

The Falcons Gazette

Published by the Student, Teacher, Parent Committee (STPC)

Rincon Valley Middle School

4650 Badger Road, Santa Rosa, CA 95409

rinconvalleymiddleschool.com, T:(707)890-3870



A Message from the Student, Teacher, Parent Committee (STPC)

Greeting RVMS families! Truly can't believe the school year is almost over and with that we prepare for a very busy May! Lots of fun activities to come for the kids and we will need lots of parents to volunteer for these activities.

A group of RVMS students visited the California State University Maritime Academy earlier this month



April - May 2019 Events

- **May 3-5 (Fri.-Sun.)** - Spring Musical
- **May 8 (Wed.)** - Instrumental Music Concert
- **May 9-11 (Thurs.- Sat.)** - Spring Musical
- **May 10 (Fri.)** - Color Run/Carnival
- **May 13 (Mon.)** - Dine & Donate @ Yogurt Time
- **May 17 (Fri.)** - Minimum Day, release at 12:28/
8th Grade Dinner Dance 6 p.m.
- **May 27 (Mon.)** - Memorial Day, no school
- **May 28-31 (Tues.-Fri.)** - Minimum Days, release @ 12:28

We also need to prepare for the next school year. We are in desperate need for parents interested in taking a more active role on the STPC Board and volunteer positions that are available. A letter will be going out to incoming parents from the STPC inviting them to contact us regarding available positions and the need for many parents to be involved next year. We will be hosting a mixer for any incoming and returning parents on May 6th in the evening. We hope you can attend. Please email Jennifer Smits at smitsjen02@yahoo.com for more information on this event and/or get information on the upcoming school year and how you can get involved. Please also forward any of this info to incoming parents who you know would be great at helping out at such an important level. The school, teachers, staff and students all depend on our parent involvement. RVMS STPC has always prided ourselves on the amount of parent involvement we have, and it is one of many reasons your children receive the best middle school education in the entire county. This year, we seemed to be short in volunteers at events and on the STPC board. Please consider volunteering at remaining events this year so that our students can have a wonderful and memorable finish to this school year. If you have 7th grade students this year, please consider giving any amount of time you can spare next school year. We are looking for a co-President, preferably an incoming 7th grade parent, along with many other positions on the board that need filling. We need this all by our May meeting, which will take place on May 15th at 6:30 p.m. in the library. We encourage incoming parents to attend along with returning parents. Looking forward to seeing new faces and ending the school year strong. - *STPC Co-President Jennifer Smits*, Smitsjen02@yahoo.com & *Ananda Sweet*, anandasweet@sbcglobal.net

LUNCH MENU

[Click here](#) to see the cafeteria lunch menu for

YEARBOOK

Order your Yearbook Today!

[Click here for details!](#)

TRACK & FIELD SCHEDULE

**Starting time for all meets: 3:45 p.m*

- **April 25 (Thurs.)** - Comstock @ Rincon
- **April 30 (Tues.)** - Semi Finals Boys @ Slater
- **May 2 (Thurs.)** - Semi Finals Girls @ Rincon
- **May 7 (Tues.)** - Field Events start at 1. Running events start at 3:30. Finals at Elsie Allen High School. Host: Cook

State Testing Information

CAASPP (California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress)

Below is the testing schedule and some information about the testing:

| Testing Dates | Content Area | Computer Adaptive Test (CAT) Hours: Minutes | Performance Task (PT) Hours: Minutes | Total Hours: Minutes |
|------------------|--------------|--|---|-------------------------|
| April 22 - 26 | Science | 2:00 | | 2:00 |
| April 29 – May 3 | English | 1:30 | 2:00 | 3:30 |
| May 6 - 10 | Math | 2:00 | 1:00 | 3:00 |

- ★ All tests are not timed, so students can take as long as they need. There is a week allotted for each subject matter. If students need longer this can be arranged.
- ★ Students will take their tests in their Science, English and Math classrooms, during their scheduled class time.
- ★ There will be no change in the bell schedule.
- ★ All tests are taken on Chromebooks.
- ★ Students with special accommodations as per IEP, (example: text to speech) will have access automatically built into the test.
- ★ All students are suggested to bring their own ear buds for use during testing since there is an auditory component to the test. However, we do have headphones for students without ear buds.
- ★ Students should get plenty of sleep and a hearty breakfast during this period of time.
- ★ Parents should avoid travel plans during these three weeks. Doctor appointments can be made around student's scheduled courses as per the dates listed above.
- ★ Questions and concerns should be directed to *Amy Sather, Assistant Principal at asather@srcs.k12.ca.us*

Get Ready for a Busy (but Fun!) May!

