



**Rye School District Administrator Updates**  
**Michelle Pitts, Principal, RES**  
**Anne Gilbert, Principal, RJH**

**January 10, 2024**

**Goal 1:** *Maintain a culture that is positive, welcoming, and supportive to all stakeholders, including staff, families, students, and community stakeholders.*

**Rye Elementary School**

- Prior to the break, we had an RES singalong to bring our community together, singing holiday favorites. Most notably, we had an opportunity to hear the RJH band play. Our fourth grade students can now participate in band so it was a wonderful opportunity for them and future RES musicians to see what practice and involvement in school electives can do to improve their skills.

**Rye Junior High School**

- Following our very successful Spirit Week, the week before break was a staff Spirit Week. We dressed similarly each day to see if our students noticed, and a small treat or event was planned for each day. Our staff played a few silly, day long games, which our students witnessed and thoroughly enjoyed! We also had the ever popular 'intercom games', in which classrooms had to be the selected caller to win. All of these events allowed our students to see us having fun together, and our students enjoyed every minute!
  - Thank you to Rye PTA for a catered lunch from Ohana and a cookie swap, and to Rye School Board for the first of many deliveries of snacks for our staff.

**Goal 2:** *Ensure students have equal access to a rigorous and personalized learning experience.*

**Rye Elementary School**

- On January 10 and January 16, we will engage in professional development with the team from Step Up to Writing. Teachers will have an opportunity to develop a unit and

learn more about the resources and materials available in order to maximize the learning experience for their students.

### **Rye Junior High School**

- This week Kate Morrison, Rye's technology integrator, has organized two demonstrations from Vocabulary.com and IXL, both online tools meant to provide academic practice for students that aligns with particular needs of each student.

**Goal 3:** *Prepare our students to be engaged citizens, understanding the impact they can make locally, nationally and globally.*

### **Rye Elementary School**

- Jacquie DeFreze organized Mall in the Hall again this year, bringing families and community members together to purchase goods made by our own students. This year the donations of over \$1,600 went to the Stocking Elves project. See below to read the impact this project had on our local community.

*Our little elves made close to 1,500 "happy" stockings, with stuffings at both RES and RJH. We also had a super successful (and very helpful) unpacking by our wonderful 2nd grade class, many of our teachers, and others that came to help Friday after school. With the stockings that we had left over from our almost 1,800 last year, EVERY child and teen that signed up this year got a holiday stocking!!*

*Once again... Eileen Murphy made gorgeous stockings from donated fabric with kids from both RES and RJH, and helped supply even more (and better) stockings for our kids to stuff.*

*Also, through tears, the director of operation blessing told me last week that she had never seen so many stuffed animals, books and games, and that for the first time ever (and because of our efforts) EVERY child would get a stuffie, book and game in addition to their gifts and stocking.*

*Also, because of Jacquie and our RES student's efforts with Mall in the Hall, we were able to use the money from that event to CLEAR the 200 person waitlist and get EVERY child and teen on the waitlist gifts/gift cards (even though they had completely run out for a few of the age groups and the kids would have been out of luck without those funds).*

### **Rye Junior High School**

- Our Game of Life social studies class hosted an event titled "Are you ready to be an adult?" Teachers, administrators, and others were able to interview students about a variety of topics to include municipal offerings, health insurance, budgeting, salaries, taxes, and even child care! The students were able to demonstrate an in depth understanding of these complicated topics, which is evidence of how RJH is working to create knowledgeable, engaged citizens.