

Riverview School District **ENEWS**



Committed to the **SERIOUS SUCCESS** of Every Student

**First Annual STEAM Showcase**

On Thursday, January 13, 2016, over one-hundred community members, parents, students, and teachers attended Riverview Junior Senior High School's first STEAM Showcase. The evening celebrated the district's commitment to STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math) education. Students in the junior high displayed projects they created in STEAM Across the Curriculum, a new course created with funding from a \$20,000 grant from the Center for Creativity. Projects included iMovies, Hummingbird Robots, MaKey MaKey, and K'Nex bridges. In addition to our junior high program, high school students shared their projects. Technology tools used by students in the school's Spanish classes and their projects were also on display. Students in Tech Ed displayed items designed and created on one of the district's two 3D printers. RVTV shared clips from The Current, the school's daily in-house news program, along with a variety of short skits the students have created. The Current took on a new face this year and makes use of developing students skills in media, technology, planning, writing, creativity, and language arts. Student artwork was on display and the yearbook staff was there to provide a sneak peek at pictures in this year's book. REAP (Riverview Enrichment Activities Program) students exhibited their creations from a variety of competitions. Guests were also invited to see programs coded by our students and take tours of the recent renovations. Congratulations to the students, parents, teachers, administrators, Education Foundation, and everyone who supported and provided enthusiasm and creativity for the program exhibiting our **SERIOUS** Commitment to the academic **SUCCESS** of our students!

**\$15,000 Donated in Art Supplies**

Last week, students at Riverview High School helped unpack the nearly \$15,000 of miscellaneous art supplies donated by Jerry's Artarama, one of the world's largest art material suppliers. The donation is a continued effort to provide a variety of educational supplies to motivate artistic experimentation and creativity. This donation is also part of the new Art Renaissance of the STEAM program at Riverview High School. As part of the "A or Art" in STEAM, it is our intention to continually represent the arts and to display student artwork in the community. Special thanks to Art Teacher, Mr. Glenn Garrison, for his inquiry and facilitation efforts in obtaining the donation. Pictured left to right: Kalen Crowell, Christian Niner, Tobias Black, Shawn English, and Andrew Garda.



**Life Skills Grant Awarded to Riverview**

Riverview School District has been awarded a three year grant to implement LifeSkills Training to all students in grades 6-8. LifeSkills Training (LST) is a school-based program that aims to prevent alcohol, tobacco, and marijuana use and violence by targeting the major social and psychological factors that promote the initiation of substance use and other risky behaviors. LST is based on both the social influence and competence enhancement models of prevention. Consistent with this theoretical framework, LST addresses multiple risk and protective factors and teaches personal and social skills that build resilience and help youth navigate developmental tasks, including the skills necessary to understand and resist pro-drug influences. LST is designed to provide information relevant to the important life transitions that adolescents and young teens face, using culturally sensitive and developmentally and age-appropriate language and content, facilitated discussion, structured small group activities, and role-playing scenarios are used to stimulate participation and promote the acquisition of skills. This three year grant is valued at \$40,000.

Be sure to check out the new **School Safety** section of our website  
<http://www.rsd.k12.pa.us/School-safety.aspx>



**Tis the Season...**

Sixth Graders at Tenth Street Elementary collected new and gently used books to donate to Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh this holiday season. To display the belief that reading is one of the greatest gifts, the kids arranged the books in the shape of a Christmas tree.

**Happy Holidays**

Verner Elementary School students and staff collected almost 100 bags of clothing and food for the needy! Verner Elementary Student Council delivered all of these items to the local food bank at Verona United Methodist Church. Our students joyfully stocked the shelves, sorted and organized the clothing donation room and helped to spread holiday cheer!

**Riverview Welcomes International Students**

As part of a collaborative learning experience, Riverview students across the school district welcomed a group of 15 Chinese and Russian international students to their classrooms. The day included time for University of Pittsburgh and Riverview students to share experiences with each other and engage in discussions about everything from culture to education.

A warm welcome was provided to our guests by Riverview elementary students who created signs in their guests' native tongues. Several Riverview students also had the opportunity to use their bi-lingual and tri-lingual skills as they conversed in Chinese, Italian, and French with the college students, Marzi DiCicco, college professor and Mr. Lee Hedderman, RSD foreign language teacher.

The University of Pittsburgh students were also treated to an informal luncheon hosted by the Junior Senior High School. Several University students indicated that they were in awe of the experiences that the district provides to students as they watched students in a band class, visited a consumer science class, and enjoyed elementary students performing a song for the visitors on xylophones. At the same time, many RSD students were fascinated by the differences in educational format and delivery in the visitors' countries.

**Riverview School Board President Honored**

Associate Professor and Riverview Board President, Dr. Maureen McClure, has been named as a National Education Finance Conference (NEFC) Distinguished Fellow. The honor is one of the highest recognitions in the field of education finance. Dr. McClure will be honored during the National Education Finance Conference, occurring February 10-12, 2016, in Jacksonville, FL.

