

Rush-Henrietta Central School District

Community Newsletter

Spring
2001

Students Explore Careers



Rush-Henrietta Senior High School students participated in National Job Shadowing Day this winter. This opportunity enables students to spend time in the workplace, getting an up-close look at a "real job" and seeing how the skills they learn in school can be applied later on. Over the past six years, 761 R-H Senior High School students have been warmly welcomed by almost 200 companies. Pictured are Stephanie Marcus at University Sports Medicine, Derek Muller shadowing a Rochester police officer and Jerald Johnson at the CycleStop.

Superintendent of Schools Presents Budget Recommendations

The 2001-2002 budget development process has been underway since the beginning of the school year. Working closely with staff members throughout the District and members of the Budget Advisory Council, who serve in an advisory capacity to the Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Kenneth Graham thoroughly reviewed all areas of the budget and budget proposals.

On March 13th, the Superintendent presented his recommended budget to Board members. Despite recommended reductions, the proposed budget includes some

additions that will enable the District to move forward with its school improvement plan and maintain its capacity to guide student success.

The Board of Education will vote on the proposed budget at the regular meeting of the Board on April 10, 2001. The proposed 2001-2002 budget represents a 5.04% budget-to-budget increase. It is anticipated that this increase will be among the lowest, if not the lowest, in Monroe County. The Superintendent believes that this budget increase reflects a reasonable balance between supporting instructional

programs and being fiscally responsible.

A public hearing on the budget proposal is scheduled for Tuesday, May 8 at 7:00 p.m in the Conference Room of the Webster Building, 2000 Lehigh Station Road. Details regarding the 2001-2002 adopted budget will be mailed to all District residents in early May. The annual school District budget will be presented for voter approval on May 15, 2001 at which time the election of Board of Education candidates will also take place.

Proposed Transportation Center Vote Delayed

Since August of 2000, the Board of Education has held public workshops studying the need to construct a new Transportation Center. At its November 14th meeting, the Board unanimously adopted a plan to construct a new

facility at the corner of Lehigh Station and Middle Road. Based upon the recommendation of a study team which included District administrators, architects, community residents and local government officials, the Board approved

a proposal on February 13, 2001 to construct a \$9.8 million facility. The proposed facility will support the operation of the district's Transportation, School Facilities and Food Service Departments. In addition, this plan incorporates accommodations for shared fuel and vehicle-washing services with other area municipalities.

The Board of Education planned to present this plan for voter approval on May 15, 2001 along with the regular annual school budget vote. However, upon the release of the Governor's proposed budget, questions have risen regarding the level of state aid that will be available for a project of this magnitude. Recognizing the uncertainty of state aid, the Board had decided to delay a vote until the state budget is approved.

The Board is taking this conservative and fiscally responsible approach until it is confident that it can present a proposal that reflects the level of state aid that will be received. The Board of Education anticipates that it will be able to present this proposal for voter approval in the fall of 2001, following the adoption of the state budget.

Come Out of the Shadows

Roth Middle School celebrated its first "Come Out of the Shadows and Read" night on February 2. This is a creative new way to celebrate reading and allows the middle school students to share a special event with parents. (Come Out of the Shadows is a reference to Groundhog Day.) The program included a recognition ceremony for children who read five or more books, a book fair, library card registration, storyteller Gwendolyn Glenn (pictured) and more! Sixth grader Emily Walker is reading with her mom.



Homework Hangout

The staff at Burger Middle School knows it's not easy for some students to focus on their school work once they have boarded the bus home. To help these students be academically successful, staff members designed a program called Homework Hangout. This program offers a time and place where appropriate resources are available to help students complete their assignments. The key ingredients are a quiet time and place to work, teachers to help and resource materials such as books and computers.

Homework Hangout includes before-school and after-school components. The before-school program takes place from 7:45-8:30 a.m. each school day. This is meant for students who need to keep up their grades to meet sports eligibility requirements or for other reasons have been invited to take part in the program.

