

Winter, 2015-16 Elementary Building Newsletter

REMSEN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Dream Big.....Make a Difference

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

We are pleased to offer you this newsletter as a reminder of the good progress students experience at REMSEN Elementary School. Changes this year to make improvements that rocket our wonderful school steadily and successfully to top excellence have been many, and we are so happy to continue the work every day for student success...

Our excellent educators are faithfully implementing the second year of our new writing program, PK-8; the Lucy Calkins Reading program, and building a reading culture for the work we do every day. We have found cost-efficient ways to offer job-embedded professional development through our reading and math coaches/curriculum specialists, Mrs. Bunker and Mrs. Sommer, for grades 3-8. Our Dean of Students, Mr. Tinker, works to help me keep our students' needs and our school organizational structure ship-shape every day.

At RES we are Peace Builders. We make mistakes, but we always review the rules daily and we always right our wrongs. This Positive Behavior Intervention System (PBIS) sets REMSEN apart from other schools – and we're very proud of the program and staff who make Peacebuilding their focus each day.

Thank you for your efforts at home to bring the very best education to our students. Attendance has been an important basic area of focus and improvement at RES. I appreciate that you are valuing the need for students to start their day with good attendance and instruction that must begin at 8:00 sharp. We ask all students to be in school no later than 7:50 am so that an 8:00 instructional start time can be ensured, and we appreciate your efforts to ensure your student's arrival – on time, ready to learn, each day.

Please check home mailings and our ever-evolving website at www.remsencsd.org. Subscribe to the Parent Portal to keep constantly informed on your child's grades, attendance and more. You may call Dede Gardner, REMSEN Elementary secretary, for details on how to gain access.

Thank you for your partnership that make students successful. We are looking forward to a wonderful spring and continued learning at high levels. Please remember – don't ever hesitate to call or visit whenever you need something or even simply have a comment or concern that needs to be heard. We are in this together, and we value knowing that.

Yours Very Truly,

Dr. Crankshaw



Upcoming Events

March 2

Pre-K & Kdg. Registration

9:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.-Elem. Office

March 3

Cabaret

@ 7:30 p.m. in the High School

March 4

FFA Sponsored Country Dance

HS students—6:30-9:30 pm

March 8

Board of Education Meeting

@ 6:00 p.m. – Budget Review

@ 7:00 p.m. – Regular Meeting

March 10

Bridge Arts Ensemble—Elem.

March 11 & 12

Drama Club Play

@ 7:30 p.m. – High School Gym

March 12

Girls' Volleyball Chicken Dinner

4:30-6:00 - High School Café.

March 15

PTG meeting—6:00 pm-Elem.

March 17

Staff Professional Development

11:15 Elem.; 11:30 HS dismissal

March 18

Superintendent's Conference Day

No School for Students

March 22

Board of Education Special Mtg.

@ 6:00 p.m. – Budget Review

@ 7:00 p.m. – Regular Meeting

March 23 & 24

Parent-Teacher Conferences

11:15 dismissal—Elem. only

March 25

No School – Good Friday

March 27

Happy Easter

March 31

**"Everything parents should know
about Technology & Your Child"**

Workshop—6:30-8:30 pm-HS



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GREAT things are happening.....Reading and Writing

While students in Remsen may not be dreaming about reading and writing, great things are happening. Students in kindergarten – 6th grade are writing, researching, and exploring their world as writers for the second year. The Lucy Calkins' Units of Study for Writing program engages students in writing independently for various purposes. With short mini-lessons to guide students' acquisition of skills and strategies for writing, students spend significant amounts of time actually writing – and this is where the learning occurs as students grow as writers with teachers providing support for students' increasingly independent writing success. Students and teachers say that they like this workshop approach to writing instruction and it's making a difference in the writing students produce.

New to the elementary building this year is Lucy Calkins' Units of Study for Reading in kindergarten through grade 4. This program uses the same workshop format as does the writing program. Students spend a few minutes in a mini-lesson taught by the teacher and then read, read, read. The teachers share strategies and skills for reading in each mini-lesson. Then the students practice these skills and strategies while they read books of their own choosing. Students have access to books that are 'just right' for their independent reading abilities so they can be successful readers. What they might not realize is they are gaining stamina as readers and thinkers. As they move through these learning experiences – reading, writing, and thinking become welcome routines where students are increasingly in charge of their own learning.



In all classrooms, PreK through 12, teachers and students are meeting, talking, reading and writing ... and thinking about literacy. We have a common vision of a literate student body who engage with teachers, administrators, parents, and the community to share the various ways they understand literacy – in English, math, science, social studies, world languages – and in PE, art, music, and technology. Literacy extends throughout our day and binds us as a community of learners. We are in the early stages of this new mindset. It's an exciting time to be a part of Remsen Central School District!

