

W I N T E R 2 0 1 5

the BULLDOG BARK

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

Principal's Message

Save the Date!

Calendar of Events

January

12 Report Cards qtr. 2

20 MLK Day -No school
HOPE club meeting

27 Academic Excellence
Celebration

30 AVID family meeting

February

3 HOPE club meeting

9-13 Random Act of Kindness
Week

12 SAC meeting

13 Progress Reports qtr. 3

16 President's Day - No School

17 HOPE club meeting

26 Community Connection
Night

March

3 HOPE club meeting

6 Spring Photos

Dear Bulldog Families:

I hope the New Year finds each of you healthy and looking forward to the year that awaits. I would like to thank the many students and parents who participated in our canned Food Drive in November. We were able to provide Thanksgiving dinners for 30 families in need. A special thanks goes to the school staff, clubs, and community for providing 50 families with holiday gifts and food for Christmas.

Our music students have also had a very successful first semester. Several of our band and chorus students auditioned for and received prominent positions in All-County Chorus and Band events held this fall. Our chorus held their Winter Concert at Zephyrhills High School and they did an outstanding job. Not to be outdone, our Bulldog Band had a record turn out for their Winter Concert that was held at RBSMS in the gymnasium.

As we move into the second semester of school, I would like to thank our parents for the support they provide to students and staff. The contributions of parents continue to be a significant help to the efforts of Raymond B. Stewart Middle School staff to meet the social, emotional, and academic needs of our students.

I am pleased to announce that RBSMS has a new addition to the administrative team. Ms. Peggy Gilbert was one of three teachers in Pasco County selected to serve an administrative internship. To be eligible for this program, candidates have had to complete college coursework and be selected for the Assistant Principal Pool. Welcome Ms. Gilbert, we are glad you are part of the team!

Shae Davis
Principal



Counselor's Corner

Red Ribbon Week and Mix it Up at Lunch Day

Our students and staff celebrated Red Ribbon Week from October 27-31. A nationally recognized week held each October, Red Ribbon Week is designed to promote the importance of making healthy, drug free choices. Over the announcements each morning, students watched videos from the *Natural High* series. These videos featured celebrity actors, musicians, and athletes discussing what their natural high is and how it has motivated them to remain drug-free. RBSMS School Counselors planned daily themes such as *Buddy Up Against Drugs (Twin Day)* throughout the week. Our Stewart Bulldogs showed great support for this important cause by participating in these daily themes throughout the course of the week. We encourage you to visit the Guidance page on our RBSMS website to check out some great pictures of our spirited students and staff.

Mix-It-Up Lunch Day was students were encouraged to wear clothes backwards, inside out, and mismatched. On that day, RBSMS students participated in **Mix it Up at Lunch Day**, a national campaign launched by Teaching Tolerance 13 years ago. The purpose of this day is to encourage students to move out of their comfort zones and connect with other students they don't know well or don't normally sit by at lunch. Changing routines can be difficult and uncomfortable, but our students did a fantastic job of participating. We were very impressed with the students' positive feedback and definitely felt the day was a success.

CHOICES

Following Thanksgiving break our 8th grade School Counselor, Ms. Northcutt, worked with all 8th grade students on a required career lesson. All 8th graders were assigned days in the computer labs in order to complete the required career components of Florida's CHOICES career education program. Through this program 8th graders had the opportunity to complete interest surveys and explore careers they may be interested in for the future. Students who were absent will be scheduled for make-up days.

SMALL GROUP COUNSELING

The RBSMS School Counselors have been providing small group counseling for students in each grade level. At-risk students are receiving evidence-based curricula support for social/emotional skills. Small group instruction is an effective way for students to learn essential skills. Each grade level counselor is currently running at least two social/emotional skills groups, focusing on topics such as anger management, social skills, relational aggression, and healthy conflict resolution.

ERASE THE HATE

Our RBSMS School Counselors organized our 3rd annual **Erase the Hate Week** December 15-19. By emphasizing the importance of celebrating diversity, this week helps promote a school climate of tolerance for all. This year our slogan was "***Our School... A Place Where Everyone Fits.***"

During 1st period and at lunch students participated in activities linked to these topics. Each student was given a puzzle piece cut-out and asked to list things that they think makes them unique. Decorated puzzle pieces were displayed in classrooms and hallways throughout the school.

