RIDGWAY REGISTER

Samuel M. Ridgway Middle School | Issue #4 | May 2018

Chromebook 1:1 Initiative

By Marlon DeSouza

This year the seventh and eighth graders got their own personal Chromebook that they can use at school and take home. On the other hand, the fifth and sixth graders can use Chromebooks in school, but they are not allowed to take them home. Having Chromebooks is great, but there are advantages and disadvantages that go along with the one-to-one Chromebook initiative.

The advantages of having a Chromebook that you can bring home is that you have everything you need. For example, you have all your documents on your Chromebook right in front of you. You also get to finish work on your Chromebook , like essays. Lastly, you might not have the problem of someone mistakenly taking your chromebook from the cart, or having your account being deleted by other students because you will always have the Chromebook in your possession.

The disadvantages of having a Chromebook to take home is that you might lose or damage it. Another con is that students might forget to charge their chromebooks at night or before they get to school. This could lead to consequences or incomplete school work. One more con is that you might not have internet, so you might not be able to go on websites that are needed to finish a certain assignment.

Mrs.DeSanto was interviewed with some questions about the one-to-one Chromebook initiative. If you don't know who Mrs.DeSanto is, she is the Supervisor of Technology.



Sixth Grade Journalist, Marlon DeSouza, and Supervisor of Technology, Mrs. Desanto

1. What are the pros of the one-to-one Chromebook program?

There are several Pros to having a 1:1 Chromebook program.

- Gives more access to technology and the Internet including at home
- Provides opportunities for more interactive and engaging lessons
- Allows for some creativity in showing what you know - like creating a video or podcast explaining how to do something
- Allows students to work on material at their level and at their pace
- Helps build care and responsibility

2. What are the cons of the one-to-one Chromebooks program?

While there are many pros, there are also a few cons of a 1:1 Chromebook program.

Students sometimes forget to . . .

- Bring them to school
- Charge them fully before school
- Bring them to class
- Increase in "screen-time"

Damage to the devices is also a concern - broken screens and keyboards seem to be the most frequent damage.

3. How is the one-to-one Chromebook idea going so far?

The 1:1 Chromebook program is going really well so far. We started out small, with just 7th & 8th graders, to help us understand what some of the issues might be. Our students take pretty good

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Chromebook 1:1 Initiative

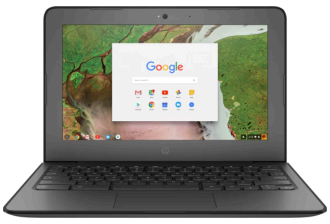
By Marlon DeSouza

care of their Chromebooks. We have seen some damage but not a whole lot. Now that we have some experience in managing the Chromebooks that students keep with them all of the time, we are more prepared to roll it out to all of the grade levels at RMS.

4. Do you think students in all grades will get one-to-one Chromebooks next year?
The plan for next year is to get Chromebooks for all 5th - 8th graders to take home in September and even Chromebooks to all 3rd and 4th graders to use and keep in school.

5. If you could change anything about the one-to-one Chromebook initiative, what would it be?
I would not have mixed Chromebooks with touch screens and ones without into our middle school.

Overall, good things are happening in the Edgewater Park School District when it comes to technology. Students should be happy to say that they go to school here and get excited for what is to come!



Should PARCC Be Required for Schools?

By Ryan Lawrence

According to the website, https://blog.prepscholar.com/what-is-the-parcc-test, “State exams are tests that are written and managed at the state level - they're administered, often on a yearly basis, at public schools within that state to monitor student progress. They also set expectations for what students should know at each grade level. Each state that participates in PARCC uses these tests to monitor student progress to make sure that they are learning. These test are designed to better replacements for old versions of state tests because (PARCC claims) they provide better info about students skills development to teachers and parents.” To help you understand a little better, the website also stated, “In a nutshell, these examinations are meant to evaluate college and career readiness starting at a young age. By evaluating readiness early and often (i.e. on a yearly basis), teachers and parents should be better able to help children prepare for the future. For example, teachers may use information about exam performance to identify where students may need extra help.”

Eleven states still take the PARCC. They are Colorado, Washington DC, Illinois, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New Mexico, Rhode Island. There has been rumors that New Jersey may do away with the PARCC test.