"Technology and Your Child"

Technology is a big part of our lives and our child's life. On Thursday, March 31, from 6:30-8:30 pm, Remsen School will be hosting a program for parents on everything you should know about technology and your child. The program will include a panel discussion, a time for questions and answers and some special performances from our students. For more information, please contact Natalie Zumpano at 831-3851 ext. 248 or at nzumpano@remsenncsd.org.



News from the School Nurse....Mrs. Dalton

My name is Denise Dalton, for those of you who do now know, I am the new Elementary School Nurse. I have been a nurse for six years, a graduate from St. Elizabeth's College of Nursing and SUNY IT. My past work experience has been predominately in the hospital setting, working within the Medical-Surgical floor and Intensive Care Units. I have enjoyed the change, working with all of you, your children and staff. Thank you for welcoming me into your community.

This year we have utilized community agencies which have provided us with health-promoting resources. Currently we are working with the Central Association of the Blind and Visually Impaired (CABVI) and Mohawk Valley Perinatal Network. According to CABVI, approximately one in twenty children have undetected vision problems. It is important to identify these visual discrepancies in a timely manner. How well a child learns depends on how well he or she sees. CABVI is currently assisting in the visual screenings for our PreK, Kdg. and special needs students. We plan to have these screenings completed by winter break.

Mohawk Valley Perinatal Network has offered Remsen a curriculum titled Cavity Free Kids. Children with poor oral health status are 3 times more likely to miss school. The activities and information provided by Cavity Free Kids will promote oral health. Teaching students about the importance of brushing their teeth, regular dental visits, cleanings and activities to do at home. They have also provided us with a number of parent information sheets and resources available within Oneida County. Many of which are offered at lower cost and/or take traditional Medicaid and Fidelis Medicaid Managed Care. Currently these resources are available in the nursing office, please contact Mrs. Hamlin, or myself, and we can forward these to you. We are in the process of implementing this program here at Remsen and looking forward to seeing what it will bring.

I have had a wonderful start to the school year here at Remsen in my new position. It has been enjoyable working with all of you, your children, and staff. Thank you again for welcoming me into your community and allowing me to work with each one of you.

SITRIN HOLIDAY PROJECT

During December, Mrs. McEvoy-Stack's 4th, 5th and 6th grade student's wanted to do something for an organization where they could help out and make a difference. Once they put their heads together, it was decided to help out local wounded warriors. Sitrin Wounded Warriors came to mind.

To raise funds for this program, parents and/or students could donate money to have their teacher's classroom door decorated, decorate a student locker or purchase a Jolly Rancher candy cane.

In less than a month, the students in Mrs. McEvoy-Stack's class raised **\$437.00** to help out the Wounded Warriors of Sitrin in Utica. Mrs. McEvoy-Stack's students are hoping to do a monthly project to continue helping out the Sitrin Wounded Warriors. Thank you to all who helped make this fundraiser a success.

Cure For Cabin Fever

Even though this winter has been a mild one, children are still experiencing those cabin fever blues. To cure those cabin fever blues, Mrs. Amy Williams, Teacher Assistant provided craft activities for students in grades K-6.



Activities included making a pinecone bird feeder; soup in a jar and friendship bracelets. There were also special guests that came in to do a teddy bear story hour for K-3. Students were able to share the story with their teddy bear and have hot cocoa and cookies.

All activities were free and a healthy snack was provided to students who participated. Thank you to Mrs. Williams and her very dedicated volunteers.

PTG Craft Fair...Science Fair...Book Fair

In the Spring of 2015, the Remsen Parent-Teacher Group (PTG) held its 1st first annual **"Spring Into Spring"** Craft Fair. The craft fair was such a huge success that the Parent-Teacher Group will once again host the 2nd annual **"Spring Into Spring"** Craft Fair.

Due to the popularity of last year's craft fair, this year's Craft Fair will be held at the Remsen High School on **Sunday, April 17, 2016 from 11:00 am-4:00 pm**.

If you are interested in becoming a vendor, the cost is \$20.00 per vendor for a 10 x 8 foot booth area or \$15.00 for a table space. Additional tables may be rented at \$5.00 per table. Vendors may reserve more than one area for their crafts.

A registration form is necessary to reserve a space at the Remsen PTG 2nd Annual Craft Fair. Registration forms with payment are due no later than **Friday, April 1, 2016**. Registration forms are available on the Remsen Central School District web-site at www.remsencsd.org. Go to "For Parents" tab and select PTG. For more information or to receive a registration form, please contact Carleen Taylor at 315-272-3955 or Lisa Bronson at 315-831-2473

This event is open to the public and there will be a \$1.00 donation fee for admittance. Proceeds from this event will be used to sponsor educational field trips for students at the Remsen Central School District.



Start getting your ideas ready! The ever popular Elementary Science Fair will be held on **Thursday, May 12 at 6:00 p.m.**

Last year's Science Fair was the best ever with a large turnout of entries. Let's do it again this year, but even bigger and better!



If your child loves to read and is in need of some new books, then come to the PTG sponsored Scholastic book fair. The BOGO (buy one get one) Book Fair will be held during the week of **May 9-12** at the Elementary School.

