



Community Newsletter

JANUARY 2002

Guiding Student Success...One Child At A Time

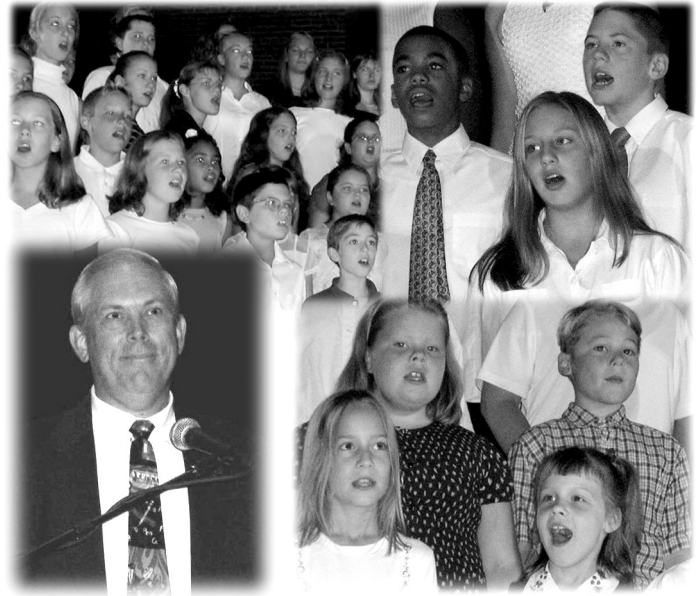
During this school year's staff kick-off event, District staff were welcomed to the 2001-2002 school year on September 5, 2001 by Dr. Kenneth Graham, Superintendent of Schools, and a Districtwide student chorus of over 100. In his welcome, Dr. Graham said, "Please remember that each of you play an important role in the education of Rush-Henrietta children. Together, we share the responsibility for guiding student success in a caring school environment in which R-H students feel safe and valued."

To recognize the important role that each staff member plays in the education of Rush-Henrietta children, the chorus sang *One Child At A Time*, the theme song of National Partners In Education. The lyrics, by Nnenna Freelon, spokesperson for the national organization that works to promote and support collaborative efforts to help prepare young people for productive futures, are especially meaningful for District residents as well.

The Districtwide chorus provided inspirational entertainment for the event. Under the direction of music teachers Christine Sargent, Sheila Sullivan Buck, Jane Curry, Jamie Kazacos and Carol Lamica, the students worked over the summer to prepare the musical presentation along with Marilyn Haverly, accompanist.

As stakeholders in our school community, all adults, whether parent, friend, neighbor, employer or mentor, play important roles in the lives of R-H students. Together, we can nurture and guide student success...One Child At A Time. The accompanying lyrics not only speak well to all involved in the delivery of educational services, but also to how each member of our community, in whatever role, can make a difference in the life of one child at a time.

Guiding Student Success...One Child At A Time is this year's District theme. Throughout the 2001-2002 school year, the District will continue to focus on setting high academic expectations for students and providing each student with the instructional support needed to meet these expectations.



Dr. Kenneth Graham, Superintendent of Schools, and students welcome staff to the 2001-2002 school year.

One Child At A Time

One Child At A Time, one small question answered,
Just one story read, one promise kept,
This is all it takes to nurture,
Change tomorrow, touch the future,
We can turn the world around...one child.

One hand held so tight, one dream lifted higher,
One shoulder strong to lean upon,
One person makes the difference,
One heart that truly listens,
We can turn the world around...one child,
We can turn the world around...one child,
We can turn the world around...One Child At A Time.

We all have a part to play, teacher, friend, or mentor,
We'll make it a brighter day with children in the center,
Do you have the heart to be a partner?
Give these young dreams strong wings so they can fly!

One voluntary heart, one who'll go the distance,
The future lies in upturned eyes,
You'll never stand so tall, as when you help somebody small,
We can turn the world around...one child,
We can turn the world around...one child,
We can turn the world around...One Child At A Time.
One Child At A Time...
We can turn the world around...One Child At A Time.



FROM THE BOARD

Dear Community Residents:

With the advent of a new year, I am confident that our school community is more united than ever as we join all of America in its quest for the restoration of more peaceful times.



David R. Pennella

For many, September 11, 2001 will be the most traumatic event ever experienced in life. Senseless acts of terrorism have impacted our daily lives and life, as we once knew it, has changed.

Along with the rest of the world, we have learned many painful lessons and faced difficult decisions associated with shock, confusion, dismay, fear and anxiety.

We are blessed to have a strong community that believes in service to others. District residents, parents and staff are to be applauded for their sincere commitment to maintaining safe and secure environments for our children while in the classroom and beyond.

