



# Pathways

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

May 28, 2017

Volume 8, Number 36

## Upcoming Dates

- May 29 – No School/Offices Closed. Thank you to all our Veterans for their Service
- May 30 – (5:00 p.m.) RMHS Senior Boat Cruise and All Night Party; (6:00 p.m.) Instrument Rental Night @ Coolidge
- May 31 – (8:00 a.m.) Parker Writing Celebration; (7:00 p.m.) Reading Scholarship Foundation Awards Night in the Endslo PAC
- June 1 – (after school) RISE/Elementary Building Meetings – Grade Level Common Time; (4:30 p.m.) RISE Preschool End of Year Picnic & Concert @ Memorial Park; (7:00 p.m.) Baccalaureate Service for Seniors at Old South Church
- June 2 – (7:30 a.m.) RMHS Senior Class Day in the Endslo PAC; (8:30 a.m.) Joshua Eaton Author Fest; (6:00 p.m.) RMHS Choral Celebration in the Endslo PAC & Main Street
- June 3 – (8:00 a.m.) SAT Testing – RMHS NOT a Test Center
- June 4 – (1:00 p.m.) RMHS Graduation in the Hawkes Field House – Congratulations to the Class of 2017
- June 5 – (1:00 p.m.) Grade 5 & 8 Move Up Day; (7:00 p.m.) School Committee Meeting in the Schettini Library; (7:00 p.m.) Coolidge Move Up Night for Incoming Parents

## Dr. Anna Ornstein Speaks to Coolidge Grade 8 Students

*Holocaust Survivor Gives Message of Resilience and Hope*



On Friday, Coolidge Middle School Grade 8 students were given an opportunity to hear about one of the darkest times in 20<sup>th</sup> Century History, the Holocaust, through the eyes of Holocaust Survivor Anna Ornstein. Dr. Ornstein, who is now 90 years old, was 17 years old when she and her mother survived the Auschwitz Concentration Camp in 1945. During the 90 minute question and answer conversation with the students, Dr. Ornstein talked about what it was like in the concentration camp and how we need to learn from these experiences and stories so that it does not happen again. She is hopeful about the United States because we are a democracy and we have the United States Constitution in place to protect all of us, something that did not exist in Hungary and Germany during World War II.

- June 6 – (6:00 p.m.) Parker Grade 6 & 7 Spring Concert
- June 7 – (TBD) Parker Science Expo Day; (9:00 a.m.) Barrows All School Field Day; (8:45 a.m.) Joshua Eaton Grade 5 Field Day
- June 8 – (7:00 p.m.) Parker Grade 8 Spring Concert
- June 12 – (8:00 a.m.) RMHS Underclassmen Awards Ceremony in the Endslo PAC
- June 13 – (8:30 a.m.) Barrows Grade 5 Celebration & Fun Day
- June 14 – (6:00 p.m.) Birch Meadow Fifth Grade Graduation
- June 15 – (8:30 a.m.) Parker Field Day
- June 16 – (8:45 a.m.) Killam Grade 5 Move Up Celebration and Field Day; (8:45 a.m.) Joshua Eaton Grade 5 Celebration; (6:00 p.m.) Wood End Grade 5 "Moving On" Ceremony and Celebration
- June 19 – (6:00 p.m.) Parker Grade 8 Promotion Ceremony & Dance; (6:00 p.m.) Coolidge Grade 8 Promotion Ceremony & Dance; (7:00 p.m.) School Committee Meeting in the Superintendent's Conference Room
- June 20 – Last Day of School – All students dismissed at 11:00 a.m.; (8:00 a.m.) Parker Awards Ceremony

This unique experience with the students was filmed on RCTV and will be available for viewing at a later date. A special thanks goes to Coolidge teacher Erica LeBow and School Committee member Linda Snow Dockser for arranging the visit.

## Statement of Town Officials Regarding Swastika Incidents at Reading Memorial High School

### *Incidents Under Investigation*

READING -- Town Manager Robert W. LeLacheur, Jr., Police Chief Mark D. Segalla, and Superintendent of Schools Dr. John F Doherty report that the Town of Reading is responding swiftly and aggressively after two incidents of swastika graffiti were reported at the Reading Memorial High School in the month of May.

