

JAMES S. RICKARDS MIDDLE SCHOOL

# Rocket Trails

Volume 2, Issue 3  
November 2017

Team Rickards...Launching into Excellence!

## Principal's Corner

Greetings Rickards Community,

This year is going by fast, and it is already the Thanksgiving month of November. With that, I want to express my sincere gratitude to all those stakeholders who make up our Rickards Community. Thanks to their selfless involvement and active participation in our school, James S. Rickards Middle School received the coveted **Five Stars School Award** as well as the **Golden School Award**. Rickards received the official certificates and the Five Star School flag, which now flies in front of the school.

Please continue to stay involved. This is the start of the second marking period and is a great opportunity to look at the grades your child obtained during the first marking period to determine areas of strength or where improvement is needed. If you would like to schedule a parent-teachers conference, please call 754-322-4400.

Participation and engagement are key elements of a successful school. This month as we celebrated our traditional Hispanic Heritage Night, hundreds of parents and students enjoyed a show full of music and dance from various Latin American countries, as well as a taste of the great Latin American cuisine. The students studying Spanish had an opportunity to showcase their knowledge and become "teachers" as they "taught" participants about various Spanish-speaking countries. As we move to the second marking period, please ensure that your child is reading, studying, and coming to school on time and prepared for classes.

Have a great November and thank you for staying involved.

Sincerely,  
Washington B. Collado, Principal



### 6th Grade

Ms. Dias—Assistant Principal  
754-322-4419  
Ms. Clarke—Guidance  
754-322-4431

### 7th Grade

Dr. Drake—Assistant Principal  
754-322-4414  
Mr. Bascome—Guidance  
754-322-4411

### 8th Grade

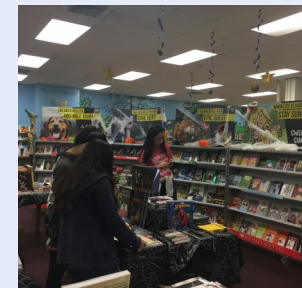
Ms. Sheffield—Assistant Principal  
754-322-4416  
Ms. Patterson—Guidance  
754-322-4433





## Scholastic Book Fair

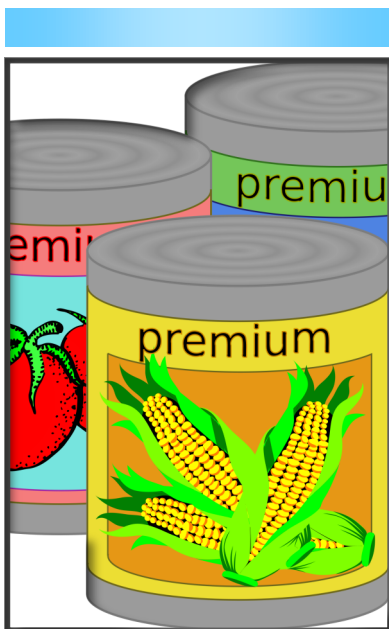
The 2017 Scholastic Book Fair was a huge success! We had books and games from many different genres. Thanks for coming together to make this book fair a fun and exciting event for all.



# Homework Help

Homework is an important step to academic success as it encourages students to take initiative and responsibility for completing a task, work independently, and develop self-discipline. Homework prepares students for lessons and provides the opportunity to review and reflect on learning. We offer free tutoring and homework help **Monday-Thursday, from 3:45-4:45 in the Media Center.**





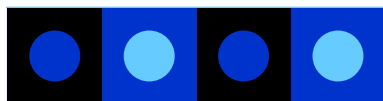
## Harvest Drive

The Rickards Community is coming together for our annual Harvest Food Drive to collect all kinds of non-perishable foods and personal hygiene products to help serve members of our community! To get more points for your class, you can bring in the assigned Rickards foods of canned meat and boxed stuffing. Each item will be worth 1 point and the assigned items will be worth 5 points. This contest will be done through your 5th period class. Join together with your school to give back!



