



RHODE ISLAND
**NURSES INSTITUTE
MIDDLE COLLEGE**
CHARTER SCHOOL



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RINI Principal's Update - May 7, 2021

RINI UPCOMING CALENDAR DATES:

May 6-May 12: Nurses Week

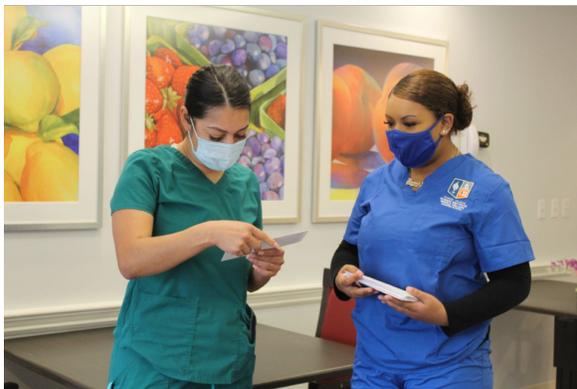
May 12: Florence Nightingale's birthday

COMMUNITY HIGHLIGHT: This week was marked with celebrations for both our nurses and teachers who have been at the forefront of our new normal. As our students navigate this year we would like to acknowledge and thank our

nurses and those who teach and support future nurses.

On Friday we honored and celebrated nurses who have been at the helm of the pandemic by sharing thank you cards written by our RINI students along with some sweet treats! We delivered cards and pastries at the Wingate Health Center and then Elmwood Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, both centers who we have partnered and worked with for many years. It was a proud moment as one of the directors at the center informed us that a former RINI student was currently employed at the facility! We had a card addressed in his name, which made it even more fulfilling.

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HONORING OUR NURSES:



COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT:

This week we celebrated **National School Nurses Day**, and we want to give a big THANK YOU to Nurse Audette.

RINI is fortunate to have Nurse Audette. She has been integral to our pandemic response serving as the liaison to the health department,

developing a reopening plan, identifying signs and symptoms, tracking cases, and running our BinaxNow testing program. Our teachers, students and families have benefited from Nurse Audette's 13 years of experience as a hospital nurse, and participation in over 100 hours of training on COVID-19.

Recognizing the toll that the past year has taken on students and families, Nurse Audette is looking ahead to tackle mental and emotional health, noting "Every student and every teacher has experienced trauma in the last year. All of our lives and those of people worldwide have dramatically changed in the last 12 months. It is going to take all of us time to recover and regain lost ground."

If you see Nurse Audette today, make sure to say hello and thank her!

MEET NURSE WENDY:



1. Why did you pursue a career in nursing?

One of my strengths is being able to empathize with people, which is such an important aspect of nursing. I also love anatomy and biology!

2. What has been your biggest professional accomplishment this year?

Seeing students on their way to successfully getting their nursing assistant licensure. Forming relationships with students despite teaching the majority of

the year in a virtual world.

3. As a result of the pandemic, what do you see changing in the nursing field?

The role and importance of the nurse has been highlighted during this pandemic. Hopefully there will be more of a focus on access to resources to better support our healthcare workers.

4. What advice do you have for the future nurses at RINI?

Focus on your future. This is hard work and it is supposed to be-for a reason. We are tasked with caring for human lives and that is a tremendous responsibility.

5. Why do you enjoy working in a school?

After having worked in long term care for most of my career, I am truly enjoying the shift towards education. Working in a high school is a new experience and this generation is keeping on my toes! I have two teenagers of my own, so it helps me be able to relate to the experiences our students are having.

I have seen how much of a difference nursing assistants and nurses make in the lives of others. I am proud to be part of our students' education, and I know they will make excellent contributions to the lives of their future patients and residents.

SENIORS: LET'S GET READY FOR GRADUATION!

Please complete these items during this month, so we can begin putting together the slideshow for senior awards night.

1. Start creating your personal slide that will be shown at awards night. The template and directions are below - all you need to do is make a copy,

personalize, and send it to kgaspar@rinimc.org.

[Awards Night Personal Slide Template](#)

2. Vote for your classmates! (voting closes in two weeks FYI).

[Class of 2021 Superlatives Form](#)

3. Send in pictures of your RINI experience - we want everyone to be included! Pictures of you all as a group will be helpful.

[Class of 2021 RINI Experience Pictures](#)

COLLEGE AND CAREER UPDATES:

[PrepareRI Ambassador Team](#) is excited to announce the launch of monthly themed webinars, intended to increase awareness about the amazing opportunities available to best support students' college and career pathways. Please find a list of monthly webinar topics below:

- May: Saving Money in College with PrepareRI
- June: Work-Based Learning
- July: PrepareRI Alums – Where are they now?

You can register for the webinars [here](#). If you have questions about the monthly webinar series, please contact Wendy Wallace, at wendy.wallace@ride.ri.gov.

STUDENT OPPORTUNITY:



BAE Training Available for High School Students. The RI Department of Health is partnering with Bristol-based, national organization SafeBAE, to pilot their BAE (Before Anyone Else) Training among high school students in RI in 2021! This youth-focused virtual training will guide students through 15 modules, tackling the many layers of dating violence among students, including consent, bystander intervention, Title IX, how to support survivors, options for reporting, etc. and we need adult allies to support their students in learning about the training.

Becoming Certified Peer Educators is just the beginning. Students will need district approval to help them qualify to get credit for the training as community service hours toward graduation and support in facilitating peer training opportunities within the district once they are trained. (Flyer for sharing with others)

The training and all materials are also available to educators to support lesson plans and provide authentic and youth created content to support curriculum around healthy relationships. Please visit www.safebae.org to learn more about programming, reach out with questions, and become an adult ally in preventing dating violence among your students!

