

The Royal Review

Fall 2022



Some Advice For 6th Graders...

By Teagyn Fuller

Welcome to middle school! You made it, after six long years of elementary school. In honor of the new school year, here's some advice from the other students and staff here at Reagan. Alyssa Bradley, an 8th grader, says that 6th graders should not let people define you; don't let any of the other kids make fun of you. If they do, ignore them and continue with your day. Claire Grobe, a 7th grader, says that 6th graders should make sure they get all their work done and Mr. Hamel, one of our favorite teachers, states that 6th graders should stay out of trouble and not be afraid to ask questions. His wife, Ms. Hamel, says that they should be good and make smart choices. One of our accelerated teachers, Ms. Longan, says that they should listen to teachers, keep their hands to themselves, and stay quiet during class when they're told to. Mrs. Bovey's advice for 6th graders is to stay on top of their homework, do their best, and stay organized. Parker Fogle says to stay in school and try out some of the sports or extracurriculars that RMS has to offer! Mrs. Page and Mrs. Reul advise to be willing to take a risk and try new things and one of the 7th grade science teachers, Mrs. Lesage, says to check their grades several times a week.

Now, some more advice from our students:

"Don't give up right away and keep trying, you won't always get it the first time." - Braelynn Melsness.

"Enjoy it." - Ady Santana.

"Make friends, not enemies." - Mary Jane Grobe.

And finally, to wrap it up, my advice to you is that you should be friendly with everyone and don't take into account what people say about you.

A New School Year

By Braelynn Melsness

August 15th was the day where 5th grade moved to 6th, 6th moved to 7th, 7th moved to 8th, and 8th are now freshmen at Dixon High School. So, what I did was question a few people about how they feel about their adjustments to this year. Some said, "This year is good so far" and others said the complete opposite. Schoolwork gets more rigid as the quarters go by. School is only 36 weeks (about 8 and a half months); some people said this school year is going good, going bad, or it's different. So that question is what I started asking people. First, I questioned some of the teachers at RMS. Mr. Randick, one of our P.E teachers and volleyball coaches, said that the school year has been going well so far, and we have had a good volleyball season as far as well. A 6th grade language arts teacher said the new 6th graders are better than last year. Our new tech teacher at RMS said that he is glad we are all back in school. So far everything is going very well. Let's keep it that way for the teacher's sanity. I hope everyone has a fantastic school year!

Interviewed: Mrs. Lind, Mr. Baker, Mrs. Gasso, Mrs. LeSage, Mr. Matteson, Mr. Randick, Mrs. Reul, Mr. Sandrock, Alyssa Bradley, Nylah Todd, Anabelle Coffelt, Teagyn Fuller, and Alana Lorenzen.

Reagan Middle School Volleyball

By Jenna Mustapha, 7th grade

Volleyball season has ended, and Dixon crushed it! Out of the three grades, 7th grade had the largest team by far. Their team consisted of about 30 players total. The coaches of each team are Mandy Dallas, the 6th grade coach, Holli Miller, Maria Peterson, and Sarina Venier, the 7th grade coaches, and Mr. Randick, the 8th grade coach. Student Council was selling concessions at each game.

During the season, I interviewed a player from each grade and a seventh and eighth grade coach about how we had been doing during the season.

"I think we are definitely improving, our skill level is increasing every practice. The girls are working really hard and giving it their all."

-Holli Miller, 7th grade volleyball coach

"I think we're doing good. We have to improve on some skills, but are good at other skills."

-Delaney Lewis, 7th grade player

"We won everything; we're doing good."

-Jozie Eshleman 8th grade player

"I think we have a strong team. We'll have to see how we do on the tournament we are hosting on Saturday, September 24th."

-Coach Randick, 8th grade A and B team coach

The sixth graders were hard to catch, as we only scrimmaged against the eighth graders, but luckily, I was able to text one.

"We are doing an amazing job in volleyball. We all are working hard to win more games."

-Meerna Elbzour, 6th grade player

Overall, I believe Reagan did good and worked hard this season. Even though we lost some games, we didn't give up and kept trying our hardest to win.



Coach Thorpe/Bond—Cross Country

By Annaleise Tranbarger

They both say that cross country is a lot of fun. Coach Bond says that there are no mean kids to coach. She states that they are like one big athletic family, and if you are not there to support everyone else, then you're not part of that family. They both say that it's not hard to teach cross country. Coach Bond says that she loves kids that are athletic and want to and are prepared to run. Coach Thorpe says that they have thirteen races this season, and every race is about two miles long. Coach Thorpe has been coaching for twenty years but this is Coach Bond's first year coaching cross country. Their favorite kids are the ones who work hard for a personal best. The cross country season ends in October. They run for practice at the graveyard and the bike path for Lowell Park. Coach Thorpe and Coach Bond like to coach cross country because they like to work with kids.