*"Your time is limited. Don't waste it living someone else's life."*

*-Steve Jobs*

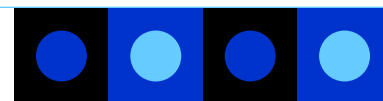


### College Spotlight

Ever wonder why Gatorade has the same colors as the **University of Florida**? That's because Gatorade was invented by a team of Scientists in 1965 at UF. It is also one of the only two universities to win multiple national championships in both football and basketball. UF ranked 2nd overall in the United States for number of undergraduate degrees awarded to African Americans and 3rd overall for Hispanics. The Independent Florida Alligator, a daily newspaper, is the largest student-run newspaper in the United States.



## Character Education



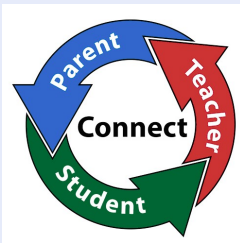
October's character trait of the month was *Responsibility*. We looked for students that take ownership of their thoughts, words, and actions. The character award winners were:

- 6<sup>th</sup> Grade: Layla Measel
- 7<sup>th</sup> Grade: Nadia Akhtar
- 8<sup>th</sup> Grade: Jaquelin Canales Flores

November's character trait of the month is *Citizenship*. We will be looking for students who know, understand, and display a high regard for rules, laws, government, heritage, and respect for those who have served and sacrificed for community and country. Look for the winners in the next edition of *Rocket Trails*!

Parental Input  
for  
2017- 2018  
School Evaluations

Parents interested in providing input into the performance evaluations of Rickards Middle School's instructional and/or administrative employee evaluations may contact our office at (754) 322-4400 by April 13, 2018.

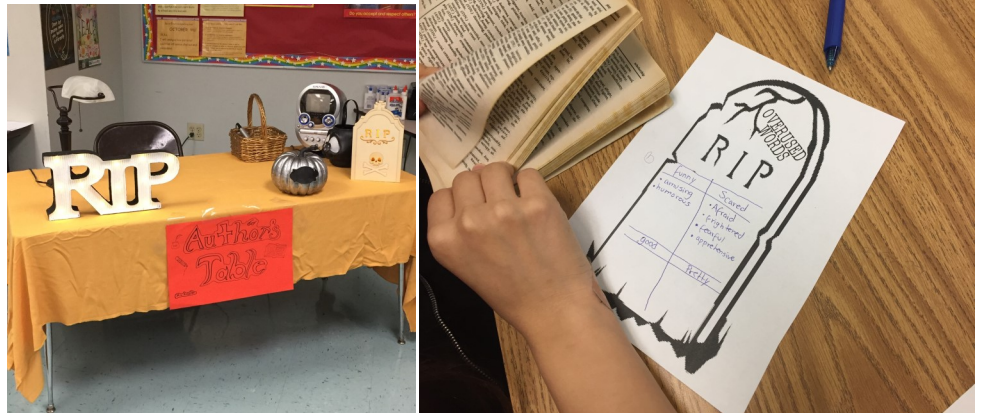


Robotics



The Rickards Robotics class with Coach Beckford have been busy learning about and designing robots like the one seen here.

Author's Table



8<sup>th</sup> graders in Mrs. Aucella's class said R.I.P. to overused words in their writing.

Rickards Girls Soccer

Coach Kalls and the Rickards Community would like to thank the 2017 Lady Rockets soccer team for an amazing season. The scoring leader for the season was 8<sup>th</sup> grader Lilianna Rubio. Congrats team!



2017 Rickards Lady Rockets Soccer Team



## Frost Museum Field Trip

Rickards science students visited the *Phillip and Patricia Frost Museum of Science* in Downtown Miami's Museum Park. This is more than just a museum, it's a planetarium and a massive aquarium. Students had "encounters" with stingrays and starfish, saw hammerhead sharks up close, explored coral reef ecosystems, and observed birds of prey in the aviary.

