



SUPERINTENDENT'S EDUCATION UPDATE

January 10, 2025

2024-2025 School Year

Teaching & Learning

Summer School Literacy & Professional Learning Project

In the summertime, Randolph Public Schools (RPS) partnered with Hill for Literacy to offer high quality summer learning in literacy for our students and top notch coaching for our teachers. It was hugely successful! Check out this video that captures some of the highlights of the program! Kudos to our incredible educators and students!

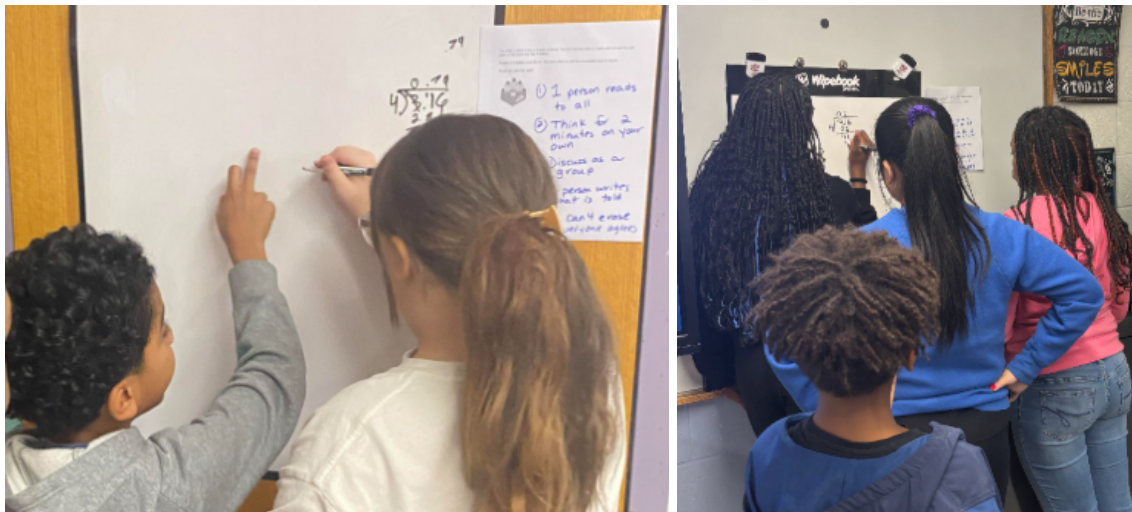
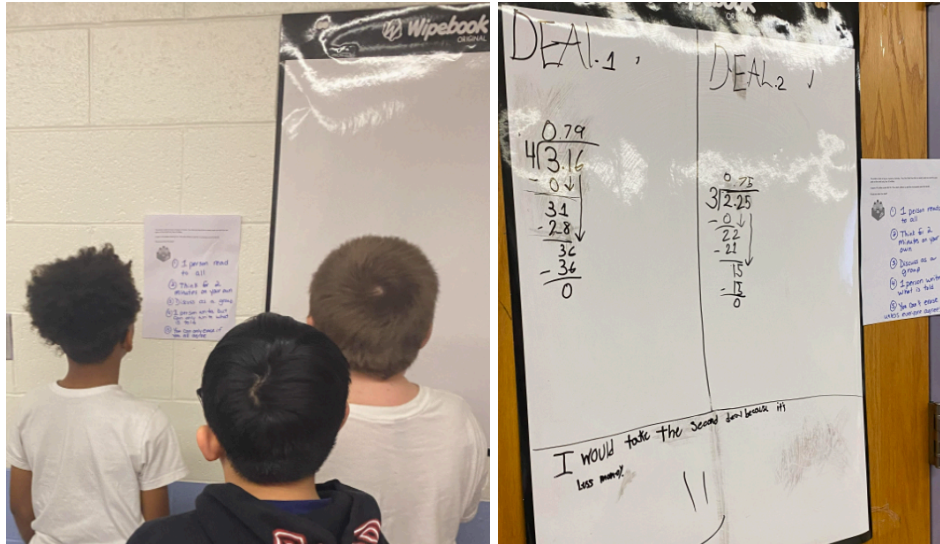
Check out the video here: <https://hillforliteracy.wistia.com/medias/37vz6amuez>

Mathematics Department

In December, Randolph Community Middle School (RCMS) and Randolph High School (RHS) Math teachers received PD incorporating "Building Thinking Classroom" strategies within the Illustrative Mathematics curriculum. Teachers experienced working collaboratively in groups, working at the board with one marker for each group, explaining their thinking, sharing partners' ideas, taking gallery walks to see other groups' thinking, etc.



In Ms. Kennedy's 6th grade classroom, she used the strategies learned in PD and gave students time to think and work together to accomplish the math goal! Below are our mathematicians doing all the thinking!



Humanities Department

When you combine ELA and science, amazing things happen! This month, Randolph's fourth grade students are studying animal defense mechanisms in an EL Education module. In the module, students read and explore the way



animals defend themselves with the ultimate goal of writing a narrative piece about an animal and their adaptations.

In order to deepen students' explorations about this topic, RPS partnered with the Massachusetts Audubon Bird Art and Education Center in Canton (MABAEC). MABAEC came to each fourth grade classroom and presented information and bio facts about different owl adaptations.

Pictured below are fourth grade students from the Young Elementary School examining owl skulls and wings in order to explore animal adaptations, which they are learning about in ELA.



