

*Ripon Area School District*  
**Ripon School News**

FEBRUARY 2014

"MORE CHOICES. BETTER RESULTS."

WWW.RIPON.K12.WI.US

**From the Superintendent's Desk**



*A seed catalog arrived last week in my mailbox. What a wonderful reminder that spring is indeed just around the corner!*

*This February edition of the Ripon Area School District Newsletter is also a wonderful reminder that Ripon students and staff have taken advantage of the winter months to excel. The pages of this newsletter highlight recent achievement of students in terms of leading and learning. In addition, our students took time to give back to the community, enjoy the winter weather, and learn about being heart healthy.*

*February marks a point of transition in the school year, when the attention of many in the district shifts to planning for the upcoming school year. This newsletter highlights our first hire for the 2014-15 school year. James Gutman will be joining the RASD team as of July 1, 2014 as our new business manager. Also in the pages of this newsletter you will find information about the upcoming school board election and Summer School 2014.*

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

- *contributing dates for the 2014-15 community calendar set to arrive in homes in June;*
- *helping to shape our facilities master plan by providing feedback on the seven options currently being reviewed by the School Board;*
- *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 students and staff in our district. Together we are shaping our community by "investing in learning today for our future tomorrow."*

*Respectfully yours,  
 Dr. Mary Whitrock  
 Superintendent of Schools*

**Community Calendar Dates Sought**

The 2014-15 edition of the community calendar is being designed by Ripon High School students Nicole Rainy, Stephanie Sonnenberg, Jessica Pember and Megan Merkes. The full-color calendar covers July 2014 through June 2015. The calendar will be mailed to all district households in mid-June.

Community organizations, clubs, and churches are invited to submit dates for their 2014-15 events for inclusion on the calendar. Please contact Jamie Voight at 920-748-4600 with event information no later than April 1.

The community calendar student project is sponsored by Pick 'n Save/Comfort Suites; Horicon Bank; Diedrich Agency/ West Bend Mutual Insurance; Baird GM; and Ultimart Gas & Convenience Stores. The calendar is printed by Ripon Printers.

**Project Showcase Events  
 for Charter Schools**

~ See student learning in action ~

February 25	Lumen	6:00 – 7:15 p.m.
May 15	Quest	6:00 – 7:30 p.m.
May 22	Catalyst	5:00 – 7:00 p.m.
May 27	Journey	5:30 – 7:00 p.m.

**Mark Your Calendars!**

**School Board  
 Elections on April 1**

Voters in Ripon Area School District will choose three school board members at the spring election on April 1. 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 will contain the names of three incumbents and one challenger who are running for the three seats. The three incumbents are: Sherry Muskavitch, Barb Schultz, and Tom Stellmacher. The challenger is Gary Wetzel.

**Make-up Required for  
 Cold  
 Weather Day**

The cold weather day on January 28 was the fourth of the 2013-14 school year and exceeded the District's three provisional days which are built into the school calendar. The State requires each school to schedule 180 instructional days and provide 1137 instructional hours for secondary students.

Ripon was required to make up the day in order to meet the state instructional days requirements. The Ripon Board of Education approved a change in the published 2013-14 school calendar so Ripon students made up the required day on February 17. The day was previously scheduled as an in-service day for staff. The in-service day will be made up in June.

**You're Invited to  
 Coffee with the  
 Superintendent**

Friday, March 14th  
 11:30am  
 Ripon Senior Center

*Coffee and cookies will be  
 provided compliments of the  
 Senior Center.*

**Facilities Update**

The Ripon School Board and District Administration heard from the public at the sixth scheduled Community Engagement Sessions as part of the facility planning process on Monday, February 10 from 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. at Ripon High School. The facility planners presented seven draft facility options with budget numbers for the community to review and provide feedback. The Board has a work session scheduled for March 10 to begin to narrow the options and develop survey questions to take to the entire community. The survey is projected for mid-to late April. The information gained through the survey will assist the Board in determining their next steps in regards to addressing the long-term facilities needs in the district.

**District Welcomes New Business Manager**

The School Board has approved James Gutman as the new Business Manager for the Ripon Area School District. Mr. Gutman will begin his new role in the district on July 1, 2014. He will replace Rick Ketter who is retiring on June 31, 2014 from the district after nearly 13 years of service.



