

Your



Schools

Back to School Edition 2021-2022

Newsletter of the Rockville Centre Public Schools Volume 43 Number 1 Fall 2021

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DATES TO REMEMBER

OCTOBER

- Board of Education Regular Meeting - 10/21

NOVEMBER

- Superintendent's Conference Day - 11/2
- Board of Education Public Work Session - 11/3
- Veteran's Day - 11/11
- Board of Education Regular Meeting - 11/16
- Thanksgiving - 11/25



TO ALL ROCKVILLE CENTRE SCHOOL DISTRICT RESIDENTS

If you believe that your school-age or preschool child may have a disability, please contact Ms. Jeanne Love, Executive Director of Special Education and Pupil Personnel Services at (516) 255-8928, Ms. Michele Vivona, Director of Secondary Special Education and CSE Chairperson at (516) 255-5666, or Dr. Orly Gadon, Director of Elementary Special Education/CPSE & CSE Chairperson at (516) 255-5929.

A LETTER FROM THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

We are very excited to welcome all students back to in-person learning this school year!

The collaborative efforts of administrators, building principals, teachers, nurses, clerical, custodial, and all building staff have made for a smooth transition to the 2021-2022 school year.

While we remain committed to helping our students overcome the effects of the pandemic, we also continue to prioritize health and safety measures for our entire District. Recently, our administration implemented a revised and robust COVID-Related Quarantine Instruction Plan which will allow all quarantined students access to classroom materials and instruction from their assigned teachers. Our hope is that those students who must remain out of the classroom for a short period of time will still be able to learn alongside their peers through live and synchronous instruction.

The return to our buildings was met with facility and grounds upgrades that we can celebrate in each of our buildings. Covert and Riverside students are enjoying their new playgrounds, while Hewitt's is almost complete. After years of debating how best to accommodate the lack of space at Wilson, we were proud to form a partnership with our neighbor, Central Synagogue, to offer ample rooms for Art and Music for our students. Each schoolhouse benefited from capital improvements made to flooring, ceilings, bathrooms, and necessary refurbishments.

The 2021-2022 academic year is sure to be one our students will never forget! We are thrilled they can enjoy many of their most cherished activities like athletics, clubs, and the arts in a more traditional sense. We remain vigilant to return as many of our operations to the way they were before the pandemic, and pledge to do so as safety will allow.

We wish all of our students, faculty, and staff a strong, healthy, and enriching school year.

FREE LUNCH PROGRAM

The Free Lunch Program has been extended for every K-12 Student throughout the 2021-2022 School Year.

BOARD TOUR

To help kick off the start of our new school year, the Board of Education recently took a tour of the RVC Schools facilities, including new playgrounds, artwork, refurbishing, repairs, and all of our newest improvements.



BOARD TOUR



MEET OUR NEW STAFF

Welcome to our new teachers and staff! We are so excited for you to join the Rockville Centre Schools team!



MR. ROBERT BARTELS
Acting Superintendent of Schools/
Assistant Superintendent of Business & Personnel

Welcome to our new Acting Superintendent!

Mr. Bartels received his Bachelor of Science from Villanova University, his Master of Business Administration in Finance from Adelphi University, and his Professional Diploma in School Business Administration from Long Island University - C.W. Post. He had worked in finance and auditing for two engineering companies for over eight years before beginning his work in education. He has now worked for over 25 years in the business office of three different school districts with the last 21 years in Rockville Centre as the Assistant Superintendent for Business and Personnel. Mr. Bartels has provided sound leadership in the business office and we look forward to him being the Interim Superintendent and bringing a steadying influence to the District as we conduct our search for a new Superintendent.

MEET OUR NEW STAFF



MS. JEANNE LOVE

Executive Director of Special Education and
Pupil Personnel Services



MS. SONIA HOOD

Central Director of Curriculum and Instruction

We are excited to welcome Jeanne Love and Sonia Hood to the RVC Schools Administration!

Ms. Jeanne Love received her Bachelor of Business Administration in Finance and Accounting and her Master of Science in Special Education from Dowling College, and her Master of Science in School District Administration from Stony Brook University. She has worked as a Special Education Teacher on the Elementary and Secondary levels, as a CSE/CPSE Chairperson, a Literacy Coordinator for K-8, and a Director of PPS and Special Education. We look forward to seeing what she brings to the district!

Ms. Sonia Hood received her Bachelor of Science from the University at Albany, her Master's Degree from Queen's College, her Administration Advanced Certification from Stony Brook University, and is working towards her Doctoral Degree from St. John's University. She has worked as a teacher, mentor, staff developer, Assistant Principal, IB Coordinator, and author, and has received the Long Island "40 under 40" Award for providing mentorship and academic support to Long Island students. Ms. Hood began her stellar work with the RVC Schools in January of 2021 and we continue to look forward to what she brings to the district and her continued positive impact on our students.