On May 4, students noticed a swastika drawn in blue permanent marker on a classroom floor. The incident was reported to the Reading Police Department and is under investigation.

On the evening of Wednesday, May 24, Reading Police were once again called to investigate a report of a swastika found at the High School. This time, police found a swastika and other graffiti drawn in pen on a cinder block wall of a bathroom in the High School Field House. That incident is also under investigation.

School officials sent a message home to families after the first incident, but this has prompted a larger discussion in town about how people treat each other and how to continuously foster a culture of respect not just in the Reading Public Schools but throughout the community.

"As leaders in the Town of Reading, we are committed to ridding our community of hate and hateful speech," Chief Segalla said. "That means we need to come together and have uncomfortable discussions about how we treat each other and what words and symbols really mean. Does the average teenager truly understand the hate and violence associated with a swastika? Perhaps not, but it is incumbent upon us to teach them."

**The Town of Reading has an existing relationship with the New England Chapter of the Anti-Defamation League and will be utilizing its vast resources and expertise in responding to these recent messages of hate and intolerance.**

"We cannot simply write these acts off as isolated incidents. When we ignore hate, it grows," Superintendent Doherty said. "And while we have reached out to our police department to investigate these incidents, it is not enough for us to identify and punish those responsible. As a school district, we accept that we have a responsibility to dig deeper and teach our children about the topics of hate, racism, and fear. We will continue to use these situations as teachable moments for our students."

**The town has also begun reaching out to local clergy, including an area rabbi, priest, minister, and other members of the religious community to lead a public forum, which will be held in the near future.**

"Our police department, schools, and town officers are wholly committed to creating an atmosphere of acceptance in Reading," Town Manager LeLacheur said. "Our community is healthiest and is at its best when everyone living, working, and visiting Reading feels safe, secure, and included."

Nationally, hate speech incidents and acts of Antisemitism have been on the rise recently.

"The Reading Police Department is committed to the safety of all people, regardless of race, religion, gender, age, or any other demographic," Chief Segalla said. "This is the beginning of a dialog, and while we are committed to investigating these hateful acts, we all are better served if we can also prevent such acts from occurring in the future."

Additional information, including dates, times, and locations of events, will follow.

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## Coolidge Middle School Places 26th in National Science Olympiad

*9 Events Place in Top 20*



*Coolidge Middle School Science Olympiad Team*

Congratulations to the Arthur W. Coolidge Science Olympiad Team who placed 26<sup>th</sup> out of 60 teams in the National Science Olympiad which was held at Wright State University in Dayton, Ohio. Coolidge did extremely well against the best middle school science teams in the country by placing in the top ten in three events, and placed in six additional events in the top 20. Congratulations to the following top ten finishers:



## Kudos and Accolades

- Congratulations to baseball, softball, boys & girls lacrosse, boys and girls tennis, boys and girls track on their wins this week.
- Congratulations to RMHS Tennis player Alan Nguyen on his strong showing in the State Individual Tennis Tournament.
- Congratulations to softball for qualifying for the MIAA post season tournament.
- Congratulations to the RMHS students inducted into the Spanish Honor Society.
- Thanks to the Faculty/Staff at Birch Meadow, Coolidge and Parker for hosting their final open houses of the year.
- Congratulations to RMHS English teacher Kate Crosby who recently had a story published in *The Bellingham Review*. Along with the publication of her story, Kate was selected for the "Contributor's Spotlight" section on their website. Check out the interview with Kate [here](#):

- Dynamic Planet won a 4th place medal-- Henry Bresnahan and Kevin Upton
- 9th in Disease Detectives for Matt Mejail and Gavin Pu.
- 10th in Rocks and Minerals for Ava Serrano and Sam Lonks.

A special thanks goes out to Coolidge Head Coach Karawan Meade, and Assistant Coaches Dan Cody and Jerry Coyne for the countless hours that they have put into the team experience this year. Additional thanks goes out to the Coolidge Science Olympiad Parent Support Group for all of their support this year.

