



THE REMSEN CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

February 2020 | Building the Future — One Child at a Time! | www.remsencsd.org

TABLE OF CONTENTS:

- 2-3** District News & Upcoming Events
- 4-5** Elementary Principal's Message & ES News
- 6-7** Jr./Sr. High School Principal's Reminders & News



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CALENDAR

For the complete District calendar, schedule of upcoming events and more District news, please visit www.remsencsd.org.

Message from the Superintendent

As a high school principal, I used to ask my students, "who do you want to be and how do you want to be remembered?" These questions would encourage them to think about their goals and aspirations and to reflect upon how their actions and choices might influence how they are remembered. By default, students would begin to tell me a career they were thinking about pursuing. I would remind them that no matter what career they chose, "who you want to be" has more to do with one's character and integrity than it does their occupation.

From pre-K through senior year, our essential mission must be to instill the guiding principles we refer to as the non-cognitive skills into each child that enters through Remsen Central School District's doors. We aspire to grow students who learn to appreciate the benefits of a hard work ethic and the power of earning as a result. We aim to strengthen their minds to think critically and to help them navigate through our ever-changing world. We encourage them to be kind and compassionate and to understand the magnitude of their decisions. The importance of manners and humility must also be taught.

No one is perfect and most children are not graced with all of these characteristics overnight. They attain them through positive role models, highly effective teachers, a loving family, community members and good friends. While all of us have stumbled with one or more of the aforementioned traits, learning from our experiences and continuously trying to improve ourselves and others around us will motivate our kids to do the same. Reminding ourselves that we have the ultimate privilege and responsibility to raise and shape our youth, will help us all to become better people.

Our children need to be loved unconditionally to realize a sense of value and purpose as they grow. We must continuously promote excellence and hard work over carelessness and shortcuts. As role models, we need to exhibit patience and self-control no matter how frustrating or upsetting a situation may be, assisting future generations as they learn to handle adversity in the same manner. Kindness, compassion and a willingness to listen are paramount. We should always be willing to lend a helping hand to others and encourage our children to do the same.

I challenge us all to think about how our actions, our words, our beliefs, our attitudes and our choices influence the children around us. What role can each of us play to teach the younger generations how to successfully thrive and become independently motivated? We must understand the importance of leading by example, to help children acquire the guiding principles they need to be successful. What matters most is that we work together to help our children become thoughtful, respected, responsible, hard-working individuals. This will all but guarantee that they are able to live happy, successful lives.

Sincerely,

Superintendent

BOARD OF EDUCATION GOALS

As a strong, proactive school board we see and value the importance of goal setting, accountability and districtwide alignment. Together, we have developed four essential goals that will support the district's vision and mission, and promote academic achievement at all levels.

- Ensure each child has the opportunity to reach their full potential in a global society.
- Hire, support, develop and retain high quality staff.
- Develop, maintain and improve resources within a fiscally sound and responsible budget.
- Improve the transparency and communication within the district and community.

Mission: "REMSEN is a dynamic school community of stakeholders providing diverse, demanding and innovative educational opportunities. Our culture fosters a conscientious desire to learn and achieve to individual potential. Students learn that responsible citizenship comes from critical, determined and sustained effort."