The School Counselors appeared on the morning announcements throughout the week with messages aimed to increase students' tolerance and acceptance toward one another. A different video, relevant to these topics, was shown each morning. Links to these videos can be found by clicking on the Guidance tab on the RBSMS website.

Volunteers

If you plan to volunteer during the 2014 - 2015 school year, please remember you must register every school year online at www.pasco.k12.fl.us. Make sure you select Raymond B. Stewart Middle School as your designated school. When your application has been approved, the district supervisor of volunteers will send you a letter of confirmation. Remember, you must be an approved volunteer to be considered for

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

October: Samantha Hines

November: Alejandro Otero

December: Kayla McCarter

Congratulations to all of our RBSMS Citizens of the Month!

Team	October	November	December
Princeton Pups	Brayden Williams	Eternity Faison	Devin Eubanks
Cornell Canines	Taylor-Ann Hatfield	Brenna Hooks	Ashley Webb
Harvard Hounds	Bailey Krouse	Alejandro Otero	Madianyelis Muniz
Duke Dogs	Jordan Dannison	Preston Gard	La’Nia Hayes
West Point Canine Calvary	Nathanael Wallick	Taylor Kirby	Cole Myers
Yale Yorkies	Samantha Hines	Jaralee Resto-Ramos	Jerry Hernandez
Infinity Academy	Hayleigh White	Ethan Holden	Samantha Crist
Georgetown Growlers	Nellie Cruz	Dominic Turner	Kayla McCarter
Clemson Canines	Juanita Otero	Anna Vanlo	Jorden Soule

Bryant’s Biscuits

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 1st QUARTER TOP DOGS!

- Princeton Pups - Hannah Smith
- Cornell Canines - Selegna Ramos
- Harvard Hounds - Jazmin Soares-Llanos
- Duke Dogs - Nicolas Petroff
- West Point Canine Calvary - Karlene Rivera
- Yale Yorkies - Thomas Hudon
- Infinity Academy - Dalton Davis
- Georgetown Growlers - Hannah Waters
- Clemson Canines - Michael Thomas

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2nd QUARTER TOP DOGS!

- Princeton Pups - Adriana Garcia
- Cornell Canines - Isaiah Lawrence
- Harvard Hounds - Donald Roach
- Duke Dogs - Lindsey Binnicker
- West Point Canine Calvary - Zachary Schneidmiller
- Yale Yorkies - Adam Reid
- Infinity Academy - Abigail Sloan
- Georgetown Growlers - Emily Jennings
- Clemson Canines - Cresencio ‘Roel’ Siller



Coaches' Corner

Ms. Barbara Martin, ICT Coach
 Ms. Kim Rulison, Mentor Teacher
 Ms. Susan Thomas, ICT Coach

Caught Ya' Reading

In December, Stewart was having fun with reading! The "Caught Ya' Reading" school-wide reading incentive program kicked off on Monday, December 1st. All teachers were given Caught Ya' Reading tickets to hand out to any student that they caught reading. The more times a student was caught reading, the more tickets they could earn for the drawing of some very exciting prizes. To help boost excitement, prizes were displayed in the Media Center window and on December 19th, we held the drawing during the morning announcements. Winning tickets were drawn and announced by our very own Mrs. Johnson and Mrs. Brooks. Our Media Center quickly filled-up with some very excited winning ticket holders! Some of the prizes that were given away included: sports equipment, electronics, games, board games and books!

The "Caught Ya' Reading" school-wide reading program would not have been possible without the support of the School Advisory Committee! We were awarded a grant, which was the main funding source for the reading incentive program. A huge thank you goes out to our School Advisory Committee for supporting Raymond B. Stewart Middle School students as well as literacy!

Community Connections Night

We hosted our second Community Connections Parent Night this year on Thursday, December 4th. Parents had the opportunity to listen to Mr. Schmidt's Jazz Band Combo while dining. We had a great turnout for the individual sessions, and we were very excited to see an overwhelming turnout for parent conferences again!

The following sessions were offered at the December 4th Community Connections Parent Night:

1. FSA Assessment
2. Online Bullying
3. eSembler

4. Online Math Textbook Support
5. AVID Elective

Thank you to everyone that attended!! Our third Community Connections evening will take place after Progress Reports. Be on the look out for more information!