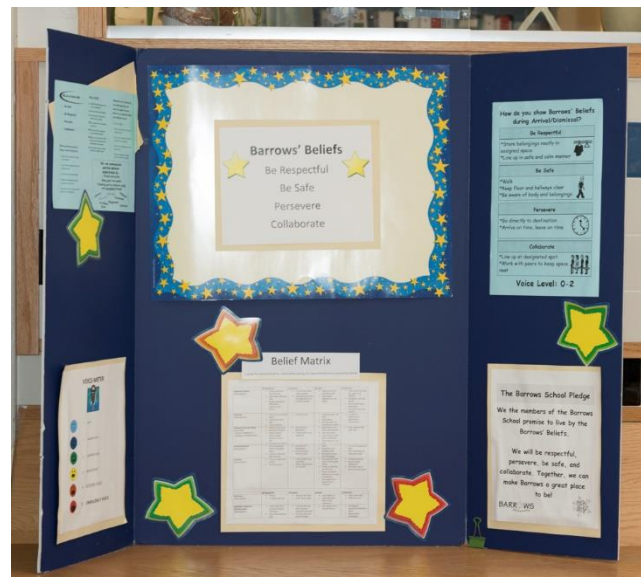
## Barrow Models Good Behavior, Thanks to MTSS

In the second year of implementing its Multi-Tier Systems of Support (MTSS) plan, the Alice M. Barrows Elementary School is keeping what's working and making changing to things that need improving.

Each school in the Reading school district implements its own age-appropriate MTSS plan because a plan for Reading Memorial High School would not necessarily be effective for the RISE Preschool. Nonetheless, each school in Reading shares the same overall: to improve each school – inside and outside the classroom – to support the academic and non-academic needs of *all* students. Additionally, each school seeks "to instill a joy of learning by inspiring, engaging and supporting our youth to become the innovative leaders of tomorrow."

Based on best practices and professional development training, the Barrow leadership team reviews the relevant data and then develops a plan that to improve outcomes by making the smallest change to make the biggest impact. The leadership team is also committed to never adding something new unless it can identify something it will stop doing in order to open up resources for the necessary work.

As a foundation to its MTSS framework, Barrow leverages an interactive modeling of behavior matrix known as Barrows Beliefs. In the interactive matrix, the core values – Be Safe, Be Respectful, Persevere, and Collaborate – are linked to specific actions to help model behavior.



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

*All are welcome*

6/3 (9:00 – 10:00 a.m.)  
RPS Administrative  
Offices

For example, in the cafeteria, there are posters that say, "In the cafeteria, we will:

- **Be Respectful**
  - Clean up our eating space
  - Choose only my seat
  - Listen to adults
- **Persevere**
  - Eat my lunch
- **Be Safe**
  - Eat/touch your own food
  - Stay seated
  - No more than 3-4 students to a bench
- **Collaborate**
  - Include all tablemates in appropriate conversation

In addition to these kinds of posters for the cafeteria, the leadership team developed another approach to improve lunch time. It developed cafeteria protocols for the paraprofessionals, and made cafeteria activity buckets that provided more things to help students gain non-cognitive skills while having fun.

Another important element to Barrow's MTSS is to recognize students for following the core values. This year, Barrows changed the way teachers and staff collect positive recognition data (known as Star tickets. Once, students could get only a paper Star ticket that would be placed on a bulletin board in the hallway. But the leadership team realized the paper-based Stars did not provide additional information because someone would have to go to the bulletin board and then jot down data from what kinds of positive behaviors were most frequently being exhibited.

Now, teachers and staff can go to iPad station in office and award an electronic Star ticket. With the information captured electronically, teachers and staff can automatically create graphs of data that can be shared: among staff at staff meetings or among students at assemblies. The data can be exported to Excel so teachers can monitor and track other trends – and that can be extremely useful in identifying small changes that may have significant, positive impact.



In terms of classroom practices, at staff meetings, teachers listed problem areas or situations, and other teachers would brainstorm and offer suggestions. The

suggestions were typed up and distributed to all teachers and staff. One suggestion that worked well was to develop classroom-specific matrix to provide students with a better sense of expectations and positive behaviors.

