SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

The school year is flying by and spring flowers from the Richfield Springs Garden Club will be here before we know it. January was a mild month, but we will see what March has in store for us on the weather front. Students and staff are working hard, as the third quarter is moving along. Keep up the great work everyone.

There are so many great learning experiences taking place in a vast variety of venues throughout the school, including all of the various content areas, the arts, athletics and a host of clubs and activities. Please take a gander at our Facebook and Twitter pages to keep up with all of the happenings that the school has continuously going on. And, I would like to thank all of our students who are involved in our extracurricular offerings, while encouraging those who aren’t involved to try something new. There is something for everyone at RSCS.

At this time, we are working diligently on the 2020-2021 school district budget with limited information on the state aid picture for our District. The State of New York is facing a $6.1 billion deficit in their budget. We are concerned that this will cause smaller percentage increases for education funding, while federal funds for education keep falling each year, too. This forces districts, like ours, that are heavily reliant on state aid to be very detail-oriented when developing our budget and making decisions with the best interests of our students at the forefront.

We would like to invite our community into the school for upcoming events, whether it be a community breakfast, the school musical, a concert, athletic contests, adult education opportunities, or the many other events that take place at the school, the center of our community.

Together in Success,

Tom Piatti
Superintendent of Schools
Richfield Springs Central School District

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

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RICHFIELD BASKETBALL

Turn to the back page of this issue to view photos of our Richfield basketball teams.

PHOTO GALLERY

For more photos, log onto www.richfieldcsd.org
STUDENTS RECOGNIZED FOR THEIR HARD WORK DURING TRIBAL COUNCIL

During Tribal Council on November 18, elementary students were recognized for their hard work and dedication that has demonstrated their commitment to learning. This requires discipline to sit and read, study, and understand the benefits of a cultivated mind, despite the many distractions of today’s world.

For the first quarter of the school year, the following students in grades 3-6 earned high honors: Ella McLean, Gabrielle Seamon, Isabelle Seamon, Sophia Spencer, Dylan Burditt, Finnigan Dibble, Natalie Dumond, Owen Oldick, Camdon Seamon, Xavier Youker, Gracelyn Johnson, Kaylie Hall, Lily Coveny, David McGrath, Aubrey Beach, Alana Carter, Alejandro Cotto, Emaleigh Dennis, Ashlee West, Jacob Harvey, Jason Marriott and Drake Oseassen.

The following students in grade 3-6 earned recognition with honors: Dakota Butler, Max Spencer, Alecia Oldick, Michael Mickel, Tegan Conlan, Cadence Conklin, Liam Onyan, Lily Blackledge, Keegan Bouton, Hunter Ough, Isabell Weiss, Colton Sheffler Lily Clements, Maleena Brown, Brooke Anderson, Mackenzie Burdick, Alaina Hunt, Sullivan Mayor, Cheyenne Sparks, Kaydin Stegen, Tiffiney Austin, Kendra Hall, Logan LaFrance, Janiya Macrina, Takota Schaffer, Wayne Prupura, Jacob Briggs, Issac Horrender, Kyra Spencer, Abigail Harris, Hailey Hosford, Lincoln Seamon and Benjamin Furner.

Congratulations to all of these hard-working students!

ADULT EDUCATION CLASSES

Senior citizens $1 off for each class
Pre-registration is necessary for all classes except the weight and fitness room.

More information can be found on the Richfield Springs Central School website under “Adult Education.”

SATURDAY YOGA CLASS
Saturday Mornings: 8:00-9:00 a.m.
Fee: $3 per class
Instructor: Lisa Mang

SUNDAY BASKETBALL
Open to all adults (must be out of high school)
Sunday Evenings: 4:00-6:00 p.m.
Coordinator: Brendon Harris

HALLWALKERS
September to June on school days: 4:00-8:00 p.m.
Fee: $4 for the year | $3 for seniors over 60

PICKLEBALL
This is a low-impact, high fun and fitness game. It is a cross between ping pong and tennis.
Tuesdays & Thursdays: 6:30-8:30 p.m.
(Times sometimes change; new members should call before coming).
Coordinator: Sue Cantwell

CARD MAKING CLASS
March 31, 2020: 6:00-8:00 p.m.
Room 140: Fee: $10.00
Coordinator: Bev Petriski
Email Bev at bpetriski@richfieldcsd.org to sign up

WEIGHT AND FITNESS ROOM
This class is for adults, post high school and beyond.
Tuesdays & Thursdays: 6:30-8:00 p.m.
$3 ($2 for senior citizens)
Saturday mornings: 7:00-8:00 a.m.
$2 ($1 for senior citizens)
Coordinator: Marilyn Shaw

CALL IF YOU HAVE IDEAS FOR FUTURE CLASSES
Vicky Greenman, Director Adult Ed
Richfield Springs Central School
93 Main Street • Richfield Springs, NY 13439
Questions? Call 315.858.0610 ext. 0148
Please check website for future programs
## PRINCIPAL’S LIST
**Average 95+**