Interested in Community Health? Become STARS: (Students Teaching About Responsible Sexuality) educate their friends, peers, family, and community about sexual and reproductive health and rights. This program provides a stipend issued each semester, and opportunities to get involved with social justice-related events. For more information reach out to Taytum Camacho at taytum.camacho@rinimc.org Great opportunity for community service hours.

FROM THE NURSE'S OFFICE

Daily Wellness Screening On Skyward

If your child is coming into the school building they must do the Wellness

Screening on Skyward before entering the building. It is easiest to complete on a smartphone by downloading the Skyward App.

COVID Vaccine is available in RI for everyone ages 16 and older. Sign up here for anyone in your household that is 16 or older.

[COVID Vaccine Registration](#)

Fully vaccinated individuals (14 days after the final dose) do NOT have to:

- quarantine if they are a close contact of someone with COVID,
- quarantine if they travel out of the U.S.
- quarantine if they travel to a state with a >5% positivity rate
- wear a mask outdoors in small gatherings
- wear a mask indoors in small gatherings of people

While COVID numbers are better we still need to be cautious. Continue to:

Wear a mask

Wash your hands

Watch your distance

FROM THE SOCIAL WORKER'S OFFICE

RINI Middle College acknowledges and recognizes how challenging the last year has been given the COVID-19 Pandemic, violence and the many losses experienced. We want you to know that there are resources and help available. If you are concerned about your student's mental health please reach out to the Bilingual School Social Worker Ms. Pellegrino at spellegrino@rinimc.org who has resources and information available. Please do not suffer in silence. If you are unsure or are having a hard time figuring out how to have difficult conversations with your student I can also give you some assistance with that. Do not hesitate to reach out for help.

COVID-19 Funeral Assistance Available. The COVID-19 pandemic has brought overwhelming grief to many families. Under the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2021 and the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, FEMA will provide financial assistance for COVID-19-related funeral expenses incurred after January 20, 2020. [COVID-](#)

**WORKFORCE
INFORMATION:**

Please contact Mrs. Wozniak at: awozniak@rinimc.org if you are interested in participating in community volunteer opportunities through the ZOOM platform to area residents in nursing facilities. Additional information can be found at: [RINI Workforce Development Office](#)

The 2021 Heart Walk is open! This year our walk will be a digital experience that joins our Southern New England and Southcoast Heart Walks. You can visit the registration page [HERE!](#) The experience will start in the beginning of May and will end with a virtual celebration on Sunday, June 6th on Facebook. Families are all welcome! This is a great way to get safely outdoors and start that healthy exercise we have been planning on all winter! Sign up now.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT:

Youth Mental Health Webinar Series Now Available: The RI Youth Mental Health Webinar Series is a collaboration between the Rhode Island Department of Health (RIDOH), Rhode Island Student Assistance Services (RISAS), and our fabulous presenters to bring YOU topical, youth-focused webinars & trainings for FREE. Listed below are the pre-recorded and upcoming live events. For any questions related to this project, please contact crego@risas.org

Recorded Series:

Talking with Teens: A Discussion about Mental Health [Watch Here](#)
Fostering Resilience in Children: The Role of the Family [Watch Here](#)
Youth Suicide Prevention, It's Everyone's Business: What Parents Need to Know [Watch Here](#)

Rent Relief Available for Rhode Islanders: Rhode Island has received \$200 million in rent relief funds from the federal [Emergency Rental Assistance \(ERA\) Program](#). This program will provide rental and utility relief payments to help eligible renters maintain housing stability. [APPLICATIONS ARE OPEN!](#)

ELIGIBILITY & DOCS NEEDED

Either the tenant or landlord can begin an application. **Participation from both the tenant and landlord is required** to complete an application and for payment to be issued.

Tenant applicants must meet all of the following criteria to be eligible:

- Household income must meet certain income limits.
- Qualified for unemployment benefits or have experienced a reduction in household income, incurred significant costs, OR experienced other financial hardship due, directly or indirectly, to COVID-19.
- Show they are at risk for becoming homeless or losing their housing.

Tenants and landlords will need to provide documentation to complete the application and for payment to be issued. A list of what tenants and landlords/property managers need to provide can be found on www.RentReliefRI.com.

RIHousing has opened a new Call Center to assist applicants with questions. Residents can call the **Rent Relief RI Call Center: 1-855-608-8756** or **contact Katie West** for more information.

The WeR1 Fund is providing \$400 gift cards for Rhode Islanders who are not eligible for most federal relief programs due to their immigration status. The funds allow for purchase of groceries, gas, and other basic necessities. Those in need of assistance should visit [Dorcas International](#) to apply. Applications can also be found in [Spanish](#), [Portuguese](#), and [Haitian Creole](#).

GRAB AND GO MEALS:

PROVIDENCE: Breakfast and lunch meals are now available to families with children ages 18 and under on Tuesdays and Fridays. Times for pick up are 2:30pm to 4:30 pm.

Here are the sites that are serving meals [Providence Grab and Go Sites](#)

RHODE ISLAND FOOD SITES: If your family lives in a location other than Providence, please click below for a list of food sites that serve your community:

RI FOOD SITES

Live, learn locally at the Providence Community Library!

- [Learn Italian - Beginner & Advanced Levels](#)
- [Learn Spanish in 2021 with PCL](#)
- [New ESL Classes](#)
- [Prepare for U.S. Citizenship with These Virtual Classes](#)
- [Tools for Healthy Living - A Virtual Series](#)

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RINIMC
is different! _____

We Are Educating the Nurses of Tomorrow, Today.

For more information, visit our
website: rinimc.org



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