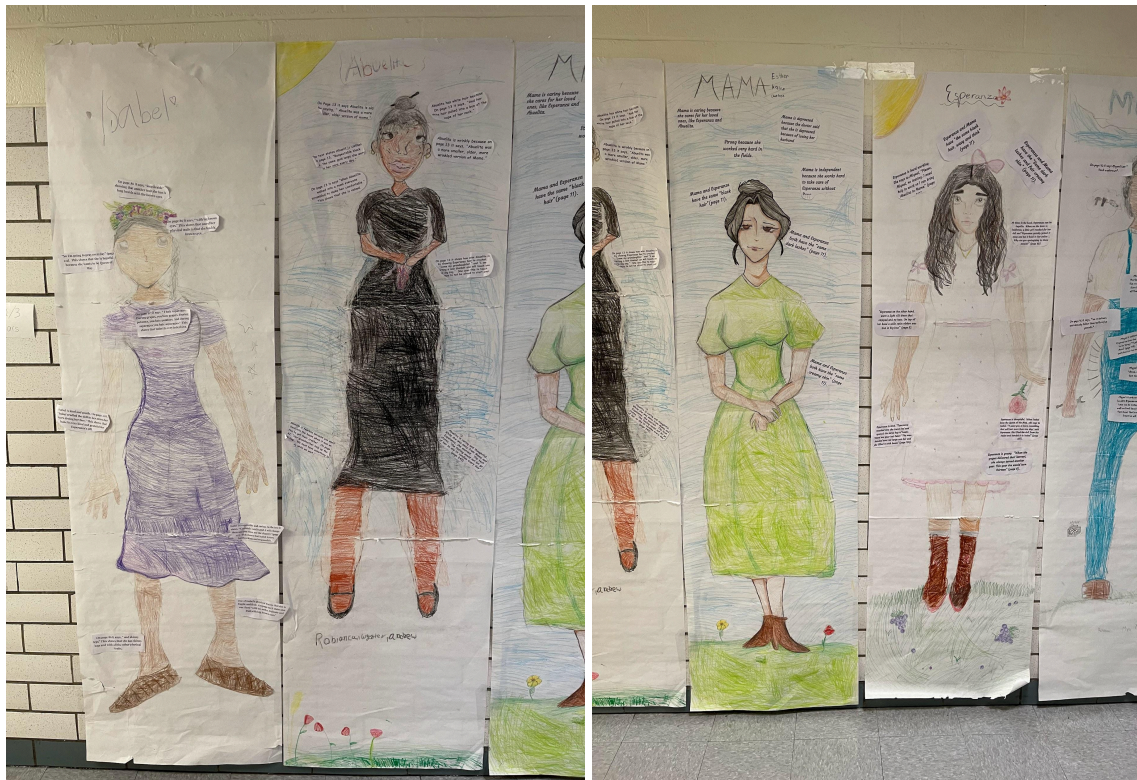


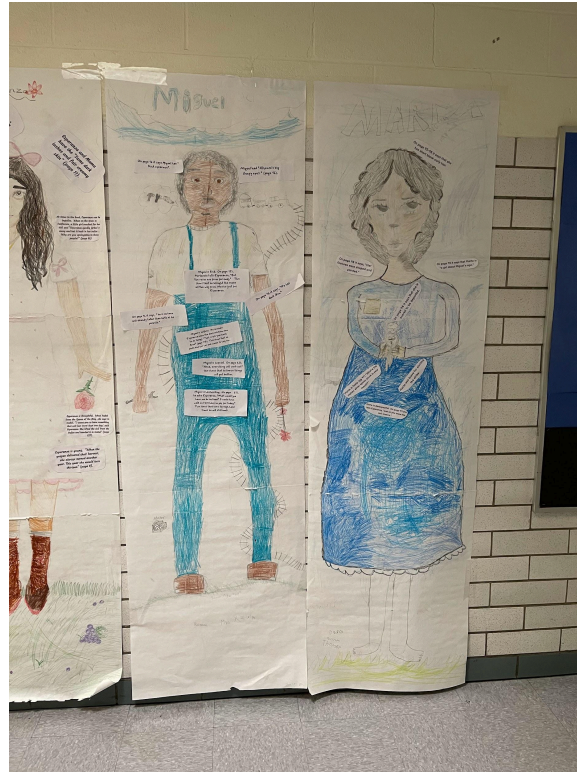
School Update Donovan Elementary School (Donovan School)

December was a busy month for the Donovan School!

K-2 students completed AMC math testing so that small group instruction can be personalized and students are supported in achieving grade level standards!

Grade 5 students in Ms. Sheehan's class created and displayed beautiful character maps for *Esperanza Rising*. We are so impressed with the results!





We are so grateful to our wonderful music teachers for preparing our students for the Winter Sing-along! We loved having our families, and Buddy the Elf, join us for the special occasion!





Our students and staff enjoyed participating in our first Spirit Week of the Year!





Our 4th graders enjoyed making homemade cranberry sauce with our Food Services Department! Check out [this newsletter](#) for more information and a recipe!

Our mid-year awards ceremony is coming up at the end of the month! Families of award recipients will receive a letter notifying them prior to the ceremony.

John E. Kennedy School (JFK School)

I'm excited to share some of the wonderful events and accomplishments from the past month at JFK School!

