



EAST ROCHESTER UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT School District News

Winter 2019



What's New

We have all experienced the impact of wind chill effect this winter. I believe you'll find that our winter newsletter highlights the positive impact of the ER Effect.

The ER Effect focuses on our Core Values: Students, Opportunities, Achievement, Responsibility and Strength. In this issue you will find stories written by students about how students and staff are confronting serious topics pertaining to race, about the high level of participation in our middle level musical,

about individual student achievements, and about how some of our classes are providing students with real-life experiences.

Our goal is to recognize the value, skills and abilities of the whole child, and the stories in this edition of our school district newsletter explain how this is being done in each of our schools on a regular basis. I hope you notice that this work is accomplished collaboratively with support from students, families, community members, faculty and ER alumni.

Enjoy!
Dr. Mark Linton,
Superintendent of Schools

Book club brings students together

by Paulina Lexer

Last school year, ER High School Principal Mr. Casey van Harssel conducted a survey with students and staff about school climate. One area that stood out in survey results related to the topic of race within the school. Rather than ignore this, Mr. van Harssel invited students to sit down with him to discuss racial awareness in East Rochester.

As a means for promoting more conversations between students and staff, Mr. van Harssel started a book club at the start of this school year. The volunteer group members read "The Hate U Give" by Angie Thomas. The contents of this story helped begin conversations about race and racial tensions. Students, faculty and staff met once a week to discuss topics that are a bit questionable like differences in people, how minorities are treated and if that tendency existed within East Rochester High School. After finishing the book, the club went on an educational field trip to see the movie version of "The Hate U Give." The film was very direct about the subject of racism.

Mr. van Harssel then invited students to be on a panel to speak at a faculty meeting. Six members participated and took turns sharing their stories and perspectives about race within our school. Though the club itself will not meet as a book group, they are



High School students Chantal McCrea (left) and Janai McCullough (right) took part in the book club and accompanying panel related to "The Hate U Give."

continuing to discuss these topics and make a difference in East Rochester. Students will be invited to talk to classes this winter so more students can understand what the club was and how they would like to move forward.

Mr. van Harssel was pleased with what transpired as a result of the book club and he knows that it could be the start of something very positive!

Our District's Mission

The Mission of the East Rochester School District is to prepare students to be college and career ready and to provide a quality education in a safe environment where all students develop the abilities, attitudes and values necessary for responsible, productive citizenship.

Our Vision

The Vision of the East Rochester School District is that students will learn through the highest quality instruction which recognizes each student's strengths, talents, interests, learning styles and rates of learning, using developmentally appropriate methods.

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Vosburgh receives Golden Apple

Third-grade teacher Mrs. Kathy Vosburgh was recognized for her outstanding work with students by receiving the Golden Apple Award on Feb. 9. The award was presented by WROC-TV Channel 8 News Anchor Lia Lando in response to a letter from current third-grade student Joey Rountree. Mrs. Vosburgh, who will be retiring in June, began working in the East Rochester Union Free School District in 1996.



Chitty Chitty Bang Bang JR. a huge success

by Paulina Lexer

East Rochester Middle Level students performed the musical Chitty Chitty Bang Bang JR. on Jan. 18-19. The story is a wonderful tale of three daughters and their father, an inventor, and their financial struggles during the 1960s. The story has two main focuses. First, the father, Caractacus Potts, played by eighth-grader Jack General, falls for a young woman named Truly Scrumptious (eighth-grader Lily Funk). The Potts children love Truly but she is from a wealthy family and it is unlikely that she could marry Mr. Potts. Second, there is the story of the car, Chitty Chitty Bang Bang. Caractacus' father, played by Henry Fox, intends to sell the car that the children love so much. The Potts children do not want the family car to be taken away, and throughout this adventurous journey the story of how the children will keep the car is told. The musical, which was directed by Mrs. Mykel Sapienza, included 63 students from grades 6-8! The proof of their hard work was displayed by their excellent performance in this year's musical!



Cooking up real-world culinary experience

by Ripley Insalaco

East Rochester's Advanced Culinary class participated in their first-ever field trip on Nov. 30.

