



www.remsenncsd.org

February 2024

# THE REMSEN CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

## IMPORTANT DATES

### FEBRUARY

19 – 23 Mid-Winter Recess

### MARCH

- 1-2 Jr./Sr. HS Drama Club Musical Production, 7:00 p.m., HS Gym
- 8 Pre-K/Kindergarten Registration Deadline
- 12 Budget Workshop & BOE Meeting, 6:00 p.m., ES Library
- 15 OCMEA Jr. High All-County, Whitesboro HS
- 20 3rd Grade Recorder Recital, 6:30 p.m., ES Cafeteria
- 21 NHS Induction Ceremony, 6 p.m., HS Gym
- 27 ES Early Dismissal – Parent/Teacher Conferences
- 27 Grades 5-12 Band & Chorus MIOSM Prism Concert, 6:30 p.m., HS Gym
- 28 ES Early Dismissal – Parent/Teacher Conferences
- 29 Good Friday – No School

### APRIL

- 1 Easter Monday – No School
- 2 ES 2nd Trimester Evening of Excellence, 6:30 p.m., ES Cafeteria
- 9 SAT at Remsen, 8:00 a.m.
- 9 Budget Workshop & BOE Meeting, 6:00 p.m., ES Library
- 12-13 OCMEA Elementary All-County, Remsen
- 16 BOE Meeting & BOCES Budget Vote, 6:00 p.m., ES Library
- 17 OCMEA Scholarship Auditions
- 19 ES Arbor Day Ceremony, 1:15 p.m.
- 22-26 Spring Recess – No School

### MAY

- 10-11 NYSSMA Solo Festival I-VII(AS), CVA
- 14 Budget Hearing & BOE Meeting, 6:00 p.m., ES Library
- 18 Prom Grand March, 4:30 p.m., HS Gym
- 18 Prom, 6:00 p.m.
- 20-24 ES & HS Spirit Week
- 21 School Budget Vote, BOE Election, District Art Show & FFA Plant Sale, 1-8 p.m.

## CALENDAR

For the complete District calendar, schedule of upcoming events and more District news, please visit:

[www.remsenncsd.org](http://www.remsenncsd.org)

### - VISION STATEMENT -

Remsen Central School District forever aspires to be a unique, distinguished, welcoming learning community that fosters a growth mindset and essential traits of great character. RCS will remain dedicated to cultivating and supporting each student's individual abilities and interests as they confidently work to realize their full potential to lead happy, healthy, successful lives. All Remsen students will Soar to Success.

## MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

### The Significance of NYS Foundation Aid

The Governor's recent Executive Budget Proposal would be devastating to school districts across New York State. The cuts that she has proposed to Foundation Aid leave us all in disbelief as we question her priorities for New York's future. Under the Governor's current proposal, Remsen is slated to have Foundation Aid reduced by \$389,733. This reduction does not represent the final number that Remsen would have to endure. Increases in operating expenses from year to year continue to escalate, and without reliable and predictable funding from NYS, school districts will be faced with unfathomable gaps between revenue and expenses, compromising our mission to serve and support students.

Upstate New York schools rely heavily upon Foundation Aid as a main source of State Aid revenue. For many districts, the percentage of our budgets funded by State Aid is well over 50%, and Foundation Aid represents the lion's share. The only other mechanism schools have to increase revenue to cover increases in operating costs and cuts to State Aid is with large tax levy increases. Our school communities cannot handle extreme tax levy increases.

The Governor has latched onto several misguided claims and information regarding our school districts as identified below.

**Misconception #1:** *Schools that have been under the "Save Harmless" label have been overpaid.* Nothing could be further from the truth. Operating expenses, staff, benefits, health care, and equipment costs increase year over year. Under the outdated, inaccurate, and inequitable formula, our school district, for example, would be considered "fully funded" at an aid amount from sixteen (16) years ago. What business is still operating on funding levels from 2008?

**Misconception #2:** *Enrollment has decreased, schools should not need as much money as they did when they had more students. Less students should require less money.*

Over the course of the last ten-plus years school districts have picked up a much larger mission while becoming quite lean in staff. Education now demands, in addition to ever-increasing operating costs; school counselors for each building; social workers; English as a second language (ESL) teachers; School Resource Officers and School Patrol Officers for each building; and more intervention teachers to name a few. While mental health has always been a challenge, no one can argue that the concern for the mental health of our children and their families is the highest it has ever been. This means schools must creatively find ways to pay for mental health services and supports in schools. Increases in extreme behavioral issues at a much younger age are a tremendous challenge for school districts at our limited staffing levels. Special education student needs are greater than ever before and require more supports, programs, and services. General education program requirements continue to grow and change. Unprecedented reporting requirements in addition to continuous unfunded mandates, requirements and laws that impact school district staff without any additional NYS funding for additional staff/support create real challenges. Enrollment may not be as high, but the level of need, required supports, and services is higher than ever before.

