



# SUPERINTENDENT'S EDUCATION UPDATE

## January 12, 2024

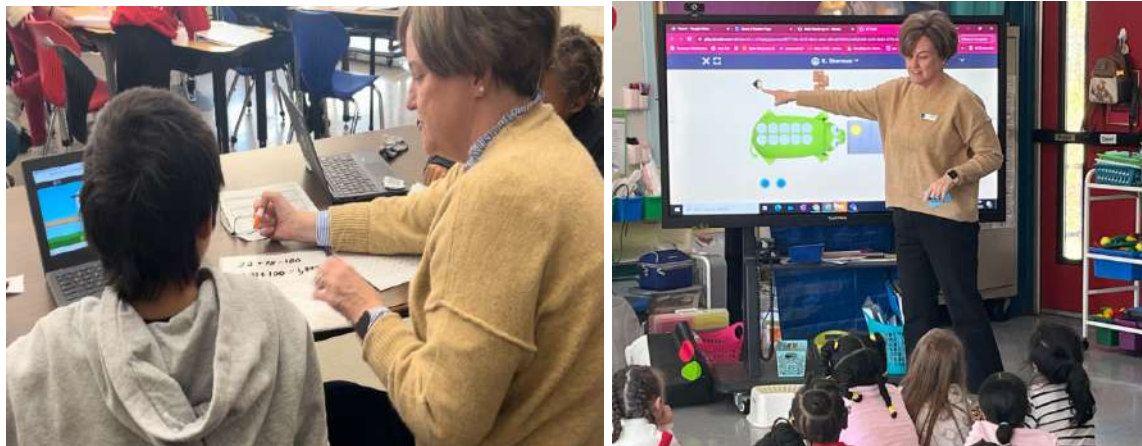
2023-2024 School Year

### Teaching & Learning

#### Math Update:

From our ST Math Grant, Randolph Public Schools (RPS) is receiving professional development throughout the year. Our consultant visited the elementary schools to work with students on problem solving strategies. Kristen from ST Math worked in small groups with students in 3rd grade at the Young School as well as conducted a puzzle talk with grade K students at the Lyons School.

Our Math interventionists, ST Math Champions, instructional coaches, and teachers were able to see Kristen model strategies ~~time~~ <sup>long</sup> back to all the classrooms.





## ELA Update

The winter brings the second round of benchmark testing for students in grades K-10. Students in these grades will be tested on foundational reading skills and/or reading comprehension, depending on the grade level. The testing window stretches from January to February. The table below will tell you which tests will be administered to your student, and what reading skills the test assesses. Please note that tests administered may vary slightly depending on your child's strengths and areas of need.

Please be on the lookout for more specific testing information, including dates, from your child's principal.

Grade Level(s)	Tests Typically Administered	What the Test Assesses
K	<p>DIBELS 8</p> <p>Subtests:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Letter Naming Fluency (LNF);</li><li>• Phonemic Segmentation Fluency (PSF);</li><li>• Nonsense Word Fluency (NWF)</li></ul>	<p><u>LNF</u> - For LNF, students are presented with a page of 100 uppercase and lowercase letters arranged in a random order and are asked to name as many letters as they can within one minute.</p> <p><u>PSF</u> - PSF assesses students' ability to fluently segment two-to-six phoneme words into their individual phonemes. For example, if the examiner said "sat," and the student said "/ s/ / a/ / t/ ", the student would receive three points for the word.</p> <p><u>NWF</u> - assesses students' ability to decode made-up words. By using nonsense words, the test illuminates</p>



