

**From the Superintendent's Desk**



*The days are getting longer so spring must be right around the corner. This is also evident in the work within and around the district. Students registered for fall classes, state testing began, kindergarten and preschool registration started, the open enrollment window opened and we hired our first position for 2017-18, a school psychologist. The old middle school is down and site work on the tennis courts and additional parking lot will begin soon. Also, the Governor released his biennial budget proposal and it includes more support for public schools than in previous years.*

*The March edition of the Ripon Area School District Newsletter provides updates on the school board elections, and facilities. You can also celebrate the work of our dedicated Crossing Guards, meet our newest School Board member and learn about the upcoming middle school musical Anything Goes. In addition, you will find information on open enrollment, academic and career planning, transition resources for families, and way to support student mental health.*

*Included in this newsletter are many examples of how Ripon Area School District students are making a difference through their accomplishments. This past month, the high school students presented a lively rendition of the musical Sound of Music and hundreds of RASD students in grades 5-12 are preparing to perform as part of the Music in Our Schools Concert and the RHS Art Department Show. In the Achievement section on page 3, we celebrate the many ways Ripon students excelled in the areas of science, mathematics, business, sports, and community service.*

*Throughout the months ahead, you can connect with your Ripon schools and the community by:*

- contributing dates for the 2017-18 community calendar set to arrive in homes in June;
- following district news through our district website, Facebook and Twitter; or
- supporting one of many upcoming school and community events highlighted in the next few pages.

*Thank you for your continued support and investment in the amazing children and talented staff in our district. Together we are shaping the future by inspiring learners, engaging the community and enriching the world.*

*Respectfully yours,  
 Dr. Mary Whitrock  
 Superintendent of Schools  
 Go Tigers!*

**Murray Park/Quest Student Store**



*The Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) team decided to create a school store to help promote The Tiger Way. Students are able to make purchases using the Tiger Way Tickets they earn from showing respect, responsibility and leadership behaviors.*

**PARA ESPAÑOL VEA LA ULTIMA PAGINA**

**ECRWSS**  
  
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**RIPON WI 54971**

**NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION**  
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**RIPON, WI 54971**  
**PERMIT NO. 197**

**School Board**

**Elections on April 4**

Voters in the Ripon Area School District will choose three school board members at the spring election on April 4. Each year three school board seats are on the ballot for new three-year terms. The nine-member Ripon Board of Education is elected at-large from the entire school district.

This year's ballot for the three seats that are open will include two incumbents, Sherry Muskavitch and Tom Stellmacher along with recently appointed board member, Amy Pollesch. The ballot is being rounded out with three challengers, Jen Dudzinski, Kim Mack and Josh Reider.



**Open Enrollment**

The Ripon Area School District began accepting Open Enrollment applications for the 2017-18 school year on February 6, 2017. Any Wisconsin parents/guardians who are not Ripon Area School District residents but want their child(ren) to attend public schools in Ripon in 2017-18 may apply for enrollment acceptance.

In accordance with state law, applications may only be submitted beginning February 6, 2017 at 8:00 a.m. through April 28, 2017 at 4:00 p.m. and must be on site at the Ripon Administrative Services Center, 1120 Metomen Street in Ripon by that deadline date and time. Postmark dates will not satisfy the deadline for application submission requirements as state regulations require that mailed applications not on site by April 28, 2017 cannot be accepted and will be returned to the sender. The Department of Public Instruction is accepting Open Enrollment applications online during the specified timeframe at <http://oe.dpi.wi.gov>. Online applications are encouraged and recommended.

**Additional Facility Improvements**

The Ripon Area School Board approved additional work at its February meeting. The work included doors at Barlow Park, middle and high school courtyard window replacement, a purge fan for the STEM wing, renovations for a classroom, middle school classroom furniture, lights and bleachers for the tennis courts, a pool lobby, and improvement to the south athletic field. More work is expected to be approved at the March meeting.