The next meeting of the PTG will be held on Tuesday, March 15 at 6:00 p.m. in the Elementary Media Center. The PTG would like to thank the parents, community and students for their continued support.

Box Tops for Education

Remsen Central School District participates in the Box Tops for Education Program. The school earns cash by clipping Box Top coupons from participating products such as: Yoplait Yogurt, General Mills cereals, Betty Crocker products and many other products.



It's simple....Just look for the box top symbol on participating products (be sure the coupon is not expired), clip the box top and either send them in to school with your child or drop them off at the elementary school office.

The school's goal for this year is to earn **\$1,000** worth of points. To date, we have earned **\$468.10** towards purchasing needed items for our school. We are almost half-way there, please help us to achieve our goal.

Since the inception of the Box Tops for Education Program, over **\$7,000** has been earned towards the purchase of I-Pads, the Planetarium, Common Core Math materials, Reading books and supplies to be used within the school.

Thank you for your continued support.

"A Dream Is A Wish Your Heart Makes"

.....A song from Cinderella that encourages her animal friends to never stop dreaming.

Students have had the opportunity to engage in a fun school activity while helping provide food for those in our community who are in need. The Remsen Teachers' Association at REMSEN Elementary School held their annual Food Drive again this year in cooperation with the Foothills Food Panty. Approximately 71 boxes were filled due to the generosity of students and staff at the Remsen Central School. Food donations benefit local families at Christmas and throughout the year.



A Cinderella theme encouraged all to participate by hiding and finding Cinderella's slipper.

For every food item each student brought in, they were able to put their name in to win the Magic Basket. The classroom that donated the most food items, also won a prize.

Student Information Sheet

At the beginning of each school year, every student in the district receives a Student Information sheet to update your child's information. Information such as parent/guardian name, telephone numbers, emergency contact names and numbers.

Frequently, home or cell telephone numbers change, addresses change, custody changes or emergency contact information changes. In any of these situations, please contact the school as soon as possible to update your information.

We depend on this information to notify you of weather related delays or closures and most importantly to keep your child safe.

Pre-K and Kindergarten Registration

The Remsen Central School District has begun the recruitment and registration process for Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten for the 2016-17 school year. **Registration for all Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten students will be held on Wednesday, March 2, 2016, from 9:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m., at the Remsen Elementary School Main Office.**

Universal Pre-Kindergarten is a full-day program and is open to all children residing in the Remsen Central School District who will be **four-years-old (4)** on or before December 1, 2016, of the current school year. Income eligibility is not a factor and all families are encouraged to apply. Up to 18 children are allowed in the class.

Kindergarten is open to all children residing in the Remsen Central School District who will be **five-years old (5)** on or before December 1, 2016.

If your child is starting Pre-Kindergarten or Kindergarten this coming fall, please contact Remsen Elementary School Receptionist Mrs.

Dede Gardner at 831.3797 ext. 223.

Please bring your child's birth certificate, current immunization records and proof of residency. It is not necessary for your child to come to registration.

Registration paperwork is available on the Remsen Central School District website, www.remsencsd.org. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Remsen Elementary School Principal Dr. William Crankshaw at 831.3797.



Remsen Student Makes a Difference for the Animals at the Humane Society

Since third grade, Paige Loveric has had the desire to help out in any way that would benefit people or animals. Paige started out her community service by running a lemonade stand. Paige loved animals, so she decided to donate the profits from her lemonade stand to the Stevens-Swan Humane Society.



Over the years, Paige wanted to do more for the animals and the community. So she came up with a fundraising program, *Santa Paws*. Paige put up posters around the school to have donations submitted for the *Santa Paws* program. She also made rainbow loom figurines and jewelry which she sold at the Remsen Barn Fest and raised a total of \$200.

Paige would like to thank all of those who donated; whether it was five (5) bags of dog food, (yes, five bags from one donor) dog beds, treats, toys or a monetary donation.



Due to the generosity of the community, students, faculty and staff, Paige was able to help many pets stay safe and warm.



Bus Notes/Transportation

I hope your child/ren are enjoying the school year thus far. Before you know they will be moving on to the next grade level, moving on to the high school or maybe even graduating.

There are always things to iron out with respect to management of safety and school program. To ensure the safety of each student within the REMSEN school district, please remember the following:

- All bus/transportation changes must be made in writing, and must be communicated to the main office of each school building prior to 12:00 p.m. No student will be permitted to change routine transportation without a written note.*
- *On rare occasions, bus/transportation changes by phone must be made prior to 12:00 in each building.
- Never leave a phone message for the building secretary regarding a change in schedule.
- If you are transporting your child, please be ready to swiftly and safely depart the elementary lobby.
- If you are bringing your child to school in the morning, please do not drop off in the front loop of the elementary. Please use the sidewalk on the side of the building.

We appreciate your understanding as we ensure the safety of all of our students. Their safety is our most important priority.