

Randolph Public Schools
"Building Tomorrow, Today"

RPS



**School
Accountability
Levels**

LEVEL 2

Elizabeth G. Lyons ES
Randolph HS

LEVEL 3

John F. Kennedy ES
Margaret L. Donovan ES
Martin E. Young ES
Randolph MS

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MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS
FEBRUARY 2017

"The goal of education is the advancement of knowledge and the dissemination of truth."

- John F. Kennedy

Greetings Randolph Public Schools Parents and Community,

We have completed the first half of the year and we are in the midst of winter. Let us please remind our children to dress warmly with layers and to use their hats and gloves. We continue to have so much to be proud of in Randolph Public Schools. Our students, your children, are continuing to persevere and make progress in many areas. We appreciate the support of every one of you as we collaborate to prepare our children to be successful in this globally competitive market. We have learned a great deal in 2016 and will use those experiences to do great things in 2017.

INFORMATION (updates calendar items)

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (January 16, 2017)



On January 16, Randolph Town Hall and Randolph Public Schools jointly held a Day of Service honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. It was the first ever for the Town of Randolph, and was successful. Dr. King was about serving others, and many volunteers – ranging from students, parents, RPS staff and town officials – came together to beautify and organize the interior of the school buildings. Dr. King would have been proud to know that all those that participated are great because they served.



Non-Discrimination Policy

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Celebrating the life and legacy of Dr. King in this manner would not have been possible without the support of our Town Manager, David Murphy. We can do more together than we could ever do apart.

Special Thanks to Christine Tangishaka, Coordinator of the Family Resource Center and Registration Office, who took the lead in organizing this celebration from our end. Also thanks to several students, parents, Town Officials, RPS administrators and other staff who gave of their time to make this an even more special day. We are excited that next year we will have even more volunteers making an even bigger impact.

Community Visit:

I had a great a visit with Donovan ES and RCMS on February 2, with David Murphy (Town Manager); Pastor Ronald Stephenson (Spring of Water Christian Church); and Rebecca Robateau (School Committee member). We saw some outstanding instruction and student engagement in the lessons.



Global Leadership Academy:

The program has close to 50 students enrolled this year in grades 8 - 10. Our target over the next two years is to have a maximum of 25 in each grade, 9 – 12, and 25 in 8th grade at the middle school. Students from the middle school are now able to participate in two classes at Randolph HS. Our work with Emerson College and the Asia Society (Center for Global Education) continues. If you are interested in the program please call the middle school for more information at (781) 961.6243.

FY2018 Budget Priorities

1. Staffing levels based on enrollment
2. Professional Development
 - a. Early literacy, technology, pedagogy
 - b. Continue work with Harvard, Wheelock, Stonehill and others
3. Technology
 - a. Classroom, staff support to assist schools



RHS Boys win Gold, Silver and Bronze
South Shore Indoor Track Championship

Facilities Upgrades:

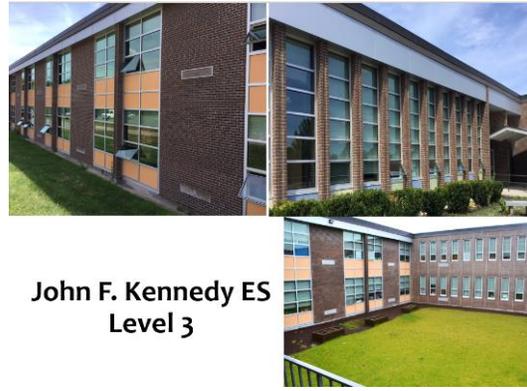
Randolph continues to invest in its students by supporting an increase in the budget year after year and by investing in facilities. Recently the John F. Kennedy ES and Randolph HS received new windows and doors to provide better lighting to help stimulate student thinking and to be more energy efficient.

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**RANDOLPH
HIGH SCHOOL
Level 2**



**John F. Kennedy ES
Level 3**

School Highlights

Kindergarten students are spending Friday mornings with poetry – learning different types, reading and creating. Tayana Pavlova, ESL teacher and Michelle Ward, long-term substitute for art, created an immersion lesson for Lunar New Year where students learned the story of the New Year, created lanterns and made red envelopes for family and friends using Chinese characters to create greetings and well wishes. The Young ES's Math Night is Tuesday, February 7th, 6:00-8:00 PM.

Randolph High School

Randolph High School senior, Samantha Blanc, was selected to receive the Comcast Leaders and Achievers® Scholarship Program award of \$1,000! COMCAST  NBCUNIVERSAL

Blood Drive

Due to the teamwork of RHS administration, RHS faculty, and the generosity of students, faculty and community donors, American Red Cross exceeded their goal of collecting 38 pints of blood; 45 pints were collected! The 45 pints have the power to save up to 135 lives. This is outstanding!

