



Pathways

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

December 2, 2018

Volume 10, Number 13

Upcoming Dates

- December 1 – (10:00 a.m.)
REF Festival of Trees @ the
Parker Middle School
- December 2 – (10:00 a.m.)
REF Festival of Trees @ the
Parker Middle School
- December 4 – (6:30 p.m.)
RMHS Sophomore Guidance
Night in the Endslo PAC
- December 5 – Grade 6 – 12
Early Release; (6:00 p.m.)
Coolidge Winter Concert in
the Endslo PAC
- December 6 – (7:00 p.m.)
School Committee Meeting
in the RMHS Library; (7:00
p.m.) Parker Grade 8 & Jazz
Band Winter Concert @
Parker
- December 8 – (10:00 a.m.)
RMHS Drama Dickens
Marketplace @ RMHS
- December 11 – Parker
Winter Concerts – (6:00
p.m.) Grade 6 & (7:45 p.m.)
Grade 7
- December 13 – (7:00 p.m.)
RMHS Choral Songfest in the
Endslo PAC
- December 19 – (7:00 p.m.)
RMHS Winter Concert in the
Endslo PAC
- December 20 – (7:00 p.m.)
School Committee in the
RMHS Library
- December 21 – Winter break
begins at the end of the
school day
- December 24 – January 1 –
Winter Break – No
School/Offices Open

RMHS Students Chosen For All Eastern Honors Choir

Congratulations to the following RMHS Choral students, under the direction of Kristin Killian, who have been selected to participate in the 2019 NAFME All-Eastern Honors Choir:

Antonio Ruiz-Nokes has selected to participate in the 2019 NAFME All-Eastern Honors Mixed Choir [320 singers]

Isabel Molettieri has been selected to participate in the 2019 NAFME All-Eastern Honors Women's Choir [120 singers]



Antonio Ruiz-Nokes and Isabel Molettieri

This incredible opportunity happens once every two years. In order to be considered for these prestigious groups you have to have been accepted (and participated) in both the Sr. Districts Music Festival and the All-State Music Festival of the previous school year. Our district and all-state selection is quite rigorous, so you can imagine the competition at this level! Isabel and Antonio will be singing with the top musicians from CT, DC, DE, MA, ME, NH, NJ, NY, RI, PA, VT, and Europe. I am so proud of how hard they both have worked to achieve this - it's taken an amazing amount of dedication. I am so excited for them!

The All-Eastern music ensembles will be rehearsing and performing April 4-7th in Pittsburgh, PA. Mixed Choir will be singing under the direction of Rollo Dillworth [Temple University] and the Women's Choir under the direction of Sandra Snow [Michigan State University].

Congratulations to Antonio and Isabel!

Author Visits Killam, Barrows, and Birch Meadow Elementary Schools

Bridget Heos, accomplished author of over a 100 non-fiction books as well as the popular Mustache Baby series, visited Killam, Barrows and Birch Meadow Elementary Schools this week. She told the students how she has been writing stories since she was a small child and that every good story starts with just a small moment. We want to thank Liz Whitelam from Whitelam Books for coordinating our books sales and Mary Ann Quinn, real estate broker from Premier Realty Group and grandparent of Killam student Maggie Sisson, for donating copies of Bridget Heos' books to many of our Reading elementary school classrooms. The first picture is of Bridget Heos, Mary Ann Quinn, and her granddaughter Maggie. The second picture is of Maggie's first grade class and the author all wearing mustaches!



Kudos and Accolades

- Congratulations to the cast and crew of the RMHS Drama Production of *Mamma Mia* on an amazing production.
- Congratulations to the RMHS football team on an exciting Thanksgiving Day victory over Stoneham. The Rockets finished the season with an 8-2 record.
- Congratulations to the Girls Swim Team for winning the Division 2 State Championship for the 2nd year in a row.

