



## ***For the Fridge!***

September 21, 2018

**From the Principal:** We are now in the fourth week of school and I am proud of the work the students and staff have completed around “common expectations”. These RIS “norms” are essential to a school’s success. These include the school’s expectations in the hallways, bathrooms, cafeteria, recess and more. All of these are based on the Raider Way. Respect, Responsibility, Reach for your Best and Safety First. While everyday has not been perfect, we are seeing the payoff in the classroom and in our common areas. If students are off task wherever they are, that affects student learning. The first six weeks of school are devoted to Responsive Classroom and establishing our common expectations. The payoff is improved student behavior in the winter and in the spring.

**Safety at RIS/RMS complex:** We remind all parents and guardians that they must check into the Main Office as soon as they come into RIS. It is not OK to go directly to the classroom. It is a fine line between being welcoming and vigilant with regard to school safety. Please help us keep everyone safe by checking into the Main Office and obtaining a Visitor’s Pass. It is essential.

**Car-Rider Pick-up:** Please help us be good neighbors! At car-rider pickup, please do not block private driveways. Our neighbors try their best to avoid RIS at the 2:45-3:00 time, but sometimes do need to come and go from their driveways. SRO LaGuardia has been working with our car riders to not block driveways. It is just being neighborly.

**Evacuation Drill:** The annual RIS/RMS Evacuation Drill was yesterday. This is a mandatory drill that all schools must perform in the first few weeks of school. We use Trinity Church on West Street. In the event of a real evacuation, we would use Trinity as an initial staging area, then students would be bused to Rutland High School for reunification. This is a plan developed in conjunction with the Rutland Police Department.

-In the next few weeks we will also have an unannounced ***Secure The Schools*** drill. This too is a state mandate. All of our drills are to help ensure we are prepared for a real emergency. Please reference the Vermont School Crisis Guide available on the Agency of Education Website.

**-PTO News:** Our PTO is wrapping up the Yankee Candle Fundraiser in the next few weeks. Thank you to all parents and guardians for your support. We will have one more, large fundraiser this fall with Great American Fundraising. Great American is a very reputable company and in the past had a great working relationship with RIS. Remember, the money raised by the PTO helps us keep the cost of all of our field trips to a very low cost to actually no cost.

**Thank you** to Michelle Rounds for her last four years of leadership with the PTO. Michelle and Kristin Notte, our treasurer, will be stepping down this fall as their children are no longer at RIS. The PTO is in good hands and thank you to all of the parents and guardians who have offered to take the reins. Our children are the benefactors of their labor.

