

MARCH IS READING MONTH

By: Lauren Duché
Advertising Editor

The exciting halls of Will L. Lee Elementary are still. The sound of laughing children has, for one month, been replaced with the soft sound of turning pages.

March is Reading month and it hasn't gone unnoticed.

On February 28, the Elementary School held an assembly in honor of the famous reading month.

Mrs. Monroe, a third grade teacher at Will L. Lee, said, "At the assembly we had the grades split up and sectioned off to participate in different reading themed relay races. Getting kids excited about reading can be a challenge when some of the younger students aren't really able to read on their own yet so the assembly and themes get the younger students ready to read."

The theme this year is a camping and bonfire theme. Stars, tents, and marshmallows decorate the front entry way to add to the excitement of

the educational festivities.

"At the assembly we had one child from every room participate in a relay race. Preschool and kindergarten had to carry a marshmallow on a spoon across part of the gym, first and second graders had to lay out a picnic, and the third and fourth graders had to layer up and put all sorts of camping gear on and run across part of the gym sit down and open a book," said Mrs. Monroe.

The point of the assembly was to introduce reading month to the younger students and remind the older ones of the fun things that go on this month.

The driving force for the younger students have been the guest readers.

"Guest readers have been coming in every day in just about every classroom to read to the students. Parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, and even our administration has come in to read to the students. Having a new person come into the room gives the kids something to look forward to while at the same time is helping the

students learn," Mrs. Monroe said. Student representative and junior at RHS, Haley Fortuna was one of those guest readers.

"Reading to the kids was very rewarding. I remember being in their shoes not too long ago and it always feels good to give back," said Fortuna.

The students are also given reading bingo sheets.

When they complete a row of the card they earn a token they can put on a necklace. If you finish the card, you can earn all six tokens to put on the necklace.

"The bingo cards were sent home in their Friday folders. On each square was a different task. For instance read under the table, visit the public library, and read to a relative, things like that. It gets to the students and the parents involved and is a really awesome way to encourage reading and make it fun," said Mrs. Monroe.

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can earn up to six tokens to put on the necklace.

"We've been doing the tokens for a few years and have had a lot of success with it. The kids love it and getting all of the tokens acts as motivation because it's a challenge," Mrs. Monroe said.

It's clear that reading is a very important skill to have so the more you read when you're young, it'll be easier for you to read and comprehend when you're older. Although we only celebrate reading for a month, Mrs. Monroe has made it clear that even when March turns into April, and April into May, everyone should continue to read.

Mrs. Monroe said, "Books are becoming obsolete. A lot of kids today are more concerned with tablets and phones but reading is such a crucial part of developing and maintaining an imagination and it's being forgotten."

So for one month, phones have been replaced with library cards and books rest where the iPads once sat.

Financial Feud: The Stock Market

By: Brandon Furtaw
Sports Co-editor

Constantly moving. Looking for the best trades of the day. Weeding out the losers and the billion dollar winners.

This is the Stock Market, an ever changing matrix of data, profit and timing. In a matter of seconds, the richest of the rich can become the poorest of the poor all because of a bad trade or some shady business.

It may sound scary but recently Mr. Wagner's fifth hour BWI class learned the ins and outs - or mostly the inside) s of the Stock Market.

"[t]he Stock Market] gives a chance for people to invest in companies and help businesses grow. As well as allows the government an easy way to tax profits and make money from those growing industries. Not to mention it's a form of high risk gambling that people enjoy," said Wagner.

Senior Stephen Ingman worked first hand on this project in Mr. Wagner's, to analyze how the stock market changes from day to day and even hour to hour.

"It showed us how unpredictable the economy is and that if you're prepared, you can succeed in the market and do better than someone who isn't active in the market," said Ingman

The basic premise of the Stock Market is that companies take a certain percentage of their ownership and put it up for sale to the public. This means that hundreds of people can become partial owners and investors of just one company.

"I feel like we have a stock market to help emerging companies in emerging industries. Sometimes they need investments from someone other than a bank or the shark tank (excuse the rhyme)," said Ingman

Also, it doesn't mean you have to be rich to invest in companies. \$20 can get you 20 shares of smaller companies that are growing or you could spend up to \$820 to buy just one share of companies like Google, Apple, and Microsoft.

And, being an owner means that when the company makes money you make money through trading their stock at a higher price than what you bought it for or just by getting your share of profit known as dividends. But, by no means is this a get rich

quick scheme, most people go bankrupt and fail miserably with that mentality.

So, knowing that information, if someone gave you \$500 to use in the stock market what company would be your first buy? Would you buy multiple shares of multiple companies to be diverse? Or bank on the success of one company and put all your eggs in one basket.

Senior Colin Germain would play his big bucks on a fairly well known company. "HP [Hewlett – Packard]. That's where we made the most money in the simulation was with the HP stock," said Germain.