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**Misconception #3:** *School Districts should just use the reserves that they have to make up for the loss in foundation aid that they are slated to lose next year.*

The impact of the Governor's proposal is much more than the reduction in Foundation Aid alone. When combined with increases in operating expenses, the effect is of grave concern. The Governor has stated in multiple press conferences that she is proud to have a state reserve of 15-16% (currently 19.5 billion) and that it would be irresponsible not to have a reserve of that magnitude. At the same time, she has suggested that school districts should just use up their own "reserves" to cover what she is proposing to take away from our students and communities. Asking school districts to use their "reserves" to make up for the executive budget proposal's failure to ensure that our school districts receive a reasonable and adequate level of funding is immoral hypocrisy.

Schools maintain a fund balance to be prepared for unexpected and unplanned costs that may arise throughout a school year. An example may be one or more unexpected \$100,000 special education program placements; or the need to hire a part-time or full-time ESL teacher as required by NYS for new students that transfer into the district during the school year. Schools have to be prepared for any of their students' needs and those needs change as fast as students transfer from one district to the next.

Over the last several years, Remsen Central School District has responsibly built up our reserves and our unappropriated fund balance by budgeting wisely with the federal stimulus funds, and thoughtfully crafting a conservative budget each year. Doing so has allowed Remsen to be prepared for unexpected costs, to keep tax levy increases low and consistent so as to avoid any extreme spikes in a given year, and to prepare for the "NYS Fiscal Cliff" that experts have been speculating. The Governor's proposed reductions in our Foundation Aid paired with increased expenses year over year could deplete our unappropriated fund balance in three to four years. New York State and our Governor are going over the very fiscal cliff that they presumed to lecture everyone else about. The state's periodic descent into fiscal chaos should not be at the expense of our school communities. Our fund balance and reserves serve to insulate our community from significant tax increases and drastic reductions in programs and staff caused by New York State's instability.

At Remsen Central, a small 1% increase in our entire tax levy only yields approximately \$56,458. A 2% increase in our current operating expenses is over four times that amount at \$286,303. Losing \$389,733 in State Foundation Aid is unacceptable. Sadly, with the Governor's proposal and negotiating tactics, she will spin a win for our school districts if our legislators fight to get us back to zero. How, in the year 2024, can we as a society be okay with our government allocating billions upon billions of our dollars to new initiatives and special interests before ensuring that our school districts are adequately funded each year? The Governor claims that she does not want to see our property taxes increase, but then cuts off our only alternative funding mechanism in Foundation Aid.

A failure to adequately fund and support our school districts undermines any and all other programs and initiatives that our State government aims to fund and have succeed. A quality education is fundamental for a functional society. Every organization is important. Every Legislator is pulled in many different directions to support New York State and we know how challenging that can be. All of the different branches of the tree that legislators work to grow will be for naught if we kill the roots. The importance of education and the generations of students that we are charged with preparing to learn, grow, and become decent human beings; ready to work and contribute to society, requires adequate and equitable funding for NYS State schools.

As always, we will do what it takes to ensure that Remsen Central School continues to **Soar to Success.**

Sincerely,



Timothy Jenny | Superintendent

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## **100% OF REMSEN STUDENTS SUCCEED ON 11TH GRADE ELA REGENTS EXAM!**

Congratulations to all of our Remsen students for scoring so well on the 11th grade ELA Regents Exam this January. 100% of our students passed the exam with 77% of students earning mastery (85 or higher). Outstanding job students! High fives to Mrs. Cooper and to all of our Remsen teachers for working to ensure that our students Soar to Success!

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DEAR REMSEN FAMILIES,



Each year, right around the middle of February, we reach the one-hundredth day of school. This year, we will celebrate 100 days of school on Tuesday, February 13. It is always amazing how quickly we reach this milestone each year. With less than half of the school year left, it is neat to reflect on the fun that we've had and the growth that we've seen in all of our students. We've had concerts, assemblies and other fun activities that our students have enjoyed so far this year. Our classrooms have been filled with engaging lessons, projects and other learning activities. Our youngest students have built a solid academic foundation that they will continue to build upon and our oldest students are solving algebraic equations, writing literary responses and getting ready to transition to the Jr./Sr. high school next year. Remsen Elementary School is a very exciting place to be!

