

# The Royal Review

Fall 2020



## School Opportunities You Don't Want to Miss!

By Allie Maldonado

School Clubs are meant to help the school, community, students, and etc. Usually having 10 or more students, they help build the school and create a better atmosphere for both the students and the staff. By having school clubs such as Students Council we give students the chance to bounce off opportunities that may help improving emotions from different students and staff members. By giving students the chance to say something make them feel that they have a say in it to help the school and improve it for students that may come in the future.

If you are looking to help the school get improved technology such as printers, Chrome Books, and etc. it is recommended that you join the Student Council . In order to improve the technology in the school we need to raise funds. Raising such funds would include selling soda/pop, suckers, and anything else that can help get us the goal we need to reach. Of course the teacher will not always be the one talking, for Student Council there will be a President, Vice President, and Secretary. Usually an 8<sup>th</sup> grader will take part in being one of the three choices, you can get nominated to be one of these said jobs, but you have to accept the nomination in order to have a chance of being one of the three jobs.

If you would like to help beyond school you would enjoy Builders Club. Builders Club is there to also raise funds, but you raise funds to help the community. Much like Student Council three 8<sup>th</sup> graders will be chosen to be either President, Vice President, or Secretary. Helping the community can go from selling books to help decorate a nursing home. By joining Builders Club and raising funds you give others the chance to reach their goal as well. Builders Club is there to improve the community and the living ways that people go through.

We've all read a newspaper at least once in our lives, but they're usually made by adults. For the Royal Review students make the newspaper articles to let others know what is going on now. While yes Royal Review is different from Student Council and Builders Club, they let you know about the progress that Student Council and Builders Club have done. Reading a newspaper article isn't all that amazing for children who don't want to know that Georgia has new sweet peaches or something like that, students want to read about things that are more exciting than peaches. That is why students type and create newspaper articles, they know how to make it better and more interesting to read about a peach in Georgia.

School clubs have always improved technology or any other thing that is used in school or in the community, which is why we owe them a thanks for all the hard work that they have done for us so it's easier and more elevated. While Student Council and Builders Club reach their goals and improve more and more Royal Review will always be there to give them that spotlight that they deserve.

## **Technology isn't Perfect** **By Siena Kemmeren**

It is no surprise that homework is online, and everything is now based off technology, but it is no good when no one knows how to use it. Everyone has their difficulties whether with their phone, app, canvas, or even trying to get into their homework, but it is important to know how to fix this.

A starter tip is check your internet. A lot of problems are caused with bad internet or no internet. Another issue may be your device. One day in my classes, a couple people couldn't get a website to work, and we figured out that we all had androids. I'm not persuading you to get an I-phone, but laptops are a good idea for the class where your teacher uses a bunch of websites.

A lot of kids make up excuses on why they didn't do their homework, and this is a big one. You can usually find your assignment in week at a glance. If it's not there, it will be in modules. You're probably thinking, what about to-do list. The to-do list, while convenient, isn't actually as helpful as you think. By now you have figured out that you can just go there and finish homework before its due, but a lot of teachers don't use the to-do list. There are also assignments that don't have due dates.

If you can't submit your homework, then try again on a different device or try saving your progress, leaving, then going back in and submitting it. If you have any other questions, you should ask your teachers or someone who knows how to deal with the issue. Just remember, this technology is new to a lot of people including our teachers, but this is something that we all need to learn and know about, so be patient if your teacher or classmates don't know what to do. Technology is not perfect, and everything has its flaws.