— SOAR TO SUCCESS —

Remsen CSD Celebrates the Holidays with Surprises, Hot Cocoa and Santa

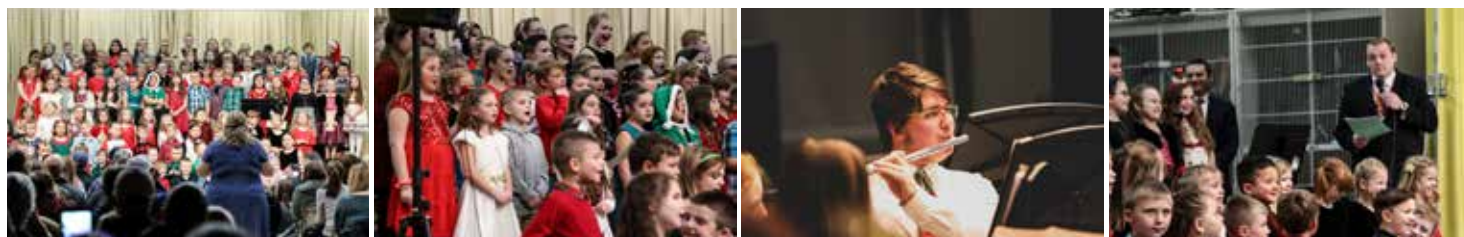


On December 20, Superintendent Mr. Jenny, Principal Mr. Winghart and Santa made their rounds at the elementary school with a cart full of hot chocolate for all. Students and teachers were filled with joy and enjoyed the festive surprise visit. Not only were students able to enjoy a warm, sweet cup of hot cocoa, but they had the opportunity for photos as well as some laughs with Santa himself.

Having celebrated the season similarly while Principal at his last school, Mr. Jenny hopes to have established a new tradition at Remsen CSD that will carry on and bring smiles and warmth to all for many years to come.

At the Jr./Sr. High School, students and staff celebrated the holiday season with an array of festive activities. Hot chocolate and Christmas cookies were served by Mr. Jenny and Mrs. McGrath. The cookies were made by Mrs. Obernesser's classes. Additionally, students and staff competed in volleyball matches to celebrate the season.

Students Spread Holiday Cheer with Christmas Concerts



On December 11, students in kindergarten through third grade participated in a Christmas concert to celebrate the holiday season.

Students, adorned in festive attire, performed Christmas songs, both classic favorites as well as some more modern pieces, for all of their friends and family to enjoy. The cafeteria was lined with gingerbread houses, created by Remsen's pre-K class, as holiday decor.

On December 19, students in grades four through 12 performed a winter concert. This concert was made up of performances by the elementary chorus and advanced band as well as the Jr./Sr. high school chorus and band.

Remsen CSD Receives Science Fair Technology Integration Grant

Remsen CSD has been awarded the Science Fair Technology Integration grant from Terra Science and Education in the amount of \$1,941.00. The School Library Media Specialist Anne Reilly wrote the grant on behalf of Remsen CSD as part of her task on the Superintendent's Conference Day.

With this grant, Remsen CSD will purchase a 3-D printer in an effort to increase student's exposure to programming, coding and other cutting edge technology.

Remsen Athletics Receives Edwin J. Wadas Foundation Grant

Remsen athletics has secured a grant from the Edwin J. Wadas Foundation in New York Mills that will be used to purchase a new high graphic scorer's table in the gymnasium for all basketball and volleyball games.

We would like to thank Victoria Cataldo, executive director of the Foundation, for supporting the Joy of Youth Athletics and its commitment to teaching our athletes the value of competing.

Agriculture Program Receives Grant

The grant selection committee from the New York Agriculture Education and Outreach Project at Cornell University has recently granted funding for the agriculture program at Remsen Central School in the amount of \$2,250.

Agriculture teacher Rayne Ives plans to use the funding to purchase equipment for use in labs.



Retirement Congratulations

Retirement congratulations to Mr. Bert Worden and Mrs. Maureen Frye! Thank you for your dedicated service to our school.



Music Department News

The Remsen Music Department presented the annual third grade Recorder and Beginning Band Recital on January 29 at the elementary school.

Congratulations to Meredith Munn, Tyler Peters, Ben Staskoski, Grady Helmer and Owen Long (alternate) who will be representing the Remsen Music Department at Junior High All-County on March 20 and 21 in Sauquoit.

On March 18, The Remsen Music Department will be presenting their "Music in Our Schools" concert at 7:00 p.m.

Drama Club

The Remsen CSD Drama Club will be presenting *The Wizard of Oz* on March 6 at 7:00 p.m. and March 7 at 2:00 p.m. Come see your favorite characters from L. Frank Baum's classic story.

