RIVER DELL NEWS

NEWS OF THE RIVER DELL SCHOOLS *SPRING 2023*

A Message From The Superintendent

Dear Community Members:

The newsletter contains two very important pieces of information. The first is that the Board of Education is pleased to announce the appointment of Dr. James Albro as the new Superintendent of Schools. He was the top candidate from a pool of forty-one exceptional applicants and we are excited to have him begin on July 3, 2023.

Dr. Albro will be transitioning from his role as Superintendent of the Wallington School District. During his nine years at the helm, he developed a shared vision for the district. He also led the effort to secure the passage of two major safety and security building referendums.

His distinguished educational career includes a Bachelor of Arts from William Paterson University as well as a Master of Education and Doctoral degree from St. Peter's University. He served in many positions within public education – Superintendent, Principal, Assistant Principal, Curricular Supervisor, Teacher and Coach. His experience provides a springboard to enhance the educational foundation of our student body.

The second is information about River Dell's budget for the 2023 – 2024 school year. We are fortunate to be on the receiving end of a state aid increase. However, we are also the victim of very significant increases in the cost of student transportation and health benefits. The combination does not prevent us from maintaining our excellent programs.

This newsletter highlights the achievements of students and staff. As you will see, they achieve success in all aspects – artistic, athletic, and academic – of life. It is a pleasure to be able to showcase these talented individuals.

Thank you for your support and commitment to keeping the community safe.

Patrick J. Fletcher
Superintendent of Schools

Class of 2023 Valedictorian and Salutatorian

Our 2023 Valedictorian, **Audrey Gang,** is an independent self-starter who plans to double major in biology and music. A Commended National Merit Scholar and AP Scholar with Distinction, Audrey's passion for science and intellectual versatility is reflected in and out of the classroom. As part of our Science Research Program Audrey has spent the past two summers performing cancer research at the Miao Lab at University of Chicago and is credited in several publications undergoing the peer review process. She serves as Editor-in-Chief of our newspaper, *The Ridellion*, is President of the Spanish Honor Society, Sociedad Honoraria Hispanica, and spends her weekends studying Bioinformatics, Biochemistry, and Virology as part of Columbia University's Science Honors Program. Audrey is also a gifted pianist: Four-year winner of NJ Music Teachers Association Young Musicians Competition and First Place in the Steinway Tri-State Piano Competition are among her proudest musical accomplishments. Audrey's extracurricular initiatives and service to others epitomize an ability to take ideas from concept to fruition through the collaborative process. Audrey is Founder and President of River Dell's HOSA-Future Health Professionals Chapter, which received official HOSA recognition last year. She also founded a 15-member performing group, *Upbeat Melodies* and worked with several classmates to create *Big and Little Tutoring,* which provides free academic support for K-10 students. Audrey's efforts have left an indelible mark on our school and the community. We wish Audrey the best and look forward to hearing about her future accomplishments!

Class of 2023 Salutatorian, **Shara VanPraagh** is an exemplary student and genuine person. With an impeccable transcript and exceptional work ethic, Shara achieves her goals with a tenacity and enthusiasm, but we would be remiss if we did not mention her natural ability and ease with which she approaches her academics. Shara is known for her endless desire to give 110% to everything she is involved in, never taking the easy way out of anything she does. She has a drive and determination that is palpable and that is only outshined by her personability and positivity. Exuding kindness and selflessness, anyone who knows Shara will likely have a story to share about how she included someone that would have otherwise been excluded or helped someone who was struggling. A natural leader and role model, Shara serves and participates within the school and surrounding community in a variety of capacities. She is a Peer Leader, a member of many honors societies, on the soccer and lacrosse teams, referee's youth lacrosse, serves as a chemistry lab assistant, and runs her own small business where she personalizes sneakers. Shara will be pursuing a degree at Lehigh University next fall, and we wish her all the best!

