



February 3, 2018

## Upcoming Dates

- February 7 – (7:00 p.m.) School Committee Meeting in the RMHS Library
- February 8 – (6:00 p.m.) Joshua Eaton Spelling Bee; (7:30 p.m.) RMHS Drama Production – Selfie in the Endslow PAC
- February 9 – (7:30 p.m.) RMHS Drama Production – Selfie in the Endslow PAC
- February 12 – (6:30 p.m.) RMHS Future Freshman Night in the Endslow PAC
- February 13 – Grade 6 – 12 Early Release
- February 18 – Presidents Day – No School/Offices Closed
- February 19 – 22 – February Vacation- No School/Offices Open
- February 28 – (2:30 p.m.) Middle School Math Meet at Wilmington

# Pathways

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

Volume 6, Number 20

## Understanding Disabilities Speaker Inspires Our Middle Schools



We all know the importance of being inclusive of others, about accepting as well as embracing each other's differences, and about creating a school that is safe for everyone. Our words and our actions are so important in making that a reality.

Every year, we have the opportunity to bring a speaker to our middle schools, thanks to our local Understanding Disabilities organization. We use this opportunity to learn, to grow, and to appreciate each other. This is also made possible thanks to our Coolidge and Parker PTOs.

This year, we had the pleasure of hearing Collette D'Vitto speak. Collette was born with Down syndrome. She grew up in Connecticut, where she developed a passion for baking after taking classes in high school. She came up with an original cinnamon chocolate chip cookie that people really enjoyed. Because all of her friends and family raved, "This cookie is amazing," Collette decided to call her recipe "The Amazing Cookie."

After high school, Collette attended Clemson University, and finished a three-year LIFE program in just two years. Collette then decided to turn her passion for baking into a business, and founded Collettey's Cookies. Since then, she has sold over 180,000 cookies and Collettey's Cookies now employs 13 people, several with disabilities. Learn more about Collette at [collette@colletteys.com](mailto:collette@colletteys.com)

## Kudos and Accolades

- Kudos to the swim, girls & boys hockey & girls & boys basketball teams for posting a win recently.
- Congratulations to the girls basketball team for qualifying for the MIAA tournament
- A special thank you to Parker Principal Ricki Shankland, and Parker Teachers Robyn Ferrazzani and Meg Powers for the support they provided the Wood End staff on Thursday covering classes so that teachers could attend the funeral of a Wood End parent.
- To Chief Financial Officer Gail Dowd for all of her efforts during the FY20 School Committee budget process.



**Superintendent's Office****Hours this Week***All are welcome*

2/05 Barrows  
7:30 – 8:30 a.m.

2/06 Superintendent's  
Office  
5:00 – 6:00 p.m.

2/13 Killam  
12:30-1:30 p.m.

2/15 Wood End  
7:30-8:30 a.m.

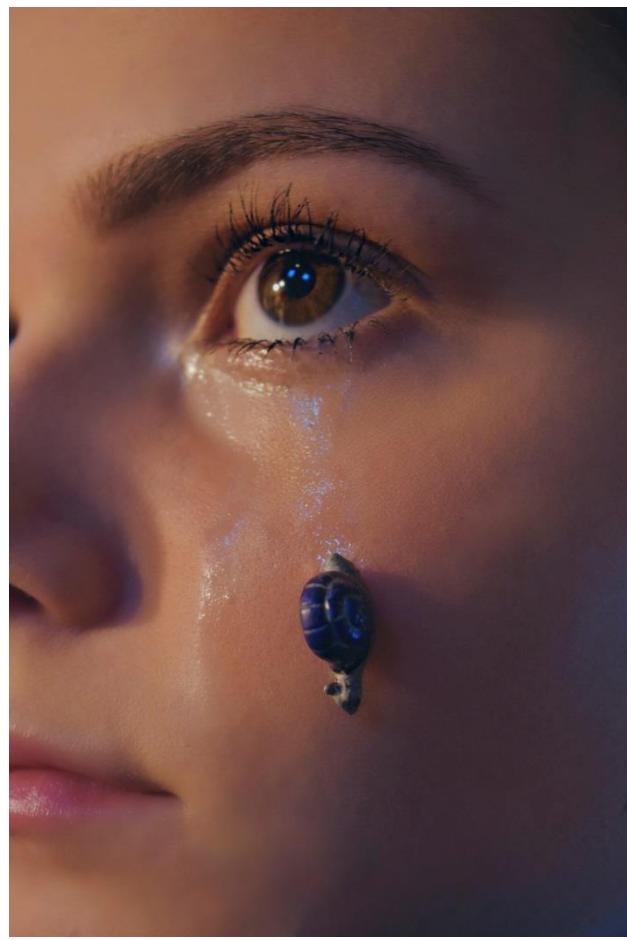
**RMHS Art Students Shine in Scholastic Art and Writing Contest**

