



# Pathways

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

November 19, 2017

Volume 9, Number 12

## Upcoming Dates

- November 19 – (1:00 p.m.) RMHS Marching Band in Santa Claus Parade in Haverhill; (3:00 p.m.) RMHS Musical Pippin in the Endslo PAC
- November 20 (7:30 p.m.) Town Meeting in the Endslo PAC (if necessary)
- November 20 – (7:00 p.m.) School Committee Meeting in the Endslo PAC
- November 22 – (11:00 a.m.) Early Release Grades PreK – 12
- November 23 – Happy Thanksgiving; (10:00 a.m.) Football vs. Stoneham @ RMHS
- November 24 – No School/Offices Closed
- November 26 – (3:30 p.m.) Annual Downtown Tree Lighting; Cookies & Cocoa after Tree Lighting Ceremony at the First Congregational Church
- November 27 – (7:30 p.m.) Town Meeting in the Endslo PAC (if necessary)
- December 2 – (11:00 a.m.) REF Festival of Trees @ Parker
- December 3 – (9:00 a.m.) REF Festival of Trees @ Parker
- December 4 – School Committee Meeting in the Superintendent's Conference Room
- December 9 – (8:00 a.m.) PSST Craft Faire @ RMHS

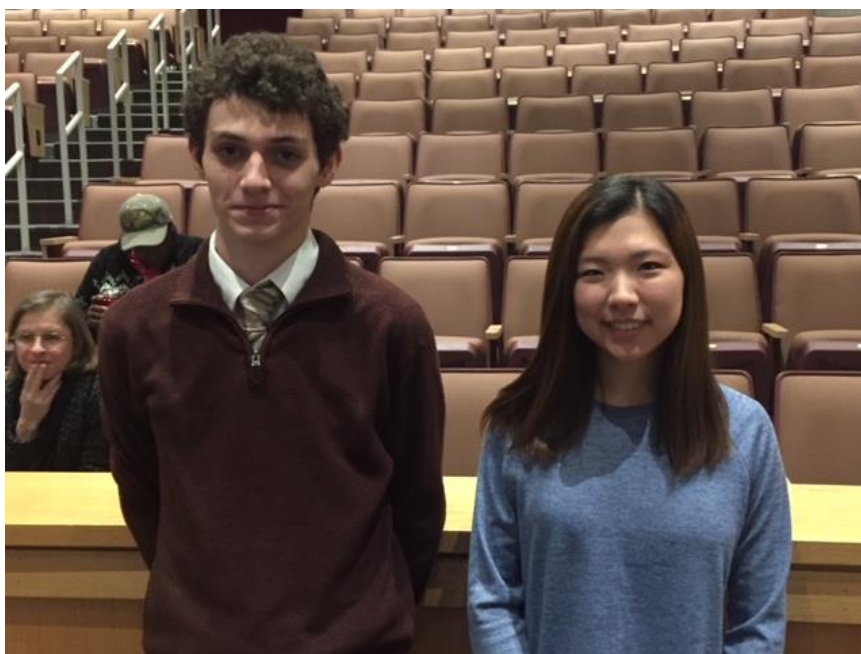
## Superintendent of Schools Delivers State of the Schools Address at Town Meeting

Last Monday evening, Superintendent of Schools John Doherty delivered the annual State of the Schools address during Town Meeting. A copy of the address and the power point presentation can be found in the Reading Post Article located [here](#).

During the remarks, Dr. Doherty focused on the tremendous change that has happened in public education over the last five years and the value that public education provides to a community. He gave three examples of how the Reading Public Schools has been addressing that change with limited resources. Those changes include community building (especially over the last few months with the graffiti incidents), the commitment to close the achievement gap with our students (especially for students with disabilities), and the quality of our staff. To conclude his remarks, Dr. Doherty highlighted two students who received the Massachusetts Association School Superintendent's Award for Academic Excellence (see article below) as examples of how we are seeing results of our work. A youtube video of the speech can be found [here](#).

## RMHS Seniors Recognized at Town Meeting

*Erin Kwon and Mathias Kool Awarded MASS Award*



*Mathias Kool and Erin Kwon*

On Monday evening, November 13<sup>th</sup>, at Town Meeting, Superintendent of Schools John Doherty recognized Reading Memorial High School Seniors, Erin Kwon and Mathias Kool during the State of the Schools Address for receiving the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents Award for Academic and Community Excellence. Only 2 students can receive this award and the criteria include strong academic skills, participation in extracurricular and community service activities, and are currently in the top 5% of their graduating class.

