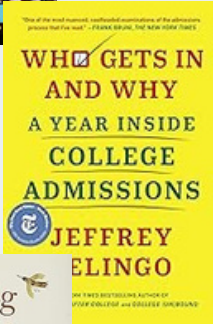
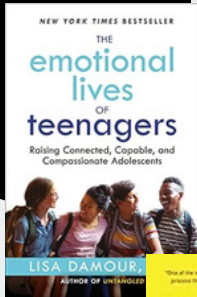
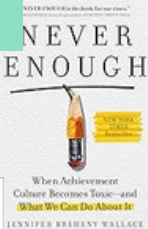
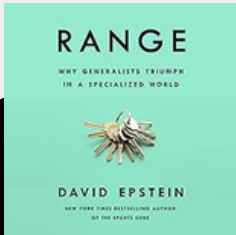


Superintendent's Bulletin

October 2023 - Volume 12 - Issue 2



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Dear RCSD Community,

I am a big believer in lifelong learning. As an educator, I'm always reading to learn more about education and workplace theory. When I find a book I think is terrific, I like to spread the word. Every year, I pick a book and give a copy to all the teachers and staff in the school district. It's not easy to pick just one book, so I have a few suggestions below. Our friends at the Rye Free Reading Room and Arcade Books in town have kindly offered to stock these tomes if you're like me and enjoy physical books. Otherwise, they are readily findable on Kindle, Libby, etc.



Range: Why Generalists Triumph in a Specialized World, by David Epstein

This is the book I gave to every teacher and staff member in the RCSD this September. I wrote about it in [last month's issue](#), so I won't belabor the point overly. Epstein, who is the author of the New York Times bestseller *The Sports Gene*, looked at the world's top performers, from professional athletes to Nobel laureates, and found that generalists, not specialists, are the ones who ultimately excel.

Never Enough: When Achievement Culture Becomes Toxic - And What We Can Do About It, by Jennifer Brehehy Wallace

Jennifer Wallace, the author of this book, was Heard in Rye's first speaker this year, and she was absolutely terrific. The book discusses the pressure we exert on our children to excel in every area of their lives: academics, sports, and extracurricular activities, often at the expense of their mental health. The book offers solutions about how to help children succeed without depriving them of the sense that they matter.

The Emotional Lives of Teenagers, by Lisa Damour

Dr. Lisa Damour has spoken in Rye before, and she's coming back as a guest of Heard In Rye next April to discuss this book. I've hosted book talks for parents with this as the subject - that's how good I think it is. Dr. Damour helps parents understand their teens' intense and frequently fraught emotional lives. And ultimately she shows us that while we can't protect our kids from emotional turmoil, we can teach them how to manage it.

Who Gets In And Why: A Year Inside College Admissions, by Jeffrey Selingo

A very timely read given that author Jeff Selingo is coming to speak to RCSD parents and Rye Country Day parents (we are co-hosting) at Rye Country Day on November 29 at 7:00 p.m. at the Dunn Performing Arts Center. If you ever wanted to be a fly on the wall of a college admissions office, this is as close as you're likely to get. The author was allowed a ringside seat at the admissions offices of Emory, University of Washington, and Davidson. This is an important read for parents who will ultimately learn that colleges and universities choose students based on their schools' own admissions agendas (which we can't ever know) rather than on the students' capabilities.

Anything is Possible, by Giulia Belloni and Marco Trevsian (AGES 4-7)

This one is a favorite of mine to read when I go visit the elementary schools. A sheep and a wolf are unlikely best pals, and they are on a mission to build a flying machine so they can soar through the skies like birds. A celebration of perseverance and ingenuity when the odds are stacked against you, the story shows how even the most improbable dreams can come true.

I hope you enjoy the books as much as I did!

Sincerely,

Eric Byrne, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

Parsons Street Players Present “A Midsummer Night’s Dream”



Photos Courtesy of Grey Cat Productions

On Friday, October 20, and Saturday, October 21, the Rye High School Parsons Street Players put on two evening and one matinee performances of the Shakespeare favorite, “A Midsummer Night’s Dream” to enthused audiences. The cast of 12 performers was backed by a crew of 15 students. A big congratulations to the cast, crew, and director RHS Tom Snowden for three great performances!