Congratulations to several RMHS Art students who were recognized in the 2019 Scholastic Art & Writing Awards! Below are the names of this year's students and some of their work. Gold Key winners will move on to national competition and winners of national gold and silver medals will be announced in mid-March. Special thanks goes to RMHS Art Teachers Kathleen Dailey and Michael Radvany for working with those students.

**2019 Scholastic Art & Writing Awards  
Reading Memorial High School**

Student	Instructor	Category	Title	Award
Dan Erikson	Kathleen Dailey	Photography	One Drop Means Change is Coming	Gold
Dan Erikson	Kathleen Dailey	Photography	Clean Water	Silver
Dan Erikson	Kathleen Dailey	Photography	Walking Down a Tube	HM
Dan Erikson	Kathleen Dailey	Photography	Get Tubed	HM
Hannah Jung	Kathleen Dailey	Photography	Looks Like Paint	Gold
Hannah Jung	Kathleen Dailey	Photography	Plant	HM
Hannah Jung	Kathleen Dailey	Photography	Blur	HM
Wendy Meyers	Kathleen Dailey	Photography	Escargot, Escargoing, Escargone	Gold
Wendy Meyers	Kathleen Dailey	Photography	Show Me Your Pearly Whites	Gold
Wendy Meyers	Kathleen Dailey	Photography	Stop, Drop, and Roll	HM
Wendy Meyers	Kathleen Dailey	Photography	Cha-Ching	HM
Wendy Meyers	Kathleen Dailey	Photography	Dancing on Glass	HM
Wendy Meyers	Kathleen Dailey	Photography	Smurf Wannabe	HM
Alyssa Papantonakis	Kathleen Dailey	Photography	Misshapen	HM
Matt Ream	Kathleen Dailey	Photography	Crescentism	Silver
Natalya Shorr	Michael Radvany	Printmaking	Grocery Run	Silver

*Looks Like Paint (Hannah Jung)*



*Escargo, Escargoing, Escargone (Wendy Meyers)*

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## School Committee Approves FY20 Budget

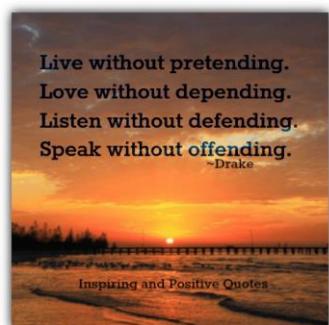
On Monday, January 28<sup>th</sup>, the Reading School Committee approved the Superintendent's Recommended FY20 Budget of \$46,467,348, a 3.6% increase over the FY19 budget. Below is School Committee Chair Elaine Webb's message to the Community. All FY20 budget information can be found on the Reading Public School website at <https://www.reading.k12.ma.us/test/budget-information/fy20-budget-information/>

## School Committee's Message FY20 Budget

The Reading School Committee respectfully presents the FY20 School Budget, totaling \$46,467,348, a 3.6% increase over the FY19 School Budget. This unanimously approved budget is aligned with Reading Finance Committee guidance.

The School Committee would like to express enormous gratitude to the voters of Reading, who supported a Proposition 2 1/2 override in April 2018. This additional revenue has had an impact across our district. We have K-6 Curriculum Coordinators for STEM and ELA driving instructional excellence in our elementary schools. At our middle schools, we have maintained the foreign language program. We have added back teaching positions at Reading Memorial High School, decreasing class sizes and increasing elective options for our

## Quote of the Week . . .



**“Live without pretending,  
Love without depending,  
Listen without defending,  
Speak without offending.”**

-Drake

students. We have added important oversight for our Special Education programs and we have enhanced and updated curriculum, staff development and technology. In short, our students today are enjoying the same high-quality education Reading students have traditionally enjoyed and Reading residents have come to expect.

Over the past year, the Reading School Committee has successfully completed contract negotiations with all of our collective bargaining units. This will provide budget certainty for the next three years.

