



Raymond School District Community Newsletter

The Green Gazette

May 2020

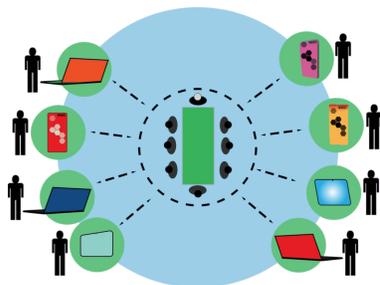
From the Superintendent



This Remote Learning period is an unusually trying time for families and employees alike, but all are rising to the occasion through innovation and collaboration. Because every student is different, and every home has its own unique dynamics, flexibility is key. I strongly encourage any parent, guardian or student who is having difficulty during Remote Learning to contact teachers or administrators to seek assistance or provide feedback that will help inform our practice. The goal of the Raymond School District is for every student to be successful, so please stay in communication with us so that we can assist you in any way possible and make this unique learning experience as positive as possible. We are here for you, so please reach out to us with your comments or concerns.

May 4th through May 8th is National Teacher Appreciation Week! I would like to acknowledge all of the teachers in the Raymond School District for their hard work and dedication, and I'd also like to thank those parents and family members who are helping to support and teach our students at home. Together, we are **uniting our school district and community to prepare students for future success; ready for anything!**

School Board Remote Meetings



The School Board continues to meet regularly on the first and third Wednesday of each month. The Board has made accommodations to allow its members, guests, and the public to participate remotely.

The meeting place will continue to be the Raymond High School Media Center and will be open to the public, with a limitation of 10 people in the media center at any one time. However, the Board encourages residents who would like

to provide input to do so by either emailing the School Board at schoolboard@sau33.com or by calling 895-6405 during the "Public Input" section of a regular meeting. You will be placed on speakerphone at that time.

There are also various options to view the Board meetings via live streaming, including RCTV and a Google live stream link. Visit www.sau33.com/agenda to see all options.

Refunds Due to Parents

We are working closely with the Food Service Department ([Judith DiNatale](#)), Before School Program ([Patrick Arsenault](#)) and the Preschool Program ([Lara DePaola](#)) to ensure sure that all parents who are due refunds from the School District receive them.

If you feel that you need a refund in regards to any of these programs, please reach out to the contact listed above so that

they can provide the Business Office with all of the necessary information that we will need to process these requests.

We are in the process of already compiling most of this information and will be issuing checks at the end of next week. Thank you for your patience and understanding.



Facilities Update



The Facilities Department has continued to work tending to the buildings during this time of remote learning. We have begun some summer cleaning as well as other maintenance projects to take advantage of the empty buildings.

We have been working on requests for proposals for capital reserve projects and projects needed in order to move the preschool program. Some of the projects include replacement of the high school fire suppression system pump, design plans for a safety wall at the high school, pre-school playground work, restrooms for the preschool at the high school, and other smaller projects. Staying safe and keeping others who use the buildings safe remains a top priority. The continued efforts to disinfect and clean the buildings has not slowed down at all. Please stay safe.

Why is My Internet Slow?

With our increased reliance on internet connectivity comes increased demand on our resources and tools.

If you're experiencing internet trouble, NHCTO Council/CoSN (Consortium for School Networking) have developed a helpful tip sheet ["Why is My Internet Slow?"](#)



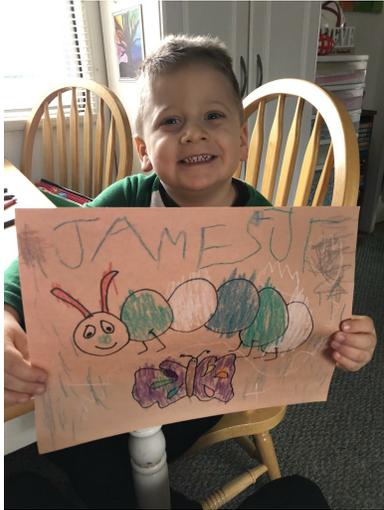
Preschool Remote Learning



While remote learning can be tricky for young students, our preschool students are completing the PreK Remote Learning Plan and engaging in Google Meets with their classmates and teachers daily. For preschool students, the remote learning plan consists of a movement activity, such as an online yoga, dance class or karate video, watching a read-aloud book on Youtube, and completing hands-on learning activities that accompany the theme or ideas in the read-aloud book. There are also extra online activities and games that our teachers have found to offer a further connection in their learning. Parents are sharing pictures of students completing their activities with the teachers and they look like they are having fun while they are learning!

