Hello Everyone,

I hope you had a great week.  Mr. Powers and I had the opportunity to visit schools on both sides of the District this week and continue to be impressed with all of the hard work of our students, faculty and staff.  We were especially excited about the high volume of technology being integrated within classroom lessons.  We thank all of our BRRSD Students, Teachers and Educational Support Professionals for all their efforts.  Please know that they are truly appreciated.

**FY-19 Preliminary Budget:**
On Wednesday, January 24, 2018, I presented my FY-19 Preliminary Budget to the Bridgewater-Raynham Regional School Committee.  I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the community members who attended this very important meeting.  I believe my proposal demonstrated our commitment to the District’s Mission and Five Core Values. This budget is a financial plan to assist the District in meeting its goals. Many factors, including the Five Core Values, as outlined in the BRRSD’s Strategic Plan, have influenced the development of this budget. I believe my proposal represented an operational budget that is needs-based and meets the instructional requirements of our students & staff.  Additionally, this budget is based upon the contractual, regulatory, legal, and statutory obligations of the District.  I am confident that this proposal will continue to provide consistent academically rigorous programs that support a 21st Century Learning Environment.  It will also assist in maintaining the conditions of our facilities and reduction in current class size averages in grades K-12. The hyperlink posted below will lead you to my full FY-19 Preliminary Budget presentation.

**FY-19 Preliminary Budget Link**
http://bridge-rayn.org/news/what_s_new/f_y19_budget_presentation

**MSBA Owner’s Project Manager (OPM) Update:**
The School Building Committee appointed seven members and two alternates to the Owner’s Project Manager (OPM) Selection Sub-committee on September 18, 2017.  The OPM Selection Sub-committee was charged with the task of selecting an OPM firm to assist the School Building Committee through the Feasibility Stage.  The Feasibility Stage is required by law and by the Massachusetts School Building Authority.  Its purpose is to study the options that may be available to the School District and Community prior to the start of a building project.  The OPM is essential to the success of any study and by law must be hired prior to the start of the bidding and selection process for the Designer/Architect, who will be the firm chosen to conduct the Feasibility Study.

After sending out a Request for OPM Services in November 2017, the OPM Selection Sub-committee received 12 responses.  Each respondent’s bid was reviewed and ranked by each member of the OPM Selection Sub-committee based on the qualifications listed in the Request for Services.  The OPM Selection Sub-Committee prepared a shortlist which included five firms that would be asked to interview.  The interviews were conducted on January 3, 2018, at which time the OPM Selection Sub-committee ranked each firm.  The top ranked firm was Daedalus Projects Inc.  In following the process for OPM selection, a contract was negotiated with the top ranked firm and was signed by the OPM on January 10, 2018.

The narrative for OPM selection required by the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) was completed and submitted to MSBA on January 10, 2018, which was the deadline for being scheduled for the February 5, 2018 MSBA OPM Review Panel Board Meeting.  The OPM Review Panel was formed to ensure that school districts receive the highest quality OPM services.  At the MSBA OPM Review Panel Board meeting, the School District and OPM will be interviewed by the Board.  Once Board approval is received, the School District will fully execute the OPM contract and the Designer/Architect Selection process will commence and the OPM Selection Sub-Committee will disband.  If you have any questions and/or concerns regarding the MSBA or OPM process, please feel free to contact us at the BRRSD Central Office at 508-279-2140 ext. 113.

As always, if you have any questions and/or concerns please feel free to contact me at 508-279-2140 ext. 113 or via email at dswenson@bridge-rayn.org. Have a great weekend!

Respectfully,

Derek

“WE ARE B-R, ONE TEAM, ONE FAMILY”
Mr. Powers, Assistant Superintendent of Schools

Greetings, B-R Families. The Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS) will be administered to students in grades 3-10 in the spring of 2018. The testing window is as follows:

- HS Biology MCAS: February 5-6
- HS ELA MCAS: March 27-April 10
- HS Math MCAS: May 23-May 30
- HS STE MCAS: June 6-12

Grades 3-8 ELA, Math, and STE (grades 5 & 8) MCAS: April 2-May 25

You will be receiving specific testing dates from your building principal. More information about MCAS can be found at the following link: [http://www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/home.html](http://www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/home.html)

Our tentative last day of school was scheduled for June 14, 2018. We have had two snow days, which we are required to make-up. With those two snow days, the last day of school is tentatively scheduled for June 18, 2018. Fingers crossed we will not have any more cancellations! We are in the process of developing the 2018-2019 school calendar. The School Committee is tentatively scheduled to review the calendar at its February meeting and vote to approve the calendar at its March meeting.

