Looking Ahead With Optimism

In September, few of us predicted that we would be able to hold in-person graduation ceremonies come spring. Yet, on Saturday, June 5, we gathered to celebrate the Class of 2021 in what almost felt like a “normal” event! It was wonderful to have students, families and educators all together to celebrate the accomplishments of our students who have overcome tremendous obstacles.

With vaccines widely available to people age 12 and up, we are hopeful that this fall will bring us even closer to that sense of normalcy that we all desire. However, it remains unclear when vaccines will become available for children under the age of 12. For this reason, we are preparing to have a distance-learning option for elementary students whose families feel that they are not yet ready to send their students to in-person school. If we’ve learned anything this past year, it is that we must remain flexible and ready to adjust to meet the needs of the moment.

As I close my experience as superintendent of Roseville Area Schools at the end of this month, I offer my sincere gratitude to the entire community. Whether you currently have students in our schools or not, whether or not you participate in our many community education programs, or if you look to our schools as centers for creating community, you have an important role to play in the future of our schools. The citizens of the seven cities that make up Roseville Area Schools have a long history of supporting our schools through difficult times. Not every community has a history of community support and enthusiasm for schools that ours has shown, and we are all grateful.

As you have read in the last several issues of this publication, years of lagging state and federal funding have taken a toll on the financial stability of our district. Our voter-approved operating levy will expire if not renewed by voters this November. I am confident that the excellence we see in our students and in our employees will continue to inspire the support of the community.

Be well,

Aldo Sicoli
Superintendent
Harambee Students Help Create Mural with Noted Artist

Fifteen fifth and sixth graders at Harambee Elementary participated in a class called SPRAYFINGER, where they learned the history of street art and how to use spray paint to create art. They worked with artist Peyton Scott Russell, a Minneapolis artist known for painting Prince’s gold star on First Avenue in Minneapolis, and more recently for his black-and-white mural of George Floyd at George Floyd Square. This six-week course culminated in the creation of the mural influenced by the students and painted by Russell.

The partnership with artist Peyton Scott Russell is possible through a Turnaround Arts grant, a program of the Kennedy Center supported by the State of Minnesota.

Parkview Center Students Study Monarchs with Grammy Musician Mister G

For Earth Day, Jenny Eckman’s first grade class at Parkview Center did a Zoom with Latin Grammy winning musician, author and educator Ben Gundersheimer, known as Mister G.

He asked students to send in messages about what they have been doing for the environment. Students wrote about studying monarch butterflies all year long, from their migration to Mexico in the fall to their return in spring. Eckman’s students work to help people learn about protecting habitat for monarchs and other pollinators. Her class of budding entomologists has studied darkling beetles, made potato traps and studied isopods, and worked with aquatic insects like dragonflies and damselflies.

Mister G was so impressed with the class’ work, he sent them CDs of his music and his book “Seniorita Mariposa!”

RAMS Eighth Graders in Spanish-English Dual Language Immersion Program Receive Note from Lin-Manuel Miranda

While graduation was on for seniors, the pandemic scuttled plans for numerous other end-of-year celebrations around the district – times when students and families are able to celebrate milestones and transitions. That didn’t stop Kirsten Peterson, Spanish language arts teacher at Roseville Area Middle School (RAMS) and Roseville Area High School (RAHS), from doing something special for eighth graders in the dual language immersion (DLI) program, who will be the first class from RAMS to carry the DLI program on to RAHS. Peterson sent notes to several prominent people that are bilingual, asking them for a message congratulating the DLI eighth graders.

To everyone’s pleasure, she received a handwritten note from Lin-Manuel Miranda, the Tony, Emmy, Grammy and Pulitzer Prize winning actor and writer of the hit musical, “Hamilton.” He shared with them, “Although commencement was canceled, your dreams are not. This is only the beginning.”
Students at Roseville Area Middle School (RAMS) are learning about Juneteenth, and in turn, bringing awareness to this significant date to the community.

Juneteenth is a holiday commemorating the emancipation of enslaved people in the United States. The day’s name is a portmanteau—a combination of the words “June” and “nineteenth”—honoring the date of the announcement. The holiday was first celebrated in Texas, where on that date in 1865 in the aftermath of the Civil War, enslaved people were declared free under the terms of the 1862 Emancipation Proclamation. It is also known as African American Freedom Day or Emancipation Day. Juneteenth is recognized as a state holiday or special day of observance in 45 states, including Minnesota.