RHS's 11 National Merit Scholarship Program Commended Students

Eleven Rye High School seniors were named Commended Students in the 2024 National Merit Scholarship Program in late September. The students earned the commendation by scoring well on the PSAT during their junior year.

Commended students placed among the top 2 1/2 percent of the more than 1.3 million students who entered the National Merit Competition. The students will be recognized for their achievement with a Rye Recognition of Excellence Award at the November 14 Board of Education meeting. The students are:

Amelia Brooks, Juliette Hamlen, Jiawen Hao, Niklas Hofmann, Kathryn Keith, Polina Komarova, Bryan Laverty, Lara Oktay, Samantha Ryan, Rebecca Speas, and Spencer Swiader

Congratulations to the students, their families, and their teachers.

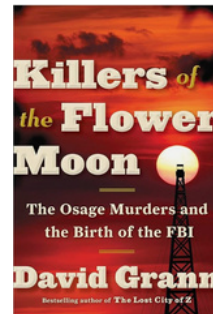


Commendations

- The **varsity boys and girls cross country team** competed in the County Championships on October 28
- The **girls varsity field hockey team** made it to the playoffs this year losing in the quarter-finals to John Jay Cross River
- The **boys varsity football team** won the first post-season game against Nyack on October 27 earning a spot in the semi-finals on November 3
- The **league champion boys varsity soccer team** made it to the sectional championship this year losing to Byram Hills on October 28
- The league champion **girls varsity soccer team** beat New York State champion Albertus Magnus in the Section 1 Class A Girls Soccer Championship on October 29 earning the team a spot in the regional semi-finals on November 1
- The **girls varsity swimming and diving team** qualified for sectionals and competes this week
- The **girls varsity 1 tennis team** made it to the second round of sectionals
- The **girls varsity volleyball team** made it to the playoffs this year losing in the first round to Nanuet
- Freshman varsity cheerleader **Elle Talbot** was selected for the all-section cheer team
- Senior boys varsity soccer captain **Kieran Traynor** was named Athlete of the Week for the first week of the 2023-24 school year
- Junior girls varsity volleyball team athlete **Erin Ball** was named Athlete of the Week for the second week of the school year
- Senior boys varsity football captain **Ameer White** was named Athlete of the Week for the third week of the school year
- Senior girls varsity field hockey forward **Lilly Whaling** was named Athlete of the Month for September by the Rye Lion's Club
- Congratulations to RCSD Director of Athletics **Susan Reid Dullea** on achieving the title of Certified Master Athletic Administrator, the highest @NIAAA9100 honor

“Killers of the Flower Moon”

The movie *Killers of the Flower Moon* is getting all kinds of attention of late. The 3.5 hour-long Martin Scorsese movie based on the 2017 book by David Grann is much in the news these days, even being called a high-level Oscar contender. Students at The Academy at RHS were lucky enough to have the book's author come and speak to them way back in February of this year. One of the students, now-senior Maggie Kirkpatrick, even got the chance to interview him about the story. See the resulting article and Q&A by clicking [here](#) (go to pages 3-4).



Looking Ahead

Friday, November 3 and Saturday, November 4

RMS Presents “Matilda Jr., the Musical”

7:00 p.m. both nights

RHS Performing Arts Center

Tuesday, November 7

Election Day - Superintendent's Conference Day

No School for Students

Friday, November 10

Veterans Day Observed

Schools and Offices Closed

Tuesday, November 14

Board of Education Meeting/Open Topics Forum

7:30 p.m.

RMS Multipurpose Room

Thursday, November 16

Early Dismissal - Elementary Schools Only

Parent-Teacher Conferences

Wednesday, November 22

Early Dismissal - All Schools

HS/MS - 11:00 a.m. - NO LUNCH

Elementary - 11:30 a.m. - NO LUNCH

Thursday, November 23 and Friday, November 24

Thanksgiving Recess

Tuesday, November 28

Board of Education Meeting

7:30 p.m.

RMS Multipurpose Room

Wednesday, November 29

Jeff Selingo Speaker Event: “Who Gets in and Why”

7:00 p.m.

Rye Country Day School Dunn Performing Arts Center

