

Students Listen to Gr 4/5 Leaders During RMMS



# RMMS

MAY/JUNE 2018

1 Bulkeley Place ♦ New London, CT 06320 ♦ 860-447-

## From the Principals' Desk

May/June 2018

**It is hard to believe** another successful school year is coming to an end! Reflecting on the past school year makes us realize how fortunate we are at the Regional Multicultural Magnet School. Our school has been successful due to the wonderful collaborative partnerships between students, staff members, families and our surrounding colleges and businesses. We know you receive regular newsletters and updates from your child's classroom teacher, but we wanted to take a minute to highlight, on a school-wide level, a few successes, particularly with our International Baccalaureate Primary Year's Program, verify some important end of the year dates, and provide information on how you can support your child's learning this summer.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely yours,

*Dr. Sue & Mrs. Mariana*

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# RMMS & Our International Primary Years Program- Highlighting Inquiry

RMMS is pleased to share that on May 24 and 25<sup>th</sup> we were visited by an International Baccalaureate (IB) consultant who rated us on our progress towards meeting standards as an authorized IB Primary Years Program school. Our overall evaluation was positive with a few areas of focus for our work and none needing immediate attention. We would like to thank all of the faculty, staff, parents and students that made this preliminary assessment of our work a success.

A key component of our program is student inquiry. Here are *some highlights of inquiry* across grade levels this year:



***Kindergarteners*** Asked Questions about Transportation, rode local transportation, studied transportation around the world, and designed their own form of transportation. In this photo, they are



***1st Graders*** studied the similarities and differences in schools around the world. They discussed their perspectives about the advantages and disadvantages of the schools. In this photo, they are learning about schools in Japan.



***4th & 5th graders*** inquired into the different perspectives of people during colonization in the United States and around the world. In this picture, one of our students is learning during our



***2nd Graders*** studied the characteristics of different materials and tested the qualities of mortars. They then engineered different mortars and built walls with them to test the strength of their mortar. In this photo, they had built walls with mortar before testing their



***3rd Graders*** inquired into major events that influence a historical time and place through an examination of family history during different time periods and reading about life during that time. In this photo, they're showing families a few highlights of their family history projects on a



***4th and 5th graders*** also inquired into how human survival is connected to understanding earth changes such as erosion. They learned about how and why these natural events occur. In this picture, students made predictions and observations using a stream table.



# Celebrations of Partnerships & Extended Learning

RMMS was pleased to provide students with opportunities to participate in field trips that extended science, history, and cultural learning, attend a number of plays, musical and dance performances, and arrange buddy readers for a number of our classes from upper grades and middle schools in order to reinforce the importance of learning.



*Face the Arts Music Presents Instruments Across Continents with Gr 1 Students*



*RMMS Office Manager Yelena Volunteers and Runs Our Garden Club*



*Gr 4 & 5 Students Learning at Nature's Classroom this Fall*



*Students enjoying one of many enrichment assemblies: This one, Brazilian Dancing &*



*A Middle School Buddy Uses an iPad to Read with*



*1 Student out iPads & reads with a School*

# Planning for Success



## **The Importance of School in May/June**

We would like to remind all families that every day is a learning opportunity for your child, even when summer is almost here. Please be your child continues to get enough rest, is prepared for school, and attends on time every day.

## **May/June Events**

The following list shows many of our main events; however, please reach out to your classroom teacher if there is a date that is not listed below. Sometimes, teachers have access to an opportunity that may have been arranged just for your child's classroom.

## **Taking a Break from Learning Over the Summer Can Negatively Impact Students**

Did you know that students can actually slide back in their learning over the summer? Research shows that many students, especially those children in families with less income, will lose learning ability over the summer unless actions are taken to be sure that does not happen. On the last page of this newsletter, we offer a few easy ways you can help your child continue his/her learning. Summer school, which is offered to some RMMS students based on need, is NOT enough. Children need to continually learn throughout the summer. We hope you will consider this information provided in this newsletter to help ensure your child's continued success in school.