Throughout the project there were phases that presented significant budget risks such as setting footings, opening existing structures and demolishing the old middle school. With those items complete, it is safe to bring back items initially put on hold.

Two years ago in February 2015, the Board approved a resolution to borrow \$900,000 and use \$1,000,000 of district fund balance for an additional 21,000 square feet of space including the STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) spaces; agriculture room; a MS/HS music suite; high school commons, the middle school academic areas, and the new high school gymnasium beyond the scope of the \$29.1 million referendum approved in November 2014. Due to the project being under budget, that loan will be paid back in July 2017.

In addition to completing the final projects and paying back the loan, the use of a \$1,000,000 of district fund balance for this one-time capital project positively impacted state aid and reduced the property tax levy in 2016. This use of fund balance for the project is expected to reduce the property tax levy in 2017 too.

**Arts in Our Schools Month**

**RHS/Lumen Art Exhibition**  
 Tuesday, March 14  
 at 6:00pm  
 RHS Commons

**Music in Our Schools Concert**

Tuesday, March 14  
 at 7:00pm  
 RHS Gymnasium



**The Sound of Music**



Ripon High School proudly presented the musical classic, The Sound of Music, with music by Richard Rodgers, lyrics by Oscar Hammerstein II and book by Howard Lindsay and Russel Crouse. Evening performances were held February 9 through February 11. The musical was a smashing success.



Check the web for 100s of photos!  
[www.ripon.k12.wi.us](http://www.ripon.k12.wi.us)

## Crossing Guard Appreciation

Our Ripon Crossing Guards were honored January 24 at an Appreciation Breakfast. The guards enjoyed a steaming cup of coffee to warm up after their morning duty with students, followed by a delicious hot breakfast. Stories and gifts from students and the District were also shared with our honored guests.



Back Row: J.J. Gutman, Bill Kinziger, John Schultz, Rick Bunge, Randy Hatlen. Front Row: Chrissy Damm, Tanya Sanderfoot, David Brink, Esther Acken, Mary Whitrock.



Students at Barlow Park/Journey gathered to celebrate achieving their classroom reading goals. For each goal reached a classroom earned a "stack of hats." All the hats were combined to create one huge stack which Principal Tanya Sanderfoot wore while she read "100 Hats of Bartholomew Cubbins" by Dr. Seuss. After the story they all sang "Happy Birthday" to Dr. Seuss.

## Ripon Area School District Welcomes New Board Member

At a special meeting on February 16, 2017, the Ripon Area School Board appointed Amy Pollesch to fill the vacant one-year position created when Dan Zimmerman resigned from the Board on February 2, 2017. Mrs. Pollesch was appointed by the Board by a majority vote after being publicly interviewed. Josh Rieder, Kate Williams, Nicole Kutz-Menard, and Gary Wetzel also interviewed for the one-year position.

Mrs. Pollesch will serve until April 2018, the date Zimmerman's three-year term on the board is set to expire. While Mrs. Pollesch will assume the responsibilities of this term immediately, she is still in the race for one of the three-year term positions and is still eligible to be voted into the longer term through the election process.

If Mrs. Pollesch were to be elected to the School Board in April for a three-year term, she would need to resign from the one-year position and then the one-year position would become open again.

"The Ripon Area School District is fortunate to have a history of dedicated individuals serving on the Board. Much has been accomplished with improving facilities, balancing budgets, hiring administrators and implementing a continuous improvement process," Superintendent Dr. Whitrock shared. "The Board also recently approved guidelines for strengthening the conversation and collaboration between charter and legacy schools. Mrs. Pollesch has knowledge of the schools and extensive community connections. This will be very valuable as the district looks to address mental health issues and poverty within our school system. A strong public school system is dependent on community involvement and support. The high interest from the community with regards to the school board is a very good thing."