Ryan

As always, if you have any questions and/or concerns please feel free to contact me at 508-279-2140 ext. 113 or via email at rpowers@bridge-rayn.org

“One Team, One Family”
Preschoolers are learning about animals including their habitats and life cycles. Here are some fun activities for children to explore and enjoy in Mrs. Rousseau’s class. The picture on left exposes children to the dinosaur life cycle (eggs and fossils.)

**Preschool Report Cards:** Preschool report cards are going home today (Friday, January 26th.) If your child does not attend preschool on a Friday, please expect your child’s report card to go home the next time they are attending school.

**Kindergarten Registration:** If you have a child that will be kindergarten eligible for the 2018-2019 school year, you will be receiving a notice today or the next day your child attends programming. Kindly respond to the form and return it to your child’s teacher at the your earliest convenience. Please do not hesitate to contact Mrs. Dina Medeiros, program administrator, at (508) 279-2100 ext. 1508 if you have any questions regarding the kindergarten registration process.

A Big Welcome to Ms. Courtney Secher! She will be starting this Monday, January 29th as a long term substitute teacher for Mrs. Lindsay’s classroom for the remainder of this school year. A Meet and Greet opportunity is scheduled for February 7th. Morning session parents/guardians are invited to a Meet and Greet opportunity from 10:45 am to 11:15 am. Afternoon session parents/guardians are invited to a Meet and Greet opportunity from 2:35 pm to 3:05 pm.

**BOX TOPS:** Preschoolers are taking part in the BOX TOPS for education fundraiser. Please strongly consider clipping your box tops to support enriching opportunities for our students. Please send them in to your child’s teacher. This fundraiser is supported through our Preschool Parents Sub-committee and RMSPO.
A Word from

Bridgewater-Raynham Regional High School

The NHS is excited to be sponsoring a school supply drive for the children of Peru. School starts for students in Peru in March and many underprivileged children are unable to attend school due to their inability to pay or provide the necessary supplies. YOU CAN HELP! Please consider donating school supplies such as markers, crayons, pencils, pens and more. A complete list is outside of room F303 and can be found on flyers posted around the building. Donations can be brought to the main office or to Mrs. Kelliher in Room F303. The drive ends Friday February 17th! Thank you!!

A huge congratulations to the 7 BR students who will advance to the DECA state level competition this March in Boston. They will compete against all district level winners across the state. Our business club, DECA, is seeking donations to help fund this amazing opportunity. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Click here to support Future Business Leaders
(right click and open hyperlink)

https://www.youcaring.com/brhighschoolstudents-1073999

All students interested in participating in the Citizens' Scholarship Door to door drive should pick up a permission slip outside of F305. They are due Friday March 9, no exceptions.

Seniors, Check the @BRScholarships twitter for updates on scholarships.

Please be reminded that admission to a sporting event (home or away, at school or off-site) is a privilege. With that privilege comes responsibility – responsibility to conduct oneself in a manner where the game is enjoyable for other fans, and participants. Each individual is requested to take personal responsibility for keeping the game at a high level of good sportsmanship. Attendance at a BR Athletic Event is not a license to verbally assault others or to be generally offensive. Profanity, racial or ethnic comments, or other intimidating actions directed at officials, student-athletes, coaches or team representatives, and other spectators will not be tolerated and are grounds for removal from the site of competition.

Community Service Opportunity!
Bridgewater - Raynham will be hosting the Special Olympics Basketball tournament again this year on Saturday, February 10th. This is a fun opportunity to earn community service hours. There are 2 options: 7:30 - 12:00 or 11:30 – 4:00. We love volunteers to stay for the whole day, but you must sign up for two sessions to do so. This means you must register twice!! Please see Ms. Kuntupis in Room E202 with any questions and for the link to register online. We need about 50 volunteers for each session and there are lots of ways to participate.

Mandatory Online Signups are OPEN for high school Spring sports and will CLOSE at Midnight on Monday March 12th. Per the Student Handbook section regarding mandatory online registration: “Once the deadline is reached, Family-ID will be closed for the season. Students will not be permitted to participate for that season if they fail to sign up during the registration window.” You can find all of the information on the high school’s website under the “ATHLETICS” section. Please click the athletics’ menu titled “High School Sports Registration”.
A special thank you to all of our parents who took time out of their evening schedules to attend the School Committee meeting last night, it is much appreciated!