Erin Kwon, attended the Joshua Eaton Elementary School and Parker Middle School and is a member of the Model United Nations Club. She volunteers at the Reading Public Library where she serves as a Net Guide and helps senior citizens use the library technology. A member of the RMHS Symphonic band, this student has excelled in rigorous classes including AP BC Calculus, Physics, AP Biology, AP French, and AP Literature. In addition, this student is in the wind ensemble at the New England Conservatory of Music. This recipient envisions a career in biochemistry and has applied to Northeastern, UMass Amherst, Brown, Harvard, Tufts, Boston College, and Amherst College.

Mathias Kools, also attended Joshua Eaton Elementary School and Parker Middle School and has excelled as a four year member of the RMHS Robotics Team where he has served as a programmer and, now, the business sector president.

Academically, this student is a curious and engaged learner who is currently taking several high level courses including AP BC Calculus, AP Statistics, AP Physics, AP French, Philosophy of Literature, and Principles of Engineering. He is very involved in community service activities, teaching swimming to students at the YMCA who have developmental disabilities and mentoring students in computer coding at the Reading Public Library. Next year, he plans on majoring in Computer Science and is applying to MIT, Carnegie Melon, Harvard, Northeastern, UMass Amherst, and RPI.

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## Basic Training

### THE NAVY PREPARED HIM FOR TUFTS, A NEW SCHOLARSHIP OPENED THE DOOR

BY CATHERINE O'NEILL GRACE FOR **TUFTS UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE**

PHOTO BY MATTHEW HEALY



Keith Wasserboehr takes notes in a class on Bertolt Brecht.

**Note: Keith Wasserboehr is a Psychologist Intern at the Wood End Elementary School**

When Keith Wasserboehr, A16, was working thirteen-hour shifts as a U.S. Navy aviation mechanic in Bahrain, German film studies was the last thing on his mind.

## **Kudos and Accolades**

- Congratulation to RMHS swim team for finishing second in the MIAA North Sectional Championship meet. There were five team records broken at this meet. The 200-yard medley relay (Molly Jones, Anna Roberts, Jillian Rhodes, Alana Loughman), 200 yd. free relay (Kayla Loughman, Anna Roberts, Maura Letendre, Alana Loughman), 100 yd. butterfly (Molly Hamlin), 100 yd. breaststroke (Anna Roberts) and diving (Maddie Doyle)
- Congratulations to RMHS Cheering for a strong showing at the Sectionals.
- To Director of Student Services Carolyn Wilson for her efforts in planning the paraeducator professional development on Friday.
- To Principals Julia Hendrix, Sarah Leveque, and Heather Leonard for presenting to paraeducators on Friday.

But that class turned out to be one of his favorites during his first semester as an undergraduate at Tufts. At twenty-six, he's embarking on the prerequisites for a psychology major, hoping one day to work with adolescents as a therapist. Wasserboehr is following this dream thanks to a new scholarship created for people with military experience or military ambitions: the Tufts ROTC/Veterans Scholarship.

Before his stint in the navy, few would have seen Wasserboehr as college material. Having endured what he calls a "really tough childhood" in Reading, Massachusetts, he struggled in high school. "I was an awful student—seventh worst in my graduating class," he says. He enlisted two months out of school. After basic training in the Great Lakes, he was assigned to the naval air station on Whidbey Island in Washington. His five years on active duty included deployments in Qatar and Bahrain. "I was never on a ship, which is odd for being in the navy," he says, "but I worked on a plane that was too big to fit on ships"—the P3 Orion, a four-engine reconnaissance aircraft with a hundred-foot wingspan. Keeping the planes airworthy was a huge responsibility. "The pressure on the ground crew was intense," Wasserboehr says. "We used to say we had eight days on, zero days off."

When he left the navy, with the rank of petty officer third class, a company in Connecticut offered him an aviation mechanic position, which he seriously considered taking. "I loved being an aviation mechanic," he says. "I like working with my hands, and I loved the camaraderie." But he had injured his back in the service and had degenerative disc disease. "I just couldn't do it," he says. His wife talked him into going back to school instead.

He enrolled in Middlesex Community College, outside of Boston, where a counselor suggested he transfer to Tufts. The university, he says, had "never been on my radar screen." But he applied and got in.

The ROTC/Veterans Scholarship that supports Wasserboehr was established in May 2014 with contributions from more than seventy Tufts alumni. One of those donors is attorney Gregory Arabian, A54, who graduated from Tufts ROTC and rose to the rank of major in the U.S. Air Force. He says Wasserboehr is just the kind of student he had in mind when he supported Tufts' efforts to raise money for the scholarship.