### Thank You for Contributions to the District.

Mary Park	Ripon Printers
Betsy Blazek	Condon Oil Co
Dorothy Rueger	Audrey Lyke & the late Doug Lyke
Vydunas & Jenny Tumas	Ripon Lions Club
Sherman Leatherberry	Dr. & Mrs. Meinke
Ripon/Green Lake Benefit Tractor Cruise	
Green Lake Area Retired Teachers Association	

## Curriculum Corner



Mrs. Christine Damm  
Curriculum Director

2017 isn't just another year, it's an opportunity to ensure that the students in the Ripon Area School District are academically prepared for their futures. As we welcome in 2017, we look forward to the endless possibilities that await our students in the year to come.

Our goal is to ensure that all students in the Ripon Area School District will have a plan to be college and career ready. To achieve our goal, we have established an academic and career planning (ACP) process that will assist students in creating and cultivating their visions for post-secondary success through self-exploration, career

exploration, and the development of career management and planning skills.

Prior to winter break, middle and high school students received accounts to Career Cruising, the management system that provides the structure and information to lead students in their academic and career plan. Within this system, students completed a matchmaker assessment to help them learn more about their interests, skills, preferences and aspirations and identify careers that may be of interest to them. Students may access Career Cruising anytime to conduct career research and search for schools and careers of interest.

As we launch into 2017, high school students will select their courses for the upcoming 2017-18 school year. Our district has developed an Academic and Career Planning Guide that will be used to help students schedule their courses. This extensive guide helps students explore

their numerous academic and career options throughout high school and beyond. This guide also highlights the many opportunities students have to take college courses while still in high school, which can be a great financial benefit to families as they plan for their child's future. Planning guides are available for students to guide them through their course selection process. We are excited to be able to offer a wide variety of courses that align with the students' interests and prepare them for their journey beyond high school.

Our ACP process will ensure that all students have the opportunity to personalized learning through activities and experiences to connect academic courses and personal, social and career goals. We celebrate the many new opportunities that await the students of the Ripon Area School District and the plan that we have in place to support them in 2017 and beyond.

## Barlow Park & Journey Music Demonstrations

Monday, March 20 at 5:45pm  
Tuesday, March 21 at 5:45pm  
Barlow Park/Journey Cafeteria

Please contact the school office at 748-1550 for further details on each classroom's schedule.

## Ripon Middle School Presents Anything Goes

Ripon Middle School proudly presents the musical Anything Goes. Performances will be held in the newly renovated RHS Auditorium on:

Thursday, March 30 at 7:00pm  
Friday, March 31 at 7:00pm  
Saturday, April 1 at 2:00pm



## Free Sports Physicals No Longer Being Offered

The Ripon Area School District was recently notified that ThedaCare-Ripon will no longer be offering free WIAA Sports Physicals for students. We want to thank our local Health Care Providers for the many years they were able to provide this generous service.

Parents, please make sure your student athlete's physical is up-to-date as required by WIAA rules in order for them to participate in their sport.

## Ripon Area School District Presents "If I Could Have a Do-Over"

The Ripon Area School District invited parents, guardians and community members to attend "If I Could Have a Do-Over" on Wednesday, February 15 at 6:00 p.m. in the Ripon High School Auditorium. The free program was presented by Mr. John Halligan and was part of the District's on-going efforts to support students and their families in identifying students in crisis, share coping strategies, and bullying prevention.

Mr. Halligan lost his son, Ryan, to suicide on October 7, 2003, at the age of 13. The presentation was described by Mr. Halligan as "a father's hard-earned lessons about cyberbullying, depression, and suicide in which I step the audience through the lessons learned from our tragedy." He addressed the latest bullying challenges that youth face through social media and provided parents with recommendations on how adolescents can interact with their peers in person and online.

In memory of his son and just a few months after Ryan's death, Mr. Halligan spearheaded the Vermont Bullying Prevention Law in 2004. He also led the passing of law in 2006 requiring suicide prevention education in public schools. He was outspoken about the need for more awareness and prevention of bullying, cyberbullying and teen suicide throughout the United States, Canada, and Latin America. He and his wife Kelly have appeared on several national TV Programs including Primetime with Diane Sawyer, PBS Frontline, and Oprah.

