

OCTOBER 13, 2016

the
BULLDOG BARK

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

Save the Date!

Calendar of Events

October

24 Report Cards
24-28 Red Ribbon Week

November

14 Honor Roll
16 Great American Teach-In
18 2nd qtr. Progress Reports
21-25 Thanksgiving Holiday
28- 12/2 Erase the Hate Week

December

8 Community Connections
26-Jan. 6 Christmas Break

January

1-6 Christmas Break
16 MLK Day No School
17 Report Cards

Principal's Message

Dear Parent or Guardian:

It's hard to believe that we have finished up the first quarter already. We are excited about this school year and we have had so many fun activities for our students.

During the month of September, we held our first Pep Rally, our first Club Day, and we kicked off our football and volleyball season. We held our Quarter One Community Connections event and there were over 70 conferences scheduled. Then in October, we had our Fall Dance sponsored by the Yearbook Staff, and Fall Chorus Concert at ZHS.

I am also excited to announce that we held our first PTO Board meeting on October 3. Our next meeting that is scheduled for November 3rd, at 3:15.

Officers for the RBSMS 2016-2017 School Year are:

President - Sandie McIlwaine
Vice President - Michelle Lockenvitz
Secretary - Cathy Kloess
Treasurer - Paulette Soto
Web design - Dorota Russell

Please check our school webpage and School Face Book page for coming attractions. We have many exciting things planned for Quarter Two and we hope that everyone takes part in these activities.

Mrs. Shae Davis
RBSMS Principal



Welcome New Teachers and Staff

Welcome to a host of new faces:

Andrea Altman	Asst Principal
Terry O'Brien	Asst Principal
Mike Pellegrino	Science
Cori Grove	Math
Tekia Hawk	Math
Simone Drake	VE
Stephanie Weems	VE
Makeda Chatawa	Health
Tori Jordan	Math
Diane Banks	Counselor
Rebecca Webb	Therapist
Jamie Estrada	Motivational Coach
Marcia Garza	Registrar

WE'RE GLAD YOU HAVE JOINED US!



Volunteers

If you plan to volunteer during the 2016 - 2017 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 chaperoning a field trip or school event. Thank you.

Great American Teach-In

We would like to invite you to join us for this year's Great American Teach-In, which will be held on **Wednesday, November 16, 2016**. The Great American Teach-In provides an opportunity for members of the community to come in and speak with students about their occupations, hobbies, or areas of interest. If you are willing to participate in the Great American Teach-In, please contact Robyn Herndon, RBSMS Parent Involvement Coordinator at (813) 794-6510 by **November 2, 2016**. Thank You!

The Principal's Pedigree Pack

Students receive Principal Pedigree Bones throughout the year to reward them for showing Stewart pride and excellence in all they do. We have a square board set up in the back office with numbers 1 - 100. When our board completes 10 bones in a row/column they win. These winners get to have pizza with the principal. Stewart's Principal Pedigree Pack has had 2 sets of winners so far this year. **Way to Go Bulldogs!**



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!

First United Methodist Church of Zephyrhills
Veterans of Foreign Wars of the USA - VFW Post 8154

The Church on Chancey Road
1st National Bank of Pasco

Town Ark

Greater Zephyrhills Chamber of Commerce

Pilot Club

C.O.P.E.

Rotary Noon

Jerry Finocchi - FCA

Publix Supermarket, Zephyrhills

Other local churches, businesses, organizations and community individuals.

Thank you all for your support!

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

Cornell Canines

Harvard Hounds

Duke Dogs

West Point Canine Cavalry

Yale Yorkies

Infinity Academy

Georgetown Growlers

Clemson Canines

Quintin Graham

Diannette Fernandez

Dylan R. Johnson

Jacob Smith

Autumn Bayless

Jainesse Lazu

Isabel Lugo

Collin Lindsey

Adela Reynel



Club Day

One of the incentive programs that we have at Stewart Middle School is Club Day. Students who miss no more than 2 days of school during the month are eligible to participate. This program not only encourages students to attend school regularly, but it also targets students' special interests.

Each club is sponsored by a staff member and is focused on various topics, skills, and hobbies. Some of the clubs we have this year are: cooking, sewing, JROTC, guitar, soccer, chess, scrapbooking, and science, among many others. Club Day occurs on the last Friday of each month. We use an activity bell schedule so that students attend periods 1-6, and the end of the day is dedicated to club time. The first Club Day was a huge success, thanks to Vicki Horton, who organizes the entire program. Ms. Horton worked tirelessly to create a schedule and to ensure all students had a club to attend.



Attendance

It is important for you to be aware that our school hours are 8:30 AM – 2:55 PM. The earliest any child can be dropped off at the school is **8:05 am**. In addition, it is very important that your child arrive to school on time every day.