Throughout the month of January, and into February, our school has been reading the book "Wishtree" by Katherine Applegate. Our One School, One Book reading event has gone very well. Each week, we've had a special guest reader that has created a video read-aloud that has been shared with each of our classes to kick off the reading for each week. Over the course of the six-week event, we will have read through the 51 chapters of the book. In addition to reading through the book, students have also answered trivia questions to win prizes and have participated in other activities as well. The reading event will wrap-up on

Friday, February 16 with a school-wide assembly.

Also in February, there are a number of other activities and celebrations that our elementary students participated in, including our winter school Spirit Week, our beginning band and fourth grade chorus concert, and the Elementary Drama Club presentation. Our Spirit Week, held January 29 through February 2, was a lot of fun with themed dress-up days and the presentation of the "Rams Spirit" trophy to our Spirit Week winning class. On February 7, our elementary beginning band and fourth grade chorus performed for the first time. It is exciting to see our young musicians take the stage to perform for friends and family. On February 9, our drama club presented "Goldilocks on Trial," a fun tale telling the story of Goldilocks on trial for entering the home of the three bears. It was a fun tale and it is always great to see our elementary students shine on the stage.

Looking beyond February, we have a number of events and activities to look forward to, including our Music in our Schools Month concert, the 2nd Trimester Evening of Excellence, and parent-teacher conferences. The remainder of the school year is sure to be just as exciting and full of learning as the first half of the year.

Thank you very much for your support. As always, if you ever have any comments, questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out. It is only in working together that we will be able to provide the best for the students of Remsen Elementary School.

Sincerely,

*Gary M. Winghart Jr.*

Gary M. Winghart Jr. | Elementary School Principal

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## REMSSEN STUDENT REPRESENTS DISTRICT AT *Area All-State*

Congratulations to Leila Ward for earning the opportunity to represent Remsen at Area All-State! To be considered for Area All-State, Leila had to perform a level 6 (the highest level) solo at last year's NYSSMA Solo Festival. A NYSSMA adjudicator evaluated her performance, assigned a rating and gave comments. This evaluation, along with a teacher recommendation, went to the NYSSMA Zone 4 Area All-State selection committee. There were hundreds of submissions from Oneida, Herkimer and Oswego counties. Way to go, Leila!





DEAR REMSEN FAMILIES,



Our students have accomplished much in the first half of the school year. They have learned, grown, and become more accomplished in their academics and extracurriculars. They make Remsen a great place to be and we are fortunate to have the honor of helping them along in their journey here at the high school.

The second semester will be full of great opportunities and events. We will continue to recognize academic growth, enjoy musical performances, celebrate our athletic accomplishments, and find many other ways to support our students. To help our students navigate the challenges they face as adolescents, we have connected with various organizations to provide presentations and information around important topics such as bullying, the hazards of vaping, and internet safety. We are committed to supporting our students academically, behaviorally, socially, and emotionally.

Please do not hesitate to reach out if you or your child need anything. It is going to be a wonderful second semester and I look forward to helping our students on their individualized pathways as they continue to Soar to Success.

Sincerely,

*Sanya Pelrah*

Sanya Pelrah | Jr./Sr. High School Principal

## REMSEN AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE TEACHER RECEIVES

# National Teaching Award

Remsen agricultural science teacher Mrs. Rayne Ives was recently recognized for her hard work and dedication to agricultural education with a national teaching award.

At the 2023 National Association of Agricultural Educators (NAAE) Convention, Mrs. Ives received the 2023 NAAE Outstanding Early Career Teacher Award. She was one of six educators nationwide who received the award.

The NAAE Outstanding Early Career Teacher Award is presented to an NAAE member in their third to eighth year of teaching who has exemplified great teaching methods in the classroom and has been dedicated to their career through personal and professional growth. Mrs. Ives is currently in her seventh year teaching in the Remsen Central School District, where she teaches seventh and eighth grade agriculture; Introduction to Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources; Animal Science; Plant Science; Agricultural Power; Agricultural Science; Food Science and Career Skills.

Mrs. Ives started the District's agricultural education program, which is New York State Career and Technical Education (CTE) approved, in 2017, which has allowed her to share her passion for agriculture and create strong relationships with community members. Since the program's founding, Mrs. Ives has continued to grow the program's FFA membership, class size, course offerings and community involvement. She has obtained more than \$120,000 in scholarships and grants to support the program's development and growth.

"I am honored to be recognized at a national level, which is something that shows how special Remsen truly is," Mrs. Ives said. "Although being a teacher was never my original plan, it is something that challenges me on a daily basis and I am always thinking about the future of the program. I have been afforded many opportunities for professional development through NYAAE and NAAE which I truly enjoy and have created a network that stems from the Remsen community to across the United States from these experiences."

Earlier this year, Mrs. Ives was named as the 2023 New York Outstanding Early Career Teacher by the New York Association of Agricultural Educators.

