



Flemington-Raritan Regional School District Parent Newsletter

October, 2018 Edition 3

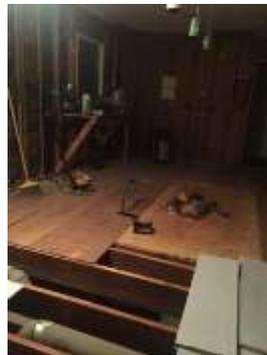
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HAPPY FALL!

Hello, parents! October is my favorite time of year. With the opening of school underway, students are settled into their school routines and instruction is humming along. Sports practices and games are giving our student athletes a chance to demonstrate character and strength. The weather is mild, with cool evenings and just a hint of changing leaves. This is the time of year when I pull out my crock pot and forage for recipes that can simmer all day long. With a kitchen renovation in progress the crock pot, skillet, and backyard grill are the only methods for a family meal. My handy husband and I decided we'd like to try to renovate the kitchen on our own. While this provides for great husband and wife quality time, the refrigerator in the garage, holes in the kitchen



floor, and even leaks in the ceiling



present quite a few interesting conversations. If any of you have been through home renovations while living in your home you can understand the necessary calmness and careful planning required to make breakfast, lunch, and dinner

for a family of six. Luckily the oldest daughter is at college so she only giggles from afar. Hopefully, the October weather will allow us to continue to use our grill throughout the month. I am hoping for a mild November because we are not scheduled for kitchen completion until December.

INDOOR AIR QUALITY UPDATE

At the September 11 Board of Education meeting I provided to the Board of Education and members of the audience a report on the Indoor Air Quality Remediation Effort. The Board of Education presentation can be found at the link [here](#). I encourage you to take a look at the slides and information. I provided a calendar to illustrate a time line and photos to help demonstrate the efforts the district has taken to ensure health and safety.



While this week's weather continues to be unusually humid, between 96% and 97% humidity on

Monday and Tuesday, we have industrial-sized dehumidifiers in the buildings. We also continue to use HEPA industrial-sized air filters in all of our buildings with the exception of J.P. Case, which at this time hasn't been recommended by our environmentalist.



Francis A. Desmares- Test results returned early Friday morning, September 28, for the remaining rooms at Francis A. Desmares; Rooms 2, 3, and 4. Unfortunately these three rooms are not remediated. The test results came back with issues still present. The maintenance crew followed the next steps advised by the Environmentalist and Certified Industrial Hygienist, then transported eight of our air scrubbers not being used into rooms 2, 3, and 4 for the weekend. ServePro worked this weekend on the kindergarten rooms to re-clean rooms 2, 3, and 4 and pro-actively clean room 1. ServePro inspected and cleaned all items when onsite, and R & K will retest tomorrow, October 3, which allows for the necessary time for air scrubbing.

Robert Hunter- Rooms 111 and 125 and the art room were reopened and cleared by the environmentalist this week! We were so happy to have these rooms opened. I visited each teacher and shared in the excitement with them. The art room, which was previously closed, has new supplies on order. Unfortunately, the library at Robert Hunter has significant issues with moisture and requires a great deal of remediation. Cleaning continues and was scheduled to be finished on Friday, September 28. It is highly likely that Robert Hunter has lost 90% of its inventory at a cost of approximately \$20 per book. The Education Foundation along with our PTOs are working together to help fundraise for the library through an event called *Rescue Reading*.

Barley Sheaf- The library at Barley Sheaf continues to be professionally cleaned and remediated. Barley Sheaf lost about 40% of its media center inventory. Barley Sheaf's library was scheduled for testing on Friday, September 28. The library has been air scrubbed with 15 air scrubbers for the past week. The final two classrooms (Rooms 24 and 28) were opened this week on Wednesday. We are so happy that these rooms are re-opened and the indoor air quality passed all tests. The faculty room still shows slightly higher ranges than outside so we will



continue to air scrub this area with HEPA sized industrial air scrubbers. The faculty room is not re-opened. Just like at Robert Hunter, the Education Foundation along with our PTOs, are working together to help fundraise for the library through an event called *Rescue Reading*.

