for Reading Little League and Babe Ruth baseball, as well as teaching CCD classes to elementary age children at St. Agnes Church. He also finds time to volunteer at the Mission of Deeds, assisting families in need by furnishing their homes. Patrick has also joined his NHS peers in other service initiatives including the Halloween Can Drive this past fall. Next year, Patrick will be attending college and will be pursuing a major in mechanical engineering. Congratulations, Patrick!

## **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](mailto:john.doherty@reading.k12.ma.us)



#### **Food Drive at ArtsFest**

As part of the ArtsFest Celebration, families had the opportunity to give food donations which will go to the Reading Food Pantry. Thanks to the generosity of Reading arts families, over 20 boxes of food were donated to the Reading Food Pantry after being collected at this week's ArtsFest. Pictured are middle school students Hailey Wadell, Julia Mullen, Finn Crowley, Sam Gualtieri, and Tommy Sumner.



## Stepping Stones...

- Our thoughts go out to Barrows paraeducator **Jill DiMare** on the loss of a loved one.
- Our thoughts go out to former Barrows music teacher **Alicia McKenney** on the loss of a loved one.
- Our thoughts go out to former RMHS Guidance secretary **Valerie O'Brien** on the loss of a loved one.
- Our thoughts go out to Killam Speech Pathologist **Kathy MacMillan** on the loss of a loved one.
- Congratulations to Killam teacher **Jessica Bruno** on the birth of her daughter Emilia Anne on April 2<sup>nd</sup> weighing 8 lbs., 5 oz. and 20-1/2" long.
- Congratulations to RMHS teacher **Maura Correa** on the birth of her daughter, Rose Margaret, on April 5<sup>th</sup> weighing 9 lbs., 11 oz.
- We welcome the following new staff to the Reading Public Schools:
  - ✓ Jessica Galindo, Therapeutic Support Program Paraeducator, Killam
  - ✓ Daniel Amaral, Long Term Substitute Foreign Language Teacher, RMHS
  - ✓ Jennifer Murphy, Long Term Substitute Grade 3 Teacher, Killam
  - ✓ Vanessa Silva, Daily Substitute, District
- **We have posted** a new position. If interested, please visit <https://reading.tedk12.com/hire/index.aspx> to view the job detail

Night Shift Custodian, Birch Meadow Elementary School (Internal) <a href="https://reading.tedk12.com/hire/index.aspx">https://reading.tedk12.com/hire/index.aspx</a> to view this posting please login to your employee TalentEd account first.
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1.0FTE Middle School Math Teacher, Parker Middle School 2017-2018 School Year <a href="https://reading.tedk12.com/hire/ViewJob.aspx?JobID=247">https://reading.tedk12.com/hire/ViewJob.aspx?JobID=247</a>
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1.0FTE Grade 7 Science Teacher, Parker Middle School 2017-2018 School Year <a href="https://reading.tedk12.com/hire/ViewJob.aspx?JobID=248">https://reading.tedk12.com/hire/ViewJob.aspx?JobID=248</a>
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- **Reading Student Services Webpage Now Up and Running**-The Student Services webpage is now up and running. This website includes information on special education, Section 504, English Language Learners, Nursing and Behavioral Health. There is also a link to the Reading Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SEPAC) website which contains helpful resources for parents and information on upcoming meeting and events. If you are a parent of a student with a disability, the website now contains a link to an electronic format of the Team Meeting Survey. If you have had a recent IEP Team meeting please take a few minutes to complete this survey. Your feedback helps us ensure that parents are active members of the IEP Team meeting. It also allows us to recognize those staff members who have been helpful to you or your child. The Student Services website can be found at the following link: <https://www.reading.k12.ma.us/departments/student-services/>



## Blazing Trails...

**"Fake News: Teaching Kids the Difference Between Bias and Truth."** What are some simple strategies our students should be using to critically evaluate media? How can teachers foster productive discussions around media analysis? The need to help students do high-quality research begins with these questions. Erik Palmer in this ASCD Learn Teach LeadRadio episode discusses these topics and more on this timely podcast. [Read More](#)

**"What My Worst First Day Taught Me."** A fight breaks out as students enter the building, setting off a chain reaction that leads to 15 more altercations. It's your first day as a new administrator; what do you do? In a struggling school where students and staff are operating in survival mode, new leadership makes addressing school climate and culture top priority. Cultivating teacher trust, community partnerships, and a new approach to behavior and discipline give the school a fresh start in this ASCD Express post. [Read More](#)

**"How Teachers Can Overcome Twitter Roadblocks."** There are three key concerns that educators have with using Twitter, writes Heather Ngoma, director of Rutgers University's Alternate Route Teacher Training Program at the Center for Effective School Practices. In this commentary, she offers ways that teachers can overcome these obstacles, which include privacy concerns. [Read More](#)

**"Inclusion: How to be the Ripple Effect in Your School."** Instructional coach Elizabeth Stein calls on co-teachers to create powerful ripple effects throughout the nation's classrooms, using positive actions to strengthen inclusion and every student's sense of achieving their best. She offers six jumping-off places to start the wave, including pushing back on "ableist" words and actions. [Read More](#)

**"Singapore Schools Adopt Wellness Program."** Officials in Singapore have implemented the Holistic Health Framework to promote the physical, mental and social health of all students. The program is a replacement for the Trim and Fit program, which targeted overweight students. [Read More](#)

**Have a Great Week!**