



RSTA REPORTER

NEWS FOR RINDGE SCHOOL OF TECHNICAL ARTS READERS

December 2015

RSTA Enrollment Remains Strong

The official October 1 enrollment in all RSTA courses totaled 806 students and revealed a continuing shift in student choices towards STEM programs. The number of students in Biotech, Engineering, Information Technology and Computer Science increased by 50 over last year to a total of 181. The introduction of Computer Sciences courses to RSTA, the inception of several after school club activities, the acquisition of new equipment (see story below), and the hiring of two teachers have been primarily responsible for the growth of student interest in this area of study.

Biotech Students Learn how to Map Genetic Pathways



Pictured left to right are RSTA students Nicolas Santiago, Jesse Simmons, Nora Goodale, Sugandha Karmacharya (in the back on the computer), Emmett Steven, and Immaad Mir working in Biotech. Courtesy photo

A new lab unit in the Biotechnology program will teach RSTA students how to fight disease through genetic research.

The collaboration between Rindge School of Technical Arts, Massachusetts Academy of Math and Science, and the IOMICS Pathways Initiative will provide students with the opportunity for hands on, applied learning in the field of genetics.

The RSTA biotechnology program received two separate grant awards — a \$50,000 equipment grant award from Massachusetts

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RSTA Programs of Study

Automotive

Banking

Biotechnology

Business Management

Career Guidance

Carpentry

Cooperative Education

Creative Design

Culinary Arts/Hospitality

Early Education & Care

Engineering/Robotics

Graphics/Print

Health Assisting

Computer Science/
Information Technology

Media Technology

Personal Finance

New Info Tech & Computer Science Labs

Students enrolled in Information Technology and Intro to Computer Science (now offered in RSTA for Math credit) will be “logging on” in new labs. Teachers Liz Atwood (CS) and Eric Wu (IT) helped design the recently reconfigured space across from the RSTA Office for their respective classes. Ms. Atwood will teach the Intro to CS courses – as well as her Web Design and her Game Design courses – in room 1311A which feature new Apple computers with dual operating systems, and Dr. Wu has set up an IT lab with dual monitors for all students.



Opportunity – Diversity – Respect

GO FALCONS!

Chef LeGault Receives Telfer Award

Culinary Arts Teacher **Joel LeGault** (right) is this year's recipient of the James G. Telfer Award, given to the RSTA teacher who by his or her long service to Rindge and demonstration of the characteristics of James G. Telfer represents the highest level of skill in a field of study and an enduring commitment to developing Rindge students for excellence in their work and success in their futures.

Chef Joel has worked at such establishments as the Sonesta, East Bay Lodge, & the Corinthian Yacht Club. He has taught Culinary Arts at the Rindge School of Technical Arts, Cambridge Rindge & Latin School, since 1988. Congratulations Chef Joel!



“Excellence is never an accident. It is always the result of high intention, sincere effort, and intelligent execution; it represents the wise choice of many alternatives -- choice, not chance -- determines your destiny. We are what we repeatedly do. EXCELLENCE, then, is not an act, but a habit.”

-Aristotle

Rindge Alumni Association Student Awards

Eight seniors honored for their proficiency & character

At their 120th Annual Reunion Dinner on November 23, 2015, the Rindge Alumni Association recognized eight current CRLS seniors for the outstanding contributions they have made while at Rindge. Dr. Mike Ananis, Executive Director of RSTA, presented award certificates to the following students at the Award Ceremony prior to the dinner:

Brianna Duncan - the **Paul Hillery Award** for academic achievement and athletic accomplishments

Juan Arevalo -- Technical expertise and outstanding character in **Early Education & Care**

Bryce Borden – Technical expertise and outstanding character in **Culinary Arts**

Esmeralda Asprilla – Technical expertise and outstanding character in **Creative Design**

Indira Riley-Mahibar -- Technical expertise and outstanding character in **Graphic Communications**

Kristian Leal – Technical expertise and outstanding character in **Automotive Technology**

Victoria Noel – Technical expertise and outstanding character in **Health Assisting**

Rafael Pereira– Technical expertise and outstanding character in **Engineering**

Congratulations to all of our seniors on their excellent achievements!

“Success is not final, failure is not fatal. It is the courage to continue that counts.”

– Winston Churchill



“Remember to look up at the stars and not down at your feet. Never give up work. **Work gives you meaning and purpose and life is empty without it.** If you are lucky enough to find love, remember it is there and don't throw it away.”

— Stephen Hawking

“SMART is not just something you are...it is something you can become.” – **Efficacy Institute**

The Cambridge Public Schools wants every student to strive for
Academic Excellence and Social Justice



RSTA Students Design Posters for Be All Right 2

For the second year, students in the Creative Design class recently competed in the "Be All Right2: Building a Culture of Health at CRLS" poster and logo contest sponsored by the Cambridge Public Health Alliance and led by Erin Dillon and CRLS Family Liaison Greta Hardina. The contest guidelines included layout, design, and logo for an event poster geared towards high school students. The goal of the posters is to publicize the upcoming educational event in a visually appealing way that will attract high school students. The judging was based on originality and adherence to contest guidelines for the poster. The winning poster will be printed and displayed around the high school as well as Youth Centers and Health Clinics in Cambridge.