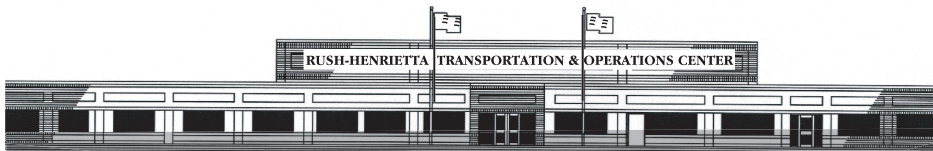
As we begin the new year, may we not only remember those who have innocently lost their lives, but also honor those who continue to defend our homeland. May we pay special tribute to the many individuals and organizations in

our own community for their continued service to others.

While it is true that our challenges are far greater than ever before, we have much to be thankful for and many successes to celebrate. I look forward to your continued support for initiatives that ensure the advancement of education. Best wishes to you and yours for peace and good health in the new year.

Sincerely,

David R. Pennella, President
Board of Education



Voters Approve Transportation/Operations Center

On October 10, 2001, voters in the Rush-Henrietta Central School District approved a proposal for a new District Transportation and Operations Center to be located at the southeast corner at the intersection of Lehigh Station and Middle roads. The vote was approved by a 3-to-1 margin.

The plan is for a maximum cost of \$9,435,000. After state building aid, the total cost to District taxpayers is expected to be \$4.4 million. The project includes the acquisition of 56.7 acres; site development; sewer implementation; permits and easements; general construction; architect, engineering, insurance, legal fees; and equipment costs.

The construction of a large, modern, centrally located facility will ensure the effective utilization of resources and the efficient delivery of quality services well into the foreseeable future.

The next step in the process will be to develop detailed plans and submit them for approval to the State Education Department. Construction is expected to begin in the fall of 2002.

The Board of Education expresses its sincere gratitude to the community for their support of this proposal.

Healthy Children Make Healthy Communities

CHILD HEALTH PLUS is New York's free or very low cost health insurance for children from birth through age 18, who are not covered by another insurance plan. Benefits include well child check-ups; immunizations; visits to doctors' offices; laboratory tests and x-rays; eye care; speech and hearing services; dental care; prescription drugs; emergency medical care; inpatient hospital care; selected outpatient services; non-prescription drugs; durable medical equipment; inpatient mental health; and alcohol and substance abuse treatment.

For more information regarding income guidelines and co-payments, please call the Blue Cross Blue Shield Customer Service Department at 585-546-3559 or 800-650-4359 or the School Nurse Teacher at your child's school.



2001-2002 District Priorities

As Adopted by the Board of Education on September 18, 2001

Each year the Board of Education adopts District Priorities to guide student success in the current school year. Priorities focus on improving school and District capacities in key result areas that support high student achievement and performance.

Student Learning

- Two areas of student learning are targeted for improvement - Expository Writing and Math. To improve our students' expository [non-fiction] writing skills, we will continue to strengthen task analysis and writing organization skills at all grades across all content areas. In Math, we will improve our students' math comprehension and applied problem solving skills. To do this, we will begin to implement two new math programs - Math Solutions at elementary schools and Connected Math at middle schools. Improved student learning in Expository Writing and Math will be reflected by improved student performance on state assessments.
- To improve student learning and performance in all content areas, we will expand the use of computers and distance learning for teaching and learning. This technology integration goal will be accomplished by increasing the use of computers at elementary schools, increasing the number of students participating in distance learning and completing a five-year K-12 technology integration plan.

Student Support Services

- To provide our students with physically and emotionally safe learning environments, we will enthusiastically implement all aspects of New York State's new SAVE legislation [Safe Schools Against Violence in Education]. SAVE implementation will include establishing procedures

for enforcing new student codes of conduct, conducting violence prevention training, developing and implementing new building safety plans and completing criminal background checks on new employees. We will also issue photo identification cards to all staff and establish a school safety "tip" line. We will make these changes not because they are required by law, but instead, because these legislative requirements help create the type of learning environment we want for our students and staff - learning environments that do not tolerate violent or disruptive behavior, bullying or any other form of harassment or inappropriate displays of affection.

- Student asset building will continue at all schools, with an emphasis on increasing the number of students reporting "caring school environments" [Asset #5]. This goal will be accomplished by increasing stakeholder participation on school wellness teams and organizing school activities that make students feel more cared about in school.

Stakeholder Relationships

- To encourage parent involvement and community support for our schools, we will improve methods for keeping parents and community residents informed about school and District affairs. This goal will be accomplished by improving the content of the District website and by beginning to use Cable TV as a medium to enhance communication with stakeholders. Cablecasting will build

greater awareness for the programs and services of the District available to children, their families and community residents. Cable programming will also provide opportunities to celebrate some of the many successes of our students and staff and share experiences that students have in both the classroom and community.