### Key RMMS Dates

- June 1<sup>st</sup>- Chorus Field Trip
- June 5<sup>th</sup>- K/1 *Pete the Cat* at the Garde
- June 7<sup>th</sup>- Chorus Concert at Connecticut College, 7:00pm
- June 10<sup>th</sup>- Magnetpalooza, an RMMS Festival at the Hygienic Park, New London 2:00pm
- June 12<sup>th</sup>- Ocean Beach Field Trip for Mr. Ryan, Mrs. Meghan, Mrs. Leah, and Ms. Donna
- June 12<sup>th</sup>- US Submarine Base Field Trip for Grade 5 classes
- June 14<sup>th</sup>- Waterford Beach Field Trip for Grades 2/3 classes
- June 15<sup>th</sup>- RMMS Field Day
- June 18<sup>th</sup>- Moving On Ceremony

### Magnet Kingdom Summer Services

- June 25<sup>th</sup>- August 3<sup>rd</sup>
- 9:00am-5:00pm

### Summer School 2018 (for students invited)

- July 9<sup>th</sup>-August 2<sup>nd</sup>
- 9:00am-11:30am

### 2018-2019 School Year

- Goal Setting Conferences for all RMMS Students & Families
  - Monday, August 27<sup>th</sup> -PM
  - Tuesday, August 28<sup>th</sup>- all day
- First Day of School for Students
  - Wednesday, August 29th

## Report to PARENTS

# Exercise Kids' Minds During the Summer

If students laze away the days of summer without using their minds, they can lose up to a month of learning—especially in reading and math. Stem the summer slide and keep your child engaged with these fun, brain-friendly activities.

**Devise a plan.** Tell your child that reading and learning activities will be an important part of their summer. Assure them that they'll still have lots of time for play.

**Teach mini-lessons.** Transform everyday activities into learning opportunities. Children can count change, read directions for a trip, write a shopping list, or calculate a recipe's measurements.

**Gather activity books.** Give children their own activity book with crossword puzzles or number games customized for their specific age group. Set a "due date" to keep them on track, but let them work at their own pace.

**Initiate a writing project.** Have your child keep a summer journal, write letters to family members or friends, or craft a play to perform with siblings or neighbors. Or, start a family cookbook with your favorite recipes, instructions, and shopping lists.

**Strategize screen time.** Educational computer games or apps can engage students' minds, but make sure your child is spending enough time away from the screen. Assign a daily block of time for family members to turn off phones, computers, and the TV, and instead play a board game or read together.

**Designate daily reading blocks.** Set aside at least 15 minutes a day for your entire family to read. (That means parents, too!) Find reading recommendations by grade level on the American Library Association's book lists (see Web Resources). Organize a summer read-a-thon with goals for each family member, or sign your child up for your library's summer book club.

**Go global.** Set aside several nights during the summer to have an international evening. Together, cook a meal with recipes from a different nation. Learn basic words in that country's language. Find the country on a map, and together examine a book or article with information on what life is like there.

**Sneak learning into family trips.** If your family is able to take a vacation during the summer, include stops at zoos, children's museums, or historic sites. Have your child help you plot out the journey using maps and keep a journal along the way. Older children can tally up miles, keep track of expenses, or compute gas mileage.

**Get moving.** Build physical activity into your child's summer days. Even if he or she can't participate in a local sports league or community-based team,

encourage activities such as jumping rope, playing catch, and taking family walks.

For more resources, look to your child's school and your local library or community center for ideas to keep kids' brains buzzing during the dog days of summer.



### Web Resources

The **American Library Association** compiles grade-level book lists.

[www.ala.org/alsc/compubs/booklists/summerreadinglist](http://www.ala.org/alsc/compubs/booklists/summerreadinglist)

The **National Summer Learning Association** offers activities, tools, and links.

[www.summerlearning.org/?page=activity\\_resource](http://www.summerlearning.org/?page=activity_resource)