New Staff at Remsen CSD



Welcome new bus dispatcher, Mr. Scott Zeigler!

Mr. Zeigler has been a school bus driver for more than 20 years and a DMV 19a Certified Examiner for the last 14 years. Mr. Zeigler is also a certified School Bus Driver Instructor (SBDI). Prior to his career as a school bus driver, he served for 22 years in the U.S. Coast Guard.



Welcome special education teacher, Ms. Jessica Sbiroli!

Ms. Sbiroli took over for Mrs. Frye who retired in December. Ms. Sbiroli has taught special education for the last four years. She earned her bachelor's degree from Utica College with a major in psychology and a minor in childhood education and special education. She earned her master's degree from SUNY Cortland in the area of literacy education. Ms. Sbiroli says that teaching is her passion and that she absolutely loves it. In her free time, she likes to volunteer, knit, crochet, read books, bike and go hiking.

Upcoming District Events

FEBRUARY 2020

- 11 • BOE Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- 13 • Sports Boosters Meeting, 6:00 p.m.
- 14 • Pre-K Valentine's Day Celebration, 1:15-2 p.m.
- 17-21 • Mid-Winter Recess, No School

MARCH 2020

- 4 • Pre-K/Kindergarten Registration, 9 a.m.-6 p.m.
- 6 • Drama Club Production, 7:00 p.m.
- 7 • Drama Club Production, 2:00 p.m.
- 10 • BOE Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- 13 • Jr./Sr. Progress Reports Mailed
- 14 • SAT Exam
- 16 • Varsity Spring Sports Begin
- 18 • Grades 5-12 Band & Chorus MIOSM Prism Concert, 7:00 p.m.
- 18 • Early Dismissal - ES Parent/teacher Conf., 11:30 a.m.
- 19 • Early Dismissal - ES Parent/teacher Conf., 11:30 a.m.
- 19 • Sports Boosters Meeting, 6:00 p.m.
- 20 • Superintendent's Conference Day, No School
- 20 • OCMEA Jr. High All-County, Sauquoit Valley CSD
- 21 • OCMEA Jr. High All-County, Sauquoit Valley CSD
- 26 • National Honor Society Induction, 6:00 p.m.
- 27 • OCMEA Elementary All-County, Waterville CSD
- 28 • OCMEA Elementary All-County, Waterville CSD
- 30 • Elementary School 2nd Trimester Evening of Excellence

APRIL 2020

- 2 • Pre-K Easter Celebration, 1:15-2:00 p.m.
- 3-13 • Spring Recess, No School
- 4 • ACT Exam
- 6 • Modified Spring Sports Begin
- 14 • BOE Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- 16 • Sports Boosters Meeting, 6:00 p.m.
- 17 • Grades 7-12 End of 3rd Marking Period
- 23 • Pre-K Concert/Family Night, 5:30-7:00 p.m.
- 24 • ES Arbor Day Ceremony
- 24 • Jr./Sr. HS Report Cards Mailed
- 30 • OCMEA Scholarship Auditions

MAY 2020

- 1 • NYSSMA Solo Festival Levels I-IV, Westmoreland
- 2 • NYSSMA Solo Festival Levels I-IV, Westmoreland
- 2 • SAT Exam
- 8 • Pre-K Muffins with Mom



Elementary Principal's Message

Dear Remsen Families,

Each day at Remsen Elementary School starts with a reminder for all to hear, "... and remember, Remsen Rams Rock!" There are also other reminders of the great opportunities and privileges that come with being a Remsen Ram, such as the wonderful community that we are part of, the close relationships that are made and strengthened each day and the opportunities to learn and grow that are available in each and every classroom. Remsen Rams have fun, play hard and work together. We care for each other and support one another through the good times and the bad times. In the short time that I have had the privilege to be a Remsen Ram myself, I have been very impressed with the way that the Rams pull together to work through challenges and to accomplish great things. It certainly is great to be a Remsen Ram.