Hour of Code Resources for This Week

By: Heather Leonard, K-6 STEM Coordinator, Reading Public Schools

December 3-9 is the week of “Hour of Code.” It takes place during Computer Science Education Week – a week held in recognition of the birthday of Grace Hopper (a pioneer in computing!) You don’t have to be an expert to allow your students exposure and opportunity to coding. There are many resources that make it simple for classrooms to try (including some unplugged opportunities.) Check them out below!

Websites & Online Resources

- Hour of Code: <https://hourofcode.com/us>
- Code.org: <https://code.org/>
- Code with Scratch: <https://scratch.mit.edu/>
- Computer Science Education Week: <https://csedweek.org/educate/hoc>
- Check out these “unplugged” coding activities: <https://code.org/curriculum/unplugged>
- Check out this BrainPopJR video: Computer Programming: <https://jr.brainpop.com/artsandtechnology/technology/computerprogramming/>

Robots

- Check out some of the cool things you can do with Dash & Dot (available at all elementary schools – ask your library/media specialist!): <https://www.pinterest.com/TeachWonder/teacher-projects-with-dash-dot/?lp=true>
- Check out the MiP robot (available at all elementary schools – ask your library/media specialist!): <https://wowwee.com/mip>

Historical Figures in Coding

- Dr. Grace Hopper: <http://www.women-inventors.com/Dr-Grace-Murray-Hopper.asp>
- Hidden Figures – *If you didn’t get a chance to use our October Book of the Month – Hour of Code is a great time to read and discuss it! Every school has a copy of this book!* <http://www.hiddenfigures.com/>
- Ada Lovelace – World’s First Computer Programmer (*and ½ of the namesake of the character Ada Twist, Scientist!*) – also the daughter of Poet Lord Byron! https://kids.kiddle.co/Ada_Lovelace
- Charles Babbage (worked with Ada!): https://kids.kiddle.co/Charles_Babbage
- Seymore Papert (creator of Lego Mindstorms Kits!): <http://www.papert.org/>

Apple Stores have events to celebrate Hour of Code – check them out here: <https://www.apple.com/today/collection/hourofcode/>

Don’t worry – if the timing doesn’t work for you next week – most of these resources are free and are available all the time... so hold your “Hour of Code” anytime! Happy Programming!

Computer Science Timeline

- **1843** – Mathematician Ada Lovelace writes about programming while she works with Charles Babbage, who creates the first plans for a mechanical computer. Lovelace writes an algorithm, or program, that could be used on this computer, which is why many consider her **the first computer programmer**.

Superintendent's Office

Hours this Week

All are welcome

12/4 RMHS
6:45 – 7:45 a.m.

12/7 Killam
7:30 – 8:30 a.m.

12/12 Barrows
1:00 – 2:00 p.m.

12/13 Superintendent's
Office
4:00 – 5:00 p.m.