Arabian served in the air force from 1954 into the 1980s and helped establish AMVETS Post 2008, in Belmont, Massachusetts, of which he is commander. He has volunteered with the Veterans History Project of the Library of Congress. These activities "brought me in contact with many veterans from all walks of life—and brought me closer to Tufts," he says.

Arabian's enthusiasm for Tufts had "badly waned" during the Vietnam era, when student protests caused the closure of ROTC units. "We had to reverse this," he says. "I became one of a handful of Tufts graduates who formed Advocates for Tufts ROTC."

Without the ROTC/Veterans Scholarship, attending Tufts full time would not have been possible, Wasserboehr says. "I want to thank the donors, both for supporting

## Superintendent's Office

### Hours this Week

*All are welcome*

11/21 Parker  
(7:30 – 8:30 a.m.)  
11/27 Central Office  
(5:00 – 6:00 p.m.)  
11/29 Barrows  
(12:45 – 1:45 p.m.)  
12/1 RMHS  
(7:15 – 8:15 a.m.)

Tufts and for supporting veterans. In some places we are under supported, but not here. It means a lot to me and to other vets.”

Arabian believes veterans have much to offer the university. “I admire those who volunteer for service and go through the rigors of training,” he says.

These days Wasserboehr is more concerned with the rigors of academia. “The kids here are so driven,” he says. “Though I have more worldly experience, it doesn’t give me a leg up at all. But I bring a different perspective.”

*CATHERINE O’NEILL GRACE is a Boston-area magazine editor and book author.*

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## **Katie Greer Educates Middle School Students About Internet Safety**

*Presentations Funded by the Reading Education Foundation*



*Katie Greer Presenting to Parker Students*

Last week, Internet/Technology safety expert Katie Greer presented to middle school students and to parents on this important topic. Her presentations were funded by a grant from the Reading Education Foundation. Katie has provided nearly a decade of Internet/technology safety education to schools, law enforcement agencies, large corporations, community organizations and at national conferences throughout the United States and Canada. Her unique professional, educational and personal background has resulted in dynamic programs that appeal to all age groups. In February of 2005, Katie L. Greer began developing an Internet safety program to deliver to Massachusetts students. The Corruption, Fraud and Computer Crime Division of the Attorney General’s Office was inundated with requests for Internet safety presentations, and Katie rose to the challenge of expanding the existing program she created. After leaving the Attorney General’s Office, Katie worked full time as an Intelligence Analyst for the Massachusetts State Police, where she was assigned to the Missing Children Clearinghouse. Some of the topics that Ms. Greer covered included:

- Updates on the latest technology trends and dangers
  - Apps
  - Social networks
  - Device trends
  - Latest concerns
- Social media:
  - What’s the latest?



## Quote of the Week . . .



Don't say you don't have enough time. You have exactly the same number of hours per day that were given to Helen Keller, Pasteur, Michelangelo, Mother Teresa, Leonardo da Vinci, Thomas Jefferson, and Albert Einstein.

-H. Jackson Brown

- Age limitations and restrictions
  - Rules and tracking
  - Privacy settings
  - Geo tracking
  - Who are kids connecting with
  - Social media for good
- Digital Tattoos
  - Implications – good and bad – of chronicling our lives online
  - Teaching our kids to use latest tools responsibly
- Interactive gaming: Tips for safe gaming
- Case examples and real life implications
- Cell phones/smartphones/devices:
  - Trends
  - Things to watch out for
  - Sexting
- Cyberbullying laws and legislation: What do they mean? What are the implications? What's coming up and how do we prepare?
- Overview of what message Katie sends to students
- Rules and regulations:
  - Proactive steps to make sure your kids are safety using technology
  - Tools to help you be prepared to help foster a positive online experience for your family
  - Suggested restrictions and rules
- Q&A: Parents are encouraged to asked questions throughout, and the program will end with an open forum allowing parents more time to ask specific questions.

For more information, visit her page at: <http://www.klgreer.com/>. We are very appreciative of the Reading Education Foundation for their funding of this important cause.

## Tree Donors Needed for Festival of Trees



**Reading Education Foundation** is preparing for our **16th Annual Festival of Trees!** Our annual holiday fundraiser is a great family event that helps raise funds to provide teacher grants that go beyond the regular scope of the classroom. Visitors will be delighted and inspired by a winter wonderland of decorated holiday trees that are raffled off to lucky winners! **We need your help to make this event better than ever!**

Our decorated trees and silent auction items are donated by local families, businesses, sports teams, social organizations and schools. With a wide variety of trees and holiday items to choose from, there is something for everyone!