It is hard to believe that we are already more than halfway through the 2019-2020 school year. The end of 2019 was busy with the start of the school year and plenty of fall and holiday learning activities and celebrations. The new year has gotten off to a busy start as well. With the regular curriculum, a number of holidays, as well as some of the added activities and learning opportunities that we are able to provide for our students, there is always so much going on at Remsen Elementary School.

Looking ahead to the month of March, National Reading Month, we have two exciting reading activities that we will kick off in February. One activity gives students the opportunity to participate in a reading challenge in order to earn a ticket for free admission to an amusement park. The other activity is a month-long reading event that encourages all members of the Remsen Elementary School community, including students, staff, and family members, to be reading and interacting with the same book. We are very excited about these events and look forward to the great reading that students will be doing at home and at school.

Also in March, we have pre-kindergarten/kindergarten registration, the end of our second trimester and our second trimester Evening of Excellence. If you have any questions or would like to chat, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Gary M. Winghart Jr.

Elementary School Principal

Remsen Pre-K/Kindergarten Registration

The Remsen Central School District has begun the pre-K and kindergarten recruitment and registration process for the 2020-2021 school year. Universal pre-K is open to all children residing within the Remsen School District that will be four (4) years old on or before December 1, 2020. Income eligibility is not a factor and all families are encouraged to apply. Up to 18 children are allowed in the class. Kindergarten is open to all children residing in the Remsen School District who will be five (5) years old on or before December 1, 2020.

If your child will be starting pre-K or kindergarten this coming fall, please call Amanda Kerr, elementary secretary, at 315.205.4300 ext. 4223 to be sure that your child is on the list to receive a registration packet.

Registration paperwork is also available on the Remsen School website at www.remsencsd.org/registration.

Registration for all pre-K and kindergarten students will be held Wednesday, March 4, 2020, from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. in the Remsen Elementary School main office. Please bring your child's birth certificate, current immunization record, proof of residency and your completed registration packet if you received it ahead of time. It is not necessary for your child to come for registration.

Carbone Subaru Gives the Gift of Reading

Thank you to Mr. Chris Cardello, Mr. Rick Zuccaro (Ricky Z) and the entire team at Carbone Subaru for their generous donation of beautiful books to Remsen Elementary School, inspired by Subaru's "Love to Learn Initiative."



Remsen Elementary Honors Students at First Trimester Evening of Excellence Celebration



On December 16, Remsen Elementary School students were honored for their good grades and hard work during the first trimester at the annual Evening of Excellence.

The ceremony recognized students who attained honor roll and high honor roll or who were recommended as School Citizenship and "On A Roll" Award recipients during the first trimester of the 2019-2020 school year.

Students named to the Honor Roll have attained a GPA of 3.0-3.4 and students named to the High Honor Roll have attained a GPA of 3.5-4.0. The School Citizenship Award was given to students who promote kindness and respect, and demonstrate the characteristics of a good citizen in daily school life. The "On a Roll" Award was given to students in celebration of their commitment to becoming better students through academic and behavioral growth. **Congratulations to all honorees!**

Mrs. Spatto's Pre-K Enjoys a Festive December



During the month of December, Mrs. Spatto's Pre-K class celebrated the holiday season with several fun and festive activities! On December 11, students invited their families to help them assemble yummy gingerbread houses. Once completed, these houses were a festive display to be seen by all at the K-3 Christmas concert.

As another fun activity for the holidays, Mrs. Spatto's pre-K class decorated gingerbread men cookies in class on December 17. The students were given a decorating bag filled with frosting as well as candy for buttons so that they were able to exercise their fine motor skills in a fun way. After they were finished, they enjoyed their cookies while watching the story of the gingerbread man on the SmartBoard.

To round out the holiday season, on December 19, Mrs. Spatto's students invited their parents to a holiday celebration in which they performed festive songs and dances.



