



THE INSIDE VIEW

ISSUE 26 • MAY 2023



FAMILY, FOOD & FUN

Riverview Gardens School District's Parent Advisory Council hosted its Family Dinner on Monday, May 1 at Westview Middle School. The dinner was organized by Te'Ara Arman, the district's family engagement specialist. More than 150 families RSVP'd for the event.

In addition to a tasty meal, the PAC Family Dinner featured booths from district partners that included valuable resources and services. The event included college and career readiness booths from The Little Bit Foundation and Family & Workforce Centers of America.

Attendees had access to free services such as manicures and massages. Gamer's Island provided virtual reality and Playstation 5 gaming opportunities. All families were also invited to participate in a fun, team-building activity.

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RIVERVIEW GARDENS
SCHOOL DISTRICT
NEWSLETTER



IMPORTANT DATES

- 5/23 SAB MEETING | 7PM
- 5/25 CAREER FAIR | 4-7PM
- 5/30 LAST DAY OF SCHOOL
EARLY RELEASE



2023

RGSD Graduation &
Promotion Ceremony
Schedules

Guests were entered into raffles and eligible to attend attendance prizes.

“The first annual PAC Family Dinner was a great success,” stated Arman. “Thank you to our families and many amazing community partners. We look forward to continuing to grow and build family engagement through dinners, Parent University, PAC meetings and other activities.”



The Riverview Gardens School District Board of Education is committed to maintaining a workplace and educational environment that is free from illegal discrimination, harassment and retaliation in admission or access to, or treatment or employment in, its programs, services, activities and facilities. In accordance with law, the district strictly prohibits discrimination and harassment against employees, students or others on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, national origin, ancestry, disability, age, genetic information or any other characteristic protected by law. The Riverview Gardens School District is an equal opportunity employer.

RGSD SUPPORTS LAURA'S RUN 4 KIDS

Dr. Tanya Patton, Dr. Joylynn Pruitt-Adams and Precious Barry participated in Laura's Run 4 Kids on April 30. Laura's Run 4 Kids is a collaboration between the Little Bit Foundation and KMOV anchor Laura Hettinger. The event brought together more than 500 runners, vendors and sponsors and raised more than \$80,000 to support the Little Bit Foundation and its mission to support area students and families.



BULLETIN BOARD

Class of 2023 Commencement

May 25, 2023
6:00 PM

University of Missouri – St. Louis

LIVE

youtube.com/rgsdsschools

FRECKLE MATH CHALLENGE WINNERS

$(a+b)^2$

SUMMER READING LIST Birth—Preschool

BOOKS

BATHE THE CAT
BY ALICE R. MCINTY,
ILLUSTRATED BY DAVID ROBERTS
CHRISTOPHER BUCK, 2022
ISBN: 9781645124708

Two deers enlist the kid's help to get the house ready for Grandma's visit. The sneaky cat will eat plenty of giggles as he tries to avoid his bath.

A BEAR, A BEE, AND A HONEY TREE
ILLUSTRATED BY DANIEL BERNSTROM,
ILLUSTRATED BY BRANDON JAMES SCOTT
HARVARD, 2022
ISBN: 9781625440407

It's bear versus bee in this rhyming picture book. Both want the honey in the beehive, and the bear is determined to figure out a way to grab it from the bees.

BOOP THE SNOOT
BY ASHLYN ANSTEE
WINING, 2022
ISBN: 9781625440417

Put tongue twister, part interactive story. This book invites readers to boop the snoots of happy dogs, cats, and even a tortoise and hare.

THE FARMER AND THE CIRCUS
BY MARLA FRAZEE
BRACH-LANE, 2022
ISBN: 9781625444412

In the third installment in this heart-filled series of award-winning picture books, the farmer visits his cross-country friends, who have become his family, and meets their families as well.

I DON'T CARE
BY JULIE FIOGLANO,
ILLUSTRATED BY JUANNA MARTINEZ-NEAL
BLAZ, 2022
ISBN: 9781625444422

Two young girls take turns declaring that they don't care what the other thinks, before asserting that, as best friends, what they really care about most is their friendship and feelings.

SUMMER READING LIST Grades K–2

BOOKS

EMILE AND THE FIELD
BY KEVIN YOUNG,
ILLUSTRATED BY CHOMA EBINAMA
BRAND, 2022
ISBN: 9781625444432

A young Black child finds companionship with a field, running through it in warm weather, and missing it when it is snow-covered in winter. Watercolor illustrations add to the dreaminess of the story.