**Congratulations to Mrs. Ives and thank you for all that you do for the Remsen Central School District!**





# Grades 5-12 Holiday Concert

On December 20, the Grades 5-12 Holiday Concert was held at the Remsen Jr./Sr. High School. The grades 5 and 6 ensembles, junior high ensembles and high school ensembles each performed a very festive arrangement of holiday and winter-themed music.

The high school band and chorus ensembles invited staff and community members to join in the performance for one piece each. The chorus performed "Carol of the Bells" arranged by Patrick Leiberger and the band performed "Christmas 'Pop' Sing-Along" arranged by James Ployar, with staff and community participation. For the "Christmas 'Pop' Sing-Along," the entire audience was invited to join in by singing along to a variety of well-known Christmas carols.

It was a wonderful night of holiday music and fun, and it was a great way to celebrate the season and the talented Remsen musicians.



## INTERNATIONAL CLUB ATTENDS FRENCH NIGHT AT SYRACUSE CRUNCH GAME

On Friday, January 26, International Club took 36 students to French Night at the Syracuse Crunch vs. Laval Rockets hockey game. Students posed for a picture with the French-speaking players after the game on the ice.



## REMSEN NINTH GRADER COMPETES IN LUGE IN EMPIRE STATE GAMES



Remsen Central School District 9th grade student Michael Montegari competed in the Empire State Games this past weekend in Luge. Michael did an amazing job and earned the silver medal (only .08 behind the gold medal winner). He continues to train with the USA Luge Development team in Lake Placid and will also compete on April 6, 2024 in the Youth National Race.

Congratulations Michael!



# Pre-K and Kindergarten Registration for 2024-2025 School Year

The Remsen Central School District has begun the pre-kindergarten and kindergarten recruitment and registration process for the 2024-2025 school year. Registration will be open until March 8, 2024.

Universal Pre-Kindergarten is a full-day program and is open to all children residing in the Remsen School District who will be four (4) years old on or before December 1, 2024 of the current school year. Income eligibility is not a factor and all families are encouraged to apply.

Kindergarten is open to all children residing in the Remsen School District who will be five (5) years old on or before December 1, 2024 of the current school year. If your child did not attend the District's pre-K program, they will need to be registered to attend the kindergarten program.

If your child will be starting the pre-kindergarten or kindergarten program in the fall of 2024, please contact elementary secretary Ms. Kerr at 315-205-4300 ext. 4223 to request a registration packet. Once you have completed your registration packet, please call Ms. Kerr to schedule an appointment to return your completed paperwork.

Registration paperwork is also available on the Remsen Central School District website at [www.remsencsd.org](http://www.remsencsd.org).



## EXCITING ANNOUNCEMENT FROM THE STEUBEN FISH AND GAME CLUB!

The Steuben Fish and Game Club is creating a new Club sport for all 6-12 grade students at Remsen Central School. The Remsen Clay Target Team plans to start practicing this coming summer with the anticipation of competing in the NYS Clay Target League in the Fall of 2024. Please visit our Facebook page, Remsen Clay Target Team. There will be an informational poster from the Steuben Fish and Game Club in the coming months with informational meetings to follow. Our Email is [remsenclaytargetclub@gmail.com](mailto:remsenclaytargetclub@gmail.com)

## *Students Attend Annual Snowball*

The annual Snowball dance was held on January 27. Thank you to the junior class for planning this event. Students enjoyed dancing and treats. It was a great time!





# FIRST TRIMESTER *Evening of Excellence*



On December 19, the first trimester Evening of Excellence was held at Remsen Elementary School. Students and their families were invited to the ceremony to celebrate students' achievements during the first trimester. More than 90 awards were presented to students in pre-K through grade 6, including three new Essential Area Awards.

For the first time, students received the Art Star Award, the Performance Arts Award and the Participation and Sportsmanship Award for excellent participation and effort in each of the essential areas. Other awards presented during the ceremony included certificates for Honor Roll and High Honor Roll, Good Citizenship, Soaring to Success and the Alumni Association Awards. It was a wonderful night of celebrating many of the elementary students' achievements and hard work.

## *Remsen Central School* COMMUNITY FOOD DRIVE

Each year, the Remsen Central School community works together with the Foothills Rural Community Ministry to help the greater community during the holiday season. Remsen students, staff, family and community members did an amazing job giving again this year. The Remsen Central School community donated more than 57 full boxes and bags of food!

A special thank you to team leaders Mrs. Autumn Fasolino, Mrs. Mary Jane Keener, Mrs. Emily Laurey and Mrs. Pat Robinson, and to the Foothills Rural Community Ministry for all that they do to support the local communities. This is what the season is all about! Thank you to the amazing Remsen students, staff, parents and community members!





