

the BULLDOG BARK

Written for the Students and Families of R. B. Stewart Middle School

Principal's Message

Dear Bulldog Families:

Third quarter has been very busy at Raymond B. Stewart Middle School. The administration and guidance staff held several meetings to introduce new programs that are coming to R.B.S.M.S next year. These programs offer parents greater opportunities to make decisions about the courses their child will be enrolled in for the 2014-2015 school year. Listed below are a few of the innovative programs coming to RBSMS next year:

Infinity Academy: This is a “blended curriculum” that utilizes the Pasco eSchool online curriculum which allows students to progress at their own rate. Students will complete the four core subjects using the Pasco eSchool curriculum, and will complete two electives offered at RBSMS or ZHS. Students will be issued a computer to complete their coursework.

AVID Elective Course- A research-based program for students in grades 6-8 that assists motivated students and provides them with support and tutoring to enable them to succeed in advanced classes. Students attend an in-school academic elective class that prepares them for college. Students will participate in quarterly field trips to local colleges.

CCTE Electives: Agriscience Foundations – This is the first course of the high school agriscience classes. Students will learn agricultural history and the global impact of agriculture; scientific and research concepts; horticulture (plants) and livestock concepts; agriscience safety; principles of leadership (FFA); and agribusiness/marketing, employability, and human relations skills in agriscience. *Eighth grade Students earn high school credit in science for passing grade.*

Introduction to Information Technology - This course is a yearlong course designed to explore introductory and intermediate computer topics using Microsoft Office 2011. Topics include: Keyboarding Skills, Business Writing, Using MS Office 2011 Word, Excel, Power Point. *Eighth grade Students earn high school credit in science for passing grade.*

As you can see, there are many exciting opportunities for our students during the 2014-2015 school year. I look forward to working with each family throughout the remainder of the school year, and during the coming year to provide a productive and safe learning environment that supports student success.

Sincerely,
Shae L. Davis

Save the Date!

Calendar of Events

April 3rd - NJHS Induction
 April 14th - May 2nd - FCAT 2.0
 April 18th - NO SCHOOL
 April 30th - Progress Reports
 May 5th - May 9th - End of
 Course Civics Exam
 May 12th - May 16th - End of
 Course Algebra 1 Exam
 May 26th - Memorial Day No
 School
 June 3rd - Last day of school
 June 12th - Last Report Card

RBSMS MUSIC PROGRAMS

Second semester is an exciting and very busy time for our music program. In January, four of our outstanding students Amanda Cook, Holly Evenson, Caly Fonseca-Vera, and Ghyslain Velazquez auditioned for and participated in the Pasco All-County Band with other outstanding band students throughout Pasco County. Our Band Program was invited and did perform at a Tampa Bay Lightning Game on January 18th.

In February, our Jazz Ensemble performed in the FBA Jazz Festival and received an overall rating of an Superior. Later that same month, our marching band participated in the Pasco Country Fair Parade and were granted 3rd place for middle school bands. Our Chorus performed in the FVA Choral Festival for the second time since the program's inception and earned an overall rating of Superior.

In March, we had 19 students participate in the FBA Solo & Ensemble Festival. During that event 13 student soloists earned a Superior rating, and 6 earned an Excellent rating. We also had five students Amanda Cook, Holly Evenson, Caly Fonseca-Vera, Katie Jelinek, and Ghyslain Velazquez audition and were selected to the Pasco All-County Jazz Band.

Join us in our upcoming events:

April 3rd FBA Concert Festival at WCHS
 May 10 Pasco All-County Jazz Perform
 May 15th Spring Choral Concert at ZHS
 May 20th Spring Band Concert

For more information please visit our website at <http://www.rbsmsband.com>.

RBSMS MATH TEAMS

Students have been gathering after school each week, learning about Mathematicians, speed skills, teamwork and personal perseverance.

These students have been preparing for our annual District Math Competition. On May 22, 2014, at Saint Leo University, three students from each grade level will compete against students from other Pasco County middle schools.

We have had such a great turn out of students participating in our weekly math team meetings that this year we will hold a Math Bowl here at RBSMS. The Math Bowl will be set up very similar to the district math competition. Students will participate in three events. The first event will be an individual assessment of grade level math skills, the second event will be a team challenge where students will work together to solve multiple step word problems, the third event will be a relay in which each student will have 90 seconds to answer a question and points are awarded to the top five students who finish first with the correct answers. The top three students from each grade level plus an alternate will represent RBSMS at Saint Leo University.

We appreciate all the parents/guardians who have dedicated the time and energy towards their child's participation on the math teams this year.