## **Welcoming Mrs. Glenn!**

**By Addison Bonnewell**

Now that Mr. Magnafici is the principal, we needed a new vice principal, and he chose Mrs. Glenn to be just that for RMS. I interviewed her via email to introduce her to us. The first question I asked her was "How did you get to be the new vice principal?" She replied with, "This summer I graduated from Western Illinois University with a Master's Degree in Educational Leadership and a Principal Certificate. The Assistant Principal job at RMS was available before I finished my courses. Since I have only worked in the Elementary buildings, it was out of my comfort zone to apply but I only wanted to pursue a Principal job in Dixon Public Schools. I went to school K-12 in Dixon, and taught in Dixon for 8 years. It has always been my dream to a leader in this district. After my interview for the job, I knew that I really wanted this job! The staff that I met was honest and I could tell they were invested in doing what is best for kids. I was so excited when Mr. Magnafici called and offered me the job!" Next I asked her, "Do you like being the vice principal more than teaching?" She said, "This is a hard question! I love both teaching and being a vice principal. I loved teaching reading to students and working with small groups while I was a teacher. I enjoyed building a classroom community where all of my students felt safe, worked hard, and of course had fun! So far, I am really enjoying being the Vice Principal. I have learned so much from the students and staff at RMS. Now, I can help build a school community instead of just one classroom community. I am excited to work with the PBIS committee and Culture and Climate committee to make this happen." The third question I asked her was, "What's the best/worst part of being the vice principal? The best part is seeing so many students that I know from when they were in 3rd grade at Jefferson. It is fun to see how much they have grown, and I feel like I know so many kids already. Another great part of my job is the Staff at Reagan. They have been so helpful and go above and beyond to provide the best education for our students! I am lucky to work with Mr. Magnafici because he knows everything there is to know about RMS! I really don't have a 'worst' part of my job. The hardest part is learning how a middle school functions because I am used to working at an elementary school. I am not used to the student schedules and teachers teaching different grade levels and subject areas! I feel like I am learning A LOT and I really love my job!" After that, I asked her, "What do you do as the vice principal?" Her answer to that was, "Every day is different! This year I have spent a lot of time helping parents and students with Canvas. I also look through any Discipline Referrals and conference with those students. I walk around and observe what is going on in the hallways and classrooms. I love seeing the fun activities our students do while at school. I also get to push the Positive Office Referral Cart around and call students out of lunch to pick a prize! On Fridays, we have meetings with teachers to work on curriculum, collaborate as grade levels, and meet as committees." Finally I asked her, "If you could use one word to describe it, what word would you use?" She answered with, "Bustling There is never a dull moment, and there is always something to do! I can't wait to see what life is like at RMS when all students are in attendance!"

## **Running Through a Pandemic** **By Hayden Fulton**

During the pandemic, many sports have been canceled, but cross-country has been able to slip through the cracks. With the season now over, we can look back at the good and the bad of cross country during a pandemic. Practicing was different because we were unable to be in large groups. With practices starting at 4:30 and school ending at 1:00 Meant that we would not practice at Reagan this year. Luckily, those were really the only two changes that have happened to practices. Meets had changed so much compared to last year. Most meets had only one other team there and unless we were running, we had to wear a mask. Most of the meets were home meets at Salk Valley only a few were away. Even though we had a shortened cross-country season Coach Hill and Coach Thorpe worked us hard and proved their dedication cross county and us. Their hard work and dedication allowed us to finish the season with both the boys and girls being undefeated. Sectionals was a good meet with only 7 boys and 7 girls running and each boys and girls had three alternates. This was the biggest meet of the season with six other teams. The day was hot and a little ruff to run in but we were able to pull through and win. Even though we won sectionals we will have no state meet due to the pandemic. Coach Hill did give us feed back about the year here is what she said "The RMS cross country team finished another great season with the boys and girls' teams winning first place in the Sectionals race against six other teams. Aaron Conderman, the first-place winner, ran a time of 11:53 for two miles with 4 other RMS boys in the top 10. Six RMS girls placed in the top 10 for a successful team victory. The team consisting of 30 girls and 19 boys at various points competed in nine meets including Sectionals. Many of these young men and women ran six days a week and finished the season with personal bests. Congratulations to this hard-working group of runners who dominated in a season of setback". Most of the runner agree that this season was good, but it would have been a lot better if we had a normal season. This cross-country season was different, but we were still able to finish it during this pandemic.

## **Interview with Ms. Alexander** **By Gabbie Stone**

1. Is this your first time teaching?

Yes, this is my first-year teaching.