James Gutman currently serves as the District Supervisor of Finance for the Menasha School District, a position he has held since 2009. Prior to that he was a senior auditor for Schenck Business Solutions in Green Bay from 2004-2009 and a staff auditor at Virchow Krause in Appleton from 2003-2004. Mr. Gutman received a Bachelors of Business Administration in Accounting from UW-Whitewater in 2002 with a minor in Spanish and Masters of Education in School Business Management from UW-Whitewater in 2012. He currently holds a Business Manager License (08).

Mr. Gutman has an in-depth knowledge as it relates to Wisconsin school finance, accounting, strategic planning, and organizational development. Since assuming his current position in 2009, he has made significant contributions to the financial health of the Menasha School District. These contributions include generating \$1 million in unanticipated revenue, delivering \$400,000 annual cost savings, and reducing debt expenses by \$3.0 million over ten years. Mr. Gutman is a member of the Wisconsin Association of School Board Officials Accounting Committee. As a member, he has been actively involved with the planning of the annual Accounting Conference held each March. He helped to rewrite the 179 page "The Budget Cycle" handbook which is currently being sold by WASBO.

Mr. Gutman will work with Mr. Ketter over the next 5 months to ensure a smooth transition. Mr. Gutman attended the February 10 Community Engagement Session to begin familiarizing himself with the master facilities planning work that is currently underway in the district.



*Students in Barb Stracy's music class used the new iPads and headphones purchased with the Innovative Teaching Grant she received through the Ripon Education Foundation. The first graders created their own music while the second graders recorded themselves and then assessed their performances.*

**PARA ESPAÑOL VEA LA ULTIMA  
 PAGINA**

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## Upcoming Music Dates

The RHS Jazz Ensemble will be performing their annual concert on Monday, February 24th, at 7:00 p.m. in the high school cafeteria. The concert will feature traditional swing tunes as well as a piece written for the Jazz Ensemble by Ripon High band alumni.

District Solo & Ensemble Festival is Saturday, March 1st, at Winneconne High School. It is an all day event and the public is invited to attend.

The "Music in Our Schools" Concert is Tuesday, March 18th, in the high school gymnasium with performances beginning at 7:00 p.m. The concert will feature performances by the 5th grade choir, the 6th-8th grade choirs, the 6th-8th grade bands, the high school choirs and the high school band.

Ripon Middle School and Catalyst Charter Middle School will present the musical "Oliver" March 28 – 29. The musical "Oliver" was adapted from the book *Oliver Twist*, written by Charles Dickens. The music, lyrics and book adaptation were written by Lionel Bart.

Murray Park/Quest Music Demonstrations are scheduled for March 24 & 25 at 6:30 p.m. Barlow Park/Journey Music Demonstrations are scheduled for March 31, April 1 and April 3 at 6:30 p.m. Watch for more information from your child's teacher.

The 5th Grade Choir at Murray Park/Quest have scheduled their choir concert for April 8th with performances at 10:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.

**Ripon Middle School/Catalyst Spring Concert: NEW DATE Thursday, May 22 at the High School Auditorium beginning at 7:00 p.m.**

## "Annie Get Your Gun"



Ripon High School students presented Irving Berlin's classic musical comedy, "Annie Get Your Gun", with four performances February 6 through February 8 including a matinee. Audiences laughed and cheered as real life "sure-shot" Annie Oakley (Laura Lyke) and showbiz marksman Frank Butler (Derek Rodriguez) challenged each other to be the star of Buffalo Bill's (John Lyke) show. The classic musical comedy featured well known songs including "There's No Business Like Show Business," "Anything You Can Do," "I Got The Sun In The Morning," and "You Can't Get A Man With A Gun." New to the show this year was the use of theatre projection. Throughout the show vintage images of Ripon and the Wild West were presented to denote locations and themes. The show brought forth some of the best in local volunteers, the high school band and choral departments, and professional theatre lighting designers.

## Great Conversations Dinner on April 10, 2014

The Ripon Education Foundation will be hosting its third annual Great Conversations Dinner on Friday, April 10, 2014, in the Great Hall at Ripon College. Plans are being finalized for 18 unique table hosts to lead their guests in stimulating conversation about their topics, such as Civil War quilts, Father Wally's mission, master gardening, future of Ripon Schools, new hospital, world competition in duathlon and triathlon and many more. A full description of all conversations and tickets will be available starting March 10.

