April 23, 2014

Dear RMSEL Parent Community,

It has been an amazing two weeks here at RMSEL as students connect their passion, talents, and learning experiences with the community as an authentic audience. Last week, beginning on Wednesday, we experienced a performance each night of the week culminating with our talent show. The performances began with our lower and middle school choir concerts showcasing the most recent trimester of learning during vocal music. On Thursday at RMSEL, our high school students shared various work products and artifacts from their experience in Costa Rica and learning expeditions in class. The spotlight of the evening was focused on the culminating final products presented by our sixteen seniors from their Senior Learning Experience (Independent Study). Each of these seniors connected with a professional within their field of study. The students’ experiences ranged from medical surgeries at Denver Health to the in-depth study of alternative means of transportation for the future. We are excited to announce that each of our seniors are on track toward graduation with 100% of our students accepted to a college of their choice for next year!

Crew trip season is upon us, which was kicked off by the 11th grade capstone trip to Costa Rica. During crew trip season, we appreciate the support and diligence of our parent community in submitting documentation and medication to our office staff in a timely manner. We look forward to an amazing crew trip season full of engaging experiences for our students.

We are still looking for passage panel volunteers for 8th and 10th grade panels. If you have a friend or family member that may be interested, please contact Marci Elder (melder@rmsel.org). Participating in our annual passage process provides an in-depth look at the inquiry for learning process that takes place in an expeditionary learning classroom through the voice of a student. Students take ownership of their learning as well as the process, which lead to a mastery level of understanding through the documentation of high quality work in their personal portfolio. If you have not volunteered in the past, as a member of our parent community, I would highly recommend this experience.

I would like to take this opportunity to announce that Ulcca Joshi Hansen resigned her position at the Public Education and Business Coalition (PEBC). As such, Ulcca is no longer able to fill a seat on the RMSEL BOCES. I appreciate the time, energy, and contributions to RMSEL and the BOCES during her tenure on the board as President. As with each of our districts, the PEBC and Ulcca took a vested interest in the longevity, growth, and success of our school during her time on the board.

I have met with Roseann Ward, President and CEO of PEBC, to discuss the appointment of a new board member from her senior leadership team. We look forward to this transition at our May BOCES meeting. RMSEL will continue to foster our relationship and partnership with the PEBC, as the professional development opportunities and wealth of knowledge provide our staff with additional resources that make a positive impact on student achievement.

Our hiring process is currently ongoing, with various teams conducting interviews and visiting classrooms with the intent of all positions being filled during the first weeks of May. We are fortunate to have such a diverse, talented pool of candidates who applied for our vacancies. We look forward to our continued growth and development as a staff serving our community.

Sincerely,

Chad