

Dear Friends,

The MLEA board of directors wanted to share with you what's happened this year and where we are headed.

It's no surprise that this year has been uniquely challenging as we have navigated, with great leadership by our administrative team, the difficulties of the pandemic. And RLA has stayed open at 100% almost the whole school year—which has been mentally and spiritually healthy for our students. But it's been challenging for our teachers who have had to work with and prepare on-line curriculum and keep at-home students engaged as well as regular teaching duties. We are grateful for our whole staff's hard work and dedication to our kids. We look forward to celebrating with our graduates on May 27 as they prepare leave RLA.

In addition to the classroom challenges, MLEA has suffered fundraising income losses over this now more than a year of restrictions. So we have been without the gifts that Sweets and Serenades has brought in the past, including the gift of gathering together and listening to the sweet music of the talented students at RLA, as well as other fundraising and fellowship-gathering opportunities. We received a PPP loan, which has been forgiven, which has eased some of the burden, but we continue to pray for financial support from our congregations and members. However, we are in the black right now and expect to finish the year there.

Now we are looking forward to what God has in store for the school. The board had a retreat and we spent time brain-storming where God might be leaning on us to extend our mission as we serve our staff, our students and their families and our community. Out of that, the board determined to re-evaluate our committee structure with the goals of 1. Enhancing our communications to our churches, our students and families and our communities; and 2. Creating a advancement and development strategy to better support all areas of our ministry—knowing that God will provide the gifts needed to support this ministry. We also are trying to find ways to provide for pastoral counseling to our students. Please pray for us so that we are staying in God's will as we work to better support the school for the benefit of all those we serve.

Finally, we are sad to report that because of the pandemic, we aren't able to have a joint service this year, but we look forward to the opportunity to gather together in the 21-22 school year to celebrate all that God is doing at RLA and worship Him together.

To God alone be the glory,

MLEA board

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