ANNUAL SCHOOL BUDGET COMPARISON

	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
Revenues	**Actual**	**Current**	**Proposed**
Balance Appropriated/Surplus	$0	$448,948	$325,000
Local Tax Levy	32,061,783	32,649,633	33,983,626
Tuition	212,640	201,675	200,470
Miscellaneous	134,362	205,000	305,000
Transportation Aid	199,120	199,120	199,120
Special Education Aid	943,334	1,140,926	1,522,898
Other State Aid	709,324	1,086,037	1,086,037
Adjustment Prior Year Encumbrance	133,275	398,714	0
Capitol Reserve	350,000	1,008,888	0
Actual Excess of Revenue	(1,210,195)	0	0
Total General Fund	**$33,533,643**	**$37,338,941**	**$37,622,151**
Special Revenue Funds	1,808,805	1,888,086	816,473
Debt Service	1,371,400	1,317,400	1,263,600
Total Revenue	**$36,713,848**	**$40,544,427**	**$39,702,224**

	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
Expenditures\Appropriations	**Actual**	**Current**	**Proposed**
General Education Instruction	$11,898,275	$12,722,649	$13,243,778
Specialized Education Instruction	3,521,812	3,604,780	3,670,074
Athletics and Co-curricular	1,277,648	1,319,494	1,353,091
Tuition	2,276,811	2,786,251	2,993,902
Attendance and Health	235,995	321,780	324,403
General District Administration	691,385	891,534	840,450
General School Administration	1,262,656	1,407,895	1,363,026
Central Services/Technology	1,907,488	2,130,251	2,010,242
Operations & Maintenance of Plant/Security	2,740,622	3,024,490	3,108,544
Student Transportation Services	964,433	913,260	1,079,692
Business & Other Services	6,178,338	6,965,720	7,570,662
Total Current Expense	**$32,955,463**	**$36,088,104**	**$37,557,864**
Capital Outlay/Reserve	578,180	1,250,837	64,287
State & Federal Projects	1,808,805	1,888,086	816,473
Debt Service	1,371,400	1,317,400	1,263,600
Total Budget	**$36,713,848**	**$40,544,427**	**$39,702,224**

STEM Club Puts in Heroic Effort at State Robotics Tournament



After an excellent season the STEM Club Robotics Team (the Hypnotic Robotics) earned a spot at the NJ State First Tech Challenge Robotics Competition and a chance to earn a spot at the world competition in Houston. The tournament was held at Morris Knolls HS on March 12th. The robots earn points in each match by completing various tasks like placing cones on plastic rods, identifying targets with computer vision, and parking in the correct spot. Some tasks must be completed autonomously by the robot while others are done by controlling the robot wirelessly with a joystick controller.

It was an exciting day, but unfortunately River Dell fell just short. While disappointing, that does not take anything away from the incredible season our competitors had. Having gone further than any River Dell team before, I have to say they are the best team I've had the pleasure of coaching in my 12 years as STEM Club advisor and could not be prouder of them. ~ Mr. Houston

American Math Competition



In January, 212 students at RDMS took the AMC 8. The AMC 8 is a 25-question mathematics exam designed to promote the development of problem-solving skills. The AMC 8 provides an opportunity for students to develop positive attitudes towards analytical thinking and mathematics. Students apply classroom skills to unique problem-solving challenges.

The winner at RDMS was Ryan Liu, 7th grader, scoring 22 total points. Second place went to Kate Mallon, 8th grade, with a score of 18 points. And third place was a tie between Jocelyn Danbe, Christopher Kim, and Jake Miller, each scoring 17 points.



On Tuesday, January 31st 2023 **The Interact Club** was honored at the Oradell Mayor and Council's Regular Meeting in recognition of their accomplishments for the 2022 – 2023 school year. At the halfway point of the school year, the students have already accumulated over 1,400 volunteer hours around the community with more events on the way.

Never to Early to be an Entrepreneur

The Middle School Business Club opened the Hawks Corner Store this year! Students have learned all aspects of business as entrepreneurs including budgeting, sales, marketing, communication, buying, teamwork, and making money!



Congratulations to all of the High School **DECA** Members for competing in the District Conference. Out of those competitors, 16 students competed at the States Conference in Atlantic City. At the end of April, at the International Career Development Conference in Orlando, Florida, River Dell will have two students competing and two students selected for the leadership academy. Good luck team!

