

May 2023 Raymond School District Community Newsletter

Jennifer Heywood • hace un mes • Tuesday, May 2 at 6:00 PM • **Raymond School District, Add to District Staff Newsletter**



Your Raymond School District Community Newsletter

From the Superintendent

Celebrating student success is an important part of promoting a positive learning environment and encouraging continued academic achievement. Acknowledging and recognizing accomplishments: whether it's a high grade, a completed project, a student who has made growth, or an act of kindness, it's important to acknowledge and celebrate these accomplishments. Educators can do this by publicly recognizing students in class or in a schoolwide assembly, or by sending notes or emails home to parents.

Along with staff recognition, we as a district need to encourage peer recognition. Encouraging students to recognize and celebrate each other's success can foster a positive learning environment and create a sense of community.

Overall, celebrating student success is an important way to promote a positive learning environment and encourages continued academic achievement. By acknowledging and recognizing accomplishments, hosting celebratory events, providing incentives, and encouraging peer recognition, all of us can help students feel valued, motivated, and inspired to reach their full potential.

Terry Leatherman,
Superintendent of Schools

Reminder: School Closed May 26th

Just a friendly reminder that our **school calendar** has been adjusted to allow for a staff in-service day on Friday, May 26th. There will be no school for students that day.

Notice Raymond School District Annual Emergency Drill



An emergency drill will take place at **Raymond High School on Thursday, May 11th**. As part of this drill, emergency services will be on site and students will be participating in other activities as part of the drill.

Please be aware of this change to the normal day if you are in the area. Parents will receive more detailed information.

Reminder: This is only a drill.

Education Expo and Upcoming Summer LEAP



Thank you to everyone who came out to the *Education Expo* on April 13th. Guests got to experience a variety of stations including word and math puzzles, wet felt crafts, robotics, instrument demonstrations, and some hair-raising science exhibits! Our goal for next year is to hold at least three of these events (fall, winter, and spring). They are open to any student in the Raymond School District to attend and we hope each event grows bigger than the last!

Before that, be on the look-out for information about free summer LEAP enrichment opportunities that will be open to all students in grades 1-8.

Patrick Arsenault,
Director of Youth Services



Raymond School District

Superintendent's Coffee Hour

Wednesday, May 17th at 9:00 AM

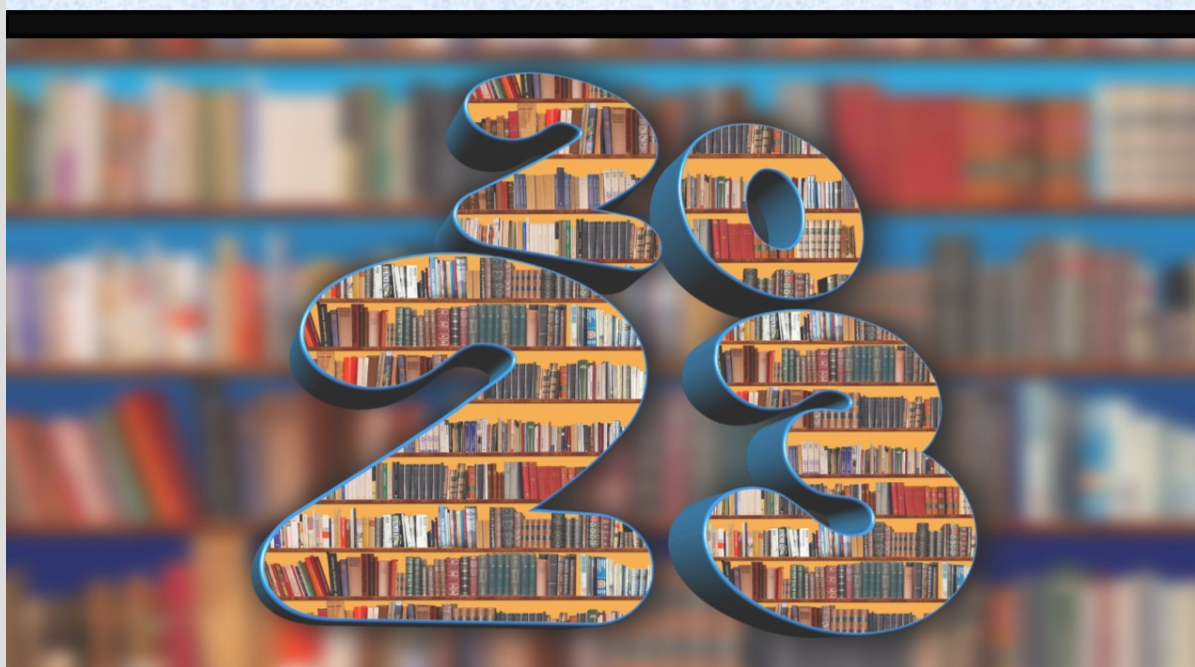
at Longbranch Restaurant



Join Superintendent Terry Leatherman for a **Year-End Review -**
What went well? What could we do better?

