



Winter Edition

2017-2018 School Year

Superintendent's Message

Excellence in Education, Every Student, Every Day!



Happy New Year! January 9, 2018 marked the end of the second quarter and first semester, which means that we have already reached the midway point of the 2017-2018 school year. Please know how grateful we are for the encouragement that our school community provides to our students, faculty and staff on a consistent basis. With your support, we are able to share the following accomplishments and achievement during the last 9-week marking period.

- RCPS was recognized as being selected for the College Board's 8th Annual AP® District Honor Roll for simultaneously increasing access to Advanced Placement® coursework while maintaining or increasing the percentage of students earning scores of 3 or higher on AP Exams. RCPS was one of two divisions in Virginia to receive this recognition.
 - Our girls' volleyball and cross country teams finished 2nd and 3rd in state competition while the boys' cross country team placed 6th earning RHS valuable Wells Fargo Athletic Competition points.
 - The RHS Theater Team placed 3rd in the State Theatre Festival earning RHS valuable Wells Fargo Academic Competition points.
 - For the first time, the RHS Robotics team earned a first place in the South Central Virginia Qualifier earning Coach Eller and the team a trip to state competition in Richmond in February.
 - The RHS Yearbook Team placed 2nd in the VHSL yearbook competition earning RHS valuable Wells Fargo Academic Competition points.
 - Ms. Sandy Lenhart, special education teacher at MES, was selected by the Rotary and Chamber organizations as the RCPS Teacher of the Year. Thus far, Ms. Melissa Martin, RHS culinary arts teacher, and Ms. Brittany Akers, BHES 4th grade teacher, were chosen as the Shelor Motor Mile Teachers of the Month while Mr. Dane Eller, MES 1st grade teacher, and Mr. David Lawson, MES office manager, were recognized by the school community for outstanding customer service care.
 - Ms. Serenity Massie, RHS 9th grade student, was recognized by Colors Magazine as scholar student of the month.
- Congratulations to all for their hard work and efforts in earning these recognitions and awards!



Radford City Schools would like to welcome Connie Wood as the School Nutrition Director. Ms. Wood is a graduate of Radford High School, as well as a graduate of New River Community College. Ms. Wood served as the Assistant to the School Nutrition Director in Pulaski County Public Schools for 8 years and has 25 years of school nutrition experience prior to joining Radford City Schools. Ms. Wood replaces Lenora Williams, who passed away in October 2017. Finding someone as committed to serving Radford's youngest citizens was a challenge, as Ms. Williams found great joy in providing food for the school community. We are grateful that Ms. Wood shows the same dedication and enthusiasm as Ms. Williams and it appears that the transition has been seamless. If you are in need of assistance in regards to Radford's School Nutrition Program, please contact Ms. Wood at cwood@rcsp.org, or at 540-731-3647.

Sincerely,

Robert F. Graham

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Superintendent



PUBLISHED BY RADFORD CITY SCHOOLS
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Radford, VA 24141
540-731-3647

Special Thanks for assistance on this newsletter to:
McHarg Elementary
Belle Heth Elementary
Dalton Intermediate
Radford High School

ColorsVA Scholar of the Year

by Lori Blackwell



Congratulations to Radford High School freshman, Serenity Massey, who was chosen as the ColorsVA January Scholar of the Month for her commitment to academic excellence and her desire to serve others. Nominating criteria required students to maintain a high cumulative grade point average and demonstrate leadership potential through participation in school or community activities. Performing well in school is important to Serenity and she exemplifies this daily in her preparedness for class and engagement during instruction. Outside of school, Serenity dedicates an impressive amount of her time to serving people of all ages within her church and community. The weekly hours she spends volunteering at her church include greeting and walking elderly church members into the building, assisting in the children's ministry, and helping out with custodial tasks. As a caring member of her community, Serenity regularly attends to neighbors who need help with chores by mowing the grass, blowing leaves, helping in the garden, and cleaning house. The combination of Serenity's willingness to learn, her ever present smile, her kind and generous spirit, and her great sense of humor make Serenity a great all-around candidate for this prestigious honor. With her positive attitude toward learning, Serenity will undoubtedly experience continued success throughout high school and in her post-secondary goals. In addition to being profiled in the January issue of ColorsVA magazine, www.colorva.pub, Serenity will be featured in a Monday morning television segment of Perspectives, hosted by WFXR News, and is slated for nomination as ColorsVA Scholar of the Year.

