

Panther Tales

Feb. 8, 2024

Para ver este boletín en otro idioma, haga clic [aquí](#) para abrir el boletín en la web. En el lado derecho, haz clic en traducir. (To view this newsletter in another language, click [here](#) to open the newsletter on the web. On the right side, click translate.)

Special Message

This message is to let you know that I recognize how important it is to take all reasonable precautions to keep our Ridgeview personnel and students safe. In this context, I would like you to be informed of a recent rumor that our children have been spreading about a potential safety danger to our school. After completing a threat assessment methodology, it has been determined that there is currently no identified threat, or Level 1, connected with this rumor. Thank you in advance for talking with your student(s) about this; I know you recognize the risk associated with rumors and fake threats. Just so you know, threats in our district are categorized as Level 1, Level 2, and 3 using a District Threat Assessment Protocol.

While I do not want to perpetuate this rumor, and I can't share specific details on this incident, I can confirm that we consistently follow the steps outlined in the Threat Assessment Flow Chart and provide discipline as outlined in our student handbook and in accordance with the laws, regulations and rules of the state, the district and our school.

We will keep putting in a lot of effort to provide our Panthers with an amazing learning environment. I am grateful to Ridgeview United Community for their collaboration.

Your Proud Principal,
Thomas Garrett

Principal's Message

We've just finished another productive week, and we still have more events planned, such as Candy Grams, our Black History Program, and the reauthorization of the MYP/IB.

- **Hardship Transfers-** Applications for a hardship transfer will open on Jan.1 and remain open through Feb. 28. Applications are reviewed annually by the Student Assignment Office. Through this process, parents can seek a transfer for medical reasons, curriculum differences, child care situations or if they are an employee of the school system. Parents may also

request the renewal of an existing hardship transfer. The [Hardship Transfer Policy](#) as well as the [Hardship Transfer Guidelines](#) will be used to determine student eligibility.

- **Valentine's Day-** It is important to ensure that all homemade candy, desserts, baked goods, or other edible items are not to be distributed during school hours. Please know that taking this measure will help us maintain a safe environment for all students with allergies, etc. You can help us protect your student(s) by requesting that they not eat anything given to them by another person, anything that they have not brought from your home or anything not in its original sealed package.
- **Confiscation of Non-Approved Items-** Fulton County School campuses are a place of learning and safety for all students. As such, we have a zero-tolerance policy for any personal items that cause a distraction or disruption to the learning process.

This includes vapes, e-cigarettes, tobacco products, illegal substances, and any other personal items that are not conducive to a safe and orderly learning environment. While this guidance is not new, I would like to draw your attention to a minor revision that has been made to the current 2023-2024 Student Code of Conduct. This revision explains the actions school administration will take when the confiscation and/or destruction of these items is necessary to maintain a safe and orderly learning environment for all students. In short, cell phones that are confiscated will only be released to your parent or guardian at the end of the school day in which it was taken and no vape cartridges, e-cigarettes that don't have a separate battery, etc. will be returned to any student or parent/guardian. These will be destroyed. Cartridges containing illegal substances may lead to criminal charges.

More detailed information on these actions can be found on pages 9 and 10 of our 2023-2024 Student Code of Conduct which is located [here](#).

I urge you to discuss this matter with your student and ensure that they are aware of the school's policy. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Assistant Principals' Message

Ms. Bulluck will conduct a Course Scheduling 101 Information Meeting for rising 6th, 7th, and 8th graders for next year. A virtual option is on Feb. 13th- starting at 9:30 a.m. using this link:

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 282 900 478 778

Passcode: MJk5Z8

[Download Teams](#) | [Join on the web](#)

Ms. Bulluck will conduct a face-to-face option on Feb. 13th from 6:00-7:00 p.m. in the media center.

Mr. Garrett, Mr. Hulett and Ms. Harp will conduct a 6th Grade Rising Parent Night from 6:00-7:00 on Feb. 22 in the media center.

Mr. Garrett plans to have a morning meet and greet with rising 6th grade parents at each feeder elementary school in March from 8:00 -9:00 a.m. (Heards Ferry- March 22; Lake Forrest- March 25; and High Point-March 26)

Counselors' Corner

National School Counseling week ends Friday, February 9th. Please let Mr. Hulett and Ms. Harp know how much they are appreciated.