AVID Program Coming to RBSMS

The Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) program is a research-based, structured, college prep system designed to provide direct support for college-bound students who typically find themselves in “the middle.” The mission of AVID is to ensure students:

- **succeed in rigorous curriculum;**
- **complete a college prep path;**
- **participate in mainstream activities of the school;**
- **increase their enrollment in four-year colleges; and**
- **become educated and responsible participants and leaders in a democratic society**

What support does an AVID student receive?

AVID students are enrolled in the four required content classes, with at least one of the four being an advanced class. In addition, AVID students will have one elective of choice and the required AVID elective class.

The AVID elective class provides students with support, strategies, and direct instruction to help them complete rigorous work and meet or exceed high standards in each content area. In order to do so, the goal is to assist students:

- **develop as readers and writers**
- **develop deep content knowledge**
- **know content specific strategies for reading, writing, thinking, and talking**
- **develop habits, skills, and behaviors to use knowledge and skills**
- **become aware of the “hidden curriculum” in schools**
- **develop collaboration**
- **develop organization**

Seventy-five students will be selected to participate in the AVID program for the 2014-2015 school year. If you would like more information about this program, contact Courtney Northcutt, RBSMS Guidance Counselor.

TOP DOG

The **Top Dog** program has been in place at RBSMS for over 15 years. Our sponsors, the Pilot Club wanted to do something for the middle grade students of Zephyrhills and have been treating the chosen students to lunch at Hungry Howies, certificates and a very special golden "Top Dog" tag. Each team chooses one student each quarter who exemplifies Leadership, Citizenship, and Academic success. Pilot Club is a service organization in Zephyrhills. They focus their project efforts on children, the aged, and as an international project, brain related illnesses.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 3rd QUARTER TOP DOGS!

Persistent Pups – Madelyn Fletcher
 Powerful Pups – Susana Milanese
 Dashing Dogs – Brianna Gibson
 Heroic Hounds – Tristan Valverde
 Daring Dogs – Jaralee Resto-Ramos
 Clever Canines – Ariana Rao
 K-Nine Krew – Brianna Prevatt
 Hound Dogs – Kaitlyn Liles
 Courageous Canines – Mckenzie Harris
 Classic Canines – Hailey Daffron



Coaches' Corner

We are now on Twitter! Follow us to get important information and to see all of the exciting events happening at our school.

Thank you for collecting and sending in Box Tops. Last quarter we collected 7200 Box Tops. The money earned from these Box Tops has helped purchase books, rewards, etc. for our school.

This quarter we formed a Writing Academy with forty 8th grade students. We met weekly for 5 weeks to share strategies on improving their writing skills. We were impressed with each of the members' writing abilities. On March 11th we traveled to USF for a tour of the university. All the students had a memorable time.

The Tropicana Speech School Finals were held on February 5th. The purpose of the Tropicana Public Speaking Competition is to strengthen students' skills in speaking and listening. All of the team finalists impressed the judges this year with their presentations and research they compiled for their speeches.

The finalists for 7th and 8th grade are:
 1st Place Tristan Valverde
 2nd Place Sydney Baldus
 3rd Place Holly Evenson

The finalists for 6th grade are:
 1st Place Ashley Navarrete
 2nd Place Dalton Davis
 3rd Place Jacob Smith



Qué pasa in Spanish class

Qué pasa in Spanish class
7th Grade Spanish

Learning about other cultures is always fun. 7th grade Spanish students researched information on Costa Rica this quarter. They did a great job sharing information about activities, food, and places of interest. This quarter they created and acted out a role-play where they made plans for the weekend with a friend. As always they did a great job!

8th grade Spanish

8th grade Spanish students researched information on Argentina this quarter. They did a great job making posters and presenting them to their classmates. 8th graders have been learning to talk about how they feel this quarter. They also learned to talk about their daily routine and staying fit.

Mrs. Donahue
 Spanish Teacher
 Stewart Middle School

THANK YOU

On behalf of the faculty and staff at Raymond B. Stewart Middle School, we would like to send out a **Thank you** to all of our past and current Community Business Partners and Supporters. We have had a lot of community support for our school and we appreciate all of you!

Ruby Tuesday
 Town Ark
 Greater Zephyrhills Chamber of Commerce
 Pilot Club of Zephyrhills
 Domino's Pizza
 C.O.P.E.

Other local churches, businesses, organizations and community individuals.

Thank you all for your support!