- **1938** – Konrad Zuse completes the design and build of the Z1, the first freely programmable computer. It is a complex mechanical calculator that uses binary code, or “ones and zeros.”
- **1945** – John Mauchly and J. Presper Eckert complete the **Electronic Numerical Integrator Analyzer and Computer (ENIAC)**, the first electronic computer. This makes it much faster than previous mechanical machines. Used by the U.S. Military to do ballistics calculations, the ENIAC weighs 30 tons and fills an entire 1,800 square foot room. Six women become the ENIAC’s main programmers: Jean Jennings Bartik, Kay McNulty, Betty Snyder, Marlyn Wescoff, Fran Bilas, and Ruth Lichterman.
- **1959** – COBOL, the first programming language to use words instead of numbers, is developed based on the work of Grace Hopper, a math professor and Navy rear admiral.
- **1963** – **Douglas Engelbert invents the computer mouse**. The device is nicknamed a “mouse” because it resembles the rodent, and the term seems to stick. At Stanford Research Institute, he helped to lay the foundation for the graphical user interface (GUI), which allows users to operate the computer visually on a screen using icons and a pointing device.
- **1969** – Computer scientist **J.C.R. Licklider’s work greatly influences the development of the modern Internet**. An Internet pioneer, he develops the ARPANET, the direct predecessor of the Internet, named after the U.S. Department of Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (ARPA). He and his team exchange computer communications between universities.
- **1969** – Ken Thompson, Dennis Ritchie, Doug McIlroy, and Joe Ossanna begin working on a multiuser operating system at AT&T’s Bell Labs. The system will become known as UNIX.
- **1970** – The programming language SQL, which stands for “Structured Query Language,” begins development at IBM.
- **1973** – The Xerox Alto is released, becoming one of the first personal computers for individual use. It is also the **first computer with a desktop monitor and GUI**. Before GUIs, computers were operated with only a keyboard. The Xerox Alto offered the capability to program in four different languages.
- **1973** – The fourth edition of UNIX is rewritten in C programming language. This allows the operating system to be moved to different computers, which will have a huge impact on the development of later systems.
- **1975** – Programmers Bill Gates and Paul Allen partner up to found a startup company called Microsoft. Their goal is to get “a computer on every desktop and in every home.”
- **1976** – Programmers Steve Jobs and Steve Wozniak found Apple Computer Company.
- **1977** – Apple Computer releases the first personal computer with color graphics, the Apple II.
- **1980** – Tim Paterson leads the development of 86-DOS (“Disk Operating System”), the first in a series of early operating systems, at Seattle Computer Products.
- **1981** – An early version of MS-DOS, Microsoft’s first computer operating system, is developed by Microsoft to run on IBM computers.
- **1981** – The IBM personal computer debuts, transforming the market with its affordable price and combination of personal and business capabilities.
- **1983** – The C++ programming language is developed by Danish computer scientist Bjarne Stroustrup.
- **1983** – **The first mobile phone, Motorola DynaTAC 8000X**, is released. It has a basic operating system that stores contacts, marking the beginning of mobile application development.
- **1984** – Apple releases its first Macintosh personal computer.
- **1985** – Microsoft releases its new operating system Windows 1.0, which can be operated using a mouse.

- **1989** – The World Wide Web (WWW) is created by British scientist Tim Berners-Lee at CERN, a center for scientific research. It is intended to internationally share information between scientists. In the following year, **Berners-Lee also establishes the web's essential components**: hypertext markup language (HTML) for creating web documents, the uniform resource locator (URL) for designating websites, and hypertext transfer protocol (HTTP) for sending and retrieving information on the web.
- **1991** – Dutch programmer Guido van Rossum creates the Python programming language, which focuses on condensing and simplifying code.
- **1991** – Linus Torvalds, a Finnish computer science student, releases Linux kernel. It evolves into Linux, a hugely popular operating system that is open source, which means it is free and can be customized by users.
- **1993** – CERN's World Wide Web code is released to the public, allowing anyone to use and customize it. It quickly becomes a universal web service used on the Internet.
- **1995** – Java programming is created by James Gosling. It's designed to run on most platforms.
- **1995** – Microsoft releases Windows 95. At the time of release, the majority of computers throughout the world run a Microsoft operating system.
- **1999** – At this point, most dates in code are formatted as "MM/DD/YY," with the computer recognizing that there is a "19" before the year digits. As a result, everyone fears that computers will fail to shift from 1999 to 2000 and cause major problems. **Billions of dollars are spent on fixing the code of the Y2K bug before the clock changes.**
- **2000** – Danish software engineer Anders Hejlsberg develops C#, a simple general-purpose programming language.
- **2002** – Visual Basic .NET, a high-level programming language, is created by Microsoft.
- **2009** – **The National Cybersecurity and Communications Integration Center (NCCIC)** is founded to protect institutions and infrastructures from malicious cyberthreats.
- **2013** – The nonprofit Code.org is launched to promote computer programming education in schools.