Middle School Happenings

The RDMS Environmental Club was pleased to be a Bergen County Utilities Authority grant recipient of $1000. With the grant the club, led by Mrs. O'Connor and Ms. Lee, worked with Liz Stewart, River Edge Shade Tree Commission and Bruce Labouseur, head of grounds at River Dell, to purchase, plants, and care for two crabapple trees on the RDMS school campus. In addition, the Environmental Club educated staff and students about the importance of reforestation and carbon sequestration to minimize climate change. To this effort, 7th grader, Sabrina Klein shared her interview of Liz Stewart with RDMS students. In addition, the Environmental Club sponsored a tree poster contest. Winners were picked with the help of River Edge Shade Tree Members, Liz Stewart and Margot Pohl. Top three winners were: 1st place - Weronika Jastrzebska, 2nd place - Grace Liriano, and 3rd place - Julia Kim.



On March 2nd, Ms. Guerriero, affectionately known as Madame G, and her 8th grade French students spent the day at the Culinary Institute of America in Hyde Park, NY. Students were treated to a unique experience touring the campus and learning about different aspects of the culinary arts, including the infusion of the French language in culinary studies. Following the tour, students enjoyed a mouth-watering, three-course meal consisting of authentic French cuisine.

RIVER DELL ATHLETICS

CONGRATULATIONS

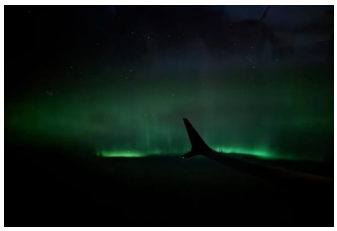
Girls Indoor Track: STATE GROUP CHAMPS, State Sectional Champs, Big North Patriot Division Champs
Boys Indoor Track: Big North Patriot Division Champs
Boys Basketball: Big North Patriot Division Champs
Girls Basketball: Big North Patriot Division Champs
Ice Hockey: Big North Patriot Division Champs

Big North Patriot Division Coaches of the Year

Lindsay Steffner – Girls Basketball
Ronald Van Saders - Boys Basketball

EXPEDITION ICELAND

The RDHS Science trip to Iceland was an amazing learning experience. Students walked on glaciers and went into ice caves under the glaciers. The beauty of the many waterfalls were astounding. The opportunity to visit the mid-Atlantic plate divide was awesome. Half of us stood on the North Atlantic plate and half of us were on the Eurasian plate. The museums we visited were hands on learning events. The students were able to understand the science behind why volcanoes erupt and so much more. The food was amazing, especially the bread that was "baked" in the geothermal underground. We were lucky enough to see the aura borealis. The students were so excited. They were admired for their kind and respectful behavior everywhere we went.







MUSIC & ARTS ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Congratulations to the following RDMS students for being accepted into the Intermediate New Jersey Region I performing ensembles:

Orchestra:
Seoyeon Kim – Violin ~ Sofia Volosatova – Violin

Chorus:
Emma Chong – Soprano 1
Hitanshee Sheth – Alto
Melody Chang – Alto
Aaron Choi – Bass
Christopher Kim – Bass
Kyle Morales – Bass

Band:
Vivianna Suh – Flute
Andrew Li – Clarinet
Ryan Liu – Clarinet
Ethan Oh – Trumpet
Aaron Choi – Trumpet
Christopher Kim – Trumpet





Brian Ng, 12th grade, *How do I want to present myself?* Photography, Gold Key and American Visions Nominee Scholastic Art Awards

Watch RDTV

Cablevision Channel 77 in River Edge or 116 in Oradell-Verizon Fios Channel 40 in both communities

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

Instagram

@riverdellhighschool

@riverdell_middleschool

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

Board of Education
President
Albert Graef (Oradell)
Vice President
Stephanie Hartman (River Edge)
Tracey-Ellen Ehalt (River Edge)
Annette Farelli (River Edge)
Alan Feigenson (Oradell)
Barbara Kuchar (Oradell)
Douglas Kupfer (River Edge)
Claudia O'Neill (River Edge)
John Samuel (Oradell)

Patrick J. Fletcher, Superintendent of Schools
Trude Engle, Business Administrator/
Board Secretary

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PARAMUS, NJ 07652
Permit No. 325

POSTAL PATRON