Holiday Store

We recently hosted our annual holiday store, where students had the opportunity to purchase gifts for their families at prices ranging from \$0.25 to



\$6.00. This event not only allowed students to practice budgeting but also fostered a sense of joy and generosity as they carefully selected gifts for their loved ones.

Strong Literacy Work

Our literacy work has been a standout highlight this month. During recent walkthroughs in 4th and 5th grades, observers were impressed with the implementation of the Fluency Accuracy Plan. Teachers showcased several key elements of the plan in their instruction, including building background knowledge, vocabulary development, word analysis, and text reading.

The lessons were exceptionally well-prepared, with slide presentations serving as an effective tool to guide students through the plan. Students were actively engaged and demonstrated confidence in their ability to read more fluently, a testament to the dedication of our staff and the robust science of reading work taking place at the JFK School.

First Grade's "Magnificent Things"

Our first-grade students took on an exciting project this month, creating their very own "Magnificent Things." This activity required them to collaborate, take initiative, and persevere as they worked to design something useful and meaningful. Once completed, the students proudly showcased their magnificent creations to their peers and families, highlighting their creativity, problem-solving skills, and hard work.

Annual Sing-Along

In the spirit of the season, we hosted our annual sing-along event, where the JFK School community came together to sing a variety of holiday songs. This



tradition brought joy and connection as we prepared to head into the holiday break.

Chartwells "Spice It Up" Experience

On December 10th, Chartwells brought their engaging "Spice It Up" experience to our 3rd-grade classrooms. This interactive event introduced students to global cuisines through a focus on beans and spices.

The program began with a video about the lifecycle of a bean, paired with an educational worksheet to reinforce learning. Students then explored vibrant spices and sampled a Mexican-style black bean dish while learning about the role of spices in enhancing flavor.

This event not only inspired students to think creatively about food but also encouraged them to explore healthy, globally-inspired cooking.

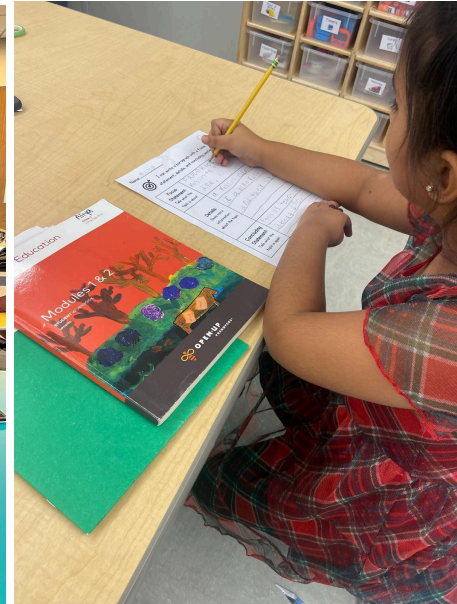
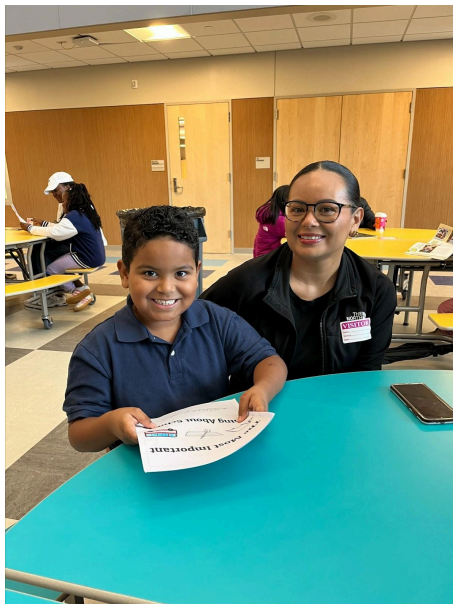
These moments illustrate the vibrant, engaging, and meaningful work happening every day at the JFK School. We're so proud of our students, staff, and community for making these experiences possible.

Wishing you all a wonderful start to the new year!

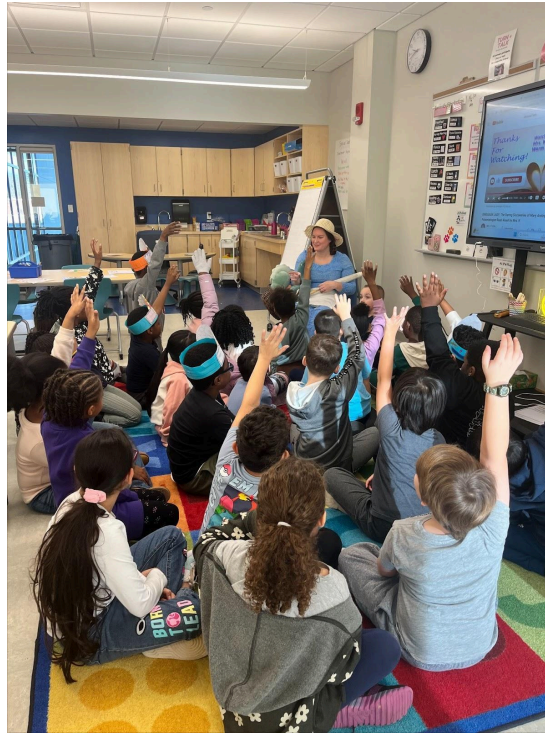
North Randolph School (North Randolph)

December was a time of fun, family and learning!

