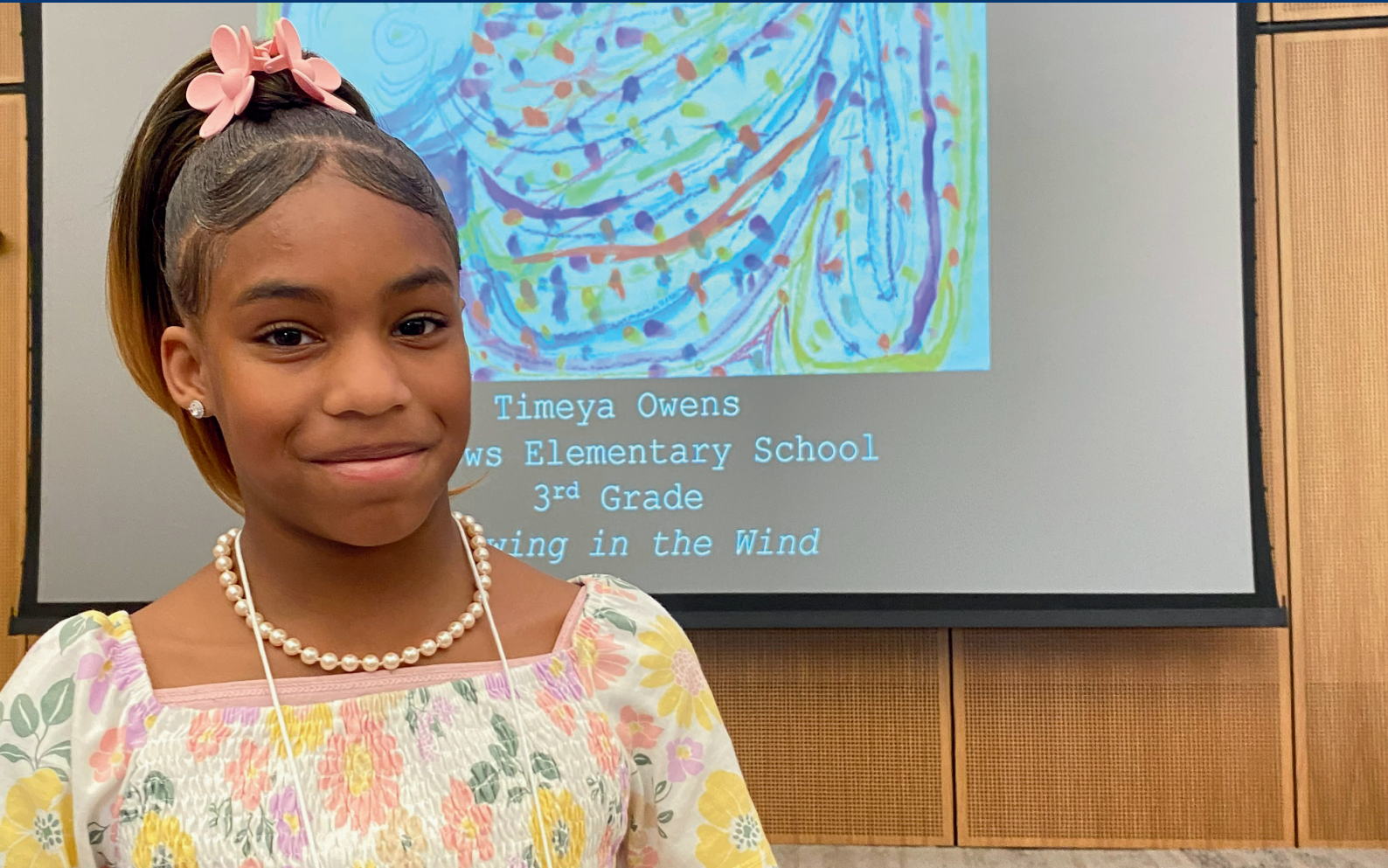




THE INSIDE VIEW

ISSUE 35 • APRIL 2024



MEADOWS ELEMENTARY FINALISTS TURN MUSIC INTO ARTWORK



On Sunday, April 7, the artwork of three third-grade scholars from Meadows Elementary School was showcased at the "Picture the Music" ceremony and art exhibit held by the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra at the Missouri Botanical Garden.