To further explore the topic, I picked one student from each grade level and one teacher to discuss their opinion on PARCC and whether or not students should have to take the assessment. Here’s what they all have to say:

Grade 5: Naruny Henriquez said yes because he feels that the grades you earn on your PARCC test could get you into a good college.

Grade 6: Aiden Sever said, “Yes because kids need to push their limits to know as much as they need to know.”

Grade 7: Meir Mcnair said, “No because we need to learn our regular stuff that we usually learn.”

Grade 8: Alexys Diaz said, “No because it wastes our time.”

Teacher: Ms. Lee said, “I believe PARCC must be required. I do believe that schools, including the teachers and students, need some way to measure learning in a way that is unbiased. The method traditionally is a standardized test. I think that the reason we have relied on and continue to rely on standardized tests is to see that students are actually learning and growing in school. It is hard to do that by just relying on in-class grades and what teachers see. Remember that PARCC is just one small piece of what a student knows and has to offer. I think if we remember that, and don't get

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too worried that this test is the only thing that matters (because it's not), it takes a lot of the stress and worry out of it and students can just go in and show what they know!"

Overall, when considering whether the PARCC test should be taken, the fifth and sixth graders said yes and the seventh and eighth graders said no. That's surprising because I assumed all of the students interviewed would have said no. What's not surprising is that Ms.Lee agreed that the PARCC test should be taken, or at least some form of a standardized assessment and that her response was much more thorough than the students' responses. Typical. To end, thank you to those who have participated. Fingers are crossed for no more PARCC next year!

Hidden Messages in Famous Logos

By Tanima Hoque

Have you ever wondered what famous logos really mean? Maybe they are something totally different from what they look like. For example, the logo for Google isn't just simple letters and colors. Its color pattern is like that for good reason. It has four primary colors in a row and then is broken up by a secondary color, the green "L", to show that they don't always play by the rules and are playful. Google isn't the only company doing this. There are many company logos that have hidden messages.

Google

Why is Wikipedia's logo labeled with letters of so many different languages? Taken together, they make the word "wikipedia", while the missing pieces indicate that the encyclopedia isn't finished and is constantly being updated.



WIKIPEDIA
The Free Encyclopedia

You may see cars driving around, and some of them are Toyota cars. But have you ever wondered why the Toyota logo looks like that? Well, if you look closely, you will notice that there is every letter of the name "Toyota" in it. Speaking of cars, another popular car is a Hyundai. You may have thought the logo was just an "H" for the name, but you are wrong. The "H" represents a handshake and is a symbol of customer trust and satisfaction.



TOYOTA



HYUNDAI

FedEx is a very popular shipping company, and its logo is on trucks and planes all over. Have you ever noticed the white space between the "E" and "x"? Well, that white color makes the shape of an arrow, and it represents the idea of moving forward with speed and precision, a lot like the FedEx brand.

FedEx

You might have thought the arrow in the Amazon logo is a smile. Well, it also indicates that Amazon has everything starting from A to Z, since the arrow is pointing from A to Z.

amazon

Have you ever had ice cream from Baskin Robbins? Did you notice anything? Well, the 'B' and the 'R' in the logo (colored pink) include the number 31, for the 31 flavors they have.
Next time you see a brand or logo, see if you can figure out the real meaning behind it.

BR baskin robbins

A Way Out Review
By Nicholas Strimple

MASSIVE SPOILER ALERT

A Way Out is a new, puzzle-based video game, and the first game released by Indie developers Hazelight Studios. It was released on Xbox, PS4, and PC (Computer). In its first two weeks, it sold one million copies! It is a multiplayer game and requires puzzle-solving, quick timing, and lots of thinking. The whole plot is two guys trying to escape jail to go beat up another guy for revenge.

Since its a multiplayer game, there's obviously two main characters. The first is Vincent Moretti, who is in jail after being framed for something he didn't do. The next is Leo Caruso, who is in jail for grand theft, or stealing a car. The two meet after the villain of the game, Harvey, sends thugs to eliminate Leo. Vincent sees what's happening and goes full attack mode and takes them down, which Leo is thankful for. The next day during breakfast, the thugs attack again, with Vincent once again stepping in, and the guards take down the thugs. The two men escape during the night, deciding to go and get Harvey. They hunt down one of Harvey´s men and interrogate him, learning Harvey is in Mexico. Needing a pilot, they call a friend of Vincent, who is named Emily. Emily quickly reveals that Vincent´s wife is going into labor, so him and Leo go to the hospital and meet Vincent's new baby son, whose name is never revealed. They are then forced to flee from the now oncoming police officers and guards with Emily flying them to Mexico. They arrive at Harvey's mansion, and steal an important jewel from the man that betrayed them both. They barely agree on it, but made a decision that eliminated Harvey's character from existence. Vincent turns out to be a cop, and the game ends with one character eliminating the other character out of the game, as they share one heart-wrenching moment of friendship.