REF will be hosting the celebration on **Saturday, December 2 & Sunday, December 3**, at Parker Middle School. Set up is Friday, December 1 and trees are dropped off between 3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

## Disney Tweet of the Week



"Don't just fly, soar."  
-- Dumbo (Dumbo)

Please consider donating a decorated tree! Creativity is encouraged! In the past, donors have decorated a tree in memory of a loved one, as a family project, to promote a cause or to advertise a business, etc. Neighborhood trees have also been popular. Trees must be artificial and tree size may range from tabletop to 11 feet. Visit our [website www.readingef.org](http://www.readingef.org) for more ideas!

Please [email](mailto:FOT@readingef.org) us at [FOT@readingef.org](mailto:FOT@readingef.org) if you or a group are interested in donating a tree this season. Be sure to include the name of your tree and the name and email address of the contact person dropping off the tree during set up on Friday, December 1.

Thank you for your continued support!

Sincerely,

**Festival of Trees Committee Chairs**

**Laurie Hilliard, Laura O'Neill and Andrea Nelson**



Reading Education Foundation  
Outside the box ~ Inside the classroom.

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## Inclusive Schools in December

*A Message from the Anti-Defamation League*

With the December holidays right around the corner, public schools face the annual challenge of acknowledging the season without making children of minority faiths feel like outsiders or indoctrinating religion. **It's called the December Dilemma, and ADL is an expert on the topic.**

To help create welcoming and inclusive learning environments for all students, we are sharing the following ADL resources with you:

- **A webinar for educators on navigating the December holidays in public schools**
- **Considerations for creating inclusive holiday programs**
- **Answers to common legal questions about the December Dilemma**

For more information about ADL's education programs in New England please contact our education department at [boston@adl.org](mailto:boston@adl.org) or 617-406-6300.

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## Reading Rotary and Interact Club Sponsor Thanksgiving Breakfast

The Reading Rotary Club and RMHS Interact Club will be sponsoring a Thanksgiving Day Breakfast on **Thursday, November 23<sup>rd</sup>** (Thanksgiving Day) from 8:00-10:00 a.m. in the Reading Memorial High School Cafeteria. The cost is will be \$10.00 for 12 years and older, \$7.00 for children 5-12 years old, and free for anyone under 5. This year the Reading vs. Stoneham Football game is at Reading Memorial High School and tickets will be on sale at the breakfast.

## Important Websites

### RPS District Website

[www.reading.k12.ma.us](http://www.reading.k12.ma.us)

### Interface Health Services

<https://interface.williamjames.edu/community/reading>

### Need help finding mental health care?



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/>

Reading Rotary Club is a community service organization and is a proud supporter of the Reading Public Schools. The RMHS Interact Club is the student branch of the Reading Rotary Club and provides community service to the greater Reading Community.

Come and have breakfast before the game!

## Reading Public Schools Happenings

### **RMHS High Fives For This Week**

Below are this week's RMHS High Fives for the Class of 2018.

### **Kirsten Stevens, Class of 2018**



Kirsten is being recognized for her excellent achievement in academics, athletics, leadership, and service. Kirsten is in the top 5% of the Senior Class and has received Century Club honors in 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, and 11<sup>th</sup> grade. She is also a member of the National Honor Society and the Spanish National Honor Society, and last year, received the prestigious Clark University Book Award, as well as the Scholarship Award in Physics. Athletically, Kirsten is a 4-year member and co-captain of the Girls Varsity Swim Team. She helped lead the Lady Rockets to a State Championship last year and to an impressive undefeated record in the Middlesex League over the past 3 consecutive seasons. Kirsten excels in the 500 and 200-yard freestyle events and has been named as a Middlesex League All-Star for 3 years in a row. In terms of service, Kirsten acts as a volunteer coach with the EMARC Dolphins—a special Olympic swim team—assisting individuals with disabilities to compete. She also teaches swim lessons to elementary-aged children with disabilities and provides them with swimming instruction, as well as confidence overall. Kirsten also coaches the BYB swim team, which consists of children ages 5-11 and helps them to successfully compete in local swim meets. Lastly, Kirsten coaches an introduction to competitive swim class at the YMCA to children of all ages, hoping to spark a love of the water and of competing against themselves and

others, as she has done for so long herself. Next year, Kirsten will be attending college and will be majoring in biomedical engineering.