		students reading the word because they have memorized it.
1	<b>DIBELS 8 Subtests:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Letter Naming Fluency (LNF),</li> <li>• Phonemic Segmentation Fluency (PSF),</li> <li>• Nonsense Word Fluency (NWF)</li> <li>• Oral Reading Fluency (ORF)</li> </ul>	<p>Please see above for explanations of LNF, PSF, and NWF.</p> <p><u>ORF</u> - assesses a student's ability to read words in a passage. In ORF, the examiner presents the student with a passage and asks the student to read the passage aloud for one minute. The test identifies how words were read correctly in the one minute time allotment.</p>
2 & 3	<b>DIBELS 8 Subtests:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nonsense Word Fluency (NWF)</li> </ul>	<p>Please see above for explanations for NWF and ORF.</p> <p><u>MAZE</u> - measures of reading comprehension at the sentence level. The examiner presents</p>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Oral Reading Fluency (ORF)</li><li>• Reading Comprehension (MAZE)</li></ul> <p>iReady ELA Diagnostic Test</p>	<p>students with a passage that has every seventh word removed and replaced with three options. Students have three minutes to read and select any missing words.</p> <p><u>iReady ELA Test</u> - This is a computer-based test that assesses foundational reading skills (decoding), vocabulary and reading comprehension for both literature and nonfiction passages.</p>
4 & 5	<p>DIBELS 8 Subtests:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Oral Reading Fluency (ORF)</li><li>• Reading Comprehension (MAZE)</li></ul> <p>iReady ELA Diagnostic Test</p>	Please see above
6 - 10	<p>iReady ELA Diagnostic Test</p>	Please see above



## Science, Technology, & Engineering Update

### RCMS named a State Finalist in the Samsung Solve For Tomorrow Competition



Randolph Community Middle School has been named one of 300 State Finalists in the 14th annual Samsung Solve for Tomorrow competition, receiving a \$2,500 prize package! They now move on to the next round, where 50 State Winners will be chosen to receive \$12,000 in Samsung technology! The full press release is available by scanning this QR code.





## School Update

### Donovan Elementary School (Donovan School)

Last month, our students created beautiful decorations for our Donovan School tree that was on display at the Turner Free Library. A huge “thank you” to Ms. Jennika and our kids for their creativity and lovely representation of our school family!



Our PTO hosted a holiday shop for students and awarded our top two fundraisers from the walk-a-thon with gift baskets. Congratulations to Bobby and Iziah!







Our students enjoyed participating in their first Spirit Week of the year! The week was kicked off with the annual Holiday Sing-along. Fifty-one family members joined in the fun via Zoom!

