

# REED CITY AREA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

# COYOTE NEWS



Spring Edition  
February 2010

## WHAT'S MOST IMPORTANT TO YOU?

by Steven Westhoff, Superintendent

When it comes to your daughter's or son's education what's most important to you? Is it low class size, having several electives, quality instructors, integration of technology, availability of school activities, athletic opportunities, transportation to and from school or quality of facilities? If I asked you to rank them top to bottom, what would be the least important? This is what your board of education is being asked to do. And it's not easy. The State of Michigan isn't providing the funding required to offer all of these important aspects of your child's education. Our kids deserve better! Before the next school year, the State of Michigan will cut funding to our school system by \$922,000. We'll lose another \$344,000

in revenue due to loss of enrollment, because families are moving away. Why? Because there are no jobs. Then, like all businesses, we'll have our expenses go up, which means we'll have a total budget issue of \$1.8 million. Cuts will need to be made somewhere. This shouldn't be happening, education is the top priority in our State, and it should be funded at appropriate levels. School districts next year will look significantly different. Some will have an average class size of 40 students. Some will eliminate all transportation services. Some will eliminate part or all of athletics. Some will lay off several employees. Some will eliminate their elective programs; no band, no choir, no art, no life skills, and no technol-

ogy classes. Some will close their doors. None of these choices are good ones. Our kids deserve better! Please contact your legislators and let them know that you value your child's education and want appropriate funding for it. Don't allow them to tell you how they want to make cuts in this area, cuts in that area. We've been cutting for far too long. It's time to invest in our future. During the next three months, your board of education will be making some extremely difficult decisions. They're good people and will do the best job possible; however, this shouldn't be happening. Our kids deserve better.

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### Contact Your Legislators !

**Representative Darwin Booher:**  
**Senator Michelle McManus:**

**517-373-1747**  
**517-373-1725**



The Board of Education typically meets the THIRD Monday of every month, with a work/study session scheduled at 6 p.m. and a regular monthly meeting at 7 p.m. The meetings are held in the Porteous Academic Center (f/k/a MS/HS Library), and are open to the public. Any changes to the meeting schedule may be found on the Board of Education page at [www.reedcity.k12.mi.us](http://www.reedcity.k12.mi.us). Approved minutes of meetings will be available online or at the Office of the Superintendent, 829 South Chestnut Street, Suite A, in Reed City. Notices of special meetings and committee meetings are publicly posted online and at the Office of the Superintendent.

**Reed City Area Public Schools Board of Education**  
**Dave Lucey**, President; **Dan Boyer**, Vice President; **Jim Dawson**, Treasurer; **Scott Grindel**, Secretary; and trustees **Randy Park**, **Scott Ridderman**, and **Kathy Yost**!

**School Scheduling Changes**

Information regarding school closing or schedule changes due to severe weather is available on the following radio and TV stations throughout the school year:

FM Radio Stations		TV Stations
WYBR	102.3	TV 9 & 10
WWBR	100.9	TV 7 & 4
WTCM	103.5	TV 8
WKJF	92.9	TV 13
WLXZ	96.7	Fox 33
WOLW	91.1	

**Looking for more?  
 Check Out our Web Site**

We continue to update and improve our web site. For school information including important notices, Board meeting dates, school calendar and much more, please visit us at: [www.reedcity.k12.mi.us](http://www.reedcity.k12.mi.us).

Go Coyotes!



**A FAMILIAR FACE IN A DIFFERENT PLACE:  
 Meet Mrs. Bush, the new Middle School secretary**

If you have stopped in the middle school recently, you have noticed a different face greeting you at the front desk. After serving nine years as the Receptionist Secretary in the middle school, Linda Schuelke has moved to the athletic department. The new secretary in this position is Joyceln Busch.

Mrs. Busch is a nine-year employee of Reed City Area Public Schools. She began as a teacher assistant for the Pre-primary Impaired classroom. The following year, she became one of the teacher assistant coordinators for the LIFT Mentoring Program at

the Hersey Kindergarten Center and, later, G T. Norman Elementary School.