Like any financial investment there is a level of risk. Nowadays the stock market is less risky than let's say 1929 but is still a risk nonetheless.

Moving onto the project, the students used HowTheMarketWorks.com to simulate stock market trading instead of losing hundreds of dollars. The way the 'game' works is, participants get to choose a virtual stock portfolio amount from \$10,000 to \$1,000,000. For the sake of the project students were made to choose the \$100,000 amount to keep the contest fair for the students.

"The project lasted for a week. Students had to login and investigate prices to try and make the most money in that week. It really helped them with data analysis. Excel word documents and financial responsibility," said Wagner.

\$10,000 can be lost in a matter of minutes, but with the larger amount it gave students some cushion in the contest making it harder to lose the simulation altogether.

Ingman took his \$100,000 and turned it into \$96,000 taking a four thousand dollar loss over a one week period.

Although most students either lost money or gained only a little the project seemed to be a hit and will make another appearance in another one of Mr. Wagner's business classes. "This was the first time but not the last time. I plan on doing this in another class that deals with investments. As social security becomes more unstable it's good for students to know how to invest and have money for their future if they put away that money wisely," said Wagner. Creating a better more informed consumer one business class at a time: That is Mr. Wagner.

MSBOA Festival

By: Nick Mathes
Web Co-editor

On March 9th at Anchor Bay High School the Richmond High School Band competed in the MSBOA Festival (Michigan School Band and Orchestra Association). The band picks two pieces from a stack, and plays those pieces before the adjudicators. The band then goes into "sight reading" where they have 10 minutes to look at a piece and then play it before the adjudicators.

The band is graded by three different adjudicators. "Ensembles are rated on a scale from 1 to 5 with 1 being the highest rating possible. The overall score is computed using a formula which combines the rating from each judge. Ensembles that earn an overall 1 rating or

"Superior" are qualified for the State Band and Orchestra Festival which is held in late April or early May. The basic structure of the State Band and Orchestra Festival is the same as the District, but the ensembles are held to a higher standard," per the MSBOA website. "[What most people don't know] is the band is graded on tone (how do we sound overall), Intonation (matching pitch), rhythm, technique (right notes and articulations), and Interpretation (how we presented a musical performance." Conductor and Teacher of the band Mrs. Molly Schack said.

The band puts a lot of hard work into it, and sometimes they don't get the recognition that they deserve. Early in the year the band also participated in the MSBOA Marching Band Festival, which is the same thing as festival, but they're being judged on more than just their music. They are judged on how they march, and every little nook and cranny that they can pick out that doesn't follow the adjudicator's guidelines. Marches have to be spot on. With the band putting all of the hard work in that they do, the recognition is there and is deserved.

"Continued dedication to the ensemble, everyone knowing their roll and importance to the group, and

can earn up to six tokens to put on the necklace.

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high expectations from myself and peers. I compare it to a football team at times. It's great to have one great quarterback. Super important. But if you don't have an offensive line to block for that quarterback, or the receiver that can catch, what's the point. First chair in the band is just as important as last chair.

Third part clarinet is just (if not more) important than first part. That and they have fun together," Mrs. Schack added. What most people don't know, this is the Band's third year in a row receiving the honor of the "Superior Division."

This matters because to earn a Superior division three years in a row is astonishing. Many factors go into it such as: New leadership, students graduating, and all the other fall sales that come into having the dynamic to play an instrument.

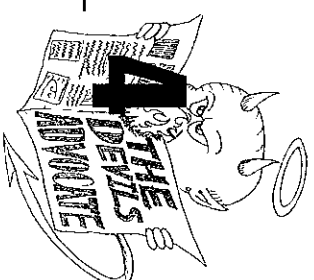
"These seniors I have had now for three years know what it takes for a First Division and lead the group in their expectations," Mrs. Schack said.

For the third year in a row, the 51-member band has received the 1st rated division in concert play. This takes hard work, determination and memorization for the band to be able to take on this task, and this is a task to be proud of. When the board was revealed to show the band that the Superior Division was happening, yet again, the Band was very excited.

Junior Low Brass Section leader Tom Dickerson weighted in on the excitement. "We were all ecstatic. To be able to earn the Superior Division three years in a row was a huge accomplishment for us. We really have been [working] hard towards this goal." Dickerson said.

Another problem that the RHS band can face is their numbers, but in ways it's also better.

"In a small program, as opposed to a program like Anchor Bay with six bands and 250 students, we all have to work together as there is nowhere else to go. It really teaches [the skills about working out problems, [and] overcoming issues that may get in the way of [the] common goal. The ultimate in cooperation. I'm proud of them and look forward to what the future holds! [Also,] best of luck to these seniors. They are all outstanding individuals that helped grow this program, and bring the level of musician-ship up," said Mrs. Schack.