"Picture the Music" is a free program designed for scholars in grades K-6. It encourages scholars to explore the world of music, art and nature by listening to music and creating art to express how it makes them feel. This year's program featured "The Dance of the Butterfly" from Albert Roussel's "The Spider Feast."

The program featured artwork from Jahkye L. with "The Spider Eater," Timeya O. with "Blowing in the Wind," and Amela M. with "Fly Butterfly Fly." The art exhibit is currently on tour at the following locations, **Saint Louis Art Museum, April 9-21; Sophia M. Sachs Butterfly House April 23-May 5.** [LEARN MORE](#)

RIVERVIEW GARDENS SCHOOL DISTRICT NEWSLETTER



IMPORTANT DATES

- 4/22 **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**
NO SCHOOL
- 4/23 **SAB MEETING/DESE PUBLIC HEARING**
6:15PM | **GIBSON**
- 4/24 **PARENT UNIVERSITY**
6PM | **DANFORTH**
- 5/1 **PARENT AMBASSADOR CELEBRATION** | 5PM | **WESTVIEW**
- 5/2 **GIBSON FAMILY SKATE NIGHT**
5PM | **GIBSON**
- 5/3 **MUFFINS WITH MOM**
7:30PM | **GLASGOW**
- 5/8 **DISTRICTWIDE STEAM NIGHT**
5PM | **WESTVIEW**
- 5/14 **SAB MEETING** | 7PM

RGSD'S BOARD OF EDUCATION NEWLY ELECTED MEMEBERS SWORN-IN



Veronica Morrow-Reel & Monica Williams



RGSD Special Administrative Board

On Tuesday, April 9, Veronica Morrow-Reel and Monica Williams were elected to serve three-year terms on the Riverview Gardens School District Board of Education in the April 2 election. Williams earned 33% voter approval and Morrow-Reel earned 24.2% voter approval.

During a reorganization, Niketia Coleman, Ed.D., was unanimously elected to serve as school board president.

Effective July 1, 2024, the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary will return the school board to local control. The district's governing board is will be known as the Riverview Gardens School District Board of Education.

The RGSD school board, currently known as the Special Administrative Board, has been under State oversight since 2010. Following the April election, the board now consists of all elected members for the first time since 2010. [READ MORE](#)

RGSD ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS FLAG FOOTBALL FURY

Moline Elementary School, Danforth Elementary School, Lewis & Clark Elementary and Meadows Elementary School are participating in the Riverview Gardens School District's Interscholastic Elementary Flag Football program.

The teams battle each Saturday in April at the Riverview Gardens High School football field on Fields 1 & 2.

All games are open to the public. The admission fee is \$1 for ages 6 years and up. Riverview Gardens School football program will offer concessions for fans.

All proceeds benefit the Riverview Gardens High School football program.



L & C Team Huddle



Ready, Set, Go

RGSD'S SCHOLARS EXPERIENCE TOTAL SOLAR ECLIPSE



RGSD scholars and staff experienced the, 2024 Total Eclipse.

During the viewing, a total eclipse moved across North America, passing over Mexico, the United States and Canada. A total solar eclipse happens when the Moon passes between the Sun and the Earth, blocking the face of the Sun.



RGSD IS PROACTIVE IN ADDRESSING THE GET THE LEAD OUT OF SCHOOL DRINKING WATER ACT

The Missouri State Law RSMo160.077: "Get the Lead Out of School Drinking Water Act," has established a set of standards for lead concentration in school drinking water outlets. This applies to outlets used, or to potentially be used, for drinking, food preparation, cooking, and/or cleaning utensils. The deadline under the law for school testing and remediation is August 2024. Riverview Gardens School District conducted testing during February 2024.



The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) currently has a lead drinking water standard limit of 15 micrograms per liter (ug/L) of lead in water. However, Missouri law requires that all Missouri schools achieve a 5 ug/L limit of lead in water.