Though she misses her students and mentors from LIFT, Mrs. Busch enjoys her new position. She feels that the staff, students, and parents have been very welcoming and supportive.

Mrs. Busch and her husband, John, moved from Baldwin to Reed City ten years ago. Their daughters, Rachel and Anna, are both Reed City High School graduates, currently attending Ferris State and Michigan State University, respectively.



# Student Council: Making RCMS a Great Place to Learn and Grow

### 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Representatives

Chad Samuels  
Austin Hansen  
Wyatt Meese  
Ashley Woodshed  
Karah Hensel  
Natalie Westhoff  
Kendra Repo

### 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Representatives

Nolan Peterson  
Kaitlin Karns  
Natalie Baughn  
Holly Rolston  
Kayla Pollaski

### 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Representatives

Hanna Price  
Lauren Voelker  
Spencer Mund  
Julianne Griffin

The annual student council fundraiser is complete. This year they raised about \$4,000. They will use the money to benefit all students, supporting such things as class trips, special events, and classroom enhancements. We appreciate the parent and community support we received. Students who sold more than 30 items were treated to a limo ride to McDonalds for lunch and then back to school. They had an unforgettable experience! Before Thanksgiving, student council organized a canned food drive. Class competitions encouraged students to

participate and, as a result, RCMS collected over two thousand nonperishable food items. Student council also sponsored three local families who needed a little extra help for the holidays this year. Our students shopped for gifts to give to these families. Some student council members commented that this was the highlight of their holiday season. The last day before Christmas break, on December 18, the student council paid for our holiday party. For the last two hours of school, students chose from open gym, dance with a

DJ, computer gaming, movies, board games, or craft making. Everything was provided at no cost to the students. Student council also gave each student a coupon to purchase snacks at the concession stand. Next, our student council will focus on the Valentine's Day Dance, the talent show, staff appreciation, and Field Day. Our student council members learn about student government, participate in service projects, and develop leadership skills. Student council is focused on making RCMS a great place to learn and grow.

### RCMS Student Council Gives a Helping "Can"

*"You helped provide over 1,630 meals in that two day span. AWESOME!!" - Robert Pooley*



**REED CITY FOOD PANTRY**  
December 20, 2009  
Dear members of the Reed City Middle school student council, advisors, students and all who helped with this year's food drive, at the Middle School, I want to share my heart felt thank you for all your work. You really made a big difference for many people.  
The two days following your food delivery we served 78 families representing 326 individuals. Each family was able to receive at least 4 bags of groceries, which translates into 312 very full bags of groceries given out in just two days.  
We try to provide 5 meals for each individual, which means you helped provide over 1,630 meals in that two day span. AWESOME!!  
Once again the Middle School food drive brought in more than any other single food drive by a group this year. So, Thank you, Thank you, Thank you!!  
Robert Pooley, Food pantry coordinator

## RCMS Ski Club — 2009-10

Advisor: Barb York



The Middle School Ski Club began its season January 7 with a trip to Caberfae Peaks in Cadillac. Students ski from 4-9 p.m. and enjoy all the runs that Caberfae has to offer. Middle school staff members Amy Decker and Sara Morlock usually join us and all are welcome to attend. We average between 30 and 50 student participants each time we make a trip. This year, we have also enjoyed the participation of some of the parents and their families. Ability levels range from beginners with some very experienced skiers and boarders. Since we had money left over from last year's dance, we

were able to lower the costs. Students pay \$13 for tow tickets and transportation if they have their own equipment; \$15 if they would like to rent skis; and \$21 if they would like to rent a snowboard. For the first time this year, helmets are available to rent for \$3 extra. Lessons are provided for those who are first time skiers or boarders. All students and their families are invited to join us. Our remaining scheduled trips for this year are February 4 and 18.



