

January  
2012

# RMS Wolves

ALL STUDENTS WILL GRADUATE FROM ROME HIGH SCHOOL PREPARED FOR COLLEGE OR WORK



## From the Principal



Greg Christian  
gchristian@rcs.rome.ga.us

Dear Parents:

It is the end of January and the school year is rapidly passing by! Please make sure that your student attends school each day on time. Our 8<sup>th</sup> grade students recently completed the Middle Grades Writing Test (MGWT) and we have 50 days until the CRCT. High school tours have taken place this week for the 8<sup>th</sup> graders and soon H.S. registration will be available on-line. Please make sure that your child attends school each day. Instructional time is vital to their success.

Our students continue to excel in many areas. Several Rome Middle School students will be recognized for

excellence at the March school board meeting. We have much to be thankful for at Rome Middle School. We have received the Title I Distinguished award for the fourth consecutive year. Our faculty and staff continue to do an excellent job with instruction, we have tremendous support from the central office staff, and our students are working very hard to be successful!

We have the winter break on February 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>. I hope all of you have a happy Valentine's Day and I look forward to seeing you soon at Rome Middle School.

Greg Christian, Principal

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## Spelling Bee

System Spelling Bee  
Representatives



Team  
Champions



Congratulations,  
Nancy!  
RMS Spelling  
Champ



## Magellan Team Highlights for December 2011

The team will be going to tour Rome High School on Thursday, January 26. The students will visit certain classes, tour most of the building by RHS juniors and seniors, and will be able to ask questions about their upcoming freshman year.

RHS registration has begun! Your child received a paper with a user name and password to register on Power School. Your child's core classes (Literature, Math, and Science) have been selected by those teachers, so you and

your child will need to register for electives. All of the instructions are given on the registration sheet that your child received on Monday, January 23. Please contact any of the Magellan teachers if you are having problems registering.

Students in Mrs. Yeargan and Ms. Caldwell's classes are studying the Holocaust. As you may know, this event was one of the most horrific events to happen in world history. Both classes are reading two fascinating pieces of literature about the Holocaust. In Literature class, the

students are reading **Surviving Hitler: A Boy in the Nazi Death Camps**, written by Andrea Warren. In Language Arts, students are reading the play version of the best-selling book **The Diary of a Young Girl**, written by Anne Frank. At the conclusion of each unit in both classes, there will be a performance task based on what they read in the book and in the play. So far, the students seem really enthusiastic and involved in learning more about people involved in the Holocaust.

### Congratulations to our Wolves of the Week:

January 9 .

**Zelahid Martinez**

January 16-

**Jonny Reyes**

### Pathfinder Wolves of the Week!

- ✓ Asa Nichols
- ✓ Nancy Lopez
- ✓ Mykah Knitig



## Pathfinder

Pathfinder 7<sup>th</sup> grade ELA students have begun a research and technology unit. Students will be required to complete a short research paper. If they have computer access at home, PLEASE let them get on it to research their topic throughout this process. We are learning how there is no such thing as a boring topic. It is all in how you look at it and the questions that are asked about it.

Pathfinder Life Science students have been looking at traits organisms have that help them survive in their environments. We will soon begin our Ecology unit. In it, we will study how organisms interact with each other and their environment.

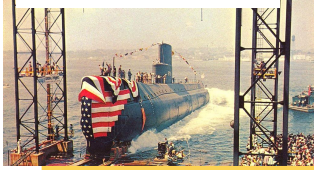
In Literature class, we have begun reading Among the Hidden by Margaret Peterson Haddix. The students are very absorbed in this book and look forward to making the propaganda poster for their Performance

Task at the end. There is also a competition among classes for highest vocabulary test average. Second period is currently winning with a class average of 96.6%. Way to go!

Pathfinder students are currently working on a Wump Investigation in their Math class. Students must examine different shapes and determine if they are members of the Wump family based upon shape and size. This task tests students' understanding of dilations: the proportional stretching and shrinking of an object.

Pathfinder's geography classes began the new year with a study of India. The students learned about Hinduism, Gandhi, environmental problems in India, and India's government. They concluded their study of India on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. The students read about a trip Martin Luther King took to India and the influence Gandhi's philosophy had on him. They wrote a short essay in which they compared and contrasted the two leaders.

Nautilus- the first atomic sub.  
Launched 21-Jan-1954



## Nautilus Wolves of the Week!

- ✓ Eduardo Perez
- ✓ Ron Johnson
- ✓ Jennifer Morales
- ✓ Destiney McDaniel
- ✓ Joseph Cheriamparathu
- ✓ Asher Monson
- ✓ Autumn Fortenberry
- ✓ Imani Beverly-Knox
- ✓ Gerardo Granado
- ✓ Mikayla Walters

## Nautilus Team News

In January, students in Ms. Cooper's **Literature** class will be reading the book, *Among the Hidden*. By Margaret Peterson Haddix. In **Social Studies**, students will be studying the countries of Africa, and in **Science**, students will explore how organ-

isms change over time. In Ms. Stuart's **Language Arts** class, we will continue to focus on persuasive writing, and students will write a persuasive essay. In Mrs. White's math class, students will continue their studies in geometry.

