Parents and Students:

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March brings an air of excitement as the end of winter beckons the start of spring. An abundance of opportunities and celebrations are around the corner. Our seniors are hearing back from colleges and universities with decision letters. The SAT exam is on the horizon allowing our students the chance to demonstrate their learning and move toward reaching future goals and aspirations. Students are anxiously waiting for spring break. The RINI community is looking forward to upcoming recognition and celebratory events for our RINI students. Springtime is filled with a lot of excitement.

With all of this anticipation, we know our students need reminders to breathe and take moments to take care of themselves and one another. We also know that it is the time of year that procrastination can set in. Whether your student is a freshman trying to get through their first year of high school or a senior battling a case of "senioritis," every student needs to stay motivated throughout the spring semester. It's a challenging task for some, but with enough effort and planning, your student can thrive and finish the year strong.

•Be on Time and Be Present Everyday in Your Classes

We have seen an increase in tardiness and absenteeism in the last couple of weeks. All students must arrive on time and are in their first-period class at 8:00 am. If a student is having difficulty with tardiness/absences, please reach out to our Student Support staff members: **Ms. Almonte**, Dean of Student Support, **Ms. Franzoni**, Guidance Counselor, **Ms. Shelton**, Guidance Counselor, and **Ms. Pellegrino**, Social Worker. If students are continuously late or absent, they are not engaged in learning and are jeopardizing their academic success.

•Stay On Top of Your Responsibilities

Slacking and procrastinating are just ways of avoiding responsibilities. Putting off school-related responsibilities will leave your student scrambling and stressed at the last minute. Students need to do what they need to do when they need to do it. Don't wait to get it done until it’s too late. Completing assignments on time will have them on their way to finishing strong!

•Take Advantage of the Nice Weather
With the weather getting warmer and the daylight longer, students need to take advantage of the outdoors. Enjoy some relaxation and fun outside. Students also don’t have to be cooped up inside doing their homework. Take the homework outside!

• **Focus on the Finish Line**

Students need to visualize their finish line- and their goals- and focus on that. The school year is almost over, they can do it!

It is a pivotal time for families and faculty to provide needed support to our students so that they can achieve their goals. We encourage students and parents to reach out to teachers and support staff for assistance, advice, and help. Together, we can guide our students to a successful finish this year.

**Important Dates**

• April 5th: End of Quarter
• April 13th: School-Wide SAT Testing
• April 15th: Good Friday (No School)
• April 18th-April 22nd: April Vacation

**RINI Spring Spirit Week**

March 28th-April 1st

The RINI Student Council is excited to have students, staff, and faculty participate in RINI Spring Spirit Week. Here are the designated days for Spring Spirit Week:

• Monday, March 28th: Culture Day (No Scrubs)
  Show your cultural pride with dress code appropriate clothes

• Tuesday, March 29th: Teacher Student Switch Day (No Scrubs)
Students Dress like a teacher, and teachers dress like students

• Wednesday, March 30th: - Decades Day (No Scrubs)
  Hair, make up, and outfit to match any decade from the 2000s and before

• Thursday, March 31st: - Sports/College Day (Scrub Bottoms Required)
  Seniors - College Day (university sweatshirt and scrub bottoms)
  Underclassmen - Sports jersey Day (sports jersey and scrub bottoms)

• Friday, April 1st: - Spring Theme (Scrubs Required)
  Wear pastel colors, flowers, or other spring-themed scrubs

A reminder of the following dress code expectations during Spirit Week:
*No ripped jeans                     *Jogger pants acceptable
*No leggings                          *No tube tops
*Closed-toed shoes only               *No bandanas
*No spaghetti straps                  *No crop tops
*No inappropriate logos/derogatory meanings

Ramadan

Ramadan 2022 begins at sunset on Saturday, April 2, and ends on the evening of Monday, May 2.

Ramadan is the holiest month of the year in Islamic culture. For Muslims, it’s a time for spiritual reflection and growth, to help those in need, and to spend time with loved ones. It’s also a
time when Muslims fast during daylight hours for the whole month of Ramadan. Fasting is important during Ramadan as it allows Muslim to devote themselves to their faith, get closer to Allah, and learn patience and compassion. It’s about nourishing the soul, rather than only focusing on the physical body. It’s also one of the Five Pillars of Islam which are the foundation of how Muslims live their lives (the others are faith, prayer, charity, and pilgrimage to the holy city of Mecca). Muslims break their daily fasts by sharing meals with family and friends.

A special three-day festival called Eid al-Fitr (the Festival of the Breaking of the Fast) marks the end of Ramadan.

**The Women of RINI**

The theme for Women’s History Month this year is “providing healing, promoting hope.” What a fitting phrase to summarize the work and goals of our female students, staff, faculty, and leaders. As Women’s History Month comes to a close, we want to recognize our female students, staff, faculty, and leaders. We celebrate the contributions our female students, faculty, and staff provide to our school community and society at large, and recognize the value and contribution they have made in the past, in the present, and in the future.

**Meet the RINI Staff Member**

Elisa Almonte

Dean of Student Support

I was born and raised in Providence by
two amazing Dominican parents that instilled the importance of valuing my Latinx culture. I attended the University of Rhode Island and received a Bachelor's Degree in Human Development and Families and a minor in Psychology.

I have worked in the non-profit sector for seven years, serving historically resilient communities, and worked for The UCAP School for 13 years as a director of out-of-school time.

I enjoy listening to music, baking, have a creative eye for interior design, and turning the wheels of social justice. I am excited to join the RINI community and hope to provide thoughtful systems that align with the school's mission and contribute to positive school culture.

**Scholarship Opportunity: Apply Now**

Robert G. and Joyce Andrew College Scholarship Fund

This annual scholarship program offers need-based scholarships to graduates of Rhode Island high schools pursuing an undergraduate degree at select Rhode Island colleges and universities. Awards are renewable for up to three academic years following the first award, with proof of continued financial need and academic good standing. Awards will be made by June 30, 2022.

To be eligible, students must:

- Be current seniors or have graduated within the last three years from a high school (public, independent, or private) in Rhode Island;

- Have been accepted or currently enrolled in an undergraduate course of study at Providence College, the University of Rhode Island, Bryant University, Roger Williams University, Rhode Island College, or the
Community College of Rhode Island.

Complete and download application paperwork [here](#). Applications are due by midnight on Monday, May 9, 2022.

**Community Event:**

Advocating for YOU: Youth & Modern Day Civil Rights  
Date: April 6th from 4 pm-5 pm  
Location: Via Zoom- Register [Here](#)  
Cost: Free

Real-world information for students around self-advocacy and organizing. Learn how to make realistic plans to better the communities you live in.

Presented by: Pilar McCloud

CEO & Founder of A Sweet Creation Youth Organization ASCYO was founded in the Olneyville section of Providence Rhode Island. Pilar is the former Chairwoman of The NAACP Providence Branch Youth HS & College Chapters and has been an officer & Executive Board member. Pilar previously served as the New England Area Conference Advisor for the YouthWorks Committee serving the 15 chapters of the NAACP in the New England area that have active youth councils. Pilar was also Co-Director of Unified Solutions an incubator organization for grassroots nonprofit organizations in the city of Providence.

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