It Was Wonder-filled

by Darlene Lane



"You can't blend in when you were born to stand out," a quote by R. J. Palacio in her novel, *Wonder*. Have you ever "wondered" what it would be like for all students and adults in a school to read and discuss the same book, take the whole school to the movie, experience kindness lessons everyday, as well as develop empathy for all classmates? That is exactly what Belle Heth Elementary children and staff have experienced since the beginning of this school year! Starting at the beginning of the year all classes read the book *Wonder* written by R. J. Palacio. As a culminating activity all students went to Radford Theater to view the movie. The discussions helped our students learn the importance of being kind, accepting and understanding all people no matter what their differences. These ideas were enhanced during Kindness Club, individual classroom activities as well as in our fine arts classes. One class created a kindness Christmas tree where they used items from their Maker Space to make ornaments with acts of kindness they had noticed their classmates doing. Others made Kindness Journals to document kindness quotes they read and times they saw kind things happen around them. The things the students learned through this experience enhance our school motto, "Making today to build tomorrow". We believe there is nothing more important to build in our students than kindness.

The Zoey Burger!

by Stephanie Sutphin

Sharkey's in Radford and Stephanie Sutphin's 2nd grade class teamed up for a good cause! In recognition of National Sandwich Day (November 3rd) and John Montagu, Earl of sandwiches, Mrs. Sutphin's class was given the assignment of inventing an appetizing sandwich/burger and directions for how to make it. They were then sent to Leslie Paradiso, owner of Sharkey's. She & her team got together & decided that Zoey Murphy's creation, The Zoey Burger, was both appetizing & doable in their kitchen.

Not only did Ms. Paradiso agree to celebrate the creation on January 11th as the "Special of the Day," Zoey was asked to choose a favorite local charity & 20% of sales for the day would be donated to it. Zoey chose the Radford Animal Shelter. This cause is very near & dear to Zoey's heart. Last year for her birthday party, the guests were asked not to bring a gift for Zoey, but a bag of dog or cat food to donate to shelter instead!



DIS Visits Virginia Tech

by Amy Ramsey

Seventh and eighth reading students at DIS enjoyed a day visiting the Virginia Tech campus and watching a men's basketball game at Cassell Coliseum over winter break. They were also able to take part in a Toothpick Bridge Challenge. After a preliminary introduction to bridge types, construction, and physical influences (including location and natural forces that impact stability), STEAM students used each step of the Engineering Design Process to construct physical toothpick bridges. The ultimate goal? Break them!! The question was whose would sustain the most weight over a five second count. We had two categories: truss bridges & suspension bridges. The truss bridge held *six pounds* for five seconds! The suspension bridge held *16 pounds* for five seconds!



Dates to Remember

February 19-Schools Closed- President's Day

February 20-23-SCHOOLS ARE OPEN

March 30-April 2-Schools Closed-Spring Break

April 3-Report Cards Go Home

May 18- RHS Graduation

May 25- Last day for students-2 hour early release

Belle Heth Cooking Club

by Suzanne Woolwine



We have been cooking up some great things in Cooking Club on Fridays at Belle Heth. Our goal in Cooking Club is to teach our students that they can make healthy snacks and kid friendly food without having a lot of ingredients or kitchen equipment. Some examples of our creations were: mummy hot dogs, tortilla pizzas, snack mixes, cookies, and breakfast foods such as pancakes. To follow along with our school read aloud Wonder, we took two of our sessions to do something for others. In one session, we made healthy dog treats and donated them to the Radford Animal Shelter. On our final club date, the students cooked breakfast for the wonderful people who support us everyday at Belle Heth, including our cafeteria ladies, custodians, office staff, instructional aides, and resource officers. The students created and delivered invitations, cooked the food, served our guests, and made sure they had what they needed. It was a wonderful experience for the students and for us to witness how much our students enjoyed being helpful and thinking of others.

