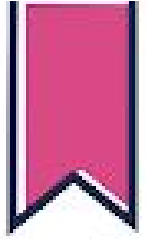


Semester 1

RLMS NEWSPAPER

Bulldogs!



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There's a New Dean in Town

(Mr. Purzycki)

By Vicky Sgaglione and Grace Kenney

As you may know, this year we have a new addition to RLMS. Mr. Purzycki is the new dean, and we would like to welcome him to our RLMS community. We had the opportunity to interview him, and get to know him better.

Mr. Purzycki previously worked at RLMS as a long-term substitute for Mr. Haxi, the seventh grade Social Studies teacher. Mr. Purzycki also knew Ms. Tiley a long time ago, which was one of the reasons he decided to come back. Previously, he worked at the Walter Fitzgerald Campus, also as a dean. Mr. Purzycki has two children, but no pets, but, if he had a pet it would be a dog because they're playful and happy

Mr. Purzycki enjoys reading in his free time and one book that he likes to read is Harry Potter, because of the magic, sci-fi theme. Mr. Purzycki enjoys playing video games, but has never played or seen Fortnite, which may be surprising to some students! Monty Python and The Holy Grail, a comedy from 1975, is one of his favorite movies of all time.

Some more fun facts about Mr. Purzycki are:

his favorite animals are tigers,
his favorite color is red
his favorite food is pizza.

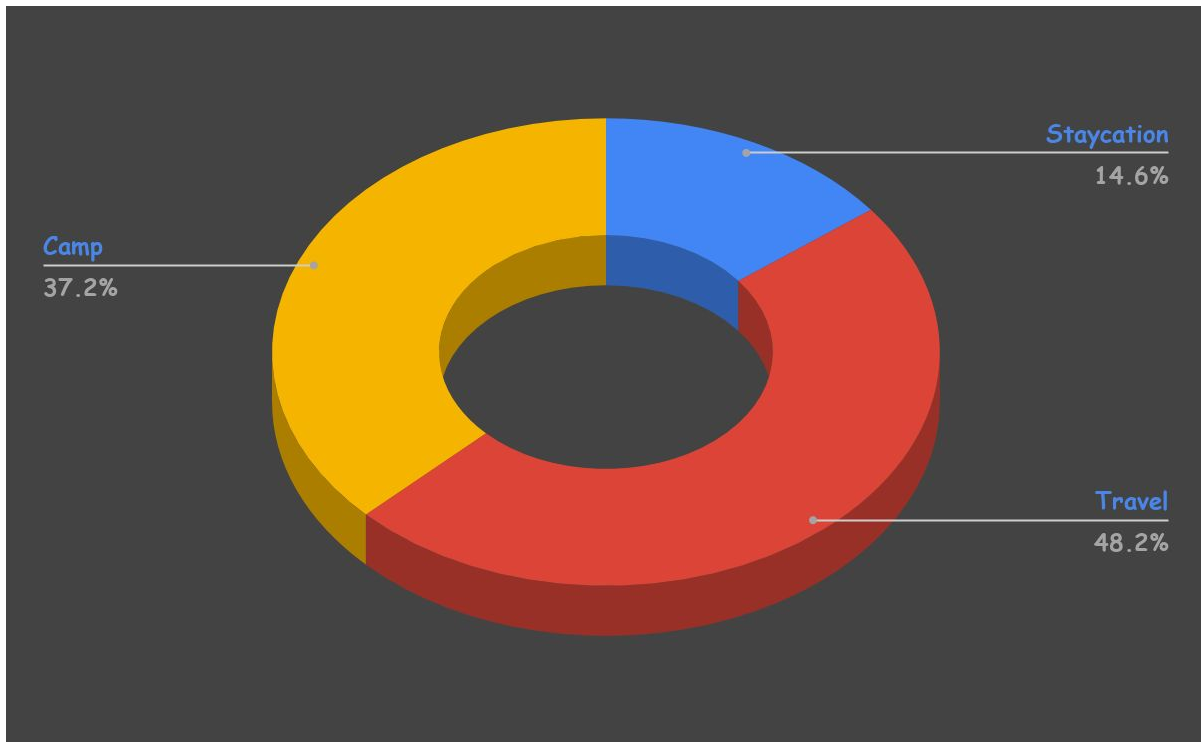
In conclusion, we are very happy that Mr. Purzycki has joined the RLMS staff, and we can't wait for a fantastic year with him!

