Dear Parents and Students,

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Dear Parents and Students,
February marks the celebration of Black History Month. This year’s national theme is Health and Wellness. Upon learning of the theme, I reflected on the profound accomplishment of Dr. Kizzmekia “Kizzy” Corbett, a thirty-five-year-old black female scientist who played a pivotal role in creating the vaccine for COVID-19 as the lead scientist at the Vaccine Research Center of the National Institutes of Health.

Dr. Corbett’s interest in science began as a young girl and she was committed to pursuing an education in science. Along the way, she faced many obstacles and experienced discrimination as both a woman and as a black woman. There was one opportunity in her life that made a key difference. She attended the University of Maryland, Baltimore, as a Meyerhoff Scholar, an aggressive program that mentors minorities and women in science. “Had I not been exposed to Dr. Hrabowski, (Corbett’s mentor) and the Meyerhoff Program…I’m not even so sure that I would be a scientist.” Corbett told CNN. Her mentor during this program, Dr. Hrabowski believes Corbett deserves all the visibility she can get. "She cannot be a hidden figure," he said. "She needs to be in textbooks. Little girls need to see her — of all races. This is what's possible."

In December 2020, the Institute’s Director Dr. Anthony Fauci, said: "Kizzy is an African American scientist who is right at the forefront of the development of the vaccine. Dr. Kizzmekia Corbett found herself on the frontlines at a time when her community and nation needed her most. The young doctor played a pivotal role in developing a vaccine to stop a virus that is disproportionately killing Black Americans. Representation matters especially for a community where centuries of racism has led to medical mistrust and in a field where Black scientists are still underrepresented.”

Dr. Corbett hopes that her critical work will help inspire future generations of girls of color in science, who can see themselves in her success. Corbett wants Black people to know, “this person who looks like you has been working on this for several years.” Her advice to young female scientists? “Find your voice really early and speak very loud.”
Central to our educational practices at RINI Middle College is our mission statement to prepare a diverse group of students to become the highly educated and professional nursing workforce of the future. RINI is committed to building and sustaining a school community where teachers, students, parents, and support staff achieve inclusiveness, equity, and awareness. I am proud to lead this community that is making an impact on the workforce in healthcare as we prepare our students to become nurses of tomorrow with loud voices to be heard.

Principal Ferland

Celebrating Black History History Month
The Association for the Study of African American Life and History has designated the 2022 Black History History Theme: BLACK HEALTH AND WELLNESS. The theme for 2022 focuses on the importance of Black Health and Wellness. This theme acknowledges the legacy of not only Black scholars and medical practitioners in Western medicine, but also other ways of knowing (e.g., birth workers, doulas, midwives, naturopaths, herbalists, etc.) throughout the African Diaspora.

Origins of Black History Month:
Black History Month begins in 1915, half a century after the Thirteenth Amendment abolished slavery in the United States. That September, the Harvard-trained historian Carter G. Woodson and the prominent minister Jesse E. Moorland founded the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History (ASNLH), an organization dedicated to researching and promoting achievements by Black Americans and other peoples of African descent. This organization is known today as the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH).

In 1926, the group declared the second week of February as “Negro History Week” to recognize the contributions of African Americans to U.S. history. Few people studied Black history and it wasn't included in textbooks before the creation of Negro History Week. This week was chosen because it includes the birthdays of both Frederick Douglass, an abolitionist, and former U.S. president Abraham Lincoln.

The week-long event officially became Black History Month in 1976 when President Gerald Ford officially recognized Black History Month, calling upon
the public to “seize the opportunity to honor the too-often neglected accomplishments of Black Americans in every area of endeavor throughout our history.” Today, Black History Month is a time to honor the contributions and legacy of African Americans across U.S. history and society—from activists and civil rights pioneers such as Frederick Douglass, Sojourner Truth, Marcus Garvey, Martin Luther King Jr., Malcolm X, and Rosa Parks to leaders in industry, politics, science, culture and more.

“Congratulations! I’m pleased to inform you that you’ve been admitted to...”