Barrows also decided to offer a new set of incentives that students could earn. In addition to Star tickets, which go to individual students, Barrows introduced “Brag Tags,” which provide recognition for an entire classroom. The school found a way to reward grade-level positive behavior or meeting grade-level goals through grade-level dance parties that have further helped improve student outcomes.

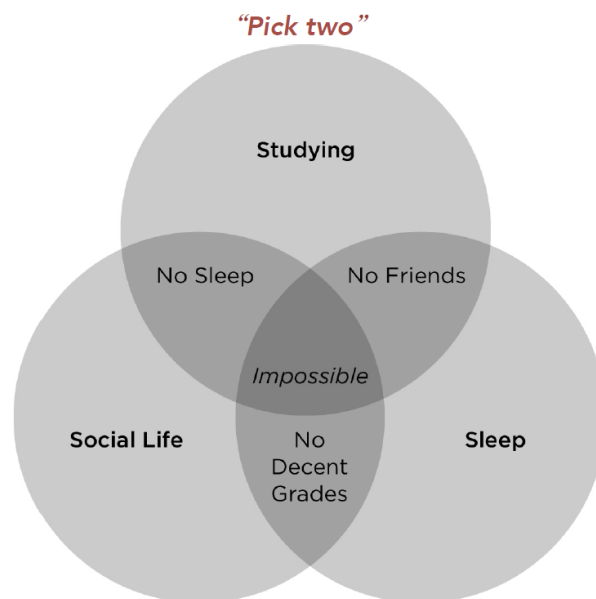
Each leadership team measures the effectiveness of its MTSS framework several times a year. Barrows recently evaluated its progress and presented its findings at a meeting of representatives from all MTSS teams. Using quantitative and qualitative methods, Barrows is able to gauge its effectiveness in improving student outcomes, and is preparing for an improved third year under its MTSS framework in the fall.

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### Reading School PTOs Look at Growing Up Mindful or Growing Up Stressed

Hard to believe, but the most stressed group in America today is not parents. According to the American Psychological Association, that distinction goes to teenagers. Dr. Chris Willard of Harvard Medical School and author of *Growing Up Mindful*, who recently spoke at Parker, says the stress crisis creates a paradox for students, who have to pick between a social life, studying, and sleeping. A student can pick only two, creating a set of difficult ramifications, Dr. Willard notes.

## THE STUDENT PARADOX



At the event, sponsored by the Reading Educational Foundation (REF), the Reading Public Schools’ PTOs and by the Joshua Eaton WASH Committee, Dr. Willard offered insights and best practices to help students and their families cope with stress. By paying attention to the

### Quote of the Week . . .



The pessimist sees difficulty in every opportunity, an optimist sees the opportunity in every difficulty.

- Winston Churchill

emotional health of students, an important part of the district's MTSS initiative, schools can better educate their students and prevent larger issues down the road.

## Do You Know About Interface?



**Reading  
Coalition  
Against  
Substance  
Abuse**

## **INTERFACE Referral Service** *a free resource for Reading*

The **Town of Reading**, with coordination by the **Reading Coalition Against Substance Abuse (RCASA)** has invested in a contract with the **Interface Referral Service** to reduce barriers to accessing mental health services.

**WILLIAM JAMES COLLEGE**  
INTERFACE Referral Service

*Free to the town of Reading*

Resource Information  
Provider Referrals

Where can you learn about Mental Health Resources in or near your community?  
How can you access Mental Health Services?

Find answers at the William James College INTERFACE Referral Service website:  
[interface.williamjames.edu](http://interface.williamjames.edu)

Or call the **INTERFACE® Helpline** at  
**1-888-244-6843** Monday-Friday  
9:00 am-5:00 pm.

## Disney Tweet of the Week



Be a better person  
today.

—Mickey Mouse

William James College **INTERFACE Referral Service** works to increase awareness of mental health issues affecting children, families, and adults and facilitates access to appropriate services. Reading residents may call to consult with a mental health professional about resources and/or receive personalized matched referrals, free of charge, based on insurance, location, type of provider needed, and availability.