Save these dates for the upcoming FSA Writing and Reading and Math, FCAT 2.0 Science and End of Course Civics & Algebra I Exam Dates:

FSA Writing - Grades 6-8: March 2nd - 13th
 FSA Reading/ELA and Math: April 13th - May 8th
 FCAT Science- Grade 8 only: April 13th - May 8th
 End of Course Civics Exam dates: April 20th - May 15th
 End of Course Algebra I Exam dates: April 20th - May 15th
 District End of Course Exams: May 11th - June 3rd

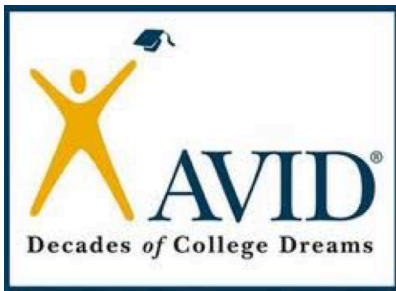
Great American Teach-In

Our Great American Teach-In was Wednesday, November 19th. What a wonderful turnout. We had 16 group presenters ranging from Military personnel to pest control. The students and teachers both had a great time and learned a lot from this experience.

A Big **THANK YOU** to all who took time out and participated.

Edward Bruns
 Cathy Carman
 John Fletcher & Crew
 Amy Green
 Rick Concilio
 Jason Hopp
 Sameer Mohammad
 Wendy Pellegrino
 Alison Lemmon
 Terry Lomanitz
 Josh Schneidmiller
 Karen Williams
 Bobbie Crosby
 AJ Hernandez
 Sybrian Castleman & Cadets
 Chris Meyer

Thank You! We Appreciate You!



The mission of AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) is to ensure that ALL students, especially those who find themselves “in the middle,” will succeed in rigorous curriculum, will complete a college prep path, and will become educated and responsible participants and leaders in society.

Students school wide are continuing to learn how to take Cornell Notes in all classes. These notes help students to process their learning and prevent memory loss. So far this year all students at RBSMS have learned how to take notes, revise their notes, and add study questions to their notes. As we move forward students are also writing summaries to synthesize their learning. Ask your student to show you the notes he/she has been taking in class.

The AVID Elective students also continue to learn about the college and toured both Saint Leo University & University of South Florida during first semester. These visits provide students a glimpse into the college offerings, campus, and daily life. We would like to thank everyone who has helped to make our college visits successful!

If you are college bound and interested in joining the AVID Elective, be sure to complete an application for the 2015 - 2016 school year. Applications will be coming soon!



Infinity Academy Field Trip!

Our Infinity Academy ventured out into the wild to experience the wonders of science and the natural world at MOSI in Tampa, FL. We spent the day completing STEAM activities, viewing exhibits,

eating lunch, and catching an educational movie about Mysteries of the Unseen World in the world famous IMAX dome.

Our 6th graders learned the ins and outs of DNA extraction and had a chance to practice on wheat germ. Our 7th graders used light refractors, lasers and strobe lights during an enlightening experience that taught them all about how light works. The 8th graders reacted well to their Action/Reaction class where they made fireworks, inspected absorption capabilities of diapers and learned all about energy transformations.

After our educational activities each student had time to traverse the museum and enjoy the interactive exhibits such as Kids in Charge, Mission Moon base and The Amazing You. Overall the day was wonderful and our scientific knowledge was exponentially increased!

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 Community Business Partners and Supporters. We have a lot of community support for our school and we **appreciate all of you!**

Town Ark
 Greater Zephyrhills Chamber of Commerce
 Dominoes Pizza
 Pilot Club
 C.O.P.E.
 Rotary Noon
 Catholic Daughters of the Americas
 Parents/Students of NJHS
 The Wood Family
 Tagged Department Store
 The Moose Lodge
 The Society of St. Vincent de Paul
 New Walk Church
 Mike Johnson - Bounce Zone

Other local churches, businesses, organizations and community individuals.

Thank you all for your support!