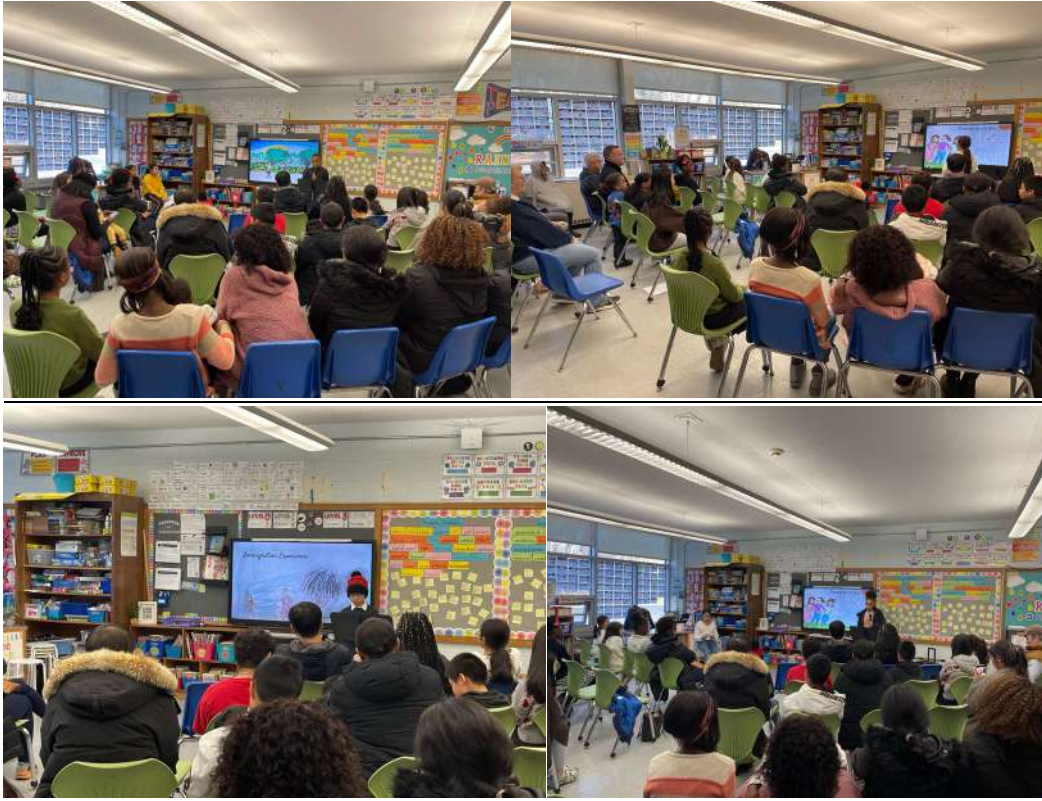


At the Donovan School, we continue to acknowledge our students who engage in safe, respectful, and responsible behaviors through our Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS). We are so proud of our students!





Grade 5 Students wowed us with their *Esperanza Rising* Monologues!



On our final Spirit Day, which was a pajama day, students enjoyed popcorn and staff enjoyed a coffee and hot chocolate cart. We are appreciative of our wonderful school family!







Coming this month- our semiannual awards ceremonies!

## Lyons Elementary School (Lyons School)

There were fun festivities at the Lyons School in anticipation of the holiday break (i.e., Holiday Headwear day, Candy Cane Day, Ugly Sweater Day and more!

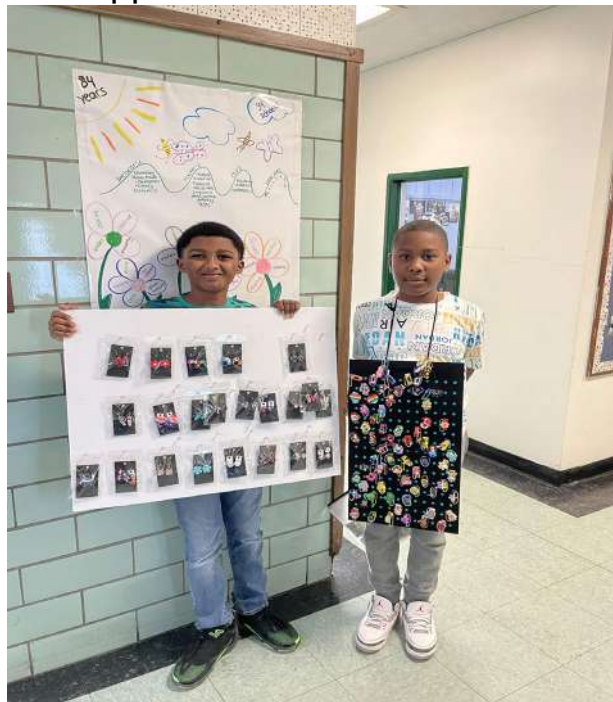


As we said goodbye to 2023, we purposed to share the whole school art project. Every student put their thumb print and combined it together, we made a beautiful Lion!



