From: The Desk of the Principal

To: Parents & Guardians,

Date: February 11, 2024

Re: Pertinent Reminders & Updates

Dear Parents & Guardians:

This Valentine’s week as you share the amazing, unconditional love of God, reflect on the following reminder from Ellen G. White:

• “Love is a Plant to be Nourished—Home is to be the center of the purest and most elevated affection. Peace, harmony affection, and happiness should be perseveringly cherished every day, until these precious things abide in the hearts of those who compose the family. The plant of love must be carefully nourished, else it will die. Every good principle must be cherished if we would have it thrive in the soul.” ( The Adventist Home, p. 195)

We continue our Black History Month celebration & Valentine’s Week of Prayer, emphasizing love, unity, prayer, and faith. This week’s reminders and updates include:

Week of Prayer: This week, February 12-16, 2024, is RMES Annual Winter K-6 Week of Prayer. As is customary, the 6th grade will be facilitating and leading out in the program. Please keep the grade 6th grade students and their mentors in prayer this week. Mr. Swackhamer and Pastor Ben have been prayerfully preparing them to lead and minister to their schoolmates. This activity provides many amazing spiritual, emotional, and academic learning opportunities for the 6th graders. First and foremost, it provides opportunity to develop their own relationship with God. Additionally, each day the students will be engaged in public speaking, sharing Bible stories, choral recitations of scripture, science-based presentations, and other leadership experiences. If you have a 6th grader, please help him/her to spend Time Alone with God (TAG) this week. For some that may mean taking time away from electronics, which can be a HUGE distraction. The theme for this year’s week of prayer will go along with the school theme & theme song, “This Is Our Faith.” The text for the week is Matthew 4:3-4, which all K-5 students are challenged to memorize by the end of the week. See WOP Theme Text at the end of this newsletter.

Once again, we invite you to come and join our daily worship in the Gym. Here is the schedule that we will follow for WOP. Note the change on Friday:

• Monday, Wednesday……K-2 8:30, 3rd-5th-9:15
• Tuesday and Thursday……K-2 9:10, 3rd-5th-9:55
• Friday……………………..K-5 8:30am (one session, only)

If you have any questions about WOP please contact Mr. Swackhamer.

Principal’s Reading Challenge: The Principal’s Reading Challenge (PRC) is catching on and moving forward. Congratulations to those who have taken the challenge! This week, it was
exciting to see their positive reaction when they saw how their class is doing on the large Principal’s Reading Challenge Tally Chart on the wall. Please help to keep them encouraged to keep reading and submitting their log each week, through the end of the challenge/end of quarter. I would like to see every student to participate in this literacy improvement journey.

**Black History Assembly:** We had a wonderful Black History Assembly last Wednesday, February 7. Mrs. Tompkins’ 3rd grade students were outstanding in their presentations. Three highlights of the 3rd grade presentation were, 1. The class memorization of 1Corinthians 13. 2. Isabella Mpita’s rendition of “Lift Every Voice and Sing,” the Black National Anthem, and 3. Ezra St. Louis recitation of the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. “I Have a Dream” speech. The program was an inspiration and blessing to all. Thank you, 3rd Grade parents, for your partnership with the teacher to support your student and help make the program a success. Check out these and other program highlights on RMES Facebook page. Be sure to “Like” 😊

**2024 Elementary Community Art Exhibition:** It’s another year for the Berrien Elementary Student and Community Art Exhibition and once again RMES is invited to participate. We are encouraging our young artists to seize this opportunity to participate and share their Artwork with the community. It is also a great opportunity to boost their confidence level by using their artistic gift. Artwork can be drawing, painting, collage, sculpture, ceramics, collaboration. K-5 participants must submit to their teacher the title and category of their Artwork on a 3x5 card. This is due by February 20th, since the deadline for the school’s submission is February 23. Students Artwork is by February 26. Deadline for Artwork Drop-off for K-5 is February 29. We will provide more information regarding Grades 6-10 Artwork.

**H & S Announcement:**

RMES Family Game Night: Home & School is hosting a family game night on Saturday night, February 24, from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. We’ll have some active games in the gym and table games in the halls. A snack and water will be provided. If you’d like to help with games, contact Kimberly Westfall (RMESHomeAndSchool@gmail.com or 410-948-9424).

**Graduate Social Work Intern Joins RMES Team:** In partnership with Andrews University Social Work Department, a graduate social work student has been assigned for internship at RMES for the remainder of the year. We are excited to welcome Patrice Robinson to our team, starting this week. As with previous MSW interns, she will provide social-emotional and mental health support to students as needed. In collaboration with faculty, the intern will also provide other services such as mental health awareness activities, prevention programming, as well as other interventions and education for students and parents. Please help us welcome Ms. Robinson. If you have questions, please contact me,

**RMES Prayer Calendar:** Please continue praying every day for RMES students, one child at a time. Here are the names to lift-up this week: **Week of (Feb. 11-17):** Hanan (8), Micaiah (4), Rachel (8), Deondra (K), Matthew (8), Everly (2), Elisha (1).

**RMES/PMC Grow Group:** Please join the parents, staff, and friends of RMES who meet to Pray for our students and school. We meet on Thursdays, 8:15-8:45am in the Extend Ed. Room.
As of last week, we have made available a Prayer Box where students can place their prayer requests. Please consider coming to help lift up the petitions of our children to God.

**Important Dates to Remember:**

- January-March: Principal’s Reading Challenge for all grades (K-8)
- February 12-16: Student Led Week of Prayer by the 6th Grade for Grades K-5
- February 19: NO School, Presidents Day
- February 23: School Spirit—RETRO Day (50’s – 90’s attire)
- February 24: H&S Family Game Night
- February 27: Jr. High BRIDGE Activities Day
- March 5: AA & RMES Visitor’s Day
- March--: National Reading Month – Keep Reading!

**WEEK OF PRAYER THEME TEXT:** "The tempter came to him and said, 'If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread.' Jesus answered, 'It is written: Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'" (Matthew 4:3-4)

May the God of love bless you and your family with love, harmony, and health this week!

Dr. Savory