Over the Summer

*Written and Interviewed by
Michael Sigal and Matthew McKinnis*

During the summer, sometimes people hang out at home and some travel. Many people go to camp and do fun activities with their friends. Based on our polls, 48.2% of the school traveled to different places all over the world while 14.6% of the people stayed home. Along with that, 37.2% of those polled in the school went to camp.

The RLMS newspaper picked two special people from each grade to tell them what they did over the summer. Libby (Mrs. Louie's homeroom), told the RLMS PRESS the wonderful things she did over the summer as well as Noah (Mr. Onderko's homeroom). "I went to acting and sleepaway camp over the summer. I also went to New York. During that time, I saw many of my friends," said Libby. Noah said he did many things like going to Cape Cod, Colorado, sleepaway camp and he also saw his friends. We heard more from Jack (Mr. O'hara's homeroom) and Emma (Mr. Moitoso's homeroom) in 7th grade. Jack told us the highlights of his summer like doing cross country and going to California for a while. Meanwhile Emma traveled to England where she visited London and did many fun things with her family there. The 8th graders did more traveling during the summer. "I traveled to Spain, Las Vegas, and San Francisco, as well as the Grand Canyon and Sequoia and seeing my friends," said Sergio (Mrs Jones' homeroom). Dylan (Señora Christoffersen homeroom) went to South Carolina and Florida as well as many musical theater camps. During that time he also saw many of his friends. So overall most people enjoyed the summer and spent the time to relax during this big summer break. But for now, school is on!



(Interviews completed on the week of 9/26)

(Notice: Students that were not in their homerooms during this interview, will not be counted in this survey. Thank You)

Chromebooks

*Written and interviewed by
Matthew McKinnis & Som Nene*

Recently, Chromebooks were introduced to the seventh grade of Roger Ludlowe Middle School. We interviewed a few teachers to learn how this is affecting the school.

First, we interviewed Ms. Brown-Wilusz, a seventh grade Science teacher. She had a very positive outlook on the Chromebooks. “ I think it is a very useful tool, and students are very excited”. Ms. Brown-Wilusz feels that some things are much easier to teach, because teachers used to need to get a laptop cart to teach things that required internet, but now they don’t need to. And Ms. Brown-Wilusz would change the fact that the chromebooks aren’t touchscreen.

Next we interviewed Mr. Haxhi, a seventh grade Social Studies teacher who had a neutral outlook on these devices. He feels that chromebooks are “providing students with an opportunity to access more of the internet”, while he is concerned about less face-to-face communication, and interaction. Mr. Haxhi thinks it’s easier to do somethings, and similar to Ms. Brown-Wilusz, he used to have to book a lab to have computers but now he’s able to teach more material than before since students have their chromebooks all of the time. At this point Mr. Haxhi wouldn’t change much about the chromebooks.

Finally, we interviewed Mrs. Dias-Kohler, who said she doesn’t think the chromebooks affect the students at all, positively or negatively. She thinks that students don’t need more time on technology, but that when needed, chromebooks can make it easier to teach by providing more opportunities for research, etc. Mrs. Dias-Kohler also wouldn’t change anything about them and she wrapped it up by saying as long as the rules are followed it is a useful tool. So as you can see, the topic is split among teachers.



New Notes in the Music Department

*Written and Interviewed by
Matthew McKinnis, Michael Sigal, and Som Nene*

This year at RLMS we have two new band teachers, Mr. Jeffryes and Mr. Bilotta , so we set out to discover their views on their new school, their history in music and band, and other interesting things about them.

