

Panther Press



November 21, 2014

Parent Survey - The **Georgia Parent Survey** is for the purpose of providing the state feedback about local schools. This survey contains 24 questions and is similar to a survey that students complete. A Spanish version of the parent survey will be available soon. Parents will be able to complete the survey using their personal computers, smartphones or iPads. All parents are encouraged to participate in the Georgia Parent Survey because the data will be used to calculate the **School Climate Star Rating**. However, there is no mandatory participation rate for parents. Survey responses are anonymous and will be submitted directly to the Georgia Department of Education for analysis. Data results from the Georgia Parent Survey will not be available to the public and will not be posted online. The survey link is <http://apps.gadoe.org/schoolclimate/parents.nsf/Survey.xsp> Thank you!

Georgia Student Health Survey 2.0

There are two versions of the Georgia Student Health Survey (GSHS) 2.0. The first version is for middle and high school students (grades 6 – 12), and the second version is a short survey for elementary students (grades 3-5). **At least 75% of students at each grade level (3-12) must participate in the GSHS 2.0 to be eligible for the School Climate Star Rating.** Students at Riverwatch will complete the survey in January. Survey responses are anonymous and will be submitted directly to the Georgia Department of Education for analysis. The survey is offered at no cost to all Georgia public school districts and private schools that wish to participate. We will let you know soon when the Spanish version of the student survey is available. Copies of the Georgia Student Health Survey 2.0 questions are available [online](#) by clicking on the word “online” to the left.

Counseling Notes

Calling all RMS parents to provide feedback regarding how the Counseling Department can best meet the Academic, Career, and Emotional needs of students. We look forward to hearing from you as we plan our programmatic services for the year. In addition to helping us determine what your child could benefit from, we are also excited to gather information relative to each of our student’s family heritage. The needs assessment will include an opportunity for you to indicate what County or Countries flag or flags best represent your child’s heritage. We plan to use those flags to create a visual representation of the RMS family!! Please click below to complete the brief questionnaire. Thank you.

[2014 Riverwatch Middle School Counseling Department Needs Assessment](#)

FCS' Online Learning for School Closures Plan

Based on the positive experience from the 2014 snow days when learning was recovered using itslearning and that many of Forsyth County's teachers currently utilize blended learning with their students, Forsyth County Schools formed a committee at the start of the 2014-15 school year to develop a plan to address future school closures. The Online Learning for School Closure Plan was presented to a focus group of school leaders and other staff who provided input into its development, and last night it was presented to the Forsyth County Board of Education.

The basis of the plan is to recover instructional time lost due to school closures by utilizing asynchronous (not at the same time) online learning using itslearning, the district's online learning management system. For the 2014-15 school year, two Inclement Weather Days were built into the calendar when it was approved in November, 2013. If both Inclement Weather Days are used this year, additional lost instructional days will become asynchronous online learning days. For the 2015-16 and beyond school calendars, there will be no Inclement Weather Days built into the school calendar. For school closures, all days will be made-up with asynchronous online learning. Removing the Inclement Weather Days from the 2015-16 school calendar allowed the district to provide a four-day break in February, 2016.

As you are aware, the district has been training teachers on itslearning over the last two years. Trainings will continue, and school based Instructional Technology Specialists (ITS) will be available to assist teachers as needed. The district has also collected 200 resources from teacher leaders that will serve as examples/guides for teachers to review when creating their own lessons for asynchronous learning days. It is recommended that schools hold an Online Learning for School Closure Practice Drill, such as on Monday, January 5, 2015 (Professional Development Day), to provide guidance to students on how to retrieve assignments from itslearning. Each teacher will instruct students on where to find school closure activities in their itslearning classroom, and students will have five days to complete the Practice Drill posted in itslearning.