Timeline From: <https://blog.connectionsacademy.com/discover-the-history-of-coding-for-computer-science-week/>

Choosing Words Thoughtfully When Communicating with Students

In this *Kappan* article, teacher/writer/consultant Lauren Porosoff says that what teachers write to and about their students "has enormous potential to affect their lives" – from college recommendations to parent e-mails to comments on everyday classroom work. "Our words can empower our students to discover where they are as learners," says Porosoff, "what seems important to them, how well their learning strategies serve them, and what else they could try." Because their words are so important, she suggests that teachers discuss samples of various communications in grade-level and department teams, reflecting on how educators' words come across to students and parents. Each part of speech has interesting issues:

- **Adjectives** – These tend to convey subjective judgments of what students are – *conscientious, earnest, excellent, inventive, insightful, provocative* – versus what they objectively *do*. And there are other issues. "Teachers sometimes describe students as nice and lovely, or as having a bright smile or a cheerful disposition," says Porosoff. "But using an adjective that could just as easily describe room décor (a lovely rug, cheerful wallpaper) makes it sound like the students are there to please the teacher instead of to learn." And adjectives can unconsciously convey gender or race biases: "How often do we describe boys as *compassionate* or *helpful*? How many girls' contributions get called *powerful* or *persuasive*?" she asks. "Do we call students of color *insightful* and *creative*, or do we use those words more often to describe white students?"

Quote of the Week . . .



“Never forget who was there for you when no one else was.”

-Unknown

• *Verbs* – Porosoff believes verbs are more helpful in naming positive behaviors without the subjectivity embedded in adjectives. “To replace your adjectives with verbs,” she suggests, “try asking yourself what students *do* to make you describe them in a particular way.” For example, why do you describe Patrick as *responsible*? It’s because he *brings* his materials to every class, *writes* his questions about the homework, and *makes* a study guide for every test. More words, but more effective. Another example: “In class, Udi *tests out* his ideas during discussions, *asks* questions, and *listens* with interest and compassion to his peers.”

• *Nouns* – These help vividly convey to students, parents, and other teachers what’s happening and what could be happening in class. Nouns can convey a student’s work products (poem, skit), materials used (writer’s notebook, graduated cylinder), or topics studied (lizards, Mount Fuji, opioids).

• *Conjunctions* – These often connect information about what the student has learned or done well with information about what still needs to be done – *and*, *but*, *while*, *although*, *unless*. “The conjunctions we choose,” says Porosoff, “can reveal our attitudes toward students and shape their attitudes toward themselves, their learning, and or classes.” Consider these:

- Tariq has gotten better at using imagery and needs to work on sticking to his thesis.
- Tariq has gotten better at using imagery but needs to work on sticking to his thesis.

In the second, using *but* subordinates Tariq’s strength to his weakness, conveying that his effort to use more-specific imagery doesn’t matter very much. The first is more helpful.

• *Adverbs* – These describe qualities of action – *how* students work, learn, relate to each other and the teacher, ask questions, seek help. A teacher might say a student pursued a topic *curiously*, used materials *resourcefully*, shared *courageously*. Adverbs show the qualities of action that matter to us; as such, they’re less subjective than adjectives, which judge a state of being. Adverbs value an ongoing process – for example, writing *effectively* – which the student can engage in at any time, for any assignment, in any class, including outside school. “It may sound a little grandiose to say this about everybody’s least favorite part of speech,” says Porosoff, “but adverbs tell us how we want to live our lives.”

• *Pronouns* – When a teacher uses the pronoun “I” in communications to students, it changes the tone. Compare these two:

- I would like to see Jaime proofreading more carefully to improve his writing.
- Jaime can improve his writing by proofreading more carefully.

Making the teacher the subject of the first sentence makes it more about the teacher and less about the student, says Porosoff. This is even more true in these examples:

- I love how Tayo acknowledges his peers.
- I was impressed by how much information Jana put into her video.
- I’m proud of August’s efforts.