DIS Student Council Association

by Brianna Reynolds

The Student Council at Dalton Intermediate School had another successful winter canned food drive. DIS collected over 1,000 items to be donated to the United Way of Montgomery, Radford, and Floyd. The SCA not only has held a food drive this year, but also had a very successful Fall Fling in October. Over 100 DIS students attended!



Students Create Graham Cracker Houses in December

by Kimberly Reese

All RHS Art Students create Graham Cracker/Rice Krispie treat creations in December to spark their festive spirit. They collaborate in groups of about 5 people. Using the framework of the design process, they sketch their designs and plan what types of food and candy they need. We discuss as a class the differences between sculpture materials that we normally use, like clay and cardboard, versus using food and how it holds together differently and how gravity works against it. Students are responsible for different sections of their creations. Some experiments were conducted for the "Jolly Ranch" creation (image shown), the students melted jolly ranchers in the microwave to make the "stained glass" windows and the pond with the Swedish Fish underneath. Rice Krispie treats and graham crackers are the most popular medium to use because they are easy to build with. The students have challenges throughout the week that are unique to working with food. As they build their projects, they determine if their original ideas still work. When they come to a stumbling block, they work together to determine what changes they need to make and what food will fix their dilemma. The final products are displayed in the showcases in the high school.



Innovation in Education, Preparing Today's Youth for Tomorrow's World!

by Ellen Denny

RCPS hosted a community event on Thursday, January 18, 2018, to offer the school community information on the future of Radford City Public Schools (RCPS). RCPS aspires to increase student activity and engagement by creating instructional experiences that make all learning relevant (standards/skill based), relatable (real world, workplace skill emphasis) and rigorous (high expectations, performance based). Through teacher training, research of best practices and school visits throughout the state, RCPS has been able to start the process of providing students deeper learning opportunities.

The drive to redesign instruction is to strengthen a student's knowledge base by making learning relevant and relatable as well as facilitating what the Virginia Department of Education refers to as the profile of a high school graduate, highlighting the 5 Cs: communication, collaboration, creative thinking, critical thinking and citizenship. Grants, partnerships, school visits, and business/industry consultation have helped to steer RCPS in the direction needed to better prepare students for the workforce of tomorrow. As you may know by now, McHarg Elementary, Belle Heth Elementary and Dalton Intermediate have created makerspaces in their schools to promote "maker education." Makerspaces help students embrace the engineering and design process through making and tinkering. To extend this type of learning to students, professional development in the area of STEAM education has been provided to teachers, K-8, and a select group of high school instructors. STEAM lessons that integrate all disciplines are being developed on a quarterly basis and pushed out to students in grades K-8 and select secondary classes.

Instructional practices at the secondary level and high school routines and procedures are important in this division-wide redesign. Radford High School (RHS) is currently exploring daily schedules (variations of traditional and block schedule), lunch models, project and problem based learning, integrated education and performance based assessments. RCPS hopes to enhance this student centered approach to learning by creating a *Center of Innovative Teaching and Learning* so that children have access to courses and laboratory areas such as Cybersecurity, Robotics, Droning, and programs of study including Engineering and Design, and Health Science.