Open to all parents and community members!

Though we'll be discussing our year-end review,
please feel free to discuss any other topics with the Superintendent.



May 5th is School Lunch Hero Day!

Between preparing delicious food, adhering to strict nutrition standards, navigating student food allergies, and offering service with a smile, Raymond nutrition professionals have a lot on their plate. To celebrate their hard work and commitment, Raymond schools will celebrate School Lunch Hero

Day on May 5. This day, celebrated annually since 2013, was designated by The School Nutrition Association and Jarrett Krosoczka, author of the “Lunch Lady” graphic novel series. School Lunch Hero Day provides an opportunity for parents, students, school staff and communities to thank those who provide healthy meals to nearly 30 million of America’s students each school day.



Raymond is fortunate to have so many dedicated nutrition staff who go above and beyond by taking time to learn every student's name, singing Happy Birthday to them on their birthday's or starting each day with a high five or kind word. I would like to highlight one member of my team who is in her 34th year of service in Raymond School District. Maggy Coito affectionately jokes that when they opened the building she was already here. She has participated in an estimated 12,240 meal services, serving somewhere in the neighborhood of a million breakfast and lunch meals. Thank you Maggy and the entire Nutrition Services Team for all you do.

Please join us on May 5th thanking the lunch ladies and food dudes that bring nutritious meals and smiles to Raymond students everyday.

Tasha Ball,
Director of School Nutrition Services

Share Your Student's Success Stories!

Student success looks different for each individual student. When looking at the whole-student, schools aim to support students to reach their full potential and have access to and support in academic as well as social emotional learning. Successful students need academic challenges, opportunities to develop and showcase their study skills, encouragement from teachers to actively engage and self-reflect, and options to build upon their individual strengths.

Throughout the month of May, take time to reflect on your own child’s success stories, recognizing that these stories come in all shapes and sizes.

As parents, we get excited when our child demonstrates a new skill, a new milestone such as the first steps and the first words. Let’s continue to praise the successes seen through the hallways and classrooms at school. As I walk the school halls through Raymond, I see students striving to become the best version of themselves and teachers who truly believe in their abilities. Success can look big and obvious to others, such as graduating high school and going off to college or trade school, or it

“OPTIMISM IS THE FAITH
THAT LEADS TO
ACHIEVEMENT. NOTHING
CAN BE DONE WITHOUT
HOPE AND CONFIDENCE.”

HELEN KELLER

can look smaller, such as the student who felt confident in their knowledge and raised their hand to answer a question or the student who has fine motor needs and grasped a pencil correctly. Take a moment and consider what success looks like to you and ask your child(ren) what success looks like to them.

As educators it's our job to give the students access to tools to be successful. Throughout the schools, students have access to specially designed instruction, such as reading, writing, math, and executive functioning, related services, such as nursing services, speech therapy, occupational therapy, physical therapy, vision services, and hearing services, access to technology and augmentative and alternative communication devices, as well as accommodations, modification, and least restrictive environments.

I invite you to celebrate these success stories and share them as you would the milestones from their baby years. Take a moment to complete [**this Google form**](#) to share your stories. These are anonymous and may be shared within the department and SAU.

As a final reminder, we are still looking for staff to work our Extended School Year (ESY) programming. If any community members are interested, please complete and submit an application, click [**here**](#) to access the postings. We are still in need of teachers and paraeducators.

"Action is the fundamental key to success." – Pablo Picasso

Jodi Gutterman,
Executive Director of Student Support Services

Celebrating Social and Emotional Skill-building

Let's take a moment to celebrate all that our youth are doing to manage or overcome behavioral or mental health challenges in order to engage in their learning each day. May is National Mental Health Awareness Month, and May 7th is National Children's Mental Health Awareness Day.