Attendance is key to taking advantage of all the resources and tools our teachers have to offer, and to help your child be successful. The Attendance Policy for Pasco County Schools can be found in the Student Planner your child received on the first day of school. There are several holidays built in to our school system's calendar, so please try to plan your vacations in conjunction with the school's holidays so that your child does not miss any important instruction.

Cafeteria Regulations

Due to our increased awareness in health guidelines and consideration for students with allergies, outside food (from restaurants such as McDonalds, Pizza Hut, Wendy's, etc.) will not be permitted in the cafeteria. If you are eating lunch with your child, you are welcome to bring in outside food and eat lunch with your child at the picnic tables located in front of the cafeteria. Students are not permitted to order outside food and have it delivered to school for their lunch.



Community Connections

Our first quarter Community Connection event was held on September 29 and there were 70 conferences scheduled throughout the evening. Parents can schedule after hour conferences between 4:00 pm - 8:00 pm by contacting Robyn Herndon, RBSMS Parent Involvement Coordinator.

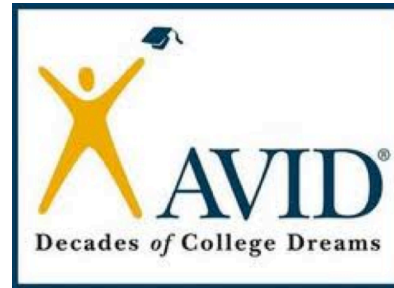
Our Second Quarter Community Connection Event is scheduled for **THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8th so SAVE THE DATE.** There will be a variety of engaging activities for you and your child to participate in and we will provide extra credit for your child for each session that you attend with your child. Once again, you will have the opportunity to schedule after hour parent conferences for your convenience.



Math Nation

Math Nation is a free online program that provides additional student video, practice, and other resources for students in 7th grade Advanced Math, Algebra 1 Honors, and Geometry Honors. Students can access it from their PascoConnect account.

AVID October Bulldog Bark



AVID is more than an elective class here at RBSMS. AVID is also a schoolwide belief promoting organization, study skills, and school pride. There are a few simple steps all students can take to better their success in school. Start with your materials. Be sure to keep all your notes, handouts, work, and graded papers safely in the rings of a three ring binder. This way everything will be easy to find when you study.

Students school wide are also learning how to take Cornell Notes in all classes. These notes help students to process their learning and prevent memory loss. Students take the notes in class and then briefly review and study them at home to retain the knowledge learned in school. Ask your student to show you the notes he/she has been taking in class.

ALEKS

ALEKS is an individualized online math program available to students. It can support them in three ways: basic facts, prior grade level intervention, on grade level support. Students use ALEKS one day a week during the school day, and for optimal results, we strongly encourage students to ALEKS for 1 to 2 hours a week outside of school on any internet-ready device. The website is www.ALEKS.com. Please contact your child's teacher for login information. (**Note:** Students in 7th grade Advanced Math, Algebra 1 Honors, and Geometry Honors do not have ALEKS account).

Counselors' Corner

Our Counseling Department is happy to announce that they have completed their first round of classroom lessons! Our 6th and 7th grade students were presented with an Orientation lesson that provided an overview on bullying, conflict resolution, as well as how to access student service support. Our 8th grade students received lesson 1 of *Safer, Smarter Teens*. *Safer, Smarter Teens* is a sexual abuse prevention curriculum that encompasses a variety of topics such as Personal Power, Internet Safety, and Healthy Relationships. The Pasco County School District is piloting this Florida Legislature approved curriculum in select middle schools across the county. During this first year of implementation, all students at RBSMS will receive Lessons 1 and 2 which will focus on Personal Power, Self Esteem, and Fitting In and Acceptance.

Honor Roll Quarter One

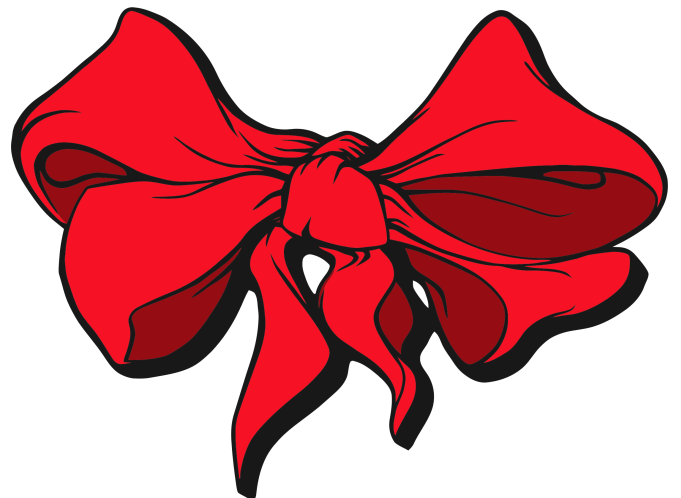
On Monday, November 14, 2016, Honor Roll for quarter one will take place in our school's gymnasium. We will host the 7th and 8th grade ceremony at 9:00 am, followed by our 6th grade ceremony at 10:30 am.