A \$45 ticket includes a delectable dinner, stimulating conversation, and fabulous fellowship. Tickets are available at all school offices. All proceeds go to supporting the many projects of the Education Foundation such as innovative learning activity grants, the Art Presenter program, the High Mileage Vehicle competition, Ripon Reads coalition, and the Jennie Long Tutoring Program. The Education Foundation is a non-profit organization.

## Curriculum Corner



**Dr. Melanie Oppor**  
Curriculum Director

### Summer School 2014 Questions and Answers

The weather outside may be cold and snowy but plans are well underway for Summer School 2014. Summer school will run from June 16 to July 18 with no classes on Thursday, July 3rd and Friday, July 4th.

### Where can I go to get more information about summer school?

The district website has a summer school page. It can be found by:

- Hovering over the "District" tab
- Click on "Programs and Services"
- Click on "Summer School"

### Who can attend Summer School?

Courses are offered for students in 4PS through high school. Did you know that children visiting grandparents who live in the district can

attend summer school at the in-district rate? Open enrollment students who attend summer school also pay the same fees as district residents. Even students from outside the district can enjoy the benefits of our summer school however; the fees for non-residents are higher.

### Who can attend Summer School?

Everyone! Summer school is not just for remediation or credit recovery. There are classes and activities that appeal to students of all ages and interests. Topics include: fitness, fine arts, music, travel, crafting, swimming, sports camps, prairie habitats, cooking, robotics, reading, and much more. In addition, students in grade 7 and beyond can take courses for credit such as: independent agriculture study, Asia/Africa, or health.

### How does Summer School offer more flexible choices; better results?

Summer courses offer options that build core academic skills in reading, writing, and math as well as enrich students through the exploration of hobbies and special interests. Teachers are also working on the creation of exciting

new course options that you won't want to miss!

### When will Summer School course booklets come home?

Watch for summer school booklets to come home in April. Those same course booklets will also be available online through the Summer School webpage.

Did you know that the Board of Education has guidelines in place to help families balance busy summer schedules and having students take courses for credit? (To read more, please see Summer School Administrative Guidelines 2440.)

"Students may have up to but not more than two (2) days of excused absence from a course, except for special situations in which a student has submitted to his/her principal by June 1 a request for a pre-planned absence of no more than five (5) days for activities such as family vacations and/or enrichment camps."

While the temperatures may be dipping below zero today, you will want to be part of the action as learning really heats up at Summer School 2014.

### Thank You for Contributions to the District:

Dr. Darin Wright (Affinity Medical Group, Appleton)  
Susan Iwanski (Affinity Medical Group, Oshkosh)  
The Webster Foundation  
Troy & Theresa Resop  
Jonnikka Karrer  
Richard Zimman & Valerie Cox  
Diane Riley  
Ripon Study Club  
Lions Club  
Kerri Ferrari  
Holliday Food & Sport  
Berlin School District students

## Heart Healthy Circuit



Students at Barlow Park Elementary and Journey charter School participated in a heart healthy obstacle course recently in their physical education classes. The obstacle course, designed by P.E. teacher Dale Nehls, helps students learn about healthy habits as well as provides plenty of exercise.

## Peer Mentor Grant

The Ripon Area School District and The Green Lake School District formed a consortium and received a grant for about \$19,000 to support local implementation of the Educator Effectiveness program by training teacher leaders in each school. The development of the teacher leaders will enable both districts to be more responsive to the diverse learning styles of the teachers, provide professional development that is practical and timely for those involved, and build a network of local Effectiveness Project (EP) expertise.

## Wisconsin Winters

On January 10th Ripon Middle School and Catalyst Charter School students participated in a field trip to Little Switzerland Ski Hill in Slinger, Wisconsin. Students took a lesson in the morning and had the rest of the afternoon to ski freely at the ski hill. All students showed respect, responsibility and citizenship at the hill and had a great time!

## Crossing Guard Breakfast

The Ripon Area School District (RASD) recently took time to celebrate the dedication and hard work of the five adult crossing guards in the City of Ripon. In a joint effort between the City of Ripon and RASD, the first district recognition breakfast for crossing guards was held during Adult Crossing Guard Appreciation Week January 13-17.

