

RAYMOND SCHOOL DISTRICT

Raymond, New Hampshire



GREEN GAZETTE NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2022

From the Superintendent

"Everything changes and nothing stands still."

- Heraclitus

As we transition out of the month of March to April, I have always viewed March as a transitional month. March is the month that winter begins to subside, daylight hours increase, temperatures go up, and green patches begin to appear replacing the brown. I appreciated seasonal changes occurring during the month of March and look forward to the changes April brings. Beyond the seasonal change, in New Hampshire another agent of change happens in March as many towns hold elections. No matter the results of an election, change will happen.

As we emerge from the town election we welcome our new school board member Ms. Cindy Bennett and a familiar face Mr. Joseph Saulnier to the Board. I was pleased to see our school budget was approved and the contracts for both the Raymond teachers and support staff were overwhelmingly supported. With the support of this community every warrant article passed. I appreciate the willingness of the community to demonstrate their support for the Raymond School District with their votes. It means a great deal to the administration and staff who are committed to making this district a good place for our students.

During the winter break the School Board moved forward with the superintendent search and appointed Terry Leatherman as the Raymond School Superintendent starting on July 1, 2022. Mr. Leatherman is currently a middle school principal in the town of Barrington and comes to Raymond with many years of experience in education. I have met with Mr. Leatherman and look forward to assisting him in the transition. We will be saying goodbye to School Nutrition Services Director Judy DiNatale who will be retiring in this month. Judy has been a great employee and has worked hard to provide quality meals to our students. Her efforts during the pandemic through closures, remote learning and hybrid models to keep meals in the hands of our students should be applauded.



As you may be aware, NH DHHS has made changes to recommendations relating to COVID-19. Specifically, NH DHHS is no longer recommending universal mask use in schools. Masks are currently optional in the Raymond School District therefore there will be no change for students during the school day. Students are no longer required to wear masks on school buses. One of the big questions surrounding masks was answered recently by a staff member of DHHS. Her response to me about mandated mask wearing

was: should individuals be looking to adopt the shortened quarantine/isolation timeline they are agreeing to wear a mask for the remaining days 6-10. Should they not want/agree to wear a mask then they should be out the full 10 days. I will be working with district administration and nurses to further review our COVID-19 Policies. My hope is to continue to make changes that would bring us back to the school environment we left two years ago.

With March in the rearview mirror I look forward to the month of April. As a district and community we have been through a great deal over the last few years. Two years ago, March was the month that transitioned us into remote learning, hybrid learning, lockdowns, and a new life with COVID-19. This April begins our transition back to what we all wish with the normal we are comfortable with. We did the work together this year and I will need your continued support to finish the work.

Dave

Advisory Committees Being Formed

Would you like to join the Strategic Planning Committee?

We are looking for collaborative team members to help us plan for the future of Raymond School District. We are accepting letters of interest from staff, parents, and community members to serve on the 2022 Raymond School District Strategic Planning Committee. Meetings are scheduled as follows and if you are selected to join the Committee, please plan to attend both meetings:

Thursday, May 26th - full day (approx. 8 AM - 5 PM)

Friday, May 27th - afternoon meeting, if needed

Letters of interest to join the Strategic Planning Committee will be reviewed by the Raymond School Board.

Please submit letters of interest by 3:00 PM on Tuesday, April 19, 2022.

Letters may be sent via email to j.heywood@sau33.com or mailed to:

Strategic Planning Committee
c/o Jennifer Heywood
Raymond School District
43 Harriman Hill Road
Raymond, NH 03077

School Nutrition Services Director Search Committee

The Interim Superintendent of Schools and the Raymond School Board will establish an Administrator Selection Advisory Committee for the position of School Nutrition Services Director. The committee will consist of one school board member, one district administrator, two teachers, two food service staff members, and two parents. Employees and parents are invited to submit a letter of interest to serve on this important search committee.

Letters of interest must be received by 3:00 PM on Tuesday, April 19, 2022.

Letters may be sent via email to j.heywood@sau33.com or mailed to:

School Nutrition Services Director Search Committee
c/o Jennifer Heywood
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603 Bright Futures Survey - The NH DOE Wants to Hear From You!



The NH Department of Education wants to hear from staff, parents, and community members in our school community! The 603 Bright Futures Survey is available now. This spring, it is especially important for the DOE to receive feedback. It has been two years since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic and much has changed since that time. The NH DOE is hoping to receive feedback to better understand how staff, families, and communities have been impacted, and how they will move forward. The 603 Bright Futures Survey is also how schools will gather their Special Education Family data in support of the NHDoe's **federal reporting for Indicator 8**.