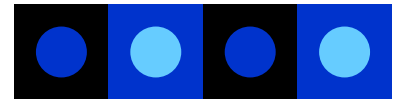


## Rocket Readers

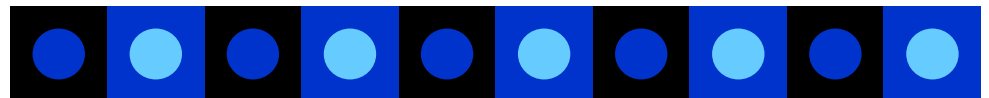
The Rockets Readers are a group of students who love (and are learning to love) to read. Being a part of a book club is a fantastic way to see new perspectives and get ideas from the author that you might have missed on your own. A *Wrinkle in Time* by Madeleine L'Engle Soon to be a major motion picture! It was a dark and stormy night; Meg Murry, her small brother Charles Wallace, and her mother had come down to the kitchen for a midnight snack when they were upset by the arrival of a most disturbing stranger...



## Bonnet House



8th graders visited the Bonnet House and Stranahan House Museum to learn about some of the early residents of Broward County and what their lives were like.





## ROCKETS MATH CLUB

The Rockets Math Club kicked off their competition year and are working towards the Broward County Council of Teachers of Mathematics (BCCTM) tournament in April. This tournament will be a meeting of the minds where students compete and decipher some of the most difficult math problems.



### WOMEN COMPUTER SCIENTISTS



## GIRLS WHO CODE

**Why it Matters:** Computing is where the jobs are — and where they will be in the future, but fewer than 1 in 5 computer science graduates are women. The largest drop-off of women interested in computing happens between the ages of 13-17. In 1995, 37% of computer scientists were women. Today, it's only 24%. If we do nothing, in ten years the number of women in computing will decrease to just 22%.

8th graders in Ms. Sookdeo's Coding class analyzed the statement: *Women have the same capability to code as men.* "With an estimated 1.4 million computer science jobs expected by 2020, and only about 400,000 qualified applicants to fill them, the pressure is on to create coders - especially among girls, who have long been outnumbered by a wide margin in the field. Gender-gap crusaders often repeat the same mantra: Girls simply code differently than boys because they don't view the world in the same way. At Girls Who Code, they believe the gender gap in technology is an issue we must all come together to solve. With your support, we will continue to build a future where our next generation of girls and boys will prosper through creativity, through bravery, and through teamwork" (May, 2016). It is evident in Ms. Sookdeo's 5th period class that coding is a male-driven industry, with the ratio of 11 boys to 2 girls.

Reference: May, P. (2016). Bay Area girls stream into summer coding camps. [online] Newsela.com. Available at: <https://newsela.com/review/girls-summer-codingcamps/classroom/2086655/> [Accessed 19 Oct. 2017].



## RMS Sports Schedule

DAY	DATE	TIME	SITE	OPPONENT
Wed	11/1	4:00pm	Lyons Creek	Lyons Cree
Mon	11/6	4:00pm	Rickards	Deerfield
Wed	11/8	4:00pm	William Dandy	William Dandy
Thurs	11/9	All Day	Woodmont Tamarac	Multiple Schools-Golf
Tues	11/14	4:00pm	Parkway	Parkway
Thurs	11/16	4:00pm	Rickards	Renaissance Springs
Thurs	11/30	4:00pm	Rickards	Renaissance Plantation

NOVEMBER				
M	T	W	T	F
		1	2	3
6	7	8	9	10
13	14	15	16	17
20	21	22	23	24
27	28	29	30	



## NOVEMBER CALENDAR OF EVENTS



8th Grade goes to JA World	Nov 1-2 All Day
5K Miles for Smiles	Nov 4
Lunch with your Veteran	Nov 7 11 am
ESE Parent Night	Nov 7 11 am
Veteran's Day—No School	Nov 10
Scoliosis Screening-6th grade only	Nov 14
SAC/PTSA Meeting	Nov 14 6:30 pm
8th Grade Debate	Nov 15 1 pm
RMS Salutes	Nov 16
RMS Dance	Nov 17 2 pm
Field Trip—Broward College	Nov 17 All Day
Field Trip—Fort Lauderdale Historical Society	Nov 17 All Day
Sunshine Thanksgiving Luncheon	Nov 21
Northeast Magnet Program Showcase—8th grade only	Nov 30