2. Where did you go to college?

I went to Eastern Illinois University in Charleston, Illinois.

3. Do you have any kids?

I do not have any kids.

4. What was your first impression of Reagan?

I love teaching at Reagan , and I feel very fortunate to work with such wonderful people.

## **Interview with** **Mr. Taylor** **By Aydrienne Lahey**

1. Mr. Taylor said his favorite color is blue

2. He went to college at NIU

3. He likes art because he gets to create fun characters and worlds and gets to share them with others

4. He teaches art at Reagan because he taught in neighboring Ashton some years back and always missed the area, when he saw the opening for an art teacher at Reagan he jumped at it.

5. He was mostly inspired by his high school art teacher Mr. Simmering. He always enjoyed art and he helped me into it.

6. His favorite thing to draw is new cartoon characters and worlds for them and to tell their stories.

7. If Mr. Taylor wasn't an art teacher he would be a freelance illustrator.

8. When Mr. Taylor was little he wanted to be an astronaut but that didn't work out.

9. He knew he wanted to be an art teacher his junior year of high school.

10. He would consider being a famous artist, but he is not sure how much he would enjoy it, and he says that being a famous artist sounds like he would be living a lonely life.

## **Tips on how to stay safe on Halloween**

**By Nylah Todd**

We all know Halloween is one of the most dangerous night of the year. So this is my number one tip, you may want to have an adult or anyone older than 18 that is a close friend or family member with you and then they can try to protect you from any harm coming your way. So I've heard of the stories about how there have been like razor blades or sharp objects hidden in the candy, now in those situations I know parents go through kids candy and steal it but it good that they do that because if they didn't then we could bite into some very sharp things and it would be good at all. Now if u are not an adult do not dress inappropriately other wise there can be some weird people out there who are gonna try to hurt you especially if you are alone that's why I say to not be by yourself or stuff like that can really happen and I know I'm just thinking about the worst case scenario but this stuff can happen on Halloween because it's one of the most dangerous night of the year. Now that you have the tips you need stay safe and have fun.

## **Student of the Month: Hayden Fulton**

**By Addison Bonnewell**

Hayden Fulton is an 8th grade student with a stellar personality, and he won student of the month for September 2020. I interviewed him about how it is and what he thinks about it. The first thing I asked him was how did tell him and how they told him. He said that they told him the Friday after the Wednesday he turned in the question paper and they told his mom. I asked him what his reaction to being sotm (student of the month), he said he was shocked and obviously proud. They also told him that he has to make a video answering more questions. I asked him if he expected to be sotm and he said it did not. He said he did not think he answered the original questions that well. I asked him about the extra questions and what they were. He said they asked him what clubs he would make or what rules would change and what he was in extracurricular wise. I wanted to know his ideas for clubs, and he said a club for baking or cooking because he thinks it would bring people together and grow as cooks. He also wanted the band to be a full period because it would make the band stronger. They also asked him what advice he would give to a sixth grader. He said that they should stay calm and not feel overwhelmed by all the work because the teachers know what they are dl\doing, and they know what you can or cannot do.

## **RMS Student of the Month: Mackenzie Toms**

**By Hayden Fulton**

Every year 8th graders can be chosen for student of the month. This year out October student of the month is Makenzie Toms. She is a good and hardworking student, and I was able to ask her a few questions. I asked her how she felt about it and felt she expect it. Makenzie responded with that she was proud of herself and didn't really expect it at all. I asked her what rule she would change and what club would she make if she could. Makenzie responded with a club she would want to add an art club because of all the talented kid in Reagan, and she didn't know any rules that she wanted to change. I asked her if she was glad about not having to answer the questions in front of everyone and instead just make a video. She responded with that she was glad about it because she could practice and not have to worry about messing up in front of everyone. The last question I asked her was what advice you would give an upcoming 6th grader. Makenzie answered with not to be intimidated by locker combinations or finding your classes on time. This year may be different, but we can still celebrate all the hardworking students.