Survey Links: To access the surveys, please visit the appropriate link(s) beginning Monday, March 14, through Friday, April 29, 2022

Families in K-12, Preschool, and Private Schools: bit.ly/nhdoefamily

Staff in Public and Private Schools: bit.ly/nhdoestaff

Community Members*: bit.ly/nhdoecommunity

*Please note that "Community Members" are those who do not have students enrolled in New Hampshire public schools. Those who do should complete the family surveys instead.

Tier II Groups



In response to universal student screening data relating to social, academic and emotional wellness, Raymond School District has partnered with Constellations Behavioral Services to provide group support to students who are identified as at risk. Students were identified based on their outcomes on the screener along with other factors such as attendance, discipline and nurse visits.

The groups will meet for a short period of time, three times a week for six weeks. Group sessions aim to teach new skills that are needed to be successful across important developmental and social areas such as: self awareness, self management, responsible decision making and more. The content has been designed by a board certified behavior analyst (BCBA). Information regarding the group topics will be sent home to parents of students who are participating.

We look forward to seeing how this supports students and improves their overall success in school. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact [Jessica Caron, LICSW \(Director of Student Behavioral Health\)](#)

LRES "Reads to the Moon"

After returning from Winter break, Lamprey River Elementary School jumped right into the activities for Read Across America Week! This is a yearly event that is encouraged across the country and seen as a national

celebration and encouragement for reading. This year, our theme was for our staff and students to “read to the moon”.

As a school, our goal by the end of the month is to collectively read 238,900 minutes (the distance in miles from the Earth to the moon). This was encouraged through a weeklong list of daily school-wide activities such as; reading under our desks, reading with finger lights, D.E.A.R (drop everything and read) on beach towels, reading with our teachers from last school year, and having guest readers reading to our classes. To extend opportunities for reading the whole month, students completed bookmarks to count minutes and show their reading at home. The PTO also sponsored a virtual field trip from the McAuliffe-Shepard Planetarium. During these visits, students learned about constellations and planets.



During the month of March, students and families also participated in a Read A Thon. This is a reading fundraiser that helps support our school library. It is our school's second year hosting this month-long event and it has been a great success each year. From the funds raised, we plan to purchase decodable books and early chapter books, for our students to check out from our library.

Read Across America Week allows students and staff to come together around books that we love! Staff model and encourage a love of literacy through engaging reading activities that are promoted school-wide. Students are encouraged to read, read, read, and improve in how much time they spend reading. The staff, students, and families at LRES look forward to this celebration of reading each year!

Spring has Sprung at IHGMS

After the past two years of being impacted by the pandemic, this spring, some of our traditional spring activities here at the middle school are back! *Nature's Classroom* and the Parent Core Group's (PCG) *Rafflemania* have returned!

Last spring we were able to do a very modified Nature's Classroom experience for our current 6th & 7th graders. They were each able to attend a 2 school day field trip to Pawtuckaway State Park last spring. It was called "Nature's Classroom on Wheels". The Nature's Classroom staff came to us for the four days and our students were able to participate in some of the field activities similar to what they would have if they had attended the five day, night field trip at one of Nature's Classroom's sites.



One of our 6th grade students really wanted to attend Nature's Classroom to be able to take part in the full Nature's Classroom experience. She started a student petition that 95% of her classmates signed, along with some of the 6th grade faculty. I brought the petition and the overnight field trip request to the school board who enthusiastically approved the trip. Our 6th graders were able to have an amazing experience at Nature's Classroom Camp

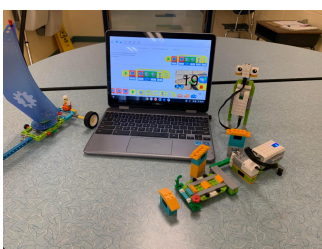


Cody in Freedom, NH the week of March 21st.

The PCG's 29th Rafflemania was held March 25th and was a huge success! Individuals, families and area businesses donated over 150 items that were raffled off and the proceeds from Rafflemania was just shy of \$9,000! Rafflemania has been the PCG's biggest fundraiser of the year for nearly three decades. The event itself usually brings together the community at our school to share an evening and bid on items of their interest that are donated. With food and beverages, families can have supper and an evening out to celebrate and support the school and community. Rafflemania proceeds provide extra supplies and items to the students and school which are not covered by the school budget. Yearly the PCG provides funds for field trips, assemblies, teacher/staff appreciation luncheons and the eighth-grade step-up cookout for our high school bound students. Our goal is to supply teachers with requested items that they need.