Red Ribbon Week

During the week of October 24-31, RBSMS celebrates Red Ribbon Week, a national event promoting healthy, drug-free choices. This year our Counseling Department planned several fun activities for students and staff including: a school-wide door decorating contest, daily trivia, and a competitive lunch time Kahoot game. Additionally, every day has a planned theme that allows students to show their drug free spirit by dressing up.

Monday, **October 24th** students and staff were asked to "Team Up to be Drug Free" by wearing their favorite college team attire. On Tuesday, **October 25th**, superheroes will take over our campus as students and staff show that "Being Drug Free is Our Super Power." Wednesday, **October 25th** is twin day as we "Buddy Up Against Drugs". Then on Thursday, **October 26th**, we style our hair wildly to say "Hair's to a Drug Free Life". On Friday, **October 27th**, we say "Peace Out to Drugs" and wear tie dye and peace signs. Finally, on Monday, **October 31st** we show that we're Bulldog Strong against drugs by wearing black and orange, our school colors.

In addition to each day's theme, each day features a Natural High video depicting famous actors, artists, and athletes who share their healthy activities and "natural highs". As a follow up activity to support pursuing a healthy lifestyle, students will be asked to share, "What's your natural high?"



Notification for Asbestos Containing

Materials in Pubic Schools

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has issued a final rule, 40 CFR Part 763, Asbestos Containing Material in schools, commonly referred to as AHERA. This rule requires all Local Education Agencies (LEA's) to identify asbestos containing materials (ACM) in their school buildings and to take appropriate actions to control the release of asbestos fibers. All inspections for Raymond B. Stewart Middle School have been completed and a Management Plan describing the results of the inspection and the action plan to control any asbestos found during the inspection, where applicable, has been submitted to the Governor for approval. A copy of this plan is located in the administrative office of this school and at the District School Board of Pasco County Maintenance/Facility Operations Department and is available for review upon request.

Out-of-Field Teaching Assignments

Individuals who are teaching out-of-field are certified in at least one area and are qualified to teach but are required to take additional course work or testing to add a coverage/endorsement to their certificate. The state also requires a teacher to take coursework/in-service towards an English to Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) endorsement, when the teacher is the primary language arts provider and/or reading teacher for an ESOL student. The following teachers have agreed to teach out-of-field while completing course work/testing: Valerie Fournier, Catherine Barlow

The following teachers have agreed to work toward the ESOL endorsement: Catherine Barlow, Patricia Vipperman

Right to Know

Dear Parents,
You have the right to know the professional qualifications of the educators who instruct your child. Federal law allows you to obtain certain information in a timely manner about your child's classroom teachers and instructional assistants/paraprofessionals. You have the right to ask for the following information about each of your child's teachers and instructional assistants/paraprofessionals:

1. The teacher's Florida certification area(s) and, if the teacher is teaching infield or if the teacher is qualified infield according to the District School Board of Pasco County.
2. The teacher's college degree(s) and areas of study.
3. The teacher's advanced college degree(s) and areas of study.
4. The qualifications of any instructional assistant/paraprofessional who provide services to your child.

If you would like to receive any of this information please send a written request to your child's school.

Sincerely,
Shae L. Davis



Girls Basketball

7th grade coach: Mark Holifer

8th grade coach: Eric Southward

Nov. 7	Centennial	Home
Nov. 9	Weightman	Away
Nov. 14	Pasco Middle	Away
Nov. 30	Pineview	Home
Dec. 5	Rushe	Away
Dec. 12	Dr. John Long	Home
Dec. 14	Centennial	Away
Dec. 14	Pasco Middle	Home

7th grade games start at 6 pm

8th grade game follows

Boys Soccer

Coach: Katie Jeffcott

Nov. 8	Centennial (ZHS)	Away
Nov. 10	Weightman (WCHS)	Home
Nov. 15	Pasco Middle	Home
Nov. 29	Centennial	Home
Dec. 1	Pineview	Away
Dec. 6	Rushe Middle	Home
Dec. 8	Dr. John Long	Away
Dec. 13	Pasco Middle	Away

Games start at 6 pm

Home games are played at ZHS

Games are played at high school stadiums



RBSMS CONFERENCE CHAMPS...AGAIN

Don't you agree.....it's **GREAT** to be a Bulldog! On a beautiful fall evening, at the Zephyrhills High School Football Stadium, the RBSMS football team, lead by Coach Greg Mathis, won the final football game of the 2016-2017 season, in **SIX** overtimes. The final score of the game was 50 - 56. This impressive win caps off **FIVE** undefeated seasons in a row! Here are a few more stats for the record books:

RBSMS has won the Conference Title the last **SEVEN** out of **EIGHT** Years.

RBSMS has a **29** game winning streak

RBSMS record for last **eight** years is **39** and **3**.

Congratulations Bulldogs, we are proud of your never give up attitude!

WE ARE BULLDOG STRONG!