The Ripon Area School District partnered with members of Ripon Medical Center's Behavior Health Services team to be onsite at the presentation to provide immediate educational information and answer questions about therapy services available in our community. Superintendent Dr. Mary Whitrock shared, "Mr. Halligan's message about Ryan's journey is so very critical for us to know about and understand as it underscores the urgency for schools to have a comprehensive bullying prevention program that includes addressing adolescent mental health and the development of coping skills when it comes to facing bullying, especially on-line. Mr. Halligan's presentation highlighted how essential it is to empower students to shift from bystanders to upstanders to respond."



## Students Present Project Lead the Way



Throughout the district, students in grades K-12 find themselves more actively engaged in science, technology and engineering through Project Lead the Way (PLTW). This program empowers students to adopt a design-thinking mindset through compelling activities, projects, and problems that build upon each other and relate to the world around them. A group of Ripon students demonstrated the robots that they built through PLTW at the State School Board Convention in Milwaukee on January 19. Mrs. Janet Ernst, a 5th Grade Teacher at Quest Elementary and a leader in PLTW accompanied the students and assisted them in their presentations.

In PLTW students are engaged in hands-on activities in computer science, engineering, and biomedical science, they become creative, collaborative problem solvers ready to take on any challenge. Students are immersed in design as they investigate engineering and tech topics and have opportunities to learn about a variety of disciplines within those fields before beginning post-secondary education or careers. Project Lead the Way provides opportunities to develop highly transferable skills in collaboration, communication and critical thinking, which are relevant for any coursework or career.

## Catalyst Project Showcase Night & Gallery Walk

Catalyst Charter Middle School held its winter Project Showcase Night and Gallery Walk on February 9. The driving question was how do organisms play unique and important roles in their environment? After receiving a request from a movie studio, students worked to create a model of a unique organism and design its environment that will star in their next big sci-fi movie. Students from grades 6-8 displayed their work and shared information with their guests that attended. Many thanks to all the parents and community members that came to support student learning.



## CESA 6 Regional Spelling Bee

The 2017 CESA 6 Regional Spelling Bee was held in Oshkosh on February 14th. Approximately 40, 5th-8th grade students from 15 school districts competed to determine two finalists to advance to the state spelling bee in Madison. Four finalists from the Ripon Area School District spelling bee competed in the CESA 6 Regional Bee. Spelling competition words ranged in difficulty from “academy” to “croquette”. In the end, two female finalists were determined to advance to the state spelling bee in Madison next month. Congratulations to our district finalists who competed at the regional level.



## Future Business Leaders of America

The FBLA club had 40 members compete at Dodgeland HS for the Regional competition. Activities during the day included: testing, presenting, workshops, a hypnotist, a March of Dimes miracle minute, Kahoot, and of course the awards ceremony. The club came home with with a 5th place team finish! We are sending 22 members to state in April as they continue their quest to get to Anaheim, CA for Nationals this summer.



## Students Recognized by Ripon Board of Education



Left: The RHS Equestrian Club was honored by the Board of Education for their first place finish at the Wisconsin Interscholastic Horsemanship Association (WIHA) State Finals for Division C. The RHS team members finished in the top 10 in 23 out of 24 opportunities in which they competed.



Right: A Ripon student was honored by the Board of Education for his participation in the State Cross Country Meet.



Left: Mrs. Keri Simacek and her 5th grade classroom received recognition from the Board of Education for winning the Coats for Kids competition. They collected 80 coats in their classroom! All total, there were over 355 coats distributed this year.



Right: The Board of Education recognized students that participated in the French Adventure Program.