The after-school program is offered Mondays through Thursdays from 3:30-4:15 p.m. Any student may attend with parental permission. Before students may attend Homework Hangout, they must agree to the rules - such as arriving promptly, being prepared with materials to work the entire time, etc. So far 251 students have signed up.

The morning program has one teacher, and the afternoon program has five regular teachers and several substitutes.

Lisa Pastore, a sixth grade science teacher, has been participating in and coordinating the program for almost two years. "I am always looking for ways to make improvements to the program," she said. "Some of this year's improvements are having academic theme nights, rooms for different grade levels and subjects, a 'floating' teacher to facilitate access to computers and a balanced mixture of subject teachers." Pastore also put together a portable supplies cart with books from each

grade level, educational resources and basic school supplies.

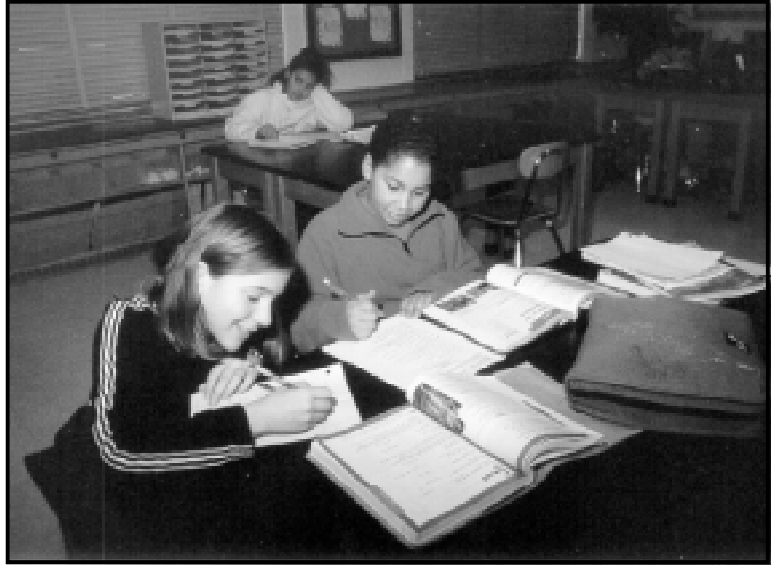
Pastore is able to assist students in many ways herself since she is certified in elementary education, special education and secondary math. She has worked in the school's math skills program for two years.

Tim Mashewske has been a Homework Hangout teacher for all three years of the program. A special education teacher, he finds that many of his students need extra help and are more willing to seek this help when they know the teachers. He is a great advocate for the program. "Many parents are concerned about their kids not doing or finishing their homework. When we tell them about Homework Hangout, they want their kids to come. Parents are very positive about the program."

On a recent afternoon, there were about 35 students working in two rooms. They had a variety of reasons for going to Homework Hangout.

Leanne said, "I like to get my work done here where I can ask someone a question if I need help." She added that it was easier to get her work done without being distracted by her sister and brother.

Simone said, "This is a place I can get all my work done. If I need help on something, my parents may not know how to help. I also feel less pressure on myself by



Students enjoy getting their assignments done during Homework Hangout at Burger Middle School.

getting my work done here."

Manuel said, "I like to get help on some work, and I don't get bothered by other people when I'm doing my work."

"I like to get my homework out of the way so when I go home I can relax," said Aaron.

The program is attracting the interest of other school districts, and last fall Lisa Pastore made a presentation about Homework Hangout at the New York State Middle Schools Conference. She said, "I believe the program has been very beneficial to students, and therefore, desired to share the concept of the program with others. I wanted to inform them of what the program was and how we have been able to make it successful here at Burger. My hope was that other districts may be able to implement such a program."

Homework Hangout is one of the many ways that the Rush-Henrietta Central School District is providing support to ensure the academic success of its students.

