

Ripon Area School District  
**Ripon School News**

DECEMBER 2014

"MORE CHOICES. BETTER RESULTS."

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**From the Superintendent's Desk**



The passing of the two referendum questions on November 4, 2014 marks an important moment in the history of the Ripon Area School District. I want to extend a very sincere thank you to the School Board, staff, and community for their combined efforts over the past 18 months. The passing of the referendum is a reminder that it truly takes a village to raise a child.

As I shared in my 2014 State of the District address, the themes of foundation, finance, and future define the 2014-15 school year. Our district's performance speaks to our solid foundation. The passing of the two recent referendums addresses the district's annual operating budget and aging facilities. As a district, we are now positioned to chart the future through even higher levels of achievement and by providing certification programs in vocational fields, world languages, global issues, and career-related programs.

This edition of the newsletter highlights the many recent events and accomplishments occurring in the district. The facilities timeline and process is outlined. This includes staff visiting other newly renovated schools in the state and meeting individually or in small groups with the architects. Please consider attending one of the community update sessions on January 26 and March 2 at 6:00 pm in RHS room 167 to learn about the design for the combined middle school and high school facility.

Throughout the months ahead, I encourage you to connect with your Ripon schools and the community by attending one of the many events highlighted in the next few pages. Thank you again for your continued support. Together we are shaping our community by "investing in learning today for our tomorrow."

Respectfully yours,  
 Dr. Mary Whitrock  
 Superintendent of Schools



The Ripon High School Jazz Band, comprised of students from both RHS and Lumen, impressed the crowd at the annual fall ROARS (Retirees of All Ripon Schools) Luncheon.

**Facilities Timeline & Process**

CG Schmidt and Plunkett Raysich, the district's design/build contractor, presented to the School Board at the November 18 School Board meeting on the timeline and process for the design work regarding the combined MS/HS facility. They will update the Board each month moving forward on the construction project. Staff members from the middle school and high school met with architects in November to further develop the design for the new facility. Several staff members also traveled with the architects in December to visit new or newly renovated schools in the state.

Two facilities update sessions will be provided this winter for community members to review the actual plans prior to construction, which is projected to begin in April 2015. The new additions are scheduled to be complete by August 2015 so high school staff and students can move into the space prior to the start of the 2015-16 school year. Renovation on the existing school will then begin. Middle school staff and students will be in their new space for the start of the 2016-17 school year.

**School Calendar Set for 2015-16**

The Ripon Board of Education approved the school calendar for next year at its November meeting. The calendar is posted on the school district's website. The Board is sensitive to vacation planning and makes certain the next year's calendar is always completed prior to January 1.

The 2014 Summer School dates will be approved at the Board's January meeting and will also be posted to the District's website to allow families to plan their vacations accordingly. Typically, the Summer School session runs for five weeks from mid-June to mid-July. Each year summer school offers an opportunity for students to receive remediation and enrichment.

**Facilities Update Sessions**

January 26, 2015  
 March 2, 2015  
 RHS Room 167  
 6:00 p.m.



**We Remember**

Thank you to all who participated in the Veterans Day program on November 11 at RMS. The event was coordinated and hosted by RMS, but was sponsored by our local American Legion Post 43, as well as our local chapter of Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 5278.

Special remarks were made by retired Ripon HS teacher, Captain Richard Zellmer, USN (Ret). The RMS/CCMS band and choir provided the music.

The Presentation of Colors was led by the American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars.

**Emergency Weather Reminder**

The winter season is here and with it comes the possibility of an early dismissal, a 2-hour delay or the closure of school due to inclement weather. The school district website is the best source of information on school closings and delayed openings.

On television, tune in to WBAY (ABC - Channel 2), WFRV (CBS - Channel 5), WGBA (NBC - Channel 26), or WLUK (FOX - Channel 11). On the radio dial, tune in to WRPN (1600 AM). The WRPN-AM website is also updated for any school delays or closings. Parents will also be notified by phone using the Infinite Campus Messenger calling system.

If parents do not feel that it is safe for their child to attend school or their teenager to drive to school, they may choose to keep their child home. Weather-related absences are excused absences.

**District office will be closed on the following days:**

December 24 - 26  
 December 31 - January 2



Catalyst Charter Middle School students had an opportunity to share their knowledge with family and friends as part of the Catalyst Showcase Night.

**Project Showcase Events for Charter Schools**

~ See student learning in action ~

February 5	Journey	5:30 - 7:00 p.m.
February 10	Quest	6:00 - 7:30 p.m.
March 2	Lumen	5:45 - 7:15 p.m.
May 7	Catalyst	5:00 - 7:00 p.m.
May 19	Quest	6:00 - 7:30 p.m.
May 28	Journey	5:30 - 7:00 p.m.