During February 2024, all RGSD schools and buildings were tested for lead concentration in school drinking water outlets.

Upon receiving the results, any water sources determined not to be in compliance with the 5 ug/L limit of lead in water was taken out of service by our district facilities team. At this time, we have already begun working with Merlo Plumbing to remediate each source needing attention.

Before being placed back in service, water from each source will be tested to ensure the issue has been resolved. We will communicate additional results after testing takes place.

Meanwhile, all students and staff continue to have access to a variety of water outlets that have met compliance, throughout the school.

To view the testing results at each building, please visit the following link: <https://www.rgsd.k12.mo.us/facilities/gettheleadout>. If you have questions about a lead sample result at a specific outlet and actions taken, or if you have concerns, please email Karl Scheidt at karl.scheidt@rgsd.k12.mo.us.

INCREASING FAMILY ENGAGEMENT OVER COFFEE "ONE CUP AT A TIME"

RGSD's Family Engagement hosted a Coffee Talks networking event at Koffee Ko, located at 1280 St. Cyr Rd.

The event provided a platform for parents and community members to come together in a casual environment to share their suggestions with the district leaders and staff. One of the key topics was how RGSD can increase positive family engagement.

Stakeholders had an opportunity to interact with district leaders and district staff over coffee. [LEARN MORE ABOUT FAMILY ENGAGEMENT](#)



RGSD Mission

Collaboratively educate and empower our scholars to thrive in challenging environments.

RGSD Vision

Riverview Gardens School District will be a district where:

- There are high expectations for all.
- There will be healthy, loving, empathetic and kind relationships.
- Where students are at the center of our decisions.
- Supports are provided so students become grade-level ready.
- There is transparency, accountability, timely, clear communication, and high levels of customer service.
- All stakeholders have a voice.
- There is a focus on college and career readiness.

TRAVELING PETTING ZOO VISITS MICHELLE OBAMA ECAC



On Tuesday, April 9, the Eagle Eye Alpaca and Llama Traveling Petting Zoo, traveled to Michelle Obama Early Childhood Academic Center. Parents, scholars and staff were in attendance.

Families and staff were allowed to pet, feed and interact with the animals. The traveling petting zoo brought unique animals including, llamas, goats, turtles and chickens.

PARENT UNIVERSITY ZUMBA NIGHT

RGSD's Parent University is organizing a free self-care event for parents and staff.

The event will be held on Wednesday, April 24, at Danforth Elementary School, 1134 St. Cyr Rd, St. Louis, MO 63137. The event is from 6:00PM to 7:00PM.

Parents and Staff, join Parent University for Zumba, self-care tips, delicious nutritional snacks, and much more! [PARENT UNIVERSITY INFORMATION.](#)



Parent University

**April 24
6pm - 7pm**

**Danforth Elementary
1134 St. Cyr Rd.**

Parent/Staff Self Care!



IGNITE TUTORING IMPROVES READING GROWTH FOR 3RD-GRADERS AT HIGHLAND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Highland Elementary School's third grade has been chosen to participate in Teach for America's Ignite Tutoring program. Caitlyn Ney, library media specialist at Highland Elementary School, leads the program.

The Ignite Program aims to help scholars build relationships and accelerate learning in reading or math.

Ney schedules tutoring sessions in reading. Scholars meet twice a week for one hour on Zoom with their tutor. According to Ney, her scholars have seen improvement in behavior and growth in reading.

Ney was recently named, Teach for America's Highland Ignite Trainer. She will sit on a panel with the national Ignite Team, its board and the executive directors of Teach for America.

She will also share her experience leading the program and discuss the Highland program's successes.



ABOUT TEACH FOR AMERICA

JUANITA SHAW SET TO PASS AMERICA'S FOUNDING DOCUMENTS IN THE LIBERTY RIDE



Juanita Shaw, an instructional coach at Westview Middle School, and avid motorcyclist, will transport one of America's founding documents in the fifth annual Ride for Liberty.

