

Middle School Muse

RPMS Council of Ten Elections

By: Benjamin Domanski

Another school year means a new Council of 10 election. For all of the new sixth graders at RPMS, the Council of 10 is a group of ten students from the 8th grade elected by their peers. They are the head of the entire student council and make decisions about dance decorations and spirit days! Each candidate has their own goals for the school, which always entail tons of fun! To decide the president and vice president, there's always an election to see who will be the president and vice president of the council.

This year's candidates for president are the school-spirited Gracie Booth, the athletic Julian Candelaria, the educationally determined Kylie DiTrollio and Aliah Farnkoph and the hard-working Siaka Gassama.

There is most notably the self-named Logangster, Logan Matthew, and the energetic Annaleah Ramirez. Then we have the sporty Isabella Raeneri and the reliable Evan Torres, with number 10 being Newspaper Club's Clive Zdanowitz.

Luckily, after the voting, those who didn't win will still stay in the Council of 10, meaning we will still hear from these awesome students. There is still the question though, who will win the vote?

Vice-President: Coming in second place for the voting, is #7, Annaleah Ramirez! She won over a majority of the sixth grade during her speech by talking about both her academic and her athletic accomplishments. Many people are glad she became VP because of all the fun things she wants to do as vice president of the student council. Nonetheless, everybody is glad to have Annaleah as our vice president "24-7"!



President: Finally, the one you've all been waiting for, the Logangster himself, #6, Logan Matthew! This student won over a majority of the school with both his speech and his public appearances. At the beginning of the school days, he would arrive at the school with signed posters and sunglasses. On the day of the election, he came to school wearing a suit, tie, and sunglasses. With the majority of the school enjoying his public appearances and appeal, the Logangster was a clear winning candidate!

We look forward to all that the Council of Ten will do for us this school year! Good luck guys, the whole school is watching!



Interview with Ms. Gamba - School Nurse

By Makayla Dupal

Who is the person you go to when you're hurt? The nurse, of course! Our former nurse, Mrs. Litterer, sadly retired but now we get to welcome Ms. Gamba! She is happy to be here and care for us all!



Who is she?

Ms. Gamba went to Sherman Elementary and Roselle Park High School. She grew up here and now gets to care for our generation.

Since Ms. Gamba has been in elementary school, she has wanted to become a nurse. "I want to be a nurse." she wrote as a little girl in her 5th grade graduation booklet. Ms. Gamba still has the booklet and looks back on it from time to time. This shows she has always wanted to make a difference in people's lives, and she made it happen.

Ms. Gamba has worked in many different positions in the healthcare field. She worked as an office clerk, an EMT, and finally as a school nurse. She has worked as a nurse for almost ten years, spent seven years working in the ER, and twenty-five years in the medical field in total.

In 2011, she went to nursing school and got a job as an EMT. She tested out of the position but figured she wanted to do more, so she went back to nursing school and graduated January of 2015. She took Boards in

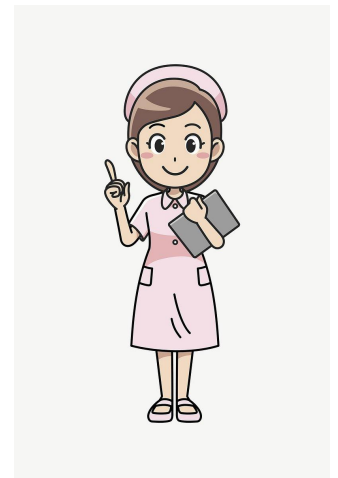
March/April and landed a job in the ER in May.

Fun Facts

Since Ms. Gamba has started working at our school, she has felt welcomed. As the only Health Care worker, she looks to Ms. Hickman [our stem and robotics teacher], Ms. Belford, and Ms. Signorello [our secretaries] for guidance. Ms. Gamba loves her new office. She likes the space and she has everything she needs. She also loves the students. "I'm glad it was Middle School," she said with a smile.

Free time/Future retirement

Ms. Gamba loves spending time with her family and they like going down to Florida and the Jersey Shore. For retirement, she would like to move to Florida and spend her time at Disney World. She doesn't have any plans for retirement just yet though!



Interview with Ms. Q, Our New Principal!

By: Mathias Villao

We interviewed Ms. Q, this year's new principal for this article. Last year she was the vice principal and look at where she is now! And yes, this is a "sequel" to Jayden Ramos' interview from last year. So let's get to it!