**GRADE 7**
- Mitchell Palmatier

**GRADE 8**
- Laken Dyn
- Anna Hawkes

**GRADE 9**
- Emily Diotte
- Margaret Worobey

**GRADE 10**
- Isabel Martinez
- Roberta Schaefer-Gilbert

**GRADE 11**
- Sydney Burdick
- Brooke Connolly
- Dylan Dyn
- Katherine Kodz

**GRADE 12**
- Isabella Hudziak
- Holly Malinowski

## HONOR ROLL
**Average 90.00-94.99**

**GRADE 7**
- Alex Baker
- Aiden Dibble
- Abigail Diotte
- Ethan Evangelow
- Danica Farley
- Riley Francis
- Lila Galbreth
- Fiona Gibb
- Khadijha Randall
- Katrina Schaefer-Gilbert
- Briana Van Buren
- Emma White

**GRADE 8**
- Rylie Chenel
- Natalie Conkling
- Carson Seamon
- Brian Seigle

**GRADE 9**
- Maura Buck
- Amanda Burdick
- Lauren Johnson
- Rocco Ough
- Tselote Woldemichael

**GRADE 10**
- Molly Bobnick
- Austin Bowman
- Finn Cox

**GRADE 11**
- Cole Bobnick
- Darren Panko
- Jackson Waid

**GRADE 12**
- Christina Bourassa
- Raynella Clarke
- Hannah Elkins
- Victor Gelfuso
- Orlando Guiley
- Jayce Horender
- Madison Landers
- Julie Smith

## MERIT LIST
**Average 85.00-89.99**

**GRADE 7**
- Cameron Bouton
- Jesse Bowman
- Dylan Dennis
- Alyssa Hunt
- Madison Martin
- Gerald Mead
- Dallas Miller
- Skyler O’Dell
- Joseph Pino Luz
- Preston Robbins
- Tanner Schaffer
- Jacob Searles
- Dakota Vickerson

**GRADE 8**
- Charles Baker
- John Burditt
- Shane Johnson
- Bryan Webb

**GRADE 9**
- Jordan Diliberto
- Brogan Graves
- Isabel Pino Luz

**GRADE 10**
- Alex Brown
- Caroline Furner
- Elaina Johnson
- Matthew Oldick

**GRADE 11**
- Izabella Allen
- Ronica Clarke
- Holly Drummond
- Jaqualyn Hosford
- Samantha O’Connor
- Amy Seamon
- Damon Thomson

**GRADE 12**
- Jordan Nelson
- Hunter Oldick
- Joseph Seamon
- Beth Snyder
STATE GRANT SECURED TO HELP FURNISH HIGH TUNNEL

Thanks to the help of a state grant, Richfield Springs Central School will be able to furnish its high tunnel that will be put up in the spring.

Elementary School Principal Dr. Wilson, science teacher Mrs. Davis, and technology teacher Mr. Barkman worked with Mr. Hohensee of Bassett Healthcare to write and secure a $5,000 grant funded by the New York State Department of Health. The grant will be used to furnish the school’s high tunnel, which is a type of greenhouse that is unheated and provides an intermediate level of protection from the environment. The high tunnel was purchased with a Healthy School Grant, and it will be erected in the spring. With the help of this new grant from the Department of Health, it will now have the supplies needed to grow and sustain a school garden. This will help meet the grant’s goal of “increasing access to healthy, affordable foods.”

Having a school garden will also help to promote engagement from students, and will foster civic leadership as students use their interest and skills in agriculture to make a difference in the quality of life for the school community.

SOCIAL STUDIES, LITERACY AND ART: WE’RE ALL ON THE SAME PAGE

Fourth grade students recently had the opportunity to complete a project that combined the knowledge they’d learned in several different academic subjects.

Students in Mrs. Boss and Mr. Downs’ fourth grade classes learned about the Iroquois Nation in their social studies and ELA classes, and students were then able to see cross-curricular connections when they made wampum belts in Mrs. Sportello’s art class. Wampum belts were used by the Iroquois for recording passed laws, organizing important meetings and ceremonies, holding special messages, serving as certificates of office, and for storytelling and ceremonial gifts.

Students had the opportunity to put the knowledge they’d just learned in class to use making their own wampum belts with messages based on what’s important to them. Some students chose to incorporate their own names into the belt, while others chose to represent other people that are important to them, such as their mom or dad.

PRE-K STUDENTS COMBINE PLAY AND LEARNING IN ENGINEERING PROJECT

Students in Mrs. Bobnick’s pre-K class have been engaging in problem-based learning, and also having fun, as they were tasked with building a bridge that allows a troll to hide under it, and three different sized goats to pass over it.