**Andrew Yatsuhashi, Class of 2018**



Andrew is being recognized for his outstanding achievement in academics, athletics, activities, and service. Academically, Andrew is in the top 10% of the Senior Class and has taken a mixture of Honors and AP courses over his time at RMHS. This year, he has challenged himself by taking AP Physics 1, AP Spanish, and AP Calculus AB. He is also a member of the National Honor Society and of the Spanish National Honor Society. Athletically, Andrew is a 3-year member of the Varsity Cross Country Team and has earned Middlesex League All-Star honors. He is also a 3-year member and co-captain of both the Indoor and Outdoor Track Teams and earned Middlesex League All-Star recognition for the 1-mile. Musically, Andrew is a 4-year member of the Symphonic Band and serves as this year's Senior Class Representative. Last year, he helped the Symphonic Band to win Silver at the MICCA Festival. He is also a two-year member of the Stage Band and the Jazz Band, which won 2 Gold Medals last year at the MAJE Festival and then later performed at the Hatch Shell in Boston. Andrew also participates actively as a Boy Scout and recently was awarded Eagle Scout status after completing his illumination project at St. Agnes Church. In this project, he helped to illuminate the stained glass windows in order to be visible at night for all to see. In other areas of service, Andrew volunteers during the summers doing leadership trainings at a Boy Scout camp in New Hampshire where he mentors young men ages 12-16. He also helps fellow Scouts throughout the year to complete the necessary skills to advance to the next level. Lastly, Andrew volunteers his time assisting at track camp, coaching 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders how to properly compete in the various track events. Next year, Andrew will be attending college and will be pursuing a degree in engineering. Congratulations, Andrew!

**RMHS Student Athletes Sign Letters**

Last week, three RMHS Student Athletes signed National Letters of Intent or National Letters of Commitment to play a sport at a college next year. Congratulations to the



following students, their coaches, and their families on this outstanding milestone in their lives.

- Kevin Spear signed a National Letter of Intent for swimming to attend Drexel University
- Jack Geiger signed a National Letter of Intent for Lacrosse to attend UMASS Amherst
- Ben Brungardt signed a National Letter of Commitment to play baseball at UMASS Amherst



*Kevin Spear*



*Jack Geiger*

## 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)



*Ben Brungardt*

### **STEM In Action at RISE**

Students in Joyce Camenker's RISE Preschool Class are becoming future engineers by building towers and other structures with solo cups.



*Wood End*



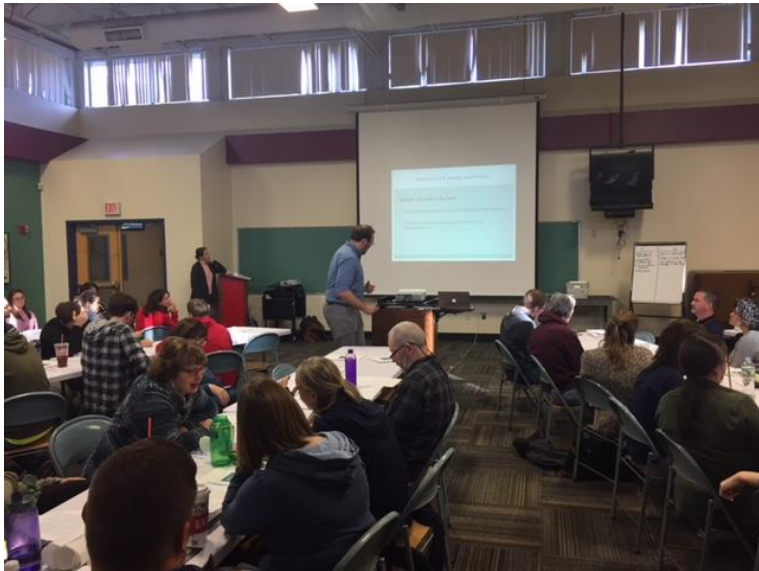


### November 17<sup>th</sup> Training

During the November 17<sup>th</sup> Conference and Inservice Day, there were several trainings going on for middle school teachers, nurses, and paraeducators. At the middle school level, all staff received training in the curriculum *Facing History and Ourselves* which is being implemented during Advisory this year. Preschool, Elementary and High School paraeducators received training on a variety of topics including math and literacy instruction, inclusive practices, the many faces of autism, special education basics, underage substance abuse, and collaborative problem solving. Nurses received training on 504 accommodations.