The work our students are doing with their school behavioral health providers (school counselors, psychologists, social workers, student assistance program counselors) to advance their social and emotional skills should be celebrated. However, since work is more private in order for them to have a safe space to develop these skills, the behavioral health departments at each school were asked to share one recent piece of work that should be celebrated without identifying student information:

At LRES, students in the Zones of Regulation groups are working on "filling their toolboxes" with strategies and activities for calming, focusing and quelling worry.



At IHGMS, the 7th graders are engaging in thought-provoking activities and challenges around substance use prevention with the Student Assistance Program Counselor. One student who is involved in the Youth Action Group with the Raymond Coalition For Youth is also a leader in this education series with her class, always giving good insight and thoughtful answers.

At RHS, the school social worker highlighted a student in individual counseling who has been focusing on distress tolerance, healthy coping

skills, and effective communication to be able to advocate for herself in a healthy way that does not get her into trouble. The student put these skills to work by recently pulling together a team meeting and appropriately spoke to a room full of adults about what she needed from all of them to be successful.

Shout out to all of *these* students, and the *many* more, for engaging in skill building to manage their stressors to improve their mental health. And, shout out to all of our caregivers who are their biggest supporters. Together we can help our youth reach their full potential.

If you are interested in learning more about mental health, the National Alliance for Mental Illness has a ton of great resources, including a personal stories section, information on support groups, and tools for how to support kids, teens and young adults. Youth.gov also provides great information on youth mental health.

Samantha Horrigan
Director of Health and Wellness

Tutor.com Now Available for Students Grades 6-12

Tutor.com is now available for students in grades 6-12, and can be accessed from their Google Account by going to the "waffle" and scrolling to the bottom.

<https://www.education.nh.gov/news/new-hampshire-expands-access-free-online-tutoring-students>



Top 10 Facts

FOR PARENTS ABOUT

Tutor.com

- 1 Safe and Anonymous**
 All tutors must pass a rigorous application process including an extensive background check. No personal information is shared between student and tutor. All work is completed in our recorded classroom.
- 2 FREE for Eligible Students**
 There is NO cost to eligible students to use Tutor.com, and you will not be asked to purchase anything.
- 3 Personalized Learning Sessions**
 Every Tutor.com session is personalized to meet the needs of your student, from remedial to advanced levels. It focuses on conceptual learning and critical thinking—not just quick answers.
- 4 Covers a Wide Variety of Subjects**
 Students can get help in math, science, English, writing, social studies, Spanish, computer literacy, AP® courses, and more. We also provide job search assistance.
- 5 More Than Just Homework Help**
 Tutors assist students with specific homework problems but can also help with concept review, writing assignments, test prep, and more.
- 6 Extends the Learning Day**
 With more than 3,000 highly-vetted expert tutors, Tutor.com can help students logging in at their moment of need.
- 7 Supports Student Achievement**
 96% of students who use Tutor.com say it helps them complete their homework and improve their grades.* Students come to class better prepared and ready to learn.
- 8 Builds Confident Learners**
 Students of all skill levels can get help from a tutor. In fact, 97% of students responding to our post-session surveys have said that using Tutor.com makes them feel more confident in their learning.
- 9 Is Easy to Use and Accessible from Anywhere**
 Wherever students have online access—at home, at school and anywhere in between—they can connect to a tutor using any computer or mobile device. Sign up is quick and easy!
- 10 Endorsed by Parents**
 "This service has been excellent and wonderful. My 7-year-old son is actually motivated to do his homework because of it. Thank you so much!"

*Based on 2021 post-session Tutor.com student surveys.

The Princeton Review is not affiliated with Princeton University.



Brittany L'Heureux,
Director of Technology

LRES Students Celebrate Earth Day

At Lamprey River Elementary School, students and staff celebrated Earth Day on April 21st, before heading into our Spring Break! The students had a wonderful time participating in a variety of activities throughout the day. Our Unified Arts teachers had students making paper airplanes. The administration worked with students to decorate biodegradable pots and then the students planted



bean seeds to take home and watch grow. Students went outside with their grade level teams to clean up various areas on our school campus and enjoyed a picnic lunch outdoors!

We love hosting

this tradition at LRES each year. It is a wonderful opportunity to teach our students the importance of taking care of our Earth and all of the amazing things that it has to offer us.

Laura Yacek,
LRES Principal



IHGMS Spring Celebrations

Spring has sprung and many of our school's traditions are well underway. Some of our grades have class trips and we welcome our incoming class and say farewell to our outgoing class. We also have the opportunity to celebrate some of our most outstanding students.