The process begins with an in-take call that takes 20 minutes. When a Reading resident calls, they will speak with a licensed clinician called an **INTERFACE Resource and Referral Counselor**. The Clinician will talk with the caller to collect basic contact information, background about the individual or their loved one, gather insurance information, their availability to meet with someone, and a summary of their concerns.

*For example, someone may call about an elderly parent who is depressed & needs a therapist, has Medicare, and can only utilize public transportation during daylight hours*

Each caller will receive a case number to keep the process confidential. The Clinician will begin a search for a match by utilizing a tailored search process in their comprehensive database, as well as other resources to find the service the caller has requested.

The **INTERFACE Referral Helpline** is committed to making a match within two weeks of receiving the intake (although it is often much sooner), and counselors usually provide individuals or parents with 2-3 matches. Counselors remain in touch with callers until the individual feels that a good match with a clinician is made. There is no limit to how many times an individual or family can use this service

The Helpline is open Monday-Friday 9am-5pm at 617-332-3666 X1411 or 1-888-244-6843 X1411.

To learn more other communities in Massachusetts currently contracting with this service visit:

[www.interface.williamjames.edu](http://www.interface.williamjames.edu)

**FAQs**



## 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/>



**PARTNERS IN PREVENTION**

### **1. What is INTERFACE?**

This service is for non-crisis situations but is well suited for students and families that need help accessing quality mental health care.

**2. What is the process?** Following a short phone intake, the matching process begins. Once a match is found, the helpline clinician seeks to offer each family at least 3 matches that serve as a starting point to access mental health care. Learn more at **Interface Reading \* What To Expect When You Call**

**2. Who is eligible?** All Reading residents including children, teens, adults, and elders. Any student or family of the Reading Public Schools is eligible. There is no age limit but an adult must call on behalf of a child or teen.

**3. Is there a fee if a family calls the number? NO!** The cost of the referral service is fully supported by an RCASA grant and **The Reading Hospital Trust Fund**. Once a family completes the phone intake, the helpline clinician will be sure to connect the family to a provider that accepts their insurance and the patient is responsible for co-pays and any additional costs.

**4. What if a person uses it once and needs it for another issue?** People can call multiple times.

**5. What if a person doesn't like the provider matches?** The helpline clinician will keep working with a person to find options until they make a better match. The clinicians are also trained to discuss common concerns like accessing care when you have a busy schedule, cost, and provider fit.

**6. What other communities are contracted to use this service?**  
Learn more at **Interface Communities**

**RCASA  
Website**

## Reading Public Schools Happenings

### **RMHS Students Participate in Envirothon**

On May 18<sup>th</sup>, RMHS Students, under the direction of RMHS Science Teacher Martha Moore, participated in the 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Massachusetts Envirothon Educational Program held at Mass Audubon's Drumlin Farm in Lincoln, MA. Over 250 students from 40 schools participated in this event. At the event, the students presented what they've learned about agricultural soil and water conservation, and tested their knowledge of the area's soils, forests, water, and wildlife.