*Ski Club Members enjoying warmth*  
L-R: Mackenzie Simmons, Adam Kehr, Emily Burke, Kelsey Wright

## Cabin Fever

by Mary Allen

It's hard to believe that we're half way through the school year, already. Cabin fever has set in though, and we are looking forward to the temperature warming up and being able to spend more time outdoors. Some of the adventures that we are looking forward to we have experienced in past years, such as walking the nature trail behind the middle school and seeing nature begin its re-

newal process all over again. Some other activities that we do outside in our schoolyard are basketball, volleyball, kickball, and walking and running the track. When possible, we blend community service projects with exercise – from raking and picking up trash to planting flowers, bushes, and trees around our building. Our students have also sanded, stained, and painted

our classroom and outdoor furniture resulting in our students acquiring a sense of pride and ownership in their school. To cap off the school year, the students even come out on the weekend to help plant Petunias on Memory Lane. All in all, these activities give our students fresh air, exercise and a feeling of accomplishment to round out their high school experience.

## FAMOUS QUOTES

“We learn more by looking for the answer to a question and not finding it than we do from learning the answer itself.”

~ Lord Alexander

“The highest result of education is tolerance.”

~ Helen Keller

# NEW BREAKFAST PROGRAM IS A HIT WITH MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS

Reed City Middle School is eligible for a federally-funded breakfast program that provides a daily breakfast free for all middle school students. We decided to participate at no cost to the district. Details of the plan were finished mid-November and the program began December 1.

There was a significant amount of planning and preparation necessary to coordinate daily feeding and clean up of nearly 400 middle school students. Starting in November, our school start time was moved 15 minutes earlier. Students who rode a bus to school saw no change, because we began dropping students off at the middle

school first and elementary second. This also alleviated some monitoring problems at the elementary school. It is nice when we can get two birds with one stone.

Students now report to their homerooms first thing and eat breakfast with their homeroom teacher. After breakfast students stay in their homerooms and read for 30 minutes in our school wide reading program. The reading in homeroom was always a peaceful way to start the day and now it is nutritious way, too.

With the program in place, we have received many positive comments from students who love the breakfast. They also enjoy their extra 15 minutes of social time while they

eat. It is proving to be another successful way to meet the needs of our student population.



*Students enjoy the benefits of the free Universal Breakfast program*

Reed City Middle School has a science fair on March 11. Sixth, seventh, and eighth grade students are busily working on science fair projects to prepare for the fair.

Science Fair is all about using the scientific method to design experiments and test theories. There is a lot of research involved in designing and testing experiments. Learning, creativity, and team work are all very important when participating in science fair. Hands-on learning can be hard but in the end science fair turns out to be A LOT of fun!

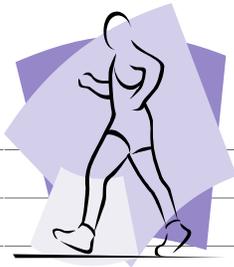


*Chase Caras — experimenting  
Photo taken by Hannah Neahr*



**R**eparing for the Science Fair  
~ Holly Rolston & Hannah Neahr, 7<sup>th</sup> Grade

## COMMUNITY EDUCATION RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES



### WALK REED CITY PARTNER PROGRAM

Non-competitive walking program that offers exercise & friendship while spending time on the trails of Reed City. A FREE program for all ages.

**SPRING KICKOFF: Wednesday, March 31, 2010; 6 p.m., at  
RC Depot**

Come register and pick up your walking log.

Partner Program will meet every Wednesday at the RC Depot 6 p.m.

Watch for more information!

## ATTENTION: BOOK WORMS

**Hardcover & Paperback Swap  
Wednesday, April 21, 2010**

**Children's Book Swap  
Monday, May 3, 2010**

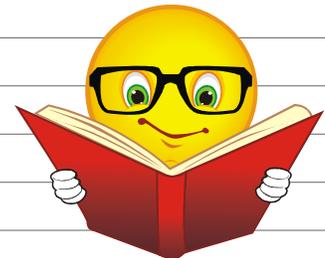
**G.T. Norman Elementary Gym (West) at 6 p.m.**



Gather the books that you no longer need or want and swap them with other fellow readers.

Limit up to 5 books per participant.  
Books should be fairly new editions & in good condition.

Please register for each swap by calling RCCE @ 832-5517 prior to the day of each swap.



Come participate in an evening of fun.