Athletics Update

We hosted another successful Blue Devils Boys and Girls Holiday basketball tournament on December 30, 2016. The girl's bracket included Holbrook, Snowden International and Tech Boston. The Holbrook Bulldogs captured the championship by defeating the Snowden Cougars 31-25. The Blue Devils lost to Tech Boston in the third place game, 36-34. Senior forward Deirdra Cantave's 13 points led Blue Devil scorers.

The boy's bracket included Boston Latin Academy, Natick HS and Stoughton HS. The Natick Red Hawks led by tournament MVP, Audric Sandoval, defeated Latin Academy 61-35 in the championship game. In the third place game, the Blue Devils fell short to the Stoughton Black Knights 60-56 and were led by senior Forward Davon Robinson's 21 points. Visit: www.bluedevilsathletics.com

Kalon Jenkins is in his 8th year at the helm of the Randolph Boys' Basketball Program, as coach. His career record is 100-57 with the highlight being the team's run to the 2015-16 MIAA Division 2 South Sectional Final. On Friday, January 13, the boys' team defeated Middleboro 56-54 earning coach Jenkins his 100th career win.

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An Athletic Retention Forum was held last week at RCMS for 8th grade athletes, involving our Athletic Department, RCMS, RHS and the Family Resource Center.

FROM THE CLASSROOM

Rigorous Discourse: A Classroom Practice

Over the last few months, RPS teachers have been participating in training on how to infuse Rigorous Discourse into their classrooms. RPS defines Rigorous Discourse as conversations that occur in small or large groups and consistently involve all students in a discussion around the lesson's topic. Students use academic language to discuss an idea, support their ideas with evidence from a text and their own background knowledge.

Student Practices

- All students take part in deep academic conversations and sustained writing that is purposeful and focused on course content.
- All students clarify, support ideas with evidence, paraphrase, build on and/or challenge and synthesize knowledge.
- All students self-assess the quality of their interactions in the process.

Teacher Practices

- Teacher plans for and uses higher order questions and *Accountable Talk* strategies to motivate all students to:
 - 1) Enter conversations and writing assignments using text
 - 2) Plan for and integrate background knowledge as an entry point
 - 3) Generate questions that are intentional and purposeful to support academic outcomes
 - 4) Model oral rigorous discourse to inform student writing
- Teacher gives timely, quality and actionable feedback to students on the clarity of their thinking during rigorous discourse
- Teacher establishes routines and norms for rigorous discourse and constantly models and holds students accountable to them

Reference:

1. *Deeper Learning Means Educational Equity in Urban Schools* (January 28, 2013) (<https://www.edutopia.org/blog/deeper-learning-educational-equity-urban-school-elena-aguilar>)

Vocabulary: Parent Toolkit:

Helping to Build Your Child's Vocabulary

"Parent Toolkit" expert and University of Michigan Education Professor Nell Duke has shared several tips/activities you can use at home to expand your child's vocabulary.

<http://www.parenttoolkit.com/index.cfm?objectid=97AA2240-F7CE-11E3-921A0050569A5318>

RANDOLPH PUBLIC SCHOOLS GOALS

GOAL 1: Enhance the Teaching and Learning Process

Increase academic achievement of all students through aligned assessments, effective instruction and standard-based curriculum that is challenging and engaging.

GOAL 2: Improve Accountability Structures

Improve data systems that will support student learning, staff development and resource management.

GOAL 3: Increase the Quality of Engagement

Increase academic success for all students through quality family and community partnerships.

GOAL 4: Human Capital Management

Maintain, enhance and support a quality workforce that is diverse, highly skilled and professional.

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Five Minutes to Spare!

Making it easy to support your child's development, see the video links below on how you can support your child's overall development in a few spare minutes each day.

<http://www.parenttoolkit.com/index.cfm?objectid=6AF1ACDo-50EE-11E5-8F900050569A5318&targetObj=D761C470-50Fo-11E5-8F900050569A5318>

Links for Families:

Kindergarten – Grade 3: <http://www.readingrockets.org/article/reading-tips-parents-11-languages#english>

Grades K -12:

<http://www.pta.org/parents/content.cfm?ItemNumber=2583&navItemNumber=3363>

State Testing Update: MCAS 2.0

The Department of Education (DESE) has adopted a new format for MCAS that is more rigorous than in previous years. The new ELA and math tests will be administered to students in grades 3 – 8 this spring. The new version will require students to read multiple passages, write longer narrative essays and be able to identify the commonalities between writings. For example, students may be given a fictional and nonfictional story about whales in Alaska. They would then be asked to explain how the whales are depicted in each piece of writing. Students in grades 4 and 8 will take the computer-based MCAS 2.0 and schools will begin having students practice on the computers in order to prepare for the new test in the spring.

As a reminder, RPS is offering English as a Second Language classes for our parents. Notices were sent home inviting adults to join classes. Parents should contact the Family Resource Center to register and/or ask questions by calling (781) 961.6220, ext. 558.

Please access our website: <http://www.randolph.k12.ma.us/> for updates and more school related information.

As always thank you for your support and for entrusting us with your most prized possession, your children.

With Randolph pride,



Thomas Anderson,
Superintendent
Randolph Public Schools

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