**Administrative Services Center**  
748-4600  
1120 Metomen Street  
P.O. Box 991  
Superintendent: Dr. Mary Whitrock  
Business Manager: Mr. JJ Gutman

**Barlow Park Elementary School**  
**Journey Charter School**  
Grades PreK-2  
748-1550  
100 Ringstad Drive  
Principal: Mrs. Tanya Sanderfoot

**Murray Park Elementary School**  
**Quest Elementary Charter School**  
Grades 3-5  
748-4695  
64 Sunset Avenue  
Principal: Mrs. Renee Bunge

**Ripon Middle School**  
**Catalyst Charter Middle School**  
Grades 6-8  
748-4638  
750 Tiger Drive  
Principal: Mr. Rick Bunge

**Ripon High School**  
**Lumen Charter High School**  
Grades 9-12  
748-4616  
850 Tiger Drive  
Principal: Mr. Randy Hatlen  
Assistant Principal: Mr. Bill Kinziger

**Crossroads Academy**  
Grades 9-12  
Principal: Mrs. Julie Krackow

**Curriculum Department**  
Director: Mrs. Christine Damm

**Technology Department**  
Director: Mrs. Mandy Froehlich

**Ripon Board of Education**  
President: David Scott  
Clerk: David Olson  
Treasurer: Sherry Muskavitch  
Members: Gary Rodman  
Barb Schultz  
John Sperger  
Tom Stellmacher  
Andy Lyke  
Amy Pollesch

**Board Meetings**  
Regular board meetings are held on the third Monday of each month in the Ripon High School Community Room at 6:00 p.m. Any additional meetings are duly posted at the Ripon Public Library and at the Ripon City Hall. For additional information contact the school district administrative office at 748-4600.

The Ripon Area School District does not discriminate on the basis of sex, color, national origin, ancestry, creed, pregnancy, marital status, genetic information, sexual orientation, or physical, mental, emotional, or learning disability or handicap or any other characteristic protected by law.



**Barlow Park Elementary Family Literacy Night**



Barlow Park Elementary hosted Family Literacy Night on Thursday, February 16 to celebrate the success of our students. Students invited their parents into their classrooms and shared their hard work in reading and writing. To finish off the event families celebrated with cake and free books.

**Families & Students in Transition**

Ripon Area School District is committed to assisting all homeless students to receive the best education possible. If you are aware of or are personally acquainted with any children or youth who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, please contact Julie Krackow, Homeless Liaison for the Ripon Area School District at krackowj@ripon.k12.wi.us or at (920) 748-1554. All information will be kept confidential.

**Resumen de noticias escolares para nuestros residentes de habla española**

**El 6 de Abril Elecciones del Consejo Escolar**  
Los electores en Ripon Area School District (Distrito Escolar del Area de Ripon) escogerán tres miembros para el consejo escolar durante la elección en la primavera el 6 de abril. Cada año tres sillas del consejo escolar aparecen en la boleta de elección para los nuevos términos de tres años. El Consejo de Educación de Ripon tiene nueve miembros quienes son elegidos a lo largo y ancho del distrito escolar. Este año la boleta contendrá los nombres de seis titulares que están en la contienda para tres sillas. Los seis titulares son: Tom Stellmacher, Josh Reider, Sherry Muskavitch, Kim Mack, Jen Dudzinski, y Amy Pollesch.

**Inscripción Abierta**  
El Distrito del Área de Ripon empezó aceptando aplicaciones de Inscripción Abierta para el año escolar 2017-18 el 6 de febrero de 2017. Cualquier padre de familia, o tutores en Wisconsin que no son residentes del Distrito Escolar de Ripon pero quieren que sus niño(s) o niña(s) asistan a las escuelas públicas de Ripon en 2017-18 pueden aplicar para la aceptación de inscripción. De acuerdo a la ley estatal, las aplicaciones pueden únicamente ser sometidas empezando el 6 de febrero de 2017 a las 8:00 a.m. hasta el 28 de abril de 2017 a las 4:00 pm. Estas deben estar en el sitio del Centro de Servicios Administrativos en 1120 Metomen Street en Ripon en la fecha y hora del cierre. Fechas después del día y hora no satisfará los requerimientos de la sumisión de aplicaciones de acuerdo a las regulaciones conforme al estado que requiere que las aplicaciones que no estén en la oficina el 28 de abril de 2017, no pueden ser aceptadas y serán regresadas al remitente. El Departamento de Instrucción Pública está aceptando aplicaciones de Inscripción Abierta (para no residentes de Ripon Area School District) en línea durante el tiempo especificado en <http://oe.dpi.wi.gov>. Se motiva y se recomienda a someter las aplicaciones en línea.