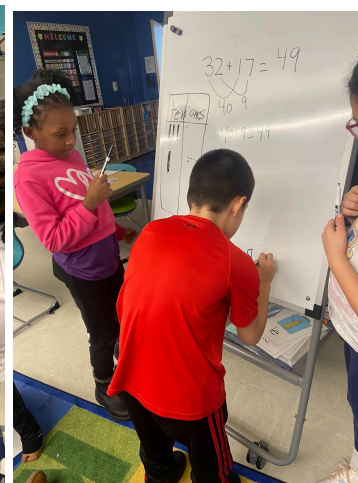
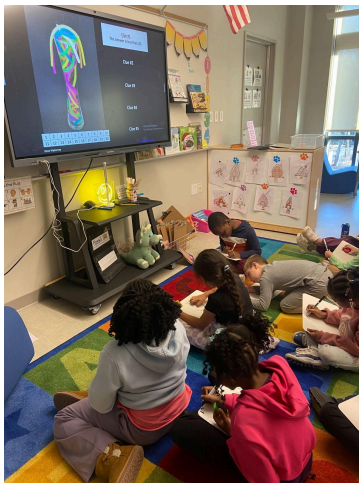
Grade 2 students and families celebrated their learning about schools around the world by having a student book showcase. Kids taught their families about how schools around the world can be different and similar.



Students are channeling their inner paleontologist to discover facts and details about fossils through texts, pictures, and videos. They are writing about fossils and paleontologists in informational paragraphs. We even had a special visitor, Mary Anning, the first paleontologist, come to teach us about her life.



Students are strengthening their math thinking skills by participating in number talks. Students are working on finding multiple ways to solve problems and justifying and explaining their thinking to their peers. Students work on collaboration and perseverance throughout their math block.





We closed out 2024 with a whole school sing-along and spirit week! Staff and students sang along together and wore cozy PJs in preparation of the upcoming holidays. We also had a Disney day and we had a visit from Wendy from Peter Pan and Cruella DeVille!



Young Elementary School (Young School)

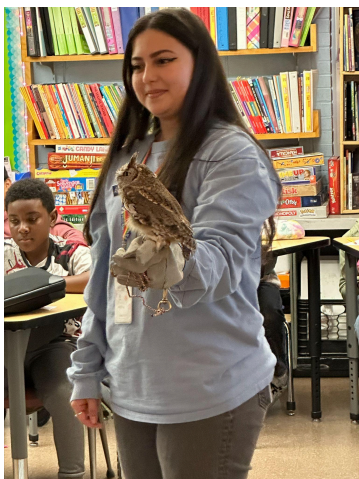
December was a very busy month here at the Young school. Our PTO hosted another wonderful family event with the Winter Wonderland Dance.



Students and their families enjoyed snacks, crafts, and of course great music and dancing. It was wonderful to see so many of our families having fun together. We have a wonderful community here at the Young School.



In keeping with a tradition here at the Young School, the staff worked together to provide holiday gifts for several of our families. A giving tree was created where staff members took tags and purchased gifts for our identified families. 1048 Bar and Grill also made incredibly generous donations to ensure families were able to have a joyous holiday. We were all so happy to participate and look forward to continuing this tradition moving forward. Special thanks to all who donated, especially Christine Letourneau for organizing the project.



Students in grades four and five were fortunate to be able to experience a program with the Massachusetts Audubon Society about Birds of Prey. They not only learned about the many magnificent birds of prey species here in Massachusetts, but also got to meet love owls and examine the many adaptations that make them such good hunters in



the wild. Students developed a new appreciation for the vast amount of wildlife right here in our local forests.

Our annual Winter Sing-Along was held on December 19th to the delight of all students and staff. Each grade level practiced songs in their music classes. Students were able to perform their grade level song in front of the rest of the school. There were also some whole group numbers that I'm sure our neighbors could hear. We even had a visit from Buddy the Elf who sang with the children. There is no sound as joyous as the sounds of over 300 children singing in unison. Special thanks to Inez Arellano and her music department colleagues for putting the program together.





Randolph Community Middle School (RCMS)

Congratulations to Mr. Rivera Concannon (Grade 7 Social Studies) on being featured in the Investigating History video series! Check out Mākena's video [HERE](#)

Grade 6 STEM students in Mr. Carlson's class participated in a **STEM Fair** on December 18th. Students designed and programmed personalized alarm systems. The classes were pleased to welcome several visitors from other classrooms as well as parents.





Pro-Wrestler visits RCMS Students!





Pro-wrestler, Anthony Greene, sent a few motivational videos to RCMS students while wrestling in Japan. On a return visit home, Anthony took time to meet these students to share stories of his wrestling journey, show off a recent competition that he won, take pictures, and sign autographs for everyone.

The Turner Free Library hosted the **Hall of Trees Winter ONEderland**. RCMS National Junior Honor Society members decorated a tree and were excited to come in third place!



Congratulations, Mr. McCloud!

**RCMS UGLY
SWEATER
CONTEST
WINNER!!**

Confidential

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Thank you to staff and students for demonstrating school spirit and brightening the hallways.





Randolph High School (RHS)

Pathways to Possibilities special event at RHS
Saturday, January 11, 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

An RHS Level Up Event

Interested in steam? Join us for a hands-on workshop exploring all RHS has to offer!