FEBRUARY	
FRIENDSHIP/TEAMWORK	
Developing skills in making/keeping friends; empathy; working together; dealing with teasing/bullying; appreciation	
February 5-9 National School Counseling Week	Leadership, MTSS, 504, IEP, Grade-level meetings
C5 Finalists Interviews	Individual, Group Counseling
8 th Grade Newsletters via Email	Program Data Analysis

Congratulations to all students who made the A & A/B Honor Roll!



We LOVE the month of February. We express our love of education, learning, student achievement and each other. During this month, let's make a special effort to enlarge our kindness circle by pulling a few others in. Remember that words hurt too. Be mindful and what we say and do. It all matters. ❤️



Useful Links from the Student Support Team

Georgia Department of Family & Children Services Child Abuse Hotline -

Reports are taken 24 hours a day, 7 days a week by calling 1-855-GACHILD / 1-855-422-4453

[Georgia Crisis and Access Line](#) - For immediate access to routine or crisis services, please call the Georgia Crisis and Access Line (GCAL) at 1-800-715-4225 or 988. GCAL is the 24/7 hotline for accessing mental health services in Georgia.

[National Suicide Prevention Lifeline](#) - We can all help prevent suicide. Lifeline provides 24/7, free and confidential support for people in distress, prevention and crisis resources for you or your loved ones, and best practices for professionals. 1-800-273-8255

[Health Crisis Resources](#) - Parent resources on COVID-19 from the National Association of School Psychologists.

[National Online Safety](#) - Here you will find the most up to date guides for social media apps and platforms. There is very useful information for parents about apps such as Fortnite, Instagram, Snapchat, Tik Tok, YouTube and others.

[StopBullying.gov](#) - provides information from various government agencies on bullying, cyberbullying, prevention, and response.

[Be the Voice](#) - a student-driven initiative that results in a kinder, more inclusive school environment.

Calendar at a Glance

Feb. 9: Basketball @Haynes Bridge

Feb. 13: Governance at 7:30 AM

Feb. 13: Scheduling 101 with Rising 6th, 7th, and 8th graders (Virtual @9:30 AM; Face to Face @ 6:00 PM)

Feb. 14: Foundation at 7:30 AM

Feb. 14: Basketball Elkins Pointe- Home

Feb. 16: Basketball @Autrey Mill

Feb. 19: President's Day (School Out)

Feb. 20: Student Holiday

Feb. 22: Rising 6th Grade Meeting from 6:00 to 7:00 PM

Feb. 23: Basketball @Crabapple

Feb. 28: Basketball Fast Academy- Home

Congratulations Girls and Boys MACC Runner Ups



District Honor Band



RCMS is proud to announce that five students from RCMS participated in the District V Honor Band last weekend. To qualify for the Honor Band, the students had to prepare and perform a lyrical etude and various music scales in front of a panel of judges. This band represented an opportunity for motivated students in our district to come together and create something special in a short amount of time. They had a full-day rehearsal on Friday and performed in a concert on Saturday. We are so proud of these and all of the students who participated in the Honor Band process this year!

Grayson Avery (7th) – Alto Sax

Megan Murden (8th) – Clarinet

Amelia Beck (8th) – Flute

Sierra Joelson (8th) – Clarinet

William Ericson (8th) – French Horn

Announcements and Events

RCMS Wants SGC Candidates

The window for parents and teachers to declare candidacy for their school's School Governance Council (SGC) opened on February 5, 2024. During this time, individuals interested in serving a 2-year term (July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2025) will need to complete a Candidate Declaration Form which will be available on the [Charter System Website](#). The declaration window will close on March 29, 2023. Interested parents and teachers can click [here](#) to access requirements for candidacy. Voting will take place in late March with additional information to come about the process soon. See the [SY2023 SGC Elections Guide](#) for more information and council resources related to SGC Elections. The Governance Team is currently working to develop additional elections materials for schools including posters, handouts, lawn signs, etc. These materials will be sent out near the end of the month and should arrive at schools in early February for your teams to use to promote elections.