Copper Hill- Copper Hill Elementary School has no areas of concern but continued monitoring takes place daily. The district uses our environmentalist's guidance to re-test areas that show significant evidence of unusual fungi growth. We are working to purchase individual dehumidifiers from our contracted distributors and even our local Lowe's home supply company. Unfortunately the shelves at Lowe's have been stripped of dehumidifiers. On Monday, October 1, the facilities crew was working with other local Lowe's to find dehumidifiers and contacting the distributors that provided the industrial-sized dehumidifiers to inquire about individual-sized ones.

J.P. Case- In the afternoon last Wednesday, September 26, a faculty member at J.P. Case notified administration right away that he had suspicions of mold growing in the band room on instrument cases. Members of our administration, facilities, and I toured the B-wing of the building. A letter and communication was sent to the J.P. Case community. See the [link here for the Superintendent's Letter](#). The J.P. Case parents and community were sent a letter to explain how continuity of instruction will continue despite the closing of the b-wing. The Environmentalist and Certified Industrial Hygienist were on site with us today, October 2, for a consult.

RFIS- Rooms 17 and 24 and the basement area outside the lower gym remain closed. These areas are under isolation and contained with negative air pressure to preclude pollutant transport from one area to the other areas. Rooms 17 and 24 will be addressed November 5-9 and the basement will be addressed October 22 or sooner, if possible. We continue to monitor closely all areas of RFIS, as we do in other schools, for signs of moisture. When areas are found we remediate quickly to ensure quality indoor air. For example, a soft case for a large stringed instrument was found to have spots that might have been unusual fungi growing. In this case the staff member notified our facilities department and the item was removed and further investigation ensued to ensure no other areas of concern. Unfortunately, as long as humidity levels remain above 55% the air has a great deal of moisture. The industrial-sized dehumidifiers continue to run in the building

to counteract this moisture. All schools remain cleared for all students and staff. I have posted additional reports I received from our environmentalist on-line for your review.

INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR REMEDIATION

Information in an e-mail titled *Project: Rescue Reading (BS and FAD media center restoration)* shared that the district submitted an insurance claim with our carrier and that our policy included a \$100,000 deductible per building. The message stated that the fundraising was to support Robert Hunter School and Francis A. Desmares School. The media centers that were severely affected were in fact **Robert Hunter and Barley Sheaf**, not Francis A. Desmares; therefore fundraising support would be for **Robert Hunter and Barley Sheaf**, not the Francis A. Desmares library. The letter went on to say that the district will need to spend at least the first \$100,000 for each building impacted prior to receiving any reimbursement from our carrier. While this is partly true, it is not entirely true. I apologize for the miscommunication. It was not intentional and I take full responsibility for the error. Allow me to clarify further:



- First, the district has not yet made a claim but is in the process of working with our insurance company to file multiple claims. Initial phone calls and correspondence between our representative and the district have advised us that coverage is available for some schools and *potentially* available for others;
- Second, we are still waiting on final confirmation on exactly what is covered and what is *not* covered, our retention costs for remediation costs, and for which specific buildings;
- Third, the district has received multiple correspondences from our carrier to provide information about the facts, the policy, self-insured retention, remediation costs, and coverage; and
- Last, we await a full understanding of our coverage from our insurer.

Last week information was sent to parents about a Flemington-Raritan Regional School District's collaborative effort for a large-scale fundraising campaign called *Rescue Reading*. This joint effort avoids the need for multiple fundraisers at the individual school level, protects fundraisers' good intentions against legal issues that may come about as a result of Board policies, and provides guidance and structure with regard to Board Policies 5830, 9210, 9700, and 9720. Representatives from all PTOs and the Flemington-Raritan Education Foundation have been asked to form an ad hoc committee to launch a large-scale fundraising campaign-*Rescue Reading*. If you are interested in learning more, please contact your school's PTO representative for further information on how you can help join this cause.