“Sentences like these,” says Porosoff, “make it sound as if the purpose of student work is to please me, rather than to give students opportunities to practice important skills and create meaningful products.” Better to objectively describe what’s effective. But there are times when it’s appropriate for the teacher to be out front:

- I can’t wait to read more of Micah’s work.
- I encourage Chandra to e-mail me any questions she doesn’t get a chance to ask in class.

It’s also important to be sensitive using pronouns with students who do not fit into traditional gender categories.

“How Our Word Choices Can Empower Our Students” by Lauren Porosoff in *Phi Delta Kappan*, November 2018 (Vol. 100, #2, p. 51-54), <https://bit.ly/2OUFqyy>; Porosoff can be reached at lauren@empowerforwards.com.

Reprinted from Marshall Memo 762.

Disney Tweet of the Week



"Sometimes the right path
is not the easiest one."

— Grandmother Willow,
Pocahontas



Reading Education Foundation
Outside the box ~ Inside the classroom.

Festival of Trees

This Weekend!

Check out the Festival Performances!

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

SATURDAY

- 10:30 Holiday Songs by Taylor Hilliard
- 11:00 CBTween/Ben Mini PARKER AUDITORIUM
- 1:00 Coolidge Hand Chime Choir
- 1:15 Middle School Select Chorus
- 1:30 Coolidge Flute Trio, Saxophone Quartet and Wind Ensemble
- 2:00 RMHS Jazz Band PARKER AUDITORIUM
- 3:00 RMHS Select Chorus
- 3:30 Holiday Songs by Taylor Hilliard
- 4:00 Claire & Charlie Benjamin, Harp/Oboe Duet

EVENING

- 5:00 Stacking Game
- 5:15 Singalong
- 5:45 Make a Snowman Game
- 6:15 Eileen Litterio Reads "Polar Express"
- 6:45 Fun games and activities!

SUNDAY

- 11:00 Colonial Chorus Players
- 12:00 CBTween/Ben Mini PARKER AUDITORIUM
- 1:00 Voices of Hope
- 1:30 Reading Community Concert Band PARKER AUDITORIUM
- 2:30 Reading Community Concert Band PARKER AUDITORIUM
- 3:30 RMHS Color Guard PARKER AUDITORIUM
- 4:00 Middle School Jazz Band PARKER AUDITORIUM
- 4:30 Holiday Tree raffle drawings



SATURDAY & SUNDAY
Card making station by Creative Arts

Plus a silent auction, cookie decorating, a scavenger hunt and more...

Don't Miss: Saturday Night with \$5 Dinner and Entertainment! PJs Welcome!

Learn More

Important Websites

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

[RPS District Website](#)
www.reading.k12.ma.us

[Access Your Email](#)
<https://login.microsoftonline.com/>

[Baseline Edge](#)
<https://baseline.ioeducation.com/Site/login>

[Interface Health Services](#)
<https://interface.williamjames.edu/community/reading>

Reading Education Foundation's

Festival of Trees

December 1st and 2nd

Parker Middle School, 45 Temple Street, Reading
Saturday: 10am to 8pm · Sunday: 10am to 4pm

Experience a winter wonderland of decorated holiday trees donated by our community that festival visitors can win for themselves!

Featuring a
Silent Auction &
Performances
by Local Groups



Night with the Trees

A nighttime family event on Saturday
from 5pm to 8pm!
Come purchase dinner and enjoy live
family entertainment and a holiday
story reading of Polar Express.

ADMISSION
\$5 per person
\$10 per family
The admission is
good for the entire
weekend and covers
all entertainment.

Advance sales
and more
information at
readingef.org



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

Reading Public School Happenings

RMHS Students Sign Letter of Intent

On Monday, four RMHS Seniors signed a National Letter of Intent or National Letter of Commitment to play lacrosse at different colleges and universities next year. Congratulations to the following students (left to right below):

Dom Masucci-Endicott College (National Commitment)
Alex Palermo-UMASS Lowell (National Letter of Intent)

Hannah Gohr-Assumption (National Letter of Intent)
Michael Tobin- UMASS Amherst (National Letter of Intent)



RMHS Volleyball All State Players

Congratulations to Senior Riley DiLoreto and Junior Kaleigh Fitzgerald who were named to the All State Team and represented the Rockets at the MGVC A Division 1 All State Showcase.