Due to the support of the Reading Finance Committee, Town Meeting, and the voters, and through the hard work of our staff, we are at the end of a three-year cycle of updating our science curriculum across the district to align with Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education frameworks. In the FY20 budget, you will find a significant investment in social studies curriculum, to align with the new Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks for Social Studies, which include a strong emphasis on civics education. We are excited to find new and creative ways to inspire our students to become active participants in our democracy.

While there is much to celebrate, there is an area of the budget that we would like to highlight as a concern. Over the past several years, we have seen significant increases in the Special Education cost center of the budget. Our students with special needs are presenting with more complex and serious issues that impact their ability to access the curriculum. As Special Education programs and services are federally mandated, these costs are completely beyond our control. They are growing at a rate that far outpaces our revenue. Reading is in no way unique in this regard - escalating special education costs are creating budget problems across the Commonwealth. We will be looking to work with our town and state representatives in working towards a sustainable solution for these costs.

Elementary space continues to become an area of increasing challenge and is a constraint that requires capital and longer time frames to address. The need for classroom space is in part driven by increases in special education needs beginning in Pre-K through grade 12 and increases in full-day kindergarten enrollment. The critical Elementary Space and Enrollment Study funded out of capital is beginning and is the initial step toward a long-term comprehensive solution.

We are grateful to the voters of Reading for their generosity, and we take seriously the trust they have put in us with the additional revenue the successful override provides. We are also grateful for our ongoing, collaborative relationship with the municipal side of our government, particularly the Town Manager, Select Board, and Finance Committee. We are grateful for our central office staff, the administrative team, and all our educators who work every day to help our students grow, learn, thrive, and succeed. The budget process is exhaustive, iterative, and data rich setting a standard of excellence among our peer districts. We want to recognize Superintendent John Doherty, Chief Financial Officer Gail Dowd, their administrative teams and all the Principals for their commitment and outstanding work. Finally, we are grateful for our students and their parents, who make the Reading Public Schools the most wonderful places to grow and learn.

Elaine Webb

Chair, Reading School Committee

## Disney Quote of the Week



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

— Grandmother Willow,  
Pocahontas

## From the Office of Learning and Teaching

Reading Institute Spring-March 22, 2019

We are hosting our first **Reading Institute-Spring Session** for Reading Public Schools at RMHS. This year's theme will focus on Equity and Diversity. Our Keynote speaker will be the widely known Dena Simmons, Assistant Director of Yale Center for Emotional Intelligence. Dena supports schools in using the power of emotions to create a more compassionate and just society. We are also scheduling breakout sessions that will support our shared goals of building our capacity when we encounter prejudices as well as to provide further time to continue the conversation of how we may best serve all of our students. If you have an idea for a workshop or know of an outside agency that can support our shared learning, please reach out to me at [christine.kelley@reading.k12.ma.us](mailto:christine.kelley@reading.k12.ma.us)

## Reading Public Schools 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual **PARENT UNIVERSITY**

2019 Theme - "Raising Healthy and Happy Children"

### WHEN

**Saturday, March 30<sup>th</sup>**  
**8:00am – 12:30pm**

### WHERE

**Reading Memorial High School, 62  
Oakland Road**

**Benefit from FREE workshops presented by community experts  
on a variety of topics.**

**FREE childcare for children in grades K through 5 will be  
provided by the Extended Day Program. You must pre-register  
for childcare when you are registering for Parent University  
workshops.**

**Pre-registration will begin on Monday, March 11<sup>th</sup> at the  
following link:**

**[https://www.reading.k12.ma.us/community/adult-and-  
community-education/](https://www.reading.k12.ma.us/community/adult-and-community-education/)**

**Sponsored By**



Reading Education Foundation  
Outside the box ~ Inside the classroom.