MEET OUR NEW STAFF



MS. JACLYN ANDES
MUSIC TEACHER AT COVERT, RIVERSIDE, AND WATSON



MS. CAROLINE BOWER
FRENCH TEACHER AT SOUTH SIDE MIDDLE SCHOOL



MS. ORLAGH BRADY
AIS TEACHER AT WILSON AND HEWITT



MS. ALYSA BRENNER
SCHOOL COUNSELOR AT COVERT, WILSON, AND RIVERSIDE



MR. JEREMY COHEN
PHYSICAL EDUCATION TEACHER AT RIVERSIDE AND WILSON



MS. KIMBERLY CORONA
DISTRICTWIDE MUSIC TEACHER



MS. SARA HEUSER
PART-TIME ART TEACHER AT COVERT AND HEWITT



MS. MICHELLE JACOBS
AIS TEACHER AT COVERT



MR. ANDREW KILLEEN
MUSIC TEACHER AT SOUTH SIDE MIDDLE SCHOOL



MS. KAYLA KIRKWOOD
FIRST GRADE TEACHER AT HEWITT



MR. RICHARD LEBOWITZ
EARTH SCIENCE TEACHER AT SOUTH SIDE MIDDLE SCHOOL



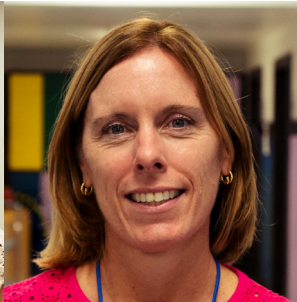
MS. MARISA MCLEOD
SCIENCE TEACHER AT SOUTH SIDE MIDDLE SCHOOL



MS. EMILY MCNICHOLAS
PART-TIME ASL TEACHER AT SOUTH SIDE HIGH SCHOOL



MS. KELLY O'BRIEN
SOCIAL WORKER AT SOUTH SIDE HIGH SCHOOL



MS. MAIRIN RYAN
THIRD GRADE TEACHER AT WILSON



MS. NICOLE TUFANO
PART-TIME SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHER AT SOUTH SIDE MIDDLE SCHOOL

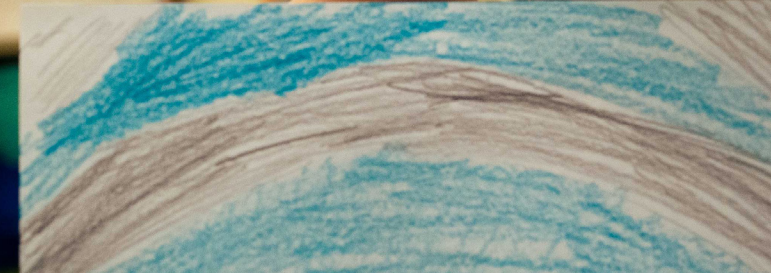


MR. RAFAEL YENI
PART-TIME MUSIC TEACHER AT HEWITT AND WATSON

Welcome to the RVC Schools!
We look forward to seeing you do an awesome job!

FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL

RVC Schools are back! Students celebrated their return by reuniting with friends (and making new ones), starting fun new classes, and making beautiful art!



FALL EVENTS

Schools observed September 11th with ceremonies and honoring of the fallen.