Using a Google Form, please take the time to fill out the short, five question survey about indoor air quality remediation efforts. Find the link [here](#) to take the brief survey. The survey will be open until this Friday, October 5, 2018.

**HELPING TEACHERS WHO LOST SUPPLIES
DURING THE MOLD REMEDIATION**

The district is committed to fully re-stocking classrooms for the supplies that were lost. Teachers and building principals have already been ordering supplies and Central Office has made adjustments in accounts to be able to have each and every classroom affected supplied with the materials needed for instruction. The Business Administrator and I have signed purchase orders for classroom rugs, books, construction paper, crayons, scissors, markers, bulletin boards, and curricular supplies, just to name a few.

SUPERINTENDENT RIDES THE BUS

Last week on Monday I had the opportunity to ride bus number 42 with Mr. Art on the morning route with students from J.P. Case Middle School and the second run with students from Barley Sheaf Elementary School. This event was a highlight of the week! I was asked by our middle school students, "How did you get to be a Superintendent?" and "How long did you have to go to school to be a Superintendent?" Students shared with me that they love the sewing class at J.P. Case and that they had a great first week at school. The students from Barley Sheaf were excited to receive "The Superintendent Rode My Bus Today" stickers and proudly placed them on their shirts and backpacks. Thank you to Mr. Art and our Hunterdon Central/FRSD Joint Transportation Services for helping to coordinate the event. I will be on Linda Smith's bus on Wednesday, October 31, to ride with RFIS students and Desmares students. I look forward to the next Superintendent Rides the Bus day!



SUPERINTENDENT ROUNDTABLE SESSIONS

The Superintendent Roundtable discussions are an open forum for community discussion on topics that are on the minds of our community members. At the October Superintendent Roundtable Session I am hopeful to talk a bit about school security and STEM, otherwise known in the education world as Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics. The session focuses on the interests of those in attendance, but I always have a few topics of interest I am willing to share with those that attend. Dates alternate between school locations

and evening and morning times in order to try to accommodate community members' schedules.

Month	Location	AM/PM	CONFIRMED Date/Time
August	RFIS Auditorium	(pm)	Mon. 8/20 6-7:30 p.m.
September	Copper Hill Band Room	(am)	Wed. 9/12 9:30-11 a.m.
October	Barley Sheaf Library	(pm)	Wed. 10/17 6-7:30 p.m.
November	JP Case B-132	(am)	Mon. 11/19 9:30-11 a.m.
December	FAD Library	(pm)	Mon. 12/10 6-7:30 p.m.
January	Robert Hunter Library	(am)	Tue. 1/15 9:30-11 a.m.
February	Copper Hill band room	(pm)	Tues. 2/12 6-7:30 p.m.
March	RFIS Café Annex	(am)	Wed. 3/13 9-10:30 a.m.
April	JP Case Library	(pm)	Tues. 4/16 6-7:30 p.m.
May	Barley Sheaf Library	(am)	Tues. 5/21 9:30-11 a.m.
June	FAD Faculty Room	(am)	Thurs. 6/13 9:30-11 a.m.
June	Robert Hunter Library	(pm)	Tues. 6/11 6-7:30 p.m.

*To support our families whose native language is not English, translators will be provided at meetings that are scheduled for Robert Hunter Elementary and Francis A. Desmares Elementary Schools.