### Project Based Learning: Open for Business!

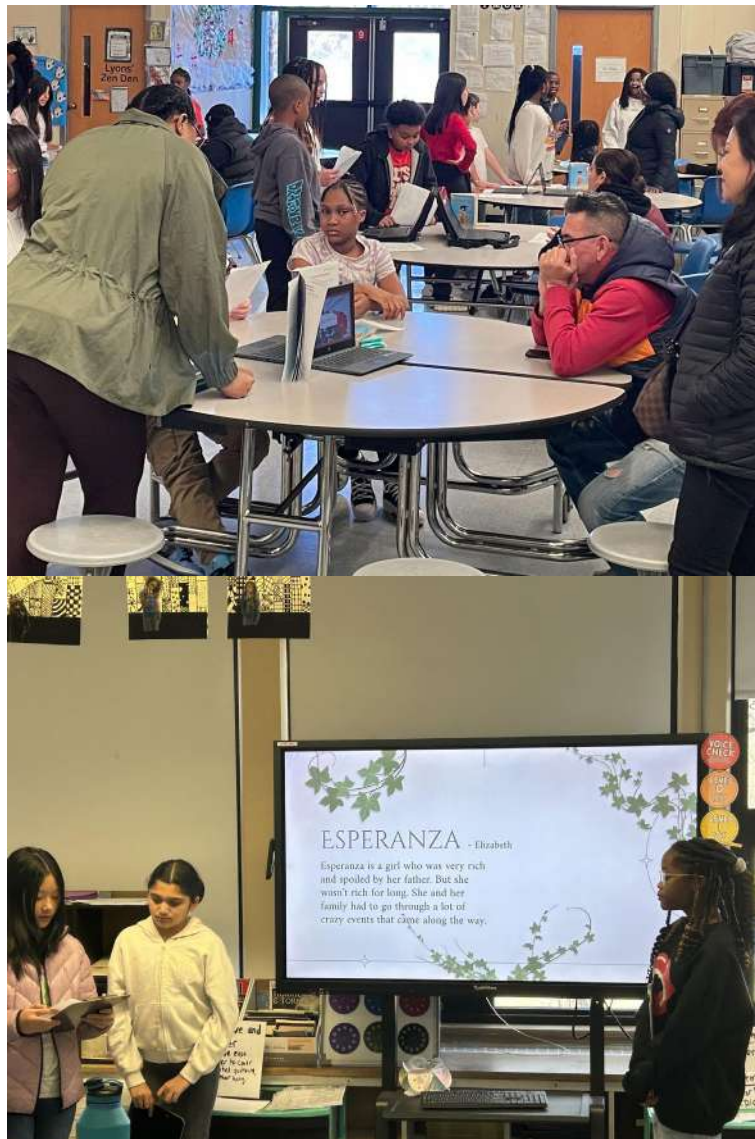
The boys of room 5 have opened their Lyons' Ice Jewelry Store. They are selling Jibbitz earring and accessories. The project idea was invented, designed and handmade in Ms. Garvey's room. This project involved persuasive writing, marketing, math writing, and research. They also had to "Shark Tank" and make the pitch to the principal for the final approval before they opened the shop. They are hoping to raise enough money to buy indoor recess equipment and supplies for their class.





## Esperanza Rising- Gr 5 EL Education presentations

Grade 5 worked tirelessly preparing for their point of view monologues and shared them with families this week. In addition , they created art projects to tie in art with literacy. They practiced the skill of making a slideshow presentation, collaborating on a team and listening to ideas of others, and presenting to crowds. Well done!







## Young Elementary School (Young School)

We had a lot of fun in the month of December! We had a spirit week and had fun days of holiday attire, dress like a teacher, and a very creative crazy hair day.

We are grateful to Inez Arellano, our music teacher, and Tracy Duguay, music department chair, for putting together a fantastic sing-along. It was well received by all!

Our PTO hosted a winter wonderland dance which was very well attended and a ton of fun.

Happy new year to all! We look forward to continued hard work and learning in the new year. PTO met on January 8th and mapped out our second half of the year events. We are looking forward to another dance, another fundraising walk and some other surprises along the way.







## Randolph Community Middle School (RCMS)

Although a short month, December brought many exciting happenings to RCMS!

The National Junior Honor Society and many of the Social Study classes at RCMS created over 200 holiday cards for veterans likely to spend the holidays at the state's VA Hospitals and other VA housing. Although many of our Nation's veterans most certainly have supportive loving families, some spend the holidays with few if any good wishes from family and friends. The RCMS students took time to think of those veterans, thank them for their service, and wish them a wonderful season.





**Computer Science Education (CS ED) Week** was celebrated December 10, 2023. The goal of this week was to give students exposure to and get the interested in coding. One way that we achieved this was through the Hour of Code learning event, where students were encouraged to code for an hour through fun activities. Ms. Milstein, the 7th grade computer science teacher, included coding on various platforms as a regular part of her curriculum.