GIGI AND OJJI
BY KEUSA HWI
HARRISVILLE, 2022
ISBN: 9781625444442

Gigi, a bilingual six-year-old girl, seeks ways to connect with her Japanese grandpa when he comes to live with her family.

HANA'S HUNDREDS OF HIJABS
BY AZARNA GHAS GUITA,
ILLUSTRATED BY AMAL MIRZA
BRACH-LANE, 2022
ISBN: 9781625444452

A problem-solving story that touches on identity, creativity, and pride of one's culture and traditions.

HOLD THEM CLOSE: A LOVE LETTER TO BLACK CHILDREN
BY ANJALI THOMPSON BRIGLOW,
ILLUSTRATED BY JAMAL SHAHAZZ
HARRISVILLE, 2022
ISBN: 9781625444462

Through vivid colored and gold-painted pages, this poetic picture book encourages Black children to hold onto the good moments.

IDA B. WELLS, VOICE OF TRUTH: EDUCATOR, FEMINIST, AND ANTY-ANCHING CIVIL RIGHTS LEADER
BY MICHELLE DUSTER,
ILLUSTRATED BY LAURA FREEMAN
BRACH-LANE, 2022
ISBN: 9781625444472

A picture book biography told by Wells' great-granddaughter, adding a wonderful personal perspective.

IT FELL FROM THE SKY
BY TERRY FANI AND ERIC FAN
SMOCK & HOWE, 2022
ISBN: 9781625444482

Whimsical yet sophisticated, this picture book provides a look at structures of power and welcoming newcomers.

A LAND OF BOOKS: DREAMS OF YOUNG MEXICAN WORD PAINTERS
BY DUNCAN TONATHUH
ARMAR, 2022
ISBN: 9781625444492

Explore the rich history of Mueblach bookmaking through a child's perspective. Features Nahua-infused text, an author's note, and glossary.

LULU LEADS THE WAY
BY MARIE PERIS,
ILLUSTRATED BY MATT MYERS
CAROLINE, 2022
ISBN: 9781625444502

Lulu, a small sailboat, helps the larger cargo ships navigate the harbor around them. An author's note describes different kinds of boats and boaters.

LITTLE WITCH HAZEL: A YEAR IN THE FOREST
BY PHOEBE WAHL
TOSCH, 2022
ISBN: 9781625444512

Delve into the forest for a year and explore creatures, habitats, and flora. The tiny witch tends to be sure and content and health. Lyrical writing makes for a slowly journey.

MY PET FEET
BY JOAN FINE,
ILLUSTRATED BY BILLY YONG
BRACH-LANE, 2022
ISBN: 9781625444522

In this silly picture book, a little girl discovers that her pet ferret is now her part feet. Someone has taken all the

SUMMER READING LIST Grades 3–5

BOOKS

CATNIP COMIC CLUB: COLLABORATIONS
BY DAN PILKEY
GEMINI, 2022
ISBN: 9781625444532

This fourth installment in the graphic novel series again offers readers a chance to deliver gentle wisdom as they see the Cat's ensemble children share their shared collection of misadventures with a television reporter's audience.

CHESLER KEENE CRACKS THE CODE
BY KEILA MAGDON
PENGUIN, JULY 2023, 2022
ISBN: 9781625444542

Chesler is convinced his dad is a spy. After receiving a clue from his dad, Chesler and his classmates Slye embark on a juicy, mind-boggling quest that ends up being higher stakes than he originally thought.

CLASSIFIED: THE SECRET CAREER OF MARY GOLDA ROSS, CHEROKEE AEROSPACE ENGINEER
BY FRANK SOBELL,
ILLUSTRATED BY NATASHA DONOVAN
PENGUIN, JULY 2023, 2022
ISBN: 9781625444552

Mary Golda Ross, a Cherokee citizen, rivaled her father's heritage throughout her accomplishments as an engineer. Four Cherokee tribes are explored, showing their ancestry and pronunciation as well as a definition translated in English.

COUNTING IN DOG YEARS AND OTHER SASSY MATH POEMS
BY BETSY FRANCO,
ILLUSTRATED BY PRISCILLA TET
CAROLINE, 2022
ISBN: 9781625444562

Amusing and silly poems that can be enjoyed as fun prompts for conversations and practice.

ENDLESSLY EVER AFTER: PICK YOUR PATH TO COUNTLESS FAIRY TALE ENDINGS!
BY NACI SHIVDE,
ILLUSTRATED BY DAN SANTAT
JANUARY 17, 2023, 2022
ISBN: 9781625444572

Choose your next path through this adventurous, dramatic, and sometimes grisly text on classic fairy tales. Perfect for multiple, ever-changing read-alouds.