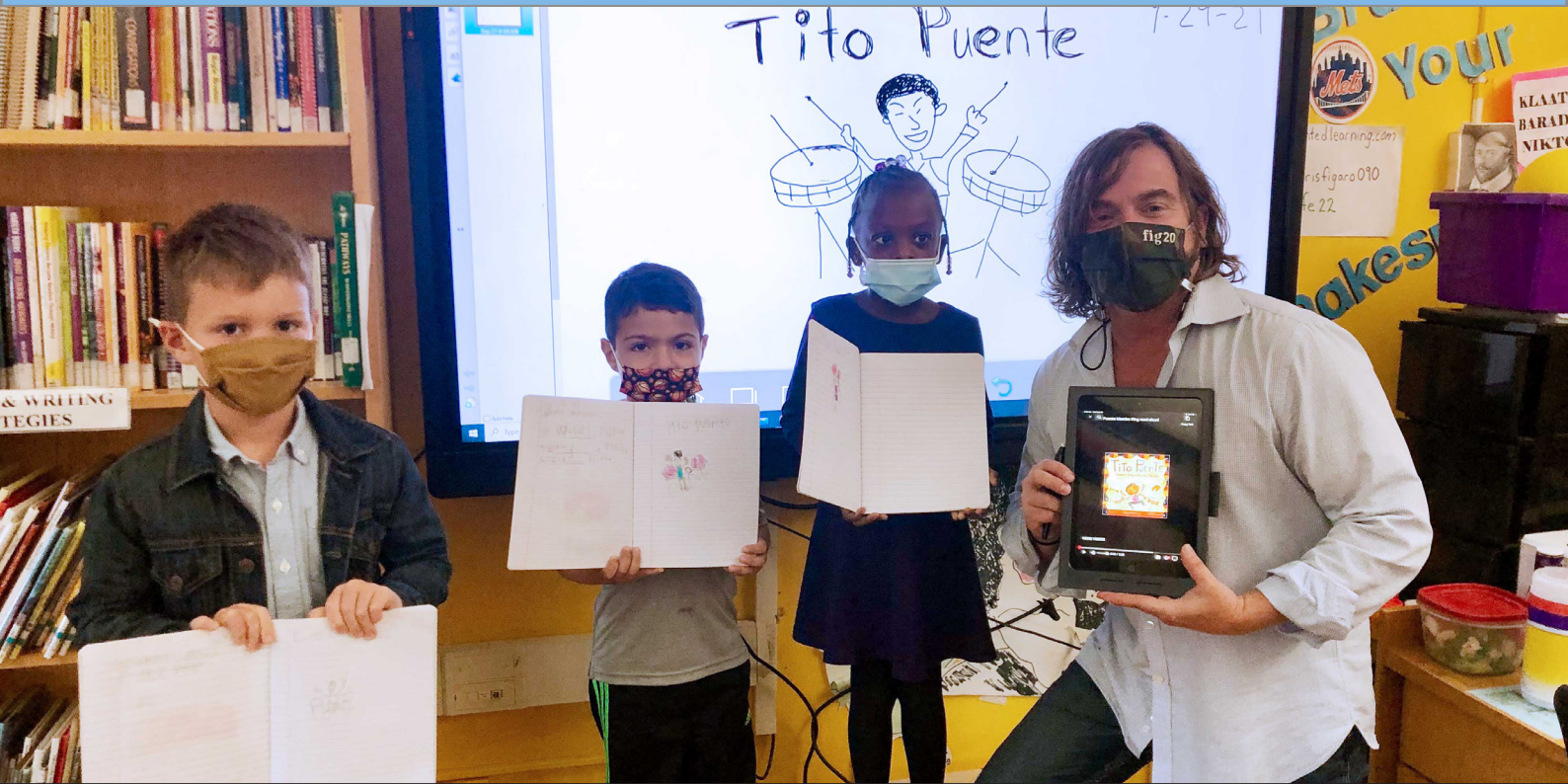


Students geared up at the elementary schools to learn proper bicycle safety!



FALL EVENTS

September 15th-October 15th is Hispanic Heritage Month. Covert students took the opportunity to learn about Tito Puente with STELLAR!



Riverside 1st and 5th Graders got together for the annual Buddy Breakfast, where they met their new buddies for the year!



AWARDS

High School student Anna Verutes was recognized as a Scholar Artist by Newsday for her incredible dancing!



Kiara Kennedy was recognized for Newsday's Top 25 Long Island Girls Swimmers and Divers!



Lukas Anisansel, Cameron Coletti, Cristina LiCalzi, Emma Madden, Anna Pennecke, Emma Hospodka, TJ Maher, were recognized as part of Newsday's Top Players in Boys' and Girls' Soccer, Cross Country, and Football!

AWARDS



South Side High School celebrates National Merit Scholarship Commended Students and Semifinalists (*)
Matthew Ricchiuti, Ian Moran, Leo Valenti, Casey Abrams, Isabelle Lu*, Ben Lomot*, Emma Madden, and Ryan Jeffers!



South Side High School student Eva Kopelman is being featured on the first season of *Top Chef: Family Style* alongside her mother! The two have cooked up an amazing team spirit and show us all the best parts of cooking and family!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Red Ribbon Week is October 25-29

RVC students will learn about being drug-free for Red Ribbon Week! Students will sign drug-free pledges, take part in daily give-aways, and listen to daily announcements about making good choices!

The Elementary Halloween Parades are October 29

Elementary School students will be putting on a spooky show with the annual Halloween Parade! Students will march as parents and staff watch in what is sure to be a scary good time!

The Middle School Broadway Revue opens on November 5th

South Side Middle School Presents *South Side's Got Talent!* With 50 stars being highlighted, the show will highlight the myriad of our students' talents and abilities in what is sure to be a stellar show!

The High School Fall Drama opens on November 18th

South Side High School Presents *Twelve Angry Jurors* by Reginald Rose, adapted for the stage by Sherman L. Sergel. Featuring a cast of 14 actors and 20 crew members, this timeless production exploring the themes of justice, prejudice, democracy, and standing up for one's ideals is not to be missed!

Elementary Thanksgiving Celebrations are on November 22-23

This year our Elementary Schools will be hosting feasts, celebrations, and Turkey Trots, in a fantastic display of giving thanks!



Board of Education

Rockville Centre Union Free School District
128 Shepherd Street, Rockville Centre, NY, 11570
516-255-8957

JOHN O'SHEA, PRESIDENT
CHRISTINE FERAZANI, VICE PRESIDENT
KELLY BARRY, SECRETARY
TARA HACKETT, TRUSTEE
ERICA MESSIER, TRUSTEE
ROBERT BARTELS, ACTING SUPT. OF SCHOOLS
JANINE SAMPINO, ED.D, ASST. SUPT. OF SCHOOLS
JEANNE LOVE, EXEC. DIR. OF SE/PPS
SONIA HOOD, CENTRAL DIR. OF C&I