### Tentative Schedule

**KEYNOTE SPEAKER:  
SHAUNA TOMINEY,  
PH.D.**

#### **PRESENTS:**

**"Raising Healthy and  
Happy Children"  
8:40am – 9:40am  
Performing Arts Center**

#### **Workshop Sessions Include:**

**Managing the Ups and  
Downs of Children's  
Emotional Lives**

**Demystifying College Cost  
& The Financial Aid Process**

**Intentional Parenting**

**Vaping**

**Collaborative & Proactive  
Solutions**

**College Process:  
Roundtable Discussion  
with Parents**

**Intro to Mental Health First  
Aid**

**No One Called You A Racist**

**And more.....**

## Important Websites

RPS District Website  
[www.reading.k12.ma.us](https://www.reading.k12.ma.us)

**Interface Health Services**  
<https://interface.williamjames.edu/community/reading>

# WINTER UPDATE FROM THE OFFICE OF LEARNING & TEACHING



January, 2019

### In this issue:

- Reading Institute-Spring March 22, 2019
- Reading Institute-Summer SAVE the DATES
- District Wide Committee Updates



Tweets showcasing the varied learning happening around our district

### Did you know?

- We now have Curriculum Guides for grades K-5 (Reading, Writing, Math and Science) published and our website. <https://www.reading.k12.ma.us/departments/learning-teaching/>
- We are working on Curriculum Guides for courses at RMHS to be published soon.
- We will be working on Curriculum Guides for grades 6-8 in the coming months.

### Meet your district Professional Development Committee

We are looking for representation on the PD committee from all schools. If you are from Barrows or Joshua Eaton and would like to be a part of this important team, please reach out to Chris Kelley. We meet approximately every other month.

This year's PD committee members are:

- ◊ Birch Meadow-Heidi Murray
- ◊ Coolidge-Pauline Tsoutsis, Laura Warren
- ◊ Killam-Tonia McGuire
- ◊ Parker-Donna Martinson
- ◊ RMHS-Shelley Lynch
- ◊ Wood End-Keri Dinapoli
- ◊ District-Heather Leonard, Chris Kelley, Allison Straker

Please stop by your school PD Committee member's room or email them - we want to hear from you! The questions we have are:

1. How can we support you with PD?
2. What topics are of interest to you?
3. When we offer courses after school, what days work? Do vacation days or Saturdays make sense for course meeting times? What about Summer?



Professional Development

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### Reading Institute Summer SAVE the DATES-June 24-28

This year, the Learning and Teaching Department will be hosting a variety of 1 or 2 credit courses (15 pdps and 30 pdps) that feature topics required for recertification (i.e. SEI and Special Education) as well as other topics central to district and subject curricula work. Our credits will be provided by Gordon College. More details will follow. If you have a course that you have taught or would like to consider teaching please fill out the form [here](#).



### District Curriculum Committee Updates

The following District Wide Committees are up and running.

**Professional Development Committee:** Information is shared above. Please reach out if you would like to be a part of this team.

**Elementary Report Card Committee:** Meets bi-monthly this spring in order to update our K-5 Standards Based Report Cards. Members of the team may be seeking your input on our current model as well as soliciting feedback as we develop new drafts. Thank you to members of this important team.

**Middle School Social Studies Committee:** New Social Studies Frameworks were published late last year. We have decided to focus initially on the middle school curriculum as the new 8th grade standards, focused on Civics, necessitate a significant revision.

**Elementary Math Committee:** The committee will begin meeting early February to begin the process of mapping mathematics curriculum K-5. The committee sign-ups closed January 25th, committee members will be contacted soon.

**Middle School Math Committee:** This group will analyze curriculum options to identify top potential curriculum resources to be piloted in 2019-2020 for seventh and eighth grade.

## 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)

## Parker Student Proudly Represents Reading in Project 351



Parker Student Shreya Bajaj (kneeling on the right) works with other Project 351 students at the Greater Boston Food Bank

Parker Grade 8 student Shreya Bajaj is representing the Reading Public Schools this year in Project 351. Project 351 is an independent nonprofit organization that builds a movement of youth-led service by engaging an unsung hero from each of Massachusetts' 351 cities and towns. United for a year of leadership and service, Ambassadors transform communities, elevate kindness, advance social justice, and gain the courage, compassion, and capabilities to lead change. Below is some of Shreya's thoughts regarding her experience so far.

*"My experience at Project 351 on Saturday, January 19, was incredible. The group I was part of sorted food at the Greater Boston Food Bank. My job was to load food into the bins that would go down the conveyor belt. The entire time at the food bank, that's all I did, which doesn't seem like a lot, but everyone's small jobs truly added up to create a huge result. At the end of two hours, we had sorted over 50,000 lbs of food! Other groups of Ambassadors had volunteered at the Pine Street Inn, Cradles to Crayons, the McKay School, and Service Village. In total, our actions positively impacted 19,851 people! It was great to see that although individual efforts may seem insignificant, when you work together you can bring about astonishing change. It was amazing to me that my actions actually helped make someone else's life better, and I can't wait for the rest of my Ambassador year."*

## Relicensure Information from DESE

TO: Educators with Professional Licenses  
FROM: Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education  
RE: Information on License Renewal

Many educators throughout the Commonwealth hold Professional Level licenses that are due to be renewed in June 2019.