**Mark Your Calendars!**

**New Member Joins School Board**

At a special meeting in November, the School Board approved John Sperger to fill the Board vacancy created when Heather Hartling resigned this fall due to medical reasons. Mr. Sperger and his wife Krista have three children in the district. Over the past few years, he ran for the School Board, attended many School Board meetings, and participated throughout the long-range facilities planning process.

Mr. Sperger has worked in the field of informational technology for over 20 years and has been employed by Kimberly-Clark Corp for the last 18. He received his bachelor's degree in business from Concordia University in 2012.

When asked why he was interested in being on the Board, Mr. Sperger shared that he wants to serve the children and community of Ripon. He explained, "I feel our community is only as good as our school system and being on the Board of Education is my way to contribute to that." Mr. Sperger added, "We now have a great plan for our buildings and our educators and curriculum are top notch." Mr. Sperger will serve on the Board until the election in April 2015.

PARA ESPAÑOL VEA LA ULTIMA PAGINA

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### Student Council News

Murray Park/Quest student council representatives and officers increased their leadership skills by attending the Wisconsin Association of School Councils Elementary Fall Leadership Conference in Madison on October 15th. The students met in the Capitol Assembly Chambers to begin the day. They sang fun songs and learned about leadership from State Representative Mandy Weight. They also participated in four leadership sessions at the Children's Museum.



### Choral & Band Performances

The last two months have presented many opportunities for the public to experience the musical talents of RMS/Catalyst and RHS/Lumen students. The Ripon Middle/Catalyst Choir presented "a Choral Concert," the Ripon Choral Department presented "Gaudete," and the RMS/RHS each presented their winter band concerts. In addition, students have shared their gifts as the entertainment at numerous community engagements including Rotary, ROARS (Retirees of All Ripon Schools), and Dickens of a Christmas.

The arts continue to be a priority in the RASD. Mark your calendar for the upcoming RHS musical "Cinderella" February 12, 13, and 14 as well as the RMS musical "Repeat After Mi" on March 20 and 21. The RHS Jazz Band Concert will be February 23 and the Music in Our School Concert will be March 17.



### Talking to an Expert

Catalyst 6th graders had an opportunity to work with Alex Simmons (writer, artist, voice over, playwright, speaker). This was a culminating activity after students completed their comics for the driving question; "How would you use a super power to improve the world?" Mr. Simmons spent time introducing the series of artists use when creating a comic book: writer, penciler, inker, colorist, and editor. He also discussed his background and the influence that others in his life played in his choice to pursue art and writing. Mr. Simon's enthusiasm and passion for writing, art, and acting resonated throughout his presentation.



Mrs. Christine Damm  
Curriculum Director

As Wisconsin moves toward creating a more balanced assessment system to measure higher standards for achievement, students around the state find themselves immersed in a more rigorous testing schedule. This balanced system offers a continuous series of different assessments designed to inform and evaluate the teaching and learning cycle throughout the year. While the last edition highlighted the changes in assessments that high school students will participate in, this article will focus on the various assessments given to students at the elementary and primary levels during the 2014-15 school year.

STAR Assessments are computer-adaptive tests that measure students' ability in reading and math. They are administered to students in grades kindergarten through 12. These assessments will provide teachers with useful data to guide their students' instruction and monitor their progress. STAR assessments will be administered in Sep-

### Curriculum Corner

tember, January, and early May.

The Phonological Awareness Literacy Screening (PALS) provides a comprehensive assessment of young children's knowledge of literacy fundamentals that are predictive of future reading success. This year, students in grades 1 and 2 will be assessed in September and students in grades 4K and K will be assessed in mid October. Teachers may administer the PALS assessment mid-year to allow for progress monitoring. All students in grades 4K through 2 will be assessed again in May to determine academic growth.

Assessment of English Learners (ELs), including immigrant students and ELs with disabilities, are required to participate in all state or federally required language and academic content assessments. Students in 4K to grade 12 will participate in the ACCESS testing during the months of December and January.

The Wisconsin Knowledge and Concepts Examination (WKCE) will be administered to students in grades 4, 8, and 10. This fall assessment will measure students' knowledge in the areas of Science and Social Studies. Math, Reading, and Language Arts will now be measured by

Wisconsin's new Smarter Balanced Assessment, the Badger Exam.

The Badger Exam 3-8 is Wisconsin's Smarter Balanced Assessment. In 2010, Wisconsin elected to join the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium, formed to help establish a series of "next generation assessments" that are aligned to the Common Core State Standards to measure students' career and college readiness. The Badger Exam will replace existing tests in English and math for grades 3-8 and will be administered in the spring.