Volunteer Opportunity in the Media Center

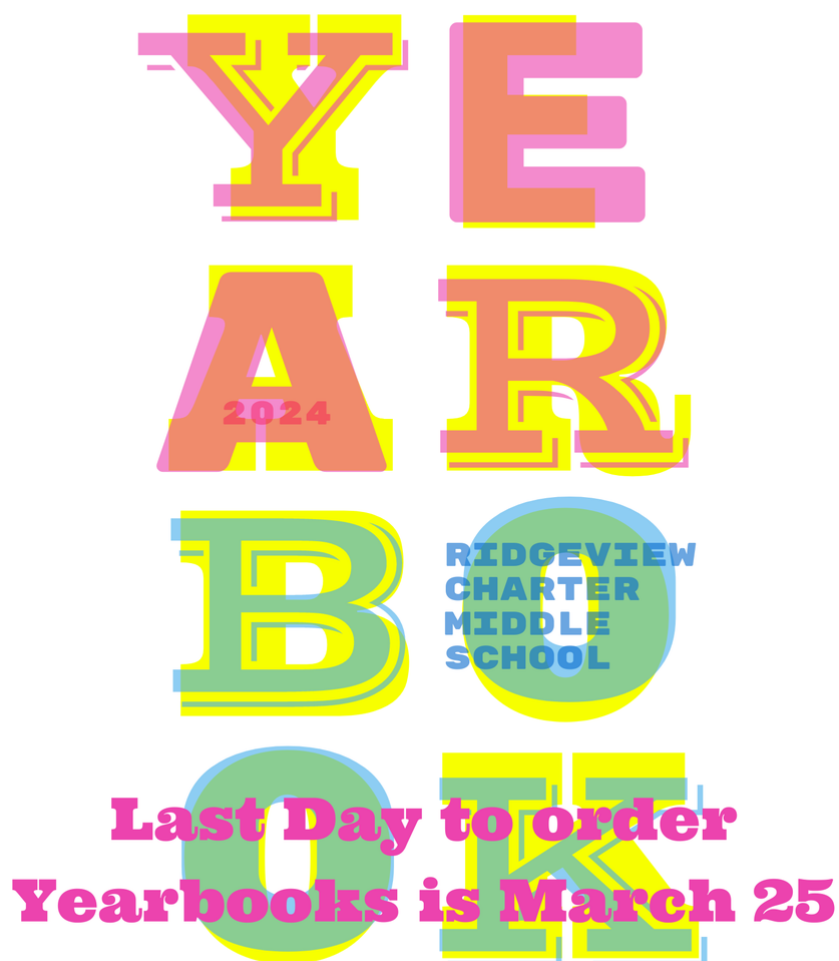
Please sign up to help Mr. Bosarge in the Media Center. Come in any time between 10 a.m.-3 p.m. to help shelf books. [Sign up here.](#)

Spirit Donuts - February 23rd!

It's Spirit Donut Time! Friday February 23rd! We will be selling donuts in the carpool AND bus lines for \$2 each (cash & check only) - please send exact change or consider donating change to the school. Students must arrive on time to purchase a donut. Donut sales will start at 8:20am and will close promptly at 9am so we do not disrupt instructional time.

Order Your Ad for the Yearbook! Ads Are Due March 1.

Celebrate that special student, teacher or staff member with an ad for the yearbook. March 1 is the LAST day to order ads, with options of full page, half page or quarter pages. Please find pricing, as well as the opportunity to design and order your ad [at this link](#). The Yearbook code is #17957. In addition, March 25 is the last day to order yearbooks! [Order yearbooks here](#) via Fulton County Payments or at the above yearbook ad link.



Save the Date! RCMS Parent Party & Auction

Save the Date! Our annual RCMS Parent Party & Auction will be held on April 20th at the new El Azteca on Peachtree Dunwoody Road! This fundraising event is a tremendous support for our RCMS Foundation. Our Auction will be available online this year and we are in need of amazing auction items! If you have something that you are willing to contribute, please [fill out this form](#).