Check out RHS:

- Hands-on activities in Biomedical, Engineering, and Computer Science
- Meet RHS Alumni
- Breakfast will be served
- Exciting raffle prizes

PATHWAYS TO POSSIBILITIES
An RHS Level Up Event

INTERESTED IN STEAM? JOIN US FOR A HANDS-ON WORKSHOPS EXPLORING ALL RHS HAS TO OFFER!!

Check out RHS..

- **HANDS-ON ACTIVITIES IN BIOMEDICAL, ENGINEERING & COMPUTER SCIENCE**
- **MEET RHS ALUMNI**
- **BREAKFAST WILL BE SERVED**
- **EXCITING RAFFLE PRIZES**

JOIN US
January 11, 2025
9 a.m to 12:30 p.m

RPS students and families from 5th grade to 12th grade are encouraged to join us at this special event. Come and participate in STEM activities that are tied to the curriculum. Learn about innovative programs coming to RHS such



as "early college" and much more. Breakfast, raffles and other exciting giveaways will happen at the event.

RHS Is Becoming an Early College School



RHS is becoming an "early college" school, which will allow all students the opportunity to earn 12 college credits between 9th and 12th grade. This is an amazing opportunity that is not available at all high schools. More information to follow soon.

RHS Athletics Update



After an impressive junior season, Mekhi White, from the RHS football team, has been named to the Boston Globe All-Scholastic team. Combining for a total of 34 touchdowns, 1,300 rushing yards and impressive defensive performances! Mekhi was named as one of the best players in the state.

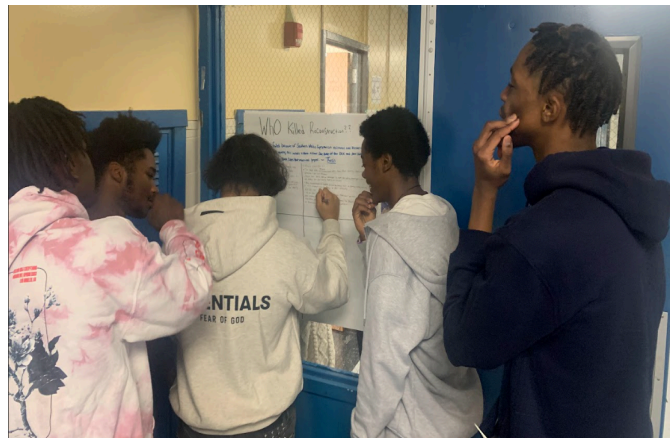
The winter sports are underway. Congratulations to Boys Basketball and Girls and Boys track, all for notching wins over the past weeks. With eight different

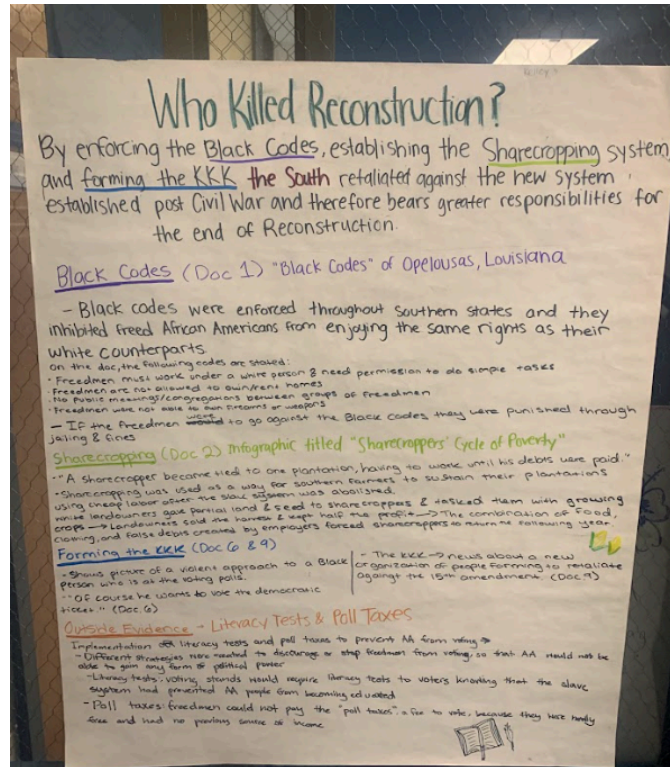


teams competing, all game schedules can be seen live at:
<https://arbiterlive.com/School/Calendar/18853>



High Levels of Engagement in AP U.S. History Classes This Week
Students in Mr. Bouffard's A.P. US History Class took a look at the Reconstruction Era within American History. In a collaborative way, students had to determine "Who Killed Reconstruction" by examining a series of primary source documents while bringing in prior knowledge of the time period.





Students worked and collaborated on thesis development, evidence acquisition, and supported their stance with analysis and reasoning.

Students presented their findings to the class and engaged in back and forth academic discourse further proving their claim!

We're proud to say that there are currently 204 students enrolled in A.P. courses, which is a big increase from the number enrolled last school year. There are typically around 15 A.P. courses offered each year, which prepare students for the rigors of college. In our A.P. courses, students engage in high level discourse, critical thinking skills, and an in-depth exploration of ideas.



Special Education and Student Services

Special Education Advisory Council (SEPAC)

A Special Election was held on **Wednesday January 8, 2025** to fill positions of President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer.

The SEPAC is a parent/guardian organization of students on an IEP that works in conjunction with Randolph Public Schools. Its mission is to advise, strengthen, and encourage open communication between the school district and parents of special education students.

