



Superintendent's Bulletin

February 2017 • Volume 5 • Issue 6

Dear RCSD Families,

By now I am sure you have seen news articles announcing the appointment of Rye's new Superintendent. I will certainly do all I can to help Dr. Byrne as he transitions to his new position. It has been a privilege for me to work in this District and I will truly miss the many parents, students and colleagues that I have gotten to know here. But there is a lot more school left this year, so it is not time to say 'goodbye.'

We have entered the budget season. At this time, the Board is considering the budget I recommended to them several weeks ago. That budget relies on a tax increase that is under the tax cap. The excellent curricular and co-curricular programs which comprise your children's education will continue without cuts. Funding is provided for ongoing curriculum work in a variety of areas. The budget also provides for some staff increases to allow successful programs to expand and to deal with changes in enrollment. Maintaining class size continues to be an important District goal.

One of the things I have enjoyed most about my time in Rye is seeing how our students get involved beyond the classroom. I have had a chance to meet many of you as we watched our kids sing, dance, play or act. As you read through this newsletter, you will see highlights of our students' many accomplishments. And spring sports, concerts and dramatic performances are just around the corner.

In my last report, I made a flippant remark about how we had not had any snow days. It snowed a few days later. I won't repeat the mistake. I look forward to working with you over the next several months.

Sincerely,

Dr. Brian Monahan

Congratulations Katie Popp

It was exciting to join other Garnet fans on February 11 to watch Katie Popp score the game winning basket as time elapsed – and that basket broke the Rye all-time individual scoring record of 1539 set by Kate Beswick in 2001. Congratulations, Katie. ■



Senior Katie Popp (in back row in white jersey) and teammates after her record-breaking game

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Commendations

The **RHS girls squash team** captured its fourth consecutive league title at the Fair-west High Schools Girls Squash League tournament and came in third at the US Squash High School Nationals. Congratulations to the team and Coaches Tony Campbell and Mike Callaway

The **Rye/Rye Neck/Blind Brook combined boys swim team** won silver at the Conference Championships in White Plains on January 28. Congratulations to the team and Coach Brendan Eggers

Senior **Fusine Govaert** who was named one of five 2016 High School Regional Player of the Year by Max Field Hockey. Congratulations to Fusine and Coach Simon Hochstenbach

Senior **Charlie Nagle** scored his 1,000th point in the boys basketball game versus John Jay on January 27, was named Con Ed Athlete of the Week for the week of January 30 (Listen to Charlie's interview with WHUD's Bob Wolff at <http://www.whud.com/con-edison-athlete-of-the-week>) and was also LoHud's Varsity Insider Player of the Week for January 23-29. Congratulations to Charlie and Coach John Aguilar

Senior **Katie Popp** is the Lions Club Athlete of the Month for the second time and LoHud's girls basketball Player of the Week for the week of February 6. Congratulations to Katie and Coach Dennis Hurlie

RHS Winter Pep Rally

On the afternoon of February 16, Rye High School held its annual Winter Pep Rally. Students gathered in the gymnasium to cheer on the athletic teams headed to sectional playoffs: girls basketball, boys basketball and hockey. The rally culminated with a teacher vs. student basketball game which ended in a 25-25 tie. ■



Students and faculty at the Winter Pep Rally
Photo credit: Dr. Brian Monahan



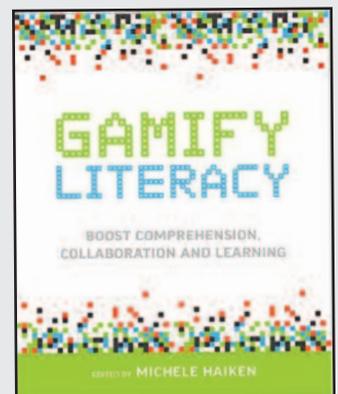
Charlie Nagle (center, holding sign) celebrates with teammates after scoring his 1,000th point



Girls squash team and coaches Mike Callaway from Lifetime Fitness and Tony Campbell

RMS Literacy Expert Michele Haiken in Print

Kudos to Middle School Language Arts teacher Michele Haiken on the upcoming publication of her book *Gamify Literacy: Boost Comprehension, Collaboration and Learning*. The book is an instructional tool for teachers and tech aides who seek to use gaming tools and activities to improve literacy and content learning. Ms. Haiken collaborated with a range of game and literacy experts including top game developers, teachers, librarians and technology coordinators, to write *Gamify Literacy*. The book is due to be released in April. This is Ms. Haiken's second book; she contributed to *Teaching Literacy in the Digital Age*, published in 2014. ■





*L to R: Brett Egan, Director of Athletics Michael Arias and T.J. Lavelle at the Golden Dozen dinner
Photo credit: Kendall Egan*

Two RHS Seniors Recognized at the Golden Dozen

On January 26, the Westchester Chapter of the National Football Foundation and Hall of Fame held its 45th annual Golden Dozen Awards banquet at Westchester Country Club. The Golden Dozen awards recognize football standouts for both athletic and academic excellence. Among those scholar-athletes recognized for the 2016 season were RHS seniors Brett Egan and T.J. Lavelle. Egan is the winner of the Draddy Family Scholarship. Congratulations to the boys and Coach Dino Garr. ■



RHS Science Olympians

RHS Science Olympiad Winners

Rye High School sent three teams of 15 students to the Regional Science Olympiad on Saturday, February 11. Each team competed in 23 events in pairs of two and came away with some great results. Congratulations to the group, and to their coaches, RHS science teacher Amy Leahy and RMS technology teacher Brian Rodefild.

- Ecology Event – 2nd out of 45 teams:** Emma Dempster (10) & Charlie Madigan (10)
- Disease Detective Event – 3rd out of 45 teams:** Lucy Liu (11) & Gillian Leung (11)
- Microbe Mission Event – 3rd out of 45 teams:** Samantha Ross (12) & Gillian Leung (11)
- Ecology Event – 4th out of 45 teams:** Becca Daniels (11) & Nicole Francis (10)
- Wind Power Event – 5th out of 45 teams:** Ashley Palermo (10) & Pranjal Srivastava (10)
- Dynamic Planet Event – 9th out of 45 teams:** Jonathan Lloyd (10) & Sara Brizio (11)
- Chemistry Lab Event – 9th out of 45 teams:** Lucy Liu (11) & Sara Brizio (11)
- Helicopters Event – 9th out of 45 teams:** Gus Rodriguez (12) & Greg Schoeman (11) ■

LOOKING AHEAD:

3/3

RHS Parsons Street
Players Performance of
"Fiddler on the Roof"
7:30 p.m.
Performing Arts Center

3/4

RHS Parsons Street
Players Performance of
"Fiddler on the Roof"
2:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.
Performing Arts Center

3/7

Board of Education
Meeting/Rhythm on Rye
Performance/Reception
for Dr. Eric Byrne
8:00 p.m.
RMS Multipurpose Room

3/21

Board of Education
Meeting/
Budget Hearing I/
Open Topics Forum