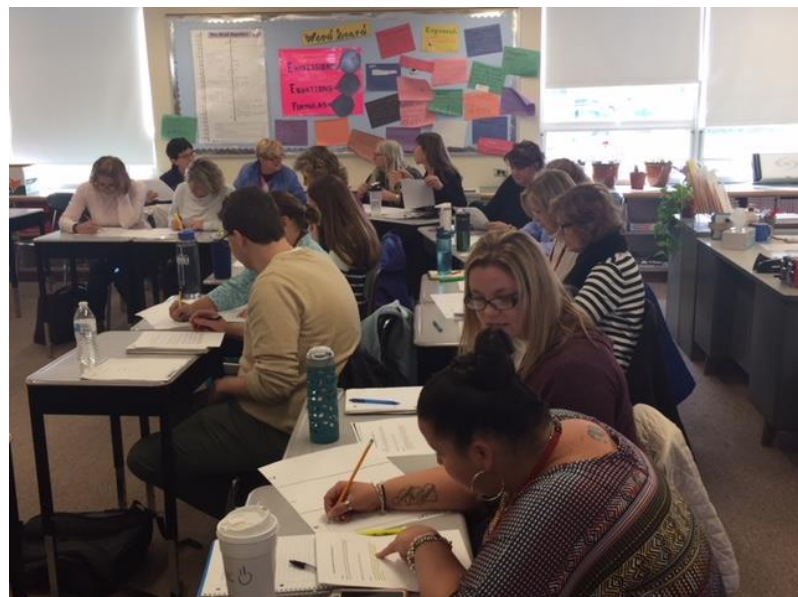
*Parker Facing History Training*



*Coolidge Facing History Training*



*Carolyn Wilson providing training to Nurses on 504 Accommodations*



*Paraeducator Training*



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## Stepping Stones...

- Congratulations to RMHS paraeducator **Vanessa Fisher** on the birth of her son Gunnar Alexander on November 10<sup>th</sup> weighing 7 lbs., 8 oz.
- Our thoughts go out to Joshua Eaton Tutor **Robin Regazzini** who lost a close family member recently.
- We welcome the following new staff to the Reading Public Schools:
  - Gregg Bennett, Daily Substitute, District
  - Kerry Lewis, Daily Substitute, District
  - Patrick Lafortune, Daily Substitute, District
  - Andrea Scullin, 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

Long-Term Substitute 1.0 FTE Grade 5 Teacher, Birch Meadow Elementary School
<a href="https://reading.tedk12.com/hire/ViewJob.aspx?JobID=402">https://reading.tedk12.com/hire/ViewJob.aspx?JobID=402</a>
Volunteer Softball Coaching Assistant, Reading Memorial High School
<a href="https://reading.tedk12.com/hire/ViewJob.aspx?JobID=403">https://reading.tedk12.com/hire/ViewJob.aspx?JobID=403</a>

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## Blazing Trails...

**"Getting the Most out of Group Work."** No fault to social learning theorists like Lev Vygotsky, but all of us can recall a time when a group assignment was more pain than gain. What went wrong? In this ASCD Express issue, we'll discuss the questions all teachers must consider if they want group work to lead to academic and social growth. [Read More](#)

**"Marblehead Elementary School Adds Up the Fun in a Math Night."** Educators at a Massachusetts elementary school held a family math night, where students and parents tested their skills while playing math games. The Second Grade Family Math Night event focused on skills related to addition and subtraction. [Read More](#)

**"What Works for Boosting Student Engagement."** Six education leaders highlight some of their favorite strategies for engaging students in learning. Pennsylvania principal Richard Gordon IV emphasizes the importance of forming relationships with students and families. [Read More](#)

**"How Teachers Can Improve Grading."** Grading can be challenging, asserts author and motivation expert Barbara Blackburn. In this blog post, she shares several grading tips for new teachers, including grading for quality rather than completion, involving students in the process and never giving zeroes. [Read More](#)

**"Hong Kong Seeks to Rebrand 'Vocational Education.'"** Vocational training in Hong Kong needs a rebrand, asserts Carrie Yau, executive director of the Vocational Training Council. Yau says it's important to change the mindsets of parents and educators who see vocational training as 'blue-collar' education. In fact, it plays a vital role in Hong Kong's development, and more is now being done to increase the academic opportunities for students who choose this path. In this commentary, she highlights some initiatives that seek to change perceptions, such as adopting the new name, "vocational and professional education and training." [Read More](#)

**Have a Happy and Healthy Thanksgiving Holiday!**