TECH TIP FOR ASSISTANCE WITH MATH HOMEWORK

There are apps for almost every task one might need, and assistance with math is no different. Learning any new subject can be challenging—for many students, that subject is math. If someone in your family could use assistance with math homework for those problems that are a little tricky to solve, evaluate, and/or simplify, Photo Math might be a tool to help and best of all, it's free! Photo Math is rated by iTunes for functionality four and a half stars. This App is listed by the Latin Post as one of the top ten Apps that everyone should have in their mobile in 2017. It is marketed as a camera calculator and math assistant. All you need is a smart phone. Simply point your camera toward a math problem and Photomath will show the result with detailed and easy to follow steps. First, scan the math problem for an instant

result. Next, learn with step-by-step instructions. Even edit with a smart calculator! This app works similarly to apps that scan barcodes. It doesn't solve word problems, but for equations it's a handy tool for struggling learners or even for parents that need a quick reminder on how to solve, simplify, or evaluate equations. It is available for Android & iOS. Find Photomath in the App Store on iTunes. To learn more about if Photomath is a good tool for your family visit [here](#) or to download Photo math download click [here](#). We have used it at my house on more than one occasion to double-check work and to make sure the correct algorithm steps were followed.

HELPFUL WEBSITES FOR STUDENT RESEARCH

The evenings in my home are filled with homework and helping children with their studies. I often try to find just the right site to steer my children toward to help them with their homework without giving them the answers so that the work still lands on their shoulders. They have the answers at their fingertips if they just know where to look.

The information below is taken from an article titled, "There's So Much There! Helping Kids Conquer the Internet & Save Democracy" by Angie Miller, summarized by Kim Marshall in the 2018 Marshall Memo LLC. In this article in *Knowledge Quest*, New Hampshire school librarian Angie Miller steers teachers and students to high-quality research sites in each subject area:

- *The Arts* – Arts Edge, Google Arts and Culture, Grammy Museum, Heilbrunn Timeline of Art History, Louvre, Metropolitan Museum of Art, MOMA, National Gallery of Art, ProFotos, Rolling Stone Magazine.
- *Health* – Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Mayo Clinic, National Alliance on Mental Illness, National Institute of Mental Health, National Institute on Drug Abuse, National Institutes of Health, *Psychology Today*, World Health Organization, Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation.
- *History* – American Panorama, CIA World Factbook, History Channel, Library of Congress, National Archives, Smithsonian Museum, Teachinghistory.org, U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, Zinn Education Project.
- *Mathematics* – Get the Math, Math Apprentice, Mathematical Association of America, New York Stock Exchange, Numberphile, Pew Research Center, TED-Ed, Vi Hart, WolframAlpha.
- *Science* – American Chemical Society, CK-12 Foundation, Discovery Channel, NASA, *National Geographic*, NOVA, Science Friday, Scitable.
- *Tech and Computers* – Academic Earth, HowStuffWorks, MIT World, *PC Magazine*, *Popular Science Magazine*, Wired, WolframAlpha, Wonderopolis.
- *World Languages/Cultures* – BBC's Country Profiles, CIA World Factbook, International Monetary Fund, Library of Congress's Global Gateway, NationMaster, *Time for Kids*, Constitution Project, U.S. Department of State.
- *News and Current Events* – BBC, *Guardian*, Intercept, PBS, Quartz, *Time Magazine*.

"There's So Much There! Helping Kids Conquer the Internet & Save Democracy" by Angie Miller in *Knowledge Quest*, September/October 2018 (Vol. 47, #1, p. 24-30), no e-link available; Miller can be reached at angiemillerauthor@gmail.com.

COMMUNITY DAY CELEBRATION

Saturday, September 29, 2018 was a spectacular day for the Flemington-Raritan community. The District thanks the many families, residents, students and staff members who visited the FRSD booth at Raritan Township Community Day. We share a special thank you with our administrative team for their participation in the day and recognize and thank the volunteers, municipal officials, fire/police/EMT personnel and local organizations for making the event a great success. Also, we share a special thank you with our maintenance staff for their help in setting up and breaking down the booth area. The District is proud to be a part of this community endeavor and looks forward to participating again next year. If you missed our table, click here for handouts that were shared with our parents and community:

- [Anxiety in Kids Parent Seminar](#)
- [Tips for Parents – A Guide for Helping Your Child.](#)



(Submitted by Laura Bruhn / photo credit)