#### **Coolidge Grade 6 Students Participate in Greek Day**

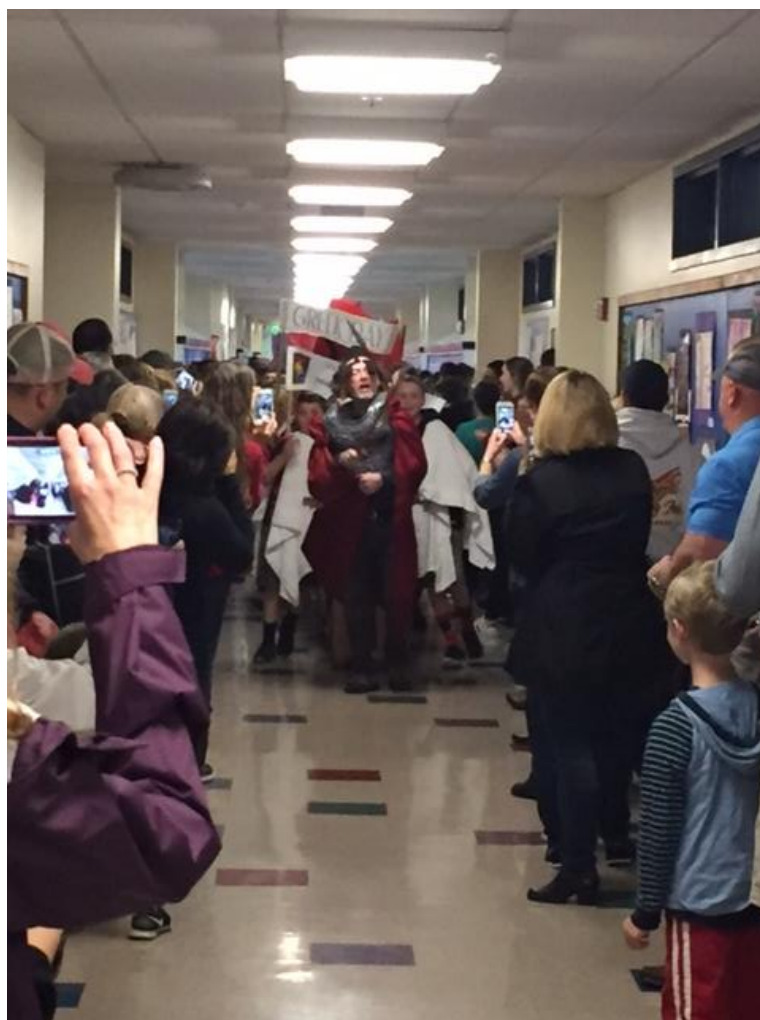
Last Friday, Coolidge Grade 6 Students completed their Social Studies Unit on Ancient Greece by participating in the annual Greek Day activities. On this day, the students participate in Greek Olympic activities. Below are some photos of the opening



ceremonies. Special thanks to Coolidge Grade 6 Social Studies Teachers Ann Jacobsmeier and Mike Bernard for planning this exciting day-long event.



*Grade 6 Chorus Sings National Anthem at Opening Ceremony*





### **Barrows Students Participate in Annual Fun Run**

Last Thursday, Barrows students participated in the annual Fun Run. A special thanks goes out to Barrows Wellness Teacher Sarah Atwood for coordinating the event. Below is a picture of the Grade 3, 4, and 5 winners.



***Barrows Fun Run Grade 3, 4, and 5 Winners***



## 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)

## Stepping Stones...

- Our thoughts go out to Director of Student Services **Carolyn Wilson** on the loss of a loved one recently.
- We welcome the following new staff to the Reading Public Schools:
  - ✓ DJ Cook, Daily Substitute, District
  - ✓ Chloe Boudette, Assistant Teacher, Birch Meadow Extended Day
- **We have posted** a new position. If interested, please visit <https://reading.tedk12.com/hire/index.aspx> to view the job detail

## Blazing Trails...

**"CBS Boston Eye On Education: Middleboro Principal Greet Students With Selfie."** Since the first day of school, the administrators at the John T. Nichols, Jr. Middle School in Middleborough, Massachusetts, have been holding up a sign to greet their students as they come in the door to welcome them to school and show that we are all here caring about them and how they do. They call it #PositiveSignThursday. [Read More](#)

**"Lifting School Leaders."** Great schools depend on great leadership, from administrators to teacher leaders. This issue of ASCD's *Educational Leadership* explores what it takes to develop and support outstanding leaders throughout schools and how these leaders can enhance their practice and mindsets. [Read More](#)

**"Peer Feedback Without the Sting."** Peer feedback can be wrought with judgment, leading some students to "push back" even on constructive comments from classmates. Yet with the right parameters in place, delivering kind and meaningful peer feedback can become "the habit by which kids work." Check it out in this issue of ASCD's Education Update. [Read More](#)

**"Free Is Good."** Open educational resources are freely available online -- if you know where to look -- writes Bethany Rayl, a consultant and former superintendent. In this blog post, she shares several tips for finding quality OER. [Read More](#)

**"Partnership Aims to Expand Coding Lessons in Australia."** Schools across Australia are expected to receive new computers through a partnership between HP Australia and Code Camp. The partnership seeks to expand coding lessons to 200,000 students by 2020. [Read More](#)

**Have a Great Week!**