



Success is a Choice!



## A Message from the Principal

### UPCOMING DATES:

#### February

10- School Advisory Council Meeting

16- Presidents Day

18- Florida Standards 101 @ South Fort Myers High School

20- Interim Report Day

23-27 – Riverdale Literacy Festival

28- Odyssey of the Mind Regional Competition

#### March

2<sup>nd</sup>- Athletic Booster Club Meeting

3<sup>rd</sup>- Touchdown Club Meeting

3-13- Florida Standards English Language Writing Assessment

26- End of 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter

27- Professional Duty Day

30- Start of Spring Break

### Principal's comments:

The second semester of the 2014-2015 school year is already here! It has been an exciting year with academics and athletics continuing to soar. I want to thank the staff, students, parents, and community members for their hard work and support this year. The combined efforts of everyone are why it continues to be a "Great time to be a Raider".

The turnout at our Choice Open House on January 20<sup>th</sup> was tremendous. Incoming ninth graders were treated to tours from the IB Docents, Cheerleaders, Football Players, JROTC Cadets, and National Honor Society students. Applications for the Pre-International Baccalaureate Program are coming in quickly. Eighth graders should request their preference for an East Zone High School by March 27<sup>th</sup>.

Seniors, make sure you check the calendar of events. This is an exciting time of the year for you, and it can get hectic. **KEEP UP WITH YOUR GRADES AND ATTENDANCE.**

Check in with your guidance counselor periodically to make sure you are on track.

Riverdale has an open-door policy. Your concerns are our concerns, and we hope you will contact us when the need arises. Parents are our students' most important resource, and we encourage you to play an integral part in your children's education.

Finally, remember to be safe, and that "Success is a Choice" at Riverdale High School.

**IT IS A GREAT TIME TO BE A RAIDER!**

**Gerald Demming**

**Principal**

### Belief Statement

Public education is imperative to support and sustain a diverse democratic society. To this end, we believe: Student learning is the chief priority for our school. Challenging expectations increase individual student performance. Students learn in different ways and should be provided with a variety of instructional approaches to support their learning. The home, school and community must serve and support one another. Teaching and learning require a healthy, safe and orderly environment. Resources and services are essential for effective instruction. All staff must continue to learn, and all schools must continue to improve.

### Mission:

Riverdale High School will adapt to the changing face of the community while preparing to meet the needs of a global society. (On website)

## IB SCHOLARSHIP

Aesha Siddiqui, an IB Senior, has received a \$260,000 scholarship to Williams College in Williamstown, Massachusetts.

Williams College is ranked #1 by *Forbes Magazine* and *US News and World Report*.



## Riverdale Business Club “Chapter of the Year” for Eighth Year

Riverdale High School had 28 first place wins at the Future Business Leaders of America District Leadership Conference and Competition last week in LaBelle, at the District 19 five-county business competition. Nine students placed 2<sup>nd</sup>, twelve placed 3<sup>rd</sup>, and four others placed. Fifty-five students competed.

First place wins for Riverdale include: Angelina Lam (Bus. Communications); Christian Hernandez, Jessie Longoria and Meghan Newton (Bus. Ethics Team); Luke Chin A Foeng (Business Math); Daniel Brownrigg and Taylor McIntyre (Bus. Plan); Dominique Ribot & Samantha Zamora (Bus. Presentation Team); Michael Gardner (Bus. Procedures); Sarah Kelley (Client Service); Georgia DeAndrade (Computer Applications); Jakob Barr (Computer Problem Solving); Logan Lynch and Chris Kopko (Desktop Publishing Team); Kelsea Bermudez (Digital Video); Rachel Bibbey (Economics); Deandra Weiner, Mikayla Ries and Steele Spinosa (Emerging Bus. Issues Team); Ashleigh Conlon-Moore & Rachel Conner (Entrepreneurship Team); John Messer (Impromptu Speaking); Emily Garcia (Intro to Bus. Communication); Savannah Chrisenberry (Job Interview); Cora Jolly and Lillian Rivera (Management Decision Making); and Meghan Freeman (Public Speaking I.)

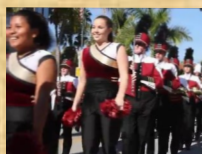


Riverdale won “Chapter of the Year” and “Largest Chapter” for the eighth year with 85 members.

They will represent Riverdale and Lee County at the FBLA State Leadership Conference and Competition in Orlando next month. Adviser Ileana Flores and Ryan White (former FBLA president/Riverdale graduate) coached the group.