Dr. McClure is a senior researcher in the Institute for International Studies in Education (IISE) as well as former chair in the Department of Administrative and Policy Studies at the University of Pittsburgh School of Education. She teaches courses in fiscal and strategic management, education and development debates, and international and global education. Her research focuses on education in the generational interest.

Each year, the NEFC Distinguished Research & Practice Fellow Awards committee extends its award to 10 individuals who have gained national visibility by their "exemplary research and/or practice in the field of public education finance both on the elementary and secondary level as well as in higher education." The next year's committee is then drawn from past recipients.

Dr McClure has served on the Riverview School District board for the last 4 years and now serves as the president. The District is proud of her accomplishments and appreciative of the service she provides to the students of Oakmont and Verona.

**Congratulations! Sadie Buchser Scores 1000th Career Point**

Sadie Buchser needed 11 points in Riverview's season opener to reach 1,000 for her career. She didn't have to wait very long! Buchser scored 23 points, hitting four 3-pointers, and led Class A No. 9 ranked Riverview to a 57-48 win over East Allegheny at the Serra Catholic Tournament in the girls' season opener. Sadie's 1,000th point came on a 3-pointer from the wing late in the first quarter. She became the seventh player in school history to reach the milestone

**WPIAL Sportsmanship Summit**

Joe Ford, Ben Lazor, Candice Ashbaugh and Molly Kennedy were RHS representatives at the WPIAL Sportsmanship Summit held at the Heinz History and Sports Museum on November 12th, 2015. The group served as our school's ambassadors for good sportsmanship for the 2015-16 school year. Joining forces with nearly 300 WPIAL and 30 local NCAA athletes, the summit was a means of promoting good sportsmanship in all men and womens' sports. Congratulations to our four outstanding student-athletes for the fine example they set for all Riverview teams!



**2015 ALLE-KISKI VALLEY CROSS COUNTRY ALL-STAR TEAM**

**First Team:** Ben Barnes, Michael Komaniak **First Team:** Molly Kennedy, Erin Joyce, Jenna Joseph  
**Second Team:** Izzy Komaniak **Team of the Year:** Riverview Girls Team  
**Coach of the Year:** Palma Ostrowski

**Northern Area Globequest Competition**

Our students participated for the first time in the annual Northern Area Globequest Competition. Mr. Biehl took two groups of students who used their knowledge of geography and history to compete against students from area schools.

**2nd Round CyberPatriot**

CyberPatriot 2nd Round - Special thanks to our sponsors from PacketViper for providing laptops to support the CyberPatriot team. Our first team fared extremely well in the second round of the CyberPatriot event, and consisted of Ben Rushin, Brian Rossi, Julia Burton, Lavinia Falck, and Alex Gourley. The second team also did well and improved on their first round performance, led by Owen Shields, Jerry Lyons and Ian Kobal, with support from Liam Murray, Kyle Moore, and Andy Galata. The scores will be released in the next several weeks and will determine which level of state playoffs we will enter.

**Middle School Chess Team**

Congratulations to the middle school chess team who participated in the annual NAGC chess tournament. Our top performer was Thanny Black, who advanced to the playoffs before falling to some stiff competition. However, the entire team did very well, led by Anthony DeRiso, Gideon Deasy, Zach Hanlon, and AJ Corrado, with solid performances by Tenaaja Sheffey, Ryan Aber, Richie Lyons, Forrest Steele, Alexio Ciorra, and Jake Shoop.

**History Bowl**

The teams of Jack Migely Victoria Zerbach, Jake Shoop, Thanny Black, Jack Harden, and Will Franciscus participated in the annual History Bowl competition. The teams travelled to the Heinz History Center and tested their knowledge of history, communication skills, and critical thinking. Both teams did well, falling just short of a medal.

**North Allegheny Knex Challenge**

As part of our continuing STEAM initiative, two groups of students participated in the KNex Challenge at North Allegheny. The team of Forrest Steele, Dom Fianick, and Richie Lyons represented the 8th grade, while Gideon Deasy, AJ Corrado, and Joey Bovianco represented for the 7th grade. Both teams competed in challenges requiring hands-on and cooperative engineering skills, including a bridge-building event as well as an activity that required the teams to design a model of an original building. Both were very competitive, and the 8th grade team was among the best overall bridge-building teams.

For more information please visit our website at [www.rsd.k12.pa.us](http://www.rsd.k12.pa.us)



**Dates to Remember**

- No School PD Day - January 18
- No School Clerical Day - January 19
- HS Orchestra and Band Concert - January 26
- PJAS Regional Competition - February 6
- 6th Grade Ramp It Up - February 12
- No School PD Day - February 15
- HS Transition 8th Grade Parents - February 18
- Kindergarten registration - March 1-3
- National History Day Competition - March 6