Wrestling Team Pins 8th Title

By: **Ana Kinkela**
Staff writer

The Score was tied. It all came down to criteria. On February 25, our Richmond Wrestlers went up against their rival, Dundee, at State Finals. First up was Senior Owen Vannatter. His weight class, 135. Determination spread through his eyes as he saw his opponent Grant Ott. This was the moment he had been training for since sixth grade. Once he had stepped onto the mat he knew he was prepared to win this for his team and for himself.

"Since I was little, wrestling has always been what I wanted to do. My brother Austin, who is two years older than me, has been wrestling since fourth grade. I looked up to him and all the things that he was doing," Vannatter said. Vannatter was dominant on his feet, hitting a devastating head lock midway through the first period pinning Ott, which set the tone for the rest of the dual. Coaches Treend and Day couldn't have asked for a better weight class to start and a better guy to start with. "I was pretty confident. Owen is an extremely explosive kid and takes a ton of pride in our program. He wasn't going to allow Ott to beat him," said Coach Day. Vannatter is an explosive wrestler and has a great frame for style.

In our heavy weight of 285, Junior Tyler Marino went up against Devon Forrest. The score was 13 to 22. Dundee had a nine point lead. Marino didn't let that discourage him. Within 15 seconds of the first period Marino got a 2 point takedown, now taking the lead. After trying to do a cradle attempt he went for an under hook on the right side but got out of bounds. Marino opted to give the 1 point escape to Forrest. Now both of them were in a neutral position to go for another takedown.

Twenty seconds were left in the first period. Marino went for a low shot, but out of bounds. Seven seconds left, he looked for an under hook, had both and tried to trip him when the clock ran out. Giving Forrest another 1 point escape, they started off the second period in neutral. Two minutes were back on the clock. Marino and Forrest tied. Both Wrestlers tried to get control; Forrest was given a stall warning. Marino continued to push forward, and now the third period. Marino took bottom position getting to his feet within ten seconds earning a 1 point escape, having a 3 to 2 lead with a minute and forty-eight seconds left. Under a minute to go in the third period, Forrest gets another stall call, giving Marino a 2 point lead. The Richmond crowd cheered as the referee holds Marino's hand up for his victory of a 4 to 2 win.

"I felt proud, successful that I did what I was supposed to do, and made my parents and coaches happy with my win," Marino said. It was 6 to 22. Dundee was still winning by a six

point lead. Light weights were up next of 103. It involved Freshmen Austin Kilburn and his opponent Caleb Fairchild. Kilburn wasted no time ten seconds in he gets a 2 point takedown, and Fairchild got a 1 point escape. Just barely thirty seconds in and it's 2 to 1. Kilburn got another takedown, making a three point lead against Fairchild. Kilburn had him in a cradle getting a 2 point two near fall, but it is reversed as Fairchild looks for the pin. The crowd went wild as he fought off getting pinned. Dundee's Fairchild getting a 2 point reversal and a 3 point three near fall, tying it 6 to 6. Both wrestlers had a chance to end it right then and there. Forty-two seconds were left in the first period. Kilburn looked for an escape as Fairchild had him down. Dundee's Fairchild threw his hands up in the air not knowing what to do as Kilburn resisted moving.

Still tied 6 to 6, second period started in a neutral position. Fairchild went straight for a low shot. Kilburn held him off as he tried to hook his back leg but with no control yet. Kilburn with double under hooks, was trying to go for the legs. Fairchild went down, and Kilburn got another 2 point takedown, getting a two point lead. 8 to 6. Kilburn worked through that and was able to convert the double under hooks and made the takedown. He now tried to go for some near fall points, landing him a 3 point 3 near falls as the clock ran out in the second period.

11 to 6 going into the third period. Kilburn took the bottom position as Fairchild took top. The clock was set back to two minutes, and our Richmond fans rose to their feet in support of our 103 pounder Kilburn. One minute and fourteen seconds left, Kilburn got a 2 point reversal on Fairchild, followed by the fall, getting the pin, tying the meet 22 to 22. Everyone in the stands was fired up, along with our Blue Devil champ Kilburn tying us for the meet, waving the crowd up and high fiving people, proud of his triumph as a Freshmen.

"It's what I live for, what I've been doing my whole life," Kilburn said. To our final bout, it was 25 to 28, Dundee was in the lead by three, weight class 130. Sophomore Hayden Bastian was up against McCallister McAvoy. First period, clock is set, the boys strap on their red and green ankle bands, shook hands and the whistle blows. Both wrestlers looked for control, trying to find an under hook. Neither one was able to score from that position. Eighteen seconds left its still 0 to 0. The first period ended. Going into the second Bastian took the bottom position. The crowd was still on their feet as the second period starts. Bastian flattened out on the mat, McAvoy with a good ride, but Bastian got a 2 point reversal. McAvoy worked through Bastian and also got a 2 point reversal, tying them 2 to 2. Fifteen

seconds left of the second period, Bastian was just short of time of getting another 2 point reversal.

