

# David A. Stein Riverdale Kingsbridge Academy MS/HS 141 Principal's Newsletter



## A Message from the Principal

Dear RKA Community

As the holiday season kicks into gear, we have a lot going on here at RKA! We just got through a very busy month of Parent/Teacher Conferences, high school tours, middle school tours, and a Community Leader Open House! All the events were very successful, and of course, I am also pleased to have the opportunity to show off our beautiful school and the best work of our students and teachers! This month promises to be busy, as well, so please read through the newsletter carefully and keep checking those RKA Notes, so you can make sure not to miss anything!

Our annual Winter Festival is Thursday, December 10th at 7:00 PM. Doors open at 6:30 PM to allow visitors ample time to view the

displays of visual art work which was created in the art classrooms. Our Arts Faculty and I so love showcasing the many talents of our students and their dedicated teachers. Please come and celebrate the season with us--the instrumental and vocal groups and, of course, our exceptional visual artists. Supervisor of the Arts, Tom

Sullivan and I would like to acknowledge our great teachers: Ms. Berretta, Mr. Carter, Ms. Emsworth, Ms. Kaminski, and Mr. Salinas for all the hours they and their students put in every year in preparation. It truly shows!

Sincerely,  
*Lori O'Mara*



Senior Class President, Marleny Ramirez, presents to a distinguished group of guests and community leaders at RKA's recent Open House Event

## Seniors- Class of 2016

Our Seniors are excited at the many fun things that are in store for them as the year progresses. They've been working hard on those college applications and look forward to their Senior Dinner this month at Banzai Hibachi restaurant. The fun will continue (and we will keep you updated!) with Homecoming Week in January, Senior Class Trips, and Spirit Days sprinkled throughout! And we can't forget the Prom and, of course, Graduation! Senior Advisor, Ms. Gordon, is leading the way!

RKA has a long-standing tradition of preparing students to be college and career ready- both academically and socially. Our annual RKA Alumni Panel will present to the current Class of 2016 on January 5. This is a chance for our recent grads to talk about their first year in college and provide "insider" tips to the current seniors. 12th graders also have a chance to ask questions of the panel and start imagining themselves in college next year.

## Holiday Door Decorating

Many people refer to RKA as their home away from home. Just as we all spruce up our homes at this time of year, we always have such fun with the annual Holiday Door Decorating contest! Students in all grades signed up with their favorite teachers and have been busily planning and executing designs fitting this year's theme- "Celebrating the Holidays in New York City." I look forward to walking around the halls with my panel of esteemed judges to survey the results and announce the winners! Be sure to check next month's Principal's Newsletter for the pictures!

## Upcoming Dates

**December 8**  
Senior Dinner at Banzai

**December 10**  
WinterArts Festival-  
6:30 PM, RKA Aud

**December 15**  
Tiger Token Gingerbread  
Event

**December 17**  
Door Decorating Judging

**December 17- 6:15 PM**  
RCC Friends and Family  
Night

**December 18- 7:45 AM**  
Coffee with the Principal

**December 24**  
Winter Recess ('til 1/3)

**January 4- 8**  
Homecoming Week

**January 5**  
RKA Alumni Panel meets  
with Class of 2016

**January 7**  
HS Homecoming Formal  
Riverview, 6-10 PM

**January 8- 1 - 6:30 PM**  
Homecoming Pep Rally,  
Faculty vs. Student  
game, and Varsity Boys  
Basketball Game

## Parent Committees

I am pleased to be working closely again this year with our Parents' Association leaders. Please join their efforts by attending their general PA meetings throughout the year (the first Monday evening of most months--see your family calendar) and consider joining the PA Executive Board, an important parent voice at RKA. [RKADonate@gmail.com](mailto:RKADonate@gmail.com).

**Parents are involved in many committees at RKA.** Please see below each committee's function, and general meeting times. Please feel free to reach out to me, or to the parents on the committee to offer input for the next regularly-scheduled meeting.

**Safety Committee** - Meets the first Wednesday morning of each month. This is a joint faculty-parent committee that addresses matters of safety in the school. Angela Rodriguez, Amy Carr, and Elaine Ellison serve on the committee. The committee asks you to please avoid double and triple parking around the school, especially at arrival and dismissal times

**School Leadership Team** - Meets the third Wednesday afternoon of each month. This joint committee of administration/parents/faculty/staff/students considers long-term planning for the school, which includes researching and authoring the Comprehensive Education Plan. Members on this committee are Aida Cintron, Alan Merenstein, Claire Johnson-Hurry, Kathy Fadda, and Nelson Uwague. Currently there is an open seat on the SLT for an additional parent member. See Ms. Carr if you are interested in being considered for the spot.

**Parents' Partnership** - Parent leaders, selected through the PA, meet with me monthly to address day-to-day issues.

No School  
Winter Recess  
Dec 24– Jan 3

## MADD

Last week, high school ELA classes were visited by representatives from MADD (Mothers Against Drunk Driving). This national organization has been in existence for thirty-five years, and is the largest organization of its kind combatting underage drinking, working to prevent drugged or drunk driving, and supporting its victims. Each class experienced an interactive presentation from a young person impacted by drunk or impaired driving or binge drinking. I feel it is an important message to convey, and I hope all of us will reinforce it at home.



## Athletics

Winter Sports are well underway, with the Girls' and Boys' Basketball Teams and our Boys' Wrestling Team practicing and competing. Our Athletics Director, Mr. Edmond, and I are very excited to announce we've added a new sport to our PSAL roster--Stunt Cheerleading! The team will likely be led by Coach Casella, and they are looking forward to competing in the Spring.

I have to especially acknowledge the fine efforts of two of our teams. Our Girls' Soccer Team went all the way to the city finals this year, and I was so proud to be there with so many RKA staffers, cheering them on. They went down in a tough-fought game to the team from Baruch High School, but Coach Krause and the girls still deserve a hearty "Congratulations!" And a special nod to Senior Samantha Rosette, who was the highest goal-scoring player in all of New York City AND State, in the Top Five in the United States! She will be heading next year to play for UVA! And our Girls' Volleyball team made it to the playoffs for the fifth straight year before finishing with a loss to Leon Goldstein in the semis. Great job, Coach Reingold and team!

To cheer on all of our RKA teams, **Homecoming Week** starts the day we get back from Winter Recess: January 4. There will be school-wide dress up days each day that week culminating in a big pep rally for HS students on Friday during periods 7 and 8. It will be followed by a Faculty vs. Student game and varsity boys basketball game vs Stephenson beginning at 5 PM. Dress up days are: Monday- Pajama Day, Tuesday-Twin Day, Wednesday -Sports Day, Thursday-Decades Day, Friday- Blue and Gold/ RKA Spirit Day.

We are also planning our first-ever High School Homecoming Winter Formal on January 7th at the Riverview in Hastings. Permission slips were distributed and are also available online at the school website: [www.RKA141.org](http://www.RKA141.org)

## Tiger Tokens

As you know, students at RKA earn Tiger Tokens for displaying Tiger PRIDE (Punctuality, Respect, Independence, Determination and Enthusiasm). Last month over 100 students earned the chance to attend the Mini-Movie Marathon Event. Congratulations to those students who qualified.

This month, students will be able to hand in their tokens to attend our Gingerbread House-making Event where the students work in teams to build the "Most Original," "Best Traditional" and "Most Charming" gingerbread houses. Prizes will be awarded. All children are encouraged to keep up the good work on displaying Tiger Pride.



The 2015 RKA Girls' Varsity Soccer Team