



Superintendent's Bulletin

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Dear RCSD Families,

During my first six months in Rye, I have had a chance to meet and talk with many of you. One of the things I regularly hear is that you moved to Rye so your children could get an outstanding education. Fortunately, I also regularly hear praise for the teachers and staff who are providing that education. I would add to this my personal kudos to our teaching staff and say that anyone that thinks teaching is easy should try keeping a group of young people focused on school work in the days before a holiday break.

I will again be heading off to where they put holiday lights on palm trees to join our daughter in celebrating her birthday on December 25. (You're right; she feels overlooked.) Wherever you will be spending the holidays, I wish you well and look forward to seeing you in the New Year.

Sincerely,

Dr. Brian Monahan



Dr. Monahan with the faculty and staff winners of the RHS Ugly Sweater Contest, Tracey Barnett and Peter Thomas

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RHS Annual Ugly Sweater Contest Expands to Students

For the past two years, the High School has hosted an annual ugly sweater contest for faculty and staff. This year, the contest was opened up to the student body at large. The result was some truly spectacular holiday garb. Mystery judges were on patrol during the school day and voted to select the winners: seniors Katherine Coleman, Miles Giordano, Grant Meyerson and Caroline Neave in the student category, and Tracey Barnett and Peter Thomas from among the faculty and staff. ■



RHS Ugly Sweater Contest winners Katherine Coleman, Caroline Neave and Grant Meyerson. Not pictured: Miles Giordano

Commendations

The RHS Varsity girls squash team won the Poly Prep Invitational on Saturday December 3, defeating The Pingry School in the finals 4-3

Senior Mat Bruno was named the Lions Club Athlete of the Month for November

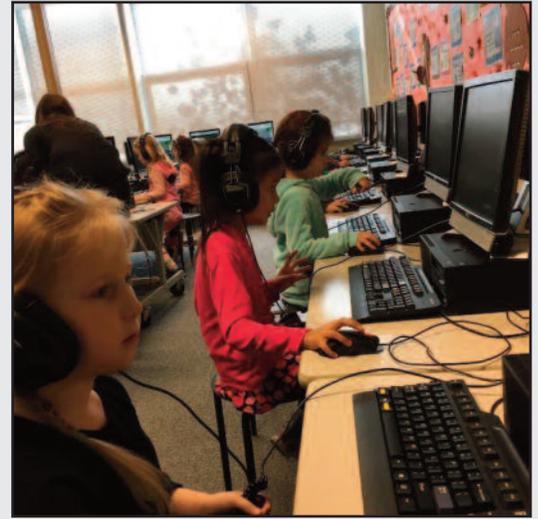
Senior Fusine Govaert was named to the First-Team of the High School All-America Team for field hockey

A big "thank you" to everyone who participated in holiday giving activities around the District, including:

- The Toys for Tots and Spare Change collection drives at the High School
- The Midland Elves gift collection to benefit the Port Chester Housing Authority
- The St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital Math-A-Thon and clothing drive for the Sharing Shelf in Port Chester at Milton School
- The Holiday Angels gift collection for Carver Center at Osborn School

RCSD Participates in 2016 Hour of Code

The Hour of Code is an annual, worldwide initiative that uses a fun, one-hour activity to demystify coding and inspire students to learn about computer science. As part of National Computer Science Education Week (December 5-11), Osborn and Midland School students from grades K-5 learned how to use code from Code.org program Minecraft characters and to create glitches on an episode of the "Amazing World of Gumball." Younger coders learned to program stories and games with an introductory programming language called ScratchJr. At Osborn, even parents got in on the action. On the evening of December 6, about 80 students and parents used computers throughout the school to learn code together. ■



Budding Coders



Osborn Coding Night

The RCSD Thanks the Rye Rotary Club

A big "thank you" to the Rye Rotary Club, which provided a \$1,500 grant to the Rye Police Department to support the Adopt-A-School program. The program enables police officers to visit the schools with the goal of building positive relationships between the police officers and faculty, staff, students and parents. The Rye Rotary Club also recently made a grant to the RHS girls basketball team for the 24th annual Rye Rotary Holiday Basketball Tournament. Thank you to the Rotary for generously supporting the schools! ■



Midland's 5th Grade Chorus sings at the Rye Rotary Holiday luncheon at Whitby Castle

LOOKING AHEAD:

12/22
Early Dismissal
for Winter Recess
(12:00 p.m. dismissal)

12/23-1/2
Winter Recess
(Schools Closed)

1/3
Schools re-open

1/10
Board of Education
Meeting
8:00 p.m.
RMS
Multipurpose Room

1/16
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.,
Day
(Schools Closed)

1/24
Board of Education
Meeting
8:00 p.m.
RMS
Multipurpose Room

2/1
Winter Jazz Night
7:30 p.m.
RMS
Multipurpose Room

National Hispanic Recognition Program Students

On December 13, six RHS seniors received the Rye Recognition of Excellence award for being named to the College Board's National Hispanic Recognition Program. Students are admitted on the strength of their scores on the Preliminary SAT/ National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT) taken during their junior year. In addition, all of this year's students are also honored as scholars on the basis of their high school grade point average. Congratulations to the students, their parents and teachers. ■



L to R: Superintendent Brian Monahan, RHS Principal Pat Taylor, John Bateman, Victor Gomez, Jan Nowak, Jared Patel, Jaime Ryan and Board President Katy Keohane

Mindfulness Breaks out in the RCSD

Teachers at the Milton School are instituting a new program of weekly guided meditation sessions, also known as "mindful sits," for faculty and staff, led by members of the Healing Arts Collective. The first mindful sit took place on December 21 and was led by Kim O'Connor; Linda MacKay will lead the January sits. Faculty members sat mindfully for approximately 20 minutes before the start of the school day, left feeling centered and grounded, and carried this state back into their classrooms. Milton teachers who have participated in online mindfulness training will also receive additional support in teaching students mindfulness during monthly luncheons led by Ms. O'Connor.



Milton Faculty and Members of the Healing Arts Collective practice mindful sitting

A multi-week, online mindfulness training program for faculty will be rolling out in January at the High School. All District parents are invited to attend an "Evening of Mindfulness for Parents" hosted by the Healing Arts Collective at The Community Synagogue of Rye on January 18 from 7:00-8:30 p.m. ■

Fall Athletes Receive RRoE Awards

On November 29, three students received Rye Recognition of Excellence awards for outstanding athletic achievement for the fall season. They were 9th grade diver Katie Laverty who finished 14th in the state after attending the State Championship meet; senior Nathalie Rodilloso who advanced two rounds at the NSYSPHSAA girls state tennis championships; and 10th grade diver Natalie Weiner who participated in the NY State Cross Country Championships placing 58th overall for class B. Congratulations to all the athletes, their parents and their coaches. ■



L to R: Coach Blair Moynahan, Natalie Weiner, Coach Mike Szarkowicz, RHS Principal Pat Taylor, Superintendent Brian Monahan, Katie Laverty, Nathalie Rodilloso, Athletic Director Michael Arias