

From the Desk of the Principal

To: Parents & Guardians

Date: January 13, 2025

RE: 3rd Qt. Reminders & Updates, Week 3, 24-25

Dear Parents & Guardians,

Thank you for your prayers and support as we (the faculty, staff, and board members) work behind the scenes to make preparation and meet deadlines for our school's upcoming accreditation visit, March 3-4, 2025. From the start of the first semester to the present we have been focused on fulfilling the Self-study requirements, which require extra time for teamwork, as well as specialized individual duties. At this juncture, I am pleased to let you know that we are making good progress and are on track for a timely submission on January 23, 2025.

As we are finalizing the Self-study process for submission next week, we have requested your input via the Parent Survey that was sent from the Lake Union Education Office, last Wednesday, January 8. Please check your mail for RMES Parent Survey from LUC. If you have received the Parent Survey, please take a few minutes to complete it and submit as indicated. We are asking everyone to kindly respond and share your comments about what you like about our school and how we can improve. If you have not received the survey, please let us know ASAP as the deadline for submitting your survey response is **Wednesday, January 15**. Again, thank you for your partnership to ensure the success, safety, and well being of the students. May God continue to bless our shared commitment to Adventist education at RMES.

Parent-Teacher Conference (PTC) Appointments: This is just a reminder that next Wednesday, 1/22 or Thursday, 1/23 is your opportunity to meet in person and dialogue with the teachers about your student's progress. Please look for information from your child's teacher regarding how to make your conference appointment using the new process via our Jupiter management system.

If you are new to our school, please take note of the arrangement for the 2nd Quarter Conferences. The first day, Wednesday, 1/22, will be a half-day school session, up to 12:15 p.m., the second day, Thursday, 1/23, students will have full-day school (with dismissal at 3:30pm). Classroom teachers will teach their morning classes but will be conducting Parent-Teacher Conferences in the afternoon, starting at 1:00 p.m. While classroom teachers conduct conferences, their classes will be covered by faculty & students from Andrews University Department of Teaching, Learning, & Curriculum. Our students and school are blessed by this amazing partnership. If you have questions about PTC, please do not hesitate to contact the class teacher or office.

Principal's Reading Challenge: The challenge is on kids! If you have not started, get on board today. Parents please encourage your student/s to participate and start a habit of reading for recreation and pleasure. The reading challenge will run for the entire third quarter, January-

March. Students are allowed to read books of their interest, appropriate to our Christian values, and at or above (not below) their grade level. Must maintain a Reading Log indicating the *Book Title, Number of Pages, Start and End Date* of each book. Please be aware that classroom teachers may add other requirements relevant to his/her classroom. Happy reading!

MAP Testing: The next MAP Testing period is January 21-31. As usual, testing is online and will be for all grades (K-8). Teachers will communicate the Testing Schedule for your child's class.

Dress for the Weather: While we are in winter weather and in preparation for the low temperatures here in Michigan, the students need to be dressed appropriately to come to school and for recess. Coats, hats, mittens or gloves, and boots **are a must** for all students this time of year. Please be aware that during the cold season, students are also expected to dress appropriately for indoors, so winter coats are not worn in the classroom. In full transparency, we request your understanding and support for students to be prepared in the event classroom HVAC equipment may malfunction.

Weather-Related School Closing: Reminder that for weather-related closing RMES follows Berrien RESA. The school closing will also be announced by One Call Alert, phone, text and email. Please be sure to give your phone and email contact information to Cyndi.

Student Teachers (Name correction): Thank you, faculty, staff, students and parents, for the warm welcome you've extended to our student teachers to help them get through a successful first week in their new role. Both Ms. Loss and Mr. Potts (not Mr. Todd, as I said in my introduction) have both expressed joy to be part of our RMES family.

Announcement from our H & S Leader: RMES Family Game Night

Join us for a fun-filled evening of games and community at the RMES Family Game Night on Saturday night, March 1, from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. in the RMES gym and hallways. We've got something for everyone - active games in the gym and table games in the halls.

Want to help?

We're looking for volunteers to help lead games and make the night even more fun! If you're interested, please contact Kimberly Westfall at RMESHomeAndSchool@gmail.com or 410-948-9424.

Come out for an evening of laughter, friendly competition, and memories with your RMES family! We can't wait to see you there!

RMES January Prayer Calendar: We continue to pray for our students one child at a time, each day. **The students we are praying for this week (Jan. 12-18) are Samuel J (5), Ezra J (4), Adeline (3), Emmalyn (1), Jacob (2), Adam (1), Esther (K),**

RMES/PMC Grow Group: We continue to invite you to consider joining us on Thursdays, 8:15AM to pray for our students. When you can, please meet us in the Extend Ed Room. Look forward to seeing you.

Tuition Payment: This is a gentle reminder that tuition payment is due on the 25th of each month. Please contact Mrs. Giddings to discuss your tuition payment or use the Touch Net option. Thank you for being faithful patrons.

Important Dates & Events to Remember: _____

- January 6-- Principal's Reading Challenge begins
- January 16—School Board
- January 20 – NO SCHOOL-Dr. Martin Luther King Day
- January 21-31 – MAP Testing
- January 22-23 —Parent-Teacher Conference
- January 22 – Dismissal at 12:15pm with Extend Ed
- January 23 – Dismissal at 3:30pm with Extend Ed
- February—Black History Month
- February 10-14—Student Led Week of Prayer by Mr. Swackhamer & Grade 6
- February Annual Family Engagement & Literacy Event (Coordinators-Title 1 Teacher, ELA Teacher and H&S Leader)
- March 1—RMES Family Game Night
- March 3-4 – RMES Accreditation Visit

OUR THEME: This is My Father's World

OUR TEXT: "*How many are your works O Lord; in wisdom you made them all; the earth is full of your creatures.*"— Psalm 104:24.

Keep warm and have a great week!

Dr. Savory