Attention 7th and 8th grade parents! The Raynham Middle School Parents Organization is sponsoring a ‘Snowball Dance’, on Friday Feb. 9th, from 7-9 p.m. for 7th and 8th grade students. Tickets cost $5.00 and include a free ‘Stranger Things’ Trivia Raffle. Parent-signed permission slips are required, and more news on this is coming next week - stay tuned!

A warm welcome back to Mrs. Alexander, who rejoined us at RMS on Wednesday! Also a big thank you to Ms. Shannon Reed, who was Mrs. Alexander’s long-term substitute, for everything you did to help Earth Team pod get off to a great start this year!

Parents, our lost and found tables on ‘Main Street’ resemble a Macy’s clearance bin - loaded to the max! To help avoid your child losing their clothing/belongings permanently, please have them label their sweatshirts (voted most popular lost item by our custodians), sweatpants (2nd most popular lost item), gloves, mittens, hats and lunch-bags with their name on the labels. This way we can call students down to the main office to pick-up lost items, rather than leaving them up-for-grabs on Main Street - thank you!
Reminder: if you are picking your child up from after school activities please make use of the middle and bus lots, as well as the main parking lot. Students are able to walk through the building to alternate exits and meet you in those lots. This will prevent the main lot from becoming packed and causing a backup on South Street. It will also get you in and out quickly and easily.

Congratulations to all the students who took part in the Chorus/Recorder Concert and the Band Concert. The students worked so hard and it paid off in two great performances. Thank you to Ms. LaPine, Mrs. Pires and Mr. Kirinsky for going the extra mile and instilling in our students a love of music.

The Junior Music Boosters is calling all Vocalists, Instrumentalists, Dancers, Gymnasts, Magicians, Comedians, and other performers.....Open Mic 2018 is back by popular demand and open to all students of grades 6, 7, and 8. Sign-ups for a five minute, after school audition will begin on Thursday, February 1st.

*6th and 7th graders may sign-up for an audition time outside of Mr. Kirinsky’s room, N303 on or before February 1st.

*8th graders may sign-up for an audition in the BMS office on or after February 1st.

Auditions will take place on Wednesday, February 14th at the WIS. Informational guidelines and participation consent forms may be picked up at both sign-up locations or through your WIS or BMS music teacher. The Open Mic Show will happen on Friday, March 9th from 6:00-8:00pm.

Please check the Friends of Williams Facebook page for up to date information on activities and events. Our next Spirit Day is January 26th, please remember to wear your Team T-Shirts.

MCAS Dates are as follows:
Grade 4- April 3 and 4
Grade 5- April 5 and 6
Grade 6- April 10 and 11

May 3 and 4
May 1 and 2
May 14 and 15

May 8 and 9
BMS UPDATE

Thank you to all of the parents and families who came out to Barrett’s on Tuesday evening to support our “Save the Spartans” cause. Your support is truly appreciated!

Congratulations to the girls and boys Spartans basketball teams as they continue their season with 11-0 records! We wish them the best as they wrap up the season next week.

The BMS debate team recently traveled to Swansea for their first interscholastic meet. Five students competed, and each team won in the first round. The top scoring team from each school moved on to round 2 which included eighth graders Jake Venckus and Dar-Rentz Bernard. In the final round, BMS faced off against RMS. It was an exciting round, with a bit of controversy but came down to a difference of .5 points with a win by RMS. Our students represented the district with excellent behavior, pride and good sportsmanship.

I am proud to announce that 8th grader, Ryan Statkiewicz, came in first in the National Geographic Geography Bee held at BMS. Congratulations Ryan and best of luck as you prepare for the next round!
Say Cheese!

LALIBERTE LION’S DAY!
Superintendent Swenson proposed the preliminary budget at the School Committee Meeting on Wednesday, January 24, 2018 at RMS. Thank you to all parents, guardians, and community members who attended!

Today was LaLiberte Lion Day at LaLiberte! It was great to see everyone rocking their school spirit in blue and white!

Second grade students attended Earthview today. Thank you to the LPO and BSU for this amazing enrichment opportunity!

Tonight the LPO will be hosting movie night from 6-8 pm! All students are welcome to come see Despicable Me 3. If your child is planning to attend, please be sure they have the completed form and $5 for water and popcorn.

Congrats to our LaLiberte Lion word of the week winners for LEADERSHIP. Way to go! Thank you for being role models in our school community!

*EXTRA EXTRA! READ ALL ABOUT IT! UP AND COMING NEWS…*

Boosterthon Kickoff for this year’s Glow Run with be Monday, February 6th. The Glow Run will take place in the gymnasium on Thursday, February 15th.