Band Sightings

Second semester is an exciting and busy time for our music program. In November, we had nine students selected to the Pasco All-County Band. These students will be rehearsing with other outstanding musicians from across the county to perform in a concert on January 24th at the Center for the Arts in Wesley Chapel. The students selected were Joshua Arriaga, Samantha Crist, Ashley Dirks, Emily Jennings, Grace Luneack, Candice Mastycarz, Sheryl Shulz, Shania Spittka, and Haley Torres. This is a great performance opportunity for our students.

We have a number of upcoming performances that we would love for our friends, family, and community to attend! Remember, all of our events are free to attend, so come on out!

February 12th: Our Jazz Ensemble will be performing at the FBA Jazz MPA. This event will feature all of the jazz ensembles from both Pasco and Hernando counties!

February 16th: Our Marching Band will be performing in the Pasco All-County Fair Parade. This event takes place in Dade City.

March 7th: Our Marching Band will be performing in the Zephyrhills Founder's Day Parade. This event takes place on Main Street Zephyrhills.

April 1st - April 2nd: Our Symphonic Band will be performing at the FBA Concert MPA. This event features all of the middle school concert bands from both Pasco and Hernando counties!

April 25th - All of our students will have the opportunity to participate in the FBA Solo & Ensemble MPA. This event allows our students to earn individual recognition for the work. Students who earn a superior rating will also earn a medal for their hard work.

May 19th - Our entire program will be hosting their annual Spring Concert. Our concert will begin at 7:00 p.m. in the RBSMS Gymnasium.

For more information about any of our upcoming events or about joining our program, please visit our website at <http://www.rbsmsband.com>. Remember, anyone can be part of the band!



Qué pasa in Spanish class

7th graders just completed a role-play where they wrote a script and acted it out for the class pretending they were interviewing a famous person or character.

Next they will be learning how to talk about what activities they like, and how to make plans with friends for different activities. Way to go 7th grade!

8th graders have been learning how to order food at a restaurant. Students created a restaurant menu in Spanish and a role-play where they ordered food at a restaurant. 8th graders did a great job acting out their role-plays.

Next 8th graders will be talking about their daily routine and staying fit and healthy in Spanish.

Mrs Donahue
Spanish Teacher
R.B. Stewart Middle School

Writers at Work

One of our very busy classes has recently completed a unique publishing project. While surfing for educational materials on the internet, Mrs. Concilio happened upon a website called "Student Treasures," which invites the reader to publish students' writing. She sent for the information and kit, which contained everything needed to publish a book. Students were encouraged to write two short stories on Alpha Smarts and provide an illustration for each story. Peers also participated writing one story with an illustration. In order to participate in the project, the students were required to obtain parental permission. They were also given the opportunity to purchase a copy of the book.

The book was titled Traveling in a Hot Air Balloon, with the cover illustrated by Katie Jeffcott and proofreading by Amanda Schmidt. Each student wrote about places to go and what to see or do and drew his or her interpretation of travelling in a balloon. The pages were then set on the provider's materials and sent for publication. Each student shared unique and sometimes very imaginative stories and drew a colorful illustration. Those who purchased the book were amazed at the brilliant color and professional appearance, and all were very proud to be a part of such a wonderful experience.

GIRLS SOCCER

Coach: Kathleen Jeffcott

January 22	Pasco	PHS (away)
January 29	Centennial	ZHS (away)
February 3	Pine View	LOLHS (away)
February 5	John Long	WRHS (away)
February 10	Charles S. Rushe	ZHS (home)
February 12	Weightman	ZHS (home)
February 17	Pasco	ZHS (home)
February 24	Centennial	ZHS (home)

Game Time: 6:00 P.M.

All games are played at the high school stadiums

BOYS BASKETBALL

7th Grade Coach: Shannon Matthews

8th Grade Coach: Debra Stacy

Assistant Coach: Mark Holifer

January 26	Pasco @ RBSMS	Home
January 28	Pine View @ RBSMS	Home
February 2	CENMS @ RBSMS	Home
February 4	RBSMS @ TEWMS	Away
February 9	JLMS @ RBSMS	Home
February 11	RBSMS @ CSRMS	Away
February 18	RBSMS @ PMS	Away
February 25	RBSMS @ CENMS	Away

Game Time: 6:00 P.M.

7th grade team will play first, followed by the 8th grade team.