For CS ED Week, Ms. Milstein did something a little different than usual. Three Google employees joined her class on December 8, 2023 to teach about Artificial Intelligence (AI) and discuss careers in STEM. Led by the guests, students participated in an Hour of Code activity called, “Discover AI in Daily Life.” In this module, students “learned artificial intelligence concepts using Quick, Draw, AutoDraw, Google Translate, and Google Slides.” The volunteers spent some time answering student generated questions about their education, career, or life outside of work.

### **Samsung Solve for Tomorrow**

RCMS is super excited to once again become a State Finalist in this year’s Samsung Solve for Tomorrow competition! Samsung Solve for Tomorrow is a national competition designed to empower students in grades 10 to leverage the power of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) to create innovative solutions addressing critical issues in their local communities.



Best of luck to Ms. Cardillo and her team of students working on their project as follows.

We aim to address the mental health crisis affecting individuals in our community, particularly adolescents. Recent data indicates a sharp decline in the mental wellbeing of young people, attributed to social factors and challenges in their learning abilities. Concurrently, there is a rise in negative peer interactions stemming from mental health issues. Our ~~STEM~~<sup>EM</sup>ased project, a technological initiative, is designed to tackle this problem by offering guidance and motivation to cultivate positive mindsets, enhance emotional well-being, and foster improved outcomes for individuals.

Pictured below from left to right: Andy Chau, Trish Nguyen, Kayla Nguyen, Davina Tang



### **Spirit Week and Door Decorating**

Students and staff had a blast the week before the break in December celebrating Spirit Week and decorating hallways and doors. ~~Congratulations~~<sup>Congratulations</sup> to the winners all located in the 6th grade hallway. Tied for first place: Ms. Mroz Gondre (Mariah Carey) and Ms. Dallaire (Reindeer). Third place: Ms. Sullivan (Photo Reel).





They really brought the 6th grade theme WINTER WEATHER (snow, ice, winter solstice, trees/plants, etc.) to life.

## Randolph High School (RHS)

At RHS, we have an abundance of options for students in the athletics program and in the arts. We also have many after school club options for our students, which offer enrichment opportunities, focus on developing leadership, and teamwork skills. Our after school clubs and other programs also provide opportunities for students to socialize with peers who have similar interests and they foster a sense of community. We know that students will feel a stronger connection to school when they participate in extracurricular activities so we have tried to provide as many options as possible this year.

Below is information and highlights about some of our current extracurricular activities.

### Drama Club

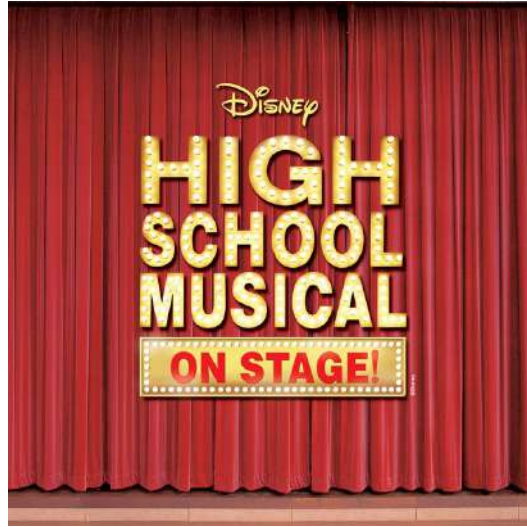
**Led by - Ms. Goddu (Chorus Teacher)**

The RHS Drama Club is proud to present *High School Musical* this year! Our Drama Club is an inclusive club and theater company that teaches students how to sing, dance, act, build sets, design staging and costumes, work with





sound and lighting equipment, and more! We will be presenting *High School Musical* on Friday, May 10th at 7 PM and Saturday, May 11th at 2 PM and 7 PM. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$7.00 for students.



### **Randolph High Student Council (RSC)**

**Led by - Ms. Martens (Guidance Counselor) and Jeffrey Fox (Science Teacher)**

Students in RSC serve as the leaders of the student body and key advocates for their peers. RSC and the class councils work together to put on many big events through the school year like Homecoming, prom, and our pep rallies.