The last month of the school year will have a flurry of events for students. Mark your calendars and please look out for sign-up emails in the coming weeks requesting volunteers and donations. We need lots of help! Thank you for your cooperation. Let's give our students a great send-off!

- ★ **May 10 (Fri.) Color Run & Carnival:** The students will have a whirlwind of an afternoon with these fun events run by the teachers, the STPC and parent volunteers! There will be lots of fun games and booths!
- ★ **May 13 (Mon.) Dine & Donate @ Yogurt Time:** Our next Dine and Donate event will be on May 13th at Yogurt Time (corner of Montecito and Middle Rincon.) No flyer needed but please mention the Dine & Donate event for RVMS at the store. Thank you for your support! - *STPC Dine & Donate Co-chair Jennifer Zhang & Justine Baker*
- ★ **May 17 (Fri.) Eighth Grade Dinner Dance:** More information below. **Please note that this day is a minimum day. Students are released at 12:28*
- ★ **May 22 (Wed.) Renaissance Event:** Renaissance Students will enjoy a summer-themed Renaissance event, the last of this school year!

Eighth Grade Dinner Dance!

8th grade Dinner Dance is on May 17. Tickets will be sold at lunch from May 6th to May 16th for \$10 in front of the student store. The dinner and dance will take place at RVMS from 6 to 8 p.m. and the dress code is "**semi formal.**" All 8th graders are encouraged to attend this memorable event. - *RVMS Leadership & Science Teacher Lindsey Qualls, lqualls@srcs.k12.ca.us*



[More on the 8th Grade Dinner Dance](#)

Semi-formal dress is defined as: *short, not long* dresses. **All dresses should have some form of a strap**, no undergarments showing. Halter and one strap dresses are fine; however, the dress should have fabric covering the mid area. High heeled shoes are not encouraged, but may be worn through dinner. Students will enter through the locker rooms and it is suggested that they put on socks or flat shoes before entering the dance area. **Slacks are acceptable and dress shirts.** We love to see ties on the dress shirts, but these are not required. Depending on the weather, light sweaters or jackets may be necessary. Since this is not prom and students need to look forward to high school, we suggest that this be *middle school level fun*. Dates are not suggested nor are limos, etc. Students must be in school all day, however this is a minimum day (12:28 release) to provide the opportunity to get gorgeous! Students will have the opportunity to sit with all of their friends, and be served dinner by their favorite teachers. This is a memorable event and we encourage all 8th grade students to attend! - **RVMS Assistant Principal Amy Sather**, asather@srcs.k12.ca.us

Thank you!

WE COULDN'T HAVE DONE IT WITHOUT YOU!

We started this 2018-2019 school year a little unsure as to whether we could make our goal of \$50,000 for the Family Giving Campaign. It had been done before – but not in the last couple of years – and many folks thought we would fall short. Well...thanks to the VERY generous support of our families – we did it!!! We have one month to go and have **\$49,087.87 pledged**. That is huge....HUGE!

The funds we generated were used THIS YEAR for:

- ◆ Teacher supplies
- ◆ Staff and Student Recognition
- ◆ Elective Programs: Art, Band, Culinary, Spanish, Drama & RVMS TV
- ◆ Math Counts
- ◆ Odyssey of the Mind
- ◆ Disaster Prep
- ◆ Red Ribbon Week
- ◆ Renaissance
- ◆ Color Teams
- ◆ Sport-O-Rama

....and SO MUCH MORE!

IT IS BECAUSE OF YOU that we were able to fund the programs and supplies that impact our kids'



THANK YOU.
We Made A Difference.
You Made It Possible.

classroom experiences. IT IS BECAUSE OF YOU we were able to fund events that create the culture and community our school is known for. IT IS BECAUSE OF YOU we were able to maintain the level of excellence our campus is so proud of you. IT IS BECAUSE OF YOU ... and we thank you!