Students learned about Juneteenth and placed lawn signs along County Road B2 in front of RAMS, demonstrating their creativity and their knowledge of what Juneteenth means to our community. Several students recently spoke with KARE-11 News about the signs, noting that Juneteenth has not always been taught in schools, along with other notable historical dates and events involving Black and Indigenous people and people of color.

Roseville Area Schools has been working to become an anti-racist district by elevating student voices and drawing attention to histories, stories and narratives that have traditionally been absent from school curricula.

RAMS seventh grade history teacher Silvia Vasquez shared that after being displayed in front of the school, the signs will be taken to Harambee Elementary where students there will learn about the project and the importance of Juneteenth.
On Saturday, June 5—during record heat—members of the class of 2021 for Roseville Area High School, Fairview Alternative High School, and Roseville Area Schools Adult Learning Center celebrated graduation with classmates, families, friends and educators.

After a year and a half of uncertainty, and having watched their classmates in the Class of 2020 celebrate their accomplishment virtually, students, families and staff were all thrilled to be able to acknowledge the
Graduation attainment of a high school diploma in ways that felt almost “normal.”

In his remarks to the graduating classes, Superintendent Sicoli noted that students have overcome significant challenges this year that taught them difficult but important lessons of perseverance and accomplishment. Sicoli reminded graduates that no one will ever be able to take away their diploma or the education they received, which will serve them well throughout their lives.

Celebrate Graduation In-Person

It is a tradition in Roseville Area Schools for graduating seniors to visit their former elementary schools where they are greeted and cheered-on by former teachers and current elementary students. This tradition was interrupted for last year’s graduating class because of the pandemic. However, this year elementary schools were able to create plans for maintaining health and safety while capturing the spirit of the traditional senior walk.
Planning for Our Financial Future

While this past school year was unlike any other, we have remained focused on providing our students with the education they deserve and the community expects. In a recent community survey, residents said what they like most about our schools are the variety of programs we offer and our teachers. They also said what concerns them most (after COVID-19), was the lack of funding for our schools.

The school board and district leaders have spent the last several months looking ahead to ensure our finances can support our students, staff and schools for years to come – but expenses are outpacing revenue. Some reasons why financial pressures are increasing:

- For nearly two decades, state funding has not kept pace with inflation or increasing educational costs.

- Critical special education programs cost the district nearly $10 million more than it receives each year from the state and federal governments, putting additional pressure on the district’s operating budget.

- Over the last eight years, we have cut our operating budget by $8 million, resulting in teacher cuts, increased class sizes and cuts to student and classroom support and administration.

- While federal COVID-19 relief dollars for schools will help cover pandemic-related costs, they are one-time funds with specific rules and timelines, and they will not help with our long-term budget sustainability.

Even if the state Legislature increases funding when it finally approves the education budget, any increases will not be able to offset the gap that has grown over the past several years.

Bottom line: While we are grateful for any and all resources provided to our schools by the state and federal governments, what we need is consistent, sustainable funding to maintain the quality programs that students deserve and our community expects.

If state funding had kept pace with inflation since 2003, our school district would receive $503 more per student – or more than $4 million this year alone.

The district has cut more than $8 million dollars in the past 8 years, and ongoing cuts will continue without additional revenue.
School Board Considering Operating Levy Increase on November 2021 Ballot

**Levy Funds Will Expire if Not Renewed Nov 2021**

One of the ways local communities support their schools is by approving referendum requests for “operating levy” funds. **Operating levies provide extra funding for critical school costs**, such as teachers, classroom supplies, custodians, food service staff, instructional materials, teaching assistants and more. The vast majority (69%) of Minnesota school districts—including Roseville Area Schools—rely on operating levies to help fund their schools.

Our operating levy will expire if voters do not renew it in November 2021 – which would mean an $8 million loss in revenue for our district. In addition to asking voters if they will renew that levy, the school board is considering asking voters if they will increase the levy. **Additional funds would provide financial stability**, help the district maintain current academic programs and potentially fund some program improvements for students and class size reductions.

Some facts about Roseville Area Schools’ operating levy:

- We have not asked our community to increase the operating levy since 2006.
- We have one of the lowest voter-approved operating levies of neighboring and comparable districts. This results in less funding to support school operations, classroom materials, teachers and support staff.
- New data from the Minnesota Department of Education show we receive nearly $300 less per student in voter-approved operating levy funds than the average of the 42 metro area school districts. This results in more than $2 million less in local revenue each year for Roseville Area Schools.
- Although voters approved bond funds for building construction four years ago, those funds cannot be used to help operate schools. Bonds are for buildings, levies are for learning.