First we interviewed Mr. Jeffryes who said that he likes RLMS because it has a good climate and leadership. He has a lot of Middle School teaching experience having taught at Tomlinson for 17 years, and at Fairfield Woods for 13 years. He said that he loves band and is excited to teach it every day. When he was in high school he had an amazing band director that inspired him to teach music and even to this day Mr. Jeffryes says that he keeps in contact with that same teacher.

Next we interviewed Mr. Bilotta who was in the army as a musician for 8 years and then taught in Shelton for 7 years. In the army he played all sorts of instruments. Mr. Bilotta also enjoys Roger Ludlowe Middle school and thinks it's a nice place to work. His favorite part of teaching is watching students improve throughout the year. He was inspired to play and teach music because he really enjoyed it in school and wanted to help other people find their love for music. He plays a variety of the band instruments, though the one he plays mostly on the trombone. He told the RLMS Press that every school is different to teach at, but that he uses the same teaching techniques when going from school to school. Overall, the two band teachers like their new job here, they enjoy the vibe the school gives off, they think it's a good teaching environment, and they enjoy their new jobs here.



Family Meal Project

Written by Arushi Mallarapu

Here in RLMS, 7th graders are planning to cook breakfast for their family. Each one of them will produce a meal that contains all 5 food groups from the *choosemyplate.gov* website. The five nutritional food groups are dairy, grains, protein, fruits and vegetables; put together they create a healthy meal for everyone to enjoy. We talked to Cecilia Illuzzi, whose breakfast consisted of pumpkin muffins, scrambled eggs and a fruit smoothie. She used eggs, pumpkin, raspberries, milk, muffin for protein, vegetables, fruit, dairy, and grains respectively.

Ms. Illuzzi says that she enjoyed cooking a meal for her family and that she would love to do it again. She commented “ Making this breakfast; I see how much work there is to put food on the table. I am grateful to my parents for doing this for our family year after year.” She continues “ I hope that my cooking skills improve here with Mrs. Kempton so that I may cook for my parents and my sister again.” Ms. Illuzzi states that she thinks the family meal project should be done for years to come.

I asked students why the food groups are so important anyway? Students that I’ve talked to say they give us nutrients and energy to get through the day. Not to mention their medicinal value that keeps us from getting sick. Pumpkin gives us a good source of Vitamin E. Other students that I’ve talked to also use vegetables and fruits for their medicinal value. Students seem to prefer using herbs instead of OTC (Over The Counter) medicine. OTC medicine can be expensive and it doesn’t always work. Herbs and other vegetables can be grown in your backyard and are well known for calming the senses.

The Family Meal Project is an interesting experience for the entire 7th grade. It helps kids to understand how to make food and take care of themselves. We are lucky to have this cooking program available to us and even luckier to have our cooking teachers. The Family Meal Project is an exciting activity for the 7th grade.

RLMS Mural

Written by Joseph Ranis

Edited by William Goater

As you may have noticed long the cafeteria ramp, a mural is slowly taking shape. We asked Mr. Friedrichs and Ms. Woron what the inspiration was and Mr. Friedrichs said that he wanted a mural in this school because we only have one. The mural is of a big colorful bulldog next to a postcard that says “RLMS” on it and is on the wall leading to the music hallway.

They put together a mural club where kids from our school can join and help out to paint the mural, and although it only has 9 members, they expect it to grow by the time they paint the mural. In 50 minute periods each day, it should take them about 6 months to finish it.

The mural club built a platform so they can paint from a flat surface which will allow them to use ladders. The project will require a ramp, ladder, detail brushes, normal brushes, and acrylic paint. They also have future plans to paint more murals, and in 5-6 years, there will be murals everywhere - in the music hallway, the ends of hallways, and anywhere else they can put one.

Walkathon

Written by Eli Moyses

Every year, RLMS school, The administration, and our school PTA work together to bring us the main school fundraiser, the Walkathon. It is the only fundraiser the school has, so every year, the PTA works hard to make it a fun and exciting time. I talked to a PTA member who was raising funds. She told the newspaper that the PTA hoped to raise \$30,000 for activities and extracurriculars for the school, including author visits (see author visit article for more information), club funding, and much more.