## Day of the Dead

By Allie Maldonado

Day of the Dead, or Día de los Muertos, is a celebration of life and death, this holiday originated from Mexico but it is now celebrated all over Latin America. They celebrate with colorful calaveras (skulls) and calacas (skeletons). This tradition starts on October 31st, Halloween, and ends November 2nd. The Aztec started the tradition; it is not a gloomy or upsetting tradition rather a celebration of lives that have passed on and Mexican families remember and honor their family. The day of the dead is important to Mexicans because it demonstrates the love and respect for their deceased. In San Andres Mixquic, a community southeast of Mexico City, Day of the Dead is the most important celebration. They care so much about Day of the Dead, that the village and their church have become famous for the tradition, they often prepare Day of the Dead two to three months before hand.

When Day of the Dead comes, people have makeup on their face representing a skull, this makeup is called sugar skull makeup. This name began when a man named Jose Guadalupe Prosada created a print of a figure that is called La Calavera Catrina which in English is translated to "The Elegant Skull". Although they are celebrated on the same day Halloween and Day of the Dead are in no way related. During Day of the Dead, it is required by law that women wear head wraps, if you look at pictures that are taken on Day of the Dead you can see the flower head band that women wear and, in some photos, you can see them holding flowers, these flowers that are being held are Marigolds. Marigolds are also called flower of the dead or cempasuchitl. Marigolds are used on Day of the Dead to help guide loved ones to come visit during this celebration by following the vibrant colors.

Day of the Dead is a very important day for Mexican families, it allows deceased loved ones to see their family though the living cannot see them. Day of the Dead for the deceased allows them to visit during the celebration but it is believed that without a photo of them they have no way of passing the barrier. For Mexicans, once you have lost a loved one you are to put up a photo of them allowing them to pass and visit.

### Who are Rockin' Rosey and Rowdie Ronnie?

By Addison Bonnewell

Our newspaper club had to know what's up with these characters Rowdie Ronnie and Rockin' Rosey, so I decided to go to the source, Mr. Magnafici. I emailed him and asked for some information on these people.

He said, "Rowdie Ronnie is my alter ego, that was created back in the 2017-18 school year in response to Corn Cob Carl (aka Dr. Grady) at DHS. While Corn Cob has been character for years, we needed something at RMS to spark a little excitement throughout the building with staff and students. On November 16th, 2017, I rummaged through props from our school photobooth tote and some old costumes I had laying around my office. My goofy attire was set and now I needed a name. I enlisted the help of our 8th grade basketball cheerleaders that morning as I had an idea for a skit. My idea was to launch a Spirit War with DHS so I asked them if they had a good cheer we could use. They quickly came up with the "R-O-W-D-I-E that's the way we spell Rowdie, Let's Get Rowdie" cheer. After this was established, we began to think, Rowdie sounds like a great nickname, what could go with that? Being that our school is named after the 40th President of the United States, Ronald Reagan, a suggestion was made to shorten Ronald to Ronnie and the rest is history!"

He continued, "Throughout the rest of that year, we launched many videos between DHS and RMS that included challenges, poems, and dancing. A 3 point basketball showdown between Ronnie and Carl was held at the halftime of a varsity boys basketball game while a Sumo wrestling contest between the two was held at the conclusion of Senior Night for DHS wrestling in the Pit. Since then, Carl and Ronnie have collaborated on public service

videos for DPS students, lip sync singing and dancing videos, and getting duct taped to support United Way of Lee County."

"All in all, we have found a way through these characters to bring additional fun and excitement into the educational setting. This has also allowed us to connect with staff, students, and community members in new ways. And personally, this has allowed me to keep my passion for education alive and strong. The farther away you get from the classroom as an educator, it seems more difficult to stay connected with students and ultimately brings along more responsibilities that can sometimes be stressful. Rowdie Ronnie keeps me grounded to my roots and provides the balance I need in my position.

"He said, "In regard to Mrs. Glenn, aka, Rockin' Rosey.....every good "superhero" needs a sidekick so I am glad that she has joined our team. Rosey is smart, creative, and brings a ton of positivity to RMS. As a DPS alum, she was also a member of the DHS Dance Team so she has been helpful in teaching us a few moves for upcoming videos. She is a rising star so be on the lookout for more from her!"

