



Superintendent's Bulletin

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Dear RCSD Community Member,

Although I have been in Rye a relatively short time, I feel as if I have already learned a great deal. I am grateful to the Board of Education for giving me the opportunity to be part of this community. One of the things the Board has asked of me is to look at things in Rye with a new fresh set of eyes. This September, I experienced the "first day of school" for the 46th time as an educator. The experience is always exciting. The students are nervous; the teachers are nervous; and I can assure you the Superintendent is nervous. Our first day and the days that followed went very smoothly. The experience was enhanced because everyone came back to buildings that were literally shining from the work that our staff did to get everything ready.

You should be justifiably proud of the academic programs Rye offers. Our teachers are well prepared and enthusiastic. Our class sizes facilitate learning. The work the District is doing in literacy and mathematics is truly exemplary. Older students are provided with a wide range of courses from which to choose. Our participation in Honors and AP courses is truly impressive. Our POs and PTOs supplement the District's offerings by providing opportunities beyond the school day.

What we do here in Rye goes beyond academics in the classroom. At our opening staff meeting, I shared a story about an experience I had in sixth grade when my teacher suggested during a rehearsal for a song in the school play that I just pretend to be singing. (I wasn't lucky enough to go to school in Rye.) As I look at the rich array of experiences in music and performing arts which Rye offers, I can't help but be impressed. And it carries over to many other areas. Students take advantage of what is offered. One has to look very hard to find a Rye student that does not take advantage of one of the clubs, activities or sports that the District offers. In fact, most students are involved in multiple ways.

So, what else struck me during my first month? Well, we began in early September with "The Game." As a lifelong Westchester resident, I had always heard about the storied rivalry between Rye and Harrison. It was exciting to be part of it. As many of you know, The Game came unusually early in the season and took place on a brutally hot day (two things over which the District had no control.) Being part of that experience taught me two things about this community. First, traditions are important and respected in Rye. I don't ever recall being at a school event at which so many generations were represented. Second, co-curricular activities are not separate from the curriculum. They are an integral part of it. In this case, lessons about sportsmanship and respect were fully integrated into the entire experience.

You have much of which to be proud. I hope I get a chance to meet many of you at future school events.

Sincerely,

Dr. Brian Monahan

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Summer Addition and Renovations

Summer is a time for rejuvenation, not only for students and faculty, but also for the District's physical spaces. See below for just a few of the projects undertaken by the Facilities Department in July and August. ■

Commendations

Three students will represent Rye High School at the NYSSMA Conference All-State in Rochester, NY, December 1-4: Senior Nicholas Creus (alternate, Jazz Guitar) Junior Aidan Pasquale (Double Bass) and Junior Esther Yu (Violoncello)

Senior Fusine Govaert was named the 2016 Northeast Region Pre-season Player of the Year in field hockey and recently scored her 100th goal

Senior Brett Egan was named the winner of the Christopher D. Mello award at the annual Rye Harrison game ■



New hallway lighting



The refurbished High School gym floor



The redecorated HS Teachers' Lounge, courtesy of the RHSPPO



Osborn School's new furnace installation in August



New locker bank in the Middle School



Midland School's new wheelchair ramp

LOOKING AHEAD:

September 27
Drug and Alcohol
Presentation "There and
Back" with
Former Pro Athlete
Ken Bartolo
RHS 7:00 p.m. Performing
Arts Center (PAC) parents,
students and members of
the community welcome

September 27
BOE Meeting 8:00 p.m.
RMS Multipurpose Rm

October 1
SAT Testing

October 3-4
Rosh Hashanah (Schools
Closed)

October 6
RHS Back to School Night
7:00 p.m.
Performing Arts Center
(PAC)

October 10
Columbus Day
(Schools Closed)

October 11
Superintendent's
Conference Day
(Schools Closed)

October 12
Yom Kippur
(Schools Closed)

October 13
RHS National Honor
Society Ceremony
7:30 p.m. Performing Arts
Center (PAC)

October 18
BOE Meeting 8:00 p.m.
RMS Multipurpose Rm

October 19
PSAT Testing

October 26
Elementary
Parent/Teacher Confer-
ences (11 a.m. dismissal)



Teacher of the Year Laura O'Leary

Laura O'Leary Named Teacher of the Year

Osborn School's Laura O'Leary has been named the Rye City School District's 2016-17 Teacher of the Year. Mrs. O'Leary has been a 4th grade and 5th grade teacher at Osborn for 21 years and served as one of the District's two Elementary School Science Coordinators for three years. In introducing Mrs. O'Leary on Superintendent's Conference Day, her niece, Osborn 3rd grade teacher Rosemary Marszycki, said of her, "she embodies all of the wonderful qualities that the Teacher of the Year should possess: she is compassionate, diligent and above all a professional. Her level of caring and commitment to her classes and school is exceptional." Others clearly agree – Mrs. O'Leary received the Presidential Award for Excellence in Teaching Math and Science from President Bill Clinton in 1999 and the Elementary Math Teacher of the Year award from New York State, also in 1999. Teachers of the Year are nominated by their peers, parents, students and alumni. Congratulations to Mrs. O'Leary! ■

RHS Cheerleaders Named All-American

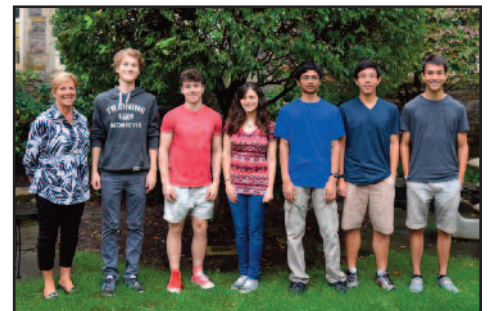
Six of the District's cheerleaders received All-American recognition after competing at Universal Cheerleaders Association (UCA) camp over the course of the summer. Thousands of girls try out at UCA camps across the nation by performing a jump, cheer and dance. It is a great honor and achievement to be recognized as an All-American. Congratulations to the girls and to Head Coach Danielle Pizzuto and Assistant Coach Diana Vita. ■



L to R: Lisa Yamaoka, Jenny Kim, Caroline Costa, Haley Alexa, Emily Eggers and Alicia Stephens

National Merit® Scholar Semifinalists

Six Rye High School seniors were named National Merit® Scholar Semifinalists in September. The students earned their spots by scoring well on the PSAT test taken in the spring of their junior year. The six Semifinalists will be recognized for their achievements at a Board of Education Meeting in October. These honors are reflective of a great deal of hard work and dedication by the students, their families and the students' teachers. Congratulations to all! ■



L to R: RHS Principal Patricia Taylor, Thomas Hager, Arthur Burke, Allison Hufford, Aarsh Desai, Alexander Hu, Keaton Mueller