Please be advised that requirements for renewal of license changed in 2017. The basic requirements for licensure renewal are as follows:

A total of 150 PDPs are required for renewal of a primary license.

- At least 15 PDPs must be in the content of your area of licensure
- At least 15 PDPs must be in pedagogy (professional skills and knowledge)
- At least 15 PDPs must be related to Sheltered English Immersion (SEI)
- At least 15 PDPs related to training in strategies for effective schooling for students with disabilities and the instruction of students with diverse learning styles
- The remaining 90 PDPs is left to the discretion of the educator and school district. 80% of these must align with school, district or individual educator plan goals.

In order to renew you must obtain the signature and approval of your Supervisor.

Please note that you may renew online through ELAR. The cost of renewing a primary license is \$100.

Additional licenses may be renewed. Each additional license requires a total of 30 PDPs (15 must be in content)

Once you apply online for renewal, approval should be immediately forthcoming. You have the option of applying in writing; however, approval of written applications is a slower process

**Please note that even though your license is renewed you are subject to being audited for 5 years.** Therefore, it is important that you keep a record of your PDPs as well as copy of your Supervisor's signature on either your IPDP or Educator Plan as these materials will be required for review by DESE if you are audited.

The following links provide some additional resources related to the renewal process:

- License Renewal Guidelines: <http://www.doe.mass.edu/licensure/academic-prek12/guidelines-recert-ma-educators.pdf>
- Guidelines for Reviewing, Approving and Endorsing Individual Professional Development Plans: <http://www.doe.mass.edu/pd/01guideline/default.html>
- Renewal Regulations: <http://www.doe.mass.edu/lawsregs/603cmr44.html>



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®  
FOR HEALTHY LIVING  
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

**We are pleased to host this free workshop to parents and caregivers. Please click on this [link](#) to sign up for this workshop.**

Join us, February 4<sup>th</sup> from 7:00-8:30

## Talking to our Kids About Inclusion

A Workshop with Theresa Wiggins of Village Parenting

Wondering what you can do in response to the vandalism happening in our community? This workshop will explore having conversations with our children about inclusion. Come find out why having these conversations is important and leave with some practical ideas of how you can do it. Whether you are new to this topic or have made this a practice for a while, there is something for everyone.



As the founder of Village Parenting, Theresa Wiggins is a parent educator and mindfulness teacher. She believes that the best way to raise our youth is to do it together. Theresa and her husband are raising three kids and live here in Reading.



## Reading Public School Happenings

### RMHS High Five For This Week

Below are the RMHS High Fives for this week.

#### **Haley Lightbody, Class of 2019**

Since entering RMHS in the fall of 2015, Haley Lightbody has distinguished herself by approaching everything she takes on with a quiet and steady commitment and a strong determination to improve. Those who know Haley know that it is her attitude, not her achievements, that define her: but her achievements are many. First and foremost, Haley's academic record is stellar. She has a reputation as a responsible student who is not afraid to challenge herself in the classroom and who makes her academic work a priority even as she maintains a busy extra-curricular schedule. Haley's favorite class is AP Biology with Ms. Moore, and she plans to continue her study of biology when she attends Stonehill College in the fall. Athletically, Haley's accomplishments are historic. She has been a four-year varsity contributor in both basketball and track and field, and this year serves as a captain in both sports. In track, she is an elite-level pole-vaulter. A state-champion as a sophomore and a state runner-up as a junior, Haley will continue her pole-vaulting career as a member of the track team at Stonehill. In basketball, Haley's speed and ever-improving skills have made her a dominant player. She scored her 1,000<sup>th</sup> point early this season, reaching a milestone that puts her among the very best players to wear a Rocket uniform on the court of Hawkes Fieldhouse. She and her teammates are coming off of two straight years qualifying for the MIAA tournament and they currently find themselves battling for a Middlesex League

championship and readying for another run at the state tournament. Haley's AP Statistics teacher Ms. Theissen sums up Haley well: "Haley is a hard-working student who has not taken the easy way out in her senior year - doubling up with two mathematics courses, AP Statistics and Honors Pre-Calculus. She shows incredible kindness to all of her classmates and is an integral member of any group that she is assigned to. She is always willing to take a risk when it comes to problem solving, knowing that this is an opportunity for growth. Haley is so humble, that you would never know what a phenomenal basketball player she is."