The Riverdale Marching Band performed along with 5 other Lee County schools in the Edison Children’s Parade on Sunday, February 15, 2015. They will also be performing in the Edison Grand Parade on Saturday, February 21, 2015. The Grand Parade begins at 7pm on 41, and winds through the downtown area. Come out and support them! They will also be performing in a parade Friday, March 6, 2015 at Cypress Woods RV Resort for the residents, as well as in the Naples’ Saint Patrick’s Day Parade on Saturday, March 14, 2015. We hope to see you all there!



## SENIOR TIMELINE

### CLASS OF 2015

**\*\*February 9, 2015 -\* Last Chance to Order Cap and Gown\*\***

Prices will go up!

**Friday-April 17, 2015- Grad Bash- Universal Studios- 1:00 PM- Report to auditorium**

**Saturday- May 2, 2015- Prom**

**Tuesday- May 5, 2014- Senior Meeting- 7:15 AM / Cap and Gown Distribution- Auditorium**

**Tuesday – May 5, 2014– Senior Breakfast/ Yearbook Signing 8:00 AM -Cafeteria**

**Friday, May 8, 2015- Senior Pool Party/Slide Show- 10:45 AM Auditorium**

**Tuesday- May 18, 19, 20, 21, 22 - Senior Exams**

**Tuesday- May 26, 2015- Senior Awards Night -6:30 PM (Wear Cap and Gown) (Invitation Only Required to Attend) Practice Tuesday May 26<sup>th</sup> @ 7:30 AM in the Auditorium**

**Thursday-May 28, 2015- Baccalaureate- Auditorium- 6:30 PM (All Seniors are welcome- not required- Wear cap and gown)**

**Friday- May 29, 2015- Graduation Practice 12:00 PM Lee Civic Center- Mandatory for ALL**

**Graduation-May 30th, 2015, 2:30 P.M.-Lee Civic Center**

## LITERACY CLUB

The Literacy Club has been meeting to read and discuss this year's books that will be featured at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Literacy Festival. The group consists of 14 students who love to read and enjoyed last year's books. Due to this high level of interest, many of the students have already read the sequels to last year's books and begun following their favorite authors on Facebook and Twitter. In addition, the students decorated the showcase outside the Media Center to represent the 14 books that will be featured at this year's festival. During our meetings, there are often heated arguments about a favorite book, as well as, possible topics for further sequels or what to expect in any upcoming trilogies. The club is eagerly awaiting February 26, so that many of their questions can be answered directly from the authors.

## LITERACY WEEK

Riverdale High School will host our 2<sup>nd</sup> annual week-long celebration of reading February 23-27, 2015. During Literacy Week, students will enjoy dress-up days, author book talks, and creative, multimodal projects in various classes. The Riverdale Literacy Festival will take place on Friday, February 27th when students will participate in a book signing with fourteen young adult authors. Other festivities include games, music, and food. Our goal is to help reinvigorate our students' enthusiasm for reading by providing them with high-interest books. Thanks to sponsorships and donations from Horace Mann, Subway, Mr. Andy Coy, Raider Pizza, Beef O'Brady's, Barnes & Noble, Publix, Rib City, Riverdale SCA, Mrs. M&M's Class, Siggs Air Conditioning, the Foundation for Lee County Schools, Suncoast Schools Credit Union, and fundraising events such as the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Cornhole Tournament, we have raised over \$16,000 for this event so far! Local businesses interested in becoming sponsors or in setting up a booth to advertise or sell products at the festival may contact Laura Stanford at [LauraRST@leeschools.net](mailto:LauraRST@leeschools.net). All monies raised through our fundraising efforts will be spent on books. Each student will be provided one free book of his or her choice. Anyone wishing to purchase additional titles of our featured young adult novels for a specific student or to donate to our school may do so through the following link: <http://www.amazon.com/registry/baby/1RFVFP6VVRBFL>.



## JROTC Raider Battalion News

**Veterans Day:** November was a very busy month for the Raider Battalion. On 7 November, the Riverdale Raider Battalion sponsored a Veterans Day Ceremony on the football field, the battalion staff conducted the Missing Man Ceremony at the Pride and Patriotism Awards Show, and the battalion marched in the Veterans Day Parade in Cape Coral on 11 November. The Veterans Day Ceremony on the football field was attended by most of the high school students and it showed appreciation and respect for those who have served our country. Yesenia Flores, sang our national anthem, as cadets raised a flag that had been flown on a combat mission in Iraq by a former Raider battalion commander.