Each morning the students have a morning meeting scheduled with their teachers and classmates. It is a great time for them to reconnect to those familiar faces that they are missing and practice their early learning skills. Students are broken into small groups on some days to help manage the group of young Google Meet users.

Since the end of the school year has shifted, the preschool students have begun their ABC Countdown to the end of their school year. Each day is assigned a letter and provided an activity that corresponds with that letter. On 'A' day we had "Bring your Stuffed Animal to the Google Meeting" and 'B' day was "Bubbles". If students did not have bubble solution, the preschool teachers made sure to link recipes that could be found online that parents could follow.



IHGMS Remote Learning Video

If you haven't seen it yet, take a look at this video of our students participating in remote learning. The video gives some insight into how students are staying engaged through this unprecedented time.



RHS Message from the Principal

The COVID-19 pandemic has been tough on all of us. Parents and guardians are having to take a more active role in their child's education as they help with assignments, connectivity, and any other issues that arise from remote instruction.



Teachers have had to change their instruction and practice overnight. We are certainly in uncharted territory, but the good news is that we are all in this together.

The faculty and staff at Raymond High School have stepped up to the challenge. I have never been more proud of a group of people. A lot has been asked of them and they have given much. They are working harder and longer than ever before to ensure that remote instruction is successful.

Next week is Teacher Appreciation Week and it will look very different here at RHS. It would be great if the community, parents, and students reach out to teachers next week and let them know that they are appreciated. Teachers and para-educators at RHS have stepped up in this difficult time and I invite you to show them your appreciation.

ELO - Caption This

Students involved in the 'Thinking Outside the Box' ELO had some wonderful insight to the open ended question: What do you think the frog is thinking?

A lesson in perseverance and hope, sentiments we can all benefit from.



"This frog looks like he may be thinking what a lot of us are thinking right now. He's probably just thinking about holding on and keeping on going. I sort of feel like him sometimes during these few weeks. Just trying to hold on and keep my school life together."

"I wonder why the world is falling apart right now everyone seems like they're going crazy."

"This frog is probably thinking he's going to die sooner or later, but *now is not that time*."

"I personally think that the frog is thinking how am I gonna do this? How am I gonna get down, how long will it take, how will I do this? Everything is how. He isn't giving up, he is determined to hold on till he finds the solution."

Reach High Scholars Summer Programming

As COVID-19 continues to alter the way we interact with one another, Reach High Scholars is working to provide students with new initiatives to help them reach higher and control their educational destiny. We would like your thoughts on a new concept for Raymond Roundtables this summer by answering the attached [survey](#).



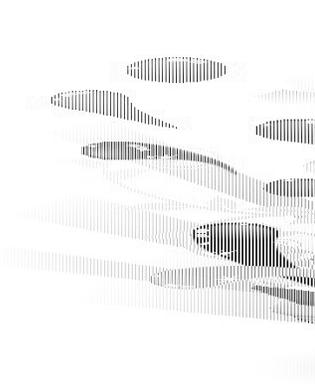
About Raymond Roundtables

- Raymond Roundtables is an important early component in a continuum of initiatives of RHSP that lead to boarding summer enrichment programs, PSAT and SAT prep and college visits in later years. RR has been offered in Raymond for the past ten years to rising 8th-, 9th-, and 10th-graders — including, in recent years, students from surrounding towns.
- Roundtables classes use Phillips Exeter Academy's world-renowned Harkness method, a student-centered seminar style of learning in which the teacher guides and fosters discussion. The students learn to take responsibility for their education, listen to one another, and explore the potential of their academic and intellectual abilities.
- Our RR classes allow students at all levels to increase their academic initiative and

motivation, which are qualities that have been instrumental in the success of Reach High Scholars when applying to highly competitive colleges.

Why we are re-thinking the concept for Summer 2020...[click here to read more](#).

Keeping Engaged and Entertained



During this period of remote instruction and learning it is important to keep our students minds engaged and active. Our educators are providing excellent virtual learning opportunities for our Raymond students. As we continue social distancing it is important to do the little things with our children: reading to stimulate and expand their understanding of the world and reviewing math facts to build skill and fluency. It will be the little things and our combined efforts that will make the most difference during these times of remote instruction. [New Hampshire Destination Imagination offers weekly free activities](#) to keep our students engaged and entertained during remote learning. Have fun learning and exploring with your children!