- The BR-SEPAC will be presenting "Happy Square Pegs," on February 6, 2018 at the Bridge Center in Bridgewater. Presenter Patti Menzel will discuss embracing the strengths of autism and management strategies for an enriched autistic life. All parents/guardians are invited to attend.

- Next LPO meeting is Wednesday, February 7th at 7:00 pm in the library. All parents/guardians are welcomed to attend.
The Mitchell
Elementary Minute

Boston Museum of Science
Grade 2 students had the opportunity to participate in the “States of Matter” presentation by the Boston Museum of Science on Tuesday. The program focused on how changes of energy affect solids, liquids, and gases.

Kindness Committee
Congratulations to all of our Grade 3 Kindness Committee students who were recognized by the Bridgewater Raynham School Committee on Wednesday night. Students were congratulated for random acts of kindness and promotion of acceptance throughout Mitchell. The Kindness Committee have come up with and implemented many creative ideas to encourage kindness and compassion among all students.

Wally The Green Monster
Once again, Wally The Green Monster will be coming to Mitchell on Friday, February 2nd! He is excited to promote the fun of reading to all grades during this action-packed presentation.

Understanding Disabilities Fair
Grade 3 students were able to attend the Understanding Disabilities Fair on Thursday. Students got the opportunity to experience what it is like for both children and adults with various physical and intellectual disabilities. Thank you to our wonderful volunteers for organizing such a fantastic event!
Merrill Moments

**Kindergarten Writer’s’ Breakfast** Thank to the kindergarten staff for creating such a wonderful event this past week. Students enjoyed sharing their writing while parents were excited to see how their child has developed. Also, a big thank you to the ECPO for providing such a delicious breakfast!!

**Halfway Day** On Friday, kindergarten students acknowledged that we are halfway through the school year by celebrating Halfway Day. Students and staff came in half dressed, half made-up, half put together etc… We have very creative students and staff members!!

**Super Bowl Friday** On Friday, February 2nd, we will support our home team, The New England Patriots, by wearing Patriots or Merrill School attire.

**Hibernating House Books and Presentation** We are still accepting orders for those students who would like to purchase, *The Hibernating House, by Sandra Leahy and Kathy Tarentino. Both authors are retired Bridgewater-Raynham early childhood teachers and will visit Merrill School the week of February 5th - 9th to discuss with students the process of writing a book. We are very excited to have them come back home to Merrill School.*
it's the little moments that make life BIG.
The School Committee will met on

February 28, 2018

GMES KINDNESS COMMITTEE

- The District's website is being updated and will soon include links to the video-taped School Committee meetings.

- Please check the website for important news and information!

- Note: All meeting postings may be found on the home page under upcoming events or the School Committee tab under postings.

- For any questions or assistance in finding documents for upcoming meetings call our secretary Judy MacDougall at 508-279-2140 X113.

- Pay to ride for the 2018-2019 school year opens February 1st.

- The district will be discontinuing the Pay to Ride service at the end of the 2018-2019 school year.

The Superintendent presented his FY19 Preliminary Budget.

The following link will bring you to his presentation. The PowerPoint is also available on the BRRSD Website’s home page.

Happy Square Pegs
Presented by Patti Menzel

February 6, 2018
6 PM
The Bridge Center
470 Pine St.
Bridgewater, MA

Patti Menzel discusses celebrating the strengths of autism, while sharing positive management strategies for an enriched autistic life. This presentation features a tale of transformation as we follow Patti from her undiagnosed years, institutionalizations, and initial response to an autism diagnosis to an awareness of the gifts of autism. This presentation features her personal support and strategies which have greatly improved Patti’s connection, communication, and functioning.

Please visit The Bridge Center website to register for child care.

Registration ends Monday, January 29, 2018.

www.thebridgectr.org

Facebook: Bridgewater Raynham Special Education Parents Advisory Council (Public Group)
E-mail: kvaskido@hotmail.com to confirm you are attending
Meeting at 6 pm, Presentation at 6:30 pm

ALL ARE WELCOME!!
Presents:

The B. A. S. E. Program

Our mission is to provide quality care for students before and after school, while keeping the lines of communication open between the program and home.

Programs are held at:

Grades K-3, George H. Mitchell at the Middle Elementary School
Grades 4-6, M.G. Williams Intermediate School

Hours: BASE AM and PM Sessions 7:00-8:55 AM and 3:25-6:00 PM

Any other questions regarding the BASE program may be directed to the GHMES at 508-279-2123 or to the program director, Mr. David Bewley: dbewley@bridge-rayn.org or 508-631-1786.