To see the list of 2018-2019 Rincon Valley Middle School STPC donors, please [click here](#). - *Family Giving Campaign Co-Chairs Katie Ruppe & Tracy Cooper*

From RVMS Classes

* **Spanish 7 - Calma** outlasted the other fifteen songs in the **Música Marzo** challenge in Spanish class. Since its release, the song has become a huge success, topping the charts of Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela. It has 890 million views on YouTube. - *RVMS Spanish Teacher Carol Kovatch*, ckovatch@srcs.k12.ca.us



* **All Spell, Ends Well! Spelling Bee!** - On March 14, RVMS held its annual Spelling Bee in the library over the seventh and eighth grade lunches. Armed with pencil, paper, and their own internal dictionaries, students pondered words like 'enamel' and 'obsequious' under the watchful eyes of English Department proctors. There were groans of disappointment and sighs of relief in the library that day; finally, it came down to two students in each grade level pitting their abilities



Above: David Zechow (left) and Terrence Wu receiving their RVMS certificates of achievement from Mr. Zeman, Spelling Bee Coordinator.

against one another. A groan, a disbelieving look, and we had our winners: **David Zechow**, in seventh grade, and **Terrence Wu**, first among eighth grade challengers! These stalwart spellers proceeded to the Sonoma County championships at SCOE April 2. David made it to round six, while Terrence finished fifth, overall. Great job, both of you! - *RVMS English Teacher Mark Zeman*, mzeman@srcs.k12.ca.us

* **Career Day!** - Earlier this week, we had a great Career Day for 8th-grade students. In my room, we had speakers who joined us remotely via video conference. First, **Connor McDonald** of *1606 Studio* in San Francisco shared his journey of becoming a video editor and eventually starting his own company. He makes Super Bowl commercials and talked about embracing every opportunity to try new things and learn a broad range of things that influence your work. It was wonderful

hearing Mr. McDonald tell the students how much narrative influences his work. His commercials communicate a clear message and tell a great story. He also talked about the importance of being a reader - of all genres of literature - and being a writer. Literacy and clear communication skills will take you far. For those who are more tech savvy with making videos, he talked through the process of working with sound mixers, storytellers, actors, stunt people, and even color mixers to take 45 minutes of video and eventually come up with a 30-40 second commercial.

The second video conference was with Nancy Blair's *former RVMS student, Erin Dunlap*, who is currently a writer and producer for the *Disney Channel*. Erin talked about learning to read lots and write lots. She said that a writing award from Mrs. Blair in 8th grade made her see herself as a writer for the first time. She was then given an opportunity by the principal to help make a video for incoming students. This became a stepping stone to opportunities she found in high school, at the JC, and then at UCLA to practice writing, creating stories, plays, videos, and tv shows that led her to pursue a career in writing for television. Erin talked about looking back at her journals from when she was in middle school when she's writing shows like *Andi Mack*, *Best Friends Whenever*, and *Bunk'd*. She explained the process of working as an intern, then an assistant for many years, where she learned to write pilots and specs for current shows and really hone her craft. It was great to hear her tell them what we say all the time: "Keep reading and keep writing! Practice all the time!" In Sarah Henrich's room, we had two young men come in who are at Apple and a start-up called *Pathrise* to help people with careers in the tech world. - *RVMS English Teacher Ann Mary Ferguson, aferguson@srcs.k12.ca.us*

- * **Music** - Eighth Grade Music students from our band and orchestra program went on a two night tour to Southern California. The highlight of the tour was spending a day at the Disneyland Resort. While at Disneyland, the students participated in the Soundtrack Studio Workshop. The students had the opportunity to work with Tom Griffin, a professional conductor in the LA area. In the workshop the students sight-read classic Disney/Marvel music and recorded it in a professional recording studio. After recording the music, the students were able to hear their performance with the actual Disney movie clip.