## NEW STUDENT FURNITURE INSTALLED AT *Remsen Elementary School*

During the first week of December, the new student furniture made possible through the ARP Grant was delivered to Remsen Elementary School. With the help of students, staff, parent volunteers and the custodial team, the old student furniture was successfully removed and replaced with new student desks and seating for all classrooms. The new desks offer the flexibility to be placed individually, in pods, or paired together as tables of two, three or more. The new chairs, stools and Oodles provide comfort, flexibility and space for students to work and learn.

In the elementary art room, all of the old chairs and cafeteria tables that were being used were replaced with new studio art butcher block tables. It all looks amazing and students and staff alike are very excited. It was extraordinary to see students, volunteers and custodians working together to make it all happen.

A sincere thank you to the custodial team and to all of the volunteers. Without them, this major undertaking would not have been possible! RCS is the place to be.

**Thank you again to everyone that played a part in making this happen for the elementary students. You are appreciated!**



## REMSSEN ELEMENTARY HOLDS SECOND FAMILY NIGHT OF THE SCHOOL YEAR

On January 30, the Remsen Elementary School held its second Elementary Family Night of the 2023-2024 school year. Families were invited to come for an evening of food and fun. Once again, Cornell Cooperative Extension joined us for this event, providing the meal and the programming. Families enjoyed pizza and salad for dinner, followed by a presentation for parents on internet and cell phone usage.

While parents participated in the presentation, students enjoyed fun indoor games. After the presentation, parents joined students and staff for more indoor game fun, playing Uno, Jenga, Headbands and more.

The next Elementary Family Night is scheduled for April 18. More information will be shared about the event as the date approaches.



# GRADES PK-4 *Holiday Concert*

On December 13, students in grades pre-K through four celebrated the holiday season with a musical performance. Friends and family gathered to enjoy the holiday songs while appreciating the hard work and talent of the elementary students.



## EIGHTH GRADE STUDENTS LEARN FINANCIAL LITERACY

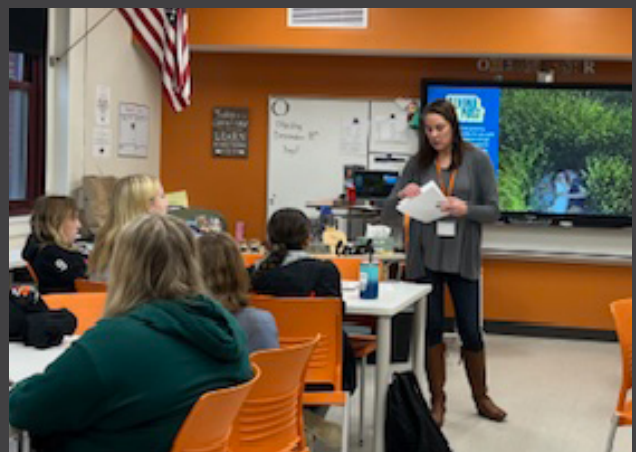
On November 27, Cristina Ferdinand, a community educator from First Source Federal Credit Union, came into Mrs. Obernesser's eighth grade home and careers class to discuss financial literacy with the students.

Students were able to ask questions while she informed them about savings accounts, interest rates and the differences between wants and needs.



## DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY EDUCATION AT YWCA MOHAWK VALLEY SPEAKS TO HEALTH CLASS

Tracy Stancato, Director of Community Education at the YWCA Mohawk Valley, visited Mrs. Obernesser's health class at Remsen Jr./Sr. High School. She focused on the One Love presentation of Behind the Post. It focused on healthy vs. unhealthy relationships and taught students that what you see on social media is not always what the real relationship is like.





# MEET EASTON,

## REMSSEN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL'S NEW THERAPY DOG!

Remsen Elementary will be introducing a new friend to bring a smile to any students having a "ruff" day.

His name is Easton and he is a lovable two-year-old Goldendoodle. Easton will be located in the counseling office working alongside his handler and owner, Erika Kistowski, elementary school counselor.

Students recently learned about "That Doodle Easton," a story about a new student who is confused when he is greeted by a dog upon walking into his new school. Kistowski explains how she wrote a children's book and read it to each classroom to explain the purpose of having a therapy dog at school and rules that need to be followed. "The students loved learning about Easton and how he will help me at school to do my job as a school counselor. They are so excited for me to start bringing him in," said Kistowski.

Easton has a busy schedule! He will be going into classrooms during monthly guidance lessons and will be in the school counselor's office for individual and small group counseling sessions.