Rush-Henrietta Education Foundation Awards Grants

The Rush-Henrietta Education Foundation (RHEF) has distributed nearly \$2,500 in grants this year, benefiting over 500 students and staff in the District.

Funds to support RHEF's first year of grant-making have come from gifts made by individuals in the R-H school community, including parents, grandparents, teachers, staff, administrators and alumni. Gifts and grants to RHEF also have been received through alumni class reunions, a Homecoming Breakfast sponsored by RHEF, a New York State grant sponsored by Senator James Alesi and a gift from the Louis S. and Molly B. Wolk Foundation.

In its first year of operation, RHEF trustees voted to fund the following mini-grant applications submitted by teachers and staff in the District:

- Funding to support the November dance performances and workshops of Jacques d'Amboise, founder of the National Dance Institute, at Winslow Elementary, as well as evening programs for the community.
- Support to send the R-H Singers to an invitational performance at Carnegie Hall in New York City in April.
- Funds to purchase a ROBO LAB System, which allows students to program and build robotic models or create original designs.
- Funds to purchase voice recognition software for four computers at the Rush-Henrietta Senior High School, to be used by students with special learning needs, including students with upper extremity injuries preventing them from using computer keyboards effectively.
- Funding support to purchase 500 pounds of clay to assist master potter Mark Presher's visit as artist-in-residence to lecture and work one-on-one with students at the Senior High School from January 2-12.
- Partial assistance for a workshop conducted by "Writers and Books" for third grade students at Winslow Elementary School in March.
- Funding support for two upper class high school students requiring financial assistance to access academic opportunities to enhance their goal of pursuing higher education upon graduation.
- A grant to support the purchase of reward and recognition items for the Roth Middle School Reading Counts Program on February 2.

On Their Way to Carnegie Hall



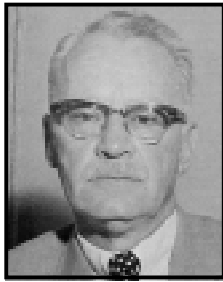
The R-H Singers will participate in a National Choir Invitational Festival at Carnegie Hall in New York City in April. This festival will bring together outstanding singers from across the country to perform in one of the most prestigious concert venues in the world. The R-H Singers will have an opportunity to experience the wonders of Manhattan, culminating in the unforgettable experience of performing at Carnegie Hall under the direction of a renowned conductor Moses Hogan. The R-H Education Foundation has provided support for this trip.

The mission of RHEF is to support educational opportunities, programs, and projects that extend beyond the scope of the annual school district budget and which could not be initiated or maintained without private sector funding made possible through charitable giving. RHEF is a component fund of the Rochester Area Community Foundation, which strives to ensure generosity across generations.

For more information on RHEF, including volunteer opportunities, charitable giving or becoming a board member, please call 359-5008 or contact Kathleen Martin, Chairperson, RHEF Board of Trustees, at 475-6461 or kmmcet@rit.edu.

About Rush-Henrietta People

- The R-H school community was saddened to learn that former Superintendent of Schools John W.



Parker passed away on January 24, 2001 in Rochester. He was 90. Mr. Parker was a math and social studies teacher and coached several sports in the school district before being named Superintendent in 1951. He served for about 18 years, during which time the District grew from an enrollment of under 1000 students to 10,310 students in 1969. During his second year as Superintendent, the Roth building opened as a consolidated K-12 school, replacing smaller schools. Mr. Parker oversaw the building boom of the 1950s and 1960s, when R-H schools were built at the rate of almost one a year. The school district's administration building at 2034 Lehigh Station Road is named in his honor.

- John Guarre, a Henrietta resident who has represented the R-H community as a member of the Monroe I



BOCES Board of Education since 1993, will retire from that position at the end of June. As a parent in the R-H District, he was chairperson of the Special Education Parents Forum. This led to his nomination for the position on the BOCES Board of Education, where he served as President for two terms, from 1997-99. Guarre has also been

active in many community organizations. He was a member of and chaired the Henrietta Planning Board and Monroe County Planning Council and was a member of the Monroe County Planning Board.

