

**Parent Bulletin**

**December 12, 2014**

Celebrations:

* RPEMS is ranked 4th in the state of Maryland with First in Math points – great job to students, staff, and parents (keep logging on from home so we can earn 1st place)!
* Congratulations to the Middle School Boys and Girls Soccer Teams for winning the City Championships this fall!
* Congratulations to the Middle School Girls Basketball Team for reaching the finals and taking second place in the City!
* Thank you to the PTA for hosting an incredible fundraiser to help our school!
* Thank you to the Wellness Committee, Annual Fund, and numerous parent volunteers who helped us raise money for technology this fall!
* Shout-out to the 6th grade R team, Ms. Furno, and the Pre-k/K team for organizing awesome Thanksgiving feasts!
* Thank you to the Roland Park Civic League, Grace United Church, and Roland Park Place for their volunteering members who tutor and mentor our students!

RPEMS 5 Year Plan Update:

As a result of the RPEMS 5 Year planning process, many goals and initiatives were established to help us meet our potential as a national model for public education. Many of our next action steps revolve around individualizing the educational experience for every student. Some of the notable work being conducted at this time includes:

* Curriculum and Instruction:
	+ The elementary school is prioritizing targeted small group instruction in an effort to meet the needs of all students. Intervention and advanced learning is being implemented in these small group learning opportunities.
	+ Brain Targeted Teaching and Arts Integration units are being implemented at various grade levels and content areas. Students from MICA recently completed an arts integration internship at our school. From this work, students showed a deep understanding of core content through visual arts experiences. These projects are on display throughout our middle school hallways
* School Climate:
	+ We have conducted regular Elementary Town Hall Meetings to further develop the skills associated with community building (especially demonstrating mutual respect and kindness)
	+ We have ongoing Middle School student advisory conversations around personal growth and goal planning as well as processing current events. The most recent conversations have been around understanding the national demonstrations related to Ferguson, MO.
* Facilities and Technology:
	+ The technology committee is finalizing a spending and implementation plan for new technology as a result of our Running Festival fundraiser – our focus is in three areas – using technology to differentiate learning for students, using technology for teachers and student to interface in real time, developing the technical skills in students for them to use technology as a safe and effective tool to express their creativity
	+ The traffic committee has been working diligently with school administration, school police, city police, and the Department of Transportation to create a safer drop-off and pick-up experience. This committee’s great work has resulted in new signage, more traffic enforcement, and a smoother flow of traffic

SFC Evening Meeting:

Join me and many others at Monday night’s School Family Council (SFC) meeting. The meeting will include updates on the school’s efforts to address Attendance, Climate, Classroom Instruction, Partnerships (with Goucher), Wellness, and Engagement. We will also hear from the PTA. At this meeting, I will provide a more detailed update on the school’s Technology plan. Attendees will provide feedback on the technology spending and implementation plans. The SFC meeting is on Monday, December 15th at 6:00 pm in the school’s multi-purpose room. Refreshments and childcare will be provided. I want to give a special thanks to the Engagement team for their efforts to secure childcare, refreshments, and assistance with planning and facilitating a positive and productive meeting.

Volunteering:

Several RPEMS teachers and administrators are looking for school/classroom volunteers. If you (or your place of work) are interested in volunteering, please contact Phillip Rowland-Seymour at rpems.crc@gmail.com for more information. Currently, we have a need for regular help with PBIS and for elementary lunch/recess. Additionally, we have requests from Ms. Brennan and Ms. Kramer (1st grade), Ms. Repass (Elementary Art), and Ms. Mooney (Middle School SPAR) to help in their classrooms. In the near future, we will have requests from more teachers, so stay tuned. This is a great opportunity to support our wonderful teachers and students.

We are also looking for a middle school wrestling coach. If you have experience and are interested in volunteering in this capacity please email me directly at njdambrosio@bcps.k12.md.us. The time commitment can range from 1-3 days per week after school from 3:15 – 5:00 pm.

Traffic Reminders:

The following traffic guidelines and regulations will help ensure a safe and organized drop-off and pick-up experience:

* Double parking is not allowed at any time on Roland Avenue
* Parking on Roland Avenue in front of school is prohibited during the hours indicated on the traffic signs. Drivers are not permitted to park on Roland Avenue in front of school and leave their car unattended to walk students up to the school doors
* Drivers dropping students off on Roland Avenue are expected to pull their vehicle as far north on Roland Avenue as possible to allow others to pull close behind thus utilizing all available curb space
* Drop off should take no longer than 30 seconds. Please make sure your child or children exit the car on the right hand curb side
* To avoid the most congested time of morning drop-off, consider sending your child to our free breakfast program. Supervised breakfast is available starting at 7:30 am every morning in the cafeteria
* Only staff members with the appropriate parking tag are allowed to enter the school lot and park on school grounds during the hours of 7:15 am and 3:30 pm

Upcoming Events:

Monday 15 School Family Council Meeting at 6:00 PM

Tuesday 16 Middle School Winter Concert (Glee Club, Band, Jazz Band, Orchestra) at 6:30 PM

Wednesday 17 Elementary School Winter Concert (Chorus, Band, Orchestra) at 6:30 PM

Tuesday 23 Elementary Winter Program (all students) – PK to 2 at 9:00 am; grades 3 to 5 at 10:45 am

Wednesday 24 – Monday 31 Schools Closed for Winter Break