



Superintendent's Bulletin

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Dear RCSD Families,

I wonder if I will jinx things if I say that we have made it through the first semester without any weather related school delays or cancellations.

We are approaching the budget season. My staff began working on the 2017-18 budget last fall. I will present my recommended budget to the Board at the Board meeting on February 7, and the Board members will work on it and discuss it for the next several months leading up to the budget vote on May 16. I urge you to spend some time learning about how your tax dollars will be spent. When you do, I hope you will conclude that we have struck the correct balance between holding the line on taxes and providing our children with the quality education you have come to expect. If you are unable to attend the budget meetings of the Board, you can watch the recordings of the meetings through the link available on our website. You can also find the various budget documents posted there.

For me, getting to know so many of you has been informative and rewarding. Getting to know our PTO and PO members and leaders has been especially helpful to me in my work. The Rye community places a high value on education. In fact, many of you moved here because of the schools. At meetings which I have with parents, they constantly advocate for programs and practices to make our great schools even better. But, they don't just talk. Our parents raise thousands of dollars to enhance school programs. Those are dollars which don't have to be raised through taxes. The PTO efforts have impacted our schools in many ways: technology and other equipment, after-school programs, and classroom enrichment, to name just a few.

As you read this letter we are approaching the Presidents' Week break. Whether you'll be working or taking some time off with your kids, I wish you well. Hopefully, between my writing this letter and your reading it, we won't have a major weather event.

Sincerely,

Dr. Brian Monahan

Just An Observation from the Superintendent

Part of my job involves visiting many classes. Here in Rye, I have noticed that when students leave to head to their next class, most pass by the teacher and say, "Thank you." I have spent time in many districts and have seen this happen a few places, but not many. The schools and parents in Rye should be proud of having created such a culture. ■

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Commendations

Congratulations to the girls varsity soccer team for receiving the Section One Fall Team Sportsmanship award. Kudos also to Coaches Rich Savage and Kimberly Nardo

Kudos to Athletic Department Senior Office Assistant Karen Clark for winning the Judith A. Martens Secretarial Award of Excellence awarded by the New York State Athletic Administrators Association

Senior Katie Popp was named the player of the week for the week of January 23rd by the Journal News for two career-high scoring performances in the prior week. Congratulations to Katie and to Coach Dennis Hurlie

Congratulations to the following fall teams for being named Scholar Athlete teams by NYSPHSAA. To receive the award, 75% of the team roster must achieve a combined average of 90 or above:

- Boys Cross Country
- Girls Cross Country
- Boys Soccer
- Girls Soccer
- Field Hockey
- Girls Swimming and Diving
- Girls Tennis
- Girls Volleyball

Elementary Schools Celebrate Japanese Culture

For over 16 years, third graders in the RCSD elementary schools have been celebrating Japanese culture in a day or days set aside particularly for that purpose. Milton's Japanese Festival was January 11; Osborn's Japanese Cultural Days were January 12 and 13. Midland generally holds their day in the late spring. All three schools have Japanese culture as part of their curriculum in third



Milton 3rd Graders try their hand at calligraphy



Osborn 3rd Grade Teacher Gail Topol and students in kimonos

grade, and these days help bring learning to life. Children enjoy trying on traditional Japanese garb, tasting Japanese food, learning calligraphy and taking part in traditional Japanese games. A big "thank you" to the faculty and parent volunteers who make these days possible! ■

RHS Faculty and Staff Meet Anita Devlin, Author of S.O.B.E.R.

On January 18, 40 faculty, staff and administrators gathered in the Media Center to meet and talk with Anita Devlin, author of S.O.B.E.R.

S.O.B.E.R. is Devlin's tale of her family's recovery as a result of her son's addiction to pain pills in the wake of a sports injury.



RHS book forum members meet S.O.B.E.R. Author Anita Devlin, above, center and to right of Principal Patricia Taylor

Interested faculty and staff were provided with a copy of Devlin's book and met in early December to discuss it in small groups. High School Principal Patricia Taylor created the book forum to raise awareness about and understanding of addiction. ■

LOOKING AHEAD:

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

2/7
Board of Education
Meeting
8:00 p.m.
RMS Multipurpose Room

2/20-2/24
Mid-Winter Recess
(Schools Closed)

2/27
Schools re-open

2/28
Board of Education
Meeting
8:00 p.m.
RMS Multipurpose Room

RMS National Geographic Bee Winners

Congratulations to the Middle School team winners from the National Geographic Bee. James Weld from team 8R is the overall RMS winner for 2017. James will now move on to take the New York State qualifying test. The National Geographic Bee is an annual competition organized by the National Geographic Society designed to inspire and reward students' curiosity about the world.

To learn more, visit <http://www.nationalgeographic.org/bee>.

RMS Team Winners

6th Grade

Braden Baruchowitz (6R)
Vaibhav Kailash (6M)
Matty Clarke (6S)

7th Grade

Ryan Becton (7R)
Thomas Vanneck (7M)
Matteo Balentine (7S)

8th Grade

James Weld (8R)
Colin Mequet (8M)
Zekie Meulbroek (8S)

Congratulations to all, and a hearty "thank you" to the Bee's faculty coordinator, James Rinaldi. ■

Big, Green Mentors

The stars of last February's Rye High School performance of "Shrek The Musical" paid a visit to the Midland 5th Grade cast of "Shrek, Jr." during their rehearsal on January 25.

The visiting Parsons Street Players included Midland School graduates Melissa Bergin



L to R Abi Repetto, Penny Deen and Melissa Bergin perform "I Know It's Today" for Midland 5th graders



Senior Cameron Kamer with budding Shreks

(Humpty Dumpty) Cameron Kamer (Shrek), Abi Repetto (Gingy), Teddy Stubbs (Lord Farquaad) and Osborn School graduate Penny Deen (Fiona). The 5th graders enjoyed three short performances by the Parsons Street Players, then broke out into working groups to gain some valuable pointers from their older counterparts. ■