Q- How long have you been working here?

A- This is my second year working in Roselle Park. Before that, I was a teacher in a different school district.

Q- From last year's interview, we learned that your favorite subject is LAL. So, what is your favorite book?

A- My favorite book series is Harry Potter. My favorite classic novel is The Great Gatsby. Reading is one of my favorite hobbies.

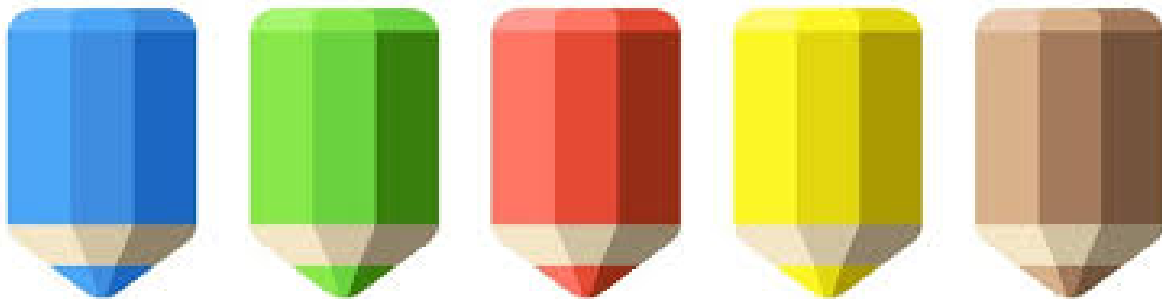
Q- What would you change about the district? (Not just the school)

A- Roselle Park is a very special district that has a family feeling in all that we do. At the moment, there is nothing I would change about the district. I think it will continue to grow each year with all the new initiatives that are starting, like our partnership with NJCIE (New Jersey Coalition for Inclusive Education).

Q- Lastly, what are your goals for this year and the years to come?

A- My goal for this year is to provide experiences in our school where all students can participate, including assemblies, trips, clubs, and classes. In the years to come, I hope to keep building a positive school community through our PRIDE values.

Thank you Mrs. Queiruga, we are so happy to have you as our principal!



Games You Should Ask for the Holiday Season

By: Noah Gallagher

Christmas time is almost here, and don't you want some games? If so, you're reading the right article! I'm going to try to be as system friendly as possible because some of my suggestions are for certain consoles. Time to get on with the games.

Let's start off with the most obvious, although most of these games are some console exclusives. Everybody and their mother have heard about Spider-Man 2 from recent months. Spider-Man 2 is a great game with a good narrative, action, and exploration. The story follows Peter Parker and Miles Morales, but I can't waste too much time or spoil it. Next is Legend Of Zelda: Tears of The Kingdom, it's a sequel to Breath of the Wild and has practically the same map. But the story and mechanics are fun and intricate. Finally I also suggest Mortal Kombat 1 (2023), it's a reboot of the first one but a very good game overall.

Some all-console friendly games I suggest this Christmas is Hogwarts Legacy. Hogwarts Legacy, if you're a big fan of Harry Potter then you'd definitely like it no matter what. For people new to the series, it's a bit of a confusing and grindy game but it's fun after a while, with a plethora of spells and quests, this is a big game. This game was a huge hit last year, and with more downloadable content coming out, this game is only going to get more and more popular. The person who is playing gets to design their own character and live their life as if they were a student at Hogwarts! What fan of Harry Potter would not want that?

Some of the previously mentioned game reviews are partially biased (they're my opinion!) I did not want to mention too much so you can find out for yourself. But as of right now, you could ask for these games. Plus you can look forward to next year's games because we don't know what's in store!



The 6th Grade Halloween Dance

By: Parker Ireland

The 6th grade dance was overall a great time. There were a range of costumes from Pixies to Patrick Star.

Speaking of Patrick...let's talk about the winners of the costume contests. In the most detailed category is Jaylin as a pixie! The best costume was Patrick. His dance moves put him over the top! Patrick's identity will remain secret..for now.. There were many different costumes. There was GhostFace, dinosaurs, aliens, baseball players, and mummies. The snacks were even better than the costumes! Whoppers, oreos, caprisuns, golden oreos, waters, and many, many, more. The decorations were amazing. It felt like I was trapped in a haunted house the whole time! Patrick stole the show and everyone wanted to hang out with him. It was hard for me to get a photo of him with the crowd. \People were dancing, eating, and having a great time celebrating Halloween! The dance was amazing and I would definitely go again! I personally cannot wait for our next dance! I wonder what theme it will be? We will find out soon from the Student Council in the new year.