There are many ways that we can prepare and support our children in these assessments. As parents, you can stay informed and involved in your child's education throughout the year. Become familiar with the Common Core State Standards by visiting [www.pta.org/parentsguide](http://www.pta.org/parentsguide). Take advantage of practice test opportunities provided by your child's teachers. Monitor your child's progress and work with his or her teacher to discuss opportunities that will enhance your child's learning experience. Keep in mind that your child's education is a team effort. We must all work together to ensure that our children are achieving their maximum levels of proficiency.

### Thank You for Contributions to the District:

Mary Park  
Mrs. Dino Zei  
Ripon Green Lake  
Benefit Tractor Cruise  
Agnesian, Fond du Lac  
Regional Clinic Staff  
Dorothy Rueger

### Quest Visitation

On December 3, Quest hosted their first Visitation Day for sixteen educators. Quest had a student panel meet with the educators, offered different seminars on Project Based Learning (PBL), and set up a classroom schedule where educators could see PBL in action. The Visitation Day was part of the \$125,000 Dissemination Grant Quest Elementary School received from the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) in August 2014. Since then, the staff of Quest Elementary School has spent many hours planning workshops and visitation days for other educators in Wisconsin as well as visiting other PBL Schools in Wisconsin to observe, learn, and share knowledge and educational strategies in a PBL environment.



### PBIS Volleyball

RMS/Catalyst students and staff took part in the school year's first PBIS event. The event was the building's first annual Student vs. Staff Volleyball Games.

The event rewarded the positive behaviors of students by holding a Tiger Buck Raffle for students in the audience to earn the opportunity to play with/against staff and fellow students.

### "Breakfast for Supper"



A Barlow Park/Journey Family Outreach event themed "Breakfast for Supper" was held this fall in collaboration with the food service program. Students participated in a number of learning stations and had an opportunity to paint French toast, make omelets in a bag, build fruit kabobs, prepare pancake mix, and design colorful pancakes. The event was very well attended with over 135 families registering for the event.

## 410 Years of Service Honored in 2014-15



10 YEARS: Nancy Coles, Dorothy Ford, Jessica Johnson, Sue O'Brien, Dana Scott

15 YEARS: Melanie Beahm, Jeanne Hall, Lori Hron, Sue Schatzke, Connie Wuske



40 YEARS: Art Schwark

20 YEARS: Jen Ferch, Jim Henslin, Tim O'Kon, Keri Simacek

25 YEARS: Sherry Byng, Jenny Reilly, Elizabeth Wargula

30 YEARS: Tracy Landerman, Barb Splittgaber, Tom Stellmacher

## Outstanding Recognition Achievement

### Ripon Education Foundation Funds Three Innovative Teaching Grants

The Ripon Education Foundation has announced three recipients of its 2014-2015 Innovative Teaching Grants totaling \$3994.

Jeanne Hall, 6th grade teacher at Ripon Middle School received \$500 to support a sixth-grade project called "Culture and Tastes of the Western Hemisphere." This cross-curricular and hands-on grant will enable sixth grade students to each create a "Cultures and Tastes of the Western Hemisphere" book with a chapter for each of the major cultures students study during the year, as well as food preparation and tasting events with assistance from Briony Storz of the district's food service.

Nick Goeldi, science teacher at Ripon High School, submitted a \$1064 proposal to support an "Energy in Science Project." The high school physics department will use the money to purchase two Vernier wind kits for use in the energy conservation units.

Jeanne Shohoney, World Language teacher at Ripon High School, requested \$2440 to assist the World Languages department to attend a week-long national conference on Teaching Proficiency through Reading and Storytelling (TPRS) language instruction near Washington, D.C. in July 2015.

Since its founding, the Foundation has awarded over \$196,500 in grants supporting college scholarships, innovative teaching and learning, and elementary tutoring. The Foundation also assists with RHS Reunions and acts as fiscal agent for Ripon's Art Presenter and High Mileage Vehicle Competition programs. Funding for these grants comes from generous Ripon area donors.



Jack Frank was recognized for his contribution as the Art Presenter Program Coordinator since his retirement from teaching 22 years ago.



Bjorn Hauge was recognized for being named a National Merit Scholarship program semi-finalist.



Recognition of RHS Students Cody Suesser and Tierouviel (Marsha) Some who have earned the AP (Advanced Placement) Scholar award for their 2013-14 AP exam accomplishments. 2014 graduates Megan Sperger and Jennifer Oppor also received the AP Scholar award for 2013-14 testing achievements. (Only Marsha was present)

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

**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: Dr. Myra Misles-Krhin

**Murray Park Elementary School**  
**Quest Elementary Charter School**  
Grades 3-5  
748-4695  
64 Sunset Avenue  
Principal: Mr. Randy Hatlen

**Ripon Middle School**  
**Catalyst Charter Middle School**  
Grades 6-8  
748-4638  
651 Metomen Street  
Principal: Mr. Tom Hoh

**Ripon High School**  
**Lumen Charter High School**  
Grades 9-12  
748-4616  
850 Tiger Drive  
Principal: Mr. Seth Meinel  
Assistant Principal: Mr. Rick Bunge

**Crossroads Academy**  
Grades 8-12  
Principal: Mr. Seth Meinel

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

**Board Meetings**  
Regular board meetings are held on the third Monday of each month in Ripon High School's multi-purpose room 167 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.