Additionally, RSC members are always looking for ways to improve RHS and the wider community through outreach and collaboration with other student groups and district leaders.

RSC is currently organizing an upcoming winter pep rally for February 16th, plus a spring pep rally. Upcoming fundraisers include the following: 10th grade penny wars, 12th grade Cupcake Charlie's fundraiser, 9th grade raffle, and 11th grade Valentine's celebration!

Below are the names of the RSC student leaders who serve on the executive body this year.

*President- Genesis Sepulveda*  
*Treasurer- Lily Dinh*

*VP- Yasmine Elkhamlichi*  
*Secretary- Stephanie Phan*



## National Honors Society (NHS)

Led by - Ms. Jette (History teacher)

The National Honor Society was founded in 1921 based on the four pillars of scholarship, service, leadership, and character. The NHS is a program that empowers and equips students with the knowledge and skills to be transformative leaders in their school, community, and beyond.

RHS's NHS, consisting of 19 members, has been busy during the ~~2023~~ school year engaging in service activities, running fundraisers and giving back to RHS students and the community.

NHS members have provided their time to RHS through ~~bi~~ weekly recycling pickups, running their own bi-weekly study hall for all students to attend, assisting parents and guardians during conferences, and assisting teachers after school. Individual service activities have included, but are not limited to, volunteering at RHS Spirit Night, volunteering as athletic coaches for younger students, tutoring younger students, assisting nonprofit organizations, and being a teacher's assistant for religious education.

Additionally, the NHS won Planet Aid's November Clothing Drive by collecting 11,940 pounds of textiles over the course of four weeks. The NHS wants to thank all Randolph residents and others who have donated their textiles to the Planet Aid Donation Center located at RHS.





## **The Grand: Art and Literature Magazine Club (The Grand Club)**

**Led by - Ms. Lane (RHS Librarian)**

Students in The Grand Club will create a magazine that incorporates student artwork, poetry, and other forms of writing. They will gather submissions of work from students and teachers and will use Mixbook, a highly rated photo book brand, to create the magazine. While organizing the submissions, they will gain experience coordinating color, design, composition, and editing. Once the magazine is complete, the students will promote the sale of it to faculty and staff. The Grand Club will be a wonderful collection of our students' amazing work and a souvenir of this year's artistic accomplishments.

## **Weight Lifting Club**

**Led by Mr. Marshall (History Teacher and Football Coach)**

The RHS Weight Lifting Club is in full swing. The club meets before school at 6AM in the RHS weight room on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays. Students utilize a personalized weightlifting program called PLT4M that tailors each lift to their own personal statistics. Any RHS student looking to participate can contact Coach Marshall about joining.

## **Art Club**

**Led by - Mrs. Paredes and Mrs. Fancher-Kelley (Art Teachers)**

The Art Club meets in room 233 or 235 on Mondays. It is a safe space for students to express themselves artistically through various mediums. This year so far we have participated in creating our own Exquisite Corpse which can be found on display in the auditorium lobby, creating decorations for the holiday tree in the Turner Free Library as well as developing ideas for the murals in the cross over hallway.





The members of the Art Club have decided to take on the challenge of updating some murals around the building, specifically in the crossover hallway in the middle of the second floor. These murals have always been seen as celebrating the diversity of our community but have grown dull and outdated over the years. As a group, they decided to start with the "Africa" panel. There is a plan to mark the different sections of Africa on the existing map, add animals and food related to the country, and other images to celebrate the cultures.

### **African-American Club (A.A. Club)**

#### **Led by - Ms. Hodges (Business Teacher)**

The RHS A.A. Club is an extracurricular activity to provide students with opportunities to develop character, critical thinking, sociability, leadership, and teamwork. It is also intended to help students to achieve academic excellence, develop a positive image of its members, and help members become an integral part of our community. It promotes multicultural activities, and all students, regardless of religion, gender, race or ethnicity, are welcome to the A.A. Club. They will learn Afro American history through languages, music, arts, movies, foods, dance, programs, etc. It will also be for all students a place to learn about the culture and experience. Ms. Hodges will serve as a facilitator/advisor, but the A.A. Club discussions and activities will be guided by the students' interests.