Our 5th graders just returned from their week long trip to Nature's Classroom. For many, this was their first time away from home without their parents but they had a week's worth of outdoor learning activities that they will not soon forget. Our 8th grade is on their way to Washington, DC; the first of many end of 8th grade activities that they will be involved in over the last weeks of school. Our 8th graders will also have their annual Recognition Dance and celebrate during their 8th Grade Class Day. The Recognition Dance is being held on Friday evening, June 2nd and the Class Day will start at 10:00 am Thursday, June 15th. We start with an awards assembly where everyone is invited to which is followed by a cookout and field day that is for the students and their teachers sponsored by our very own Parent Core Group.



We will be welcoming our incoming 4th grade class starting Tuesday evening, June 6th with a 3rd Grade Parent Information Night at 6:00 p.m. in the IHGMS Library. This is followed by a student step up day on Thursday, June 8th. The 3rd grade walks to the middle school, they meet their 4th grade teachers, spend some time with their new classmates in their new classrooms, have lunch in the



cafeteria and have recess on the playground. They also will have a tour of the school led by our National Junior Honor Society members and learn about the different unified arts classes that they will have next year.

One very special evening celebration is the Induction of the newest National Junior Honor Society. These are 7th & 8th graders who are being recognized

for their outstanding scholarship, leadership, service, citizenship, and character. The date for this ceremony has yet to be determined.

But one of the most special Raymond School District's traditions is the Walking of the Green and White; the senior class walks through the halls of the schools that they grew up in while wearing their graduation gowns. They start at the elementary school, then the middle school and finish at the high school.

Spring is a very special time in our schools and we hope that each spring we help our students create memories that will last a lifetime!

Bob Bickford,
IHGMS Principal

RHS Celebrates Students

One of the best things about being part of this wonderful educational community is having so many opportunities to celebrate the incredible students we serve - but also to bear witness to them celebrating their own learning. Our Tech students are creative and engaged in their work to a degree that inspires everyone. The passion their instructor, Dean Plender, has is surpassed only by their own! Sandra Swiechowicz, Presidential Award Nominee, and her students are another fine example!





Raymond High School was even a little more beautiful than normal this past month due to the unexpected glimpses of poetry, courtesy of CHART winner Ms. Jennah Dussault and her students! Students have been celebrating National Poetry Month with daily poems and a Research-a-Poet project!

Ms. Tudisco has her hands full with celebrations! AP Language and Composition students have been exploring new vocabulary words by looking for new, relevant, challenging, or unusual words in our work. They make cards to display, add definitions to their growing list, and keep on exploring the power of language!

Ms. Tudisco is also our Event Coordinator! She is busy planning all of our end of the year events beginning with our Celebration of Excellence. The Celebration of Excellence is an awards ceremony meant to honor the hardworking or much improved underclassmen in their courses. Teachers were invited to award 1-2 students from each course they teach for 9-11 grade students. Generally we have awarded students for Outstanding Achievement - this is a student who has excelled in class, and also Outstanding Effort - this is a student who may have struggled at some point, but has turned it around or just works really hard all the time! We look forward to that evening!

Lastly, please join us in congratulating our RHS student-athletes who were selected by the state of New Hampshire, the NHIAA, and the NHADA to receive the NH Scholar Athlete Award! This award is presented each year to high school seniors who have excelled in athletics, as well as academics, while demonstrating outstanding school and community spirit and leadership.

The last few weeks of this school year are upon us and they will be filled with many moments to celebrate the gifts, talents and character of our fine students. Thank you, as always, for the opportunity to be a small part of this incredible community.

Sharon Wilson.
RHS Principal

From Raymond Coalition for Youth

1. Join us on **May 11th** to hear Paul Spera of the NE DEA to learn more about the fake prescription drug issue hitting our state and nation. It is now more important than ever to **be aware and talking to your kids**. Please join us 9:00 am - 10:30 am at the Raymond Baptist Church to learn more. Summer, prom and graduation are quickly on the way. With these big milestones quickly approaching, we want to make sure that our youth are having fun, while also being safe.



2. **Keeping Teens Safe Town Hall Meeting** - An overview of data and information for parents and teens to know about the laws and current substance misuse trends. As well as resources and information about where to go for help.

3. **How to Keep Your Teen Safe During Prom and Graduation Season** that goes over: Current substance use trends in NH, Impaired and distracted driving information and resources, Tips to talk to your teen about making safe choices and how to prepare to host a party, What is consent, and why it is important.