Seventh Grade Dance

By: Alyssa Reina

The middle school dances are a fun experience for all. The school, particularly the Student Council, decorates the gym to their liking. They hire a D.J. to play some music and the P.T.A. brings some drinks and snacks. The 6th grade dance was from 3:00- 4:00, the 7th grade dance was from 4:15-5:15, and the 8th grade dance was from 5:30-6:30.

This year, the Student Council had put up a lot of spooky decorations all around the gym. A bunch of snacks were provided such as skittles, airheads, sour punch, sweetart ropes, chips, and many more. Many people had commented on how much they liked the snacks this year. Another thing people had enjoyed was the music the DJ was playing. The DJ played a lot of hits that were very popular on apps like Spotify and Tik Tok. Everywhere you looked around the 7th grade dance was someone in a fun, unique costume. Students were matching with their friends and most of them had gotten their picture taken by a chaperone there.



For most of the dance, the students could run around, dance, hang out, and have fun. At the end, the teachers announced the winners of the contests they had there such as the classic guess how many pieces of candy corn is in this jar or the scariest costume. The winners got their award to take home with them. Many students went home satisfied.

I asked a couple of students what they had thought about the dance and if they had fun. One student told me “I think that the decorations and the DJ were good. I had a lot of fun.” Another student said “The dance was good. I had fun for the most part.” If the two students I interviewed had fun at the dance, then I’m sure many others did too. If you couldn’t make it to this dance, there will be another



dance sometime during the spring. I'm sure the upcoming dance will be just as fun, if not more so considering there will be a Valentine's theme. Thank you to the Student Council for a great time!



Dia de los Muertos

By: Olivia Perez

November 1 to November 2 - The Day of the Dead. Also known as Dia de los Muertos, it is celebrated in places all over Latin America to honor ancestors. On these days the border between the spirit world and the land of the living is dissolved. During this time, according to tradition the dead return to the land of the living. There they return to their loved ones to eat, drink, and dance with them. At gravesites, the living leave their favorite foods and other offerings there. The gravestones are often decorated with candles and marigolds.

This holiday started all the way back 3,000 years ago with a group of Native Americans in northern Mexico called the Aztecs. They believed that when a person died they would travel to Chicunamictlán, the land of the dead. Once a person got there they would have to go through nine levels, a journey that would take seven years. After they got through the nine challenging levels, the person would reach Mictlán, the underworld. To help the dead through this journey, their loved ones would hold rituals. These rituals of honoring the dead were held in August. The living brought food and water to help the deceased through this journey. This influenced the tradition of leaving food and other offerings at gravestones on the Day of the Dead.

It continues to be celebrated by people all over Latin America. From its beginnings to now, it has gone on for thousands of years and is a beautiful way to celebrate and remember the dead.



4 of the Most Comfortable and Popular Sneakers

By: Alex Pereira and Abaan Khan

Let's be honest, shoes are an essential part of an outfit. Shoes can complete an outfit and make it look great! For example a pair of all white sneakers will go better with an all black outfit than a really bright pink pair. So here are some shoes that go the best with any outfit and that are the most comfortable.

Nike: The Nike Air Force 1 is one of the most famous shoes in the history of sneakers. It is also one that is really easy to style. The Air Forces truly are a classic. The Nike Pegasus is one of the absolute most comfortable shoes. Most people who have had these sneakers say it feels like you're walking on a cloud as it has a foam, and very comfortable sole. They also go with everything because they are a classic white shoe. Comfort and style is something that defines this shoe.

Air Jordan 1: The Air Jordan 1 is one of the most stylish and famous shoes ever. The shoe is a basketball shoe designed by Michael Jordan himself. It is a decently comfortable shoe but it is an extremely stylish shoe worn by many people. Shoes can come in a variety of colors, meaning that it can truly make an outfit!

Air Jordan 11: Let's be honest, we've all seen the Jordan 11's. It's an iconic shoe when it comes to Jordans and everyone loves them. They are very comfortable and are easy to wear and match with an outfit. Jordan 11's definitely are pricey but it's worth it for the style. These shoes are worn a lot by basketball players during their games. You can always see a player on the NBA court wearing one of these special shoes.



