

W I N T E R 2 0 1 7

the BULLDOG BARK

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

Save the Date!

Calendar of Events

January

16 MLK Day No School

17 Report Cards

February

1 Honor Roll

10 Progress Reports

23 Community Connections

27 FSA Writing Test

March

17 Teacher Planning-No school
for students

20-24 Spring Break No School



Principal's Message

Greetings Bulldog Families:

As I write this article, it is difficult to believe that first semester is complete and we are immersed into Semester Two events here at Raymond B. Stewart Middle School. At this point, our students are deeply involved in schoolwork and participating in a variety of co-curricular activities. I hope that 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. On January 17, our school will be participating in the Penny for Pasta campaign, which supports the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. This is a great opportunity for our students to give back to those in need.

I am pleased to announce that RBSMS has two new additions to the faculty. Alysha Cunningham is our new Cafeteria Manager and she comes to us from Seven Oaks Elementary School. In addition, Kaitlyn Blount will be teaching Health. She is replacing Ms. Chattawa who has decided to go back to school and become a nurse.

Our next Community Connection event will be held on Thursday, February 23rd. Mark you calendar, as you don't want to miss this night of learning opportunities for you and your family.

Shae Davis,
Principal

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 5 sets of winners so far this year.

Way to Go Bulldogs! Keep up the Great Work!



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.

Great American Teach-In

Our Great American Teach-In was Wednesday, November 16th. What a wonderful turn out. We had 20 group presenters ranging from the U.S. Navy Seals to Financial Banking. 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 Kloess
Danny Burgess
John Fletcher & Navy Seals
Amy Green
Robyn Kirk
Casey Simon
Sameer Mohammad
Ted O'Farrell
Michael Martinez
Steven Doran
Wendy Deen
Chris Del Cotto
Sonia Thompson
Sybrian Castleman
Michael Rowe
Chris Meyer
Maria Deluca
Kelly Karppe
Tracy Drew
James Sanders

Thank You! We Appreciate You!

thank
You

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!

Greater Zephyrhills Chamber of Commerce
 Manny Funes
 Pilot Club
 The Society of St. Vincent de Paul
 Southern Comforts Apparel and Decor
 The Moose Lodge
 Parents/Students of NJHS/Student Government/AVID
 Other Parents and Teachers/Staff
 The Thomas Promise
 Rotary Noon
 Our School Volunteers

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 2nd QUARTER TOP DOGS!

Princeton Pups

Cornell Canines

Harvard Hounds

Duke Dogs

West Point Canine Cavalry

Yale Yorkies

Infinity Academy

Georgetown Growlers

Clemson Canines

Anthony Agosto

Emma McKelvey

Emily Gillett

Tamya Simms

Noah McCarty

Naman Holmes

Taija McCullough

Jenny Delcastillo

Joshua Fain



Counselors' Corner

Classroom Lessons

All three-grade level Counselors worked hard second quarter in delivering the second lesson of Safer, Smarter Teens. This lesson focused on fitting in and acceptance. Students were taught how to use the Think, Feel, and Act rule to identify potentially dangerous situations as well as the differences between safe and unsafe relationships. Looking towards third quarter, Counselor lessons will include a career component as well as course registration for the next school year.

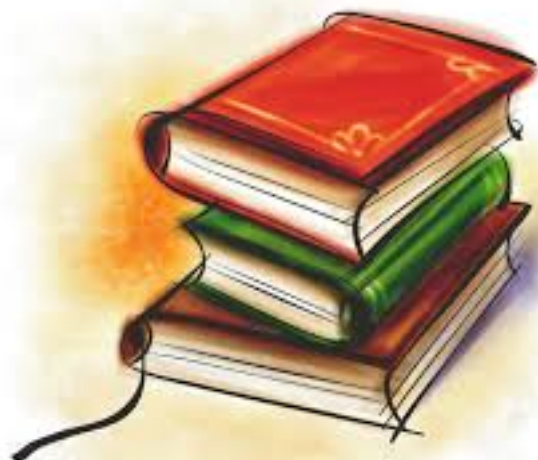
Erase the Hate Week

During our annual celebration of Erase the Hate Week, Counselors focused on messages of acceptance and tolerance. Daily videos were shown on our morning announcements to reinforce these ideals. Then during lunches, Counselor led activities gave students the opportunity to put these ideals into practice. One such activity asked students to declare what they wouldn't stand for in their school. Counselors were proud to hear that our students at RBSMS will not stand for Bullying, Racism, Hate, and Violence, just to name a few. The Student Services Department also held a "Mix It Up Lunch" which is a nationally practiced event to encourage students to eat lunch with others they do not normally interact with. Students were provided with conversation starters to get to know the new individuals sitting at their tables.

Upcoming High School Articulation

It is that time of year when our local feeder high schools begin to plan for their incoming freshman. As a result, there are scheduled activities to help begin the transition from middle school to high school. One such event is for those students zoned to attend Wesley Chapel High School next year. These students have been invited to attend a Showcase and Tour at Wesley Chapel High School on Thursday, January 26th from approximately 10 am until 1:00 pm. These students will be transported by a district school bus directly from our campus here at Stewart. Students who are zoned for Wesley Chapel High School will receive a permission slip from Mrs. Holzum.

Additionally, those 8th grade students zoned for Zephyrhills High School will have a presentation from ZHS staff in February. This visit will occur on our campus here at Stewart Middle during the school day. During this presentation, ZHS staff will present course options, programs, and clubs available to students, as they become freshmen. Stay tuned for more information regarding Parent Nights.



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: Catherine Barlow

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

Right to Know

Dear Parents,

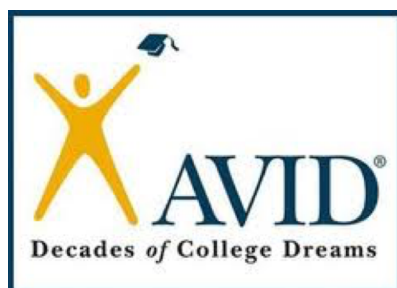
You have the right to know the professional qualifications of the educators who instruct your child. Federal law allows you to obtain certain information in a timely manner about your child's classroom teachers and instructional assistants/paraprofessionals. You have the right to ask for the following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





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 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. By interacting with these notes at home, students are able to retain more knowledge from their academic courses. Ask your student to show you the notes he/she has been taking in class. Encourage him/her to revise the notes, add study questions in the left column, summarize, and study notes nightly to be successful learners.

The AVID Elective students also continue to learn about the college and toured both Southeastern University and Pasco Hernando Community College 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 2016 - 2017 school year. Applications will be coming soon!

Girls Soccer

Coach: Kathleen Jeffcott

Jan 26	Centennial (ZHS)	Away
Jan 31	Weightman	Home
Feb 2	Pasco Middle (ZHS)	Home
Feb 9	Pineview Middle (LOLHS)	Away
Feb 14	Rushe Middle	Home
Feb 21	JLMS (WGHS)	Away
Feb 23	Centennial (ZHS)	Home
Feb 28	Pasco Middle (PHS)	Away

Game Time: 6:00 PM

All games are played at the high school stadiums.



Boys Basketball

7th Grade Coach: Mark Holifer

8th Grade Coach: Eric Southward

Jan. 30	Centennial	Home
Feb. 1	Weightman	Away
Feb. 6	Pasco Middle	Away
Feb. 13	Pine View	Home
Feb. 15	Rushe	Away
Feb. 22	John Long	Home
Feb 27	Centennial	Away
Mar. 1	Pasco Middle	Home

Games start at 6 pm