



Superintendent's Bulletin

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Dear RCSD Community,

On Friday, November 17, RMS hosted the first-ever Grade 7 Science Expo to showcase students' science cell projects. I wanted to highlight the Expo in this month's *Superintendent's Bulletin* because it is such a perfect example of critical thinking, a major focus of the District this school year.

The Expo was colloquially known at RMS as "Cell Day." In order to prepare, students learning about the structure of plant and animal cells studied something called "organelles." An organelle is a subcellular structure that has one or more specific jobs to perform within a cell, much like an organ does in a human body. Students looked at a variety of microscope slides of cells, which taught them that cells exhibit a variety of shapes and this structural diversity impacts their ability to carry out specific tasks. (Former science teacher here!).



Students then were tasked with creating a project that would serve as a real-life example to illustrate these organelle's functions. The students picked an existing system, like a school, sports stadium, mall, or car, to serve as an analogy for the cell. They were asked to explain the function of each cell part and draw comparisons between organelles and components of their chosen system. They were also asked to consider which part of the cell could be damaged or removed without hampering the overall function of the entire system, and why. Students were encouraged to discuss their findings with their families to explore connections to the real world.

While students learned the intricate workings of a cell, they also had to use critical thinking and apply their knowledge in a practical manner for the projects to be a success.

And then, the reveal! Students showcased their projects at an Expo on Friday, November 17 in the RMS Multipurpose Room. Parents, fellow students, and teachers were invited to visit stations to see the student work.

I went and was so impressed by the incredibly imaginative ways students represented the different cell structures in their projects. The projects included everything from models to games, to communities with structures and roads. The level of both creativity and critical thinking was absolutely terrific; a true Cell-a-bration! (Pun courtesy of RMS language arts teacher Peter Gouveia).

Sincerely,

Eric Byrne, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

RMS Book Donation

In just a few weeks in October, the Rye Middle School Service Club collected approximately 3,000 books to benefit the Literacy Volunteers at Family Centers' Fall Book Fest. Students and families browsed through a huge variety of free books at the annual event, held on October 28. Family Centers is a private, nonprofit organization offering education, health, and human services to children, adults, and families in Fairfield County. To learn more, click [here](#).



RMS Service Club and Literacy Volunteers show off their donated book haul



One of Literacy Volunteers' first (and youngest) readers "book browsing"

Spotlight on the Arts

“Matilda JR. The Musical”



Matilda JR. photos courtesy of Joel and Anne Darelius

RMS captivated audiences in two performances of “Matilda JR. The Musical” on November 18 and 19 at the Rye High School Performing Arts Center. The cast of 46 middle school students was supported by a crew of 8 middle school and 15 high school students. Bravo to the cast and crew!

Polar Plunging



The RHS Polar Plungers at Playland

The Rye High School chapter of the National Honor Society put together a team to participate in the Westchester Polar Plunge to benefit the New York Chapter of the Special Olympics. The team raised \$2731 to support Special Olympics athletes. Every dollar raised goes directly to an athlete's training and travel and lodging expenses for the athlete and the family member! A truly worthy cause indeed.

Spelling Bee Buzz



RFRR Spelling Bee winners Emma Crozier and Calvin Holler show off the spelling bee trophy

The Rye Free Reading Room held its sixth annual spelling bee on November 11. Seventh-grader **Emma Crozier** won the \$500 middle school scholarship for correctly spelling “mohair” in the 8th round of competition. Emma is a two-time winner and reigning middle-school champion as she won last year’s competition.

Tenth-grader **Calvin Holler** won a \$2,500 high school scholarship by spelling “pianino” in round 15. This was not Calvin’s first time on the dais, either. He was the middle school champion in 2020.

The high school scholarship prize was sponsored by Carpet Trends and the middle school prize was donated by the Riccio and Mecca families.

RHS Seniors Sign Letters of Intent



*Back row, l to r: Grace K. Regan, Avery Lehman, Grace E. Regan, Marco Altamura, Hannah Fineberg, Maddy Walsh
Front row, l to r: Mali White, Lilly Whaling, Della Goodman*

On November 8, nine Rye High School seniors, their parents, friends, and coaches gathered in the RMS Multipurpose Room to participate in a National Letter of Intent ceremony. A Letter of Intent is used to indicate a student athlete's commitment to participating National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) colleges and universities in the United States. The seniors, their sports, and college/universities are:

Crew:

Marco Altamura University of San Diego
Hannah Fineberg University of Wisconsin
Avery Lehman Boston College
Grace E. Regan University of Southern California
Grace K. Regan Northeastern University

Lacrosse:

Della Goodman Georgetown University
Mali White Davidson College
Lilly Whaling Cornell University

Soccer:

Madelyn "Maddy" Walsh Air Force Academy

Congratulations to the seniors, their parents, and coaches!

Commendations



Girls varsity soccer team celebrating their State Championship on November 12

- The **RHS boys and girls varsity cross country teams** competed in the Section One Championships at Bowdoin Park on November 5
- The **boys varsity football team** beat Ravenna-Coeymans-Selkirk in the NYS Class B state semifinals on November 25 and is headed to the Dome in Syracuse to take on Maine-Endwell in the State Championships on December 3
- The **boys varsity soccer team** ended the season as the number 2 Class A team, making it to the sectional finals for the first time since 2019
- The **girls varsity soccer team** brought home the Class A State Final Championship after victories on November 11 and 12. The team is also the 2023 Section 1 and Regional Champions
- The **girls varsity swimming and diving team** competed in the State Championships this year in Rochester NY on November 16 and 17 with terrific results:
 - The 200 Medley relay of **Kate Chesley, Kayla Lombardo, Megan Tiedemann, and Sydney Goldberg** placed 13th
 - The 200 Free Relay team of **Kayla Lombardo, Sydney Goldberg, Grayson Findlay, and Ayana Ite** placed 15th
 - **Grayson Findlay** swam a best time in the 50 free during the relay. **Kate Chesley** placed 26th in the 100 yard Backstroke
- The **girls varsity volleyball team** made it to the first round of the playoffs this year
- The Lions Club Athlete of the Month for November is senior soccer captain **Madelyn (Maddy) Walsh**
- RMS art teacher **Kim Tamalonis** has two pieces of art being shown at Art Miami during Miami Art Week. To see them, click [here](#)
- The **Rye High School Counseling Department's** 3rd annual Thanksgiving Food Drive to benefit Meals on Main Street in Port Chester netted its biggest collection to date

Looking Ahead



Tuesday, December 5

Board of Education Meeting
7:30 p.m.
RMS Multipurpose Room

Saturday, December 2

High School Senior Scenes '23
2:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.
RHS Performing Arts Center

Wednesday, December 13

RMS Early Dismissal/Parent Teacher Conferences

Tuesday, December 19

Board of Education Meeting
7:30 p.m.
RMS Multipurpose Room

Friday, December 22

Early Dismissal: All Schools
HS/MS - 11:00 a.m. - NO LUNCH
Elementary - 11:30 a.m. - NO LUNCH

Monday, December 25 - Tuesday, January 2

Schools closed for Winter Recess

Monday, December 25 & Tuesday, December 26

Monday, January 1 & Tuesday, January 2, 2024

Offices closed for Winter Recess