- Partnerships with businesses, colleges and community organizations will continue to be critical factors that influence and contribute to student learning. To expand these partnerships, the District, in collaboration with the Henrietta Commerce Network, will launch a Teenage Employment Partnership. This partnership will let our young people know that local employers, as well as educators, have a strong commitment to student learning. Through the joint efforts of local employers and educators, students will be mindful of the fact that while they attend Rush-Henrietta schools, doing well in school is their number one job.

Administration and Operations

- To ensure long-term capacity for student transportation services, meeting space and storage, if approved by voters, the District will begin to implement its plan to build a new Transportation and Operations Center at the corner of Lehigh Station and Middle roads. In addition, plans will be developed to provide long-term capacity for instruction and office space.



NEWSMAKERS

Students Selected to 2001 NYSSMA All-State Conference

Four students from R-H Senior High School were selected for the 2001 New York State School Music Association [NYSSMA] All-State Conference held in Rochester from November 25-28. Thousands of students auditioned for this honor last spring at Solo and Ensemble Festivals throughout the state. Frank Acito, bass, and Meghan Beattie, soprano, were selected for the Mixed Chorus. Kathryn Sturm, violoncello, has been selected for the Symphony Orchestra. Lindsay Heckler, flute, has been selected as an alternate for the Band.

Rotary Club Announces Out-Bound Student

The Rush-Henrietta Rotary Club has chosen its out-bound exchange student for the 2002-2003 school year. Nina Fernandez, a 12th grader in the senior high school was selected. In early January, after the annual District interview weekend, Nina will learn which country she will be going to. She'll be leaving for that country in mid-August 2002 and living and studying there through the 2002-2003 school year. Nina is one of 10,000 teenagers each year who are chosen by Rotary Clubs in 160 countries to live abroad for a year, serving as "good will ambassadors," and as representatives of their communities and countries.

A Time To Shine!

The Office of Community Relations recently received three awards in the 22nd Annual New York School Public Relations Association Communication Contest for projects completed during the 2000-2001 school year. Received were an Award of Honor for the redesign of the District website and two Awards of Merit . . . one in the Special Purpose Publications category for a Ninth Grade Academy keepsake piece and the other was in the In-House Production-Color Ink category for the Budget Flyer. The awards were presented at the annual NYS School Boards Convention in Buffalo

and were among those submitted by 118 school districts. Entries in the contest were judged by school public relations colleagues from across the United States and representatives from corporate America.

Walking for Cures

It is with pride that staff and students continue to participate in walks and runs to raise money for various cures. Two examples include the Walk Against Breast Cancer and the Walk for Cure.

- Many students from Crane Elementary School recently walked or ran during Physical Education classes to raise money for the Walk For Cure fund. "Kids for Cure" participants from Crane raised \$7,161.60, a remarkable amount of money!
- Over 200 R-H staff and students participated in the annual Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk on October 14, 2001. Donations from this event were in excess of \$9000. R-H staff and students joined over 7,000 people who took part in the walk through which The American Cancer Society raised over \$600,000. All contributions help in the fight against this terrible disease, which has taken or impacted the lives of so many families in our school community. This year's District co-captains of the walk were Tess Richard and Lea Theuer.

Fyle Elementary Staff Featured on Library of Congress Website

Gail Petri, librarian and Doris Waud, fifth grade teacher, both of Fyle Elementary School, have recently been included on the Library of Congress [LOC] website. Together, they wrote an article featuring Fyle's Get Tech Day and created an "American Symbols" online activity that Doris did with her class for inclusion in the 2nd edition of the LOC American Memory Website Newsletter, a source of practical teaching ideas for American Memory. Such ideas are

intended to help teachers introduce students to the rich collections of materials . . . photographs, movies, sound recordings, oral histories, baseball cards and much more.

In addition, Doris and Gail have also recently had their ideas published in "A Time For Kids" publication called "99 Ways to Use the Internet," which was included as a supplement in a recent edition of "A Time For Kids World Report."

Contributions such as this are just two examples of the outstanding work being done by Rush-Henrietta staff to support both teaching and learning and demonstrates the enthusiasm with which R-H staff share best practices with other educators.

Amazing Person Award

The New York State Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance Association, has announced that Paula Summit [Winslow Elementary School] is the recipient of an Amazing Person Award from the NYS Elementary Middle School Physical Education Section for her work at the state level. Paula received this award for her outstanding work at the New York State Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance Amazing People Awards this past November at the Rochester Hyatt Regency.

Thank You!