A decision about what requests will be on the November 2, 2021, ballot is expected this summer. A recent community survey found that a majority of residents believe the district has spent past levy and bond funds responsibly (68%) and trust the district administration and school board to do what is right for district children (79%).

We will keep residents informed as plans proceed. You can also sign up to receive our biweekly district e-newsletter by emailing communications@isd623.org.

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**Voter-approved Operating Levy (2021-22)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School District</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mounds View</td>
<td>$1,776</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>So. Wash County</td>
<td>$1,537</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stillwater</td>
<td>$1,297</td>
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<td>White Bear Lake</td>
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<tr>
<td>Forest Lake</td>
<td>$987</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roseville</td>
<td>$962</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N. St. Paul Maplewood</td>
<td>$880</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Roseville Area Schools has one of the lowest voter-approved operating levies of neighboring and comparable school districts, giving us less funding to support our schools, staff and students.

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**Keep Up on District News**

This spring we launched a biweekly district e-newsletter to help keep parents, staff and community members up to date on what’s happening in our schools. Our schools belong to our community and we are so grateful for the trust and support our residents provide. We are honored that 82% of residents said in a recent community survey that they receive a good value from their investment in our schools. To sign up for District News, send an email to communications@isd623.org.
Have You Seen Our School Lunches?!

School lunch in Roseville Area Schools is nutritious and delicious! A few of our spring meals are pictured below that show off the creativity of our Nutrition Services team!

Did you Know that No-Cost Meals are Available to Students all Summer?

All meals will continue to be offered free of charge through June 30, 2022

Roseville Area Schools is providing nutritious, delicious meals for any student all summer at no cost to families. Please note new meal pickup times for summer, beginning June 14!

Pick up sites for seven-day meal boxes of breakfast and lunch through August 20:

- Mondays – Roseville Area High School 10 – 11 a.m. (no service 7/5)
- Tuesdays – Roseville Area Middle School 4 – 5 p.m.
- Wednesdays – Roseville Area High School 4 – 5 p.m.
- Thursdays – Roseville Area Middle School 10 – 11 a.m.

Open school sites for walk-in meals (check poster on door for most up to date meal times):

- Brimhall – 6/12 – 7/23
- Edgerton – 6/21 – 7/30
- E.D. Williams – 6/28 – 7/23
- Falcon Heights – 6/16 – 8/20
- Parkview – 6/28 – 7/23
- Roseville Area Middle School – 6/14 – 8/20
- Roseville Area High School – 6/21 – 7/23

Call the District Center at 651-635-1600 for more information.
Application for Educational Benefits

While all meals will continue to be free of charge through next school year, all families are encouraged to complete an Application for Educational Benefits form each year. Completing this form not only determines benefits for students and families such as no-cost meals at school, but also provides free bus cards, discounted internet service, discounted/no-cost early childhood classes and scholarships for summer camps and childcare centers, discounted field trips, standardized test fee waivers, and sports team scholarships and fee waivers. It also can increase your school's funding and the district's budget including state and federal dollars that may be used for administration, social workers, family liaisons, and more! The results of these applications are crucial to funding for things like Title 1, compensatory revenue, and summer and non-school day meals.

Complete the online application to ensure crucial funding for our schools at https://frapp.isd623.org.

Parents Give Roseville Area Schools High Marks!

In a recent random-sample phone survey, parents rated the Roseville Area Schools high on several measures:

- **93%** rate the quality of education as excellent or good.
- **96%** believe our community receives a good value from its investment in local public schools.
- **90%** are satisfied with the district’s decision-making processes.
- **94%** trust the school board and administration to do what’s right for children in the district.
- **90%** feel the district has done a good job communicating its plans for managing school this year.
- **91%** are satisfied with the quality of information received from the district.

This has been a year like no other – and we greatly appreciate our parents’ support!

Home Delivery Options Available for Meals

We encourage all families to use our pick-up sites. If you are unable to pick up, please complete the Home Meal Delivery Survey (http://bit.ly/ISD623HomeDelivery) to request home-delivered meals for your students. Meals will be delivered once a week.
Dear Friends of Roseville Area Schools,

Welcome to our 2021 issue of Voices, ISD 623’s student publication of art and writing. Our theme this year is power. Power is a thought-provoking concept that can be interpreted and reflected upon in a variety of ways.