Students in Mr. John Fee's class hope to be the first of many who will get real-world hands-on experience in a kitchen. This year the group went to Max of Eastman Place, a well-known fine dining restaurant in the City of Rochester. This restaurant, as well as two other establishments, are owned by the brother of East Rochester's director of curriculum and assessment, Mrs. Mary Gullace. The group

of 10 students were split into two groups to learn about different aspects of the

business. One group began setup for a 140-person event that would be happening later that night. The second group started in the kitchen doing food prep. Some of the items that the students were able to assist the chefs in making were crab cakes, meatballs and salad toppings. Students also learned how to break down a chicken before cooking. The event that night was a huge success and the chefs at Max's were very thankful for the extra hands. Mr. Fee said he will be sure to continue to do this field trip in the future, since it is such great experience that aspiring chefs simply cannot get in a classroom setting. After the prepwork, the group was able to head a few streets over to dine at another restaurant owned by the Gullaces, Aunt Rosie's. According to the students who ate there, the food was delicious and they highly recommend trying any of the three!



Third-grade
presents

HATS!

by Yana Blaga

Elementary Vocal Music Teacher Mrs. Katelyn Rubert will be directing the 2019 third-grade musical; a delightful musical called "HATS!" The musical focuses on main character Ima and her search for the perfect hat while the rest of community helps her along the way. But that's not all, there are so many more surprises to come! These surprises will be revealed when the musical is publicly performed on Thursday, April 11 at 7 p.m. The performance will take place in the school's Large Group Instruction (LGI) room. This musical, in particular, was chosen according to the music difficulty, number of speaking parts and also the number of third-graders participating.

"Every student that participates in the musical gets a speaking line, a costume, and a song to sing in," says Mrs. Rubert. "No student is left out and has a chance of getting a whole new introduction into the musical theater."

Hats off to Mrs. Rubert for instilling confidence with her students and for helping them be better people while having a chance to succeed. Please consider this a formal invitation to see our third-graders shine. They will be ER's "Stars of Tomorrow."

IT Matters at ER

by Tyler Cialini

IT Matters was the name given to the East Rochester's instructional technology initiative. I had the opportunity to interview Director of Communications and Instructional Technology Mr. David Rovitelli. Next year, four of the IT Matters initiative, the instructional technology department will be replacing the first set of Chromebooks for the high school students with new ones. There will not be replacements for students in grades K-8. Currently, students in the grades K-2 use iPads in their classrooms and students in grades 3-5 keep their Chromebooks at the school. Students grades 6-12 are allowed to take their devices home. Students have been taking great care of devices.

Mr. Rovitelli indicated that, "The plan has been moving in the right direction. With the help of instructional technology coach Tadge O'Brien, the project is moving forward in a positive direction." Mr. Rovitelli also stated that the roll-out of devices has been very successful. He said, "the success has been that the devices and Google Classroom have been embraced immediately." He also said that the devices have "already made a difference with the way students do their work." One challenge has been that in the third year, there were more breakages and repairs than the previous two years. Mr. Rovitelli said this was not a surprise as the devices have been used everyday for three straight school years.

The Chromebook devices enable teachers to use tools to help students stay on track and get more immediate feedback. The goal is for technology to enhance education by providing a tool that the teachers and students can use to stay organized, get immediate feedback on assignments and make learning more engaging. Students and teachers are becoming more familiar with how to use technology to improve teaching and learning.

Mr. Rovitelli indicated that lots of healthy conversations are happening in order to adjust the district's technology plan as necessary. The plan is off to a great start, with only minor adjustments needed and we are where we need to be and the district knows what needs to come next.

Meet School Resource Officer, Andrew Hildreth

by Michael Knapp



Officer Andrew Hildreth is the school resource officer at the East Rochester Union Free School District. His typical day starts at the police station checking for any problems that need to be addressed, helping direct traffic in the loop, and greeting students at the entrance to our school. After all that he checks the fire and exterior doors for safety, sometimes gets called in by administrators

or counselors, and then he gets to know all the kids by walking around the school and talking to them.

Officer Hildreth believes that our school needs a school resource officer (SRO) because having a police officer always in the school is important for protection against school shootings. He also believes that a school resource officer is important because it helps kids learn how to interact with police officers. Officer Hildreth believes that having a school resource officer around helps prevent kids from going down a bad path.

