



Pathways

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

June 10, 2018

Volume 4, Number 38

Upcoming Dates

- June 11 – (1:00 p.m.)
Grades 5 & 8 Move-Up
Day; (6:30 p.m.) RMHS
Future Freshmen Night in
the Hawkes Field House
- June 20 – Last Day of
School; (11:00 a.m.)
Release Prek - 12

RMHS Graduation

Class of 2018 Graduates 275 Students

Last Sunday, Reading Memorial High School held its graduation for 275 members of the Class of 2018 on a beautiful June day in the Walter E. Hawkes Field House. As part of the graduation, the Processional and Recessional were played by the Reading Memorial High School Band, under the direction of Joseph Mulligan. The National Anthem was sung by Emily Cain. The addresses were conducted by Emma Watson, Mathias Kool (with the support of Dan Texeira), and Charles Wang. The RMHS Singers, under the direction of Kristin Killian, sang the song, *I Lived*. Principal Adam Bakr and Superintendent of Schools John Doherty gave congratulatory remarks as well.

We would like to thank the following people who helped make this graduation possible: Class of 2018 Advisors Jennifer Cambra and Jennifer Hagopian, Secretaries Lynne Cerretani-Clarke, Illeana Napoli, Carmen O'Rourke, and Stacy Scouten, Flower Shoppe of Eric's, RCTV, the RMHS Custodial Staff, and the RMHS Facilities Department.



RMHS Class of 2018

Kudos and Accolades

- Congratulations to girls lacrosse and baseball on recent wins.



RMHS Band



Former School Committee Member Rob Spadafora Presents Diploma to His Daughter, Sofia.



School Committee Chair Charles Robinson Presents Diploma to Andrew Yatsuhashi

Update on Barrows Principal Search

Good Morning, Reading Public School Community,

We are pleased to announce the four finalists for the position of Barrows Elementary Principal. They are as follows:

- Beth Leavitt, Grade 2 Teacher, E. Ethel Little Elementary School, North Reading, MA
- Kari-ann Murphy, Assistant Principal, Arthur T. Cummings Elementary School, Winthrop, MA
- Kathleen Riordan, Principal, Abbot-Downing School, Concord, NH
- Michael Mondello, Principal, Lynnhurst Elementary School, Saugus, MA

Last Wednesday, June 6th, there was a Community Open Microphone Session and this Tuesday, the candidates will visit Barrows which will include student and staff interviews, a tour of the school, interviews with the District Leadership Team, and a classroom observation. An announcement of an appointment is scheduled to be made on or before June 20th.

We would like to thank the members of the Barrows Screening Committee for all of their hard work during the interview process. The members include:

Quote of the Week . . .



“Step outside of your comfort zone. Never stop learning. Never stop growing.”

- Jennifer Bove, Human Resources Administrator
- Sean Donahue, HR Generalist for Town of Reading
- Richele Shankland, Principal Parker Middle School
- Joanne King, Principal Wood End Elementary School
- Carina Becker, Teacher
- Julie Gilchrist, Teacher
- Carole Casavant, Teacher
- Donna Walsh, Secretary,
- Kristen Agami, Parent

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Reading Public Schools Administration Offices at 781-944-5800.

Teachers: Summer Reading to Cultivate Your Emotional Resilience

Immerse yourself in these books to renew yourself for the coming school year.

By **Elena Aguilar** for **Edutopia**

Ever since I was a young child, the long days of summer have been for reading. Early in the morning and late into the night, sitting on a beach or lying on the living room floor, I devoured book after book. Novels took me on the journeys and adventures I yearned for; memoirs connected me with shared humanity. Books made me stronger: They put my sadness and loneliness into perspective, suggested routes around the obstacles in my life, and gave me clues as to how I could not only surmount challenges, but thrive in spite of them. By the end of summer, my literary immersion had renewed me for another school year.

This summer, let books be your teachers. Let them teach you how to become more resilient, how to bounce back after adversity, and how to thrive (not just survive). Resilience is like a muscle that you can strengthen with a variety of daily practices in order to cultivate a set of dispositions or mental attitudes. Optimism, for example, is a key disposition of a resilient person, as are acceptance, hope, humor, and mindfulness.

I selected the following reading recommendations because of their potential to cultivate the dispositions of a resilient educator. Some directly explore resilience, while others give us an opportunity to see the growth of another person. I offer these to you in the hopes that by the time the back-to-school sales begin, you'll be inoculated against the predictable stressors of the fall. So dive in.

Hope in the Dark: Untold Histories, Wild Possibilities

Hope in the Dark is a slim volume by Rebecca Solnit that is essential reading for anyone who aspires to do good in this world and needs a boost of hope that we can make positive political change. Lyrical prose will pull you right in, and you'll see how the perspective we take and the way that we tell stories (and history) can give us tremendous hope.

Ode to Common Things

Pablo Neruda's collection of poetry will bring you into the present moment and heighten your appreciation of everyday things. Neruda reminds us that all that surrounds us—

Disney Tweet of the Week



"The things that make me different are the things that make me ME."