The High School Principal's Corner:

Dear Remsen Families,

In late January, School Counselor Mrs. Nebush, held a night for families to come in and meet with her. Topics covered included: graduation requirements, diploma types, endorsements, BOCES and CTE pathways and overall course and program opportunities at Remsen CSD. There are many options to be aware of, and families should begin selecting their priorities as we work on scheduling 9th and 10th graders, to ensure we fit everything in by graduation. To view Mrs. Nebush's slideshow, please visit the district website.

Remsen is pleased to offer an opportunity for our students to earn the Seal of Biliteracy. This is our first year offering level IV in French and Spanish. Students earn college credit for these courses. In addition, the students will complete a project in these classes to make them eligible for the seal. Students who earn this seal have demonstrated proficiency in speaking, reading, listening and writing

in two languages; English and their chosen second language.

Cabin Fever Fest will be held February 14. This is an exciting day when elementary students are paired with high school students to participate in fitness and healthy learning activities. Since it is held on Valentine's Day, the heart is our area of focus.

I am honored to work alongside all of you. Remsen is a wonderful community to work in! We are already more than half-way through the school year and spring is right around the corner...let's hope!

Sincerely,

Kristy McGrath

High School Principal

Remsen International Club Bakes for the Holidays

The International Club hosted a Bûche de Noël contest on December 17. A Bûche de Noël (or "Christmas Log") is a traditional Christmas dessert in France. It was created by a French chef to commemorate an important tradition in French history.

Peasant families had, for centuries, burned a log at this time of year to bring heat to their homes and in hopes of good things to come. For the contest, students were invited to team up or work individually, research a Bûche de Noël recipe, create it and bring it in to school for judging. Judges were Mr. Jenny, Mrs. McGrath and Family & Consumer Science Teacher Mrs. Obernesser. They made their decisions based on: resemblance to a log, rolled cake, neatness, creativity and overall attractiveness.

The grand prize went to the team of Kirsten Waterbury and Sydney Boucher. The runner-up prize and People's Choice Award went to the team of Ty Bowers and Julia Woolheater. Honorable Mentions went to individual entries by Josiah Deland and Colleen Fox. French and Spanish students enjoyed sampling the cakes that afternoon at the International Club's Noël and Navidad Party, hosted by Madame Boyd and Señora Izzo.



Remsen CSD Awards End of Marking Period Prizes for Good Behavior



This year, Remsen Jr./Sr. High School initiated a positive behavior system in which students earn "ram tickets" for various accomplishments or positive actions and then can enter them into a drawing for prizes at the end of each marking period.

Students can earn "ram tickets" for good behavior, making honor or high honor roll, having a 95% or better attendance record or if chosen for student of the quarter or most improved by a teacher.

Winners for the first marking period were awarded Water Safari tickets, a \$25 Stewart's gift card, a stuffed animal with a \$20 gift card to the Remsen Stop and Shop school store, an Adirondack Trailblazer Baseball season pass and a \$25 Amazon gift card.

This is a positive behavior system that aims to encourage students to show good character, make their best effort and consistently be in attendance.

First Quarter Incentive Winners: Two Passes to Water Safari: Brendan Rockwell • \$20 Gift Card to use at the Remsen Stop and Shop and a HUGE stuffed bear: Addison Tesmer • \$25 Gift Card to Stewarts: Grady Helmer • \$25 Gift Card to Amazon: Gavin Thompson • One Adirondack Trailblazer Baseball Season Pass \$55 Value: Morgan Perry



Remsen High School First Quarter Honor Roll

High Honor Roll

Grade 7

High Honor

Jack Anken
Natalie Barnard
Jennah Day
Wyatt Ehart
Mitchell Fox
Dylan Gutowski
Matthew Helmer
Tucker Hollenbeck
Andrew Jones
Dylan Jones
Jaden Jordan
Meredith Munn
Ean Piaschyk
Addison Tesmer
Colton Walker