The gameplay is simple. It is split screen and follows the same mechanics as many other games. In some occasions of the game you have a time limit or need to do a chain of events for one important event. The game is impossible to play without two people because it is a multiplayer restricted game, meaning everything in the game requires two people to work together. The controls and mechanics are fun and easy to use, which improves the overall feel of the game.

Overall, the game offers a fun plot with easy and simple gameplay. The system is easy to use, it has a cheap price of $29.99, and it is available on many consoles. IGN.com gave the game an 8.3/10, Polygon gave it a 7.5/10, and Microsoft Reviews gave it a 4.5/5. Personally, I give the game a 9.2/10, but that's just my opinion. This was my review of *A Way Out* by Hazelight Studios and Electronic Art released on March 23rd, 2018.



All About *Animal Jam*
By Alanna Dixon

Imagine one day you are bored and want to do something on your phone, but your phone is dead. There is a solution! Play a computer game instead! There is this fun computer game called *Animal Jam*. I am so stuck on it, and I never stop playing! When you start, you begin as a new Jammer. In about a week, your username finally shows up.

The objective of *Animal Jam* is to explore Jamma, make new gaming buddies, and to have fun.

The best part about the game is the membership (you have to buy it) because you get to have 1,000 animals.
Non-members only get two animals and only get things without the yellow strip that says “members”. Non-members only get 200 friends, whereas members get 1,000 friends. My gaming buddy says, “It’s not fair that members get better things.” I think it is fair because you have to pay a lot of money to get valuable things in the game such as a rare spiked collar or a rare headdress. Not everyone should be able to have access to these rare pieces of clothing because then they won’t be considered rare anymore.

If there is a problem when you are playing like scamming or hacking issues, you can contact AJHQ (*Animal Jam* Headquarters). To get there, go to the help desk and you can click which article you need to help you.

(Continued…)

All About *Animal Jam*

By Alanna Dixon

Next, click “Send a Request”. Then you can use AJHQ any way you need to in the game.

Below are some interesting facts related to the game *Animal Jam*:

- There are some famous game users on *Animal Jam* like APARRI, WISTERIAMOON , BEPPER , and THEDARKARROW. They have their own YouTube channel (I also have one).
- The game came out on September 19, 2010.
- There are a lot of fun games, cool dens, and animals.
- In the Temple of Zios there are books about the animals that are on the game.
- There are also Alphas that help you defeat the Phantoms that are destroying the land in adventures.
- In the phone version of *Animal Jam* (*Animal Jam Play Wild*), if you save up to 500 sapphires you can buy a one-month membership!

Overall, *Animal Jam* is a fun game that you can play for hours at a time. Hopefully you will try it out and enjoy it as much as I do. Have a good time on Animal Jam!

What You Can Do During the Summer

By Beyza Özdemir

What could you do during the summer? There are many activities to choose from, but I have some activities that you can do with an explanation on how it would help you. Below is the list of activities that you can consider and why.

The first option is picking a sport. Any sport is good exercise and will help you stay healthy. Some options include basketball, soccer, tennis, softball, baseball, golf, football, and lacrosse.

A second choice is to do inside activities. Some benefits with doing an inside activity includes staying out of the rain, avoiding pollens that create bad allergies, and not getting sunburned. Some options are doing a craft, complete your summer reading assignment, do your chores, and catch up on your sleep.

The last option is choosing an outside activity. Being outside is a good choice because when you are outside your mood can change quickly as you play and have fun. Some options are going on a walk or run, jump rope, do yard work, and go shopping.

As you can see, there are many activities to do in the summer. I hope you enjoy doing some of these activities during your spare time this summer.



New Movie Releases

By Kiley Snover

Would you like to find out what some of the new movies on D.V.D are all about? Read the reviews below to find out!

1. Wonder

August (Auggie) Pullman was born with what’s called Treacher Collins Syndrome. This means that when he was born, he was born with a facial deformity. His mom had home-schooled him for five years straight. He is starting to go to a real school. Is Auggie Pullman ready to go to a real school? He is just an ordinary boy...with an extraordinary face.