Forsyth County Schools is providing Parent Training Classes on itslearning from 6-7 pm on:
Monday, December 1, North Forsyth HS Cafeteria
Tuesday, December 2, South Forsyth HS West Hall Cafeteria
Thursday, December 4, Forsyth Central HS Performing Arts Center

The Online Learning for School Closure Plan was created to be broad to allow each teacher the flexibility to address the specific needs of their students. We understand that you might have questions about this plan in regards to your subject area. The i3 team, along with your ITS, will be providing additional training and support over the next few weeks so you are prepared in the event we implement the plan this school year. Additionally, your ITS and school administration will be provided with additional guidelines and support.

For more information on the Online Learning for School Closure Plan, [CLICK HERE](#), and for a list of Frequently Asked Questions, [CLICK HERE](#).

Jennifer Caracciolo
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School Nutrition

I would like to take this opportunity to **thank you** for your participation in our School Lunch Program and to remind those that do not. The cost of a school lunch is \$2.35 which includes an entrée, bread when offered, up to 3 fruits, vegetables and a milk or juice. A variety of fresh and canned fruits and vegetables are offered daily. RMS also now has Hummus as a vegetarian option offered Monday, Wednesday & Friday. Please see the link below with additional information on the nutritional value of school lunches.

<https://www.yahoo.com/health/nutrition-smackdown-school-lunch-vs-packed-lunch-102450598117.html>

Lost & Found

Our lost & found closet is growing – please encourage your students to check for misplaced items. Jackets, hoodies & sweatshirts are hanging on a clothing rack outside of the counseling office on the 7th grade hallway. All other items are in the front office.

Hoodies On Sale

Attention parents: New RMS spirit wear hoodies will be here after Thanksgiving break. We will have several options to choose from. They make a great gift for the Holidays and keep you warm during the cold winter months ahead. Designs and pricing will be emailed out after Thanksgiving. Be ready to stock up soon!

Scholarship Recipient –

Riverwatch Alumni, Chen L., was awarded a United States Achievement Academy scholarship. This scholarship is made possible from a non-profit Scholarship Foundation consisting of teacher representatives from a variety of grade levels out of Lexington, Kentucky. Mrs. Gunby was gracious enough to write Chen a recommendation and Chen worked extremely hard during his time at RMS. We hope that more RMS students consider applying for this scholarship. For information please go to www.usaa-academy.com.

Student Recognitions

Math Club did very well at their competition this month. Winners are the following students:

Krishi K.

Annie P.

Julia C.

Hannah L.

Sagarika M.

Great job students! Thank you also to Mrs. Cline who is the Math Club sponsor!

Peter Pan - The school play was during the month of November. We hope you had the opportunity to see the RMS version of Peter Pan. Special thanks to Mrs. Reynolds, all of the parent volunteers, and the incredible student cast listed below! Bravo!

Student Director - Cooper E.