The trustees of the Rush-Henrietta Education Foundation [RHEF] thank the R-H school community for contributing to the success of the 2nd annual RHEF Homecoming Breakfast on September 29. Special thanks goes to John Nichols and The Nichols Team for their generous underwriting support, allowing all of the event proceeds to go directly to RHEF grant making. RHEF grants benefit R-H students and teachers in ways that the operating budget cannot support.

RHEF Names Distinguished Alumni

The Rush-Henrietta Education Foundation [RHEF] presented their 2nd annual R-H Distinguished Alumni awards during the half-time ceremonies of the Homecoming football game on October 6th. The recipients are Elma Bellini, Class of 1972, and George Haberberger, Class of 1984.

Elma Bellini attended what was formerly the Sperry Building for her high school education. She was an avid fan of R-H sports, especially football and wrestling. A graduate of both Monroe Community College and SUNY Brockport, she received her degree in elementary education. After several years as a teacher and working in the business world, she entered Syracuse Law School and graduated in 1986. She went into private practice and focused on criminal and family law before joining the Monroe County Public Defender's Office in 1989.

Ms. Bellini was appointed to the bench by Governor George Pataki in June 2000, and was elected to a full ten-year term as Monroe County Court Judge in November 2000. Judge Bellini has been active in the community throughout her career. Her involvement with Camp Good Days spans 15 years as volunteer, counselor, board member and honorary trustee. She has also been active with Big Brothers Big Sisters as a board member, the Italian American Women's Civic Club and Families for Children From China. She returned to R-H in years past as a speaker in the Law Explorer's Program. She and her husband, James Stevenson, are the parents of a 5-year-old daughter.



Elma Bellini



George Haberberger

George Haberberger is a graduate of Sperry High School. He played both baritone and trombone and was active in the concert band and jazz ensemble. He is a graduate of Penn State University with a degree in aerospace engineering and he attended graduate school at North Carolina State University. Haberberger worked for BCC Software in software testing and quality assurance, and he rewrote their software manual before joining the Xerox DocuTech team. He has been with Xerox for 11 years and is currently a Technical Support Engineer. In 1999 he authored the "Samba Administration Handbook," which was so well received that the following year he was contracted to write "Samba for Dummies." [Samba is a software suite that allows computers running Windows and computers running UNIX or Linux to communicate with each other.] Haberberger and his wife Mary are busy with their two

daughters, a 5-year-old and an infant.

Kathleen Martin, former Chairperson of RHEF, said, "We are pleased to continue this new tradition in the District and welcome nominations for future awardees at any time. An on-line nomination form can be obtained on the RHEF web page of the RHCS D website at www.rhnet.org."

R-H Administrators Recognized

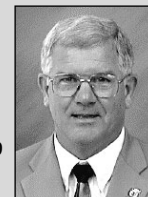
- Two R-H administrators have been nominated by regional colleagues to receive awards from SAANYS [School Administrators Association of NYS]. **Sue Mills**, Principal of Leary Elementary School, was selected as a regional recipient of the Distinguished Elementary Principal Award. She is one of 12 statewide finalists for this special recognition. She continues to set the pace, character and quality of education for the children at Leary.



Marty Karch, Director of Computer Services, was selected as a regional recipient of the Leadership and Support Award. He is being recognized for

his outstanding leadership to provide support services to fellow administrators across and between districts.

- Rick Page**, Assistant Superintendent for School Operations, was inducted into the Cortland College C-Club Hall of Fame on October 6, 2001. The C-Club Hall of Fame recognizes college alumni who competed as athletes and who have since distinguished themselves in their professions and within their communities. Page exemplifies this criteria in the Rush-Henrietta school community and well beyond. Of special note, he and his father, Maurice Page, are the only father and son duo inducted into the C-Club Hall of Fame in the history of the college.





Fyle Fifth Grade Students Study Immigration

In light of recent world events, Fyle Elementary fifth grade students in Doris Waud's class have been discussing current immigration trends and have also created immigration scrapbooks.

Students listened to and read articles about immigration from the perspective of the main immigration period from 1880-1920. They discovered that people immigrated to the United States for a variety of reasons. They read about immigration laws, discussing changes that have been made to limit numbers of new immigrants.

Current world events were incorporated into discussions with students realizing the value of our freedom and form of government. They also read "New Kids in Town" to learn about modern day teenage immigrants and the many challenges they face. This project was based on Social

Studies, English Language Arts, Math, Science and Technology standards. To integrate technology into the project, students used the internet to locate and print

documents related to immigration. They divided into groups and researched assigned topics using the R-H library links sites prepared by Gail Petri, Fyle Elementary School librarian. The topics included Ellis Island, Immigrant Photos, Documents, Inspections, Living Quarters, the Statue of Liberty and Immigration Statistics.

As part of the project, students assembled immigration scrapbooks of pictures and documents. On

December 13, 2001, the fifth graders shared "their" stories with peers, parents and staff.



Budget Update

The development of the 2002-2003 school budget is well underway. The Board of Education held its annual Pre-Budget Hearing in November and the Budget Advisory Committee has been meeting regularly.

Rush-Henrietta, like all school districts, is facing many new challenges, most of which will have financial impact. The destruction resulting from the tragic events of September 11th is expected to have devastating effects on the New York State budget. The timeliness of the state budget will no longer be the District's biggest concern. It is anticipated that there will be billions of dollars in lost revenue

for all New Yorkers, as well as increased expenses for the fight against terrorism, homeland security, disaster relief and for the rebuilding of New York City and the Pentagon.

We now know that there will not be any additional funds for schools attached to this year's New York State baseline budget as earlier thought. This means that Rush-Henrietta, like other districts, will be using fund balances to offset unexpected expenses for this and future school years. In addition, interest and earnings have significantly 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. Rising costs coupled with the loss of

revenue will make our efforts to guide student success at current levels very difficult.

As all of America struggles to maintain economic strength, local communities will feel the impact. While it is true that at this time the total impact has not been determined, we do know that our challenges are far greater than ever before. As in past years, great care will be given to ensure an academically sound and fiscally responsible budget. Throughout the remaining 2002-2003 budget development process, it will be critical that community residents remain well informed and united as we continue to work together to meet current and future needs.

Roth Middle School National Junior Honor Society Hosts "Breakfast for Seniors"

On Friday, December 14, 2001, the Roth Middle School National Junior Honor Society hosted a "Breakfast for Seniors." The goal of the NJHS is to teach students the value of giving back to their community. Invitations went out, responses came in, all arrangements were made, including transportation which was provided from four different sites, and 150 senior citizens from the Henrietta and Rush area attended. The seniors enjoyed breakfast, which was served by students of the NJHS, and then were treated to a concert performed by the following Roth Middle School groups: 7th Grade Chorus, Dedicated Voices, Woodwind Ensemble, Jazz Ensemble and the String Ensemble.

Planning for the breakfast began in October when the students sold Entertainment Books to raise the money needed to pay for the breakfast. While it was a lot of work for students, they appeared to enjoy the event as much as their guests. A special thank you to Mrs. Lynda Goldstein and Ms. Kristen Pencek, NJHS advisors, for their guidance in making the breakfast such a successful event and to Roth Middle School staff who supported their efforts.



Roth Middle School students and guests.

EMCC's 1st Quarter Honor Roll

Twenty-one Rush-Henrietta High School students and one Henrietta Christian High School student have been named to the Eastern Monroe Career Center's 1st quarter Honor Roll for maintaining an "A" average in their vocational education classes.

High School students honored are:

Joshua Baker, Joseph Watlack,
John Watson
(Criminal Justice)

Stephanie Barraco
(Culinary Arts)

Matthew Batista, Nicholas Benner,
Brandon Detlef, Shane Hewitt,
Joel Rosenau, Bradley Schell,
Reinaldo Vasquez
(Auto Services)

Thomas Briggs
(Welding)

Erica Burdick
(Photography)

Scott Burdick, Kevin Kneller,
Craig Strassner
(Carpentry)

Chad Krause and John Sullivan
(Trade Electricity)

Stephanie Mueller
(Travel and Tourism)

Shannon Peets
(Early Childhood Education)

Jessica Walker
(Radio & TV Broadcasting)

The Eastern Monroe Career Center vocational education program is offered cooperatively by the 10 eastside suburban school districts through Monroe #1 Board of Cooperative Educational Services. Students may choose from 21 courses as an extension of their high school programs.



Local Leaders Applaud School-Business Partnership

State Senator Jim Alesi and Town of Henrietta Supervisor Jim Breese have endorsed the Teenage Employment Partnership, an innovative program among area businesses and the Rush-Henrietta Central School District. The partnership is designed to monitor the academic progress of students who work as teen employees. It was launched on September 26, 2001 in collaboration with Gary Blake, President of the Henrietta Commerce Network and Dr. Kenneth Graham, Superintendent of Schools.

"Time and time again, students are torn between their commitment to school work and their desire to earn an income," noted Senator Alesi who represents Henrietta and is the chairman of the Senate's Commerce, Economic Development & Small Business Committee. "This balancing act too often compromises a youth's academic achievement, adversely affecting his or her future. By focusing on the positive aspects of teenage employment while continuing to emphasize the importance of education, the result will be enriched and accomplished young people."