LEGO Robots are Taking Over LEAP!



LEGO Robots are taking over LEAP! Our middle school program has been having a blast with our various kits like WeDo, BricQ Motion Prime, and Spike Prime. In addition to creating some great builds, students are challenged to relate their creations to real world situations such as helicopters flying in supplies to storm ravaged areas, conditions that affect a race car's speed, and how wind affects the travel path of air crafts. We also build fun things like spy robots and code them to make sounds, change colors, and move using various commands run through our chrome books! You can check out some of our Lego Robotics and more at the second Education Expo on April 7th, 5:30-7:00 at the IHGMS Gymnasium!

College and Career Connections

COLLEGE & CAREER *Readiness*

The monthly College and Career Series involves a variety of diverse professionals, trades, military, college representatives and other program coordinators that come in during Advisory/RAM time. During this time, the professionals speak with curious and interested students and staff to inform them of the specific tasks involved and opportunities that are available within their specific fields. April's Monthly College and Career Connections guests will include the United States Coast Guard, Professional Photographer, Bishop's University (Canada), Piscataqua Maritime Sea Challenge Program, Athletic Trainer,

Kettering University (Michigan) and Great Bay Community College (Seacoast). For more details, students can view the calendar that is posted outside of the School Counseling Office, or speak with Mrs. Londo.

From Reach High Scholars

Seniors - You have your college acceptances, now it is time to decide!

The National Reply Date is May 1st! This means you have until then to notify 4 year colleges that you will be attending. Here are ways to make the decision easier. Talk to your parents, your school counselor, or Shanyin at Reach High Scholars Program if you need help.



Financial Aid Awards – Look at all the financial aid awards for each college. Which college(s) are the lowest cost? This can help eliminate really expensive colleges.

- Make sure you are comparing award letters equally. What is the total cost to attend each college? Then look at the amount of scholarships/grants received and the amount of loans from each college. If you have questions about what something means, just ask! The college financial aid offices are here to help you navigate this process.
- Has your family's financial situation changed since you completed your financial aid forms? Contact the colleges to see if they can reevaluate your awards.
- Hoping to get a little bit more assistance? Write an appeal to the financial aid office to see if there is any additional help available to you. Let them know that it is one of your top choices!

Accepted Student Visits – Head to campus to see all that it has to offer! Talk to current students and faculty. Check out clubs and organizations you can join. Ask questions about anything that is important to you!

Can't make it to campus this time of year? Contact the admission office and see if there is an accepted student event near you. If not, compile your questions and call and ask the admission office.

Get Waitlisted? – Let the college know if you would like to remain on the waitlist. Be sure to send them any additional grades and inform them of new things that have happened in your academic life. Keep in mind that many colleges do not begin taking students off their waitlist until after May 1, and most often in the summer, so you will need to make a decision on the choices you have available to you right now.

From Raymond Coalition for Youth

Everyone is welcome to join the conversation on April 14th, at our next RCFY meeting, regarding upcoming events and efforts.

You are invited to Join us
April 14, 2022
RCFY Monthly Networking Meeting
9:00 am - 10:30 am
Raymond Baptist Church
All Are Welcome - topics to discuss
How to celebrate twenty years of RCFY,
Operation Raymond Clean up event
Medication Safety & more.....



Our #RCFY Youth Action members are hard at work to get the message out about the

dangers of vaping and providing resources for their peers to quit. Prevention kits for all students at RHS will be distributed on April 1st, Kick Butts Day.

The planning has begun for Operation Raymond Cleanup. Stay tuned for more details, or contact our office to help with the planning.



April 30th is the next free DEA Medication Disposal event. This is a great opportunity to have a very important conversation with the young people in your life about the dangers of Fake pills laced with deadly drugs like Fentanyl and Meth.

Questions or for more information please contact our office 603.895.7061 or info@rcfy.org

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

School Board Meeting

Wednesday, April 13, 6:00 PM, IHGMS Room 192

Wellness Committee Meeting

Wednesday, April 20, 2:00 PM, RHS Main Office Conference Room

School Board Meeting

Wednesday, April 20, 6:00 PM, RHS Media Center

IHGMS Principal's Coffee Hour

Thursday, April 21, 9:00 AM

Schools Closed - Spring Break

April 25-29



Visit our website

