

ROCHESTER

# STEM

ACADEMY

March 2015



# News

Science  
Technology  
Engineering  
Math

## Remember...

415 16<sup>th</sup> St. SW Rochester, MN 55902 • 507-281-2381

### RSA Students to Participate in Nobel Peace Prize Forum



On Friday, March 6, 2015, six RSA students will assist RSA Artist-in-Residence, Frank Sentwali, in the opening activities of the Nobel Peace Prize Forum. Under the auspices of the Norwegian Nobel Institute, the Nobel Peace Prize Forum inspires peacemaking by focusing on the work of Nobel Peace Prize winners and leading international peacemakers and peacebuilders.

Disarmament will be the central focus of this year's Forum concentrating on the work of 2013 Nobel Laureate, The organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW). It will also feature former United States President and Nobel Laureate Jimmy Carter and his latest book: "A Call to Act: Women, Religion, Violence and Power."

Our students will assist Frank Sentwali with the workshops that happen Friday afternoon. This is truly an honor for Rochester STEM Academy and our brilliant students and staff. We look forward to even greater accomplishments this year in creative writing, science, technology, engineering, math, and PSEO college credits. Stay tuned to see what happens next year with COMPAS, RSA, and the State Arts Board.

**Parent Meeting** 5:30PM Wednesday, March 4, 2015 (Sambusa served)

**All School Field Trip-Science Museum** Thursday, March 5, 2015

**Nobel Peace Prize Forum** Friday, March 6, 2015

WIDA Testing-through March 13, 2015

**School Board Meeting** – 5:00 PM Wednesday, March 18, 2015

**Parent Conferences** Thursday, March 26  
End of 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter – Friday, March 27, 2015 (Yes - School for students & staff)

Spring Break – Monday, March 30 – Friday, April 3, 2015 - No school staff or students

## Save the Date!

- **Parent Meeting - 5:30PM Wednesday, March 4, 2015 – (Sambusa served)**
- **All School Field Trip – Science Museum, St. Paul – Thursday, March 5, 2015**
- **Nobel Peace Prize Forum • Augsburg College • Minneapolis • Friday, March 6, 2015**
- **WIDA Testing – through March 13, 2015**
- **School Board Meeting – 5:00 PM Wednesday, March 25, 2015**
- **Parent Conferences – Thursday, March 26, 2015**
- **End of 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter – Friday, March 27, 2015 (School for students & staff)**
- **Spring Break – Monday, March 30 – Friday, April 3, 2015 - No school staff or students**

## RSA Students Doing PSEO • College Bound... NOW!

This is what we are all about. We assure that all high school students pass their college entrance exams to be eligible to enroll in college. All PSEO students must complete the Minnesota requirements for graduation so college work is integrated into high school curriculum to assure all standards and benchmarks are completed. Strategy 2018 is a plan to have current 9<sup>th</sup> graders graduate with a high school diploma and a 2-year college degree in 2018.

### Supplementing High School Study with a PSEO college campus experience accomplishes several things:

1. It inspires students to excel at high school coursework beginning in grade 9.
2. It initiates focus for students to excel in math and reading to pass Accuplacer/ACT exams.
3. It propels teachers and parents to identify strategies for students to do what it takes to prepare for college and actually enroll before graduation.
4. It provides students with the experience of being a college student while having the emotional and academic supports of home and high school to help with the transition from high school to college.
5. It is **FREE** to students and parents. At RCTC that equals \$192 a credit. This year, RSA students are receiving more than \$10,000 of college tuition at no charge to their parents.

### Who's doing it?

Ahmed Ali (12<sup>th</sup> Grade, full-time), Muna Abdiasis (12<sup>th</sup> Grade, part-time), Sahra Abdullahi (11<sup>th</sup> Grade, full-time), Awale Nur (11<sup>th</sup> Grade, full time), Hibaq Mohamed (11<sup>th</sup> Grade, part-time), Sagal Abdi (11<sup>th</sup> Grade, part-time), Salma Hassam (11<sup>th</sup> Grade, part-time).

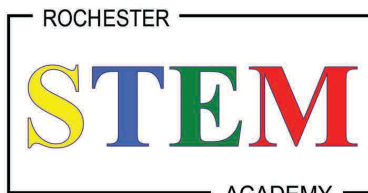
Please visit our website, [www.rochesterstemacademy.org](http://www.rochesterstemacademy.org), to learn more about PSEO at RSA and Strategy 2018.

### What's Going On....

**March is National Women's History Month** The stories of women's achievements are integral to the fabric of our history. Learning about women's tenacity, courage, and creativity throughout the centuries is a tremendous source of strength. Knowing women's stories provides essential role models for everyone that are genuinely needed to face the extraordinary changes of the 21st century. To list just a few famous Somali women are Dr. Hawa Abdi, Fatima Jibrell, Zahra Bani, Asli Hassan Abade, Yasmine Allas, Waris Dirie, Asha Haji Elmi, Hodan Nalayeh, Amina Hersi Moghe, and Dr. Edna Adan Ismail.

### Personalized Learning Plans in Reading, Writing, Math and Science

Students will set academic goals using the DesCartes program from NWEA. Students and teachers can readily identify skills that are mastered and skills that need improvement. From this we learn their grade level reading ability, Lexile, and we can set appropriate reading goals for each student. We continue to write during advisory period and generate student work based on their writing skills and set goals for writing as determined by the Flesch-Kincaid grade level scale.



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