Officer Hildreth taught D.A.R.E for seven years and had to go to a two-week training program. Before he was a school resource officer, Officer Hildreth was a sheriff's deputy for four years and then a sheriff's deputy on road patrol for 20 years. After that he

retired and was asked if he wanted to be the school resource officer. Officer Hildreth accepted his position as school resource officer because he loved working with kids when he was teaching the D.A.R.E program and he thought that he would fit in perfectly at the school.

In an emergency situation Officer Hildreth would use his training to react to the situation, then decide the next step that needs to be taken in order to ensure the safety of everyone in the school. In order to prevent any emergencies the school has many preventative measures in place like an advanced camera system that lets Officer Hildreth see any possible problems in the school. Our school also has several other plans in place to improve safety such as controlled access to the school, no open doors, and the fact that no one can enter the school unless an employee lets them in. Also Officer Hildreth says that because of the school's proximity to the police station that police could be at the school very quickly if a problem does occur.

Officer Hildreth wanted everyone to know that even with all this in place the school is still working on making us safer by improving the safety technology that we already had and adding some things that can't be discussed.

District Capital Project

by Lyubov Blaga

As many of you probably already know, our district is planning a District Capital Project for our East Rochester Elementary and Junior/Senior High School in the year of 2020. This project consists of remodeling and add-ons to our building like the new musical program addition from our old Technology room. I interviewed Mr. Dave Green, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations and Mrs. Staci Sansoucie, District Treasurer/Assistant Business Administrator to ask them about the project.

Why did you decide on this project?

We have a guidance document called the Building Conditions Survey that contains details of all the systems and spaces within the entire building and surrounding school property. We go through the whole district building and facility and every space in the building gets prioritized for the future capital projects. We meet with facility members, boards and architects to determine what work needs to be done and what we can to improve the district, especially the music program. Since the music program is increasing, the space is being expanded and updated

What would you say to let the community know more about this project?

Historically, we have not needed to raise additional tax dollars for capital improvement projects. There is a portion of capital project costs that are not reimbursed to the school through state building aid. This portion has historically been covered by the funds in the district's capital reserve. We have been doing this to let them know what they are doing and what needs to be done.

What does this project mainly focus on?

The main focus on the project is the music department, the roof on the middle school area, the culinary arts program, a single point of entry to the Junior/Senior High School and a new maintenance barn.

How will this improvements affect the students and community members?

There will be minimal impact because we will try to do the project in the summer so it doesn't impact school, or the convenience of access. We will completely remodel and rebuild the front high school entrance, which will provide greater security, and some increased restriction. The front entrance expansion will offer students a better experience with the plays, musicals and band. The maintenance barn will be less noticeable and its functions will become invisible. The renovations will help maintain the campus to the next 50 years.

What is the total cost?

The total cost for the 2020 district project is \$9.6 million. Almost half is roof work on the oldest part of the school which will be a total of \$3.9 million; \$1.8 million will go to fixing the maintenance barn; the musical program will cost \$1.4 million, and the entry and safety security is going to be a total of \$2.5 million. More information can be found on the district website.

How long will this project take?

It might take two summers, while school is running so we are not sure and we are going to try and be conscious and careful not to disturb the students throughout the school year. We meet with many construction workers and architects for this project weekly.

I hope this interview gave you more of an insight to how our school district will start looking and changing as this project takes place to make our school a safer and better place in 2020!

Winter choral concert rings in the season

by Jessica Roberts

The 2018 holiday season became official when East Rochester hosted its annual winter choral concert. This concert brought together all five choirs of grades 6-12 with the help of Mrs. Mykel Sapienza, Mr. Tim Lambert and the accompaniment of Mr. Willie La Favor. As is tradition, the concert passed without a hitch! Any who attended were provided with a blend of songs both classic and modern, all of which could be described as cheerful, expressive, and full of life. All of the hard work put into this concert inarguably paid off in this festive transition into the winter season!