Whether it’s that much-anticipated email or a thick envelope in the mailbox, college acceptance letters represent a pivotal moment for our RINI seniors. There has been a lot of buzz in the hallways as RINI seniors are celebrating receiving acceptance letters from colleges and universities. We look forward to hearing where your academic journey will take you next. As of date, seniors have been accepted to:

- Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences
- University of Bridgeport
- Florida A&M University
- Louisiana State University
- American International College
- Fitchburg State University
- Rhode Island College
- Arizona State University
- Dean College
- University of Hartford
- St. Michaels
- Community College of Rhode Island
- UMass Boston
- Salve Regina University
- Merrimack College
- Hampton University
- Keene State College
- University of Southern Maine
- Franklin Pierce University
- Penn State
- Morgan State University
- Brewton Parker College
- Quinnipiac University
- St. John’s University
- Johnson & Wales University
- Elms College
- California University of Pennsylvania
- University of Lynchburg
- University of Rhode Island

PARTNER WITH US: Complete SurveyWorks!

RINI Middle College is partnering with our families again and asking for your input with our annual Survey Works. There have been changes for families
and more opportunities for family feedback through this comprehensive survey. Please click below and complete the survey.

Family SurveyWorks (English Version)

Family SurveyWorks (Spanish Version)

The last day to complete the survey is **Thursday, March 31**.

Parents/Guardians, this is an opportunity to provide feedback on how the school is doing. We thank you and appreciate your participation.

**RINI Spring Book Club**

Join Ms. Boger and fellow students for the RINI Spring Book Club. Students will receive a free copy of the Reading Across Rhode Island, Rhode Island’s One Book, One State community read program Firekeeper’s Daughter by Angeline Boulley. If you are interested in joining the book club, email Ms. Boger at jboger@rinimc.org.

Soon to be adapted at Netflix for TV with President Barack Obama and Michelle Obama’s production company, Higher Ground. Angeline Boulley’s debut novel, Firekeeper’s Daughter, is a groundbreaking YA thriller about a Native teen who must root out the corruption in her community, perfect for readers of Angie Thomas and Tommy Orange.

**RINI Community Sports and Extracurricular Events**

Do you have a sporting or extracurricular event coming up that you would like to share with the RINI Community? Want to have some fans from our school to cheer you on? If so, share the date, time, location, and details of the event here in this form. (Must be school appropriate events). Fill out the form below to have your event featured on the TVs around RINI! **RINI Community Events Form**
Events shared will appear on the TV's around our school. For questions or suggestions, email Mrs. Gaspar - kgaspar@rinimc.org

**Important Dates:**

2/21-2/25 Winter Recess (No School)

**Chinese New Year: The Year of the Tiger**

2022 is a Year of the Tiger according to the Chinese zodiac, starting from February 1st, 2022, and lasting until January 21st, 2023.

People born in a year of the Tiger are predicted to be brave, competitive, unpredictable, and confident. They will experience their zodiac birth sign year (benmingnian) in 2022, which is considered bad luck.

Chinese New Year 2022 falls on Tuesday, February 1st, 2022, and celebrations come to an end with the Yuan Xiao (元宵节 / yuán xiāo jié), or Lantern Festival. The festival began over 2000 years ago and has developed many meanings. It celebrates family reunions and society. It features ancient spiritual traditions. Some also call this the “true” Chinese Valentine’s Day.

**Meet the RINI Staff**

William Charron
Teacher Assistant

Hello! My name is Mr. Charron. I have lived in Pawtucket, Rhode Island my entire life. I went to Brown University for college, where I received my BA in English Studies and Education. I have two siblings-- an older brother who is 11 months older than me, and a younger sister who is about to turn 16. I love football and music and have been teaching myself Spanish in my free time.

My favorite thing about being at RINI is being able to work with such a dynamic and unique group of students. High
school can be a difficult time, and I find a lot of joy in giving students a space to be comfortable and work towards their potential while offering my support and guidance. Given the determined, focused group we get here at RINI, that experience has been more rewarding than I could have imagined. My main goal at RINI, other than helping students, is to gain valuable experience so that I can become an ELA teacher.

Community Events

• Celebrating Rhode Island’s Black History
  February 14 - March 15: Craig-Lee Hall Lounge, Rhode Island College
  600 Mt. Pleasant Ave. Providence
  Banner exhibit highlighting the contributions of Black Rhode Islanders to the advancement of the state. Presented by Rhode Island College and Rhode Island Black Heritage Society

• A Rhode Island PBS Original: Black Joy History, Tradition, and Legacy of Joy in RI's Black Community
  February 24, 6 p.m., Roberts Hall Auditorium
  Reservations required: RIPBS.org
  Presented by Rhode Island PBS and Rhode Island College
Fax: (401) 533-9928

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