Still tied 2 to 2 as they headed into the third and final period. McAvoy picked bottom, but Bastian gave the 1 point release, making it 2 to 3, McAvoy ahead by one. Bastian needed a takedown to tie us up, or potentially a fall to win it for us. Twenty-seven seconds left in the final Period, Bastian got a takedown, 4 to 3. His team jumped to their feet. The clock runs out leaving us tied 28 to 28.

A lot had happened in the last dual for Bastian, once the clock ran out he was happy he won but thought he could have done better.

"Once the match had ended, Colton came up to me and I started to apologize for not doing better, but they said I did well and that I wrestled my best," Bastian said. His team was there for him and the bond as brothers helped Bastian realized that he did do his best.

"Our team is like a family, the older guys will pick on you and the younger guys will annoy you, but in the end you'd die for each and every one of them," Bastian said.

The score was tied. It all comes down to criteria. Coaches Treend and Day, walked over to where the referee's huddled up, anxious as they went through and decided who State champs are.

"I kind of laughed in my head when everything was tied up, thinking, you've got to be kidding me! Just when I thought I'd seen everything in this rivalry," Coach Treend said.

Both teams won the same amount of matches, seven to seven, and no un-sportsmen like conduct. The coaches of both teams, and all the wrestlers waited in agony. The referees went through each criteria making it all the way to 'H' as our tie breaker. Richmond took the win, of Division 3 State Title, making it our fifth in eight years. Letter 'H' in criteria Richmond having seventeen and nine for Dundee. The Richmond stands roared along with the team and their coaches as they hugged, and jumped up, taking in the win they just made.

"It was a crazy rush of happiness. I couldn't run over to the boys on the bench fast enough. It wasn't about me, I was so happy for them, doing something a lot of people thought they couldn't do," said Coach Treend.

Everyone was so proud and so happy for this win. They were lost in excitement and shock.

"I love every one of our guys. They did something that not many people outside of our practice room thought could happen. We will share a bond that last forever. I am blessed to have been their coach."

Coach Day said. This win was big for our Richmond boys, and all of them took it to heart, their bond on and off the mat growing. This win is something they will never forget.

Queens of the Diamond Look to Reclaim Crown

Brendon Jacques
Sports Editor

Being a State champ has almost become a yearly ritual for students at RHS and the softball team is looking to defend their title and bring home the 15th State Championship to the city of Richmond.

Winning back-to-back championships is always difficult but the Devils lost only five seniors last year and almost the same core to win it again.

Senior outfielder, Emma Caperton said, "our team looks very strong again this year, and we have a lot of underclassmen that were huge contributors last season."

The underclassmen with the biggest contribution, maybe even the player of the tournament, was sophomore Erin Shuboy, who single handedly dominated batters on the mound while even throwing a no hitter in the state championship.

"It was a great feeling coming in as a freshman and being able to pitch as well as I did. I just hope to continue to pitch that well and help my team again this year," said Shuboy.

Being the State Champions can also come with many challenges.

Caperton said, "We have a lot of pressure going into the season to perform our very best. We have a lot of the same talented players this year and many expect us to go far (state tournament) again."

Overcoming that pressure is always very difficult and will really test the team's overall mental toughness.

Senior designated hitter, Angela Coulas said, "I believe that we have what it takes to overcome every challenge that faces us this year.

Us group of girls have been a very strong unit since we started playing as little girls and nothing will change this year."

Having experience is a huge advantage for the Devils and will definitely be something to help them through the state tournament.

"We've been there before and know exactly how to win," said Coulas.

The devils know that nothing is going to come easy this year. As most games throughout the stretch of the year came right down to the wire.

Caperton said, "For the regular season Arma-

da has always been a tough game because of the rivalry between both our schools. Later in the season I think that Escanaba will be a key victory to go for in the state tournament."

To get prepared for the difficult schedule ahead the girls have been taking practice very seriously. Coach Stewart has taken a lot of time throughout the off-season to make sure they are prepared for the season.

Coulas said, "We have prepared all winter for the season. We did this by hitting the batting cage and just being together as a group."

Another key component for the Devils is going to be leadership. Someone that can get their team fired up but to keep them on track and ready for each and every game.

"There's really no true captain on the team but seniors such as Raechel, Angela, and myself will really step up this year to make sure that we are successful," said Caperton.

The team is coming back with a lot of the same championship core. With that strong core of hard working girls this year Richmond can expect another outstanding season.