



Superintendent's Bulletin

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Dear RCSD Community Member,

Board of Education President Katy Keohane Glassberg and I recently had the chance to meet with the new Speaker of the New York State Assembly, Carl Heastie, at a meeting hosted by Rye's Assemblyman Steve Otis. Speaker Heastie sits on the Governor's Commission on the Common Core, and so is in a position to have an impact on issues of import to the Rye City School District and every other school district in New York. We were joined by Superintendents and Board of Education members from our neighboring districts. Speaker Heastie took the time to listen to our concerns and to give us some information about what is going on in education in Albany. As you may have seen in the news media, much is changing with regards to the weight of Common Core testing in teacher evaluations. This tells me that advocacy is at last bearing fruit. We continue to encourage our parents, faculty and staff to advocate to Governor Cuomo and the Board of Regents. Contact information can be found on the District's website or by clicking [here](#).

December is the shortest month in the District, with only 16½ school days, but I am always impressed with how much activity takes place in that time. From holiday, vocal and instrumental concerts, toy drives, the ever-popular Senior Scenes, and Ugly Sweater contests, the District manages to spread a lot of cheer in a short amount of time. A very great "thank you" to all the faculty, staff and parents who work so hard behind the scenes to make this a very special time for everyone in the District.



Local Superintendents and BOE Members with Speaker Heastie and Assemblyman Steve Otis

Wishing you and your family a very happy and peaceful holiday season.

Sincerely,

Frank Alvarez

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Niche.com Names Rye High School 4th Best in State; RCSD is 2nd Best District in State

Niche.com, Inc., an educational ranking company formerly known as College Prowler, named Rye High School 4th in New York State on its 2016 list of Best Public High Schools. The school is ranked number 19 in the nation. Rye's grade, of which academics account for 50 percent, was an overall A+. The Rye City School District was ranked number 2 in the State in Niche.com's 2016 List of Best School Districts, behind Jericho Union Free School District, but ahead of all other Westchester Districts. RCSD ranks 8th nationwide, and has an overall grade of A+.

Niche.com's rankings are based on statistics from the U.S. Department of Education, and alumni, parent and student opinions. To see the complete rankings, click here or go to www.niche.com. ■

Author Janet Tashjian Visits Midland and Osborn



Janet Tashjian at Midland School

Osborn and Midland schools recently played host to the wildly popular children's author, Janet Tashjian, creator of *My Life as a Book*, winner of the 2011 Bank Street – Best Children's Book of the Year. Ms. Tashjian had the children's hands waving wildly as she invited them to suggest future titles in the "My Life as" series. Suggestions included

My Life as an Astronaut and *My Life as a Skateboard*. Tashjian's visit was sponsored by the Osborn and Midland Parent Organizations. ■

LOOKING AHEAD:

12/15...
Board of Education
Meeting
7:30 p.m.
RMS Multipurpose
Room

12/23...
Early Dismissal
12:00 noon

12/24-12/31...
Winter Recess

1/4 ...
Schools Reopen

1/12...
Board of Education
Meeting
7:30 p.m.
RMS Multipurpose
Room

1/18...
Martin Luther King, Jr.
Day
Schools Closed



Science Department Visits Norwalk Aquarium

The Maritime Aquarium at Norwalk is a spot frequently visited by students on field trips and with their families. In late November, the Middle and High School Science Departments enjoyed a field trip of their own to the Aquarium in the form of a professional development day. Teachers dissected a shark and a perch, conducted physics and chemistry experiments, and enjoyed a tour of the aquarium's research vessel and a behind the scenes tour of the aquarium's facilities. ■

Pictured above: Teachers Karen Haggerty-DiMaggio, Katrina Smith and Danielle Pizzuto at the Maritime Aquarium

Middle School Art Show to Benefit Syrian Refugees

Middle School Art teacher Kim Tamalonis and 138 of her students held a highly successful art show opening at the Rye Arts Center on November 20. The works from the show will be on display, and available for purchase, until December 18th. All the proceeds from the show go to the Blossom Hill Foundation, an organization dedicated to the empowerment of children in war-torn communities.

Some of the art will also be made into packs of greeting cards that can be purchased at the Arts Center and Arcade Books. Kudos to Kim Tamalonis and to her students for giving of their time and talents. ■

RHS has Two Milly Kibrick Youth Service Award Winners

Nine Westchester County Students were selected this year as recipients of the Westchester County Youth Board's 2015 Milly Kibrick Youth Service Award, and two of the winners are Rye High School students. Seniors Lauren Dempsey and Hannah Stacks received awards presented at an awards dinner in New Rochelle on October 31. The Milly Kibrick Youth Service Awards are given annually to high school seniors who have been involved in building a flourishing, strong and compassionate community through individual efforts and actions. They are given in memory of Milly Kibrick, a prominent county social worker and youth activist. ■



*2015 Milly Kibrick Award Winners
Photo Courtesy of Westchester County*