The Liberty Ride is dedicated to justice and equality for all which the Constitution applies. Motorcyclists from all backgrounds will relay copies of the Declaration of Independence, the U.S. Constitution, the Bill of Rights, and the Emancipation Proclamation across the 50 states before arriving at the last stop, Washington, D.C. in September 2024.

Shaw will carry the Bill of Rights from Black Street in Tulsa, OK to St. Louis, MO on May 20. She is scheduled to arrive at Westview Middle School at 10:00 AM, where she will hand off the document to the next rider.

For more information contact:

Juanita Shaw at 314-269-4139 or email The Ride for Liberty National Coordinator, D'Ette Peralta at dette@libertyrides.org

FOLLOW FACEBOOK PAGE



5 PEOPLE YOU SHOULD KNOW

DR. JARRET SMITH NAMED PRINCIPAL OF RIVERVIEW GARDENS HIGH SCHOOL FOR THE 2024-25 SCHOOL YEAR



Riverview Gardens School District is excited to announce that Jarret Smith, Ed.D., has been selected to serve as principal of Riverview Gardens High School, effective July 1, 2024.

Smith will provide instructional leadership and direction, establish a safe, positive and academically-focused environment and address the educational needs of scholars at Riverview Gardens High School. Smith will succeed Traci Nave, who was recently selected to serve as the assistant superintendent of Leadership and Accountability. [FULL STORY](#)

TIFFANY BUCHANAN NAMED ASST. SUPERINTENDENT OF CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION FOR SY 2024-2025

Riverview Gardens School District is pleased to announce the appointment of Tiffany Buchanan as the assistant superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction for the 2024-2025 school year.

In her role, Buchanan will implement the district vision, mission and goals, assume responsibility and leadership for the research-based academic progress of each student, provide leadership and support for all school improvement processes... [FULL STORY](#)



DR. CANDACE RAMEY NAMED PRINCIPAL OF DANFORTH ELEMENTARY

Riverview Gardens School District is pleased to announce the appointment of Candace Ramey, Ed.D., has been selected to serve as principal of Danforth Elementary School, effective July 1, 2024.

Ramey will be tasked with providing instructional leadership and direction to support the professional growth of faculty and staff... [LEARN MORE](#)



DR. MELISSA NASH NAMED DISTRICT INTERVENTIONIST FOR SY 2024-25

Riverview Gardens School District is pleased to announce the appointment of Melissa Nash, Ed.D., as the District Interventionist, effective July 1, 2024.

As the District Interventionist, Nash will supervise and manage protocols/logistics of the district's counselors, social workers, home-to-school coordinator, social-emotional... [LEARN MORE](#)



MEET SEQUINA JONES, RGSD'S WELLNESS COORDINATOR

Riverview Gardens is thrilled to introduce SeQuina Jones, who has been serving as the wellness coordinator since Jan. 2024.

Jones is responsible for organizing and managing wellness programs districtwide for staff and students. She is also responsible for helping to facilitate ongoing wellness communication among parents and guardians... [LEARN MORE](#)

BULLETIN BOARD

RAMILY MATTERS

Podcast

Episode 22



Dominic Lenoir
Danforth Elementary School
Principal



SCHOOL BOARD MEETING & DESE PUBLIC HEARING

TUES.
APRIL 23

6:15 pm
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

GIBSON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
9926 Fonda Drive | Saint Louis, MO 63137

Commit to Creating a
New View on the Horizon



Join a committee!



Riverview Gardens
SCHOOL DISTRICT



PAT is a free parent education and support program that serves families from prenatal to kindergarten entry. PAT is offered to families that reside in the Riverview Gardens School District. PAT provides certified parent educators, home visits, developmental screenings, and resource connections.



PARENTS AS TEACHERS

To follow PAT on Facebook scan the QR code below:



The Riverview Gardens School District does not discriminate on the basis of sex in its education programs and activities, including employment and admissions, as required by Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (Title IX). All forms of sex-based discrimination are prohibited in the district, but this policy focuses exclusively on sexual harassment as defined in Title IX that occurs within the education programs and activities of the district. However, the district will respond promptly to investigate and address any report or complaint of sexual harassment.