In the last year, we have all been affected by the power of the pandemic, the power of politics, the power of protest, and more. The power of our community has helped us get through these challenging times. We have also been asking important questions about power, like who holds power and why? Recognizing the power of our voices for social justice, we have been speaking out for positive change.

In the following pages, you will see students reflecting on power in different ways. Among many things, this issue will help you ponder the power of a smile, the power of parenting, and the power of being our true selves.

Our goal with the Voices publication is to empower student voices through honoring and appreciating their written and artistic expression. We hope you are as inspired by these amazing young people as we are.

Aldo Sicoli
Superintendent (retiring June 30, 2021)
Roseville Area Schools

Jenny Loeck
Superintendent (as of July 1, 2021)

Moving On
By Tehilah, Grade 8

Wow! Years went by so fast well it’s been a blast at last now it’s time to move on
The next stage only comes once
I can’t wait to see what happens next
As I reach out and take a big step
Moving on, moving on, moving on
Onward I say on the next stage
Honestly I feel kind of scared
this is one of the greatest things I fear
Moving on leaving everything behind you as I finally
Arrive, arrived at my next destination
Putting myself out there I am ready ready as I’ll ever be ready to face the challenges
my life so far balances I wonder if I can hold on long enough.

Shane, Grade 4

Disclaimer: Selected pieces were chosen from work submitted by teachers and students in spring 2021. Due to space limitations, not all submitted pieces can be included. Also, in a few cases pieces have been lightly edited from their original form.
An Ode to Water
By Edward, Grade 8

Is an ode to life
Without water,
Our world would be
An arid abomination,
Where all life shrivels up,
Turns to dust,
And flies away with the next breeze
But, a simple, tender touch
Of blue beauty
Is all it takes for
green grass to pop out of the ground
It surges through stems
And decorates the ground with color
For all eyes to see;
The same eyes that water
Helped create

Define Power
By Ngoc, Grade 6

What is power exactly?
Is it something you see on the street?
Is it something you find in your living room?
Is it something you can make?
Some say it's wealth
Some say it's fame
Some say it's status
And well, some say it's all of those things.
I think having power is being someone who
has the power to influence others.
You always have the power to do something
that would influence someone else.
Whether it's big or small.
In a positive or negative way.
The way you choose to use your power.
Words can be powerful.
Actions can be powerful.
Leave Meeting
By Elena, Grade 5

Many may think there’s just one answer to these problems,
Too many,
The wind that carries this power away,
comes too quickly,
Too abruptly.

Too many times abused.
Not ever used.
Fix what we have broken.

We push away the thought of our doing,
Too much for our weak minds to handle,
But we can’t cancel this meeting, we can’t push it back,
This time there is no “Leave Meeting”.

We need to do this now,
Fix what we have broken,
Not too late for all the what ifs coming true,
Fix what we have broken.

No More “Muting” systemic racism any longer,
For this is here,
this is now,
Fix what we have broken.
Doesn’t this affect us all?
While change of climate pulls us down,
The temperatures go up
Melting these glaciers,
Heating this planet
Fix what we have broken.

We have the power,
You have the power,
But what will you do with it?
Fix what we have broken.

---

Live For Yourself
By GowNong, Grade 7

TRANSLATION NOTE: “生きなくちゃいけない。” translates to “I have to live on (for myself)”. It’s written in Japanese and is a reference to the song “生まれた意味などなかった” (translated to “There Was No Point in Being Born”) sung by Mafumafu (まふまふ).
The character drawn is shown busting a glass wall, a reflection of high and strict standards that were expected to be reached. The message I wanted to show is that everyone’s expectations shouldn’t control your life. It’s in your hands to choose how you want to live your life and have fun.
I Was Born, Wasn’t I?
By Dash, Grade 8

Cold, grey, and quiet
Or something else I cannot comprehend
Can’t map upon my human mind;
No hands the world may lend
No support nor explanation
Just irrationalities
Acting irrationally
Rationally hurting me
Or rather not helping me
For how could they
When were you aided by absurdities
Absurd and unexplainable like how
Ethics deny mortality
Pushing back reality
A light show or formality
Perhaps it is not worth the trouble
My life crumbles
Nothing becomes rubble
But how for me
How then can I live with trouble
Knowing I could take what I was given
Indifferent men make an indifferent world livid
Why? Because it’s given to me
Why give in, let despair run through me
When I could eat it
Digest it deeply
Fight the world
Or maybe Free it