The walkathon, which takes place on the Ludlowe HS track each year, includes fun activities like a hamster ball run, an inflatable obstacle course, and a bungee run. To go onto one of these floats, you either had to win a raffle you were entered into when you donated, or know the secret password, RLMS. Overall, The walkathon was an amazing success, and RLMS succeeded its fundraising goal. According to an independent survey taken by an RLMS student by the name of Henry Johnson, an average 52 out of 100 students liked the walkathon.



Spirit Week

Written by Elizabeth Dayton and Zoë Brack

Welcome to Spirit Week! That fun-spirited week when we dressed up and had fun while we counted down the days to the Walkathon. Spirit Week was set up by the Student Leadership club. Every day until the Walkathon, during lunch everyone had been buying all sorts of Ludlowe gear. Everything from sweatshirts to wigs and tee-shirts to deely-boppers was being sold. According to parent volunteers, the idea of selling bandanas next year is in the air. Spirit Week consisted of:

Monday: Comfy Pants and Slippers Day. If only we could have worn pajamas...

Tuesday: Jersey Day. Team Spirit!

Wednesday: Red, White, and Blue Day. Support our country, people!!!!

Thursday: Crazy Hat and Sock Day. We can all admit that this was great!!!

Friday: Spirit Day, Walkathon! Exercise!!!

We surveyed three sixth-grade classes and found that out of eighty-five votes, Monday was the favorite day of nine people, Tuesday was the favorite of eleven people, Wednesday was the favorite of one person, Thursday was the favorite of fifteen people, and Friday was the favorite of nineteen people. We found that eight of these people participated in all of the days, and twenty-two of these people only participated in some of the days.

Of course the fun-filled week had to end but at least it ended with a fantabulous afternoon of walking and inflatable fun! Sadly only some people could win the inflatable prizes, but even those who didn't win still got to be outside on a nice day with their friends! And don't forget about the fun lunchtime prizes that were given away.

We wonder what spirited things Ludlowe Middle School will do next. We thank all the students that participated in Spirit Week for making it as fun as it possibly could be. We also thank all of the parent volunteers who made everything possible and of course we thank the Student Leadership team for setting up this fun week. We wonder what they will do next for our school.

In conclusion, we all loved Spirit Week and we hope that we will have another fun-filled week like that one soon.

A special thanks to:

Mr. Swaller and his homeroom class,
Mr. Onderko and his homeroom class, and
Mrs. Lareau and her homeroom class.

8th Grade Teacher's Lives;

Facts about 8th grade teachers that you didn't know

Written by Sergio Merchan

The following is simple questions and answers segment that will appear regularly in the Newspaper:

- **Q: How many years have you been working at this school?**

Mrs. Jones and Mrs. DeSilva- 18 years

Mr. Aronin and Mrs. Andrejczyk- 19 years

- **Q: Why did you choose to work at this school?**

Mrs. Jones: This school has an excellent reputation, I like the people who worked here, I had a great interview, and I knew Mr. Mackno (the Dean years ago). I love working with 8th graders.

Mr. Aronin: All the other people who worked here inspired me.

Mrs. Andrejczyk: Fairfield is a great place, and I wanted to help and work with this age group.

Mrs. DeSilva: I like working with this age group, I enjoy teaching this subject, and I was born in Fairfield. I love it here, it's my home.

- **Q: Why did you choose to teach (their subject; Math, LA, etc.)?**

Mrs. Jones: I teach S.S. because I love history, and I had a double major in economics and sociology.

Mr. Aronin: I teach L.A. because I love to read and write and I would like to spread this joy among students.

Mrs. Andrejczyk: I teach math and science because my father was a teacher, and I always enjoyed math and science.

Mrs. DeSilva: I teach Reading because the curriculum is flexible, and I can learn with my students.

- **Q: Where do you like to go in the summer and what do you usually do?**

-

Mrs. Jones: I usually go to Block Island, or other beaches, with my family.

Mr. Aronin: To the Outer Banks, Cape Cod, etc. And I always go with my family.