RBSMS JJROTC

Raymond B. Stewart Middle School opened its chapter of the JR JROTC program again for the first time in four years. The program carries the values of the High School level Jr JROTC program by instituting values into their students which will help them build leadership characteristics such as team building and motivation techniques. Through various community service events and leadership courses, these students are taught not only the value of being a decent leader through evaluation of the strengths and weaknesses of the group but also how to be a productive citizen as well. Furthermore, students are taught the value of the education they receive and are frequently encouraged about opportunities to further their education and become a productive member of society either in the workforce or in the military. The Jr JROTC program also helps students prepare for the leadership structure enforced in the high school branch of the JROTC program.

COMMUNITY SERVICE IS THE NAME OF THE GAME FOR THE KIWANIS BUILDERS CLUB!

It has been said that the happiest people in this world are those who serve others. The Kiwanis Builders Club is a program that enables our students to experience the true joy that comes from serving others and doing good things in their community. In so doing, they can make a positive difference in their own lives and in the lives of everyone around them.

This year, our club has helped set up the school science fair and visited a local nursing home to spread holiday joy – singing carols and serving cookies and egg nog.

This month we will help at the American Cancer Society’s “Relay for Life” at Zephyrhills High School. After that, we will team up with the RBSMS Student Government to raise funds to help 8th grade students pay for their end-of-year activities.

If you’d like to make new friends, have fun, and do good things for your school and your community, we’d love to have you join us. We meet every Tuesday after school in Mr. Morehouse’s classroom, room 08-202, from 3:00pm to 4:15pm. Please arrange to be picked up in the car loop by 4:30.

For more information about The Kiwanis Builders Club visit www.buildersclub.org, or just come to a meeting as a visitor to see if it’s right for you. We hope to see you there!



Citizen of the Month

The Chamber of Commerce has teamed up with RBSMS to honor and reward our students who are willing to help others, the community, make good choices as well as always striving to improve his/her life.

SCHOOL WIDE CITIZEN OF THE MONTH

January: Jacob Chinchar

February: Kendra Williamson

March: Natalee Mason

Congratulations to all of our RBSMS Citizens of the Month!

	January	February	March
Persistent Pups	Amanda Day	Josiah Bruno	Natalee Mason
Powerful Pups	Lakisia Thomas	Tyler Reagan	Kayla McCarter
Dashing Dogs	Darion Lopez	Jessica Burrows	Adriana Saldana
Heroic Hounds	Sadye Anne Brown	Norma Strokus	Isiah Mendez
Daring Dogs	Alana Lord	Jaralee Resto-Ramos	Leo Hood
Clever Canines	Savannah Carpenter	Jacob Rood	Athulya Kuruvilla
K-nine Krew	Jacob Chinchar	Veronyca Helton	Jeffrey Bowman
Hound Dogs	Wilbur Miller	Kendra Williamson	Timothy Horton
Courageous Canines	Janeice Potwin	Julian Herman	Daniel Thomas
Classic Canines	Michael Thomas	Taylor Williams	George Morris



Quarter Three Honor Roll Ceremony



Our third quarter Honor Roll ceremony will take place Friday, May 2nd in our cafeteria. The ceremony for our 7th and 8th graders will begin promptly at 9:15 a.m and the ceremony for our 6th graders will begin at 2 p.m. Eligible students received invitations to the ceremony on the day reports were distributed. If you have any questions, contact your child's Guidance Counselor.

African American Greats Field Trip

By Hanna Wade and Madison Shipley

On February 21st, 2014, a group of Ms. Melendez's students went on a field trip to Stage Works Theatre in Tampa, Florida to watch a performance of African American Greats. The two performers, Amber Forbes and Joshua Goff, played the roles of Mary McCloud Bethune, Rosa Parks, Madame C.J. Parker, Dr. Charles Drew, and Jackie Robinson.

Mary McCloud Bethune started a college for only women. Rosa Parks, refused to give up her seat on a bus in Alabama. Madame C.J. Parker was the first millionaire entrepreneur who was a hair dresser for black women. Dr. Charles Drew was a scientist who helped perfect the process of blood transfusions. Jackie Robinson was the first African American baseball player to play on a major league baseball team. The students read his autobiography, "The Noble Experiment" in class, before they went on the field trip.

Everyone enjoyed the play and afterwards asked them questions about their acting career and the people they portrayed in the African American Greats play. The performers also seemed to enjoy answering all of these interesting questions. After eating lunch in the lobby and boarding the school bus the students got to school and the next week took a test on "The Noble Experiment" and used information they learned from the play, about Jackie Robinson to answer some of the questions.



Eighth Grade End of the Year Activities

The end of the year promises to be a special time for our 8th graders at RBSMS. We are planning a very special list of events for them to enjoy. We realize that each activity won't be attended by all but we know that they will all be attended by most! These activities were planned with your child's interests in mind.

