



November/December 2016

RMS Mission statement: The mission of RMS is to provide a safe, positive and caring environment that helps all students develop into principled, lifelong learners and critical thinkers. We will prepare students for success in a global community and to understand that other people with their differences can also be right.



The Reflective Robin

Robbinsdale Middle School
an International Baccalaureate
World School

7th Graders to Attend the RACE Exhibit at Science Museum of Minnesota



On December 16, 2016, all RMS seventh graders will take a field trip to the Science Museum of Minnesota (SMM) to visit the exhibit: **RACE: Why Are We So Different?** The fieldtrip compliments the seventh grade reading course theme for the year: **Social Justice and Civil Rights**. Seventh grade Individual and Societies classes also have a unit on **Civil Rights** they will study later in the year. This Science Museum experience will serve as a context as they study about the concept of civil rights and the civil rights movement in America. Our seventh grade Science classes study genetics—and will be able to connect what students learn at the SMM on what scientists have discovered about race and genetics in their **Genetics Unit**.

Students will also have the opportunities to explore other areas of the Science Museum.

This field trip is in need of chaperones. This is a great opportunity for parents or family to connect with what their children are learning at school. If you are interested in chaperoning please contact your child’s advisory teacher.

- Learner Profile
- IB Learners are:
- Inquirers**
- Knowledgeable**
- Thinkers**
- Communicators**
- Principled**
- Open-Minded**
- Caring**
- Risk-Takers**
- Balanced**
- Reflective**

IMPORTANT DATES:

- Friday, November 4:**
End of 1st quarter
- Tuesday, November 8:**
Election Day
No School for students
Teacher Professional Dev.
- Monday, November 21:**
PTAC Meeting @RMS
6pm
- Thurs-Fri. , November 24th and 25th:**
Thanksgiving Break
No School
- Wednesday, December 7:**
Robbinsdale Area Schools
Advanced Academics Mtg
Cooper HS @ 6:30pm
- Friday, December 16:**
7th grade field trip:
Science Museum of MN
- Friday, December 23– Jan. 6:**
Winter Break– No School

****SEE BACK PAGE FOR MUSIC CONCERT DATES****



FROM OUR PTAC PRESIDENT

Dear RMS Families:

I would like to introduce myself: my name is Joy Bartness and I am the current president of the RMS PTAC (Parent Teacher Advisory Committee). This is an active parent/teacher group that supports teaching and learning at RMS. Our mission is to provide our teachers with resources necessary to enhance student engagement and learning so that our students may achieve at the highest level.

We are strictly a volunteer organization. We rely on parent and teacher volunteers and donations through fundraising to support our mission.

I am inviting you all to join in our efforts in two ways:

1. Attend our monthly meetings to collaborate on ways we can support our school. Our next meeting is Monday, Nov. 21 at 6pm in room 901 at RMS. Everyone is welcome! We are always looking for feedback on how to improve what we do!
2. Participate in our 1st annual Red Envelope fundraiser (details below) by returning the RED ENVELOPE with a donations to the school office by November 18th.

Sincerely,
Joy Bartness
PTAC President
rmsptac@gmail.com

DR. NOLAN NOTES

Dear Robin Families,

We wanted to inform you of some subtle changes to our General Music classes beginning 2nd quarter. In the effort to provide additional support to our students we have implemented an intervention/study hall class. This means that students who are currently enrolled in General Music also have Study Hall. For example, if a student had General Music on Days 1 and 3, this quarter, the student may have General music on Day 1 and then Study hall on Day 3. The purpose of this class is to provide students the opportunity to receive tutoring help by their teacher, adult volunteer or a WEB student. Additionally, students would work on Reading Plus, Khan

Academy or Study Island depending on their individual needs. The approach to this class is intentional and meant to meet the needs of the individual and to provide differentiated support to our students.

We are excited about this opportunity for our students. If you have any questions please contact me at 763 504-4801.

Sincerely yours,

Dr. George Nolan



PTAC HOLDS 1ST ANNUAL RED ENVELOPE-FUNDRAISER



By now families should have received a RED ENVELOPE. Please consider returning the envelope with a donation to help raise funds for our PTAC organization. In an effort to put an emphasis on student learning, the PTAC decided to move away from a product sales approach to fundraising. Students and families are no longer asked to buy and sell products to fundraise, but are simply being asked for a donation. Please consider donating to RMS PTAC. 100% of

our proceeds go directly to teachers and students to support student learning. For more information and questions you may email PTAC at: rmsptac@gmail.com.