This winter concert, although similar to our past winter concerts in nature, brought some new talent as well. This was the first concert in 15 years that was performed without Mr. Polvino, the previous high school chorus teacher. Taking up the baton was Mr. Lambert, who had just come from a long-term substitute position in Hilton as a chorus teacher, and previous to that as a music director at Pearce Memorial Church. Mr. Lambert had been looking for a full-time job when he found East Rochester's open position, its community of "support and encouragement," and its "outstanding musicians and outstanding teachers." When thinking back to his first months here, Mr. Lambert explains that he felt a strong excitement energizing their rehearsals, leading them to his first East Rochester concert. The Winter Concert had a great turnout, Mr. Lambert was very proud of his students' performances and is very excited to continue working and improving!



Elementary students thrill at winter concert

by Yana Blaga

Many people would say that the 2018 Grades 3-5 Winter Concert was the best in our history! Despite being held on chilly Tuesday evening, the attendance at the concert was extraordinary. The concert featured third-, fourth-, and fifth-grade choruses and the elementary band. There was full list of wonderful music that was performed by some of our youngest ER musicians.

The third- and fourth-grade choruses are directed by Mrs. Katelyn Rubert. Third-graders performed "Winter Fantasy", "Brown Christmas" and "If I were a Reindeer" and fourth-graders performed "Hot Cup of Cocoa," "Snow" and "That Time of Year." "That Time of Year" is from Disney's Olaf's Frozen Adventure and included performances by Matthew Witkowski, Macie Graham, Corbin Wright and Niyah Morales.

The fifth-grade performance was highlighted by "Candy Cane Lane" with solos by Grace Bishop, Annie Fisher, Kaylee Kinney and Aniyah Eldridge. The group also sang "I Sing," "The Tailor of Gloucester" and "Kye Kye Kule" which included solos by A'mi McCollum and Addison Forest. This piece also featured percussionists Sean Hogan, Caleb Honsberger, Kaylee Kinney and Raegan Skellie-Hill. The director for fifth-grade chorus is Mrs. Mykel Sapienza.

The elementary-level band, led by Mrs. Lindsey Borden performed "Synergy March," "A Holly Jolly Christmas" and closed with "Up On The Housetop-We Wish You A Merry Christmas".

It goes without saying that the concert was entertaining and enjoyable, but all of the performances were outstanding. As audience members left the auditorium they could be heard saying how great the students performed!

Thank you to all who attended. It looks like the ER music program is poised to continue its strong programs!



Art tradition continues

by Cameron Chambers

The elementary winter art show is a long standing tradition, that enables art students to send in their best works for judging and awards. Those who submit pieces to the show have the opportunity of having their work selected by the school's superintendent, Dr. Linton, for placement within the East Rochester school calendar. It is a tremendous honor for those highlighted and this year had a number of amazing pieces. Students whose work were selected were invited with their families to attend a presentation where they received recognition and a certificate. The East Rochester school calendar will display the students' works for the entire 2019-20 school year and feature at least two works per month. These calendars are provided to parents, community members and local businesses and they will hang in almost every office within the school. The calendars are a source of great pride for the students whose work is highlighted.



Winter concert brings cheer

by Michael Knapp

East Rochester High School held the 2018 Instrumental Music Winter Concert in the high school auditorium on Dec. 12. The concert had performances from various bands such as the sixth-grade band, the seventh- and eighth-grade band, the seventh- and eighth-grade jazz band, the sixth- and seventh-grade jazz, the wind ensemble, the percussion ensemble, the East Rochester High School Stage Band, Róisín Dubh and the ER Jazz Band. Thanks to Mr. Mark Gowman, Mr. David Fraser, and Mrs. Lindsey Borden the

concert ran very smoothly and happened without a hitch. The song "Groove Bug" did a great job of pumping the crowd up and making everyone excited for the rest of the night. "Patapan" was one of the most cheerful songs of the night and made the audience feel happy and upbeat. The last song "Feeling Good" was the most surprising song because it was the only song of the night to be paired with vocals. Make sure to check your school calendars for all upcoming musical events.

Meteorologist Mark McLean visits third grade

by Nathan Chambers

Mark McLean, 13WHAM meteorologist, bestowed his meteorologist gifts upon our very own East Rochester Elementary School's third-grade classes on Jan. 8. In his short visit, Mr. McLean was capable of inspiring a generation of young meteorologists to pursue a life of weather forecast data analysis. With the young minds, he shared a plethora of weather instruments and data analysis systems. The easily distractible third-grade minds stood at attention riveted by the eight-minute film Mr. McLean had to share.