### **Killam Geography Bee**

On Wednesday, January 30th, Killam held it's 2019 National Geographic Geography Bee finals. Congratulations to our top ten finalists- -Ian Guan, Ben Clark, Madison Day, Kamden Greatorex, Isabelle Parent, Allison Shindelman, Finn Ellis, Natalie Tawadros, Clara Healy and Evin Howell. After a battle for first place between Ian Guan and Clara Healy, Clara was named our school champion for the second year in a row!





Clara Healy, Killam Geography Bee Champion

## Stepping Stones...

- We are sad to report that **Jeff Callahan**, a frequent substitute teacher in the Reading Public Schools, passed away recently. Jeff has been a well-liked, respected, and dependable substitute for us and he will be missed. Please keep Jeff's family in your thoughts and prayers.
- Our thoughts go out to Parker Assistant Principal **Brendan Norton** who lost a family member recently.
- Our thoughts go out to Parker Staff Member **Caitlin Carter** who lost a family member recently.
- We welcome the following new staff to the Reading Public Schools:
  - ✓ **Erin Brown, LTS Guidance Counselor, Wood End**
  - ✓ **Erica Lenners, Extended Day, RISE**
- **We have posted** a new position. If interested, please visit <https://reading.tedk12.com/hire/index.aspx> to view the job detail

Director of Student Services <a href="https://reading.tedk12.com/hire/ViewJob.aspx?JobID=664">https://reading.tedk12.com/hire/ViewJob.aspx?JobID=664</a>
Computer Technician <a href="https://reading.tedk12.com/hire/ViewJob.aspx?JobID=665">https://reading.tedk12.com/hire/ViewJob.aspx?JobID=665</a>
Special Education Program Paraeducator, 60 hours biweekly, Coolidge Middle School <a href="https://reading.tedk12.com/hire/ViewJob.aspx?JobID=666">https://reading.tedk12.com/hire/ViewJob.aspx?JobID=666</a>
1.0FTE Guidance Counselor (2), Reading Memorial High School <a href="https://reading.tedk12.com/hire/ViewJob.aspx?JobID=667">https://reading.tedk12.com/hire/ViewJob.aspx?JobID=667</a>

## Blazing Trails...

**"#MSAAchat Twitter Chat Focuses on Questioning Techniques."** "It's fun to watch the light bulbs go off as kids work through their thoughts," said a special education teacher during a Twitter chat organized by the Massachusetts School Administrators' Association. Schools, districts, and teachers should actively foster a "safe" environment where questions and student-participation are welcome. That was among the recommendations from educators who participated in a January 8 Twitter chat about the Question Formulation Technique and the power of questions in the classroom. [Read More](#)

**"Arts Education Today: Mission Critical."** In a world where students' critical-thinking skills and imaginations are seen as the keys to solving the future's increasingly complex problems, the arts are now indispensable pieces of the academic puzzle—not optional add-ons to traditional curricula. The latest issue of ASCD's Educational Leadership magazine explores stories about the power of creativity in the classroom. Painting, music, theater, sketchnoting, artistic habits of mind, and even creative boredom deepen whole child learning, build community, and give students new tools for self-expression. Read on for inspiration. [Read More](#)

**"Is Creativity a Skill?"** Some industry leaders who answered an informal poll said that creativity is a skill that can be taught and learned. Open-ended, problem-solving activities are a good way to teach creativity, says Lynda.com founder Lynda Weinman. [Read More](#)

**"7 Ways to Help Boost Curiosity, Engagement."** There are several ways teachers can boost student curiosity and engagement, writes Cheryl Abla, an education consultant in this Edutopia post. Abla suggests using mysteries and puzzles, asking deeper-level questions and introducing debate topics, among other methods. [Read More](#)

**"Global Education in Context: Four Models, Four Lessons."** Researchers studying global learning have identified four models that schools have in place for global education. They include a top-down approach in North Carolina, where the state adopted a framework and method of assessment, and a more localized approach in Virginia, where individual districts are leading the charge. [Read More](#)

Have a Great Week!