

The Bulldog Bulletin

Issue 1, 2016-2017



(Bulldog by Deepu Singu)

Back To School Sixth

(By Eli Moyse)

On September 1, Roger Ludlowe Middle School welcomed a new generation of Bulldogs. For the students, it was a big change. They were going from small classrooms to a big building with so many teachers and students. They were now in the big leagues. Changing classes, getting lost and so many friends to meet. Simon Weber was interviewed for this article. He is one of the new students at RLMS. Simon says that he was a little sad when making the change from Mill Hill to Ludlowe. It took him some getting used to. He misses recess, but he likes the idea of clubs. Simon has joined the Student Leadership club and he says that it is teaching him a lot about how to be a leader. When asked how he likes the new Unified Arts systems he stated "So far I have P.E and art which we have had in the past, but I am excited to experience the new ones like cooking, sewing and tech ed". Simon ended our interview by stating that this new found experience "is necessary as we are becoming young adults".

Several other students were interviewed as well, and the general consensus is that while some of the new students miss their feeder schools, they are excited for new independence and experiences here, at RLMS.

RLMS Spirit Week 2016
(Kallie Horan)



The week leading up to the walkathon, the week of October 3, was Spirit Week. Each day was a different theme. Students love getting to dress up silly corresponding to the different themes. Tuesday October 4, was comfy pants day. Students could wear their comfiest pants to school, but no pajamas. Everyone loved this day because they had a designated day to stay comfy. sweatpants and flannel pants were very popular. Wednesday October 5, was Patriotic Day. Students were asked to dress in red, white, and blue. Everyone participated, even Mrs. Kwon! Having Mrs. Kwon dress up each day for the corresponding theme got everyone motivated to dress up and participate. Since most students participated, the school really came together as a group. Thursday, October 6, was Jersey Day. Students got really creative. They wore jerseys for their favorite teams in every sport. Some students even wore jerseys from their own sports and activities. Every sport was showcased. Everything kind of jersey from baseball to field hockey. Since almost everyone had a jersey the whole school was able to participate

Finally, Friday October 7, was Bulldog Day. It was also the day of the Walkathon. Students wore all of their RLMS attire. Everyone was dressed in black and gold. They wore everything from shirts to spirit sleeves. The walkathon and Bulldogs Day brought the entire school together for one big day of fun and school spirit. Overall, Spirit Week was a great way to lead up to the Walkathon.



RLMS Walkathon
(Kallie Horan and Arman Ajoomal)

On Friday October 7, Roger Ludlowe Middle School held its yearly fundraiser, the Walkathon. RLMS students walk to raise funds for the PTSA. This year, on a warm, sunny Friday all students attending RLMS walk in the back field near the RLMS gym. The students and teachers walked for roughly hour while music urged them on.

Leading up to the Walkathon there are raffle prizes awarded to students during lunch periods. These prizes vary from pencils to hats and bracelets. T-shirts and even a small robotic pet hamster are also included in the prizes. The most coveted prize across the homerooms is competing in the annual hamster ball race. Students who are randomly chosen from pink slips

with names being picked out a hat to go into giant hamster ball and compete in a short race. In the weeks leading up to the Walkathon students are given a survey about what music they would like to hear. Music suggestions are then taken from the survey and played while a bubble machine blows bubbles around the entire field.

The walk-a-thon funds are distributed to RLMS throughout the school year. Extra-curricular activities and classroom or club material enhancements are where most of the money is spent. Teachers that would like to ask for a grant from the PTSA are asked to write a proposal, and give it to the PTSA. The PTSA then gets together and decides how the money will be dispersed throughout the year.

The whole walkathon would not be possible without the help and direction of Mrs. Sarah Kwon, the RLMS walkathon coordinator. For the past couple years she has been directing the walkathon for RLMS and making it more fun than ever. Without her RLMS wouldn't be able to collect the \$30,000 the students brought in this year. She came to every lunch period leading up to the walkathon, just to give out the prizes.



When she first started directing the walkathon Mrs. Kwon thought that RLMS walkathon could be even more fun and exciting than in previous years. She decided if she wanted an awesome walkathon she would do it herself. Her favorite part about everything leading up to the walkathon is being with all of the students at RLMS. Ms. Kwon's favorite part of the Walkathon are all the kids and staff dressing with all the Walkathon spirit. The black and gold and white galore.

Wearing bead necklaces, and RLMS sleeves along with hats and the bee-like headbands. Students wearing RLMS shades and capes, as well as many club representatives taking pictures during the Walkathon. Have you ever wondered where all of the wacky lunch prizes came from? Mrs. Kwon says they are all from Amazon.