In 2021, Kistowski attended a NYS School Counseling Conference at the Turning Stone Resort Casino and participated in a therapy dog workshop. She learned how to successfully incorporate a therapy dog in school counseling. A group of school counselors from the Syracuse area currently have 14 dogs in their district. They said how it completely changes the school environment and their relationships with their students.

Last school year, Mrs. Lynn Clark started volunteering at Remsen with her therapy dog, Napoleon. To further help the students here at Remsen, Kistowski decided to start the process of getting Easton certified. Easton went through training at K-9 Transformation and therapy dog training at White Star Dog Training. He became certified through Therapy Dogs International (TDI) and he also has his American Kennel Club (AKC) Canine Good Citizen (CGC) certificate.

Research shows that therapy dogs help students have better coping strategies, reduce stress and anxiety, improve attendance, help students have less behavior referrals, help teach empathy and social skills, increase confidence in reading, and encourage students to talk about their emotions.

While on school grounds, therapy dogs are always on a leash and accompanied by their handler. All interactions with the therapy dogs are voluntary so everyone within the building feels safe and comfortable.



### THERAPY DOGS CAN HELP STUDENTS...

- HAVE BETTER COPING SKILLS
- REDUCE STRESS AND ANXIETY
- IMPROVE ATTENDANCE
- LESS BEHAVIOR REFERRALS
- HELP TEACH EMPATHY AND SOCIAL SKILLS
- INCREASE CONFIDENCE IN READING
- ENCOURAGE STUDENTS TO TALK ABOUT THEIR EMOTIONS

(ALFRED UNIVERSITY)



### meet EASTON



BIRTHDAY: FEBRUARY 23, 2021  
BREED: GOLDENDOODLE  
FAVORITE TREAT: STEAK 🥩  
FAVORITE TOY: KONG TENNIS BALL 🎾  
HANDLER: MISS K. (ELEMENTARY  
SCHOOL COUNSELOR)



### welcome back NAPOLEON



BIRTHDAY: JANUARY 10, 2018  
BREED: BICHON FRISE  
FAVORITE TREAT: BISCUITS  
FAVORITE TOY: RUBBER BALL  
HANDLER: MRS. LYNN CLARK





# ANNUAL PRODUCTION OF 'A Christmas Carol'

The second annual production of "A Christmas Carol" was held on December 8-9. Congratulations to the cast and crew for outstanding performances both evenings!



## REMSSEN FFA ATTENDS DISTRICT 5 LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT EVENTS

On February 3, the Remsen FFA attended the District 5 Leadership Development Events at Hamilton Central School. There were more than 20 chapters and 250 students present! Students participated in a variety of contests and proudly represented the Remsen FFA for their first time competing! Highlights include:

- Molly Southwick: Advancing to round two of Sr. Prepared Speaking
- Riley Horn: Placing in the top eight of Sr. People in Agriculture and advancing to the Substate competition.
- Wyatt Ehart: Placing in the top eight of Sr. Creed Speaking and advancing to the Substate competition. Wyatt also competed in Employment Skills.

Other members that competed were Michael Nelson in Sr. Prepared Speaking, Zach Geer in Employment Skills, and Shianne Austin in Sr. Prepared Speaking.



## Seniors Attend SABA Breakfast

On December 1, several seniors attended the Oneida-Herkimer-Madison BOCES School and Business Alliance's 22nd annual breakfast. This was a great opportunity for the students to learn about careers that may interest them and to network with professionals.





# Holiday Fun ❄️

## AT THE JR./SR. HIGH SCHOOL

The week before winter break was filled with holiday fun at the Remsen Jr./Sr. High School. Students participated in a festive spirit week, they voted for the best-decorated door, Principal Pelrah served treats and hot chocolate, the cafeteria staff made delicious cookies for students, and at lunch on Thursday there was a raffle for an Amazon gift card. It was a fabulous and festive few days.



## Remsen Third Graders Receive Dictionaries from Local Rotary Club

On January 26, three members of the Adirondack Foothills Rotary Club visited Remsen Elementary to present each third grade student with a dictionary. The dictionaries were presented by Barb Freeman, Joan Barnhart and Sue Secor. Students learned a bit about the mission of the Rotary Club and some of the work that they do locally and around the world. Students also received a brief lesson on the use of a dictionary and the wonderful tools and resources that are available in their new dictionaries.

Students were very excited to have their own copy of a dictionary and were interested in the information and resources that could be found inside. Thank you to Ms. Freeman, Ms. Barnhart and Ms. Secor for coming to visit and for providing each third grader with a dictionary.



# Honor Roll Celebration

On December 8, the Remsen Jr./Sr. High School held an honor roll celebration for the first marking period of the 2023-24 school year. Congratulations to all of the students who made the high honor roll and honor roll!