Five classes of second graders from Barlow Park and Journey Schools recently took a walking tour of historical Ripon with visits to the Little White Schoolhouse and the Historical Society.



The Keepers Store visited Barlow Park/Journey and Murray Park/Quest again this year. Students from the RHS Risky Business class, Lumen students and members of FBLA worked with Mrs. Schmidt to help run the store. Lots of gifts were bought by the students who were excited and looked forward to shopping with their high school buddy.

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

**El Calendario Escolar es Fijado para 2015-16**  
El Consejo de Educación de Ripon aprobó en la reunión de noviembre, el calendario escolar para el próximo año. El calendario ha sido colocado en el sitio de la red (página del Internet) del distrito escolar.

**Recordatorio en Emergencias del Clima**  
La estación del invierno está aquí y con ello viene la posibilidad de un cierre temprano, o empezando dos horas más tarde, o el cierre de la escuela debido a las inclemencias del tiempo. La página de Internet del distrito escolar es la mejor fuente de información sobre los cierres o tardanzas en la escuela.

**Proceso y Programa de las Instalaciones**  
El 18 de noviembre, CG Schmidt y Plunkett Raysich, diseñador y contratista del edificio del distrito, presentó al Consejo Escolar en su reunión el programa y proceso para diseñar el trabajo en relación al edificio combinado de MS/HS. Cada mes, ellos actualizarán al Consejo sobre los adelantos del proyecto de construcción.

**Nuevo Miembro se Une al Consejo Escolar**  
En noviembre, en una reunión especial, el Consejo Escolar aprobó John Sperger para llenar la silla vacante en el Consejo que se creó cuando Heather Hartling resignó durante el otoño por razones de salud.

**Nosotros Recordamos**  
Muchas gracias a todos quienes participaron en el programa del Día de Veteranos el 11 de noviembre en RMS. El evento fue coordinado y dado por RMS, pero fue patrocinado por nuestro American Legion Post 43, como también por nuestra división de Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 5278.

**Actuación del Coro y Banda**  
En los últimos dos meses se han presentado muchas oportunidades para el público para presenciar los talentos musicales de los estudiantes de RMS/Catalyst y RGS/Lumen.

**“Desayuno por Cena”**  
El evento Participación Familiar de Barlow Park/Journey con el tema “Desayuno por Cena” se llevó a cabo este otoño en colaboración con el programa de servicio de comida.

**Hablando con un Experto**  
Los estudiantes de 6to grado de Catalyst tuvieron la oportunidad de trabajar con Alex Simmons (escritor, artista, narrador, autor de dramaturgo, orador). Esta fue una actividad culminante después de que los estudiantes completaron su comedia con una pregunta impulsadora; “Cómo usaría usted un súper poder para mejorar el mundo?”

**Noticias del Consejo Estudiantil**  
El 15 de octubre, los representantes del consejo estudiantil y oficiales de Quest/Murray Park incrementaron sus habilidades de liderazgo atendiendo a la Conferencia de la Asociación de Wisconsin del Consejo de Escuelas Elementales de Liderazgo de Otoño en Madison.

## 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 Grahm at 920-572-6585 to learn about training your dog in the READ program.

### Journey Governance Council

President: Shelly Kastenschmidt  
Vice President: Melissa Worthington  
Treasurer: Wayne Webster  
Secretary: Carrie Naparalla  
Members: Christine Damm  
Bethany Nodolf  
Amy Pollesch  
Bill Schultz

### Quest Governance Council

President: Julia Messitte  
Treasurer: Nicole Bauman  
Secretary: Linda De Cramer  
Members: Becki Baird  
Drew Diedrich  
Gretchen Geiger  
Haley Julian  
Brenda Rapp  
Bill Whitehead

### Catalyst Governance Council

President: Adam Mielke  
Vice President: Jack Christ  
Treasurer: Jean Rigden  
Secretary: Candie Baker  
Members: Sandy Wisneski

### Lumen Governance Council

President: Jeanne Williams  
Treasurer: Pat Grahm  
Secretary: Paula Hageman  
Members: Adam Jacobi  
Deano Pape  
Amy Pollesch  
Lisa Scheier  
Al Schraeder  
Paul Wiegel

## 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.

**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.