**El Distrito Escolar del Area de Ripon da Bienvenida a Nueva Miembro del Consejo**

En una reunión especial el 16 de febrero de 2017, el Consejo Escolar del Area de Ripon asignó a Amy Pollesch a llenar la silla vacante en la posición de un año, la cual fue creada cuando Dan Zimmerman renunció del Consejo el 2 de febrero de 2017. La Sra. Pollesch fue asignada por la mayoría de votos del Consejo, después de haber sido entrevistada públicamente. También fueron entrevistados para esta posición de un año: Josh Rieder, Kate Williams, Nicole Kutz-Menard, y Gary Wetzel. La Sra. Pollesch servirá hasta abril de 2018, fecha en que el término de tres años del Sr. Zimmerman caduca. Mientras que la Sra. Pollesch asumirá las responsabilidades de éste término inmediatamente, ella aún continúa en la carrera para una de las posiciones de tres años y aún es elegible para ser electa en un término más largo a través del proceso de elección.

**Fechas de Próximos Conciertos**  
Concierto de todo el Distrito  
Martes, 14 de marzo a las 7:00pm  
Gimnasio Ripon High School

Musical de Ripon Middle School  
Jueves, 30 de marzo a las 7:00pm  
Viernes, 31 de marzo a las 7:00pm  
Sábado, 1º de abril a las 2:00pm  
Auditorio de Ripon High School



**Ways You Can Help Ripon Schools**

**Boxtops Needed** — Clip the Boxtops for Education logo on many household products and drop-off at any school office. Some of the many products with the logo are: Betty Crocker, Pillsbury, General Mills, Ziploc, Hefty, Kleenex, and Huggies.

**STEP Volunteers** — Senior citizens can save on property taxes by volunteering in Ripon schools. Contact the District office at 748-4600 to get more information.

**READ Dogs** — Bring your dog to school and let students read to "Fido." Contact Ms. Pat Grahn at 920-572-6585 to learn about training your dog in the READ program.

**Journey Governance Council**  
President: Steve Nankervis  
Vice President: Shelly Kastenschmidt  
Treasurer: Carrie Naparalla  
Secretary: Nicole Mashock  
Members: Amber Dalziel  
Heather Donovan  
Brett Long  
Joel Spaulding  
Lisa Rollin

**Quest Governance Council**  
President: Becky Baird  
Treasurer: Nathan Luedtke  
Secretary: Linda DeCramer  
Members: Nicole Bauman  
Steve Nankervis  
Haley Julian  
Janet Ernst  
Gretchen Geiger

**Catalyst Governance Council**  
President: Candie Baker  
Vice President: Renee Schoff  
Secretary/Treasurer: Nicole Bauman  
Members: Inga Johnson-Hershoff  
Julie Elliott  
Shelly Kastenschmidt  
Sandy Wisneski

**Lumen Governance Council**  
Members: Pat Grahn  
Paula Hageman  
Adam Jacobi  
Jean Rigden  
Paul Wiegel  
Jesse Schwingle

**Stay Informed About Ripon Schools**

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**District Website** — The website includes current news and a calendar of events for the entire district.

**Facebook** — Dozens of albums and hundreds of photos from school activities fill the District's Facebook page. Anyone can access it from the District's web page.

**Twitter** — Numerous tweets about school events and activities cover the District's Twitter page. Anyone can access it from the District's web page.

**Email News Network** — Sign up for free email updates of news about what's happening in Ripon schools. To subscribe send an email to: whitrockm@ripon.k12.wi.us.