2. Peter Rabbit

Peter, a trouble-making rabbit, causes chaos when he gets into the human, Mr. McGregor’s garden. This chaos is interrupted by the next door neighbor, a beautiful young lady, who falls in love with Mr. McGregor and absolutely loves animals. Will the young lady next door find out how mischievous this rabbit is?

3. Monster Trucks

Trip is a high-school senior with a knack for building trucks. While building a truck one day, Trip discovers a gas-guzzling creature named Creech. Together, Trip and Creech go on an unforgettable journey to find Creech’s family. Will Trip be able to take Creech home?

I hope you enjoyed these reviews! Don’t forget to go to the nearest Red Box or download a

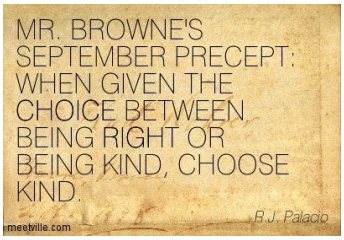
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New Movie Releases

By Kiley Snover

movie app such as Netflix to check these awesome movies out.

Credit //www.redbox.com/ondemand-movies



Weird Things You Can Buy on Amazon

By Lundyn Gyasi

It is safe to say that we or our parents have used Amazon at least once. Amazon has a wide range of things from allergy medicine to Ziploc bags. But there are some things that are not so normal that you can find on Amazon.

Raise your hand if you eat pork? Well you probably haven't tried this item. Pig lips. Would you try it?

Another thing you can buy on Amazon is live ladybugs. This is a complete waste of money! Why would you buy ladybugs when you can get them outside of your porch for free? They are probably going to come dead anyway.

Since we are talking about bugs, they also have chocolate covered ants…delicious.

Who has ever been in a situation where they didn't have underwear. Umm.. no one. But instant underwear is available on Amazon. All you have to do is add water.

Everybody uses the bathroom. Well wouldn't it make your time there more pleasant if Donald Trump or Hillary Clinton's face was on your toilet paper? Or perhaps one hundred dollar bills? Or how about roses?



Last but not least, we have a pickle. Not just any old pickle, a yodeling pickle. It is a plastic pickle that has a button that you can press to make it sing.

Would you buy any of these products, or would you just ignore them and scroll down?



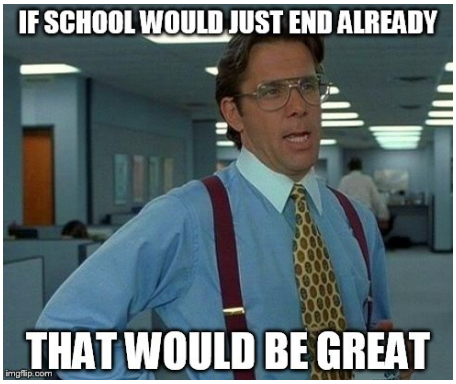
New Jersey Positive Behavior Support in Schools
New directions in school success

PBSIS Upcoming Events

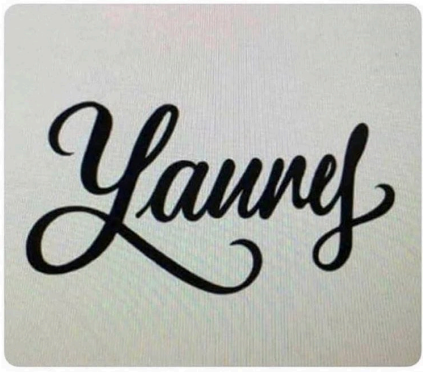
June 1st- Hawk Ball Tournament

June 14th - Hawk Fest

June 15th-Hawk Fest Rain Date



What do you see?



Yanny or Laurel?

What do you hear?

Click here to listen.



All donations are due May 31st

Event Date is Friday, June 8th

Make sure you wear sneakers and sunscreen!

What is the Ridgway Register?

Ridgway Register is the school newspaper of Ridgway Middle School. The purpose of Ridgway Register is to provide an informational and interesting newspaper for the students and staff. All students are invited to participate in this after school club. If you love news, sports, fashion, trends, etc. and you love to write, then the the Ridgway Register is for you! Please contact Mrs. Ramm, the club advisor, located in room 103 if you have any questions. We meet every Tuesday after school!

