

Superintendent's Bulletin

November 2015 • Volume 4 • Issue 3

Dear RCSD Community Member,

October was a very busy month across the Rye City School District. All three elementary schools enjoyed the warm weather during "Walk to School" week the week of October 5. The National Honor Society inducted 132 members of the class of 2016; and the Parsons Street Players held their first production of the school year, "Inherit the Wind." Midland held its annual fall parent social on October 23rd, and Osborn's held its Scare Fair fundraiser on October 24th. And, of course, the elementary schools hosted Halloween parades and parties. Dr. Betty Ann Wyks and I were pleased to visit Osborn and Midland's Halloween parades this year (see photos below). Meanwhile, the middle school celebrated with an after-school Halloween party and costume contest and the high school held its annual Senior Skits and Performances. Thank you to all the parents, faculty and P.O.s who helped coordinate these memory-making events for our students.



Dr. Alvarez and Dr. Wyks at the Midland Halloween Parade



Midland's Parade

At our last Board of Education meeting on October 27th, Dr. Betty Ann Wyks presented the District's Standardized Test Scores. Please link to her complete presentation by clicking here. In general, the District is seeing upward movement, with students moving from Level 3 proficiency to Level 4 proficiency. This suggests the curriculum changes we have made to align to Common Core standards are moving the needle in the right direction.

We had a successful Superintendent's Conference Day on Tuesday, November 3rd. RCSD Faculty and Staff participated in over 27 different workshops dedicated to classroom technology and held subject-specific training sessions. Keynote speaker Jim Sill, an internationally-recognized technology educator, spoke about creative use of technology tools in the classroom.

INSIDE THIS BULLETIN...

- Milton Makes Literacy a Family Affair
- Zephyr Takes Gold
- National Honor Society
- Area All-State Students
- Boys' Varsity Soccer
- Looking Ahead

Continued on next page.

Congratulations to the Rye Garnets football team who made it all the way to the Section One Class A finals this year. I'd also like to express my support for the varsity field hockey team, which, after a remarkable season, suffered a tough loss to Lakeland in the sectional finals on November 3rd.



Osborn Teachers Dressed as Characters from The Three Little Pigs

Go Garnets! Sincerely,

Jun Willhous

Frank Alvarez

Milton Makes Literacy a Family Affair

On October 21, Milton students and their parents went "Into the Woods" for the school's annual Family Reading Night, which promotes literacy and at-home reading. Dr. Nardone welcomed excited pajama-clad students and their parents; teachers Dayna Reist and Katy Ridley demonstrated the Responsive Classroom approach to learning; and students settled in for story time with Milton Dad David Walker, followed by a bedtime treat of s'mores and milk.



David Walker Captivates the Crowd at Milton's Family Reading Night. Photo Credit: Barbara Mehlman

The Zephyr Takes the Gold

Rye High School's 2014/2015 issue of the Zephyr Art and Literary magazine has won a gold medal from the Columbia Scholastic Press, an international student press association. The magazine was also awarded Columbia All-Honors for the quality of the writing. The publication earned 396 out of a possible 400 points for the writing portion of the magazine, which the judge described as a "prodigious" achievement. Congratulations to the writers and editors of the Zephyr, and to the Zephyr's advisor, George Krajca.

LOOKING AHEAD:

11/10...
Board of Education
Meeting
7:30 p.m.
RMS
Multipurpose Room

11/11... Veterans Day (Schools Closed)

11/24...
Board of Education
Meeting
7:30 p.m.
RMS
Multipurpose Room

11/25... Noon Dismissal

11/26-27...
Thanksgiving Recess

National Honor Society Inducts 132 Members

On October 15, 132 Rye High School seniors were inducted into the National Honor Society at a candlelight ceremony at the High School Performing Arts Center. The Society was established in 1921 to recognize outstanding high school students, and serves to honor students who have demonstrated excellence in the areas of scholarship, leadership, service and character. Seniors must have a cumulative grade point average of 3.750 earned during their freshman, sophomore and junior years to be eligible for membership. Congratulations to our Class of 2016 NHS members and their families!



Senior Kerianne Adler (left) and Junior Haley Neiman (right) light the Candle of Service while National Honor Society advisor Dann Kenefick looks on. Photo Credit: Kathleen Durkee



Left to Right, Area All-State Musicians Aidan Pasquale, Anders Jensen, Su-Lynn Kok and Ester Yu. Photo Credit: Lynn Kraut

Area All-State Students

Congratulations to Rye's Area All-State Students. Four students were recently accepted into the November 2015 Area-All State organizations based on their NYSSMA scores from last spring. They are Anders Jensen (Grade 10) who plays trumpet, Su-Lynn Kok (Grade 12) who plays violin, Aidan Pasquale (Grade 10) who plays string bass and Esther Yu (Grade 10) who plays cello. ■

Boys Varsity Soccer Team Meets Raul Gonzalez

On October 14th, the Rye High School boys varsity soccer team had the rare opportunity to meet professional soccer player Raul Gonzalez. Gonzalez, who plays for the Real Madrid team, stopped by the team's practice to give the team a few pointers as they begin their playoff season.



RHS Varsity Soccer Players and Raul Gonzalez (at center). Photo Credit: Tricia Tartaglia