Within this classroom opportunity, which combines both play and learning, students were able to take an active role in their learning environment. They were engaged, information was meaningful to them, and the students were also able to participate in a social context. These kinds of hands-on, strategic activities not only improve play skills, but also language abilities and social-emotional learning. Research shows that play is crucial to children’s learning and development. “It is the concept of play that children test out new knowledge and theories,” according to Katie Chiavarone, blogger and author of Undeniable Power of Play: 101 Tips, Activities and Play-Based Learning Strategies to Engage Your Child. What’s important to pre-K children is that projects are fun, and this engineering project certainly was!
RICHFIELD SPRINGS MUSICIANS BRING DOWN THE HOUSE WITH WINTER CONCERT

Although the weather created some problems with the scheduling of the Richfield Springs Winter Concert, once it was underway, performers proved that it was definitely worth the wait. The concert was held in the elementary gym on January 6.

Chorus Director Mr. Denova and Band Director Mr. Blake hold their students to a high standard, and the performances proved that all of the students’ hard work has paid off. It was evident that they’ve been practicing hard as the elementary and high school bands and choruses wowed the audience with their talent and creativity. Thank you to everyone who participated and helped put on an excellent performance!

STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN PLASTIC FILM RECYCLING CHALLENGE

For the second year, the Richfield Springs school community is participating in another plastic recycling challenge. The challenge is organized by elementary reading teacher Mrs. Trask and sponsored by the Otsego County Conservation Association, Casella Waste Solutions, and the Otsego County Planning and Solid Waste Department.

Students and staff were tasked with bringing in plastic items to be recycled. The kind of plastic being collected is the stretchy kind, such as grocery bags, bread wrappers, the plastic covering for cases of water bottles, and more. Mrs. Trask has been housing all of the plastic that’s been collected, weighing it, and keeping records on the amount of plastic film collected each week. She then takes the plastic film to the grocery store for proper recycling.

As of mid-January, a total of 215.5 pounds of plastic have been collected and recycled. Thank you to everyone who has donated and helped us out in this recycling challenge!
RICHFIELD SPRINGS STUDENTS HELP STUFF THE BUS

Once again, Richfield Springs students and their families helped children in the local area have a better holiday season by donating to Stuff the Bus. During the month of December, students were asked to bring in toys for Stuff the Bus, a local toy drive that helps the less fortunate in the Mohawk Valley have a happy holiday season despite any financial circumstances their families might be facing. The toy drive is held by Roser Communications and its radio stations, in partnership WKTV News Channel 2. This year, a total of 45,000 toys were collected through Stuff the Bus, helping thousands of children receive gifts this holiday season.

Thank you to everyone in the Richfield Springs school community who donated toys!

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

Ahead of winter break, Richfield Springs students had the opportunity to have breakfast with Santa in the school cafeteria on December 15. Santa was at the breakfast to visit with students and read a story, and all students, community members, and members of neighboring communities were welcome to attend. Students could also have their photo taken with Santa as well.

Thank you to everyone who attended and helped make this event a success!

PLAYING IS LEARNING: RICHFIELD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IS FULL STEAM AHEAD

Thanks to an award from Hess Corporation, elementary students are combining playing and learning to learn more about the STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) field. Library Media Specialist Vicky Greenman applied for and won a 2019 Hess Toy Trucks STEM Kit, which includes 12 Hess Toy Trucks and a Hess Toy Truck STEM curriculum guide. There were only 1,000 of these kits awarded nationwide.

Using the STEM Kits, students will explore practical transportation issues such as fuel efficiency, force and motion, road surfaces and more as they relate to tow trucks. The curriculum was created in partnership with Baylor College of Medicine. Talk about making learning relevant and fun!

For more information about the STEM Kit and to view the curriculum, visit hesstoytruck.com/stem.
SIXTH GRADE STUDENTS LEARN TO PROGRAM NAOMI THE ROBOT

Students in Ms. Wallace and Mrs. Young’s sixth grade classes are learning how to program NAOMi the robot in what has become an annual robotics project for sixth grade students. Students are programming NAOMi to walk through a coordinated plane. During one class, a group of students also programmed the robot to wave and say the phrase, “Morgan's hair looks like Strawberry Shortcake.” Activities such as this introduce students to real-world applications of computer science, engineering, technology, mathematics, problem solving and coding, which are all relevant and applicable skills for today’s workforce.

Participating in creative learning activities also helps to build students’ social-emotional skills and communication abilities, and promotes deeper thinking and teamwork.

The sixth grade students did an outstanding job with the project, and fun was had by all!

JV AND VARSITY BASKETBALL TEAMS RING THE BELL FOR RED KETTLE CAMPAIGN

On November 23, the girls and boys JV and varsity basketball teams spent their Saturday helping out the local community. Throughout the day the four teams were at Price Chopper in Richfield Springs to ring the bell for the Salvation Army’s Red Kettle Campaign. The annual fundraiser collects money to help provide shelter and meals for those in need, and funds that are raised stay local.

According to the Salvation Army’s website, the annual Red Kettle Campaign is the largest and longest-running fundraiser of its kind. It began in 1891, and this was the campaign’s 129th year.

Thank you to the JV and varsity basketball teams for taking the time to help out a worthy cause!