Guarre said, "BOCES is a vast and varied organization providing numerous services to benefit students in eastern Monroe County and many other locations. It has been a privilege to work with so many dedicated and qualified people." Guarre is president and treasurer of Landmark Electric, Inc. in Henrietta and his grandson, Mychal Davis, is a fifth grader at Sherman Elementary School.

The R-H Central School District greatly appreciates John Guarre's efforts on behalf of R-H students as well as children throughout the 10-district BOCES area.

- Elizabeth Bevan was appointed Clerk of the Rush-Henrietta Board of Education in February. A



native of the Buffalo area, Ms. Bevan comes to R-H from the Tonawanda City School District where she was a confidential secretary and personnel liaison to the Superintendent of Schools. She brings with her over 12 years of executive administrative support experience. In her new role as District Clerk, Ms. Bevan will be responsible for supporting the Board of Education in their many Districtwide endeavors.

She said, "I am so excited about this wonderful opportunity to serve as secretary to the Board/District Clerk for the Rush-

Henrietta Central School District. I've heard so many positive things about R-H, which have already been reinforced by the warm, friendly and welcoming staff I've been in contact with."

- Maxine Sturtevant, a teacher at Roth Middle School, has been selected for this year's Rochester Philharmonic



Orchestra's Outstanding Music Educator Award for orchestra education. The award will be presented at the RPO Concert/Music Educators' Night concert at Eastman Theatre on May 24.

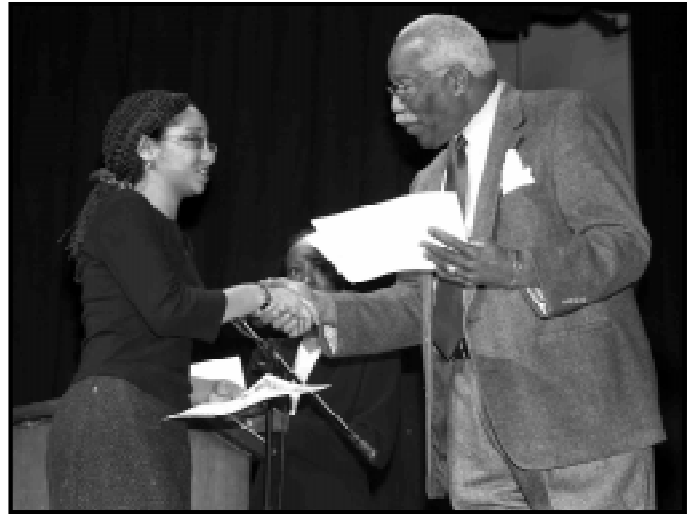
Sturtevant has been teaching in public school music programs for 22 years. After completing college at SUNY Fredonia, she began her career teaching music in the Ballston Spa, NY, School District, and she played violin in the Albany Symphony Orchestra from 1974 until 1981. In the summers she worked as a back-up musician at Saratoga Performing Arts Center.

Sturtevant has been teaching in R-H since 1989. At Roth Middle School, she directs the sixth, seventh and eighth grade orchestras and the Select String Ensemble. She also teaches group lessons for all the violin and viola players.

She is a past chairperson of orchestras for the Monroe County School Music Association and is frequently seen playing in the pit orchestras of area theatre groups. She also enjoys playing string quartets with music teacher colleagues from area schools.

Recognizing Achievement

The Parker Parent Group sponsored a celebration of student achievement during Black History Month in February. The special guest and person for whom the group is named was Dr. William Parker, retired Vice-Chancellor of the University of Kentucky. He personally recognized each of the 90 middle and high school students who achieved an academic average of 85% or better in the first marking period. Aaron Johnson, a sophomore, was given the group's first recognition award as the student who most embodies commitment to the group's mission to promote the educational achievement of African-American, Hispanic and other minority students.



Dr. Parker congratulates one of the award winners.



Burger Middle School



Roth Middle School



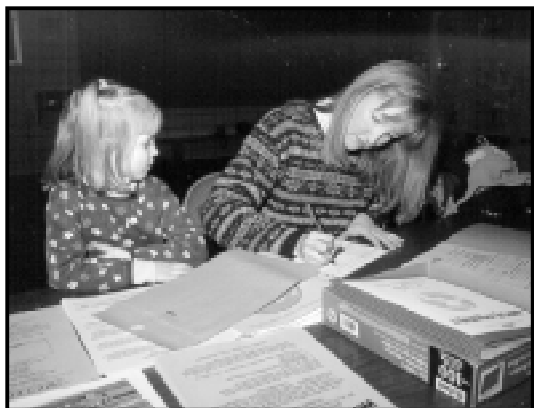
Ninth Grade Academy



Senior High School

Newsmakers

- Many R-H students and staff were very generous during the holiday season. Among them, **Roth Middle School** students and staff participated in a five-day “Jar Wars” competition to raise money for a Roth family who lost their son in September. Girls and boys competed by depositing pennies in a jar on day one, nickels on day two, dimes on day three, quarters on day four and dollar bills on day five. The grand total was \$1,387.74 of which \$771.26 was from the girls and \$617.48 was from the boys. The “grand prize” was that the entire Roth community benefited by helping a family who experienced a great loss.
- A group of Senior High School students participated in a discussion on “body image” and the pressures that young people feel today on beauty and body type. The discussion was part of a Channel 13 feature in January. Assistant Principal Kelly Ford Ellingham said the reporter was very impressed with the caliber of students who participated. They were **Patrick Irving, Dan Potwin, John Harper, JB Thomas, Kamillah McAllister, Dusty Badger, Jiyong Kim, Natalie Alvarez, Austin Weakfall** and **Abdul Bishi**.
- **Fay Corr**, school nurse-teacher at Crane Elementary School, was one of 28 nominees for 2001 School Nurse of the Year, an award given by the New York State Association of School Nurses. She was nominated by Kathy Mackay, school nurse-teacher at Sherman Elementary School.
- **Kyra Kelley Tichacek**, a senior, was named a candidate in the 2001 Presidential Scholars Program. Candidates were selected from the nearly 2.8 million seniors across the United States. They were selected for their exceptional performance on either the SAT or ACT Assessment.
- The R-H **Distance Learning Center** held a video conference with the Houston Space Center in January that was featured on WROC Channel 8.
- The **Burger Middle School** Physical Education Department coordinated their school’s participation in the American Heart Association’s “Hoops For Heart” program. This basketball program engages kids in community service while promoting the benefits of life-long, heart-healthy lifestyles. Overall, Burger students raised \$1,794. Eighth grader **Peter Aponte** raised \$260, the highest amount, bringing his total to over \$700 during three years at Burger.
- **Alan Edwards**, a sophomore, played the role of Tyrone Jackson in the musical “Fame” presented in Rochester.
- Senior High School teacher **Bob Dayton** was selected by the State Education Department to be trained as an exam editor for the new Chemistry exam. He is already serving on the exam writing team.
- **Christine Matyjakowski**, a paraprofessional at Crane Elementary School, worked with the Student Council to make over 300 Valentine cards for patients at Monroe Community Hospital.
- Burger Middle School French teacher **Bob Johnson** has just completed his fifth book entitled, “Les Journaux de Patrick Duval et Catherine Jamet.”
- Winslow Elementary School physical education teacher **Paula Summit** was featured on Channel 13 as “Educator of the Week.”
- The **Freshman Chorus** directed by **Lee Ann Daigle** competed at the Hochstein/Eastman Music Festival. Judges from area colleges awarded the chorus 23 out of a possible 24 points, earning them a trophy for the highest score.
- **Frank Oliveri**, a counselor at the Senior High School, was recognized by the Phi Delta Kappa, Theta Gamma Chapter, at their awards ceremony in January. He received the research award for his expertise on Italian rescuers during the Holocaust and his dedication to Holocaust studies.