Whatever substance built whatever shape I’m living in
A heap of insanity and circumstance
A leap that’s insane to enhance my abilities
An ability to respond to absurdity all flirtin-g-ly
Like giving the same energy
Like forget it, give life back to me
Like screw it, make me legendary
For legends make me all so merry
Not tryna find a reason
To this world I provide treason
Or I try
Just existing, so exist, like existence does, without reason
Unreasonable, different in this indifferent world
Or shape of some kind
Squiggles or some lines
That I am creeping through
Leaping to the other side
Absurdity is where I’ll lie
Be like it, mock it, fight it, shock it
Why?
I was born, wasn’t I?
**My Mother**  
*By Emily, Grade 8*

No training was needed  
Not for this infant  
Yet when I arrived; she ultimately conceded  
Armed with nothing but resistance  
And a thirst to thrive

Always thinking of the future  
Never the moment  
Strong opinions  
And blood fueled with persistence

She took only minutes to listen  
To what she was doing wrong  
Fixed her ways  
And now we’re going on strong

Making sure I wasn’t raised as a delinquent  
Instead grown with maturity  
I follow her example  
With great proficiency

I say I’m running out of time  
She hands me a watch  
Tells me to shoot for the stars  
Because she could not

‘Be like a bison’ she said  
‘Go towards the storm, not any from it’  
These words let me leave my worries for dead

Her institution is not one I support  
But yet it is one she was made for  
It gives her a purpose  
The same purpose I’ve vigorously searched for, my whole life

Our story only begins here  
For there are years to come  
Years filled with life lessons  
And worries of net income

I was built from steadfastness  
But raised on first generation struggles  
She’ll always be there within the vastness  
And so I say  
Ode to my mother, and her iron knuckles.

**20/20 Vision**  
*By Charlotte, Grade 8*

Last year was filled  
with surprise after surprise;  
none of them healthy or good.  
We stumbled through our lives  
with blurry eyes  
not knowing what to do  
or when we would.  
This year we trek  
with glasses in hand  
all we need now is the  
cloth and solution-  
to wipe away the dirt, the grime, and the fog  
so we can finally see our good surprise  
of healthy resolution.
**Power**  
*By Nora, Grade 4*

It’s something that we all have no matter how small.  
It starts as a seed (a thought or idea).  
You water it with courage and confidence.  
Then out blooms power and actions.

To me power is strength and courage, confidence and deep feelings.  
It is a position above others like the president.  
Parents are strong and powerful,  
They parent A.K.A. saying “No” 5,000 times a day, which is difficult and stressful.  
I personally think women are more powerful than men  
They go through pain beyond anything men have experienced.

Power. Feels amazing.

---

**Now**  
*By Kalia, Grade 7*

Now is the time to change  
Now is the time to think and reflect  
Now is the time to work harder  
Now is the time to stop being your old self and be who you dream of being  
Now is the time to tell your story  
Now is… it is not too late to work on yourself  
Now you found your purpose

---

**Power Helps All**  
*By Adele, Grade 4*

Power hour it’s all the time  
Sometimes it can be like sucking on a lime sour bitter and tart  
But sometimes it comes straight from the heart  
It hums and hums for people to hear  
It is so very clear  
That power helps all  
No matter what it is just someone to talk to  
Power helps all!
**Powerful**  
*By Allie, Grade 6*

Dear World,

Power comes from your heart, your soul. It is something that all of us possess, that we feel.

Power can be anything. Use it wisely though. Don’t ever use it to harm people. Use it to take a stand, but not in a way that will hurt.

Power can be used just to take a stand, to make people look. It can be used to make people listen to your opinion.

Power can be abused though. It could be used to harm people, by taking too much of a stand, and by thinking that having power means that you are better than everyone else. It doesn’t though.

Power can be both seen and unseen. It can be seen when taking a stand, and using it verbally. It can be unseen if it just stays inside of you, and you use it as fuel.

Power is like a car’s gas. Power can be used to fuel your everyday actions. But once you use too much of it, it runs out of fuel, and it doesn’t work anymore, and people start to think of you as something different.

They start to think of you as someone who is just looking for attention. Like a car, if you are speeding, people will think that you are trying to show off.

You can feel powerful at any time. The feeling can come from a song, a word, a video, or a speech. Practically anything.

