

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT 13

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

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Superintendent's Update

May 6, 2014

Dear Parents and families,

It seems impossible that our school year will come to a close in less than two months. Similar to the exciting events that mark the advent of spring in nature, our schools and sports fields are budding, blossoming, and exciting places. Students are demonstrating academic, social and emotional growth through their writing, interactions with others, art work, college commitments and many other ventures. Each day I am grateful for the opportunities our students have in our district. Below are just some of the many updates for this month:

District Meeting: May 5th 8 p.m., Referendum Vote: May 6th

The District Meeting was held Monday night in the CRHS Auditorium followed by the referendum vote today.

It is never too late to keep celebrating: Greg Morrone Teacher of the Year

Last Friday, Mr. Morrone's Memorial School family celebrated his "Teacher of the Year" status with a skit and reception in the Memorial School gym. Mr. Morrone came to teaching as a second career, which says to me that he **REALLY** wanted to teach. By all accounts he did and still does want to teach. Comments from his colleagues, principal, and brother were evidence of the respect and affection that people have for him. And the comments from Greg, a man who had chosen and pursued another career for most of his adult life, demonstrated to me two qualities that are essential for anyone working in public education: pride and commitment. Greg has both. Congratulations Mr. Morrone.

Teacher Appreciation Day: May 6, 2014

Everyone who works in D13 is a teacher! Please join me in acknowledging the outstanding skill, effort, and caring that characterizes our faculty and staff.

Central Office Hours: 7:30-4:00

The office hours in Central Office have been adjusted slightly with our end of day time being 4 p.m. rather than 4:30. We have monitored the staff and community calls and needs between 4 and 4:30 and believe that we can respond to those needs between 7:30 a.m. and 4 p.m. We will use the month of May to further examine if we can continue to be responsive to your needs and the needs of the public with a 4 p.m. closing time and make a final decision in June.

National Ocean Sciences Bowl Competition

Lorrie Martin accompanied 5 CRHS students to Seattle last week and throughout the weekend so that they could compete with other teams from around the country. This was the first time that a CT team has qualified for this national competition and of 22 teams earned an ultimate ranking of 10th! Senior captain Deanna Purchalski anchored her team of Abby Eisner, Tyler Bjarnason, Amelia Bianchi, and Ryan Gossart. A thank you goes out to the parents who joined our team. Well done!

Update from Mr. Barbieri Athletic Director

RSD13 would like to welcome 3 new coaches to our district, along with a coaching change. Coach Ken Vallone has been doing a great job as the new Strong Middle School Baseball coach. In Softball, Coach Taryn Petrillo has been improving the skills and knowledge of the JV team members. Coach Eddie Castano has been hired as the new head coach for the CRHS Girls' Volleyball. He brings a great deal of experience to the program, and has a vision that supports our core ethical values.

Former Boys' Assistant Outdoor Track Coach, Mike Ford, has taken the lead as the head coach, while former head coach, Dave Bellemare, has taken on the role as the assistant.

Meet the Fall Coaches and Boosters Night – On Monday, May 19th at 6:00pm in the CRHS gymnasium, the CRHS Athletic Department welcomes all incoming 8th grade students and parents to come and meet the fall coaches and team booster clubs. Mr. Barbieri will discuss the sign-up procedures for sports at CRHS. Families will have the opportunity to meet and talk to the coaches, and receive booster club information.

Special thanks to the Coginchaug Little League (CLL) for their effort and support of the girls' softball program. The CLL has invested in bringing a new type of red clay for the Varsity infield to help with field maintenance. They upgraded the batting cages behind the softball fields by purchasing a new net and fixing the batting cage frame.

RSD13 will now offer CRHS students the opportunity to play Ice Hockey as a CIAC sport. Ice hockey is a winter sport that allows both boys and girls to participate, and does not 'cut'. CRHS will be part of a co-op team with the host school Lyman Hall, and in addition Haddam-Killingworth. Interested families are responsible for participation fees, equipment, and transportation. Our team name is Lyman Hall-Haddam Killingworth-Coginchaug.

CRHS Graduation and Last Day of School

Graduation will be held on Friday June 20th. The last day of school for faculty, staff and students is Monday June 23rd.

Sincerely,

Dr. Kathryn Y. Veronesi

Superintendent