"'Rascal the Royal' aka SRO Officer Thomas, is another up and coming character to be on the lookout for at RMS."

## **Who is Seth Wiggins?**

**By Addison Bonnewell**

I interviewed Seth Wiggins; he is running for state representative in Illinois. Some background on Seth is that he is a transgender man, he was in the air force, and he is an attorney. It is his first year of running for state representative, so I asked him questions about what he does to campaign successfully. The first question I asked him was how he campaigns; he says it is different due to covid. He chose to take a campaign literature and drop some info door to door in different places. He uses social media to connect with people without transmitting corona virus. The next question I asked him was what made him want to run for state representative, he said he was raised in a politically active family. Since 3<sup>rd</sup> grade he valued public service and that is why he joined the military. He advocates in our capitol. I asked him about his favorite part about it, he simply answered the people. He says his job as an attorney and running are similar. He says he figures out issue areas. He finds solutions and he works with people skills. He says that is the reason he likes to do it. The fourth question I asked him was does it make him nervous talking to people, his answer surprised me. He says he is an extrovert, and he says its human to have some nerves. He says in everyday life he has no problem talking to people. The only times he says he gets nerves is when he is talking to people, he knows will disagree with him. I asked him about the hardest part of campaigning. He says it takes a lot of energy. He says you always must be on. He says he has 3 foster sons and a daughter with a relationship and a job while having 110% energy to inspire people to believe in him. He said it is a pretty good problem. I asked him what obstacles he has faced in campaigning. He says he is running against someone who has already ran 4 terms. His name is not out there all that much. People do not know who he is. He says he works that much harder to get his foot in the door and works even harder to keep it there. He says he overcomes all that by being a mindful person. He says he reminds himself that he is running for his daughter and 3 POC sons. He says he is doing it for them. The last question I asked him was what he feels is his biggest accomplishment in campaigning. He says the General election. He talked about the primaries and how he did not have to go against anyone for those. He looked at numbers in the past compared to this year. He got eighteen hundred more votes than the other candidate last year.

Note—The election is over now, but maybe Seth will run again. Who knows?

## **Will Corona Virus Cancel Halloween?**

**By Gabbie Stone**

There is no laws saying that covid will cancel Halloween, but people are being discouraged and told not to go. So what is spookier? Covid-19 or the ghosts, mummy's, and vampires?

If you and your family are going trick or treating remember to wear a mask. Make your cloth mask part of your costume. Please remember that a costume mask is not a substitute for a cloth mask and won't protect from the virus. Do not wear a costume mask over a cloth mask. It can make breathing more difficult and cause serious trouble. Masks should never be worn by children under the age of 2 or anyone who has trouble breathing.

Some ideas for people who aren't trick or treating are to decorate your home for Halloween you can also Carve pumpkins with members of your household or outside with neighbors or friends and walk from house to house, admiring Halloween decorations at a distance.

You can do things like go on an outdoor Halloween-themed scavenger hunt. You can visit a pumpkin patch or orchard. Remember to wash your hands or use hand sanitizer frequently, especially after touching frequently touched surfaces, pumpkins, or apples or Go to a one-way, walk-through haunted forest or corn maze. Hide Halloween treats in and around your house. Hold a Halloween treat hunt with household members. Hold an outdoor costume parade or contest so everyone can show off their costumes or host an outdoor Halloween movie night with friends or neighbors or an indoor movie night with your household members.

Whatever you are doing this Halloween there is one thing required, have fun!

## What's New With Music?

By: Hayden Fulton

This year there are many new teachers who are bringing new ideas to the table. I was fortunate enough to be able to interview Ms. Anderson the new music and band teacher. I learned from her mini biography that she mostly plays the trumpet but also play the violin too. She enjoys running, reading, and cooking. Her favorite color is mint, and she loves coffee.

### The Interview

1. How do you feel about this year so far?

Ms. Anderson's Answer: I feel like this year is going well so far. It is my first-year teaching, so I am learning a ton of new stuff every day. Even though it wasn't what I thought it would be, it is still a great experience to come to school every day and see my students.