RISE Family Event

This is an event for the JFK School's RISE families to learn about autism, ABA, behavior strategies and resources available to them. The event will take place **Thursday, January 16, 2025** at the JFK School from 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM.

The Interconnected Impact

Calm corners, safe learning environments, and inclusive practices are deeply interconnected. When these elements are integrated effectively, they create classrooms where every student has the opportunity to thrive academically, socially, and emotionally. At North, all classrooms are equipped with necessary resources, and staff continuously monitor and adapt practices to meet the evolving needs of our students. Together, these efforts lay the foundation for lifelong success.

Calm Corners

Calm corners are designated spaces within the classroom that provide students with a safe and structured area to self-regulate and de-escalate when they feel overwhelmed. By proactively teaching students how and when to use these spaces, educators can empower them to manage their emotions without disrupting the learning environment. These corners not only promote

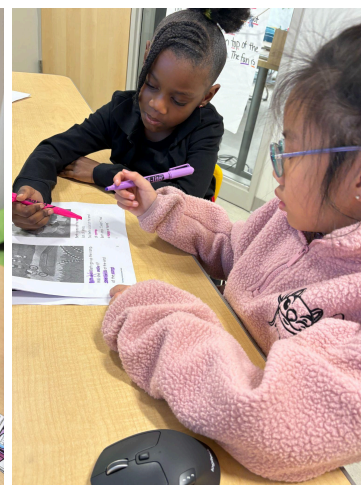
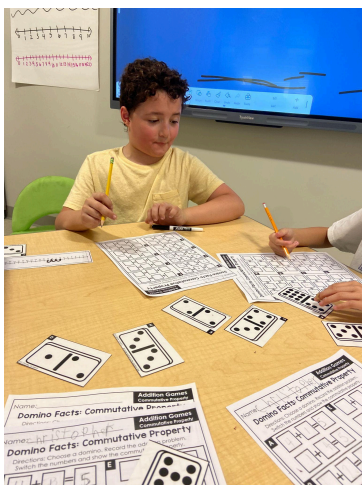


emotional well-being but also increase a student's capacity to engage meaningfully in classroom activities.



Safe Learning Environments

A safe learning environment goes beyond physical safety – it encompasses emotional, social, and psychological security. Students thrive in environments where they feel valued, respected, and understood. A safe environment includes consistent routines, clear expectations, and the use of positive behavioral supports to reduce unpredictability and stress. Safe spaces allow students to take academic and social risks, fostering growth and confidence.



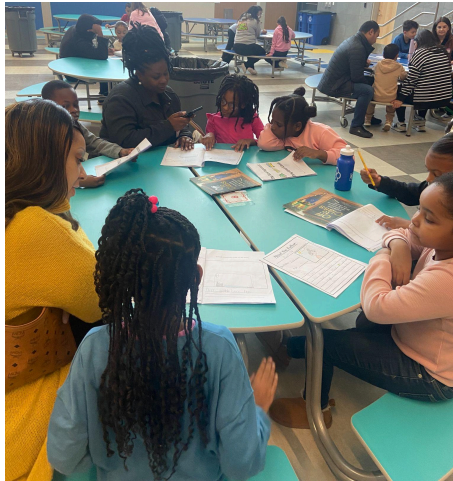


At North Randolph Elementary School, our commitment to fostering a supportive, inclusive, and engaging learning environment is evident in how our students are thriving and becoming the best versions of themselves. By combining strategies like calm corners, safe learning environments, and inclusion in classrooms with broader initiatives such as PBIS incentives and meaningful family and community activities, we are building a school culture that celebrates diversity and achievement.

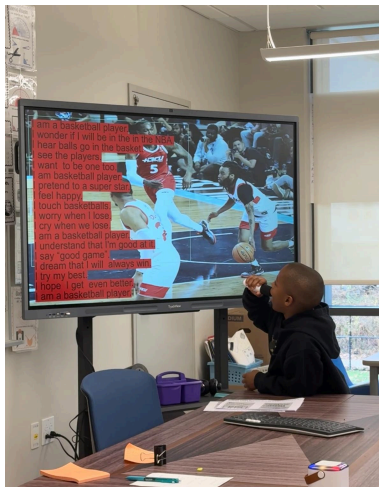
Family and Community Engagement

Our family and community activities highlight the importance of collaboration in supporting student growth and development. Events like our Second Grade Book Presentation and Fourth Grade Poetry Reading showcase our students' hard work, creativity, and global awareness.

- **Second Grade Book Presentation:** Students demonstrated their understanding of diversity and global education by writing a book about the similarities and differences between our school and schools in Haiti, Bangladesh, and India. This project emphasized the value of cultural appreciation and the interconnectedness of our world.



- **Fourth Grade Poetry Reading:** Through poetry, our fourth graders expressed their thoughts, emotions, and creativity, sharing their work with peers, families, and the community. These events not only celebrate student accomplishments but also build confidence and communication skills.





Student Services Updates

Social Workers and School Adjustment counselors have been working on refresher courses on **Functional Behavior Analysis** and **Cognitive Behavioral Therapy** to better support students. Over the past few months, school based staff have observed and reported an increase in students who have experienced trauma. As a result, students may communicate what they need through unexpected or unskilled behavior. The hope is that, as staff continue to implement the tools they have gained from their training, we will begin to see fewer cases of unskilled behavior among students who have experienced trauma.