The five crossing guards are Esther Acken, Louis Brock, Dave Brink, Roy Krause and John Schultz. They serve at four high traffic intersections in Ripon (one guard provides relief). While the adult crossing guards are officially employees of the City of Ripon, their impact on the district and students in RASD is evident every day.

The breakfast was a way to say thank you to the crossing guards for their effort and style in keeping Ripon children safe as they travel to and from school throughout the year. Chief Bob Lukoski, the administrative team, and Board of Education were invited to attend to thank the crossing guards for the important contribution they make to the community of Ripon.



Those in attendance were (back row from left to right) Dan Tjernagel, Tom Hoh, Randy Hatlen (front row from left to right) Dr. Mary Whitrock, Dave Brink, Dr. Myra Mises-Krhin, Louis Bock, Esther Acken, and Chief Bob Lukoski. Roy Krause and John Schultz were unable to attend.

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

## 2013-14 Scholarship Drive

The Ripon Education Foundation is holding its annual door-to-door scholarship drive on the weekend of April 26 and 27, 2014. High school students will visit each house in Ripon during the weekend to collect scholarship contributions. District residents living outside the city will receive mail-in contribution information.

The Foundation raises money each spring for Ripon students graduating from high school and enrolling in technical, 2-year, and four year colleges. Since 1999 the Foundation has awarded to 141 students totaling more than \$114,000 raised from the community.

All the money collected in the scholarship drive is awarded to students. Half of the scholarship money is awarded by lottery drawing to students who participated in the scholarship drive. \$10,000 is the annual goal of the scholarship drive, and the past several years they've averaged over \$12,000 each year.

To make a donation or for more information contact the Ripon Education Foundation, PO Box 395, Ripon, WI 54971 or visit the website [www.riponeducationfoundation.org](http://www.riponeducationfoundation.org).



Students and teachers from 9 different communities worked with Conductor Karrie Been to prepare five songs to perform for the public. Thirteen 6th, 7th and 8th grade Ripon Middle School and Catalyst students participated in the Eastern Valley Conference Honors Choir in Little Chute in January.

## Future Business Leaders of America



Seventeen of Ripon's Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) students participated in the FBLA Regional Leadership Conference/Competition at Chilton High School in February, with over 750 competitors in multiple events. Out of the twelve events, five events (6 students) placed in the top three and have qualified for state competition in Appleton in April.

## El Sueno

El Sueno, Ripon's college and career readiness club, led a series of team-building and education/career planning activities with 25 ELL students at Fond du Lac High School.

The Noetic Learning Math Contest is a biannual math challenge for elementary students. The goal of the competition is to encourage young students' interest in math, to develop their problem solving skills, and to inspire them to excel in math. Students who were grade level winners in the Fall Noetic Learning Math Contest were recognized at the December Board Meeting.



Linus Rachuba and Ethan Owens as 2nd grade level winners.



Sarah Badtke as a 3rd grade level winner and for making the national honor roll.



5th grade teacher Miss Charapata, 5th grader Casey Brown and Miss Charapata's 5th grade class were recognized at the January Board Meeting for their "Stuff the Bus" initiative.



Braxton Maki as a 4th grade level winner.



Jacob Abraham and Dwight Koehler as 5th grade level winners.



Kai Liptow as a 6th grade level winner.



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

**Barlow Park Elementary School**  
**Journey Charter School**  
Grades PreK-2  
748-1550  
100 Ringstad Drive  
Principal: Dr. Myra Mises-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. Dan Tjernagel  
Assistant Principal: Mr. Rick Bunge

**Crossroads Academy**  
Grades 8-12  
Principal: Mr. Dan Tjernagel

**Ripon Board of Education**  
President: David Scott  
Vice President: David Olson  
Clerk: Barb Schultz  
Treasurer: Gary Rodman  
Members: Heather Hartling  
Andy Lyke  
Sherry Muskavitch  
Thomas Stellmacher  
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 7:00 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.