RMHS Students Audition for Senior Districts

Below is a picture of 16 RMHS Choral Students, under the direction of RMHS Choral Director Kristin Killian, who auditioned recently for Senior Districts.



Parker AWOD Students Hold Inspiring School Wide Assembly

Last Wednesday, Parker A World of Difference Students, under the direction of Advisors Nick Trapani and Renee Gelin, held an inspiring school wide assembly. The assembly recalled tragic events in our country and incidents of hate in our community and schools over the past 13 months. Peer leaders encouraged peers to “be the change” and “have a voice.”



Stepping Stones...

- Our thoughts and prayers go out to RISE Preschool Teacher **Janelle Boutin** who lost a loved one last week.
- Our thoughts and prayers go out to RISE paraeducator **Kathy Tierney** who lost a loved one last week.

- Our thoughts and prayers go out to Birch Meadow paraeducator **Linda Anthony** who lost a loved one last week.
- We welcome the following new staff to the Reading Public Schools:
 - ✓ Anita Lalicata, Cafeteria Staff, Wood End
 - ✓ Clare Golden, Regular education Paraeducator, Joshua Eaton
- **We have posted** a new position. If interested, please visit <https://reading.tedk12.com/hire/index.aspx> to view the job detail

1.0 FTE Long Term Substitute Grade 8 Social Studies Teacher, Parker Middle School	https://reading.tedk12.com/hire/ViewJob.aspx?JobID=627
1.0 FTE Long Term Substitute Grade 6 Social Studies Teacher, Parker Middle School	https://reading.tedk12.com/hire/ViewJob.aspx?JobID=628
1.0 FTE Long Term Substitute School Psychologist/Guidance Counselor, Wood End Elementary School	https://reading.tedk12.com/hire/ViewJob.aspx?JobID=629
1.0 FTE Long Term Substitute Substantially Separate Special Education Teacher, Birch Meadow Elementary School	https://reading.tedk12.com/hire/ViewJob.aspx?JobID=630
Long Term Substitute Special Education Learning Center Paraeducator, 56 hours biweekly, Birch Meadow	https://reading.tedk12.com/hire/index.aspx

Blazing Trails...

"Student Panels Demand More of a Voice in Chicago." Members of student voice committees in Chicago schools are working to ensure that student input is factored into school decisions. High-school senior Rohit Khanal said one of their goals is to improve relationships between teachers and students. [Read More](#)

"Secrets of the Edu-Twitter Influencers." In this article from the November ASCD Educational Leadership magazine, six educators, who've become popular voices on social media, share advice for developing online professional learning networks. [Read More](#)

"Why was this Teacher Silent for the First Three Weeks of Pre-Calculus?" For the first three weeks of the year, a teacher did not say a word to her students during pre-calculus class, and they were furious. She was their tutor last year, and they knew she was great at teaching math, but she would not help them because she was under strict orders from the author, the director of teacher development and licensure at City on a Hill Charter Public Schools, to observe and observe only-all part of a larger effort to improve teacher training. [Read More](#)

"Find Your Tribe: A Peer Observation Story." Teaching is sometimes "break your heart" hard. While peer-to-peer connections can provide educators with the support they need to stay in teaching, relationships don't always form naturally. To mend a turnover problem, a group of Texas teacher-leaders paired early-career and seasoned educators together to create a more supportive community in this ASCD Express post. [Read More](#)

"Report: More US Students Studying Overseas." More US university students are choosing to study abroad, according to a recent report by the Institute of International Education. In this commentary, Iowa State University Spanish professor Chad Gasta writes that many factors may have contributed to the increase, including more study-abroad options and increased student awareness that study-abroad experiences could help them get a job. [Read More](#)

Have a Great Week!