## Grade 7 - High Honor

Spencer Anderson  
Jasmine Colón  
Arynn Day  
Lydia Gates  
Jayde Hammill  
Olivia Johnson  
Cassidy Kerr  
Chelsea McCauley  
Julia Natalini  
Alexis Petteys  
Evelyn Shew  
Emmelia Smith  
Jacob Southwick  
Ciarra Wendell  
Isabella Wilcox  
Hannah Winghart

## Grade 8 - High Honor

Greta Burdell  
Morgan Gates  
Trent Jenny  
Owen Piaschky  
Chase Poczatek  
Cynthia Poczatek  
Wyatt Rapson  
Madison Wollaber

## Grade 9 - High Honor

Tiarra Fox  
Alexis Helmer  
Brooklyn Helmer  
Kailyn Helmer  
Marissa Karis  
Jackson LaBella  
Ella LaFave  
Glen LaFave  
Olivia Lalyer  
Michael Montegari  
Lexxis Mosher  
Taylor Murphy  
Madelyn Prosser  
Emily Spatto

## Grade 10 - High Honor

Jaden Guo  
Keara Hyde  
Ethan Karis  
Nathan Leska  
Marissa Morris  
Gavin Nelson  
Brygit Pruitt  
Jeweliet Pruitt  
Ashley Roberts  
Ellie Secor  
Ella Staskoski  
Jaedyn Wilcox  
Makayla Wilcox

## Grade 11 - High Honor

Nathan Amo  
Shianne Austin  
Natalie Barnard  
Shaylyn Dolly  
Dylan Gutowski  
Matthew Helmer  
Dylan Jones  
Madisyn Pett  
Ean Piaschky  
Alice Roman  
Colton Walker

## Grade 12 - High Honor

Imagin Aiken  
Benjamin Becker  
Zoey Coe  
Mckayla Finn  
En Xi Guo  
Zachary Helmer  
Isabella Lalyer  
Tayler Nelson  
Ava Russo  
Brian Secor  
Leila Ward

## Grade 7 - Honor

Addison Battle  
Oliver Burns  
Daniel Kaufman  
Jase Kinsley  
Mason LaBella  
Jack McIsaac  
Caleb Millick  
Madelyn Pekieliak  
Madison Spadaro  
Rosalie Walker  
Hunter Wilcox  
Sophia Yager

## Grade 8 - Honor

Chloe Felker  
Bryce Graves  
Lacey Green  
Logan Houck  
Colin Jones  
Alannah Lawlor  
Chloee Matt  
Jasmine Petteys  
Anthony Warner

## Grade 9 - Honor

Andrew Becker  
Angelyn Garci  
Michael Nelson, Jr.  
Moilly Southwick  
Gardner Walker

## Grade 10 - Honor

Angelina DelGuidice  
Hayleigh Elliott  
Burke Gates  
Morgan Horn  
Jaiden Maher  
Regan Meeker  
Eva Newland  
Kole Poczatek  
Emily Shufelt

## Grade 11 - Honor

Jack Anken  
Alexander Carnright  
Isabella Colón  
Jennah Day  
Gabrielle Gengler  
Tucker Hollenbeck  
Jaden Jordan  
Benjamin Kaufman  
Marta Plaza-Cos  
Skylar Smith  
Abbie Tyson  
Joseph Wagner

## Grade 12 - Honor

Charles Deland  
Austin Jones  
Paul Montegari  
Malik Pett  
Matthew Tavenner





# Varsity Volleyball Team

## COMPETES IN QUEENS CLASSIC TOURNAMENT

The Remsen varsity volleyball team recently competed in the first annual Queens Classic volleyball tournament at SUNY Morrisville. This tournament was a "More Than a Game" fundraising tournament to benefit the Upstate Cancer Center and Upstate Golisano Children's Hospital.

Not only did the Lady Rams raise \$480 for a great cause, they also won the tournament. They were the number one seed going into the finals with a 9-1 record. They went on to have a dominating win over Cincinnatus. The team brought home a crown which will be proudly displayed in the trophy showcase. The entire team played with heart and pride. It was the best win of the season so far. This tournament also showed the team that they have what it takes to win sectionals this year.

**Congratulations to the entire varsity volleyball team!**



## Remsen Volleyball Teams Hold Second Annual Sets for Pets Night



The Remsen JV and varsity volleyball teams had their second annual Sets for Pets night at the home games versus Morrisville on January 19. Together with the efforts of the Remsen community and the Morrisville teams and fans, they raised \$400 in monetary donations along with a van full of needed pet supplies.

On Tuesday, January 23, the Remsen teams delivered the donations to the Anita's Stevens Swan Humane Society and they were very appreciative of the teams' efforts. The team even got to visit with some of the pets while they were there.