RCMS FOUNDATION PARENT PARTY & AUCTION

Save
the
date

SATURDAY, APRIL 20TH, 7:00 PM

EL AZTECA*

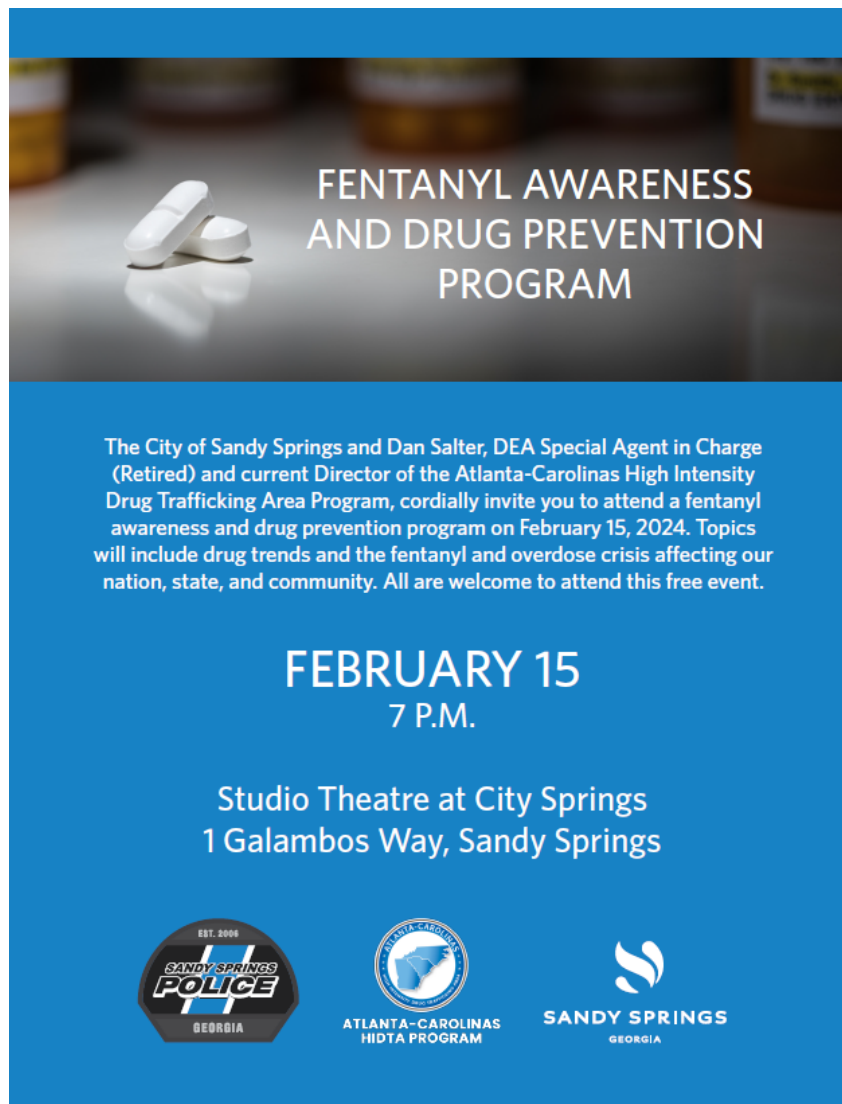
PEACHTREE-DUNWOODY RD, *FORMERLY UNCLE JULIOS

Ticket sales open in March.



Fentanyl Awareness and Drug Prevention Program

All are welcome at this free event on Feb. 15. Please see below for more information.



The Clinic Closet Needs Your Help!

RCMS families- Please help keep the clinic closet stocked with items that our students need from time to time. Thank you for your help! Here is our [Amazon wish list link](#).

RCMS Foundation

The RCMS Foundation supports BOTH the Music and Sports programs at the school. We would like to thank our community sponsors for believing in the mission the Foundation is supporting and helping to fund all of these programs for the students. Our Foundation sponsors include Shep Lawrence of Allstate Insurance Co. and Jennifer Barnes of Barnes Young Realty Team.

Joining the Foundation helps ensure that the school can continue to support these wonderful programs, and becoming a Corporate Partner is a great way to promote your business and support the students. **Find out more about our Corporate Partnership Program** [here](#) and look below to see and support our generous sponsors.

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**serving more wins for
our community**

Join me in supporting the Ridgeview Panthers.



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JOIN US IN SUPPORTING OUR RIDGEVIEW COMMUNITY!




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Consider Joining PTA and Foundation!

- **Parent Teacher Association:** Consider joining PTA with a range of donation levels to suit all families. These donations fund teacher grants, classroom supplies, staff gifts and recognitions, and student treats and incentives throughout the year. Please join at www.ptarcms.org.
- **RCMS Foundation:** Our amazing Foundation provides funding to our music and athletics programs. If your student participates in these hallmark programs, we need your support. Community partners are needed, too. Donate at www.rcmsfoundation.org.

Want to be Social?

Besides Panther Tales, Ridgeview Charter Middle School has several ways you can stay up-to-date on news and happenings. Follow us on our main [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) pages for a peek into the daily life of RCMS, plus read success stories about some of our RCMS alumni! The Ridgeview PTA also has [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) pages for PTA-sponsored happenings, spirit wear updates and volunteer opportunities.

Got News?

Panther Tales takes submissions for RCMS news or events that would benefit our student body. To submit your information, [please fill out this form](#) and the Panther Tales team will get back to you with any questions.

Ridgeview Charter Middle School

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Thomas Garrett

Thomas is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters