



Community Newsletter

APRIL 2002

District Orchestra Festival

In celebration of "Music In Our Schools Month," over 600 Rush-Henrietta elementary, middle and high school orchestra members joined together in a District Orchestra Festival on March 5th at the Dome Arena. Before students began to fill the dome with music, welcoming remarks were made by Dr. J. Kenneth Graham, Jr., Superintendent of Schools and Frederic A. Weingarten, Director of Music and Visual Arts Education.

Under the direction of the instrumental music staff, Daniel Green, Kerri Sher, Jodell Utter, Geoffrey Jones, Maxine Sturtevant and Nancy Guilfoyle, musical selections were performed individually by the fourth grade, fifth grade, middle school and senior high school orchestras. All orchestras joined together for *1812 Overture*, the final number.

The orchestra festival was held in observance of "Music In Our Schools Month" which, since 1973, has been celebrated by hundreds of thousands of students, friends and families in communities across America. This year's theme, "Music . . . Pass It On!," was chosen to reflect that the music of many cultures and its influences are passed along in a very special way from one person to another. Oral traditions, including story telling and singing, continue to be important in preserving and sharing cultural identities as music is passed on from generation to generation.

Music is an effective tool in not only teaching and learning about people of all cultures, but in providing a link, a connection, between all people. Sharing music along generational lines is a significant way to embrace one's culture and to strengthen the bonds between family and friends.



Students performing center stage at the Dome Arena during the 2002 District Orchestra Festival.



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Technology Fuels Learning In Elementary Schools

The Rush-Henrietta Central School District has moved past simply bringing computers into the classroom, it has incorporated technology to enhance student learning in ways only limited by the imagination. "The utilization of technology is planned so that it's not, 'Ok, it's your turn. You have 15 minutes to play on the computer,'" said Pat McLean, Director of Educational Technology for the Rush-Henrietta Central School District. "Instead, technology utilization by students in classrooms is carefully planned around the integration of skills included in the areas of writing and math."

In 2000, the Rush-Henrietta Central School District purchased more than \$1 million worth of computers as part of a five-year technology integration plan. The purchase brought three computers and one laptop computer to each elementary school classroom. Since then, teachers have demonstrated several ways to combine learning and computer use. For instance:

- A teacher at Winslow Elementary School has pupils use the computers to outline and map various writing assignments. They also use the computers to complete math and science work.
- At Sherman Elementary School, a teacher has developed a program called "E Goals." Students use the computers to write out a particular goal or learning standard they want to improve in. They then spend time daily on the computer tracking their progress in attaining that goal.

New goals are developed every three to four days.

- Some Leary Elementary School third grade students use the computers during lunch for an "E Pals" program, which pairs them up with pen pals in Idaho. Students learn to communicate with each other, as well as learn about different areas of the country.

areas by using computers at each grade level.

The Enrichment Technology teachers meet on a monthly basis to discuss new ways that technology can further enhance learning in the classroom. "Teachers can start being imaginative," McLean said. "It's fun to go into the classroom and see the students using the technology and being excited about what they are doing. It's also rewarding

to see that teachers are so excited about what they are learning themselves. There aren't any drawbacks in terms of what they can do."



Students, guided by staff, develop skills using computer technology in elementary classrooms.

- The Enrichment Technology teacher at Crane Elementary School asks students to visit specific websites to determine which will be most helpful for classroom research.
- Fyle students work in the computer lab to learn technology skills and software programs. Back in the classroom, they then apply this learning as they include technology into projects.

These projects help the District meet one of its top priorities of the 2001-2002 school year . . . to improve student learning and performance in all

Technology integration is also progressing in other schools throughout the Rush-Henrietta Central School District. Burger and Roth Middle Schools have upgraded their computer labs and a mobile humanities lab, where students checkout laptop computers, has been added at the high school. The Ninth Grade Academy houses

the Distance Learning Center, where students can, for example, be taken on a virtual tour through NASA's Johnson Space Center and ask astronauts various questions.

"Technology is just naturally becoming part of what learning is," McLean said. "Students have the opportunity to begin their learning knowing that technology is one of the tools available to them. They can start learning to effectively and appropriately use computers to integrate technology in creative and exciting ways at all levels throughout school. Technology fuels learning and is really part of what their world is all about."



2002-2003 Budget Update



In spite of the many fiscal challenges facing both local taxpayers and school districts statewide, the development of the 2002-2003 school budget continues to move along well. Dr. J. Kenneth Graham, Jr., Superintendent of Schools, has been meeting with community groups, the Budget Advisory Council, school and District administration, and the Board of Education to discuss the financial challenges that face the District.

The Superintendent, along with the Budget Advisory Council [BAC], hosted a Community Forum on February 27th at the Senior High School to seek voter input regarding the development of next year's budget. Scott Adair, BAC chair said, "The forum provided the public another opportunity to participate in the superintendent's budget development process. Dr. Graham spent considerable time discussing the process that he and the District's management team have taken to deal responsibly with the fiscal challenges presented for this upcoming year's budget." Adair also added that "Dr. Graham informed attendees of items that may effect future budgets, such as an October appeal of a State Supreme Court ruling [Campaign for Fiscal Equity, Inc. vs. State of New York] regarding the constitutionality of the state's school finance formula and how the final resolution may negatively impact state aid the District receives in the future."

The forum concluded with a question and answer session that included strategies the District may use in the future to deal with the challenges facing not only our budget, but also education budgets in general. Board of Education member Arlene Burdett was pleased with the diverse group of people, representing a variety of interests, who attended the forum. She looks forward to "the continued involvement of volunteers in the budget development process."

"Rising costs coupled with loss of revenue will make our efforts to guide student success, at current levels, very difficult," said Dr. Graham. Interest

earnings and sales tax revenues have diminished due to the recent economic downturn, defined by some as a recession. Health insurance costs continue to significantly rise and state aid increases are not expected.

Anticipating little or no growth in state aid and declining revenue projections, the Superintendent of Schools presented a recommended budget of \$80,986,943 for 2002-2003 to the Board of Education. After reducing proposed District expenditures by \$1.6M, the budget recommendation reflects a 3.5% budget-to-budget increase and requires an estimated 7.9% true value tax rate increase.

HIGHLIGHTS OF RECOMMENDED 2002-2003 BUDGET

- 3.5% budget-to-budget increase will be among lowest in Monroe County
- 7.9% true value tax rate increase will be below Monroe County average
- Maintains smaller class sizes at elementary schools [Average - 22]
- Maintains smaller class sizes at middle schools [Average - 24]
- Maintains smaller class sizes at high school for courses with required state exams and for courses with limited space for laboratory work
- Maintains all programs and services for students with special needs [academic intervention and special education]
- Maintains all summer school programs, including elementary summer school transportation
- Maintains all interscholastic sports and music programs
- Maintains all counseling and student health services
- Expands the District's kindergarten extended day program [KEEP] to all elementary schools
- Provides funding for modest computer upgrades at secondary schools
- No involuntary layoffs or staffing reductions

As in past years, great care has been taken to present recommendations that ensure an academically sound and fiscally responsible budget. Both your

Board of Education and District administration have given considerable thought to planning for the future and prudently managing resources. As a result, for eight consecutive years, the District has enjoyed voter approval of budget increases requested to maintain and improve educational programs for Rush-Henrietta students.

Community residents are faced with difficult questions regarding support for current programs and services. On May 21st, when the annual school district budget is presented for voter approval, voters will be asked whether or not they are willing to support tax increases that sustain educational programs and services at current levels that, together, the District and community have worked so hard to develop over the past few years.

The 2002-2003 Budget Newsletter will be mailed to District residents in May and budget information will also be posted at that time to the District website, www.rhnet.org.

IMPORTANT BUDGET DATES

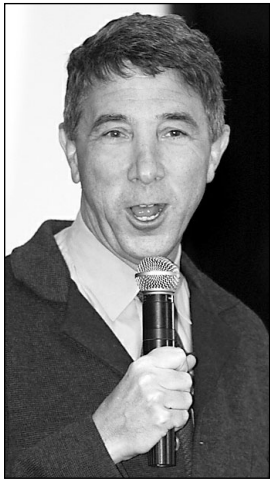
- **April 11** — Board of Education Meeting and First Budget Hearing, 7 p.m., Ninth Grade Academy, 2000 Lehigh Station Road
- **April 23** — Board of Education Meeting and Budget Adoption, 7 p.m., Ninth Grade Academy, 2000 Lehigh Station Road
- **May 14** — Board of Education Meeting and Final Budget Hearing/Presentation, 7 p.m., Ninth Grade Academy, 2000 Lehigh Station Road
- **May 21** — Annual School Budget Vote and Board of Education Election; 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. - Voting at all R-H elementary schools; 9 p.m. - Election results, Winslow Elementary School, 755 Pinnacle Road



Can We Talk?

In February, Dominic Cappello, a national speaker helped Rush-Henrietta parents and staff find ways to talk to kids about tough issues.

Cappello has been on Oprah, CNN and NBC's "Today" Show, but was also interested in a two-day engagement at



Dominic Cappello

the Rush-Henrietta Central School District. Cappello created the National Education Association Health Information Network's "Can We Talk?" program funded by the

Centers of Disease Control. The education program is designed to get parents and children to talk about such issues as drugs, sex and violence which has earned him national recognition.

"The Sherman Elementary School Wellness Team sponsored Cappello's visit with funds from the school district's Asset Building Team and Sherman's Parent-Teacher Association," said Kathy Mackay, a school nurse-teacher at Sherman. "What I found interesting is when he interviewed parents and asked them whose job they thought it was to make sure their kids knew about drugs and sex, they said, 'school,'" Mackay said. "When he asked the teachers . . . they thought it was the parents. The bottom line is that kids are getting bits and pieces from home and school, but they aren't getting all the information."

Through "Can We Talk?," Cappello has begun a series of workshops that

children and their parents can do at home to discuss how they feel about different topics and what their expectations are. "The work begins far before the parent and the child sit down," Cappello said. "You have to know what your own values are before you can communicate them to someone else. Secondly, how do you want to communicate your values to your child? How you talk to a three year old is different than how you are going to talk to a nine year old and that's different from someone in middle school and is very different from someone who is in high school." Figuring out how to deliver the message is where Cappello's workshops come in.

"Parents say it is very difficult to start these conversations," he said. "Parents say they like the workshops because it gives them an excuse to talk about these issues. It becomes the trigger." Cappello added that the workshops are intended for students as young as fourth graders. "It is a really interesting age," he said. "Developmentally, a child is old enough to, certainly with TV and the Internet, have seen everything. They have gotten thousands of messages and they are old enough to look around and see what is going on and they are still young enough to sit down and talk with parents. By the time kids go to middle school, it is extremely difficult to get kids to sit down and have these ongoing communications."

According to Mackay, Sherman Elementary School plans to offer training sessions for parents on Cappello's workshops. "I think there are a lot of people who aren't sure how to initiate these types of conversations," she said. "Cappello's workshops get kids talking to parents." If you'd like to get involved with Sherman Elementary School's implementation of Cappello's workshop, please call Kathy Mackay at 359-5504. For more information about Dominic Cappello's workshops called "Can We Talk?" or about any of the books he has written, visit www.tentalks.com.

Senior High School Adds Mobile Computer Lab

The Rush-Henrietta Senior High School has added a new mobile computer lab in the Humanities area. This 30-unit lab of portable iBooks has allowed students to do research, writing and revisions all in the classroom. Sample lab lessons such as virtual tours of the Holocaust Museum, PowerPoint presentations for French class, Physics graphing lessons, in-depth research on a particular author, up-to-the-minute discussions around current news stories and communication with students a continent away, are now possibilities.

This lab is mobile in the true sense. With the advent of spring, students may be seen using these labs for stream analysis in science, note-taking at a town board meeting for Participation in Government class or doing additional research on a play a student might be seeing in New York City over a school break. Usage has been brisk in the Humanities Academic Center where the mobile unit is housed. In the first 30 days of use, 55 classes accessed the lab. When the computers are not signed out to a particular class, students can access the iBooks for homework, individual research projects and for e-mailing assignments to teachers for review.





Red, White & Blue Birthday Celebration!

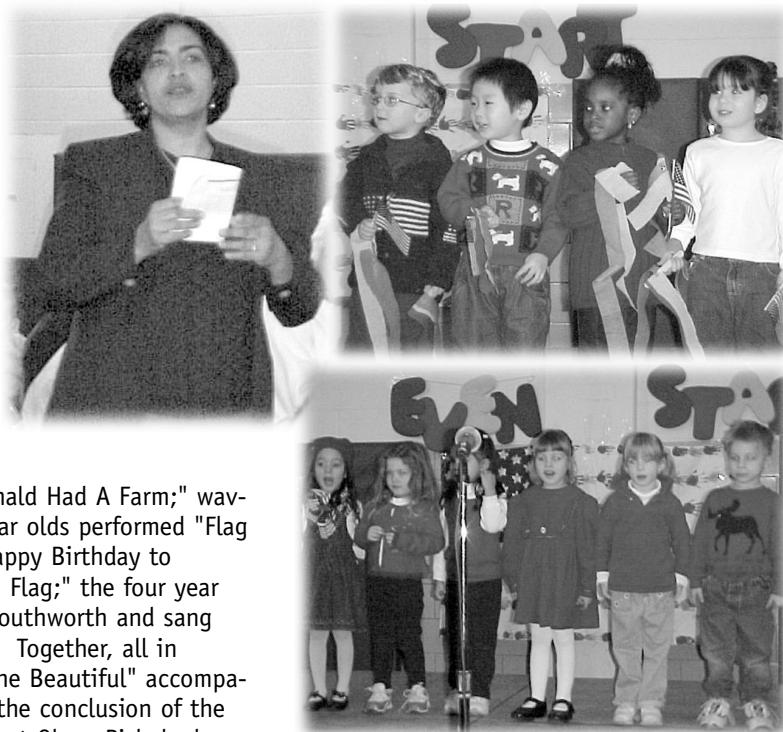
The District's Even Start Program celebrated its 10th birthday on March 6, 2002. Kay Lyons, Director of Family Services, welcomed students, staff and guests in the gymnasium of the Vollmer Building. Students dressed in red, white and blue, along with their patriotic props, performed center stage and stole the hearts of all who attended.

Kindergarten students recited the "Pledge of Allegiance" and sang the "Grand Old Flag;" two year olds recited "Red, White and Blue" and sang "Old MacDonald Had A Farm;" waving their flags, the three year olds performed "Flag of America," "Our Flag," "Happy Birthday to America" and the "American Flag;" the four year olds recited "The Flag" by Southworth and sang "He's Got the Whole World." Together, all in attendance sang "America the Beautiful" accompanied by Elaine Ferlicca. At the conclusion of the program, four-year-old student Olena Pishalenko helped Mrs. Lyons cut the birthday cake and all

joined in singing the American "Happy Birthday" song.

Also participating in the birthday celebration were adults enrolled in the Adult Literacy Program who presented the national anthems of their homeland. The national anthems from Afghanistan, Argentina, Brazil, Ancient China, Republic of China, Dominican Republic, India, Korea, Poland, Russia and Taiwan were either sung or read by adults, some wearing the dress of their homeland.

Also attending this special celebration were teachers and others who played key roles in the Even Start Program since its inception. This is an important program that, for many, is their first contact with the Rush-Henrietta Central School District. Red, white and blue . . . birthday wishes to Even Start for continued success.



Preschool Census For New Residents

To help the Rush-Henrietta Central School District plan for future space and personnel needs, we need to know about children birth to age 5 who are residing in our District. If you are new to the District and have children under the age of 5, please complete the information and return it to the address listed in the bottom right corner of the form. You may also call the Department of Information Systems at 359-7904 between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.

PRESCHOOL (Children under age 5) CENSUS

New to the R-H Central School District?

Please fill out!

Parents name(s): _____

Address: _____

Phone number: _____ Work phone number: _____

Child's name/Date of birth: _____

Please mail to: Department of Information Systems

Rush-Henrietta Central School District

150 Telephone Road

West Henrietta, New York 14586

Call 359-7904 (8 a.m.-4 p.m.) or mail to address at right.



Parents and Schools Partner to Promote Excellence

Do you think fishing boats should be allowed in water where whales swim? If four out of five doctors recommend a particular toothpaste, what percentage is that?

Those are two questions that parents found themselves answering with their children during an English-Language Arts [ELA] workshop on Saturday, January 12th and during a Mathematics workshop on Saturday, March 16th. The workshops were sponsored by the Parker Parent Group along with faculty and administrators from the District and provided information and strategies on how to pass state tests facing elementary and middle school students. "We feel that if kids know the type of questions they are facing and get a heads-up about what is on the tests, they should do better when they take the exams," said Fran Thorne, co-chair of the Parker Parent Group.

The English-Language Arts workshop was led by Dr. Helena Spring, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction, and Dr. Kenneth Hilton, Executive Director of School Improvement, along with teachers Denise Lindner, Lynn Marquart and Jeff Pollard. The team of educators provided an overview of the state's fourth and eighth grade English-Language Arts exams. The presenters explained how the exams are graded and along with other information, shared tips on how to answer certain questions.

"Besides helping students meet expectations for both the ELA and Mathematics exams, the workshops also strengthened a key element in learning . . . the connection



Students, parents and staff working together to prepare for state exams.

Tips for Success on ELA Exams

During the English-Language Arts workshop, educators provided the following suggestions for parents to help their children with their studies.

- Make sure students are reading and listening to different types of literature, including folk tales, poetry, newspapers, speeches, fiction and non-fiction.
- Set a daily reading time at home throughout the calendar year.
- When listening or reading to your child, ask questions like: What would you do if you were the main character in this story? Why do you think the author decided to do that? Can you compare the story with another story or poem you have read?
- Encourage children to keep a journal to support writing activities.
- Pick up books with your children at the library or local bookstore and be sure to discuss why a certain reading material was selected.
- Model good reading habits by reading often, to and with your child. Parents should discuss the items that they read. Also, try starting a family book club where each family member reads the same book and then discusses the material.
- Talk to your children about reading and writing. Talk about what good readers and writers do.
- Keep in touch with teachers to find other suggestions, reading materials and information.

Parents To Receive Partnership Schools Survey In April

An important goal for Rush-Henrietta schools is to encourage parent involvement in the education of their children. When parents, teachers and students work as partners in education, learning environments are created that have a positive impact on student success.

To build effective parent partnerships, schools and teachers must develop and implement partnership practices at each grade level. Some of these practices work well and others, sometimes not as well as we would like. To measure the effectiveness of parent partnership practices, District parents are asked to complete and return a Partnership Schools Survey each year. This survey asks parents to indicate their level of satisfaction with various parent involvement practices at Rush-Henrietta schools and to offer suggestions about steps that schools and teachers can take to improve parent involvement.

This year, in an effort to improve the number of parents returning this important survey, it will not be included in school newsletters as it has been in recent years. Instead, children in grades K-5 will take the survey home and the survey will be mailed to parents of students in grades 6-12. When the survey arrives, please complete it immediately and return it the next day. The survey will take approximately 20 minutes to complete.

Parent participation in this survey will help schools develop better parent involvement practices. The results of this important survey will help the District to better guide student success . . . one child at a time.

between school and home," Dr. Spring said. "I think parents underestimate the power that they have over their children's beliefs and values," she said. "If parents can use the same kind of language around these tasks that is used in school, that helps the child to make those connections throughout the day and develop a deeper understanding." Betsy Carosa brought her two children, Patsy, a fourth grader, and Teresa, an eighth grader, to the English-Language Arts workshop. "The workshop is great," she said. "I think it is a really helpful tool for parents and more so for students . . . to be able to understand what is on the test, get an example of the test and maybe somehow interpret what they need to do and what type of skills they need for the test."

Dr. Hilton added that schools need to partner with parents like Carosa and the Parker Parent Group to help students attain academic success. "Certainly one out of four major goals is to promote student achievement, but we do it in a variety of ways and one of those ways is by building the connection to the community, to parents and to families. That's what I really think happened here today," he said.

Dr. Hilton added that when children succeed academically, it is often at the encouragement and support of their parents. "I don't want to be trite, but the old adage, 'it takes a whole village (to raise a child)' is true," said Dr. Hilton. "I think that is one of the things that I like so much about what we did. The event was sponsored by a parent group, we invited parents to come and it ended with really concrete and good suggestions with what parents can do at home to continue to nurture a child who is going to love reading and writing."

Adding Up Math – Some Helpful Tips

At the Mathematics workshop, Jody Hoch, Director of Mathematics, provided the following ways that parents can help their children at home.

- Parents can use flash cards to help their children learn addition, subtraction, division and multiplication skills.
- Ask students how they solved a particular homework assignment? Ask how they solved the problem? Is there another way that the problem could be solved?
- Children can write out a short explanation of how they solved a problem in a few short sentences. This helps the child to better understand how they found a solution for the problem.
- Have daily conversations about things that are mathematical in daily life. For instance, figure out gas mileage together, figure out a restaurant tip and what does 20% off mean when buying a \$20 shirt? Also, discuss proportions. Is three out of five the same as 30 out of 50? What percentage is four out of five?
- Go to your child's teacher and discuss other ways that a student can get help.

"Any place there is a number you can have math and parents can have a discussion with their children behind it," Hoch added. Hoch said that parents can go onto the Internet to learn more about how to help their children. She recommended the following websites: www.showmecenter.missouri.edu and www.ed.gov/pubs/parents/hyc.html.



Teenage Employment Partnership Gains Momentum

Under the guidance of Peggy Tyler, Director of Career and Technical Education, the Teenage Employment Partnership [TEP] initiative continues to grow. With over 100 senior high school students employed by 34 area participating business partners, the innovative partnership is gaining momentum.

Designed to support academic achievement, the partnership is a collaborative effort between the Henrietta Commerce Network and the school district. To participate in the program, students must obtain a Certificate of Work Eligibility from school. To do so, students must have no more than one grade below 70 percent and have an attendance rate in school of 95 percent or better. Employers agree to require a teenage job applicant to provide a certificate of eligibility. Employers will receive notice if and when any student becomes ineligible to work. The partnership recommends that employers remind students that school is their number one job while a student.

Listed below are the employer partners currently enrolled in the Teenage Employment Partnership.

Altier's
Bill Gray's Restaurant
Boston Market
Brighton Campus Chiropractors
Broccolo Tree and Lawn Care, Inc.
Burger King
Chase Pitkin Home and Garden
Computer Renaissance
David's Bridal
Design Services, Inc.
Don's Original
Harris Garden Centers
Henrietta Public Library
Kids R Us
Klee's Mobil

Old Navy
Papa John's Pizza
Pizza Hut [3 locations]
Regal Cinemas Henrietta Cinema 18
Rochester Brooks Gun Club
Romano's Macaroni Grill
Rush Big M
Rush-Henrietta Central School District
Sharel Ventures-McDonald's [3 locations]
The Nichols Team
Town of Henrietta
Vallence Septic
Wal-Mart
Weider's Pro Hardware
Woodcrest Commons

Area employers not currently enrolled in the program are encouraged to join the partnership. For more information, please e-mail Ms. Tyler at ptyler@rhnet.org or call 359-5239.



Pictured left to right are Rae Carson, Sr. High School Counselor and Elizabeth Michel, the first student to receive a Certificate of Work Eligibility. Students must provide certificates to employers participating in the teen employment program.



April 15-19, 2002
Spring Recess

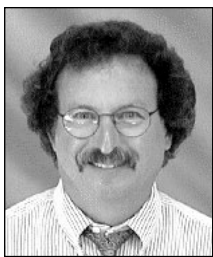
School will be closed
April 15-19th.
Classes will resume on
Monday, April 22nd.

National Teacher Appreciation Week

This year, Teacher Appreciation Week will be observed May 5-11, 2002. Please join the District in expressing gratitude to our teachers for their commitment to guiding the success of Rush-Henrietta students . . . one child at a time.



Karch Receives NYS Leadership Award



Martin A. Karch

On February 27, 2002, the School Administrators Association of New York State [SAANYS] presented the prestigious NYS Leadership and Support Award to Martin A. Karch, Director of Computer Services. This award was established by SAANYS to recognize outstanding leadership efforts of administrators whose responsibilities require leadership to provide support services to fellow administrators across and between districts.

Mr. Karch has been with the Rush-Henrietta Central School District for 29 years and is widely known for his contribution

to the advancement of education through technology. He has been instrumental in planning for the effective use of technology in R-H schools and for leading the District through the many challenges associated with the evolution of technology and its impact on both teaching and learning.

SAANYS represents over 6,300 school administrators, supervisors and coordinators. As a professional association, its commitment is to provide direction, service and support to the membership in efforts to improve the quality of education and leadership in New York State schools. Mr. David Rausch, President of SAANYS, attended the March 12th Rush-Henrietta Board of Education meeting and presented Mr. Karch with a plaque honoring his state level award.

R-H Football Field Earns National Award

Rush-Henrietta's Elmer L. Gordon Stadium football field has been rated the best high school field in the country. The Sports Turf Managers Association gave its 2001 Field of the Year Award to the Rush-Henrietta Central School District during an awards ceremony on January 18th in Las Vegas, Nevada. John Gaffney, head groundskeeper and Rush-Henrietta graduate, was on hand to receive the award. "It is a dream come true," he said. "In this business, to get recognition like that on a national level is pretty incredible. It's as good as it gets." The Field of the Year awards are presented for top maintenance of natural playing surfaces and appearance.

"The commitment to excellence by John Gaffney and his staff to overall field quality, safety, playability and appearance earned the Field of the Year honors," noted Steve Trusty, Executive Director of the Sports Turf Managers Association. The association is a non-profit international organization comprised of approximately 2,300 sports turf managers and groundskeepers across the United States and around the world. Members include public school districts, municipal recreation departments, as well as college and professional stadium managers.

Nick Redanty is the Commercial and Sports Turf Division Manager for the S.V. Moffett Co., Inc., which supplies large area mowers, irrigation supplies and field grooming equipment to the Rush-

Henrietta Central School District. "I see a dedicated staff," said Redanty, a Henrietta resident, about the District's groundscrew. "I see a grounds supervisor that tries to gain as much information and knowledge as he can to help. I see a District that is willing to support their efforts and you see a group of individuals who love their jobs. They care about what they do."

The football field was named in honor of Elmer L. Gordon on May 4, 1980 as a tribute to the former Board of Education member. Mr. Gordon was also a community activist serving on Henrietta's Cable Television Committee and the Board of Directors for both the Al Sigl Center and the Rochester Area Multiple Sclerosis Association. He was also the chairman of the Monroe County Health Department Affirmative Action Committee and was a past president of the Monroe County School Boards Association. A day before his untimely death on September 1, 1979, he was using a phone by his hospital bed to check up on school board activities.

Besides Gaffney, John DaGama, Don Wheeler, Kent Porter, Ron Tirabassi, Bill Ladd and Jeff Brown all work on the field and the other 275 acres of land that the Rush-Henrietta Central School District maintains in Henrietta and Rush.

About two years ago, the grounds staff received the Beautification Award from the Henrietta Commerce Network. "Everybody works hard," said Gaffney. "Everyone enjoys what they do and that's what makes the difference. Everyone takes a lot of pride in it."



Dr. J. Kenneth Graham, Jr., Superintendent of Schools, congratulates John Gaffney, the District's head groundskeeper, and the District grounds crew as recipients of the well-earned Football Field of the Year Award. Standing left to right are Bill Ladd, John Gaffney, Dr. Kenneth Graham, Jeff Brown and Don Wheeler. Kneeling is Kent Porter, Ron Tirabassi, John DaGama and Rick Page, Assistant Superintendent, School Operations. Missing from the photo is Stan Polmateer, Director, Facilities.



NEWSMAKERS

Winslow Student Selected As Magical Kid

Samantha Wood, a fifth grade student from Winslow Elementary School was recently selected to be featured as one of Molye Chevrolet's Magical Kids. Time Warner Cable and Molye Chevy-Olds in Honeoye Falls have teamed up for the Molye's Magical Kids Promotion. Every month there is one special child selected for doing great things. Each child selected is "magical" in some way . . . kids who have great grades as well as volunteering, kids who have overcome disabilities or illness or maybe kids who have done something heroic. Samantha was selected for her excellent improvement with attendance, as well as her success as a dependable and positive school safety patrol member. She was interviewed by RNews Kids Capsule anchor Kate Welshofer and was featured throughout the month of March during Kids Capsule segments.

Cheerleaders Selected to go to Pro Bowl

While competing at last year's Nationals, cheerleaders **Amanda Locke** and **Jenna Demersman** were chosen to go to the Pro Bowl this year by judges from the All American Cheer Association. The girls were nominated by their coach and were chosen based on their leadership skills, athletic ability, academics, and sportsmanship. While in Hawaii, the cheerleaders competed for individual scholarships of up to \$25,000, as well as cheered at the Pro Bowl football game.

Leary Elementary School Recognized for Partnership Project

As a Partnership School, **Leary Elementary School** received recognition in the Fall 2001 issue of *Type 2*, the national publication of the National Network of Partnership Schools [NNPS]. Leary was recognized for partnership efforts to help students and families transition from elementary school into middle school. In the article, Leary was noted for successfully meeting the challenge by extending an invitation to middle school sixth graders to return and speak to fifth graders about what to expect the following year. In addition, parents of middle school students talk with parents of elementary children who will soon move into middle school, share their experiences and explain what to expect from their children and from the middle school staff. NNPS is committed to helping schools, districts and states improve their programs of school, family and

community partnerships to increase student success. For other partnership practices, view the NNPS Promising Partnership Practices 2001 at www.partnershipschools.org. To view the document click on In The Spotlight.

Local Celebrities Read at Sherman PARP Event

Sherman Elementary School concluded its annual Parents As Reading Partners [PARP] Program with a read-in featuring celebrity readers who spent an evening with the Sherman school community. Among the celebrity readers joining parents and R-H staff members were Mike Power, representing RG&E; Kathy Kriz of CH13; Shelly Ribando from CH10; K. B. Cooper from WBEE; Parker Allen, Account Executive with the Rochester Red Wings; Illustrator James Cote and Major John O'Connor from the Air Force National Guard.

Roth Spelling Bee

The Roth Middle School Oral Spelling Bee was held Tuesday evening, February 26th. Twenty students from grades 6, 7 and 8 participated in the two-hour competition. This year's top spellers were as follows: **Heather Burgess**—4th place alternate, **Stephen Goehring**—3rd place, **Julia Eddy**—2nd place and **Preshita Date**—1st place. The winning word was "quadrumanous" [defined as having four hands].

The top three spellers will compete against the top spellers from other schools in the area at the Regional Spelling Bee (sponsored by the Democrat and Chronicle) at the Memorial Art Gallery. One winner will be selected from the Regional Spelling Bee to represent Monroe County at the Scripps Howard National Spelling Bee in Washington, D.C. in May.

Burger Student to Compete in State Level GeoBee

Tyler Lucero, an 8th grade student at Burger Middle School has qualified to compete in the New York State finals of the National Geographic Society's GeoBee to be held in Albany on April 5th. After winning his school bee, Tyler competed against school winners from across New York State in a written test to qualify for the state finals. The top qualifiers will meet in Albany to vie for the opportunity to represent New York in the National GeoBee hosted by Alex Trebek in Washington, D.C. this May.

Senior High Student Wins Super Teens Contest

The *Next Step Magazine* has chosen **Aaron Johnson** as one of 25 New York State winners of their fourth annual Super Teens contest. The teens were chosen for their excellence in community service, part-time work, extracurricular activities, athletics and grades. The *Next Step Magazine* is a college, career and life-planning magazine for students preparing for life after high school. It publishes in 15 states, Canada, the Caribbean and Southeast Asia.

R-H DECA Members Win at Regionals

On Thursday, January 10th, members from the Rush-Henrietta DECA Chapter participated in the New York State regional elimination contests at Monroe Community College's Brighton Campus. Eight high school DECA chapters and some 300 plus students from the Rochester region were in attendance. Five R-H chapter members qualified to represent our area at the NYS Career Conference on March 6-8, 2002.

Representing the Rochester area at states were **Erica Hardy** [Retail Merchandising], **Jennifer Irwin** and **Kristin Germeroth** [Food Marketing], **Heather McArthur** [Public Speaking] and **Lindsey Walters** [Management Decision Making-Human Relations]. Also attending the regional contests from R-H were **Kristin Baker**, **Cody Baker**, **Patricia Barker**, **Stephanie Edelman**, chapter president **Tim Faubert**, **Tameesha Gamble**, **Elyse Greds**, **Kristina Heyd**, **Tim Jansen**, **Karolina Kotas**, **Caitlin Macauley**, **Samantha Mooney**, **Joe Moore**, **Jeremy Moose**, **Elizabeth Pennella** and **David Vilinsky**.

DECA is both a high school and a college student organization promoting marketing and retailing education nationwide. The students participate in leadership, management and marketing projects throughout the year.

2002 R-H Transportation Employees of the Year

Carl Desens and **Wayne Burdett** were selected as the 2002 Rush-Henrietta Transportation Employees of the Year. These gentlemen fit all criteria set forth by the Rochester Area Transportation Supervisors Association . . . safety record, attendance, friendly disposition, readily accepts and exceeds responsibilities and relates well with fellow workers, parents and children. They will be honored at a reception in May.



FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Elementary Art Show

The Elementary Art Show continues through April 12th. Please stop by the Ninth Grade Academy Board Room to view the wonderful artwork created by our elementary students. They've done a wonderful job!

Child Safety Day-April 27, 2002

On Saturday, April 27th, over 20 community organizations will be on hand to show children how to stay safe while doing the many things that they do. This is a free event hosted by American Legion Post #1830 and is open to the public. The event runs from 1-5 p.m. and will be located at 450 Chili-Scottsville Road [the Legion's grounds]. There will be free refreshments and entertainment! If you'd like more information, please call Ellen Russell at 293-9187.

District Activates Tip Line [359-STOP]

As part of continuous efforts to ensure safety throughout the school community, the District has activated a Safety Tip Line. This number, 359-7867 [STOP], is for students, staff, parents or community residents who wish to report situations that may pose a threat to the safety or well-being of R-H students, staff and/or school property. This line will be checked twice daily and calls will be referred to the appropriate school administrator. All calls will remain confidential; however, if callers want to be contacted, they may leave a telephone number where they can be reached. This telephone message line is an important component of the District's SAVE Legislation Plan. It is intended to STOP and prevent any harmful acts before they happen and to provide a communication vehicle for students and others that will help to promote a caring school community environment.

Class of '77 Plans 25th Reunion

The R-H Class of 1977 will be holding their 25th reunion July 19-21, 2002. There will be a golf outing at Shadow Lake on Friday, July 19th at 10 a.m. and a casual gathering at a location yet to be determined on Friday evening. On Saturday evening, July 20th, there will be a dinner/dance held at Locust Hill Country Club beginning at 6 p.m. On Sunday the 21st, there will be a family picnic at Henrietta Town Park. Information packets will be mailed in April by the 25th Reunion Committee consisting of Sandy Cochrane Jaques, Gretchen Stahr Deeley, Laurie Weltzer Tokarz, Dan Head, John Baughman, Chuck Warfield, Tony Giles and Ron Boillat.

There are several class members enrolled at classmates.com and classmates are encouraged to enroll so that the committee will have access to e-mail addresses. Members of the Class of '77 are urged to visit the Rush-Henrietta Central School District website at rhnet.org and click on Alumni Relations for further updates. For additional information, please contact Laurie Weltzer Tokarz at ltokarz@rochester.rr.com.

Summer School of the Arts

The Summer School of the Arts program, coordinated in partnership with Monroe #1 BOCES and Nazareth College of Rochester, is an immersion experience offering three [3] components from which a student may choose: theatre performance, visual arts or musical theatre. Classes run from July 8th to July 26th at the Nazareth College Arts Center. Students having artistic talents who are entering 9th through 12th grades are encouraged to apply. For more information or to request an application, please call 249-7026.

Community Quilt Project

There is still time to participate as a family, school or group in the Community Quilt Project which will become a part of the heritage of Rush-Henrietta. All are invited to create a quilt square that best illustrates what your group contributes to the Rush-Henrietta community. All quilt squares will be stitched together to form a picture of the community of which you are a piece!

Quilting kits are still available at the Senior High School and at the Town of Henrietta Youth and Recreation Department. Also, there are still two special classes for those who wish to create a square from scratch at JoAnn Etc. in South Town Plaza: Saturday, April 6th from 2 to 4 p.m. and Friday, April 26th from 6 to 8 p.m. JoAnn, Etc. is offering support, discounts and classes to those who would like help or who wish to be extra creative with their square. To register or for more information, please call 427-2738, #8.

The deadline for completing the quilt squares is May 1st. Anyone wishing to help assemble the quilt may call Lisa Nichols at 359-2540.

This exciting community-wide asset project is funded by the Senior High School Health and Wellness team as part of the District's Asset Building Initiative, Healthy Community-Healthy Youth. For general information about the quilt project, please contact Linda Blake, art teacher at the Senior High School, by calling 359-5183, 1343# or Lisa Nichols, School/Community Asset Liaison at the Town of Henrietta Youth Bureau, at 359-2540.

Board Candidates' Night

On Monday, May 6th the District Parent Advisory Council will host the annual Board of Education Candidates' Night. The community is encouraged to attend and meet the candidates running for election to the Board of Education. The meeting will start at 7 p.m. in the Roth Middle School cafeteria, located at 4000 East Henrietta Road. For more information, please contact Diane Deane, DPAC Chair, at 334-4267.

Tune In To RHTV!

Community residents are encouraged to tune in to the District's RHTV cable television program that is cablecast twice per month. The RHTV program generally appears on CH15 from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month. For those who do not have cable access, tapes of each program are available for loan and can be reserved by calling the District reception desk at 359-5000.

FOUNDATION NEWS

RHEF Awards Grants for 2002

To date, the Rush-Henrietta Education Foundation [RHEF], has awarded over \$4,000 to fund mini-grants in the District this school year. The grants awarded have been spread across the District and include support for the Even Start Program, elementary, middle and senior high school projects.

The Rush-Henrietta Education Foundation, a component fund of the Rochester Area Community Foundation, is proud to support educational initiatives that extend beyond the scope of the District budget. RHEF expresses its sincere thanks to the Rush-Henrietta community for its many charitable gifts and its commitment to excellence. To learn more about RHEF, visit www.rhnet.org, and click on EDUCATION FOUNDATION or call 359-5008.

District To Host NYS Track & Field Events

The District has accepted the invitation to host the 2002 Section V "Meet of Champions" on June 1, 2002 and the 2002 New York State Track and Field Championships from June 6-8th. These two events provide regional and statewide recognition for the District and its athletic programs. Hosting these events provides an opportunity to showcase District facilities and the warm hospitality that Rush-Henrietta is so well known for.

The Rush-Henrietta Education Foundation [RHEF] is coordinating fundraising activities related to these two events. RHEF is working with other groups in the District to provide services to participants and spectators attending these events. The Foundation is seeking volunteers to help at all events. If interested in volunteering and supporting the work of the Foundation which, in turn, enriches educational opportunities for Rush-Henrietta students, please call and leave a message at 359-5008 or contact Charley Lookup at 334-1300.

Rush-Henrietta Central School District

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"MUSIC . . . PASS IT ON!"

District Orchestra Festival Takes Center Stage At Dome Arena



Photo courtesy of Patrick A. St. Clair

Over 600 students in grades 4-12 performed in the District Orchestra Festival held at the Dome Arena on March 5, 2002. Enjoyed by parents, families, friends and community residents, the event, which was held in observance of "Music In Our Schools Month," was a celebration of both student and staff accomplishments. With declining enrollment in the '70s, the District's string program was eliminated. Since 1984, when it was reinstated, the string program continues to grow and the commitment of District resources enables the rich tradition of music to be passed on in Rush-Henrietta schools.