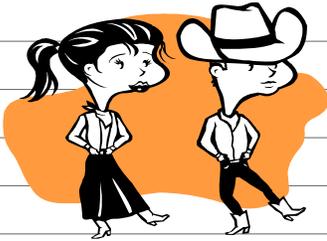
## SAFETY TOWN

Education presents SAFETY TOWN for 4-6 year olds. Safety Town is child safety education registered, accredited, and certified under National Safety Town Center, . Ms. Kylene Nix will be this year's instructor. Sessions beginning on June 14, 2010, and continue through June 26, 2010, from 9:30-11:30 a.m.. Safety Town will be held at Norman Elementary. The cost of this program is \$30 per child. Children in previous programs are encouraged to enroll again; however, priority will be given to first time participants until May 1.



## Ongoing Classes

Norman Elementary Cafeteria  
January 7 – June 3, 2010  
Every Thursday



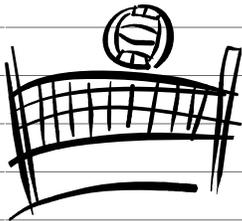
### Couples and Line Dancing Classes

Couples Dance – 6 – 7:25 p.m.: Classes are offered **FREE** of charge beginning every Thursday in the G.T. Norman Cafeteria from 6:00 p.m. to 7:15 p.m. This class teaches you the basics for the most popular country dances such as the Two-Step, Swing, Waltz and as well as many pattern couples dances. This class will teach lead and follow dances and many basic starting moves.

Line Dance – 7:30 p.m. – 8:45 p.m.: Classes are offered to all genders **FREE** of charge every Thursday at G.T. Norman Cafeteria 7:30 p.m. to 8:45 p.m. No experience is needed to start enjoying a new experience in your life. This dance class will help you acquire the skills needed to get you up and going. Whether you are young or old, dancing will take you to new heights and enjoyment that you can continue to do the rest of your life.

No School...No Dance Class.

No Dance Class on Family Fun Nights.



### Women's Summer Volleyball Registration

Registration forms Due by April 14, 2010

Registration forms available online at

[www.reedcity.k12.mi.us/schools/community\\_education.htm](http://www.reedcity.k12.mi.us/schools/community_education.htm)

Or by calling Reed City Community Education at

(231) 832-5517



2010 SUMMER ADVENTURE PROGRAM  
MORE INFORMATION COMING SOON!!!



Reed City Area  
Public Schools  
Permit No. 73  
Nonprofit Organization

## REED CITY AREA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

829 S. Chestnut Street, Suite A  
Reed City, Michigan 49677

Tel: 231-832-2201  
Fax: 231-832-2202  
Web: [www.reedcity.k12.mi.us](http://www.reedcity.k12.mi.us)

**Return Service Requested**



## SERVICE LEARNING AT RC COMMUNITY HIGH ~ Karen Knapp

The students at Reed City Community High (also known as Alternative Ed.) have started working on their Service Learning projects again this year. First, beginning in November, they worked on making things to sell at the Norman Elementary Santa Secret Workshop. The Norman Parent Teacher Organization puts together this event every year to offer the elementary students in our district an opportunity to buy handmade Christmas gifts inexpensively. The students worked hard for several weeks to make colorful holiday decorations and gifts for all family members. Several students even picked up some sewing skills in making some of the gifts.

In early December, many of the students took turns working at the Santa Secret Workshop selling our wares to the elementary students. They worked with the children to help them make decisions on what to buy for their family members as well. Each Community High student came back to our building feeling excited and full of the Christmas spirit. They laughed and shared stories of the children shopping. The experience had an additional "win" for our students as well. The money earned from selling our items was used to put together a wonderful Christmas Dinner for them to enjoy just before we went on Christmas Break.

Another project Community High students worked on came on December 11. Ten Commu-

nity High students were supposed to arrive at the Boy Scout building in the morning to help unload a truck load of food and repack it all for needy families during the holiday season. Unfortunately, nature decided to dump a bunch of snow overnight and there was no school on that date. Not to fear, two dedicated students and their two teachers braved the weather and arrived in time to help get the job done. A job well done Kayla Wright and Brent Horling – you guys showed the true spirit of service learning and were there when others needed your assistance.