Over 200 cadets in uniform stood in a battalion formation, while Battalion Commander Thomas Hitchcock conducted the ceremony. Cadet Ingram started the ceremony by reading a poem “The Veteran”. Mr. Thomas read a brief history of Veterans Day and thanked all of Riverdale's staff and special guests who have served. The Raider Band played a medley of service songs and Cadet Salzman read a passage entitled “*What is a Veteran?*” The ceremony concluded with the playing of Taps and the lowering of the flag.

There were over 35 special guests that were honored at the ceremony. These guests were veterans from the Riverdale area including a four star admiral, a World War II veteran, past graduates of Riverdale and relatives of Riverdale students. They represented all of the services that had served in World War II through the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. As the honored guests arrived they were greeted by a six person honor guard, given a letter of thanks from the battalion commander and an “Honored Veteran” lapel pin. This was one of the most successful Veterans Day ceremonies to date at Riverdale. The credit goes to the entire Raider battalion, who took this time to honor our nation’s most valiant citizens.

On November 11<sup>th</sup>, the Raider battalion participated in the Cape Coral Veterans Day Parade.



The color guard led the way and 52 cadets participated.

Finally on the 6<sup>th</sup> of November the battalion staff participated in the Pride and Patriotism Celebration at the Barbra B. Mann. Staff members started the celebration with the Missing Man Table Ceremony, a poignant ceremony that reminds us to remember those soldiers who are missing or were prisoners of war.

### Academic Bowl and Leadership Bowl

The Riverdale JROTC academic team and leadership team participated in a nationwide on line challenge against all of the other JROTC programs in the South Eastern United States. The Leadership team qualified to go on to the next level and will compete for a chance to go to Washington D.C. this summer. The academic team also competed in the district Academic Bowl at the Lee County Public Education Center. Our team competed against 13 other qualifying teams. Team member's included: Arianna Farmer, Nilsa Villanueva, Nohemi Hernandez, Alexis Hardman, and Kennedy Eleaby.

**Raider Challenge:** The Raider team competed in the District Raider Challenge on 1 November. Riverdale entered an all-male team and a mixed male and female team. In case you aren't familiar with Raider Challenge, it is a competition between all of the JROTC programs in Lee County. The cadets participated in a series of physical events including: giant tire flip, one rope bridge, 5 kilometer team run, and 1 mile litter carry. The competition was held at Lehigh High School, and it is the most physically demanding event the cadets participate in. The mixed team placed fifth in the 5 Kilometer team run. Great job, Raiders.



**Edison Home Illumination:** On the 10<sup>th</sup> of December, twenty cadets from the Raider battalion participated in the Edison House Illumination. The cadets acted as guides preventing the touring public from going into areas that were off limits. The cadets were able to take the tour themselves, and all in all, it was a worthwhile experience for the cadets.

### Heart Walk Set UP:

The Raider battalion helped with the set up for the Lee County Heart Walk on the 12<sup>th</sup> of December. Twenty cadets assisted the Heart sponsors by setting up all of the booths and tents the day, before the actual heart walk. Riverdale JROTC has helped with this event for the past 16 years.

Finally, the Raider battalion went to The University of Tampa and University of South Florida, on a field trip on the 29<sup>th</sup> of January. Cadets toured both campuses and received information on entrance requirements and financial aid.

### Up Coming Events:

The annual JROTC Ball on 7 March, the Florida Gulf Coast Drill Meet on 14 March, the spring food drive on 1 March, district marksmanship competition on 23 April and the Awards Ceremony on 7 May are several upcoming events. Our summer camp is scheduled for the second week of June. If you ever have any questions about the JROTC program at Riverdale, please call Major Falck or 1SG Trent at 694-4141x286.



### **Three Riverdale Odyssey of the Mind Teams Currently Preparing for the Regional Competition!**

On Saturday, February 28, three teams from Riverdale High School will compete in the Sun Region Odyssey of the Mind competition. These teams have worked since September to design skits, props, and costumes to take to competition, all with a creative thinking slant. Each team has been working hard to add their own creative twist. Last year, Riverdale High School came out victorious with all of the teams placing in their problems and advancing to state competition at UCF in Orlando! The teams are excited to represent Riverdale again this year! This program is in its second year at Riverdale, and we are proud of all team members involved for their hard work and dedication these past few months. The Sun Region Odyssey of the Mind Competition will be held here at Riverdale on the 28<sup>th</sup> of February. Please come out to show your support!