- Bush Gardens Friday, 5/2/14 5:30 pm – 1:00 am \$65.00
- 8th Grade Dance Saturday, 5/17/14 6 pm to 8:30 pm \$10
- Field Day/Year Book signing Friday 5/30/14 Free
- 8th Grade Celebration Tues, 6/3/14 9am – 11:00 am Free

FINAL Participation DECISIONS WILL BE UP TO THE DISCRETION OF RBSMS ADMINISTRATION.

Students with more than 3 **unexcused** absences during fourth quarter will be excluded from attending the field trip and dance. Full participation requirements and disclosures can be found on the RBSMS website <http://rbsms.pasco.k12.fl.us> as they are stated in the activity letter that was sent home with each 8th grade student



Science Field Trip to University of Florida

RBSMS had the opportunity to send 50 students to the University of Florida on February 18th to tour their Engineering Building and meet with current students that are studying Engineering. Our students had the opportunity to talk with the Engineering students and view a display of various Science projects that related to every day life. Thanks to Mrs. Fournier, Mrs. Simon, Ms. Stewart and Mr. Holley for attending the field trip with the students.



RBSMS Student Government Council

Congratulations to the newly elected officers:

Katie Ayers	President
Drew Brown	Vice President
Shayne Sullivan	Secretary

Members of Student Government Council are:

Ryan Burris
 Hunter Hall
 Curtis Humbrick
 T.J. Horton
 Jessica Liu
 Ian McLennan
 Destiny Olmstead
 Chriffy Saji
 Ja”Mauri Sallie
 Gisselle Sierra
 Nakia Smith
 Norma Strokus
 Hayleiiigh White
 Raven White

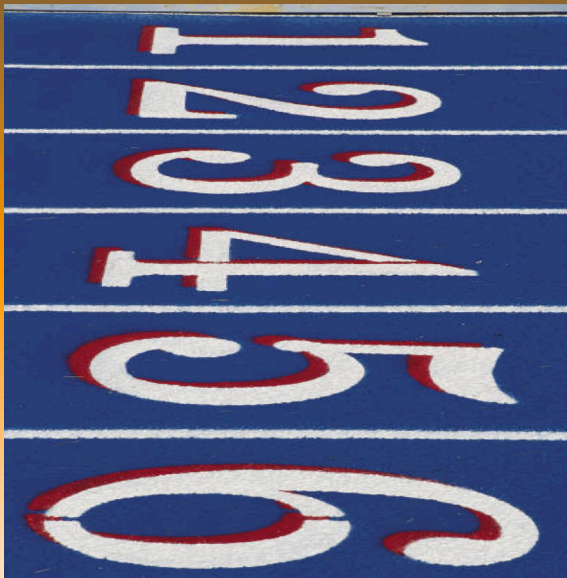
Students have been working on various projects through out the year.

NJHS News

The National Junior Honor Society will be participating in Relay for Life March 28th from 6 to 10pm at the Zephyrhills High School. Please stop by to show support and help us raise funds for the American Cancer Society at our booth.

We will be inducting new members, April 3rd during a special ceremony in the cafeteria at 6:30pm. Acceptance letters were distributed to students early this week. We look forward to welcoming our new members!





We are Bulldog Strong!

**Boys & Girls Track
Schedule 2014**

DATE	DAY	OPPONENT	LOCATION	TIME
3/27	THURSDAY	<u>CENTENNIAL</u> , PASCO & STEWART	AWAY (PHS)	5:30 P.M.
4/1	TUESDAY	<u>PINE VIEW</u> , JOHN LONG & STEWART	AWAY (LOLHS)	5:30 P.M.
4/8	TUESDAY	<u>WEIGHTMAN</u> , JOHN LONG, RUSHE & STEWART	AWAY (WCHS)	5:30 P.M.
4/10	THURSDAY	<u>PASCO</u> , CENTENNIAL, JOHN LONG & STEWART	AWAY (PHS)	5:30 P.M.
4/29	TUESDAY	<u>WEIGHTMAN</u> , PASCO, CENTENNIAL & STEWART	AWAY (WCHS)	5:30 P.M.
5/6	TUESDAY	EAST SIDE CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIPS <u>JOHN LONG</u> , CENTENNIAL, PASCO, WEIGHTMAN PINE VIEW, RUSHE & STEWART	AWAY (WRHS)	5:30 P.M.

RAIN DATE FOR CONFERENCE IS WEDNESDAY, MAY 7TH.

THE UNDERLINED SCHOOL FOR EACH MEET IS THE HOST

**BOYS COACH: NORMAN SCHEUERMAN
GIRLS COACH: JOHN MCDUGALL
ASSISTANT COACH: DEBRA STACY**