Grade 8

High Honor

Benjamin Becker
Mckayla Finn
Sabrina Gates
Zachery Helmer
Isabella Lalyer
Owen Long
Taylor Nelson
Brian Secor

Grade 9

High Honor

Wyatt Broadbent
Julia Denning
Serenity Fenton
Colleen Fox
Teaghan Fox
Grace Hajdasz
Kyrian Hall
Marissa Hefner
Grady Helmer
Matthew Jones
Joshua Jordan
Mary Jane Kranbuhl
Alexander McCormack
Siara Miranda
Skylie O'Connor-Russo
Morgan Perry
David Roman
Michael Sacco
Grace Shufelt
Noah Skermont
Benjamin Staskoski
Nicholas Tillman

Grade 10

High Honor

Abby Barton
Beulah Bigelow
Kendall Decker
Adriana Hoover
Hailey Jenkins
Paige Loveric
Mason Natalini
Sam Nichols
Olivia Stanford
Ryan Staskoski
Christopher Tavenner
Dylan Taylor
Gavin Thompson

Grade 11

High Honor

Chelsea Barnhart
Aurora Burdick
Jade Denning
Zachary Flint
Ryan Graves
Anna Jones
McKenna Jones
Morgan Jones
Kylie Singer
Emma Skermont
Noah Sylvester

Grade 12

High Honor

Thomas Natalini
Amber Palen
Michael Roberts
Kirsten Waterbury
Breanna Williams

Honor Roll

Grade 7

Honor

Shianne Austin
Isabella Colon
Josiah Deland
Shaylyn Dolly
Brayton Mulligan
Ariyah Pasho
Madisyn Pett
Alice Roman

Grade 8

Honor

Imagin Aiken
Frank Austin
Zoey Coe
Charles Deland
Malik Pett
Jaden Prosser
Ava Russo

Grade 9

Honor

Taylor Hollenbeck
Emily Johnson
Matthew Murphy
Araya Noga

Grade 10

Honor

Christopher Aiken
Randell Dolly
Joseph Hazzard
Jonathan Jewett
Evelyn Morgan
Julia Woolheater
Morgan Wright

Grade 11

Honor

Taylor Anderson
Amy Kelly
Daniel Lehman
Hunter Prosser
Brendan Rockwell
Owen Ross
Toby Sklarz
Jamie Ultsch

Grade 12

Honor

Aaliyah Davis
Ian Long
Jeremiah Major
Michael McCormack
Ryan Putrelo

2019 SABA Breakfast



On December 6, nine Remsen CSD seniors, along with Mrs. McGrath and Mr. Jenny, attended the School and Business Alliance (SABA) breakfast at Oneida-Herkimer-Madison BOCES.

Two hundred people attended this event from all over the Mohawk Valley area, consisting of students, administrators and local business people and professionals. The purpose of the event is to build a network of people for students, who hold careers they may be interested in.

Students are seated with professionals who work in areas of their interest. Speakers included Assistant VP for Learning and Academic Affairs at MVCC Tim Thomas and President and CEO of The Community Foundation of Herkimer and Oneida Counties Alicia Dicks. Breakfast was prepared and served by the BOCES Culinary Arts class, which Remsen junior Owen Ross is part of.

Plastic Recycling Challenge



Remsen Jr./Sr. High School won the 2019 Oneida Herkimer Solid Waste Authority Plastic Recycling Challenge.

With 193 students, Remsen Jr./Sr. High School collected 842 pounds of plastic film for recycling. This equals 4.36 pounds per student and breaks the record for the highest weight per capita of plastic film collected throughout these challenges to date!



REMSEN CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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BOARD OF EDUCATION

Mary Lou Allen, President
James Reilly, Vice President
Stephanie Karis
Brian Parent
Mark Williams

Timothy Jenny,
Superintendent

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Holiday Celebrations at Remsen CSD



Remsen CSD Holiday Concerts



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