<b>Problem #3 Pandora's Box</b>	<b>Problem #4 Lose Your Marbles</b>	<b>Problem #5 Silent Movie</b>
Rhyan Nolen	Anayis Hagan	Ericka Williams
Savion Marquez	Zachary Martinez	Rebecca Simpson
Marina Treviso	Angelina Gaspar	Tamara Sands
Kayla Lamontagne	Claudia Rajcok	Amelia Shoriak
Rachel Connor	Kathryn Reid	Patricia Ylisastigui
Mason Walker	Price Joseph	Kayleigh Brown
Courtney Gromalski	Kristen Cooley	Alicia Velez
<b>Coach: Mrs. Cioffoletti</b>	<b>Coach: Ms. Moreland</b>	<b>Coach: Mrs. Gridley</b>

### **RIVERDALE WRESTLING:**

The Riverdale Wrestling Raiders are undefeated in the 2015 year. They have recently won the Wellington Duals, Palm Bay Pirate Duals, The Spiegel, and their 11th LCAC title in a row. Leading the way are light weights James Monos and Daniel Williamson, along with heavyweights Jesse Pryor and Cole Schneider. Each of these wrestlers has taken first several times in these past few tournaments and are looking to place high in the state tournament in March. The Raiders will be tested again as they try to seek their 11 district title against local foes Ft. Myers and Charlotte High Schools. The JV team will be trying to earn a state title at the Junior Varsity State Tournament at Kissimmee-Osceola this weekend in a 32 team tournament.

### **BOYS TENNIS**

Boy's tennis has gotten off to a good start this season. They started off with wins over East Lee, Estero, and Clewiston. We have a mixture of returning and new players to the boys program. With the team's attitude, we feel confident that we can have a great season.

### **RHS LIFE SKILLS**

The RHS Life Skills Department is collecting pop tabs! Once we collect enough tabs, we donate them to the Ronald McDonald House. Ms. Fox has a representative from the Southwest Florida RMH coming to her classroom on February 18<sup>th</sup>. The guest speaker will be explaining how exactly pop tabs benefits the RMH. Her students have been collecting pop tabs for months, and they are very excited to share their success! The Ronald McDonald House is a non-profit organization that helps families who cannot afford medical expenses. The RMH takes care of ill children and their families. Each family is provided housing and meals, while their child undergoes treatment(s) at no cost to them. Every single expense is taken care of through donations. How incredible is it that you can change lives just by donating pop tabs! Once you finish your daily soda or other canned beverage, take the tab off and send it our way! Please help us make a difference in the lives of these children and their families! Send all tabs to room 1-04.

## OUT-OF-FIELD TEACHERS

Florida State Statute 1012.2 recognizes that teachers at times must be assigned duties in a class outside the field in which the teacher is certified. The following teachers at Riverdale High School are certified, but are engaged in training to add English of Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) and Subject Areas to their certificates:

### ESOL

Kei Anna (Bennett) Wolff  
Dawn Cioffoletti  
Sarah Crume  
Kyle Dawson  
Stacey Gridley  
Katherine Jones

Caroline Maher  
Jennifer Miller  
Shayne Morin  
Robert Taylor  
Ryan Williams

### ENGLISH 6-12

Ryan Williams

### MATH 6-12

Barbara Moreland

### ARTSY NEWS

#### SUCCESS IS A CHOICE! IT'S A GREAT TIME TO BE A RAIDER

Well we say to you... "What would you try if you knew you would not fail???" Success is automatic in the Art Department... Just Try! There are many students who have the creative ability and just need help developing the technical and informational skills to become the future artists, graphic designers, cartoonists, game designers, illustrators, interior designers, architects, fashion designers, and much more! This is a new chance to set new goals, do greater things and become a better "you". The arts have been shown to increase test scores, decrease stress, and allow students to become a more rounded and creative individual.

There is an ART CLUB for students to join and experience other mediums that were not experienced before. All art teachers will be involved this year in the Art Club. Come out and join us. We are meeting on Mondays, after school until 3:30.

#### ART SHOWS

There was a high school "only" art show at Centennial Park in early February called Art Fest Fort Myers "Under 20". Riverdale had two first place winners and four honorable mentions.