-- Piglet (Winnie the Pooh)

including socks and lemons—can be transcendent, and with his words he brings us into awareness of what we take for granted. His words are a meditation, to be read in silence or aloud, over and over again.

Becoming Wise: An Inquiry Into the Mystery and Art of Living

This book is like a super-vitamin of hope, insight, brilliance, and humanity, with some science, history, poetry, and an exploration of faith. The author, Krista Tippett, is on my short list of people I dream of having dinner with as I'm sure that a couple hours with her would add 10 years to my life. Until then, I'll just listen to the book again (I loved the audiobook because Tippett is the reader and there are conversations with others interspersed). If you aren't familiar with Tippett's podcast, [On Being](#), be sure to spend some time this summer listening to these poignant and illuminating interviews.

The Blue Sweater: Bridging the Gap Between Rich and Poor in an Interconnected World

Jacqueline Novogratz offers up an inspiring memoir of change, of what a single person can do, and of our shared humanity. Read this to learn about how one woman used her knowledge and power to impact the lives of women in Rwanda, Nairobi, India, and other developing countries, and to remember that we're all connected and are perhaps all responsible for each other.

The Warmth of Other Suns: The Epic Story of America's Great Migration

What does it take to make great personal change? How have others done this and overcome tremendous challenges? Isabel Wilkerson presents a beautiful account of the massive migration of African Americans from the South to northern and western cities. This book is narrative journalism at its best, heartbreaking and hopeful, and necessary. It has won several awards and prizes for good reason. If you haven't had a chance to dig into it, do so this summer.

A Paradise Built in Hell: The Extraordinary Communities That Arise in Disaster

Another Rebecca Solnit must-read, this book radically shifted some of my beliefs about human nature into a place of immense optimism and hope. Solnit's historical exploration of what happens in places after catastrophes (such as San Francisco after the 1906 earthquake or New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina) will make you feel like human beings are pretty darn great.

Year of Yes: How to Dance It Out, Stand in the Sun, and Be Your Own Person

What a fun, hopeful, entertaining read from Shonda Rhimes. It made me think deeply about what I say yes to, and what I say no to. Since reading it, I've definitely said no to others more often than previously (so as to create space for saying yes more often to what I really want to do).

With the exception of Neruda, this list is all nonfiction and is where I'm finding much solace these days, in contrast to the fictional worlds in which I spent my childhood.

Reading Public Schools Happenings

Final RMHS High Fives for the 2017-18 School Year

Below are the final RMHS High Fives for the 2017-18 School Year.

Important Websites

RPS District Website
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/>

Emma Weston, Class of 2018



Emma Weston is being recognized as this year's final High Five recipient. Emma has committed herself to academics over the past four years of high school making her title of Class Salutatorian well-deserved. During her high school career, Emma was a four-year member of the Century Club, a two-year member of the National Honor Society, and she was a National Merit Commended Scholar. Additionally, Emma has received the Computing Medal Book Award and the James E. Klepis Scholarship for Top Achievement. Outside of the classroom, Emma has dedicated her time to RMHS clubs such as Model United Nations and Girl Rising. Emma also volunteered her time as a mentor for students at Coolidge Middle School for four years, a tutor at Kumon, and a Book Mate at the Reading Public Library. Next year, Emma plans to attend Tufts University where she will study Chemical Engineering. Congratulations, Emma!

Mathias Kools, Class of 2018



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

Mathias is being recognized for his excellence in academics and for his involvement with service through activities. He is the Valedictorian of the Class of 2018 and the winner of the Harvard Book Award. He is also a member of the National Honor Society, challenging himself this year by taking four AP courses in Statistics, Physics, Calculus, and French. Mathias has also been awarded the Patrick A. Schettini, Jr. Memorial Scholarship, the Robotics Scholarship, the Presidential Gold Award, and is a National Merit Commended Scholar. In terms of activities, Mathias has concentrated his time and energy in the Robotics Club in a number of ways. He is the Business President of the club and was the Awards Lead last year, helping the Robotics team to win multiple entrepreneurship awards. He has also led numerous presentations to corporations in order to build and increase sponsorship and has contributed to the community by conducting an annual outreach Robotics Day at the Reading Public Library as a way to increase interest in robotics and in STEM. Lastly, Mathias works with a group of young women called "Girls Who Code" in an effort to help increase female participation and interest in the Sciences. Next year, Mathias will be attending Northeastern University's Honors Program, majoring in Computer Science. Congratulations to Mathias!