FINALLY SEEN
BY KELLY YANG
SIMON & SCHUSTER, 2022
ISBN: 9781625444582

Lincoln adjusts to life in America, traveling from Beijing to reunite with her family in California after two years apart, supporting her family's faith, bonds broken to save their book art, finding her place at a new school, and discovering the power of books and saving her voice.

THE FIRST CAT IN SPACE ATE PIZZA
BY NACI SHIVDE,
ILLUSTRATED BY SHAWN HARRIS
JANUARY 17, 2023, 2022
ISBN: 9781625444592

Rats are eating moon, and it's up to a zany crew of cats, a moon space, and a shrewd slipping cat to save the world—and maybe eat some pizza.

THE HIDDENSEK
BY NATE CEROSKI
CAROLINE, 2022
ISBN: 9781625444602

Holly and her brother thought they were playing an innocent game of hide-and-seek, but instead they are trapped in a dark, curved world from an inner. Trapped in an endless game of hide-and-seek, there are dire consequences if they're found.

HOCKY
BY MIRIAM BONASTRE TUR
CAROLINE, 2022
ISBN: 9781625444612

When Steve Dorner and Dennis miss the bus to magic camp, they are plunged into a world of tension in the magic realm in this engaging, fast-paced graphic novel.

MARYA KHAN AND THE INCREDIBLE HENNA PARTY
BY SAADIA FARUQ,
ILLUSTRATED BY AN RUSHBY
ARMAR, 2022
ISBN: 9781625444622

When her classmate Ahsa does bow the fancy party they're having for her birthday, Marya decides to make her own big impression with a fabulous henna party. But she also needs to convince her family to go along with this great idea.

MEGA-PREDATORS OF THE PAST
BY MELISSA STEWART,
ILLUSTRATED BY HOWARD GRAY
PENGUIN, 2022
ISBN: 9781625444632

The spotlight in this nonfiction book is on the other huge prehistoric beasts that disappear during their mightiest. Learn fascinating facts and theories about giant tigers, bears, and more.

RILEY REYNOLDS CRUSHES COSTUME DAY
BY JAY ALBEE
PENGUIN, 2022
ISBN: 9781625444642

Fourth-grader Riley and her friends are excited to create their own costumes for Dress Like Your Favorite Character Day. When other kids struggle with their costumes, Riley is creative problem-solving their friends succeed. This is the first book in the Riley Reynolds series.

A ROVER'S STORY
BY JESSIE WARGA
BLAZ, 2022, 2022
ISBN: 9781625444652

Resilience, a Mars rove, has learned some of the intricacies of human emotion through science and a young girl, Sophie, who writes letters to Mars. Readers can join her on the journey to explore Mars in this science-fiction graphic novel.

SWIM TEAM
BY JOHNNIE CHAMAS
ARMAR, 2022
ISBN: 9781625444662

A graphic novel about what it means to be on the swim team at

UPCOMING DATES

BACK TO SCHOOL BASH- RGHS

08/01/2023

CONVOCATION- UMSL

08/14/2023

2023 SUMMER SCHOOL & SUMMER LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

PARIS FRENCH & DESTINY TAYLOR SELECTED FOR ELITE SUMMER PROGRAMS

Destiny Taylor was selected to participate in Washington University's Youth Summer Program. She is only one of twelve scholars who were selected to partake in this paid summer internship. Her accumulated GPA is over 4.0.

Paris French applied for a Yale Young Scholars Program for this summer. She was placed on Yale's 2023 YYGS waiting list. She was competing against over 8,500 scholars from over 150 countries and all 50 states. Her accumulated GPA is also above 4.0 and is ranked third in her class.



RGSD RECEIVES \$400K SAFETY & SECURITY GRANT

Riverview Gardens School District was awarded \$400,000 from the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education as part of the School Safety Grant Program.

The grant aims to provide financial support for school safety programs. The District will receive the funding from the State in May 2023 and must complete all safety-related purchases under the grant by April 30, 2024.



A NEW VIEW ON THE HORIZON FOR RGSD RETIREES

Riverview Gardens School District honored its retirees in a special celebration on May 4 at Westview Middle School.

The retirees, their loved ones and colleagues were treated to a catered dinner, musical entertainment, a special video presentation and trophies honoring their 299 collective years of dedicated service.

RIVERVIEW GARDENS HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS EARN MORE THAN \$6.6M IN SCHOLARSHIPS

Riverview Gardens High School Class of 2023 scholars have earned more than \$6.6M in merit scholarships. The senior scholars were honored for their tremendous academic and athletic accolades at a Decision Day celebration.