Power looks strong, and like you don’t care what anyone else thinks. As long as you’re happy, then nothing else matters. Power feels good, until used too much.

Power is everything and anything. It can come from anywhere. But most importantly, it has to come from inside you. From inside your heart and soul. Because that is what matters most.

---

**Power is Everywhere**  
*By Motoharu, Grade 4*

Power is your dog, when you pat it for the first time, when you will feel that it is living  
Power is speaking up, when you want to tell your feelings, thoughts, and ideas  
Power is your birthday, when you have no limit to what you want to do  
Power is family, when the family help each other, when you gain power  
Power is everywhere

*Kai, Kindergarten*
Standing Tall

Danielle, Grade 3

My tree stands tall
Over the years he’s had friends
But none like me
I visit at night or at day
But I’m always there
Listening
Watching
Seeing
I never leave, I’m always there
Listening
Watching
Seeing
I’m the wind

Beautiful

By Kyleeana, Grade 4

Black lives matter
But it did not used to be that way
I thought all those times were gone
But I guess not
People’s lives are in danger.

Just because of their skin color,
Black
I am black and white beautiful
That is who I am
Just because we are all different doesn’t mean
we all can’t get along.

We are all different
But that doesn’t define who we are
I’m going to be me
And no one is going to change that
Because that
Is me.
Recognizing Human Rights

By Giannie, Grade 2

We live together in a community full of power,
power is the feeling of being brave, strong, fight for what you need and want
including your human rights
that is something you need to live happily and include in the community.
Some people still do not understand these things,
so we need to fight for our rights and we have to stay strong,
stand tall, never give up,
care for each other and love each other
because we all need our rights.
Everyone needs life on our Planet Earth and never give up on your dreams
no matter if your boy, girl, black, white, indigenous or from a different country.
We all have power in use and every single day we get stronger.
We are all important so be strong, brave, never give up, be powerful, be kind, BE YOU.
Every single one of us needs our rights
because we all matter in life no matter who you are, you are special, you are amazing.
We all have a spot on our planet earth.

JUST BE YOU.

Feelings Are Powerful

By Yeimah, Grade 3

I feel anxious
I feel brave
I feel confident
I feel delighted
I feel elated
I feel forgiving
I feel grateful
I feel happy
I feel inspired
I feel joyful
I feel kind
I feel loved
I feel marvelous
I feel nice
I feel overjoyed
I feel pleased
I feel qualified
I feel relaxed
I feel satisfied
I feel thankful
I feel useful
I feel vibrant
I feel wishful
I feel excited
I feel youthful
I feel zealous
The Power of Poetry

By Gemma, Grade 4

Poetry is a diamond
clear and smooth yet small and silent
it is worth more than a mansion

Power smells like sweet tea and tastes like warm bread,
Power feels like a warm hug holding you close,
and looks like letters are speaking to you by only forming words,

It reminds me of climbing a tree the higher you get the happier.

Poetry has all those things
so if a poet feels powerless
a poet should write a poem because
all poems have power

but if that doesn’t work
write a story because
all stories have power

but if that still won’t work
write a list because
all writing has power.

I feel powerful when I complete a book, story, or poem,

I am empowered by poetry
and my power comes from my pencil

With words, I am unstoppable.
The Power We Hold

By Makayla, Grade 6

What does power mean to you?
Does it mean controlling everything and everyone in the world?
Does it mean being able to control yourself?
Does it mean being able to hold fire?

Power can mean many different things,
It only depends on how you use it and see it.

You might say, “I’m a kid. What power do I hold?”
You might not know, but you hold just as much power as adults.

You can’t buy power, because you already have power.
Power comes from who the person really is.

There are many types of power that each of us hold:
The power of writing,
The power of art,
The power to be able to accept mistakes.

We all have our own power.
Maybe we haven’t discovered it yet,
Maybe we already have.

All we can say for now
Is that power
Comes from everyone
If they put their heart and mind into it.

Watch

By Madeline, Grade 8

Do you see it?
Do you see the shattered mirror
The shards of glass flying back at me
Blinding me with my own appearance
Those eyes of hatred
Oh how familiar you look
Why do you look at me like that?
I am you.
But watch.
I can change.
Watch.
Watch as I change.
I can be who you want.
Just watch.
Please.
Please watch.
I can be different.
I can make you believe,
that I am not you.
But I am.
And I always will be.