Dr. Graham said that students who devote more than 20 hours per week at work often experience difficulty in the classroom such as low grades and poor attendance. "The Rush-Henrietta Central School District and the Henrietta Commerce Network have worked closely with business people to develop a plan that will actively engage employers in making sure that our students know that school is their number one job while a student," he noted.

Businesses joining the partnership agree to stress the importance of academics in their teenage employees. They also agree to require a teenage job applicant to obtain a Certificate of Work

Eligibility from the school district. To receive the certificate, students must have no more than one grade below 70 percent and have an attendance rate of 95 percent or better while in school.

"We want to work with the student," said Peggy Tyler, Director of Career and Technical Education at Rush-Henrietta Senior High School. "If they are not eligible, according to the criteria, they sit down with their counselor and see what they need to work out. Currently, there are 27 employers and 60 students that have joined the partnership. More than 80 percent of seniors enrolled in the Rush-Henrietta Senior High School work, 60 percent of juniors and approximately 40 percent of all sophomores," Tyler said.

Joe Klee said more businesses will join the partnership in the future. He helped develop the partnership as the owner of Klee's Corporation, which runs several businesses in Henrietta, including a gas station and car wash at the corner of Lehigh Station and East Henrietta roads where he employs about eight students.

"I think this really puts the priority back into education and that is where it should be," he said. "This shows the students I care. The whole community raises kids these days and you really have to steer them in the right direction."

Klee added that the partnership

doesn't require much work from employers. Participating employers will receive notice if their student employee becomes ineligible to work. The partnership recommends that employers then take some of the following steps:

- Meet with the student to ascertain how to help them;
- Assist or have other employees assist student with homework;
- Discuss the importance of being punctual and maintaining high academic success;
- Modify or reduce work hours;
- Contact school counselors or parents for additional assistance.

Parents will be informed of their student's work eligibility on school report cards. "This is very innovative on Dr. Graham's part," Klee added. "All parents should look very favorably on this



Joe Klee, participating Teenage Employment Partnership employer and teen employee discuss student work eligibility.

and on having a superintendent that is so interested in their children."

Contact Peggy Tyler at 359-5239 if interested in learning more about the Teenage Employment Partnership or to enroll your business.

District Seeks Items for Archive Project

On behalf of the District, an archive project has been launched under the guidance of James R. Starkweather. A former District Principal and Board of Education member, Starkweather is a resident of Rush and has long-time ties to the District. With an interest in the preservation of items and information relative to the District, Starkweather is leading the effort to create an historical account of local history about the schools of the District, both before and after the centralization of the Rush-Henrietta Central School District.

Documents, information and memorabilia having importance to or influence on the District, that is accessible to students and community residents, will provide a valuable resource for research and reports. Starkweather and his committee are seeking all types of information and items including, but not

limited to, yearbooks, photographs, play programs, music programs, dedication programs, plaques, oral histories, illustrations depicting local history, as well as District, school or class records. Items may be loaned for the project on a temporary basis or may be contributed for permanent placement.

Joining Mr. Starkweather in this effort are Lisa Ferri and James Belair, Senior High School librarians; Class of 2002 students Meghan and Malaina Beattie; Town of Henrietta Historian, Helen Elam and David Oliver, Town of Rush Historian.

Anyone willing to share or contribute items regarding the local history of the District or in volunteering to work on this project can call Starkweather at 533-1089 or the Senior High School library at 359-5251.

United In Spirit

In a cooperative spirit, our school community has united to meet the needs of others in a manner that exceeds all expectations since September 11, 2001. The District has joined many others throughout America as it demonstrated its sincere concern for victims, their families and friends, leaders of our country, emergency responders and those who continue to protect the homeland we love so dear.

We take great pride in the fact that each of our schools chose to be part of the scene of a nation coming together to pay tribute to America in a number of ways. Generosity, along with a genuine concern for the welfare and well being of others, has been very visible in our schools.

The District applauds the efforts of R-H students, staff and families who since September 11th have collectively raised over \$16,000. In addition, there have been many

creative approaches to help students heal and deal with their feelings. Some examples of the creative approaches include: the collection of money and teddy bears; letters written; staff dressing for dollars; students creating posters, cards, poems, wall hangings, and a quilt; the creation of an



United We Stand as demonstrated at the Roth Middle School Field Day.

International Brotherhood display; song writing; a blood drive; a craft sale; and "A Concert of Support, Hope and Healing."



FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Staff Wear ID Badges

This fall, all full-time and part-time Rush-Henrietta Central School District employees are required to have photo ID badges. With over 1,200 employees, the District believes this measure will help to ensure a safe school environment for both staff and students.