Mr Baker's Interview

By Myiah Shinabarger

Question 1: How do you like Reagan so far?

Answer: It's fun and interesting.

Question 2: What are you looking forward to this year?

Answer: Probably teaching kids with different personalities

Question 3: Do you have any favorite kids?

Answer: I don't have any.

Question 4: Has anyone ever been mean to you?

Answer: Some kids have but most of them have been good.

Question 5: Why did you decide to teach tech?

Answer: Because I was always interested in teaching tech and I can interact with new things.

Question 6: Who are your least favorite students?

Answer: I don't have any.

Question 7: Have there been any mean kids to teach?

Answer: Yeah but most of them are good.

Question 8: How many years have you been teaching?

Answer: 14 years

Question 9: What's your favorite thing about teaching?

Answer: Probably teaching all of the kids

Question 10: Was Reagan first confusing when you started teaching here?

Answer: It wasn't that hard but there are some places I can go to when I'm bored and I find places I have never been to.

MRS. ZIMMERMAN

By Garrett A. O'Rourke

Q: What do you like about teaching at RMS?
A: The Students.

Q: If you could change one thing about RMS what would you change?
A: The sixth-grade lunchtime.

Q: Do you have any siblings?
A: Yes, two sisters and a brother.

Q: Are you related to anyone famous?
A: Nope.

Q: What is your favorite color?
A: Sage Green.

Q: Why did you decide to teach that subject?
A: Because reading is fun.

Q: Where were you born?
A: Heidelberg, Germany

Q: What do you think about the school clubs?
A: They are a great idea.

Q: What do you plan to do this year?
A: To read, write, and teach kids to love reading and writing

Q: What are your hobbies?
A: Reading and writing

Mrs. Hamel
Choice Program Teacher
By Garrett A. O'Rourke

Q: What do you like about teaching at RMS?
A: Getting to know the students and staff.

Q: If you could change one thing about RMS what would you change?
A: Free snacks

Q: Do you have any siblings?
A: Two brothers

Q: Are you related to anyone famous?
A: Mr. Hamel, Rutherford B. Hayes

Q: What is your favorite color?
A: Green

Q: Why did you decide to teach that subject?
A: I like the idea of giving kids a second chance

Q: Where were you born?
A: Rockford, Illinois

Q: What do you think about the school clubs?
A: They're cool

Q: What do you plan to do this year?
A: Help everybody in my class pass

Q: What are your hobbies?
A: Crafting, Gardening, Hiking

Ms. Almquist—Music Teacher

By John Cocar

How are you liking Reagan Middle School so far?
She's loving it.

Do you like the new kids you are teaching for band?
She likes them.

What college did you go too? She went too Augustana.

Did you have any other jobs before you became a teacher? She used to work at a Summer camp, and a Pizza Place.

Where was the school you used to teach at? She used to teach at Warren IL.

Why did you choose to be a teacher? She became a teacher because she loves music and kids.

What's your favorite movie? Her favorite movie is Moana

What is your favorite video game? She loves playing Animal Crossing.

What is your favorite restaurant? Her favorite restaurant is Chili's.

Do have any pets? She said not yet.

Do have any siblings? She has a brother named Austin.

What town did you used to live in? Hampshire IL.

What's your favorite instrument? She said Baritone.

What is your favorite T.V show? She said Grey's Anatomy.

Why did you decide to become a teacher at Reagan? She wanted to build the middle school band and choir again.

Book Review

By Isabella Barnes

Book One, *The Cub Report*

By: Beth Vrabel

This is a delightful book. It is about a girl named Nellie Murrow, daughter of two (former) newspaper reporters. They just recently moved to Bear Creek, Maine. There are some rumors about vandalism at the local park. Nellie wants to break the story, but she cannot do it alone, so she decides to create the town's first independent newspaper: The Cub Report. A newspaper needs journalists, however, and for Nellie, making friends may prove even harder than starting her own newspaper. I suggest you read it. It is an enjoyable book!



Fall Activities

By Alize Janke

What is your favorite fall activity? Mrs. Pitzer and Ms. Grace said carving pumpkins. Mrs. Gubric, Mr. Ferguson, and Mr. Hamel said going to the pumpkin patch. Ms. Clevenger, Ms. Page, and Ms. Newcomer said sitting by campfires. Mr. Randick said car shows. Mrs. Lind said colorful leaves. Teagan Fuller said hayrides. Mary Jane said throwing pumpkins out of her bedroom window and last Mr. Matteson said football.