Yeezy 350s: How comfortable are Yeezy Boost 350s? Yeezy Boost 350s are extremely comfortable – of course, this has everything to do with the Boost sole that makes you feel like you're walking on clouds. The 350s are also extremely “yeezy”. The 350s are stylish and are easy to combine with outfits to give it that look you are going for. Yeezy 350s are so popular because of its unique design, limited availability, celebrity endorsements, and strong social media presence. These shoes are especially designed by rapper Kanye West. They are also a real collector’s item for sneakerheads. They are super stylish and make any outfit look fresh.

So as you can see, having stylish shoes doesn’t mean spending thousands of dollars. Though with some of these shoes on this list, if you want a specific pair you may have to. For any outfit you need to have the right shoes. Make sure when styling your shoes that they go with your outfit. Always make sure your outfit looks put together and not like you didn’t put any effort. Whether it’s Nike, Adidas, or Air Jordan Stylish shoes come in many shapes and sizes.



Volleyball

By: Maria Reyes

Volleyball is a sport where two teams face each other on a playing field separated by a net, trying to pass the ball over the net to the opposing team's ground. The ball may be hit, but cannot be stopped, caught, or held. Each team has three touches to return the ball to the opposing team. Players have to rotate their positions when they recover points.

Volleyball was invented in 1895 by William G. Morgan. It was designed as an indoor sport for businessmen who found the new game of basketball too vigorous. Morgan called the sport “mintonette,” until a professor at Springfield College in Massachusetts noticed the nature of the volley game and proposed the name “volleyball” The original rules were written by Morgan. The game soon proved to have wide appeal for everyone in schools and playground and was later introduced to other countries

In 1916, the YMCA and the National Collegiate Athletic Association NCAA jointly published rules. The first national tournament in the United States was held by the YMCA National Physical Education Committee in Nyc in 1922. The United States Volleyball Association USVBA was formed in 1928 and was recognized as the body governing and normative in the United States.

Did you know RPMS has our very own Volleyball Club? We have 60 Students signed up! Sessions run after school twice a month in the Gym.

Girls Volleyball is a Fall Sport at the High School. If you are a current 8th grader, be on the lookout for tryout dates before you leave in June. Interested in being part of a team now? Starting in January there will be a Rec program on Tuesdays for Elementary, Middle, and High School girls. Many of our Middle School girls played on the Fall Team. If you would like more information, please see Mrs. Balestrino and she can help you get more information!



School Lunches

By: Penelope Roche and Jayden Ramos

Every day I walk into the cafeteria and I wonder “What should I fill my stomach with. Bagel? Salad? Pizza?” I have always wondered if other people struggle to find lunch too, and what is the most popular lunch? When I entered the lunchroom I asked students what they are getting for lunch, what they like and what they would like to see on the menu, and what is their favorite thing to get. Oh, and you can’t forget a good snack or drink!

There are many snack options in our school. I wonder what the most popular

is? (Even though I had a feeling before I asked what it was going to be). Some said some traditional snacks, and some said things you could find in 7/11. But overall one thing beat the rest. Over half of the people I asked said that their favorite snack was, you guessed it, TAKIS. Takis beat all of the other snacks and I would be lying if I said I couldn’t agree. Some close runners up were various types of chips such as Ruffles, Doritos, and Cheetos. I think we would all love to see Takis added to the lunch menu.



So far the lunches I’ve tried this school year (and liked) have been veggie salad, pasta, yogurt parfait, and the french toast. I look forward to trying more lunches that haven’t been placed on the menu yet, and everyone else trying some new things too. If you aren’t hungry that much, there’s always lots of good snack options ranging from fruit to cookies to ice cream, or even fries! It all depends on your mood. But it’s always important to include a little health boost in your meals such as all of the fruits and veggies they have available. When I asked different people, I got many responses. Lots of students said they enjoy things like pizza, yogurt, or just eat a bunch of snacks as their lunch!

Besides the students I still wonder what our wonderful lunch ladies eat too? I guess we have next edition's topic! After doing some surveys of popular lunches, here are the most popular, and what people recommend the most: The top choice is, of course, PIZZA. Kids also enjoy dishes like empanadas, and chicken wings. However, not everyone buys lunch, and brings it from home! So next time you walk into the cafeteria, maybe try something new! Who knows, it might just become your favorite.



Thank you for reading! We hope you have a wonderful Winter Recess! Happy Holidays from Mrs. Radford, Mrs. Platt, and the Newspaper Club!!!