

From the Desk of the Principal

TO: Parents & Guardians

DATE: February 7, 2021

RE: Pertinent Reminders & Updates-Feb. 8-12

Dear Parents & Guardians,

Hope this note finds you warm and safe in this frigid weather. Last Friday's snow day was an unexpected, but, well-timed and I am sure much appreciated break for the students and teachers. According to the weather forecast, the lake effect snow and cold will continue this week. I want to join our local meteorologists and request that you please have the children bundle up for weather when they leave home.

Thank you for your continued partnership in the spiritual, mental, social-emotional, and physical well-being of our children. We praise our God who never leaves us nor forsakes us and answers our prayers even before we call.

The following are a few pertinent updates for your attention this week:

Picture Retake Day – Thanks to Cyndi's careful scheduling to make sure social distancing and other COVID-19 protocols were observed, this activity was a success. As you know, this retake was scheduled to ensure all students who started school after October 29, or were absent on that day, were photographed for the yearbook.

Yearbook Update: First, regarding our 2020-2021 yearbook—Please know that our Yearbook Team is working diligently to make sure that our students are able to have their yearbook of this pandemic year to take home at the end of the school year. Second, in response to our 2019-2020 parents and students, who are still hoping to receive last year's yearbook, I would like you to know that we are still in contact with Mrs. Wixwat, the Yearbook teacher, who was forced to stop the yearbook production process due to COVID-19 and the sudden school closure. While the yearbook completion date was extended to the summer (July), the time Mrs. Wixwat hoped to have it completed, regrettably there is no good news. Thank you for your patience and understanding of this situation. This year our Yearbook teachers are Mrs. Poloche and Mr. Adams. The team is at that place where they will soon be contacting Grade 8 parents and community vendors to submit congratulatory ads for the Yearbook. More info to come.

Help with Dismissal Procedure: I would like to take this opportunity to reiterate our commitment to ensuring the safety of the students while they are under our watch. As you know at dismissal, while we do our best to ensure student safety, we also try to be mindful of your time by managing the traffic situation. At the start of this school year we established two traffic patterns to help minimize the traffic back-up. This is a reminder of the dismissal procedure and the areas where we can use your help:

- a. Classroom teachers dismiss walkers and other students as their number is called.
- b. Walkers are to use the main exit doors and proceed to their destination.
- c. Teachers/personnel on outside duty put the Grade K-6 students in their cars.
- d. For student safety and to keep the traffic flowing, we are requesting parents to drive forward and pick-up the students along the gym curbside. This includes 3rd Grade students, as well.
- e. Also, please help us keep traffic moving by not encouraging your students to come to meet your vehicle, instead to wait in front the gym area.

Thank you for helping us keep student safety first, at RMES!

School Spirit Day: Next school spirit day is coming up on Friday, February 12 (Friday before Valentines). It is supposed to be "Dress Like a Friend Day", but your students are free to expand the group and make it "Dress Like Your Friends Day." Perhaps, classroom teachers may also want to make other changes for their class, so everyone feels included in the matching dress plan. Whatever, your students are asked to do to make this a fun "friend day", we thank you in advance for your cooperation. Hoping all classes and all students participate in this special school spirit day! Thank you, Mrs. Horton for ensuring that we are making beautiful memories as we share the spirit of camaraderie, love, laughter, and fun in our school, despite the stresses of the pandemic!

Jr. High Chapel: This Wednesday, February 10, 2021, Andrews Academy SA students under the leadership of Mr. Steinkraus will be the guest at our Jr. High Chapel.

COVID-19 & Vaccination Update: Just to confirm that RMES we continue to do our best to maintaining COVID-19 mitigation protocols at school. We appreciate your support and help to encourage similar health and safety practices at home, including the daily Jupiter Health Questionnaire. It is evident by the low numbers affected by the virus at our school that our plan for the health and safety is effective. Thank you for your partnership in the holistic education of the children that God has entrusted in our care.

RMES Employee Vaccination: For your information, we are working closely with BCHD in making plans for the vaccination of our faculty and staff. So far, we have been given a date of February 16. We will keep you informed.

Soccer Season Update: Greater Berrien Springs Recreation Department (GBSRD)

From Mr. Swack: The Greater Berrien Springs Recreation Department is preparing for the upcoming spring soccer season. Registration is open to all students in grades Pre K-8th grade. I have been coordinating this program for the GBSRD for the past several years, and I have the privilege of doing that once again this coming spring season. Registration forms will soon be distributed to all of the students. Online registration is also available at: <https://gbsrd.org/spring-soccer-registration/>

The registration form provides all of the pertinent information regarding the spring soccer program, but please feel free to contact me if you have any questions through e-mail (jbswackhamer@gmail.com), or by phone at 269-277-4091.

Spring Break and COVID-19 Travel: Please be aware that as of now, RMES COVID-19 travel policy remains in effect for **Spring Break, March 22-26, 2021**. We will keep you informed as we receive information from Andrews University (AU) and Berrien County Health Department (BCHD).

Attendance: Please remember to call the office (269-471-3220) or email Cyndi at caballec@andrews.edu if your student is going to be **absent or tardy** (whether they are remote or in-person). In-person students have the option to attend online (SRL) classes if they cannot make it to school due to **sickness** or other **emergency situations**. However, you must notify the office and their teacher to let us know that your student will attend online that day.

For tracing purposes, we are asking that you provide the reason why your child will not be attending school in person and how long you think they will be out. Thank you!

Upcoming February Events to Remember:

Jr. High Chapel	February 10, 8:30 a.m.
No School--President's Day	February 15, 2021
Black History Month Assembly	February 17, 8:30 a.m.

"Love is the only force capable of transforming an enemy to a friend." (Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.)

"Love is patient, love is kind. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered,

it keeps no record of wrongs." (1Corinthians 13: 4-5)

Have a blessed week!

Evelyn P. Savory