Welcome!
RGSD Families

FINE ARTS FESTIVAL



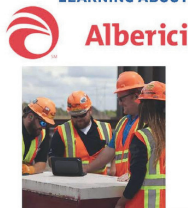
APRIL 25, 2024
5:30PM TO 8:00PM

Westview Middle School
1950 Nemnich Drive
St. Louis, Missouri 63137

Enjoy the Talents of the RGSD Scholars
Artwork ♦ Choir ♦ Band

CONSTRUCT YOUR FUTURE

THE ANDY RICE TRADE SCHOLARSHIP AND ALBERICI WOULD LIKE TO INVITE 11TH & 12TH-GRADE STUDENTS TO JOIN US FOR AN ON-SITE HANDS-ON EXPERIENCE ON MAY 1 OR 2. EACH PARTICIPANT WILL EARN \$50 WHILE LEARNING ABOUT TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.



SCAN TO REGISTER



DISCOVER OPPORTUNITIES

- ENGINEERING
- WELDING
- CARPENTRY
- MACHINERY/MECHANICS
- STEEL PRODUCTION

Attendance enters you into a raffle to win a VR Headset!



District-Wide

STEAM

SCIENCE TECHNOLOGY ENGINEERING ARTS MATH

NIGHT



Wednesday, May 8, 2024
5:00 PM - 7:30 PM

Location
Westview Middle School
1950 Nemnich Rd.
St. Louis, MO 63136



A NEW VIEW ON THE HORIZON

By Dr. Joylynn Pruitt-Adams, Superintendent of Schools



Greetings RGSD Stakeholders,

On Tuesday, April 23, Riverview Gardens School District will host a Board of Education Meeting and a Missouri Department of Elementary & Secondary Education (DESE) Public Hearing at Gibson Elementary School from 6:15 - 8:30 PM.

It's my sincere hope that all District stakeholders will attend the DESE Public Hearing. We truly wish to re-engage with our community. The 2023-2024 school year marks the introduction of our new Comprehensive School Improvement Plan (CSIP). At the hearing, District leaders will share updates on the important work that has taken place and continue to map out the path to full accreditation.

The CSIP is a living document. It is critical that we continue to make adjustments, adaptations and changes to reflect the current needs, challenges and strengths of the District, in real time. We need the voices of scholars, parents, staff, community leaders, partners and residents to succeed. Join us!

VOTERS APPROVE RGSD'S PROPS FOR SAFE AND SECURE SCHOOLS

We would like to offer sincere gratitude to the entire Riverview Gardens School District community for the passage of Proposition S during the April 2, 2024 election. Prop S passed with an overwhelming majority, with nearly 73 percent of voters in support for the no-tax-rate-increase bond issue.

The passage of Prop S means RGSD will fund key initiatives to improve the safety, security and building structures over the next few years. Planned improvements include:

- Fortified Locks
- Fire Doors
- HVAC Units
- Roof Replacement
- School Kitchens
- Secure Entries
- Perimeter Fencing
- RGHS Security Center Renovation
- Classroom Doors
- Athletic Fields

Thank you to everyone who helped share information about Prop S. Saturday mornings were filled with the smiling faces of scholars, staff, community leaders and volunteers going door-to-door to share information with community members.



Whether you were a part of the canvassing crew, shared information with parents or scholars, opened the door to your home or spent a few minutes listening and learning about Prop S, you made a major impact on its passage.

While the process of securing the bonds, approving projects and beginning construction takes time, we are committed to moving forward quickly and deliberately to ensure that all Prop S promises are kept. We will continue to provide regular updates and transparency regarding the progress of Prop S projects. If you would like to be involved in the project planning, please sign up to be considered for the committee.

To keep track of the progress of Prop S project, visit <https://www.rgsd.k12.mo.us/props>. The page will be updated as progress occurs. Regular updates will be made to the RGSD Board of Education, the District Leadership Team, the Prop S Project Planning Committee and the general public. Thank you once again for your trust and support for the Riverview Gardens School District.