Fun facts:

1. The tradition of carving pumpkins on Halloween started from a scary Irish folktale about a man named Stingy Jack. People in Ireland and Scotland eventually started carving faces into root vegetables like turnips and beets to create jack-o'-lanterns to keep evil spirits away.
2. A pumpkin patch symbolizes prosperity, growth, and abundance.

Halloween Movies

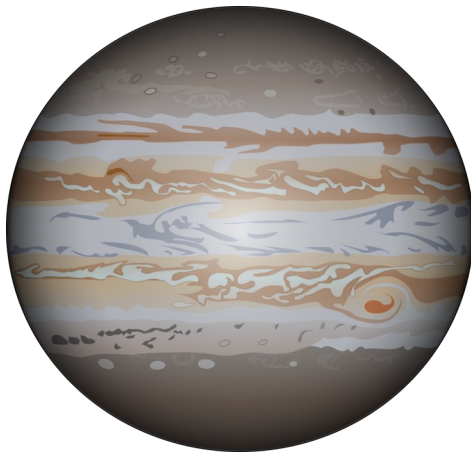
By Alize Janke

What is your favorite Halloween movie? I had to narrow it down until I had these four movies: Hocus Pocus, Friday the 13th, Halloween, and Casper the Friendly Ghost. Out of the 25 people I asked, 14 people said Hocus Pocus. I have never watched Hocus Pocus, but here are some facts about the movie:

1. Even though it is a Halloween movie, it wasn't released during Halloween.
2. Hocus Pocus was originally a flop.
3. Hocus Pocus has over 8 million viewers.
4. Hocus Pocus 2 is coming out on September 30th.
5. Hocus Pocus is ranked in the top 100.

3. Campfires can burn at a temperature of approximately 900 degrees Fahrenheit (480 degrees Celsius). That is hot enough to melt down soft metals such as lead or zinc! The color of flames is derived from its soot, which when heated becomes incandescent, and in return gives off thermal radiation in the form of light.
4. The car show was started by three people: Harry Costa, Jr, Andy Brizio, and Richard Costa.
5. Leaves are colorful because the colors are due to the mixing of varying amounts of chlorophyll residue and other pigments in the leaf during the fall season.

Enjoy the fall season!



All about JUPITER

By. Anabelle Coffelt and Oliva Schauff

The reason we are writing about Jupiter is because Jupiter is 4.603 billion years old and has never been this close to us in 59 years. Why is this happening you might ask, well here is why "So, take advantage of good weather on either side of this date to take in the sight. Outside of the Moon, it should be one of the (if not the) brightest objects in the night sky." The reason Jupiter gets closer to and further away from Earth at times is because it orbits the sun at a different speed to our planet. Jupiter is the fifth planet from our sun and is the largest planet in our solar system. It will happen every 59 years, the next time this happens I will be 70 years old. Jupiter's orbit period is 4,333 days (9.11 years). Jupiter's moons are Europa, Io, Ganymede, Callisto, Amalthea, Adrastea, and more. Jupiter's Great Red Spot is twice the size of Earth. Jupiter is covered in swirling cloud stripes. It has big storms like the Great Red Spot, which have been going on for hundreds of years. Jupiter is a gas giant and doesn't have a solid surface, but it may have a solid inner core about the size of Earth. Jupiter also has rings, but they're too faint to see very well. ("Overview | Jupiter – NASA Solar System Exploration") It is estimated that the temperature of the cloud tops are about -280 degrees F. Overall, Jupiter's average temperature is -238 degrees F. Well Jupiter is a very big planet; it has a radius of 43,441(69,911 kilometers) or scientifically 43,440.1 miles! But it isn't the size of the whole galaxy, but it is bigger than Earth (3.9588K mi), Saturn (36.184K mi), Mars (2.1061K mi), and more than just those three! That is why it looks so up close whenever the rare occurrence comes almost every 59 years.

Hurricane Ian

By Isabella Barnes

Hurricane Ian was large, deadly, and destructive. Many people died in this category 4 hurricane. At least 106 people died and at least 40,600 displaced. There were at least 5 buildings destroyed. Very destructive. The 12ft deep water was hard to get through so many people were stranded. It also did not help that the wind speed was at 155 mph. I would think it would be hard just to get even if the water were not so high. Even a chunk of Sanibel Causeway fell into the sea during Ian, cutting off the Florida island where 6.3k people live. At least 3 sections fell.

Halloween Dance!