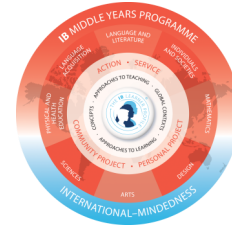
RED ENVELOPE FUNDRAISER

In Chinese and East Asian societies a red envelope holds a monetary gift which is given during holidays or special occasions. The red color of the envelope symbolizes good luck.

KICK OFF: NOVEMBER 4TH
TURN IN ENVELOPES DAILY TO THE OFFICE.
FINAL TURN IN: NOVEMBER 18TH.
DRAWING FOR WINNERS: DECEMBER 2ND.

Every Student who participates in this fundraiser will be entered into a raffle drawing to win 1 of 10 prizes. The money raised in this fundraiser will support students and staff at RMS through the RMS PTAC.





RMS Embarks on IB MYP Self Study and Evaluation

The IB Learner Profile and our SELF EVALUATION:

Robbinsdale Middle School is an authorized International Baccalaureate (IB) school. In order to continue to offer the program, IB requires an in-depth evaluation of our school every five years. This is a two year process: first we complete a self evaluation which may take up to a year to complete. Secondly, we invite the IB association to visit our school to validate our findings in the self evaluation. The visit will occur in the spring of 2018. The IB returns a report with its findings shortly thereafter.

We were authorized in 2004 and since then have gone through two evaluation periods and are entering in our third evaluation. Evaluations are an important part of being an IB school because it requires us all to stop for a moment and see where we are in the process of providing a high quality education under the standards and practices of the IB. *What is going well? What could we be doing better?* It is a time for deep reflection from all stakeholders – administration, teachers, support staff, students and the school wide community.

While we all know the standards and practices that IB requires of an authorized school, over time we have come to understand how the IB learner profile truly guides us to a quality school. The learner profile is our mission statement in action. (see page one of newsletter). It challenges each of us in the school community to uphold the following traits: **inquirers, knowledgeable, thinkers, communicators, principled, open-minded, caring, risk-takers, balanced, and reflective.** As we self-evaluate our school, we are actually asking ourselves – to what level are we portraying the learner profile? – and next, what action should we take as a result of the evaluation?

Bottom line, the evaluation process helps to hold ourselves accountable for providing a quality education for all of our students.

RMS ‘Girls on the Run’



Robbinsdale Middle School is a site for a Girls on the Run team. The team is coached by Ms Rooyakers, RMS Social Worker; Ms Grundman, RMS Counselor; and Megan Gelhar, RMS French teacher. The team has been meeting all fall on Tuesdays and Thursdays after school preparing for their first 5k race to be held Saturday, November 12th.



Not only have the girls been training to run in their first 5k race, but they have also explored the concepts of **empowerment, responsibility, diversity, connectedness, joy, optimism, gratitude, nurturing, healthy lifestyle, open-heartedness, and compassion.**

To culminate the fall season the girls will participate in the Girls on the Run Fall 5k on November 12 at 9:00a.m on the Mississippi River path at Harriet Island. Each girl will run with an appointed adult running buddy.

The race gives the girls a tangible sense of achievement as well as a framework for setting and achieving life goals.

Congratulations girls on a great season!



Notes and Reminders:

Call the RMS attendance line (763-504-4810) to report all absences.

⇒ Students should **stay home** from school when:

Fever (100.0 degrees or higher)

Vomiting or diarrhea

Rash

Infection requiring antibiotics

⇒ Students can **return to school** when:

No fever for 24 hours without the use of medication and well enough to participate in school

No vomiting or diarrhea for 24 hours after the last episode and ability to keep food down

24 hours after the first antibiotic dose or as directed by a licensed health care provider.

Reminder: As the weather turns colder, please dress appropriately. Outdoor clothing such as jackets, hats

and mittens will need to be stored in students' lockers during the school day.

WINTER MUSIC CONCERT DATES:

⇒ Dec. 6: 8th grade Band Concert with Cooper @ Cooper at 7 pm

⇒ Dec. 8: 6th grade BEGINNING Band BEGINNING Orchestra @RMS at 6pm

⇒ Dec. 8: 7th grade Band and Orchestra @RMS at 7pm

⇒ Dec. 15: 7th and 8th grade Choir @RMS at 7pm

⇒ Dec. 19: 6th grade Band/Orchestra/Choir Concert @RMS at 7pm

⇒ Dec. 20: 8th grade Orchestra with Cooper @Cooper at 7pm



Robbinsdale Middle School

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PLACE
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HERE