2. Are you excited for the rest of the year?

Ms. Anderson's Answer: I'm excited to see what the rest of the year will bring. I try to look at each new week as an opportunity to try something new and share music.

3. What do you hope will happen this year?

Ms. Anderson's Answer: This year I hope we will be able to have a good school experience even though it isn't what school normally is. We still get to learn and spend time with each other even though it is different.

4. How do you feel about canvas and remote learning?

Ms. Anderson's Answer: It has been going better than expected. Sometimes even if something seems like it won't be ideal, you can learn a lot from it. I've learned that I prefer to keep materials, lessons, and assignments all on Canvas so it is all in one virtual place and students can get what they need right when they need it. Doing instrument lessons over Zoom is interesting, but it has helped me come up with a few tactics that would be awesome during in-person lessons as well.

5. Is there anything that you would want to change so far about band/music or are planning to change?

Ms. Anderson's Answer: Once 2nd quarter starts; general music will be coming back. I am excited to meet even MORE new students and do different music activities with them. As far as band, I want to build a group of musicians who can share a musical experience with each other. Even though we can't all be together playing at once, we can still share music in different ways. I want to create a love of music throughout the whole school and have as many students as possible participate.

The new teachers are doing good this year so far, so let them make this year a great one. Ms. Anderson has already brought so many good ideas we'll see what she will do next.

### **Zoom Etiquette**

By Siena Kemmeren

We have been doing zoom for a little while, and have gotten used to doing zoom, but we still need rules. One big issue is talking during others. This is very difficult, but most times the teacher will call on you. It is also important to be dressed and put together for your zooms. Your teachers want to see your face rather than a black screen with your name. This shouldn't be that hard considering zooms give you time to sleep in and have time to get ready.

You need to also listen and respect others. You may not know this, but you can find that if your teachers share their screen, you can draw on it. Don't do this. The teachers know who's drawing it and you can get in trouble. Only do it if you have been asked to or are allowed to. Remember that all bad behavior comes with bad consequences, and good behavior comes with good consequences.

## **Covid and the Environment**

**By Allie Maldonado**

Have you noticed how plant life is starting to grow more than it has before? Why do you think that is? Well since the pandemic not many people have gone outside because of this, plants have the space to grow. For instance, nobody really walked on grass and people are mostly inside so the lawn grows. Though having your lawn grow more rapidly, in Italy the Venice Canal people are able to see through the water now, it is found that jellyfish live in the Venice Canal, if you look at before and after picture of the Venice Canal you can see an enormous change between the two photos. Having less boats touring through the water and stirring the water floor up, it becomes clearer.

If you haven't already realized this, people are the main problems of the world being dirty and unsanitary. Factories are always running to make different objects that we don't necessarily need, boats aren't out all the time meaning the ocean has less trouble of oil leakage or having the ocean floor stirred up and bringing gunk to the top. Quarantine has vastly improved oceans more than land. Though it is bringing negativity to the population Covid is improving the environment one step at a time. Whenever quarantine ends, the clear water will probably end as well seeing as how people effect the environment in positive and negative ways, the only way the environment will stay the same is if we continue to not send as many boats out, not boat through the Venice and canal and get rid of some factories.

If you look at any before and after pictures of different environments you can see a gap between almost everything. Venice, Italy isn't the only place that has had a vast improvement on the Earth other places have too.

## **Bestseller From the Past**

**By Gabbie Stone**

The Lord Of The Rings series is still a must-read for teens and tweens, the story is compelling and full of action. The series can be quite monotone at times, but the action packed battles will sweep you off your feet. The books are much more detailed than the movies, and are a good read that will entertain you for hours!

There are some things you should know before taking the plunge into this beautifully built world. The author likes to take his time while writing to fit in all the details, thus making LOTR a longer book to read. There are many characters in this book, and even more names to learn. The series is actually six books bound into three!

I would recommend this book to anyone with time, patience, and a love for the fantasy genre.