Below are the key components of Cognitive Behavioral Therapy:

- Core Beliefs are created from past experiences
- People of all ages can struggle with processing their thoughts, feelings, and past experiences
- The process of thinking about and acknowledging the past event, can help eliminate the negative response to the problem over time.

Below is an excerpt from the Functional Behavioral Analysis Training:

Functional Behavioral Analysis Training is critical for:

- Conducting assessments that lead to proactive programming, focusing on measurable goals, and resulting in meaningful change and educational benefit
- Addresses problem behavior in positive and proactive ways

Additionally, **HEY Randolph!** has connected with the Student Services AD to explore the possibility of conducting a workshop for families to discuss substance use awareness. HEY Randolph! plans to conduct a combination of



in-person and virtual sessions for families. Depending on feedback from families, there may also be a series of topics regarding youth substance use to support families in navigating substance use among youth.

PRE-K NEWS!

December was a month of celebrations! The Pre-K students performed a sing-along as they visited K-5 classrooms. Songs included: Jingle Bells and Dreide.

Multilingual Learners Updates

The past month has been a busy one for our multilingual learners program. Many schools have been hard at work preparing for our upcoming state English assessment - the ACCESS test - which will be given to all multilingual learners in K-12 in January and February.

Randolph Families First Community Impact Project

We have a wonderful team of parent leaders who attended the Families First Parent leadership training last year. They have been working with the MLL Department to design a survey that would engage and empower community voices around topics such as school communications, connections, belonging and decision-making opportunities. Last month the team met with the superintendent to finalize the survey and align it closely with the district's strategic priorities. Look out for the survey in the next month!





Hello Parents,


We are Community Impact Project (CIP) Fellows working on gathering data to improve family engagement practices and policies for Randolph Public Schools.

Our team is made up of four parents and we want to hear from you!

Please look out for a survey that will be coming home soon.

MEET THE PARENTS

 <p>Karina George, Hispanic Mother to an 8-Year old at Martin Young Elementary</p>	 <p>Funmi Olumuyiwa, African Mother to an 8-Year old at Donavan Elementary school</p>
 <p>Chanaka Franklin, African American Mother to a 6 & 12 Year old at Martin Young Elementary & Randolph Middle School</p>	 <p>Wadmi Telfort, African Father to a 6-Year old at JF Kennedy Elementary Randolph</p>





ELPAC

The ELPAC (English Learner Parent Advisory Council) is an organization for parents and guardians of current and former multilingual learners that works with Randolph Public Schools. Its mission is to advise the school district and Randolph School Committee on matters related to multilingual learners, to empower multilingual parents/guardians within our very diverse community.

We will be holding our first ELPAC meeting on January 30, 2023, from 6 PM - 7 PM. Please keep an eye out for an invitation coming soon!

English Learner Parent Advisory Council (ELPAC)

- Meet the new assistant director
- Meet other multilingual parents
- Give your opinion

January 30, 2023
6 pm - 7 pm
Randolph High School
Library

SNACKS
Provided

Make your voice count!!

70 Memorial Pkwy, Randolph, MA 02368
781-961-6220 xt 535

FREE
Raffle

SE Regional ELE Directors Meeting

Randolph was proud to host English Learner Education Directors from school districts across the South Shore on December 6th. This is a monthly gathering that meets to discuss current topics and problems of practice in multilingual learner education and to collaborate for solutions.



At this meeting, we had the opportunity to discuss some of the potential concerns around upcoming changes in our presidential administration and how best to support our multicultural population through resources, factual information, and relationship-building.

ACCESS State Testing

This month marks the beginning of the state testing window for the ACCESS for ELLs language proficiency test. Each year, all students in multilingual learner programs take this test. The test measures academic English language proficiency for students learning English in our school and throughout our state.

Teachers in our school use this information to help them make decisions about instruction for your child. Test scores also help teachers track your child's progress in learning academic English and help schools decide what English language support services to provide. You can use test information to advocate for your child at school. Results will be available by the end of May 2025.

Health Equity Collaborative

JOIN US IN CREATING
A HEALTHIER FUTURE
FOR OUR KIDS AND TEENS

STUDENTS!
READY TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE?
The Healthy Randolph Collaborative is looking for 10 Youth Leaders (ages 18-22) from the Town of Randolph to join a dynamic community initiative focused on advancing child and adolescent health equity in Randolph. As a Youth Leader, you will have the chance to step up and take the lead in identifying and addressing the policies, systems, and environmental changes that will allow all kids and teens to thrive, learn, and succeed!

PARENTS!
ARE YOU PASSIONATE ABOUT CREATING POSITIVE CHANGE IN YOUR COMMUNITY?
The Healthy Randolph Collaborative is looking for 10 Parent Leaders from the Town of Randolph to join a exciting initiative focused on advancing child health equity in our town. As a Parent Leader, you'll play a vital role in shaping the future of children's health by advocating for the policies, systems, and environmental changes that make a real difference.

WHAT IS HEALTH EQUITY? Health Equity means ensuring every child, regardless of race, income, or community, has the resources and opportunities they need to grow up healthy. By working together, we can ensure that all children in Randolph get the support they deserve.

STUDENTS!
■ Work with your peers to identify priorities and create real solutions.
■ Gain leadership and advocacy experience to boost your resume or college applications.