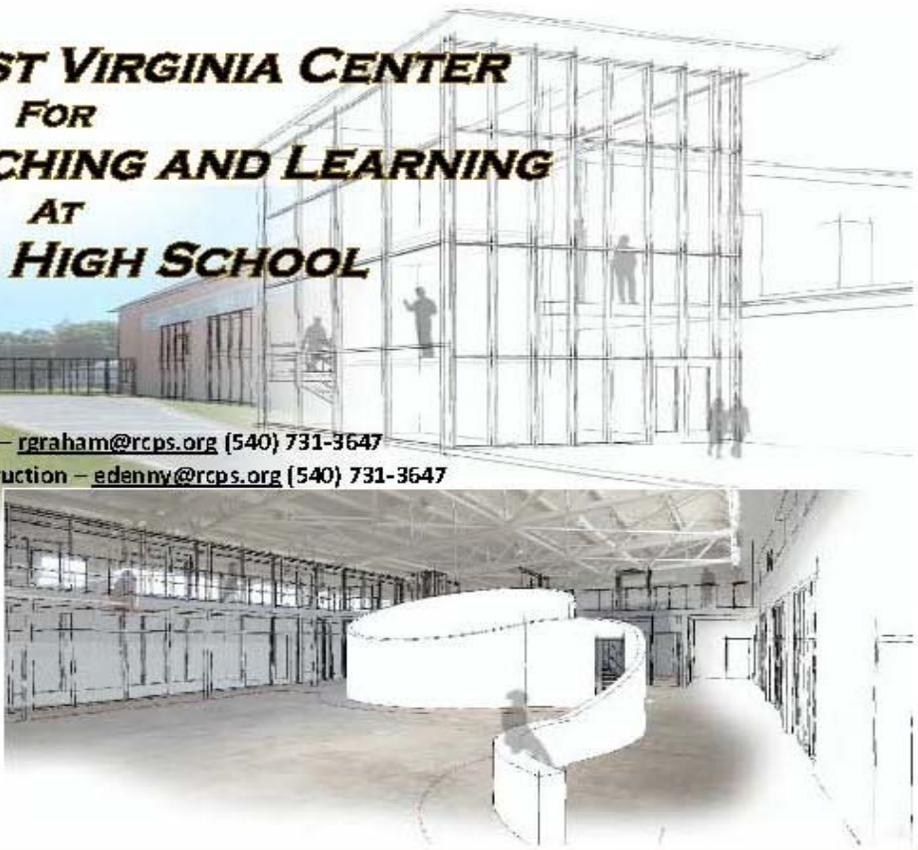
To keep the RCPS school community abreast of initiatives, progress, and events in regards to the redesign journey, a webpage is being created. Look for that page to be live mid-February.



Schools will now be open February 20th - February 23rd for students and staff. RCPS will remain closed Monday, February 19th, in honor of President's Day, but reopen regular school hours on Tuesday, February 20, 2018.

THE SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA CENTER FOR INNOVATIVE TEACHING AND LEARNING AT RADFORD HIGH SCHOOL

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THE **SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA CENTER FOR INNOVATIVE TEACHING AND LEARNING** IS DESIGNED FOR ALL STUDENTS AND WILL PROVIDE EACH A FLEXIBLE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT THAT ENCOURAGES AND SUPPORTS COLLABORATION, COMMUNICATION, CRITICAL THINKING, CREATIVE PROBLEM SOLVING AND “REAL WORLD” INVESTIGATION.

THE CENTER WILL SUPPORT CYBERSECURITY, HEALTH SCIENCE, COMPUTER SCIENCE, ENGINEERING AND DESIGN, AND OTHER TECHNOLOGY-RICH COURSES.

SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA CENTER FOR INNOVATIVE TEACHING AND LEARNING PARTNERS:

- RADFORD CITY SCHOOLS ADMINISTRATION, TEACHING STAFF, AND SCHOOL BOARD
- RADFORD PARTNERS FOR EXCELLENCE
- RADFORD HIGH SCHOOL FOUNDATION
- RADFORD UNIVERSITY
- VIRGINIA TECH
- UVA WISE
- NEW RIVER COMMUNITY COLLEGE
- REGION VII SCHOOL DIVISIONS
- COMPREHENSIVE INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAM – REGION VII
- PUBLIC/PRIVATE INDUSTRIES - QUALCOMM

ANTICIPATED COSTS
\$6,000,000

CENTER SPACES
(NAMING OPPORTUNITIES)

KIVA
COLLABORATORIUM
MAKERSPACES
CYBERSECURITY LAB
DRONE TEST AREA
ROBOTICS ENGINEERING LAB RING
HEALTH SCIENCE LAB
COMPUTER SCIENCE
ENGINEERING AND DESIGN