By Braelynn Melsness

It is finally a spooky season! When the moon is full vampires, witches, and werewolves come knock on your doors. They roam the streets at night thirsty for sweets. On October 14th, this freaky Friday night. We are calling all the monsters to Reagan middle school. The only thing that is stopping you from coming to this extravagant night is if you are failing any classes. Or if you were being bad and not in the good way. Our Halloween dance starts at 6 and ends at eight. All ghouls need to sleep at some time. There are games, music and your friends will be there. Beware when you enter you must have your permission slip signed by a parent or guardian. There will be games in the cafeteria, and you can get down and boogie in the gymnasium. I can't wait to see all the fabulous costumes at the dance too!

Opinions on School Dances

By Ryann Wadsworth

School dances are something awesome even my parents remember doing in middle school. So why aren't we supposed to have them? After this comes out it will be post Halloween dance, meaning more people will have reasons behind their opinions. So, as a student at this school, I have gone collecting opinions of students and teachers alike on their view of school dances. For our first student it'll be...me! I believe these dances are vital for us, students, because they allow us to have more social interaction with our peers. Also, considering that our generation went through a rough patch of zero social interactions due to the pandemic, these dances seem essential to us. Of course, middle school students will add troublesome problems to these fun events. After all, we are kids, but these dances allow us to really remember our fun, junior high years!

Our next interview is with none other than Mrs. (R) Whitcombe! I asked her if she believes we should continue to have school dances, and why. She said, "Yes, dances allow good social activity for students to be involved with." I then asked her what problems could result from these dances and what the cause for these problems may be. Her response was, "With a lack of supervision fights could occur. Also, it could result in kids using substances such as vapes in the bathrooms again. All and all, it could lead to mischief with lack of supervision." On the contrary, I asked her what the benefits of these dances could include. She replied with benefits such as, "Making new friends, and more in-person socialization." She agreed that she enjoyed the idea of, "Lack of use of technology such as video games and cell phones." After Mrs. Whitcombe's interview I was curious if us students really tried to stay out of trouble if these dances could continue. All around, they might result in us having a better mental well-being. Which even Mr. Matteson has taught us is one vital part of our overall health.

Our next interview is with another student. Her name is Jenna Mustapha. Jenna is just one of my peers and close friends. Her response was like Mrs. Whitcombe. To keep everything true in this experiment, other than the variable, of course, I asked the same questions. First, I asked her the essential question, do you think we should have school dances? Her response was, "Yes." That simple word led to a lengthy conversation about why we should have these dances. (continued on next page)

Opinions on School Dances (continued)

By Ryann Wadsworth

I'll try to cut it short. She believes these dances will increase our socialization with our peers and allow us to interact with each other outside of school hours. She also believes it will give us time to hold conversations, rather than in class where you can get in trouble for that. Unfortunately, she knows that these fun dances could lead to problems. Some of these problems could be unnecessary drama, and incidents which could result in the authorities being called. All and all, it could lead to mischief with lack of supervision." On the contrary, I asked her what the benefits of these dances could include: People socialize more.

We have another student that was interviewed. Her name is Mckenna. She is in 6th grade. She believes that we definitely should have school dances because they are fun and enjoyable. She feels that these dances typically result in minimal problems. Lastly, she knows that school is mandatory, so why not make it fun? Continuing to have these dances could make the school year much more enjoyable.

Next, I interviewed Mrs. Lind! She agrees with all our interviews so far. She feels that school dances should continue because school needs to have some fun and social aspects to it. She does believe that there might be some complications to these fun events. She believes that sometimes kids can get out of control, and lack of supervision can worsen that, but there are benefits. She feels that "Kids should be kids!". Lastly, she told me that children should get to enjoy hanging out with their classmates.

After Mrs. Lind, I decided to interview Mrs. Clevenger, my teacher from last year. Her answer was short, sweet, and to the point. She thinks it is important for kids to socialize in a relaxed environment and have fun! So, yes, she thinks school dances should stay. When it comes to problems, she believes kids might bicker. When it comes to benefits, she feels it would give kids a safe place for students to create friendships and socialize with their peers.

Lastly, when it comes to teachers, I interviewed my past two science teachers, Mrs. Abell and Mrs. LeSage. I'll discuss Mrs. Abell's review first. Mrs. Abell believes we should continue to have school dances because they are loads of fun, and it allows students to get together and have an enjoyable time outside of the classroom. Within these dances she says that we may get carried away and forget that the school rules mostly apply within the school dances, yet she feels it allows us to build great friendships within the school community. To Mrs. LeSage, she believes that we should continue with our school dances because students deserve an opportunity to have fun together in a nonacademic environment and for us to create middle school memories. Some problems that may result from these events are the poor choices of a few students which might ruin it for everyone else. Especially, if we happen to be in a nonstructured setting. Along with these problems come great memories and a wonderful Friday night. As you can see if we would like to continue having fun at these wonderful events then we must continue trying our hardest to be on our best behavior.