**Many thanks** for the cans you sent in for the canned food drive the school held in November. Nautilus team students and teachers brought in almost 200 cans!

Just a reminder that if your student is struggling in academic classes, he or she can ask the teacher about tutoring times.

[astuart@rcs.rome.ga.us](mailto:astuart@rcs.rome.ga.us) (English/Language Arts)  
[walford@rcs.rome.ga.us](mailto:walford@rcs.rome.ga.us) (Geography)  
[scooper@rcs.rome.ga.us](mailto:scooper@rcs.rome.ga.us) (Literature)

[dfreeman@rcs.rome.ga.us](mailto:dfreeman@rcs.rome.ga.us) (Geography/Science bridge teacher)  
[lhjones@rcs.rome.ga.us](mailto:lhjones@rcs.rome.ga.us) (Science)  
[jwhite@rcs.rome.ga.us](mailto:jwhite@rcs.rome.ga.us) (Math)

## Media Center Message

Happy 2012! We hope you had a wonderful winter break. The year seems to be off to a great start! In the media center, the New Year also means new books. Recently, the media center added 40 brand new books with approximately 30 additional titles coming soon.

In January, eighth grade Literature students reading the book, *Surviving Hitler*, by Andrea Warren were presented with information on the Holocaust including trailers for *The Boy in the Striped Pajamas*, *The Diary of Anne Frank*, and a riveting trailer for the book, *Night*, by Elie Wiesel. The media center has multiple copies of this title available for check out as well as many other books on the Holocaust.

February is Black history month. Please stay tuned for featured books, classroom resources, and book offerings highlighting the African American experience. If you want to view featured book trailers, click on the [Featured Book link](#) on the media center wiki, updated monthly.

As students work on their 25-book reading goals, I want to emphasize the need to choose books they enjoy reading, not just books they have to read. Students who read for pleasure are more likely to stick with a book and explore similar titles with the same author or subject matter. Literacy during the middle school years is critical according to the International Reading Association (Moore et al., 1999, p. 3):

*“Adolescents entering the adult world in the 21st century will read and write more than at any other time in human history. They will need advanced levels of literacy to perform their jobs, run their households, act as citizens, and conduct their personal lives. They will need literacy to cope with the flood of information they will find everywhere they turn. They will need literacy to feed their imaginations so they can create the world of the future. In a complex and sometimes even dangerous world, their ability to read can be crucial.”*

In other news, students should continue earning AR points. It only takes 50 points and a 70% average to exempt one exam this semester. Students are encouraged to begin working on this goal sooner, rather than later.





## Seawolves of the Week!

- ✓ Nehemiah Reddish
- ✓ Stephany Lopez
- ✓ Mykarra Barrett
- ✓ Madison Pittman

## Seawolf Team Highlights

Seventh grade ELA will be doing a poetry unit. The mid-February focus will be the poetry of Langston Hughes and Maya Angelou.

In math, we are discovering characteristics of similarity and congruence. We will work on tasks to determine scale factors, corresponding angles and sides, as well as determining the areas of similar figures. Students are also going to learn about another transformation, dilations. We are getting closer to the CRCT. Please ensure that your student is practicing on [www.studyisland.com](http://www.studyisland.com) to review concepts taught earlier in the year!

In literature class we are finishing the science fiction book, Among the Hidden, by Margaret Peterson Haddix. It has a social studies connection in that it relates to China and their population law. A persuasive poster will be the performance task. After we finish that, in honor of Black History Month, we will take a longer look at and listen to Martin Luther King, Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech and then write one of our own. That will lead us to another people group who have experienced oppression as we begin reading Homeless Bird, by Gloria Whelan. It is set in India and looks at the plight of widows there.

Students have just finished the study of India and will begin studying Africa. We will look at the geography and history of Africa and then focus on specific countries. Our first stop will be Egypt, Sudan, and Southern Sudan in northern Africa.

Science classes will be finishing the chapter on The Theory of Evolution by Natural Selection. Ask your child if they had the adaptations to survive. The students were given three physical challenges. If they met these challenges, they survived and as survivors, received a pass to sit with a friend at lunch. We will begin our study of Ecology the first of February.