Adam, Grade 4
**Power To The People**  
*By Hazel, Grade 5*

Supremacy?  
No, try equality

The power is in your hands to change the world  
You can change it one step at a time

Be kind to all  
Young, old  
Boy, girl  
Lighter or darker skin

Give a voice to those who don’t have one  
Be the power

Power to the people  
Live it like a destiny

Like a purpose

You can love  
Just find the light and embrace it  
For it’s so true…

That there is ALWAYS a diamond in the rough  
ALWAYS light at the end of the tunnel  
And ALWAYS one unique, loving person just like you  
Who has the power to change the world

---

**What is Power?**  
*By Inaaya, Grade 6*

Power is the blazing sun  
The ability to create lush lands  
And grow beautiful greenery  
But also to dry out the world  
Cracking and crumbling  
All life fading from view

Power is a child’s smile  
One of the strongest powers of all  
The beauty and innocence of childhood  
Which the people who were lucky enough to experience  
Will never forget

Power is in united arms  
The strength of which is immeasurable  
When hearts are together in one cause  
The ability of those people  
Is never ending and steadfast

Power is in every person  
A small flickering candlelight in some  
A burning bonfire in others  
Alight in all souls  
Ever ablaze  
Keeping our spirits alive

---

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Words Have Power

By Koura, Grade 4

Words have power,
Falling strong, sometimes cutting like blades.
Light has power,
Destroying shadows, giving light.
Thoughts have power,
Creativity burning through doubt.
Actions have power,
Standing up has power,
Standing up for your beliefs,
Thinking, knowing you can.

I have power,
Being me forever,
Being powerful forever.

Power Poem

By Ja’Liyah, Grade 3

Power
Strong kind
Listening learning encouraging
Love empathy happiness respect
Fighting standing up dancing
Magic electricity
Strength

Bring Me There

By Clara, Grade 5

Bring me to a place where power is words,
Power is getting the nerves,
To speak up for someone who is sad, or helping someone who is mad.
Bring me to a place where you sing all day,
And all of the kids just play.
Where the rocks feel rough
And the wind blows a gust
Of dust and sand into the air.
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Lives Matter
By Gabi, Grade 2

Letting people live is caring
I feel bad about it
Very violent
Eager to end this
Stop fighting

Make peace
Ask how do you feel
Try to make things better
Try to not have so much killing
Every person matters
Really, no one deserves to die

---

Power Poem
By Seraphina, Grade 37

Power
Strong powerful and standing up for people
Never give up be encouraging
Use there power to get strong
Brave save people have empathy
Love people no matter what
Have power in you and have kindness

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Oliver, Grade 10
Happiness
By Kalia, Grade 7

Happiness is a powerful word
A word that describes my tingly feeling
People talk in their excited, singing voice
People who are happy to hear the word happiness

Isn’t it necessary to see your smile and say I love my world?
Nothing compares to seeing you smile, bringing us happiness
Easy to say but hard to show

Something that I wonder,
if I smile would it make other people’s days?
SHINING MY WORLD
MAKES ME SMILE
Dear Roseville Community,

I love the ocean and the life in it. But due to the pollution of the ocean, now there is less of that. Littering was traced back to the 1960s! Each year 10% of 260 tons of trash finds its way into the ocean whether by wind or by littering. 70% of that trash sinks to the bottom of the ocean where it harms the seafloor and the animals that live on it. Pollution in the ocean is not a good thing. Soon enough there will be as much trash in the ocean as there are hairs on everyone's head! For example, we put trash and chemicals in the water we drink but still don't care. It is selfish to think, “Oh it’s fine it doesn’t do anything to me anyway”. It doesn’t now, but in time it will. The trash will be so great and the next generation will be the ones to take responsibility for your mess.

We as a people have the power to help the ocean and stop the pollution. Even if you don’t think you can make a difference, you can! You have the power to help the ocean and that is what matters. To stop the growth of pollution there are things you can do to help! One way to help is by using less plastic and using reusable bags, water bottles, and straws instead! You can recycle! There are many ways to stop the pollution of the ocean yet we still hurt the ocean environment.

Because of these reasons we should help stop pollution and save our oceans! We should try to reduce that 10% of trash into a 0 so that we can enjoy the wildlife and water our ocean gives us.