Our first event this year was a program entitled the Crown Act. The purpose of the program is to teach students how to advocate for themselves in school and work if and when discrimination occurs relating to styles of natural hair.

Students have been forced to cut dreads or take out braids to compete in sports or attend school. Guidance Counselor Fhynita Brinson shared how being forced to change one's natural hair style can affect a student both academically and mentally.

We were able to connect to the founding students Alexia Sutherland and Chinaanu Okoli of the African-American Club via Zoom. They gave insight to the original concept and activities they planned. They will be helping us to put on a Black History program for February.





We are building and look forward to participating in school and community events to bring culture and diversity to the High School and City of Randolph.

### **Latinos Unidos Club**

**Led by - Ms. Purtell (Spanish Teacher), Ms. Wilbur (ILC Teacher) and Mr. Jones (AIM Science Teacher)**

Randolph High School's Latinos Unidos Club es/é fenomenal is open to all RHS Students. All that is needed are: an appreciation for the language, culture, and the people to attend. Meetings are every other Thursday, and there are monthly events celebrating the Latino cultures and languages. Members can anticipate events such as movies and games and dancing and Karaoke afternoons. Presentations and discussions on special celebrations are led by our effervescent president Genesis Sepúlveda and the enthusiastic advisors Senoras Wilbur, Purtell, and Senior Jones.





## **RHS Band and Choirs**

**Led by - Mr. Boyd and Ms. Goddu (Band and Chorus Teachers)**

The RHS Band and Choirs had the opportunity to perform at the Massachusetts State House on Tuesday, January 9, 2024. Being invited back for their second performance by Massachusetts State Senator Walter Timilty, the band and choirs performed a variety of classical, winter, and patriotic music to celebrate the winter season. After their performance, students were led on a tour of the building by their local Senators and Representatives, concluding with a tour of the Senate Chambers and the balcony overlooking Boston Common. Students are excited to continue this tradition in the years to come!

Throughout the school year, the RHS Band actively engages in a diverse range of activities, showcasing their musical talents and hard work. In addition to performances at prestigious venues like the Massachusetts State House, the band participates in regional and statewide competitions, parades, and community events. They collaborate with other local ensembles, attend workshops with renowned musicians, conductors, and educators, and participate in fundraisers to increase local awareness of and support music programs within Randolph Public Schools. The band's commitment extends beyond performances, as members contribute to the school community by playing at sporting events, pep rallies, and assemblies.

For younger students interested in starting their musical journey, learning an instrument in elementary or middle school opens a world of possibilities! Learning to play an instrument fosters discipline, teamwork, and creativity, providing a foundation for personal and academic growth. The RHS Band encourages aspiring musicians to embark on this musical adventure early on, as it lays the groundwork for a lifelong appreciation of the arts and the joy of making music with others. Students interested in learning more about making music can reach out to Mrs. Duguay ([duguayt@randolph.k12.ma.us](mailto:duguayt@randolph.k12.ma.us), Elementary) or Mr. Martins ([martinsk@randolph.k12.ma.us](mailto:martinsk@randolph.k12.ma.us), JCMS). Families interested in getting involved with supporting our music programs can reach out to Mr. Boyd ([boydc@randolph.k12.ma.us](mailto:boydc@randolph.k12.ma.us), RHS Band Director).





The Randolph High School Band and Choirs in the Senate Chambers of the Massachusetts State House with Randolph's local representatives, from left to right: State Rep. William Driscoll, State Sen. Michael Brady, and State Sen. Walter Timilty.