Getting Ready for Kindergarten

Kindergarten Registration for Fall 2001 took place in January. Among those registering their children at Winslow Elementary School were Pam Herman with daughter Laura.

Newsmakers

- Burger Middle School Spanish teacher **Linda Bilak** was a presenter at the Rochester Regional Languages Other Than English conference in March.
- The **Parker Parent Group** did a great service by sponsoring two parent/student workshops this winter. The January workshop focused on preparing for the English Language Arts state assessments of fourth and eighth graders. Dr. Helena Spring, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction, and Richard Fratta, Director of English Language Arts, provided an overview of the state assessments, their purposes, how R-H uses them and sample questions and exercises. The March workshop on the Math 4 and 8 assessments was presented by Dr. Spring and Jody Hoch, Director of Mathematics. After brainstorming and sharing all of the applications for using math in their lives, parents and students worked together on problems from the new assessments. Since students will be asked to show

their work and explain their answers on some test questions, the parents and students explained how they approached the problems they worked. The purpose of the Parker Parent Group is to promote a positive environment within the R-H schools for African-American, Hispanic and other minority students, and to promote high academic achievement for all students.

- Several Senior High School students organized and implemented a student leadership conference at Nazareth College attended by 425 area student leaders. Student Council advisor Terry D'Imperio said, "The day was a great success due in large part to **Joe Pennella** and **Fernando Nussenbaum**, who presented *The 12 Gifts of Birth*, **Gretchen Oechsle** and **Meaghan LaRocca**, who presented *The Fruits of Leadership*, **Vicki Coons** and **Margaret O'Neill**, who presented *CPR for Student Council* and **Elizabeth**

Schirmer and **Amanda Carden**, who presented *Improving Student Council*. These students were leaders among leaders. They are an asset to our program and building."

- **Tyler Lucero**, a seventh grader at Burger Middle School, was invited to compete in the New York State finals of the National Geographic Society's Geography Bee. Tyler was the winner of his school's GeoBee which was held in January. A 70 question test was given to each of the state's individual school champions in grades 4-8, and the top 100 scorers advanced to the state GeoBee on April 6 in Albany.
- **Jiyong Kim**, a senior, received a Howard Hanson Certificate of Merit in piano performance this year. With the other winners, Jiyong performed in a concert at Nazareth College in March.
- **Karen Baker**, a third grade teacher at Fyle Elementary School, is part of a month-long Rotary International Group Study Exchange to Japan. Among her plans are visiting a primary school, a newspaper company, a home for the elderly and the national broadcasting station. She will also attend nine Rotary Club meetings and do some sightseeing.
- Burger Middle School teachers **Marti Henderson** and **Donna Horn** were awarded a \$1,000 Wyeth Lederle Caccines Science Grant for their proposal to purchase technology hardware to support and enhance the school's science program, including a web page as part of the District site, www.rhnet.org. Wyeth called it an "impressive proposal" showing innovative thinking.

Building Benches

Students in the Construction Systems Class at the Senior High School did a great job making park benches for the Town of Henrietta this winter. The Town covered the cost of materials. Through this project, students engaged in a creative hands-on experience while learning that they can contribute something of value to their community. Students are shown putting on a protective wood finish.



Newsmakers

- Burger Middle School eighth grader **David Vogel** was featured and sang on the WXXI Auction as an up-and-coming vocal student with great interest in opera. He and his family were surprised by the studio with tickets and an opportunity to meet the great opera star Pavarotti when he appears in Rochester in April.
- On a normal Saturday you would find the halls of the Senior High School quiet, but this was not the case on Saturday, December 9. The sounds of laughter from children, adults and teenagers filled the halls. The reason was that the **Class of 2003** hosted a fundraiser called "Kids' Afternoon Out" for K-5 children in the R-H District. Youngsters enjoyed a variety of activities run by the sophomores, Class Council members, teachers and youth assistants.
- Old-fashioned "bees" continue to be the fashion in R-H classrooms. For the fifth year, Winslow Elementary School students participated in the early rounds of the National Geography Bee. Every fourth and fifth grade student participated in preliminary rounds answering questions on such topics as economically important places and issues, resources, conservation, physical geography and general geography. The winners from each class competed through four rounds of questions, and four students claimed the top three spots. Sharing third place were **Emily Aiken** and **Marc Favro**. **Neel Nabar** claimed second place. **Matt Hart** earned first place and qualified for the state level exam by answering the question, "Which domesticated root crop became the staple food of both the Inca empire and Ireland?"

Burger Battle of the Books

The Battle of the Books competition was conducted this year by Burger librarian Rachel Axelrod. The battle ran for five weeks. Ninety-six students in grades 6-8 started the battle in which students received a special reading list and answered questions on the books they read. As the tournament progressed, all but 24 students (pictured) were eliminated, and one four-person team from each grade emerged the victors.



- Fifty-three students were chosen to represent R-H in the 2001 Rochester-Finger Lakes Scholastic Art Awards & Exhibition. Their works were selected for originality and artistic merit, as determined by their teachers. Of those students, a number earned special recognition. The Scholastic Art Show features the work of visual arts students in grades 7-12 from a 10-county area.

These students were awarded **Gold Key Awards:** Burger - Meghan Fulkerson (Painting), Jeremy Krenzer (Mixed Media), Devin Sullivan (Mixed Media); Roth - David Goebel (Sculpture); Ninth Grade Academy - Joseph Felong (Drawing); Senior High - Carole Traynor (Portfolio).

These students were awarded **Silver Key Awards:** Burger - Philipp Rabovsky (Painting); Roth - Zachary Litwak (Sculpture), David Wagner (Sculpture); Senior High - Sarah Gotowka (Painting), JoAnna Stephens (Drawing).

These students were awarded **Honorable Mentions:** Burger -

Johnathan Gause (Textile/Fiber), Philipp Rabovsky (Drawing); Roth - Kristin Germeroth (Sculpture), Robert Hudson (Sculpture), Alexander Lesnick (Computer Graphics), Caitlin Smith (Computer Graphics), Hilary Wilcox (Drawing); Ninth Grade Academy - Ashley Aldridge (Drawing), Julia Kenyon (Drawing), Karin Venderbosch (Drawing); Senior High - Michael Frisina (Drawing), Sarah Kaester (Painting), Chad Krause (Painting), Evelyn Munson (Drawing). Works by these talented students were also exhibited: Rebecca Burgio, Jamal Johnson, Courtney Moore, Steffon Penke, Sean Carroll, Christopher Chang, Alexandra Goldfarb, Dorothy Lu, Nicholas Mokey, Kristen Tucker, Alyssa Wright, Corinna Chaize, Ashley Gibaud, Heidi Peace, Steve Wlosinski, Kelly Abraham, Trevor Chichelli, Melissa Effinger, Laila Garsys, Micah Gregorio, Erin Nistico, Kimberly Pritchard, Michael Sanbury, Erin Saxon, Matthew Sengbusch, Jason Sfetko, Katie Strum, Frances Thorne and Rebecca VanAuken.

For Your Information

- The Roth Royals' Class of 1981 reunion committee is planning a 20-year reunion weekend for July 27-29, 2001. Activities will include a golf tournament on Friday, a get-together Friday evening, a banquet on Saturday at the Gateway on West Henrietta Road and a family picnic on Sunday. If you have not yet been contacted or if you know of anyone who was a class member, please contact Gail Harndon at 889-1853 or e-mail momof4@usadatanet.net. Check out the reunion website at www.rit.edu/~rgp5877/RH_Roth.htm

- The Rush-Henrietta Senior High School library and adjoining computer laboratory evening hours and days have been modified. The hours and days are now 6:30-8:30 p.m., on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings, following the Continuing Education calendar. A computer teaching assistant or a library clerk will be available to assist K-12 students, their families and community adults with such

tasks as accessing library books and materials, research, using computers and the Internet and more. Young children must be accompanied by an adult. Use of the library and computer lab is on a first-come first-served basis. For more information, call 359-7805.

- Musical Theater is the newest offering for area high school students at this year's Summer School of the Arts at Nazareth College. In addition, Theater Performance and Visual Arts are also the focus of this intensive program, which is co-sponsored by the college and Monroe I BOCES. Students entering grades 9-12 may apply for the program, which runs July 9-27 from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Applications and information are available on the Summer School of the Arts website at www.monroe.edu/academic/ssota or by calling Mary Balme at Monroe #1 BOCES (383-6403) or Patricia Huntington at Nazareth College (389-2050).

- Ron Springer, principal of Winslow Elementary School, and Patricia McLean, Director of Educational Technology, have been selected as recipients of Apple Learning Professional Development Grants. They have been invited to participate in a two-day Principal and Administrator Technology Leadership Workshop in the Apple Market center in New York City, where they will learn more ways in which new technologies can enhance teaching and learning.

- The R-H Even Start Program directed by Kay Lynons is the recipient of a National Book Scholarship Fund grand award in the amount of \$975.30. The award is given by Laubach Literacy, the world's oldest and largest literacy organization that distributes books and other educational material to qualified adult literacy and education programs nationwide. Its grants are designed to help local educational groups expand their work with under-served populations.

The Even Start 9th Birthday Celebration

March 7, 2001 marked the 9th anniversary of the Rush-Henrietta Even Start Family Literacy Program. A large celebration was held at the Vollmer Building, with about 150 participants. All adult students were part of a parade of nations. As they paraded through the cafetorium, they carried flags from

their native countries and took turns saying greetings in their native languages.

The three, four and five-year-old youngsters performed for the guests. Several adult students spoke to the audience about what their participation in Even Start has meant to them.

Victoria LaBorgne, age four and

from France, cut the birthday cake and led the guests in the Happy Birthday song. Special guests included Dr. Kenneth Graham, Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Ken Hilton, Executive Director of School Improvement, Sue Banker, Board of Education, Arlene Burdett, Board of Education and Lynn Neill from the Henrietta Public Library.



The ninth anniversary of the R-H Even Start Family Literacy Program was marked with a large celebration at the Vollmer Building on March 7. All the adult students paraded through the cafetorium carrying flags from their native countries and greeting everyone in their native languages. Several adult students spoke about what participation in the program has meant to them. Victoria LaBorgne from France is shown cutting the cake with the help of Kay Lynons, Director of the program.

Proud of Their Work



The Rain Forest

These first graders in Jeanne Murphy's class at Winslow Elementary School couldn't be more pleased with the wonderful "environments" they created within the four walls of their classroom. The groups created the Desert, the Ocean, the Arctic and the Rainforest in the four quarters of the classroom. Each environment included projects and materials that show the youngsters' creativity as well as how they are meeting New York State learning standards in the sciences, social studies, language arts, research and more.



The Arctic



The Desert



The Ocean

Rush-Henrietta Central School District

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R-H Horse “Stardust” Joins Horses on Parade



Fyle Elementary School students worked with art teacher Len Miller to paint Stardust, a life-size horse for the Horses on Parade, a special Rochester event this summer. Stardust was painted in a rainbow design covered with thumb prints of everyone from the school. Channel 13 was the sponsor of the horse, and many news staffers came to Fyle to add their thumb prints. The horses will be located throughout Rochester for the public to enjoy this summer and rounded up for a charity auction in September. Superintendent of Schools Kenneth Graham and fourth grader Isaiah Smith added their thumbprints.