## Mugs & Movie Family Night

Over 30 people attended the "Movie and Mugs" ELL (English Language Learner) family night held on January 29th in the Murray Park/Quest Elementary School Media Center. The night started with an introduction of parent leader, Mr. Salas, who will host a special parent meeting on February 6 at Hillside Assembly. The special parent meeting will provide families with an opportunity to share feedback regarding the ELL program. The feedback will assist the District

in better meeting the needs of district families. The "Movie and Mugs" evening concluded with two activities. Families watched the movie "Because of Winn Dixie" while enjoying popcorn, as well as participated in a family art project using Sharpie markers to decorate ceramic mugs. Each mug-maker received a packet of hot chocolate to warm up the soul and body after a long week of snow days and freezing-cold Wisconsin weather. The next ELL family night is planned for April 9, 2014.



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

### El Distrito le da la Bienvenida al Nuevo Gerente Administrativo

La Junta Directiva Escolar ha aprobado al Sr. James Gutman como el nuevo Gerente Administrativo para Ripon Area School District. El Sr. Gutman empezará su nuevo papel en el distrito el 1 de julio de 2014. El reemplazará a Rick Ketter quien se jubilará del distrito el 31 de junio de 2014, después de casi 13 años de servicio.

### Compensación Requerida por el Día de Clima Frío

El día de clima frío del pasado 28 de enero fue el cuarto del año escolar 2013-14 y ha excedido a los tres días provisionales que se han incluido dentro del calendario escolar. La Junta Directiva de Educación de Ripon aprobó el cambio en el calendario escolar publicado para el 2013-14 para que los estudiantes de Ripon puedan compensar el día requerido el 17 de febrero.

### Escuela de Verano 2014

El clima afuera puede ser frío y con nieve, pero los planes para la Escuela de Verano de 2014 ya están en camino. La escuela de verano será del 16 de junio al 18 de julio con la excepción del jueves 3 de julio y viernes 4 de julio.

### Elecciones de la Junta Directiva Escolar el 1 de abril

Los electores de Ripon Area School District escogerán tres miembros para la junta escolar en la elección de la primavera el 1 de abril. Los tres candidatos titulares son: Sherry Muskavitch, Barb Schultz, y Tom Stellmacher. El candidato oponente es Gary Wetzel.

### Fechas Vistas para el Calendario de la Comunidad

A las organizaciones de la comunidad, clubs, e iglesias se les invita a someter las fechas para sus eventos del año 2014-15 para poderlos incluir en el calendario. Por favor contacte a Jamie Voight al 920-748-4600 con información de los eventos a más tardar el 1 de abril.

### Cena de Grandes Conversaciones el 10 de abril de 2014

La Fundación de Educación de Ripon serán los anfitriones de su tercera Cena anual de Grandes Conversaciones el viernes 10 de abril de 2014 en Great Hall de Ripon College. Los planes están siendo finalizados para los 18 anfitriones extraordinarios que guiarán a sus huéspedes en conversaciones estimulantes sobre sus tópicos, tales como los edredones de la guerra civil, la misión del Padre Wally, maestros en jardinería, el futuro de las escuelas en Ripon, el nuevo hospital, la competencia mundial en el duatlón y triatlón, y mucho más.

### El Sueño

El Sueño, club de preparación profesional de Ripon College, guiará las series de formación de equipos y educación, actividades en planificación profesional con 25 estudiantes de (ELL en inglés) en la escuela de High School en Fon du Lac.

### Campaña de Becas 2013-14

La Fundación de Educación de Ripon estará llevando a cabo la campaña anual de becas de puerta a puerta durante el fin de semana del 26 y 27 de abril de 2014. Los estudiantes de high school visitarán cada casa en Ripon durante ese fin de semana para coleccionar contribuciones para las becas. Los residentes del distrito que viven fuera de la ciudad recibirán información sobre la contribución en el correo.

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

### Quest Governance Council

President: Marguerite Parks  
Vice President: Becki Baird  
Treasurer: Pam Neper  
Secretary: Nicky Yeomans  
Members: Frank Cumberbatch  
Lori Hron  
Amy Pick  
Keri Simacek  
Skip Wittler

### Catalyst Governance Council

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

### Lumen Governance Council

Co-President: Deano Pape  
Co-President: Jeanne Williams  
Treasurer: Pat Grahn  
Members: Paula Hageman  
Adam Jacobi  
Stacy Pethke  
Phil Schaffer  
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.