Mr. McLean's visit was the culminating event for the third-graders after studying the weather for the past eight weeks: observing, measuring, and collecting temperature and weather conditions outside their classrooms. Students applied some of their new learning by incorporating different types of clouds in their perspective art designs in art class with Mr. Mandera.

ER is thrilled to have welcomed Mark McLean to our elementary school and we hope that he can bring sunshine to the area very soon!



Spotlight on Talor Marren

by Jessica Roberts

This fall, East Rochester's very own Talor Marren traveled to Florida to participate in 2018's All National Honor Ensemble. Marren has been a part of East Rochester Union Free School District since preschool for a total of 14 years. During her time here she has participated in and been an important part of every musical group the school offers, as well as Eastman Community Music School and Rochester Philharmonic Youth Orchestra.

All National Honor Ensemble is a comprehensive, musical and educational experience which represents the top performing high school musicians in the U.S. Marren played at The Coronado Springs Resort, as the first clarinet for the concert band. From Nov. 25-28 she played, practiced, and learned alongside 130 other students of such merit, and under renowned director, Dennis Glocke. Congratulations, Talor, on this wonderful accomplishment!



Honoring our veterans

by Jessica Roberts

Local veterans were welcomed to our school on Nov. 9 for recognition and so our students can learn about Veterans Day. Attendees included ER alumni, relatives of current ER students and other local veterans. Veterans were welcomed at a breakfast coordinated by Mrs. Pam Larsen. Following breakfast, attendees were escorted to the front rows of the auditorium where they were joined by ER's PK-5 students, many of whom helped with the proceedings in a variety of ways.

A fifth-grader whose father was recently deployed to Afghanistan, handed veterans roses, then received a surprise message from his father during the assembly. Ron Zimmerino, a veteran, had just returned from Honor Flight and gave a presentation of what he saw there, complete with pictures, videos, and thorough explanations. The ER Veterans Day assembly not only honors the veterans, shows them we are grateful for their service and thanks them, but also helps students learn and appreciate why there is no school on Veterans Day.



Breakfast with Santa

by Lydian Ledbetter

Breakfast with Santa is a wonderful tradition that was formed by the East Rochester PTA many years ago and it has continue to advance and grown in size every year since. This year there were between 300-400 attendees. During this year's event on Dec. 8, elementary and middle school students were able to participate in this fun celebration and they helped make it a success. When visitors arrived they were greeted and children were given juice and donuts, but the fun didn't stop there. Volunteers from grades 6-8 played the roles of elves and

helped to run activities, such as crafts and games for the younger children. One activity that was very popular was writing a letter to Santa! Visitors were then able to see Mr. and Mrs. Claus and tell them what they wanted for Christmas and they received a coloring book!

The East Rochester Chamber of Commerce and the Alumni Foundation sponsor and support activities; elementary, middle, and high school students perform holiday classics and a craft sale take place during the celebration.



SAVE THE DATE

SAM URZETTA ALUMNI CLASSIC (SUAC) GOLF TOURNAMENT

FRIDAY, AUG. 2, 2019
LIMA GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB
7470 CHASE ROAD, LIMA, NY 14485
REGISTRATION, COFFEE, DONUTS AND
PUTTING CONTEST AT 7:15 A.M.
TOURNAMENT START TIME AT 9 A.M.



This event, hosted by the East Rochester Alumni Foundation, is the organization's major source of the revenue used to underwrite "Excellence in Education" grants which benefit all students in the East Rochester Union Free School District. In 2018 the SUAC generated over \$18,000 for the Alumni Foundation.



According to the Tournament Committee, "This tournament is designed to appeal to players of all levels. Its main purpose is to raise money for the Alumni Foundation and to bring lots of current and former East Rochester friends together for a fun day of golf and camaraderie." To this end the Alumni Foundation and their partners at Lima C.C. make every effort to keep entry fees as low as possible, use a "Scramble" format where handicaps are not used and where a group's score is determined by combining the best shots made by all team members on each hole. Since there will be more than 200 players, the tournament will be played on both the Charleston Pines and Island Oaks courses.