## Community Update on the New Elementary School



Construction of the new elementary school continues. A temporary door was installed at the loading dock roll-up door entrance of the North wall. The interior of the building has been cleaned up of construction debris. Z-Girt (to create a cavity or airspace between the exterior cladding and the building's structural frame) and insulation has been installed on the north wall. Fiber cement panels have also been installed and are on the mockup for review. Flexible head sprinklers are being installed on level 1, section A. Drywall continues to be installed on levels 1 and 2, sections A and B. Additionally, mudding and taping and fire taping was continued. Blocking was installed on mechanical wall on the gymnasium roof in preparation for a metal cap.



Above: Installing insulation on North side.



Above: Room 220 Mudding and Taping



Above: Running Wire on Level 1, Cor. C103



Above: Installing fastening trim.



Above: Ready for conduit.



Above: All lines tested good.



Above: Installed reinforced black insulation on Northwest corner wall.



Above: Trenching for electrical conduit for Light Poles.



Above: Installing glass.

January 2024





## Special Education and Student Services (SPED)

Dear Families,

This month the Transition Program sent off one more of our beloved students Sibierski Hon (Sibi as we fondly call him) to the workforce. His teacher, Ms. Cahill, who is pictured below at RHS, put together an end of party for him. Friends, family, and classmates gathered. We are so proud of Sibi and know that he is going to do great things in the future.



*Pictured above (left, center) Ms. Katy Sleczkowski, Assistant Director of Special Education and Student Services, and Sibi (left, ends) Steadman Graves, Assistant Principal of Special Education, and Principal John Licorish (top right) Sibi and (center) Paraprofessional Michelle Cuzzell.*



In December we partnered with the Randolph Police Department (RPD) in the Toy Drive for our Randolph Students. We are so thankful to the community and RPD who donated to help support our families.



Picture above (left to right) Detective Gagnon, Detective Santos, and Detective Rodman

### Pre-K News!

In the Fall 2023, Pr&K applied to the Doug Flutie, Jr. Foundation for a Playground Communication Board and won! Randolph will continue to provide inclusive and accessible play and now on the playground through visual aids. This communication board will support all Pr&K students in initiating conversations with peers, navigating social situations, and expressing themselves.





## **Multilingual Learners Updates:**

### **ACCESS Testing**

ACCESS testing starts this week and goes until February 16th. All multilingual learners will each take four tests to see how much progress they have made on their academic English: Listening, Reading, Writing, and Speaking.

Make sure you encourage your students to try their best on this very important test! We use this test to determine if students need English language services.

### **Parent Academy: Adult ESL Program**

Intro level to Level 2 ESL classes will be offered. Classes will be Monday and Wednesday mornings from 9 AM- 11 AM and Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 6:30 PM- 8:30 PM.

### **ESL Curriculum Grant**

In collaboration with the Brockton Public Schools, we have received grants from MA DESE to create ESL curriculum and train teachers to become ESL teachers. We are so excited for this incredible opportunity!

### **Donovan Multilingual Story Time**

Pictured below: Donovan School newcomer students in grade 5 reading in French, Spanish, and English to newcomer kindergarten students.







### Registration Update:

**SAVE THE DATE!!!** Kindergarten Registration for next year is scheduled starting **January 29th** until **March 15, 2024**. For more information, be on the lookout for a letter that will be shared to families on January 12, 2024.

### DEIB Committee Updates:

The RPS Equity Audit Report from The Equity Process is now [available here](#) for your review. Members of the RPS DEIB Committee and the RPS Leadership Team have been unpacking the recommendations of the report and RPS started to implement a few of them.

Results of the equity audit will also be included in the district's strategic plan. Details of the RPS Strategic Planning Committee [can be found here](#).

**Happy January and Welcome 2024!**

Sincerely,  
**Alpha Sanford, M.Ed CAGS,**  
Director of Special Education and Student Services



- \* *Tanpri souple kontakte lyezon pou fanmi ki pale Kreyòl Ayisyen yo nan 781-807-0081.*
- \* *Para ayuda en Español, por favor llame al 339-209-2539.*
- \* *Para auxílio em Português, por favor ligue para o número 339-204-5505.*
- \* *Nếu quý vị có câu hỏi nào khác, làm ơn liên hệ phiên dịch viên tiếng Việt, tại 339-216-2400.*