Tune In to RHTV

One of the school district initiatives for 2001-2002 is to broadcast school activities and events on cable television. This initiative will enhance communication and provide opportunities to share some of the many successes of R-H students and staff with area residents. The videotapes show activities across the District, including concerts, plays, sports, classroom activities and special events. During most months, there will be two two-hour cable programs shown on Channel 15 [Brighton/Henrietta], generally on the second and fourth Wednesday from 7:30-9:30 p.m. Videotapes may be borrowed by calling the District receptionist at 359-5000. Tapes are also available from the public libraries of Henrietta, Rush and Brighton.

Irish Children's Program Seeks Homes

The Irish Children's Program [ICP] of Rochester is a non-profit organization looking for host families for the Summer of 2002. The program brings children, ages 10-14, from Belfast, Northern Ireland to Rochester for five weeks during the summer to provide a safe and fun environment. For more information on the program, please contact Chris Gonnoud at chris@irishchildrensprogram.org or 352-9132 or visit the ICP website at www.irishchildrensprogram.org.

Explore Career Options

Your teenager may be interested in the Exploring Program, which offers male and female young adults, 14-20 years of age who have completed the eighth grade, the opportunity for hands-on identification of a career option. There are more than 120 Exploring options in Monroe County. Most meet twice a

month for a portion of the school year. Exploring can confirm one's interest or point someone in another direction. The Exploring Program is part of the Learning For Life Subsidiary of the Boy Scouts of America. For more information, call 244-4210.

Tax Exemption Applications Due March 1

Homeowners may be eligible for partial property tax exemptions under several state programs. Applications are available from town assessors' offices and must be filed on or before March 1, 2002, New York State Taxable Status Day.

The STAR program provides a partial tax exemption from school property taxes for owner-occupied primary residences. The "Basic" STAR exemption is for homeowners regardless of age or income. Homeowners do not need to reapply for this exemption each year unless their primary residence changes. The "Enhanced" STAR program provides exemptions for senior citizens 65 and older with household incomes of \$60,000 and below. Applicants **must reapply** each year to keep the enhanced exemption in effect.

The school district also participates in a program for partial tax exemptions for property owners who are 65 and older with limited income and people with disabilities with limited income. Applicants **must reapply** each year to keep these exemptions in effect as well.

Sherman School Wellness Team Brings National Speaker to R-H

The Sherman Elementary School Wellness Team is bringing Dominic Cappello, nationally recognized designer of safety, health and communication programs for parents and educators, to the District. Mr. Cappello is Director of Ten Talks Center, an organization that specializes in family and community communication.

Mr. Cappello is the creator of the National Education Association Health

Information Network's "Can We Talk?" parent education program. He has also worked with the Kaiser Family Foundation and Nickelodeon to develop their national campaign on "Talking Tough Issues" for families, The Center for Research on Women, Wellesley College, The Annie E. Casey Foundation, Washington Education Association and the National Center for Health Education. Dominic has appeared on Oprah, ABC News, CNN and NBC's "Today" program.

Most recently, Mr. Cappello has played a major role in developing a response to the September 11th tragedy in NYC, where he resides. "Talking With Kids About Terrorism" and other resources for parents and families can be found on tentalks.com on the internet.

The Sherman Wellness Team extends a special invitation to all parents and community residents to attend this important and informative presentation. This special presentation is scheduled for Wednesday, February 13, 2002 from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at the Roth Middle School auditorium, located at 4000 East Henrietta Road, Henrietta, NY.

Child Passenger Safety Event Scheduled For February

In collaboration with town, county and state organizations, the District will co-sponsor a Child Passenger Safety [CPS] Check Event in February. Volunteer certified child safety seat technicians will conduct child safety seat checks for infants six weeks old through children four years of age.

The event is scheduled for Sunday, February 10th from 12 noon to 3 p.m. It will take place at the Town of Henrietta Highway Department building located at 475 Calkins Road, Henrietta. Reservations are required and this complimentary service will be provided on a first come, first served basis. For further information or to make a reservation, please call 359-5382.



2001 Summer School Report

In the District's annual Summer School Report to the Board of Education, Dr. Kenneth Hilton reported that there were close to 800 R-H students enrolled in 2001 summer school programs in the District...240 elementary children, 97 middle school students and 425 senior high school students. The elementary children in grades K-5 attended a five-week Summer Math and Reading Time [SMART] Program at Sherman Elementary School and students in grades 6-8 attended a four-week Middle School Summer Academy program at Roth Middle School. The senior high school program for students in grades 9-12 was held for the first time at the Ninth Grade Academy.

There were a number of changes and improvements in the 2001 K-12 summer programs. At the elementary level, the SMART program added a kindergarten program and also merged with the Reading Intervention Program, which in previous years served its beginning readers at a separate site. Additionally, this was the first year that teachers in both the K-5 SMART program and the 6-8 Summer Academy were able to closely determine the academic needs of summer students by analyzing scores and work on the Test of New York State Standards [TONYSS]. The 2001 program also saw the first implementation of new attendance and grading policies in the senior high school program which, due to space constraints, was only open to R-H students.

The District's Summer Program benefits some of its most academically at-risk students and, for many children, contributes to continued achievement. The success of our K-12 summer programs enables some children to be promoted to the next grade level rather than be retained and prevents many others from falling behind. As the number of students served through the summer program continues to increase each year,

parental evaluations and feedback remain very positive and supportive.

Offering an annual comprehensive and cost-effective summer program, designed to meet a variety of K-12 student needs, requires year-round planning and preparation. The District's Summer School Committee began its planning for the 2002

success, one child at a time," said Dr. Hilton, Executive Director for School Improvement.



K-5 students enrolled in the SMART Program.



program in November and continues to review recommendations, study student achievement data and assess the success of various programs. "Rush-Henrietta's summer school programs continue to make valuable contributions to fulfilling our District's goal of guiding student

AP Scholar Awards

The District takes great pride in announcing that 39 Rush-Henrietta Senior High School students have been named AP Scholars by The College Board in recognition of exceptional achievement on the college level AP Exams. Out of our 39 students, six qualified for the AP Scholar with Distinction Award and six qualified for the AP Scholar with Honor Award. Twenty-seven of our students qualified for the AP Scholar Award by completing three or more AP Exams with grades of 3 or higher. Of this year's recipients, 10 were juniors and these

students have at least one more year in which to do college level work and possibly earn another AP Scholar Award.

The College Board is a national nonprofit association dedicated to preparing, inspiring and connecting students to college and opportunity. Founded in 1900, the association is composed of more than 3,900 schools, colleges, universities and other educational organizations. The AP Scholar Awards are academic distinctions that students may cite among their credentials on applications and resumes.

Rush-Henrietta Central School District

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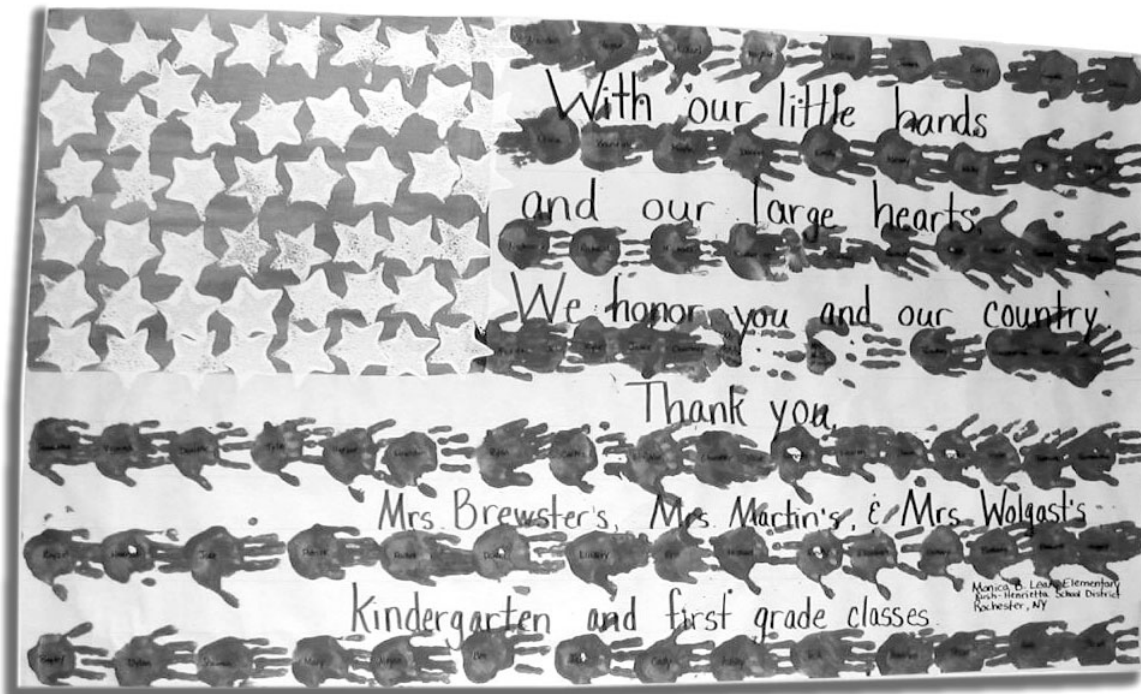
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Little Hands and Large Hearts Honor Our Country



Leary Elementary School sent their own version of the American flag to American Red Cross volunteers after the September 11th tragedy. The flag, now in the Red Cross building lobby, says, "With our little hands and our large hearts we honor you and our country."