The entry fee of \$100 per person includes greens fees, a cart, free coffee and donuts, a drink ticket, tee prize(s), a hot dog and beverage "at the turn," a fabulous buffet lunch, loads of door prizes, free driving range privileges and a donation to the East Rochester Alumni Foundation. On the day of the tournament a putting contest, Mulligan purchases, skins games and a giant raffle are available to players for additional charges. Lunch-only tickets are available for \$25 per ticket. We will attempt to accommodate foursome preferences with regard to course selection. To avoid course and banquet delays, a maximum of 55 foursomes (220 players) will be registered. Early registrants will be given priority in regard to course selection.

Foursomes who are registered and paid by June 30 will be entered in an early bird drawing. The winning foursome, drawn on tournament day, will receive a full refund of their \$400 registration fee. Early registration is encouraged and will be sincerely appreciated.

Sign up using the entry form to the left. For lunch only tickets, please contact Carl Tobin at ctobin@frontiernet.net or at 585 526-6120.

To preserve the nature of this event, at least one member of each foursome must be an East Rochester Alum, a current or former ER teacher or staff member, a village resident, local business owner/operator, student or an Alumni Foundation sponsor.

The Tournament Committee is looking for individuals who are interested in becoming members of the Tournament Committee or are interested in serving as pre or post-tournament volunteers on Aug. 2. If you are interested please contact Carl Tobin at ctobin@frontiernet.net or at (585) 526-6120.

This year's Distinguished Alumni Award (DAA) will be presented during the Awards Banquet which follows the tournament. The 2019 recipient will be selected by the Alumni Foundation in April and will be honored at the SUAC Awards Luncheon on Aug. 2. The Foundation will accept DAA nominations through Friday, April 5. Please visit the ERAF DAA webpage at www.erschools.org/alumni/distinguished_alumni_award for further guidance.

Player Registration

Sign Up For:	Price:
____ (1) Team Sponsorship*	\$ 500.00
____ (1) Foursome	400.00
____ Single Player	100.00
____ Key Sponsor	175.00
____ Hole / Memorial Sponsor	65.00
____ Friend of the Foundation	20.00

Total Amount Included:

*Team Sponsorship includes your foursome's entry fee and a \$100.00 donation.

Player Name(s):

Please identify your team's captain with an asterisk and include the captain's email or phone number below:

Please send a check and this form to:
East Rochester Alumni Foundation, Inc.
c/o Carl Tobin
3331 County Rd. 20, Stanley, NY 14561
THANK YOU!

Recent Grants: The Support and Sharing Continues

The East Rochester Alumni Foundation has been able to provide grant funding totaling more than \$160,000 since it began awarding grants in 2006. The Foundation has been honored to assist with varied activities and programs to help our students prekindergarten to high school. Some of the grants are new initiatives this year, while others are long-standing programs we have supported. For a full list of the grants go to www.erschools.org.



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SUPERINTENDENT of SCHOOLS
Dr. Mark Linton

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DISTRICT TREASURER/ASSISTANT
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Resident

School budgets, explained

by Paulina Lexer and Dr. Linton

The school district budget is developed based on multiple factors. First, it is determined what programs will be offered or added for the following school year. This is done based on course selections and the history of student participation in different course offerings. If a high number of students sign up to take a particular course then it is likely that course will be offered. Second, it is determined how much money is needed to fulfill obligations based on employee contracts, utilities, and basic requirements to keep the school functioning. The amount of money needed for salaries and benefits for employees is known, but how much aid will be received from the New York state government is not usually determined until late in the budget process. Salaries and benefits and state aid are examples of expenditures and revenue. Another revenue source, local taxes, is determined by applying the New York State tax cap formula.

This calculation, which includes 11 components, is used to determine the maximum tax rate that can be assessed to East Rochester property owners. Finally, considerations for the future of our district are included, so a single year budget is prepared with a five-year plan in mind.

Creating the school district budget is a balancing act of offering quality programs and being aware of the financial impact the budget will have now and in the future.

East Rochester community members value and support the education of their children and they recognize the advantages of attending a school like East Rochester and the positive effect our school has within our community. The support of our community members, businesses, alumni, and local government are very much appreciated!

Stay
connected!

APP

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