Mrs. Andrejczyk: Cape Cod, water parks, the beach, and I camping.

Mrs. DeSilva: I like to go to different states each summer.

- **Q: Did you ever work in a different place (school...)?**

Mrs. Jones: Yes, I was an intern in Tomlinson and I give student talks at Fairfield High.

Mr. Aronin: Yes, I worked in Mildford before here.

Mrs. Andrejczyk: No, I have not worked anywhere else.

Mrs. DeSilva: Yes, I've worked in two different schools in Bridgeport, at St Ann's School, Sherman and Riverfield.

Mr. DeAngelo's New Job

Written by Valeria Carbone and Elisa Merchan

A few things changed over the summer: Mr. DeAngelo took on the new job as Assistant Principal. Mr. Purzycki is taking on the role of the Dean, and Dr. Banner left to be Principal of Roger Sherman Elementary.

“Being the dean for RLMS for more than 12 years was the best job I ever had” said Mr. D. He really had a passion for his old job that no one could deny. “I’m really enjoying my new role. I get to go to classrooms and see the wonderful teaching that’s going on.” “ If I could be Dean I would be but I don’t think Mr. P would like that!

I can still do great things for RLMS as Assistant Principal. I always want to do what's best for the students ...GO BULLDOGS” “I’m definitely enjoying being Assistant Principal, and I’m excited about not being in the lunch room for two hours a day...every... day. But I miss talking with the kids, and coaching cross country, and the track team.” As Mr. D said 12 years as dean was a long time, but he welcomes the chance for a big change by being promoted to Assistant Principal.



Author's Visit: **Jordan Sonnenblick**

*Written, edited, and interviewed by Michael Sigal,
Matthew McKinnis, and Som Nene*

On Wednesday, October 3rd, 2018 the author of Drums Girls and Dangerous Pie, Jordan Sonnenblick, visited Roger Ludlowe Middle School. First, he had an assembly with the whole school in which he told wonderful stories about his life and what inspired him to write books. One story he explained was the inspiration for his book, Drums Girls and Dangerous Pie.

Following the large assembly, the author had a workshop in the newly renovated LMC. During that workshop 40 kids from the school got a chance for a hands-on experience with the author and learned how to imitate his writing. "Workshop students imitated his writing by reading the first few paragraphs of Zen and the Art of Faking It, and trying to write in the same style", said Matthew Mckinnis. Matthew was one of the 40 people accepted into the workshop.

There was also a lunch with the author where 12 students were selected from those who signed up for the lunch. Those 12 got to meet the author and ask him questions about his books and life. During lunch, he told us why he likes to write books, his favorite books when he was growing up, and the answers to all sorts of the other questions. Altogether it was a very exciting day with Mr. Sonnenblick visiting RLMS.

He said that many people like to see negative experiences occur in the book because it is suspenseful and fun to read but it also makes people feel empathetic for the character in the book. You have probably had that feeling in your life as well when you read some negative experience books. Mr. Sonnenblick also taught us a few life lessons, such as following your dreams. And to be happy with yourself once that happens.



A handwritten signature of Jordan Sonnenblick in blue ink on a white background.

New Teachers

Written by Eli Moyses

This year, we have many new teachers here at RLMS, including Mr. Kane, Mr. Cunningham, Mr. Purzycki, and Mr. Timperanz. The newspaper talked to a few to find out how they feel so far at RLMS.

Mr. Kane and Mr. Timperanz both said that they really like here so far, and that it is a very welcoming community. They both said that they really love the bright colors in the building and the students they teach who are all very encouraging. Mr. Kane was working at a school in Cape Cod before he came here to Connecticut and he really loves to rock climb and loves to be outdoors.

Mr. Timperanz was previously working at Warde. He went to Uconn for his undergraduate degree, and then went to Southern Connecticut state university to earn his teaching degree. Mr. Kane said to keep being weird and to embrace your differences, even if you are made fun of. And Mr. Timperanz said he wanted to say thank you to everyone. If you see any of these new teachers around, make sure to give them a warm, RLMS welcome.

Thanks for Reading