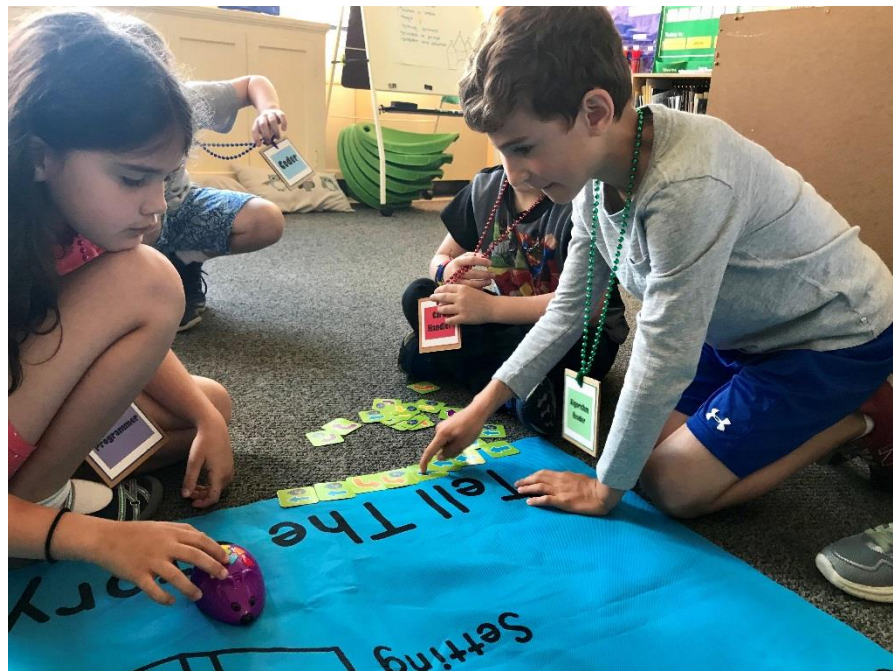
RMHS Financial Fair

On Friday, RMHS Juniors participated in a Financial Fair, sponsored by Reading Cooperative Bank, under the direction of Michael Foley. Students learned how to navigate their finances through a variety of life stations including housing, education, college loans, and food. It was a fantastic educational experience. Many thanks to Reading Cooperative Bank for sponsoring the event and all of the volunteers who helped make it possible.



Coding at Joshua Eaton

Recently, Grade 1 students in Kelley McQuillin's class used coding mice to retell a story. Below are some photos of the event. Special thanks to Instructional Technology Specialist Kathleen Santilli for teaching the activity.



Stepping Stones...

- Our thoughts go out to Barrows teacher **Julie Gilchrist** who lost a loved one recently.
- Our thoughts go out to Joshua Eaton teacher **Kathleen Ingemi** who lost a loved one recently.
- Our thoughts go out to Joshua Eaton paraeducator **Lauren Johnson** who lost her grandmother recently.
- Our thoughts go out to Joshua Eaton Principal **LisaMarie Ippolito** who lost a loved one recently.

- We welcome the following new staff to the Reading Public Schools:
 - ✓ Ashley Coursen, Student Helper, Extended Day
- We have posted a new position. If interested, please visit <https://reading.tedk12.com/hire/index.aspx> to view the job detail

1.0FTE English Teacher, Reading Memorial High School https://reading.tedk12.com/hire/ViewJob.aspx?JobID=501

Blazing Trails...

"What it Means to Be a True Leader." What is true leadership? Many times, when you come across the word leader you see the word follower aligned in some way. Leadership is not about attracting others to follow. This conveys a sense of power, authority, and control that might serve well in the short term by getting others to fall into line through conformity, but it doesn't create the conditions necessary for sustaining change. The definition and resulting perception of the term leader needs a makeover as stated in this ASCD InService post by Eric Sheninger and Tom Murray. [Read More](#)

"A Better List of Ideas for Project-Based Learning." At TeachThought, they're huge fans of project-based learning. While there is no magic bullet of practice, program, or framework that automatically produces progressive and effective learning, what makes project-based learning exceptional is its flexibility. As it is, first and foremost, simply a curriculum planning tool, so much other "good stuff" that can support learning (game-based learning, learning simulations, place-based education, self-directed learning, etc.) can all be "embedded" in project-based learning. [Read More](#)

"Social And Emotional Learning Programs Spreading In US Schools." On its "All Things Considered" program and in its "Shots" blog, NPR reports that the "Resilience Builder Program" is "form of group therapy designed to help students who are struggling with trauma or cognitive disorders - or everyday anxiety caused by things like bullying or moving schools." The program is the brainchild of psychologist Mary Alvord, PhD. According to NPR, "in Australia, Canada and the UK, social and emotional learning in schools is already being implemented on a large scale." In the US, it has also "spread, but not as quickly as some would hope." [Read More](#)

"62 Great Critical Thinking Questions." We're always looking for ways to get our kids to think more deeply. Critical thinking skills are really important. So, we've rounded up all of the best critical thinking questions to help you get your students to the next level. [Read More](#)

"International Education Expert Suggests Banning Smartphones in Schools." Smartphones are distracting students in the classroom and should be banned in primary schools, asserts Pasi Sahlberg, a Finnish education expert and incoming professor at the University of New South Wales in Australia. He suggests that leaders at individual schools be given the authority to make the best decisions for their schools about smartphone access. [Read More](#)

Have a Great Week!