

RIVER DELL NEWS



NEWS OF THE RIVER DELL SCHOOLS

FALL 2018

A Message From The Superintendent

Dear River Dell Community:

About six years ago, we noticed an alarming increase in the number of students suffering some form of anxiety. As a result, we hired additional staff in guidance and special services and brought on CarePlus as an outside consultant.

During the last three years, our staff explored the psychological underpinning of the research into Social and Emotional Learning (SEL). We built our own knowledge so that we would be better able to help our students. Thankfully, we also learned that we emphasize many of these skills already.

During the 2018-19 school year, our staff are engaged in a sustained, multipart professional development program to broaden the use of SEL in all facets of the school day. SEL has a place in our co-curricular, athletic and academic programs. It should have a place in our community life as well.

During the next few weeks, we will be surveying our students and their families in order to understand if these efforts are contributing to a better school and community environment. We are using a consultant firm named YouthTruth to conduct

the survey. We will be asking questions in the following areas:

- 1) Student engagement
- 2) Academic rigor
- 3) Relationships with teachers
- 4) Relationships with peers
- 5) School culture
- 6) College and career readiness
- 7) Academic support services
- 8) Strengths and areas for improvement.

We will share the results as they become available. I am hoping that we will gain critical insight into improving the school experience for those we serve. And, I thank you in advance for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Patrick J. Fletcher
Superintendent of Schools

UPCOMING EVENTS AT RIVER DELL

NOVEMBER

- 2-3 H/S Drama Production at H/S Auditorium, 7:30pm
- 6 One Session Day-Staff Professional Day
- 8-9 Schools Closed-NJEA Convention
- 17-18 River Dell Hackathon at H/S Auditorium
- 21 One Session Day before Thanksgiving Recess
- 22-23 Schools Closed-Thanksgiving Recess
- 26 BOE Meeting at H/S Media Center, 7:30pm
- 27 PTO Meeting at H/S Media Center, 7:00pm
- 29 Junior College Planning Night at H/S Auditorium, 7:00pm

DECEMBER

- 1 Quiz Bowl Tournament at M/S, 9:00am
- 13 M/S Winter Concert at M/S Auditorium, 7:00pm
- 17 BOE Meeting at H/S Media Center, 7:30pm
- 20 H/S Winter Concert at H/S Auditorium, 7:00pm
- Spelling Bee at M/S Auditorium, 9:00am
- 24-31 Schools Closed-Holiday Recess

JANUARY

- 1 Schools Closed-New Years Day

- 3 BOE Meeting at H/S Media Center, 7:00pm (Reorganization w/Regular Meeting to follow)
- 16 One Session Day-Staff Professional Day
- 8th Grade Open House at H/S Auditorium, 6:00pm
- 18 GEO Bee at M/S Auditorium, 9:00am
- 21 Schools Closed-Martin Luther King Day
- 31 "Classical Night" by Tri-M Honor Society at H/S Auditorium 7:00pm

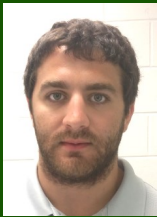
FEBRUARY

- 6 One Session Day-Staff Professional Day
- 11-15 M/S Book Fair at M/S Media Center
- 18-19 Schools Closed-Winter Recess
- 22 M/S Semi-Formal at M/S Cafeteria
- 26 PTO Meeting at H/S Media Center, 7:00pm

MARCH

- 6 One Session Day-Staff Professional Day
- 9 SAT Testing at River Dell H/S, 7:30am
- 27 RD Marching Band Fashion Show at The Fiesta, 6:00pm
- 28 M/S Drama Club Performance at M/S Auditorium 7:00pm
- 29-31 Spring Musical at H/S Auditorium

We Welcome Our New Staff



Nicholas Baranello
High School
Instructional Aide



Angela Lee
High School
Special Education
Teacher



Maria Sosa
High School
Custodian



Charles Doell
High School
English Teacher
Leave Replacement



Erika Major
High School
Spanish Teacher



Freddy Tineo
District Technology



Kathrine Driscoll
Middle School
Special Education
Teacher




John Mauthe
Middle School
Special Education
Teacher



Nicole Valorani
Middle School
Physical Education
Teacher



Stephanie Franco
Administrative
Assistant
Special Services



Andrea McNamara
High School
Chemistry Teacher



Manuel Vargas
District Technology



Christine Friedlander
Administrative
Assistant
Technology



Christopher Meo
High School
Special Education
Teacher



Ashley Warner
High School
Physics Teacher



John Jasinski
Middle School
Assistant Principal



Jeffrey Wilson
High School
Music Teacher

EIGHTH GRADERS CELEBRATE THEIR UNIQUENESS



River Dell Middle School partnered with a local non-profit organization called Don't Hide It, Flaunt It (DHIFI), and held the kick-off assembly in September for all eighth grade students. Meg Zucker, the founder and president of DHIFI, was born with a rare condition known as ectrodactyly, that she passed on to two of her three children. Meg found her DHIFI calling in 2009 when her oldest son of three children was bullied on the playground in elementary school because of his difference. Fast forward, that experience created an opportunity for Meg to speak to students and teachers about the importance of unconditional acceptance of one another. According to Meg: *"What makes me, me, is that besides the fact I happen to have one finger on each hand, one toe on each foot and shortened forearms, and two of my three children share my condition, I am also allergic to Kiwi."*

Inspired by Meg, all eighth grade students will be asked to celebrate and "flaunt" their blatant or invisible difference. Their differences will be photographed and students will write a personal statement describing their flaunt to accompany the photograph. Art Teacher Melissa Miller, the Guidance Department, 8th grade English teachers, the National Junior Art Honors Society and River Dell Middle School Ambassadors, will be assisting with Project Flaunt to empower students to accept their differences and the differences of others. DHIFI partners with schools all across the country to advance acceptance, understanding, tolerance and mutual respect, while inspiring children of all ages to flaunt their differences.

Extra! Extra! Read All About It!

Students in Mrs. Carney and Mr. Williams's AP classes participated in the New York Times Learning Network's Summer Reading Contest. The contest received 12,000 total entries throughout the summer, over a thousand entries each week. To participate in this contest, students had to read the news all summer and write a weekly 250-300 word response on what interested them most in the news that week. Several River Dell students had work that received "runner-up" and "honorable mentions." The following students were honored: Tyler Soiferman, Melanie Momjian, Allyson Tarifa (twice), Spencer Absy, Sophia Lukac, and James Chan (twice). Due to privacy restrictions, some names have been withheld.



High school art students and members of the National Art Honor Society visited the New York Botanical Garden to view the special exhibition *Georgia O'Keeffe: Visions of Hawaii*. The art students will be using their experiences and photographs as inspiration for their own art work this coming school year.



On Saturday, October 6, 2018, 25 River Dell High School INTERACT students along with their advisers Ms. Sagalchik and Ms. Fontan helped unload 2465 pumpkins at the First Congregational Church of River Edge. INTERACT is a student group that is part of The Rotary Club.



October is National Breast Cancer Awareness Month. INTERACT teamed up with the American Cancer Society to raise money for Breast Cancer Awareness and to date they have raised \$458.00. On Sunday, October 28, 2018, INTERACT members will participate in a 3 to 5 mile walk at New Overpeck Park in Ridgely Park, NJ.

CALLING ALL NURSES!

The River Dell School Nurses want **YOU!**

Please consider joining our team as a substitute School Nurse.

Requirements: NJ School Nurse certificate or substitute certification and NJ RN license

If interested, call Mrs. Mormino at 201-599-7205



Congratulations to the 2018 Athletic Hall of Fame Inductees



Carol Ennis - 1974

Field Hockey, Basketball, Softball

Sean Harold - 1991

Football, Basketball, Ice Hockey, Track, Baseball

Kelly Dowell - 1995

Tennis, Softball

Simon Wu - 1996

Cross Country, Track

Lisa Furusawa - 2001

Volleyball

Caitlin Sherry - 2001

Soccer, Track

Brandon Cohen - 2002

Football, Baseball

Tom Travalja - 2002

Golf

MESSAGE FROM OUR SCHOOL NURSES



SLEEP AND TEENAGERS

Both the River Dell Middle School and River Dell High School report increased visits to the Nurses' Offices regarding sleep problems in adolescents.

Teens' hectic schedules and anxiety about school performance, as well as peer relationships, contribute to sleep disturbances. However, late night use of electronic devices are the main contributors of loss of sleep .

Researchers at the University of Michigan conducted a poll and reported that only 4 out of 10 parents with sleep deprived teens, confer with their physicians for solutions.

The American Sleep Association advises increased communication with family doctors as well as limiting use of electronics at bedtime, supporting a sleep schedule and decreased use of evening caffeine.

Inadequate or disrupted sleep can have long lasting health effects on teenagers that go beyond irritability and moodiness. These may include difficulty concentrating on school work and increased risk of auto accidents.

Please visit www.sleepassociation.org for more info.

Francesca Puleo RN and Kathryn Kreger RN

**Watch RDTV
Cablevision Channel 77 in River Edge or 116 in Oradell
Verizon FiOS Channel 40 in both communities**

DUE TO PRIVACY RESTRICTIONS, WE ARE UNABLE TO PUBLISH ANY PERSONALLY IDENTIFIABLE INFORMATION ABOUT A STUDENT WITHOUT PRIOR WRITTEN CONSENT FROM THE STUDENT'S PARENT/GUARDIAN.

River Dell's Web Site: www.riverdell.org

**RIVER DELL REGIONAL
BOARD OF EDUCATION
230 WOODLAND AVENUE
RIVER EDGE, NJ 07661**



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