

## *From the Desk of the Principal*

**TO: Parents & Guardians**

**DATE: February 28, 2021**

**RE: This Week's Reminders & Updates**

Dear Parents & Guardians,

Greetings! Praise the Lord for his faithfulness to RMES! He has kept our entire school family safe from COVID-19 and in good health from the start of the new year. We made it through January and February and trust Him for His continued grace and mercy through the month of March. This week we embark into the month of March, known as National Women in History Month. RMES will continue to encourage our students to continue reading through the month of March and beyond, so that they can discover a new love, even a new pastime during times of difficulty, such as are currently experiencing.

**Principal's Reading Challenge:** We are extending the Principal's Reading Challenge to give all our students (K-8) the opportunity to participate. Please collaborate with the classroom teachers in encouraging them to try new books and keep them engaged in reading, writing and sharing the joy of literacy. Let's watch and see if by the end they are requesting for use to keep the challenge going. That will be an indication that our strategy to help them develop a love for books & reading worked. Can't wait to see this outcome!

**Spring Week of Prayer:** For the last 17 years this event has been a huge spiritual highlight for our school. Parents who have been at RMES for a while may have either experienced it first hand if you had a 6<sup>th</sup> Grade student, or you must have heard about it from your student. For all of these years, our Spring Week of Prayer has been created, produced, and presented by Mrs. Park and the 6<sup>th</sup> Grade students. Mrs. Park has consistently delivered an excellent program that has not only blessed those who listen but has transformed the lives of the participants. This year WOP titled, "Son Harvest County Fair—Growing Kids in the Son, promises to be another creative, inspiring and blessed experience. Of course, as a result of COVID we will not be able to meet in our usual small peer-level groups, to be up close and interact personally with the presenters, instead, there will be one virtual presentation each day, for all grades, K-8 at the same time, 11:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. You are invited to join us March 8-12 to see leadership, mission, and love on the move as the 6<sup>th</sup> Grade students lead the program each day. The zoom link will be made available by your child's classroom teacher. Please keep Mrs. Park and her Grade 6 students in prayer.

**Outdoor Education:** Each year a Lake Union and MI Conference sponsored Outdoor Education program is conducted at Camp Au Sable for Grade 5 students across the Conference. This is a time that the students and teachers look forward to being away and working in God's outdoor classroom for three days. This year, due to COVID-19, this event will be done virtually. Despite the loss of the trip, Mr. Swackhamer and his students are eagerly looking forward to joining their peers from other schools during the week of March 8-12, when Dr. Atkins the Outdoor Education instructor will teach them remotely.

**AA Day: FYI,** Tuesday, March 2 is Andrews Academy Day and as customary the 8<sup>th</sup> grade students will spend the day at the Academy.

**Calendar Change for RMES Move-Up Day:** Please be aware instead of March 2, as indicated on the calendar, RMES Move-up Day has been postponed to April 6, 2021. Please be aware that the staff has made this decision to help maintain the COVID-19 mitigation protocols in our building. It is our hope and prayer that with the continued flattening of the COVID spread that by the new date we have set the critical restrictions will be lifted and students will be able to actually visit their new grade. We also have a contingency plan in case there is no change. We request your cooperation and thank you for your support of this plan.

**Attendance & Remote Learning:** It is a blessing that the students have an option to keep up with classes in case they have to stay at home to illness or an emergency situation. This is a reminder that in order to join classes online/SRL parents need to contact the office at (269) 471-3220 or email ([cabaltec@andrews.edu](mailto:cabaltec@andrews.edu)) and the classroom teacher to request permission (sign the SRL Form) to join for 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 they will be out. Please collaborate with us in this area, as some teachers will need time to prepare for your student, especially if there are no other online student in that grade, at the time. Thank you for understanding.

**COVID-19 Update:** Thank you for your continued partnership in helping to keep our school safe and our students healthy. Staff is working together to follow guidelines from authorities in order to maintain COVID-19 mitigation protocols. Be encouraged by our theme text and promise this week...

“But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you.” {**John 14:26-27**}

Spirit Led-in His service,

*Evelyn P. Savory*

*Have a Spirit-filled week!*