LEAP & Raymond Recreation Update

Greetings from home! I would like to take this time to address a concern that I've heard amongst some families regarding summer.

Before the decision was made to set the last day of school for June 5th, LEAP and Raymond Recreation Department were in communication about what this would mean for families if social distance restrictions were eased and people started to return to work around this time. With the start of various summer programs tentatively scheduled for June 29th, we recognized that this created a significant gap between then and the end of school.



There are preliminary plans in place for LEAP and Raymond Recreation to work collaboratively to offer full day programming in the weeks leading off to what will be the official start of Summer Recreation. This program will be open to all LRES and IHGMS students at a nominal cost. If (or when, hopefully!) the Governor announces that restrictions are being eased to the point that this programming becomes allowed and necessary, we will finalize the details and get registration information out to the community ASAP.

In the meantime, LEAP is currently open remotely to all LRES and IHGMS students who may need additional support during this time of remote learning. If you would like to schedule some time for your child to work with our certified teaching staff during the "after school hours", please contact Pat at p.arsenault@sau33.com



Visit www.sau33.com/jobs to see our current job opportunities and to apply online.

Free Meals for Students



Remote School Feeding is in full swing! Free meals, provided as grab & go back breakfasts and lunches continue to be available free to all students up through grade 12. With the development of an online order system, we were able to add bus stop delivery or our existing pick up option. Both of these take place on Monday and Wednesday, with meals for multiple days going out each time. Our regular number of student participants has grown to the mid-70s on Mondays, and the low 90s on Wednesdays. End 68 Hours of Hunger also joins us for the 10:00-noon distribution

time on Wednesdays.

Even though we are not in our buildings at this time, **families can still apply for free and reduced price meal benefits if financial circumstances have changed during the current crisis.** Why do this when all remote meals are free? When summer programs start up, being qualified as Free or Reduced may also bring a discount in fees. Eligibility will also still be in place as school starts up for the first month of school in the fall. Additionally, and also especially important right now, our total of Free & Reduced eligible may also affect the level of funding that the Raymond School District receives on other opportunities as they arise. Please [click here](#) to download an application. Completed and signed applications may scanned in or photographed and emailed to j.dinatale@sau33.com or mailed to Judy DiNatale, School Nutrition Service Director, 45 Harriman Hill Road, Raymond, NH 03077. Please feel free to call 895-3394 x4109 with any questions about this process.

Also, during this financially difficult time, we are processing requests for refunds of Student Nutrition Service account balances. This is also true for Graduating Seniors with no younger siblings to roll over the balance to. Please email requests, being sure to include the student's full name, parent/guardian full name and the complete mailing address where checks should be sent.

Finally, a shout out to our Nutrition Service Staff who has dedicatedly stuck with coming out of isolation on a continuing basis to make this program ongoing. And also to our partners at Dail Transportation and our bus riders Pat Arsenalut and Tricia Wentworth who have helped make our delivery option a smooth opportunity for families in Raymond.



From Raymond Coalition for Youth

[The Raymond Coalition For Youth](#) has created [a resource page](#) to help people access local food pantries, selfcare information, mental services, and prevention, treatment and recovery services that are open during COVID 19. Our local agencies and partners continue to provide updated and information to serve our community.

RCFY Youth Action: Meetings are open for all middle school and high school age students to share their voice, thoughts, and ideas to support healthy peer behaviors and to strengthen our community.

**#RCFY Middle School
Youth Action meetings
Wednesdays, 3:00 pm
On ZOOM!**



To join a meeting contact
Christine at cbostaph@rcfy.org

These are private meetings and you must have a secure link to join. Meetings are open for all middle school age students to share their voice, thoughts and ideas to support healthy peer behaviors and to strengthen our community.

**#RCFY High School
Youth Action meetings
Tuesdays, 2:30 pm
On ZOOM!**



To join a meeting contact
Christine at cbostaph@rcfy.org

These are private meetings and you must have a secure link to join. Meetings are open for all high school age students to share their voice, thoughts and ideas to support healthy peer behaviors and to strengthen our community.

Upcoming Events

		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

Events are subject to change. Please check our Events Calendars at www.sau33.com.

School Board Meeting
Wednesday, May 6, 6:00 PM

School Board Meeting
Wednesday, May 20, 6:00 PM



Visit our website