⚠ Our **Spring Concert** is on May 8th at 7 p.m. in the RVMS Auditorium. Tickets are \$5 and can be purchased at the door. We hope to see you there! - *RVMS Band/Orchestra/Yearbook Brandon*



Binder, bbinder@srcs.k12.ca.us

* **8th Grade Science:** Some fun things have been happening in 8th grade science! - *RVMS Science Teacher Vanessa Ruiz,* vlokenruiz@srcs.k12.ca.us

- ▶ **Balloon Car Fun!** - 8th grade science students are currently studying basic physics. This month, students designed and built balloon race cars to demonstrate their understanding of Newton's Laws of Motion. Students used the mass and speed of their cars to determine potential, kinetic energy and acceleration of their cars. Soon, students will be designing and building their own water rockets! [LINK to photos.](#)
- ▶ **STEAM Team @ Sonoma County STEAM Showcase March 1st:** A small group of 8th graders worked on student-designed STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering + Arts, Mathematics) projects beginning last fall. In March, the students showcased their projects at Sonoma County Office of Education (SCOE)'s annual STEAM showcase. *Spencer Hayes* researched the effects of climate change on California's ecological systems. *Josephine Rivera-Hoagland* researched and installed two rain barrels on the Rincon campus. And *Kathryn Viduya and Ella Johansen* researched and designed a prototype for housing for the homeless. These students put in a tremendous amount of work outside of the classroom to research and present on topics that were meaningful to them and impact our community. They did an excellent job representing RVMS and we are so proud of their work! Kudos Falcon Scientists! [LINK to photos](#)

* **Field trip to Cal State Maritime:** Earlier this month, 48 RVMS 8th grade students who are interested in maritime matters had a chance to visit the Cal State Maritime Academy in Vallejo. It is one of 23 campuses in the California State University system and is one of seven degree-granting maritime academies in the United States and the only one on the West Coast. - *RVMS Principal Ed Navarro,* enavarro@srcs.k12.ca.us



Students went on a tour of Cal State Maritime



Rincon Valley Library Events

❖ **Teen Summer Reading Program at Sonoma County Library:** June 1-August 10. Join our community of readers this summer -- read at least five books from **June 1-August 10** to earn a free book and a chance to win awesome prizes! Sign up today at sonomalibrary.beanstack.org and track your reading progress to earn cool digital badges and prizes. There is something fun going on at your library every week



during Summer Reading. Come to the library, check out a show, get a library card, and enjoy some books. This is a **FREE** program

!! Programa de Lectura de Verano para Jóvenes en la Biblioteca del Condado de Sonoma

Unanse a nuestra comunidad de lectores este verano-- lean por lo menos cinco libros del 1º de junio al 10 de agosto para ganarse un libro gratis ¡y la oportunidad de ganarse premios increíbles!

Regístrense hoy en sonomalibrary.beanstack.org y denle seguimiento a sus avances con las lecturas, para ganarse atractivos gafetes digitales y otros premios.

Cada semana está sucediendo algo divertido en tu biblioteca, durante la Lectura de Verano. Vengan a la biblioteca, llévense en préstamo un video, obtengan su credencial de la biblioteca y disfruten de algunos libros.

- ❖ **CoderDojo:** Every Monday 3:30 - 5 p.m. Ages 7-17 only please. Free! Learn to code, develop websites, games, and much, much more. BEGINNERS WELCOME! Space is limited - please register online at <https://www.eventbrite.com/o/coderdojo-rincon-valley-17615374468>.
 - ❖ **Teen Anime Club:** Every Tuesday, 3:30 - 4:30 p.m. Ages 12-17 only please. Calling all Anime & Manga fans! Enjoy watching anime and discussing Manga? Help the group decide what Anime titles to watch! This is a FREE program and no registration is required.
 - ❖ **Youth Chess Club:** Every Wednesday from 3:30 - 5 p.m. Ages 7-17 only please. Join chess teacher Bruce Wishard for a free weekly chess program. All levels of learners are welcome! Chess sets will be provided. This is a FREE program and no registration is required.
 - ❖ **Homework Help:** Every Wednesday from 3:30 - 5:30 p.m. in the Teen Area of the library. Grades K-12. This is a FREE program and no registration is required.
- ➡ For more exciting offerings from Sonoma County Library, please visit: <https://sonomacounty.libcal.com/> - *Rincon Valley Library Teen Services Librarian Nicole Fernandez*

One More Edition Left!

There is one more edition left of the Falcons Gazette this school year! What kind of information would you like to see in the May issue? Contact **STPC Newsletter Editor Miu Dieter** at miudieter1@gmail.com for suggestions!

For all other inquiries to the STPC, contact **STPC Co-Presidents Jennifer Smits**, smitsjen02@yahoo.com & **Ananda Sweet**, anandasweet@sbcglobal.net

April 2019 Falcons Gazette