WHAT'S IN IT FOR YOU?
■ Receive a paid stipend for your work, time, and effort.
■ Collaborate and network with community partners like Randolph Public Schools, Cochran Square Health Center, Boys & Girls Club, and the Town of Randolph.
■ Be part of shaping the future of health equity in Randolph!

REQUIREMENTS
■ Must be able to commit to up to 2 - 5 hours per month.
■ Multilingual students, parents, and guardians are highly encouraged to apply.

PARENTS!
■ Take part in a leadership opportunity to help ensure all kids in Randolph have the chance to thrive, and succeed!
■ Work together to identify key priorities and create innovative, equitable solutions that improve the health and wellbeing of all children and adolescents.

YOUR VOICE MATTERS!
LET'S CHANGE A PARENT AND A STUDENT INTO A LEADER!

READY TO LEAD THE CHANGE & MAKE A DIFFERENCE?
Join us for a community engagement session. Snacks and drinks provided.
■ THUR., JAN 16, 4 - 7:30 PM, RANDOLPH HIGH SCHOOL
■ SAT., JAN. 18, 12 - 2:30 PM, RANDOLPH INTERGENERATIONAL COMMUNITY CENTER, 128 PLEASANT ST., RANDOLPH

Scan the QR code or visit: <https://ow.ly/XN050UPWXX> to register to serve as a student or parent health equity leader.

GET IN TOUCH
Cochran Square Health Center Leadership Team
COURTNEY DUMBRE HEALTH CENTER at 800-70 MEMORIAL PARK, RANDOLPH, MA 02361
Phone: (781) 887-0771 Email: CSCT@cochransq.org Website: www.cochransq.org



We're excited to present to you a Healthier Future through the Healthy Randolph Collaborative to advance health equity for our kids and teens!

Join Us at These Community Engagement Sessions to learn more:

- Thursday, January 16th, 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM at Randolph High School
- Friday, January 17th, 12:00 PM - 2:30 PM at Randolph Intergenerational Community Center

What's in it for YOU?

- Paid leadership opportunities for students and parents
- Gain leadership and advocacy experience
- Make a difference in our community's health!

Multilingual families encouraged to apply!

Register here:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQL5d47aVVU99GtVVucBfBTotXd2u1yFxXE DptitywSLUvCVzG1_pw/viewform

Registration Updates



Kindergarten registration for the upcoming 2025-2026 school year starts on February 3rd until March 28, 2025.

To register your child, please read this [webpage](#), please click [here](#) for an in person registration appointment or call **781-961-6247** on Mondays-Fridays from 8:30 AM to 3:30 PM. We encourage you to register your child during this



registration period to secure their spot or placement within their neighborhood school.

*Please note: If your child attends or attended the Pre-K Program in Randolph Public Schools, please complete the **intention form** sent by **Mrs. Renee Downes-Gilkes**. It is not necessary to register your child for kindergarten. **Filling out the intention form is a requirement.***

If you have any questions or concerns about the kindergarten registration process, please do not hesitate to reach out to the Registration Office. We are here to support you and your child every step of the way.

Family Engagement Updates

Here are some events for parents/families/caregivers to participate in for the month of January!

1. Healthy Equity Collaborative

- *Date:* January 16, 2025 | *Time:* 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM | *Location:* RHS
- *Date:* January 17, 2025 | *Time:* 12:00 PM - 2:30 PM | *Location:* RICC

2. Families First: Power of Parenting

- *Info Session:* January 21, 2025
- *12-Week Program:* January 28 - April 2025 (Virtual)
- *Time:* 6:00 PM - 7:15 PM

3. Kindergarten Readiness Night

- *Week of:* January 29, 2025
- *Time:* 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM
- *Location:* RICC



4. ELPAC Meeting

- *When:* possibly 4th week of January 2025 (Date: To be Confirmed)

Sincerely,

Alpha Sanford, M.Ed CAGS, Director of Special Education and Student Services

Danielle Galvin, Assistant Director of Special Education

Dr. Jennifer Herring, Assistant Director of Student Services

Kait Zanzerkia, Assistant Director of Multilingual Learners and World Language

Renee Downes-Gilkes, Early Childhood Coordinator

Regina Federle, Registrar

Music Department Updates

'Tis the season of joy and music! RCMS and RHS had their first concert performances of the school year, held in the RHS auditorium. It was amazing to see and hear the significant growth in numbers and musicianship from both our choral and band programs.





Music teachers Tracy Duguay, Sara Goddu, and Sean Donnelly led the community in a town-wide Holiday Sing-along during the Winter ONEderland Festival. The performance was book-ended by the ever so festive RHS Marching Band, who played fun holiday medlies while the color guard performed.



Holiday Sing-alongs were hosted at each of the Randolph Public Schools Elementary Schools. Music teachers Inez Areallano, Emily Bilodeau, and Stephen Twiraga prepared all students to lead the schools in portions of the sing-along. There were surprise visits from Buddy the Elf at some schools. The RHS Chamber Singers opened the program at Young with Carol of the Bells, and some families were able to attend at the JFK and Donovan Schools.



** Tanpri souple kontakte lyezou pou fanmi ki pale Kreyòl Ayisyen yo nan 781-807-0081.*

** Para ayuda en Español, por favor llame al 339-209-2539.*

** Para auxílio em Português, por favor ligue para o número 339-204-5505.*

** Nếu quý vị có câu hỏi nào khác, làm ơn liên hệ phiên dịch viên tiếng Việt, tại 339-216-2400.*