9/3/2014

	Faith 1,3,5	Trust 2,4,6		Faith 1,3,5	Trust 2,4,6
*WENDY/Indian	Maddie F.	Marie D.	*Mrs. Darling/Indian	Cooper E.	Laura W.
*PETER PAN/Indian	Jeff L.	Emma Jo B.	*Mr.Darling/Chief**	Allen S.	
*TINKER BELL/fairy	Audrey D.	Claire A.	Nana/Indian	Cleo P.	
*TIGER LILY/Indian	Isa V.	Lucy K.	Lost Boys		
*SMEE/pirate	Max P.	Brogan R.	Skunk/Indian	Audrey S.	Adithi R.
*CAPTAIN HOOK	Jared G.	Drew D.	Raccoon Twin/Indian	Elora E.	Tori P.
*JOHN/Indian	Katy B.	Carter B.	Raccoon Twin/Indian	Megan K.	Haydn A.
*MICHAEL/Indian	Lexi J.	Lexi R.	Fox/Indian	Megan R.	Palini S.
Pirates			Hop/Indian	Cindy Qui	Kathleen Daly
Jukes	Michaela N.	Baylee T.	Cubby/Indian	Callie S.	Manali S.
Flint	Michael T.	Shraddha B.	Indians/Stars (in the Fly to Your Heart scene)		
Murphy	Caleb B. **	Logan S.	Brave Pine/Star	Lizie L.	Leah N.
Noodler	Carson P.	Ryan G.	Brave Oak/Star	Cathy L.	Bhargavi T.
Cookson	Elena L.	Michael T.	Brave Shrub/Star	Megan Y.	Jenny W.
Sweet Skylights	Roshni H.	Avery W.	Indian/Star	Nandhitaa S.	Amanda C.
Patch	Esha S.	Lexi H.	Indian/Star	Anika P.	Dayna J.
Girl Pirate	Abigail W.	Maycee M.	Indian/Star	Adviti B.	Madeline G.
Girl Pirate	Deanna M.	Savannah A.	Indian/Star	Nethra P.	Tiffany L.
Girl Pirate	Ashley Y.	Ally H.	Mermaids/Clouds (in the Fly to Your Heart scene)		
Girl Pirate	Victoria C.		Aquata/Cloud	Saanvi D.	Gabby R.
Fairies			Adrina/Cloud	Isabella H.	Kaitlyn S.
Iridessa	Ellie K.	Caroline C.	Anista*/Cloud	Vivian S.	Hannah L.
Silvermist	Julia C.	Grace O.	Atina/Cloud	Ella B.	Violet M.
Rosetta	Hope F.	Erin L.	Adella/Cloud	Carly V.	Sydney H.
Fawn	Galaxy P.	Margo M.	Allana/Cloud	Samantha H.	Zoe C.
Vidia	Rai M.	Emily P.			
Lyria	Lacey C.	Julie Catherine D.			

County Reflection Winners

Dance Choreography

6th Grade – 1st Place – Shria Valluri

7th Grade – 2nd Place – Caroline Cannizzaro

Film Production

6th Grade – 1st Place – Daniel Schultz

7th Grade – 1st Place – Cindy Qiu

8th Grade – 1st Place – Remington Youngblood

Music Composition

6th Grade – 1st Place – Tiffany Lee

7th Grade – 1st Place – Aaliyah McElrath

7th Grade – 2nd Place – Nilesh Manivannan

8th Grade – Former Student Carly Lobdell

Photography

6th Grade – 1st Place – Maggie Anders

8th Grade – 2nd Place – William Stephens

Visual Arts

6th Grade – 1st Place – Prashanth Rathakrishnan

6th Grade – 2nd Place – Tiffany Lee

7th Grade – 1st Place – Andrew Zhai

8th Grade – 1st Place – Rina Yoo

8th Grade – 2nd Place – Ziche Wang

Literature

6th Grade – 1st Place – Esha Shakthy

7th Grade – 2nd Place – Alessandra Tatoy

8th Grade – 2nd Place – Srija Somaka

Special Mention: Rohini Bose – published in Veterans Newsletter

Come See the First Annual Winter Art Show!

Experience our showcase of a variety of impressive artwork from 6th, 7th, and 8th grade first and second quarter art students. Come out and support our talented RMS students and the arts!
Monday, December 15th @ 6pm

Many, many thanks to all students, teachers, parents and especially our parent volunteers who made this year's Scholastic Book Fair a success. The proceeds enhance the learning experience at Riverwatch. Our next book fair will be in November 2015. We hope to see you then!



Registration for the Forsyth County Tech Fair is now open.

**The 2015 FC Tech Fair will be held at
Whitlow Elementary School on Saturday, January 24**

For more information and to view the categories, please visit <http://techfair.forsyth.k12.ga.us>

Elves will be available for
purchase during lunch

Dec 10, 11 and 12.



Elves purchased for a special
friend will be delivered to
their homerooms on
Monday. Don't forget to
treat yourself too!

RMS Partners in Education



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