At the celebration, RGHS alumni returned to campus to share insight on what to expect in college and to encourage the scholars to chase their dreams, work hard and continue their educational journey.

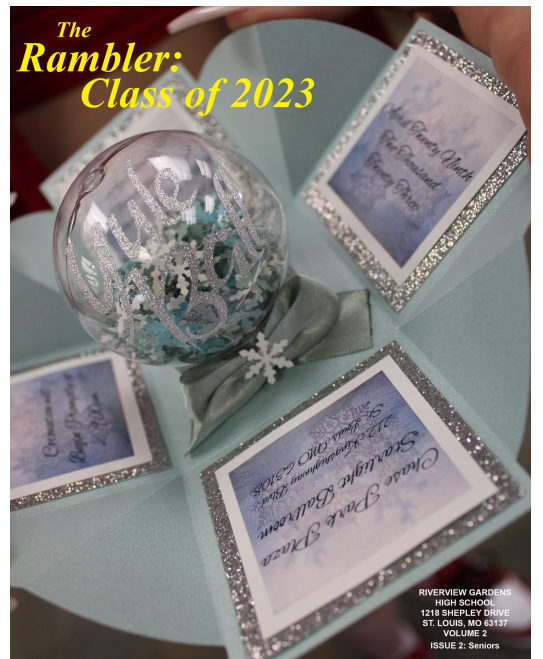
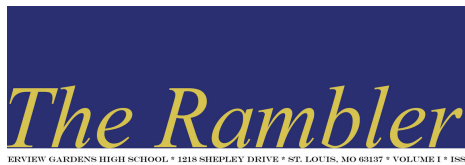
Scholars were had an opportunity to win amazing prizes such as an iPad Pro, a MacBook, refrigerators, microwaves and more.



Decision

Day 2023

RGHS JOURNALISM CLASS PRESENTS THE RAMBLER



A NEW VIEW ON THE HORIZON

By Dr. Joylynn Pruitt-Adams, Superintendent of Schools

Greetings RGSD Faculty, Students and Families,

As we approach the end of the 2022-2023 school year, I want to take the opportunity to thank our amazing scholars, staff, parents and community for helping Riverview Gardens School District complete another successful school year.



Some of the successes include:

- RGHS senior class earning more than \$6 million (and counting) in college scholarships;
- Central Middle School robotics team earning Platinum Level status at Saint Louis University's Clavius Project Jamboree;
- A successful return for the Riverview Gardens School District Spelling Bee;
- Westview Middle School's Juanita Shaw earning the RGSD Teacher of the Year honors;
- RGHS assistant principal Dr. Monica Perry being named the Assistant Principal of the Year by the St. Louis Association of Secondary School Principals (SASSAP);
- Olympic gold medalist Dawn Harper-Nelson and college basketball and sportswriting Hall of Famer Earl Austin Jr. visiting Highland Elementary;
- Being awarded a \$400K grant to enhance the district's safety and security;
- Increasing parent and community engagement at District and school events;
- Showing the remarkable talents of RGSD scholars at the Fine Arts Festival;
- A return of the RGSD Homecoming Parade;
- and progressing towards full accreditation after receiving notice that the District finished less than eight percentage points away from DESE's required score to earn full accreditation under MSIP 6.

These are just a snippet of the highlights of the 2022-2023 school year in the Riverview Gardens School District. Despite the increase in stakeholder engagement, we still strive to increase collaboration with scholars, staff, parents and community members for all District decisions.

In terms of challenges, we will continue to fight to achieve educational equity for our scholars. We will continue to work hard to recruit and retain highly qualified staff across the District. The field of education is seemingly losing workers by the minute. However, we know that our scholars deserve the best education possible.

That's why Riverview Gardens School District has increased wages, provide increased benefits for safety and security staff and provided hiring and referral stipends. The Special Administrative Board and District administration continue to fight for our employees. Over the past three years, the average RGSD staff member has received a 22% increase in salary.

We continue to strive to transform the climate and culture of the District. We continue to fight to build a stronger family bond. We continue to give 110% to serve our scholars every single minute of every hour of every day.

Whether you are a scholar, parent, staff member, community member or community partner, we encourage you to join our fight. Whether it's increased attendance, increased involvement, joining the team as an employee, providing resources for scholars and staff, attending District or school meetings or simply pledging to do your best every single day - we can all make a positive difference in the education of our scholars. That's what inspires me to come to work every day, ready to fight whatever battles lie ahead. Our scholars are worth it. So is our community!