First place – Photography- Brian Vides \$400.00

First Place – Mixed Media- Tylia Battle \$400.00

Honorable Mention- Painting- Evalena Sabella \$50.00

Honorable Mention- Painting- Nicole Mageropoulos \$50.00

Honorable Mention- Digital Art- Chris Ochoa \$50.00

Honorable Mention- Drawing- Rocklyn Turano \$50.00

There is an art show at "The Southwest Florida and Lee County Fair" sometime between February – March, 2015 that Riverdale will be participating in. The big High School Juried Art Show will be in April, 2015. Please come out and support our "budding artists". If you can't make it to the shows, there is always student art displayed by the main office and art rooms. Come and see us anytime.

This year the Art Department has 14 computers to be used for graphic arts. All have Adobe Photoshop cs6 installed in them. They are all networked and used by students in the Art Department.

Contact #'s 694-4141 ext. 251 Mr. Greenblatt or 252 Mrs. Eby



## CULINARY CLUB

The Riverdale High School Culinary Club is excited about the New Year and would like you to join us to hit the ground running. As a result of the great student participation, we have gotten involved in numerous school wide activities. We have planned two Culinary Club outings, created a community service outreach group, and have collected non-perishable food items to benefit the local community.

We also participated in our annual fall trip to the University of Florida, through a sponsored ProStart Regional Workshop Event. Our participating students were able to meet and prepare dishes with the latest culinary techniques taught in the industry. Our students learning these techniques were Tessa Anderson, Sierra Lindquist, Kristy Rivera, Heather Drabik, and Erika Williams. I would also like to thank Michelle Lindquist Williams for chaperoning this event and lending her support to our program.

We have conducted our first successful fall fundraiser with Fun Pasta, distributed our products, and taken a group of students to participate in a CULINARY LAB experience and tour at KEISER UNIVERSITY.

If we sound a bit busy, hold on, we are just getting started. Please follow upcoming articles to find out how you can join in on the fun. How would you like to help? Thanks for asking! Join Culinary Club; no, it's not too late. Contribute your time, talent, and skills to the community around us. JOIN our RELAY FOR LIFE team and save a life or give someone another birthday to celebrate. Donate a homemade baked good, or simply make a donation to support our next BAKE SALE. Encourage your son or daughter to get involved.

Please listen for announcements and plan to support our students in our annual EDIBLE ARRANGEMENT DISPLAY. This event will take place during the last week of April, and all of our proceeds will benefit the local chapter of the American Cancer Society. Our students are busy planning their masterpieces, and their work will be sure to amaze once again this year. Please plan to bid on your favorite and most creative ARRANGEMENT of them all. Your bid will hopefully allow for continued hope in the fight against cancer.

See you at the next CULINARY CLUB CARES event. The club that has the "heart" beat that rocks the RAIDERS! For more details or to get involved, please email or call Mrs. Spinosa. [beverlylsp@leeschools.net](mailto:beverlylsp@leeschools.net) or 239-694-4141 x 252.

## GIVING TREE

The 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Riverdale High School Giving Tree was once again a HUGE success! Thanks to the giving hearts of our school and community, we were able to provide four families a holiday they will always remember. One of the students stopped by our office recently and thanked us – he said it was the best "Christmas" he ever had!

We also sponsored our Life Skills Class again this year, and each child was presented with a special gift they had specifically requested from Santa. In addition, we also were able to purchase cap and gown, yearbooks and GRAD Nite tickets for several of our seniors, who otherwise would not have them. Our estimated contributions to our students and families was around \$8,000.00 – WOW, what a testimony to our school and community!

Special thanks are extended to the following who went above and beyond in making this year's Giving Tree a success.

**Susan Wunderlich - Team Title Insurance Agency, Inc.**  
**Joan Friedrich – Fort Myers High School**  
**Rebekah Stewart and the Riverdale Quilters Club**  
**Student Council**  
**JROTC**  
**Siggs Air Conditioning**  
**Ken Fedak**  
**Pam Barry**  
**Traci Budmayr, Lorri Mercer, Ashley Sexton, Otto Hampel,**  
**Cindy Sentes, LaDonna and Tony Land**  
**Administration, Faculty and Staff of Riverdale High School**

We are looking forward to next year's Giving Tree and extend an invitation to you to be a part of this wonderful and fulfilling program.

Again, thank you, thank you, thank you! Jill Snyder Coordinator 2014 Holiday Giving Tree