Photo (left to right):

Back row: **Michele Watson Maxwell**, Creative Design Teacher; Middle row: **Callum Griffith** and **Kayla Moore**; Front row: **Nathan Habtom**

Health Assisting Has 16 Co-Op Ed Students

Every school year the RSTA Cooperative Education Program places at various hospitals in Cambridge those Health Assisting seniors who have earned their Certified Nurse Assistant (CNA) license from the American Red Cross. This year a total of 16 students are participating in the Program at either Spaulding Hospital or Mt. Auburn Hospital.

In order to participate in the Program, the senior students had to complete successfully one-and-a-half to two years of Health Assisting courses at RSTA including six months of supervised Clinical practice at Sancta Maria Nursing Home while in their junior year.

Once the students are placed at their "Co-Op" hospital, they are assigned a PCA or CNA who guides them through the start of their training. Usually after 2-3 weeks, the students are assigned their own patients to care for independently. Such care includes: taking vital signs, bed baths, computer input of patients information, answering patient calls, and assisting other medical staff when needed. Their experiences at work not only let them practice/apply their CNA skills, but they also learn valuable employability skills as well while working with professionals in their field.

As one of our Health Assisting students, **Aleshea Forbes** said, "Every student at CRLS should have this experience. It has given me so much confidence. I feel like an adult now and I'm not afraid of handling challenges that I may face in the future."

The Cooperative Education Program at the Rindge School of Technical Arts continues to serve our technical students through the generosity and commitment of local businesses. If you can offer a part time paid position to one of our students in the following fields: Engineering, Carpentry, IT, Health Assistance, Automotive, Creative Design, Graphic Communications, Culinary Arts, Hospitality and Media Technology, please contact Jaci Rubin at 617-349-6884.



Health Assisting students in Co-Op Ed. CNA placements at Mt. Auburn hospital; First row, left to right: **Catherine Amado-Gonzalez, Samrawit Tisasu, Saafiya Jackson**; Middle row: **Farheen Abhura, Shauna Swindell, Aleshea Forbes**; Third row: **Olivia Scott, Samerawet Tsgie**. Missing from this photo: **Brianna Duncan**.

Seven additional students are doing their Co-Op at Spaulding.

Biotech Students Learn to Map genetic Pathways

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Life Sciences Center and \$5,000 grant award from Biogen’s “Ignite the Power of STEM” for professional development – Dr. Joan Abrams, RSTA biotechnology instructor, said.

IOMICS Pathways Initiative, a nonprofit based out of the University of Miami, is focused on identifying genetic networks linked to human diseases and has designed a system for screening yeast, Abrams said. With over 65 percent of yeast genes highly similar to human genes, Yeast Augmented Network Analysis is a new way to understand and map genetic pathways, Abrams added.

“What we agreed to do was that our students would generate the yeast strains so that they could then be sent over to IOMICS for screening,” Abrams said. “Our students would basically be applying a lot of the skills that they learned in here toward creating these strains. After a couple of months when the screening is done (students will) get the data back and be able to analyze it.”

Fourteen students will take part in the project, which started this fall.

“Ignite the Power of STEM grant program empowers teachers to bring innovative programming to life for their students that normally would not be possible,” Kara DiGiacomo, executive director at Biogen Foundation, said. “CRLS’ creative spirit and collaborative efforts have generated an exciting program for current and future students alike.”

Cambridge heavily backs STEAM— science, technology, engineering, arts, and math — education and there has been a lot of work over the past year and a half to make sure more kids are exposed to real-world opportunities so they can explore careers, Abrams said.

Nicolas Santiago, a junior at CRLS, took the RSTA exploratory program in his freshman year and connected with both the subject and the teacher, he said.

Currently in Level 2 of the biotechnology program, Santiago worked in an X-ray crystallography laboratory at UMass Boston this summer. The Level 1 class last year introduced students to new topics that are prevalent in what is being practiced now in biotechnology, he said.

Santiago said he is excited that the genetics research project incorporates a lot of relevant concepts that are important right now. With a big portion of biotechnology and the biopharmaceutical industry moving toward curing all types of genetic diseases it is something important to know for the future too, he added.

“I would like to encourage everyone to incorporate themselves into the sciences, especially at Cambridge, because there are so many opportunities here that you really can’t get at any other public school. People should take advantage of the opportunities here,” Santiago said.

Nora Goodale, a junior at CRLS, spent the summer working in a laboratory at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute researching subunits of the BAF complex and conducting experiments like nuclear extracts.

She learned how to run these lab experiments in the biotechnology program offered at RSTA, she said. She continues to work at the Institute after school and is currently at Level 2 of the program.

“I think Rindge is very unique in that we do have this program. Being able to properly use a micropipette, a pipet-aid, and knowing what a thermal cycler is ... everything I learned came in handy,” she said.

This article was written by Mekhala Roy and first appeared in the Cambridge Chronicle/WickedLocal

“Courage doesn’t always roar. Sometimes courage is the quiet voice at the end of the day that says ‘I will try again tomorrow’”

-- Mary Ann Radmacher