The Remsen volleyball teams would like to thank everyone for their continued support.





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## Scholar-Athlete Teams

At the end of each sports season, the New York State Public High School Athletic Association (NYSPHSAA) honors teams and individuals who excel in the classroom. These student-athletes, teams and schools work very hard throughout the year and deserve to be recognized for their academic success. The student-athletes listed earned a 90 or above average in the classroom for the first quarter during the fall varsity sports season.

### Girls Varsity Soccer

Imagin Aiken  
Tiarra Fox  
Alexis Helmer  
Brooklyn Helmer  
Marissa Karis  
Ella LaFave  
Isabella Lalyer  
Taylor Murphy  
Tayler Nelson  
Makayla Wilcox

### Boys Varsity Soccer

Ben Becker  
Zach Helmer  
Dylan Jones  
Ethan Karis  
Gavin Nelson  
Ean Piaschyk  
Brian Secor

### Boys Varsity Cross Country

Dylan Jones  
Ethan Karis  
Glen LaFave  
Gavin Nelson  
Ean Piaschyk

### Girls Varsity Cross Country

Natalie Barnard  
Evalyn Gates  
Marissa Karis  
Ellie Secor  
Leila Ward  
Alivia Hopsicker (OF)  
Hailey Parker (OF)

**Congratulations to the fall varsity student-athletes who were honored for their academic and athletic achievements!**

## COACHES VS. CANCER EVENT RAISES MONEY FOR AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY

On January 26, the Remsen Central School District hosted a Coaches vs. Cancer event during the boys varsity basketball game, organized by the Remsen Sports Boosters.

Donations for the American Cancer Society were made throughout the evening during the varsity basketball game between the Remsen Rams and the Town of Webb Timberwolves. Donations were raised through a 50/50 raffle (the winnings were donated back), donations with cancer cards that are displayed in the hallway outside the gymnasium, and white out Coaches vs. Cancer shirts. The Remsen community and the community from Old Forge came together to raise more than \$1,000 for the American Cancer Society.

We look forward to this event each year to assist in the fight against cancer. We're very proud of the Remsen community and its efforts in helping to find a cure and fight back against cancer.



## NEW STAFF SPOTLIGHT



### MRS. CARINO TEACHING ASSISTANT

Mrs. Lacey Carino will be joining the Remsen team as a teaching assistant in the elementary school. Lacey is a Remsen alum who graduated in 2013. She then went on to get her associate degree from Mohawk Valley Community College. Lacey has worked as a teaching assistant in a special education classroom at Upstate Caring Partners for the last five years. She enjoys bowling, bird watching and spending time at her Remsen home with her husband and two cats. Lacey is very excited to join the Remsen team!



### MISS KINSELLA TEACHING ASSISTANT

Miss Faith Kinsella has joined the Remsen team as a teaching assistant in the testing center at the Jr./Sr. high school. She received her associate degree from Herkimer College and is currently a student at Western Governors University where she majors in Elementary Education. Upon completing her undergraduate studies, Miss Kinsella plans to further her education and earn a degree in Special Education. She currently lives in Newport with her fiancé and pit bull puppy and she's very happy to be starting off her career in the Remsen CSD!



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SCHOOL DISTRICT

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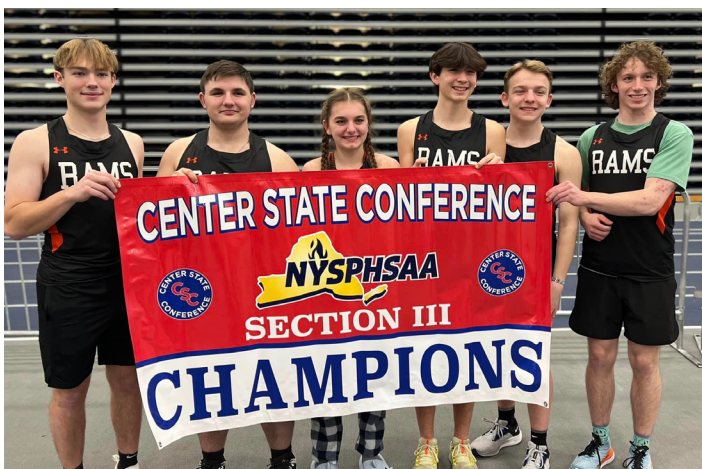
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— SOAR TO SUCCESS —

**Congratulations to the Boys' Varsity Indoor Track and Field Team  
for earning the title CSC Section III Champions!  
Congratulations to our Boys' and Girls' individual champions as well!**



**RCS IS THE PLACE TO BE!**