Sincerely, Agape
Powerful
By Adele, Grade 4

Not many people know how to talk about power nor how to explain it. They usually have to do it or use it. There are a lot of different ways to use power, but there are two kinds of power that People zoom in on and blur out the others. These two are using it in a bad or mean way and Using it in a good and kind way. For example a mean or bad way is bullying someone. You have the power by controlling them with your anger and or in a physical way. A good example of a good kind of power is someone who is helping you and being kind to you. You can choose what kind of power you want to have and make a good decision. Sincerely, Agape

The Morning I Found Out
By Jenna, Grade 8

Opening my eyes forgetting everything about my dream not knowing what would happen in a couple of weeks, I looked at my phone and saw a text from my mom “You don’t have school for two weeks” but not thinking anything of it, who knew that everything would shut down? I didn’t for sure, I will never forget that day, not for a good reason, but I will never forget it

Madison, Grade 6

Salih, Grade 7
Puzzle Piece

By Deven, Grade 8

Wake up
Look around and don’t frown
When I tell you
The world doesn’t revolve around you I mean it
Your a tiny piece to the biggest puzzle called life
This is a wake up call to realize
You’re a small piece to the puzzle
How big your piece is and can get depends on you
You can be someone who decides there piece size
You can choose which pieces you connect with
So remember you’re nothing but small piece
So wake up realize your worth

Sienna, Grade 6

Maura, Grade 3
The Power of Fire

By Ella, Grade 5

It glows bright in the night,
It reveals everything in sight.

As it dances you can see that it is yellow,
That makes it all the more mellow.

It cooks things we eat,
In just one heartbeat.

During long winter nights,
Just stay by the light.

Just be careful over there,
For it can spread everywhere.

When animals go near it,
They instantly fear it.

It can burn down any tree,
It can even burn me.

It will never tire,
For it is the power of fire.

Arianna, Grade 5
Pride!
By Evan, Grade 4

What is pride?
Pride is not being afraid to express who you truly are.
Pride is not caring about the negative things that people say.
Pride is ignoring the one bad thing in life and focusing on the five good things.
Pride is letting people help when you’re going through your darkest moments.
Pride is saying I do matter.
Pride is realizing that people care about you, even if it’s only me.
Pride has an entire month dedicated to it.
Pride is loving who you love, and not letting people stop you.
Pride is loving your appearance.
Pride is loving who you are.

Express who you are, don’t try to hide who you are.
Be proud of who you are.

Author’s Note:
I know that you can’t just tell someone not to be afraid and have them never be scared again, and you can’t tell someone to be proud and have them immediately be proud of who they are. Anxiety and stress plus everything else anyone could have going on in their life has a giant impact on the way people feel and act. I am not part of the LGBTQ+ community but I am trying to spread the fact that homophobia and any other type of discrimination to any group of people is not okay. Especially because unless you are part of the LGBTQ+ community, LGBTQ+ people have no effect on you or your relationships and so we shouldn’t discriminate towards someone who has or is something they can’t control.
The Power We Hold
By Makayla, Grade 6

What does power mean to you?
Does it mean controlling everything and everyone in the world?
Does it mean being able to control yourself?
Does it mean being able to hold fire?

Power can mean many different things,
It only depends on how you use it and see it.

You might say, “I’m a kid. What power do I hold?”
You might not know, but you hold just as much power as adults.

You can’t buy power, because you already have power.
Power comes from who the person really is.

There are many types of power that each of us hold:
The power of writing,
The power of art,
The power to be able to accept mistakes.

We all have our own power.
Maybe we haven’t discovered it yet,
Maybe we already have.

All we can say for now
Is that power
Comes from everyone
If they put their heart and mind into it.
The Power of Fire

By Evyn, Grade 8

As the COVID year has gone by,
I never really kept the concept of time in mind.
Now there’s only thirteen weeks left,
and I’ll be in ninth grade in no time.
There’s thirteen weeks left.
I’ll survive.
To put it bluntly,
this has been the worst school year ever.
I thought it would be awesome,
to have extra time off of school,
But now?
There’s thirteen weeks left.
I’ll survive.
It’s been hard to stay focused on zoom,
and now that there’s people in the classroom,
it’s even harder.
You can’t even hear the kids in the room.
But does it matter?
There’s only thirteen weeks left,
I’ll survive.
I hate zoom.
It’s so depressing.
But I understood the conditions,
when I chose to stay home full time,
so I can’t really take away your time to whine.
There’s thirteen weeks of school left.
I’ll survive.
Why should I pity myself?
I just need to reset my mind.
I plan on trying hard,
and staying focused on next fall.
Why not?
There’s only thirteen weeks left,
After all.

Wesley, Grade 6

Charlotte, Grade 4