## Voyager Team News

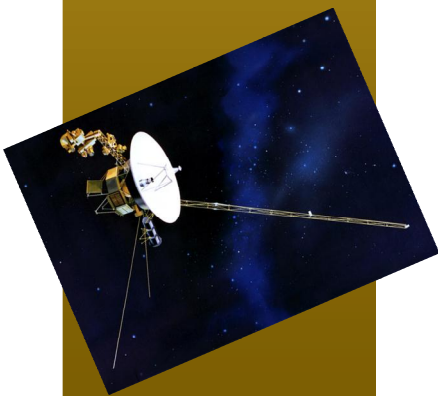
Welcome back from winter break! We hope everyone enjoyed the holidays! We are very busy on Voyager preparing for CRCT testing in April! It will be here before you know it!

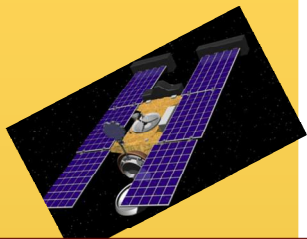
In science, Mrs. Peck has been teaching music vs. noise. She has even invited several students in her classroom to play different instruments for demonstration of music. In math, Ms. Walker is busy teaching slope, graphing lines, and graphing points. She still offers tutoring on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons until 5:00 and Friday mornings from 8-8:30. Make arrangements to get tutored for the

CRCT! In Georgia studies, Mr. Graney is busy teaching reconstruction and working on preparing for black history month. In literature, Mrs. Goya's class has been reading Surviving Hitler and responding in their reader's notebooks. While Mrs. Goya is reading this selection, Mrs. Williams will also be reading an excerpt from The Diary of Anne Frank.

Please keep in mind that Voyager teachers are here to see your child succeed! If at any time you have questions or would like to set up a conference, don't hesitate to email us and we can plan a time to meet with you.

[lgoya@rcs.rome.ga.us](mailto:lgoya@rcs.rome.ga.us)





## Stardust Wolves of the Week!

- ✓ Ty Elkins
- ✓ Trey Driver
- ✓ Renee Lapointe
- ✓ Luis Oliva

# Stardust

## Math:

Stardust students are in the full swing of Algebra! They are graphing equations in many different ways and showing their knowledge by writing explanations of what they have done. Geometry is next – congruent versus similar, different types of angles – it's all fun! Tutoring continues to be available Monday – Thursday mornings at 8:00am.

## ELA:

Middle Grades Writing Test is OVER! Stardust students are beginning a new unit on persuasive writing with evidence taken from a text. They are reading the

play adapted from The Diary of Anne Frank. And, of course, they are preparing for the CRCT. Tutoring is still available on Thursday mornings at 8:05.

## Science:

In Science, Stardust students are learning about the behavior of light waves and how the human eye sees color in terms of wavelengths. The students are working on a Performance Task called "EM Waves and Me", in which they demonstrate their knowledge of the EM Spectrum by drawing pictures.

## 25 Book Standard Winners

2<sup>nd</sup> 9 Weeks

According to one of the Georgia Performance Reading Across the Curriculum Standards, *"The student reads a minimum of 25 grade-level appropriate books or book equivalents (approximately 1,000,000 words) per year from a variety of subject disciplines. The student reads both informational and fictional texts in a variety of genres and modes of discourse, including technical texts related to various subject areas."* From a random drawing on each team, these students have met the requirement for the 25 Book standard for the second 9 weeks at RMS by reading at least **12 books** so far this year! They will be rewarded with a certificate, RMS pencil, candy, Media Center pass, free Sit+pass for the cafeteria, 10 Wolf Bucks, and 2 free books. Each 9 Weeks, the prizes will be better as the reading demands increase. Congratulations to these lucky winners!

**Everyone keep reading!**

### 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Winners: Pathfinder

1. Kalil Smith
2. Annel Contreras
3. Gage Floyd

### Seawolf

1. Lauren Spillman
2. Kya Burton
3. Steven Heath

### Nautilus

1. Daysi Moscoso
2. William Holtzclaw
3. Kaitlyn Broadway

### 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Winners: Voyager

1. James Mull
2. Celia Diller
3. Julia Hodges

### Magellan

1. LeAsia Dark
2. Oliver Walton
3. Ian McFarland

### Stardust

1. Alyssa Waltrous
2. Shelby Rhinehart
3. Crystal Kim





# Valentine Dance

The Rome Middle School Science Department would like to invite all Rome Middle School students to the Valentine's dance on Friday, February 10<sup>th</sup> from 4:00-5:30. The dance will raise money to purchase needed lab supplies to enhance each student's science experience at Rome Middle School.

Students will have the opportunity to purchase candy and drinks from the concession stand and have pictures taken

alone or with a friend or friends. We would greatly appreciate the donation of canned drinks or baked goods for the concession stand. If you can make a donation, please contact your child's science teacher. We encourage all students to attend to support the science department!