Mrs. Kwon says there are ways for the walkathon to improve even further than it already has. "The best way for students to get more interactive with the Walkathon is to hand in all envelopes. Also encourage other students to bring in their envelopes. And also get your Walkathon outfit ready as soon as possible." She also says that teachers can help the walkathon improve encouraging students to bring in envelopes as well as planning an amazing recess if their homeroom gets 100 percent.



Overall the RLMS Walkathon is a great event that both students and staff enjoy. As the biggest fundraiser of the year, it was very successful. This year students raised a whopping \$30,000 for the school. This money will go to field trips and other fun activities.

New Teacher at RLMS

(Eli Moyse)

This year RLMS has a couple of new teachers. Our first highlighted new teacher is Mr. Chris McAleese, a Fairfield resident of 18 years. Mr. McAleese taught Technology Education in Bristol, Connecticut, for 5 years before joining the RLMS team. He likes it much better here since it is much closer to home and the students are very polite and they are always asking cool questions. He was nervous at first, but said he is always nervous when he starts new things.

Mr. McAleese teaches 6th grade computers, and 7th and 8th grade Technology Education. His oldest child went to RLMS a while ago. He has 3 boys. He said it is always hard getting a new job as a teacher, you have to make it your job to find a new job. Some of his hobbies include gardening and painting. He likes pretty much anything to do with art. He is very happy with his job and knows his new students will work hard.

The Bucket Drumming Club

(Eli Moyse)

Would you like to join a new club? Do you like to make fresh beats and bang on drums? Then the Bucket Drumming Club is for you! The teacher who runs this club is Mr. Albright. He found out about bucket drumming at an international music workshop. Although they aren't playing any "real songs" yet they are working on a lot of interesting rhythms. Even Mr. Albright is still learning how to bucket drum. He said that it originally started in inner city suburban areas and all they do is put something on top of a bucket and start drumming out rhythms. Mr. Albright says that he is looking for new members. He has room for 30 people, so get there while room is still available! If you are interested go see Mr. Albright in the music tech room. I am sure he would love to see you there!

The Estuary Trip

(Eli Moyse)

On a brisk morning at St. Mary's and Ash creek Estuaries, you could find crew 6L and 6M exploring the features and animals in the area. This was their annual and last trip to the estuary. This year was a little bit different than years past. This year there were 4 zones with 10 discovery sites each. Some of the activities in the discovery zones included fishing, bird watching, testing the phosphates and nitrates of the water, and testing the quality of the water with a turbidity tube.

At the fishing station students used a fish trap that is pre baited and threw it into the water. Then they took it out. They took the fish and crabs that they caught and put them into 2 separate

tubs. There were 3 groups that did not get to go to the fishing station. Those students got to look at the fish that they caught before they threw everything back in at the end.

At the phosphate and nitrate testing stations, each group collected some water and put a phosphate and nitrate testing pill in. Then they shook it for 2 minutes and waited for 5 minutes. As they were waiting for the results to come in. They talked and learned a lot about the phosphates and Nitrates. Then they looked at the results and saw if it was healthy.

At the water quality station students used a turbidity tube to test the water quality of the water to see how productive it was. To sum up the process, they poured water into the tube and slowly poured water slowly out through a small tube. Once the students that were looking down the tube saw something called the secchi disk (a small black and white disk that sits at the bottom of the tube) they would yell stop. Then they would record what depth they saw the disk at. The estuary trip was an overwhelming success and the students learned a lot!

In the Grade 6 Science Classroom
(Editorial by Teddy Johnson)

An average day in Mrs. DeNomme's 6th science class during the estuary research project involved students hunkered over computers. That's not to say it isn't interesting, though. In the corner we find me, writing a paragraph on hermit crabs. Other students are in the midst of an estuary project, preparing for a field trip to St. Mary's by the Sound. The project is to make a private website on your chosen animal. The amount of troubleshooting required is absolutely enormous, and if you don't believe me, I'm the one to tell you. The projects include not only mounds of text but also at least three pictures and a YouTube video on your subject, all done by kids who have never even tried anything related to the subject. However, you need to learn fast, because the project determines your unit grade. On the bright side, if you do well on this project, there's a freebie beach trip waiting! The field trip will consist of 10 stations that each cover a specific topic, such as habitats, human impact, and fish population. Just don't fall in the peat bog!

Halloween at RLMS
(Eli Moyse)

At RLMS on October 31, the student body dressed up for Halloween! Mrs. Tiley allowed students to dress up as long as they followed a few simple rules. 1. No costumes with props. 2. No costumes with full face makeup. 3. No costumes portraying violence. 4. No clown costumes. Students were very creative with their costumes and there were many funny ideas. It was a fun day that not only students, but even faculty enjoyed.

