



Community Newsletter

SPRING 2004

R-H Spirit Soars to New Heights!

Playing with determination and class, three R-H sports teams brought home Section V championship titles this winter.

For the second consecutive year – and the third time in the past four years – the boys' varsity basketball team was the No. 1 seed in sectional play. The team finished 21-1, losing for the first time in a state qualifier game. "Boys' basketball traditionally



lost the state qualifier, the boys represented the school very well," says the fourth-year coach. "I was proud of them both in victory and defeat."

There is more good news on the horizon for the three championship teams. Each squad is relatively young and will return a number of talented players. "We are already looking forward to next year," Stewart says.



**Congratulations
Section V
Championship
Teams!**



has been a strong program and this year was no different," says Athletic Director Tom Stewart. Coach Chris Reed was named Section V AAA Coach of the Year.

Girls' varsity basketball also won the Section V Championship. "The girls' program struggled for quite some time," Stewart says. "The last time they were really successful was in the 1980s, but this year they completed a great turnaround." The team finished 17-5, taking part in what Stewart labels "a dramatic leap forward." Coach Tom Dulmage was named Section V AAA Coach of the Year, putting R-H in the enviable position of having the top coach for both boys' and girls' varsity basketball.

The third team to make a major strike in sectional play this winter was the R-H girls' bowling team, which also won the Section V Championship. This was the third year in a row that the girls won the

title. The team, which was 15-1 this season, is an astounding 47-5 under Coach Brian Usselman, since its inception four years ago. In winning the sectional championship, the team outperformed 47 league competitors. Like the basketball teams, members of the girls' bowling team started practicing in November, working to perfect their game until March, when the champions were crowned. The girls' bowling team finished sixth in the state.

School officials are proud of their student-athletes for competing with good sportsmanship in mind. "The athletes have done a nice job with sportsmanship and represented R-H in a very positive way," Stewart says.

Reed, coach of the boys' varsity basketball team, agrees, drawing on his own experiences. "During the last week, in our highest moment when we won the sectionals, and in our lowest moment when we

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FROM THE BOARD

Dear Community Residents:

Each year on school election day, voters are requested to complete a survey and comment on the school district. In the next few newsletters, we will continue to provide answers to the most frequently asked questions. [Questions have been grouped by topic and rewritten for clarity.] The board thanks those of you who took the time to complete our survey. The topics for this newsletter are State Budget, State Aid and Federal Funds.

- ***How much money does the district receive from the state?***
- ***What happened to the NYS lottery money?***
- ***How does the school district deal with the lateness of state budgets?***
- ***How much money does the district receive from the federal government?***

New York State's aid to education is provided to all public schools under a complex formula. State aid comes in a variety of categories: textbook aid, building aid, transportation aid, excess cost aid, etc. Funds from the lottery are part of the total state aid funding allocation of which R-H receives approximately \$2.6M. In the past few years, the total dollar amount of state aid has remained relatively constant, resulting in a proportionate decrease when compared to the total budget.

The district's revenue is derived from state aid [approximately 23%], Monroe County sales tax [4%], property tax levy [65%] and other sources [8%]. The amount of property tax to be collected each year is determined once the other revenue sources [especially state aid] are known. For the past 18 years, New York State's budgets have not been passed on time to meet the beginning of the state fiscal year on April 1st. Since state aid is a significant percentage of the district's revenue, not having firm state aid figures when preparing our school budget makes it very difficult to determine the amount of

property tax to be collected. This, in turn, makes it difficult to provide voters with reliable estimated tax rates. As a result, the board prepares the school budget estimating state aid very conservatively. That is why we provide voters with an estimated range of tax rate increases. The final tax rate for each component town within the district is established in August, once final state aid figures are received and town assessors provide final assessment figures.

Many of you are aware that the current state aid funding formula has been declared unconstitutional by the NYS Court of Appeals, the highest court in the state. The decision, known as the CFE Decision [Campaign for Fiscal Equity], places the development of a new funding formula with the state Legislature. As the Legislature deliberates, we will monitor proposals for changes in state funding and assess their impact on our district.

Federal funds to R-H represent a very small portion of district revenue. R-H receives only \$2.5M in federal funds. This is used primarily for academic intervention services. Most federal dollars go to high-need districts throughout the country.

Please note that a more detailed explanation of state aid is available at <http://stateaid.nysed.gov>.

We hope this provides answers to some of the questions you may have had. Please feel free to contact any member of the Board of Education for further clarification.

Sincerely,

The 2003-2004 Board of Education

David R. Pennella, President
 Edward A. Lincoln, Vice President
 Susan E. Banker • Susan M. Derrick • Pamela J. Reinhardt
 Sue A. Smith • William B. Stroud

Change In BOE Leadership

At the March 9, 2004 Board of Education meeting, Susan M. Derrick, board trustee, announced that she was stepping down from her leadership role as vice president. While unable to complete her term as an officer of the board due to personal reasons, Mrs. Derrick will fulfill her term, which expires in June 2004, on the Board of Education as a trustee. The board unanimously elected board trustee, Edward A. Lincoln, to serve as vice president from March 9th through June 2004.



2003-2004 District Priorities Status Report

March 2004

During the past nine months, the district has been planning and implementing a number of new programs and services aimed at better educating and supporting Rush-Henrietta students. The status of this year's school improvement projects is outlined below.

Curriculum and Instruction

- **Standards Based, Data Driven Instruction:**

Twenty-eight curriculum mapping projects have been completed. Twenty-seven more will be completed by the end of the school year. Curriculum mapping projects make explicit the content and skills that all students must learn for each course of study at each grade level. By making these learning outcomes more explicit, instruction can be better planned to help assure that each student achieves the expected level of mastery.

- **Technology Integration:** Computer lab upgrades are nearing completion at the Senior High School, the Ninth Grade Academy, Burger Middle School and Roth Middle School. In addition, 20 computer projection units and 100 laptop computers have been ordered and will soon arrive. This additional computer equipment will help improve student and teacher access to computer software and Internet services that support and enrich student learning.

- **Appropriate Class Size:** The district continues to implement its small class size initiative and, to date, kindergarten and grade 1 class sizes have been reduced to an average of 15 students per class. No kindergarten or first grade class has more than 17 students. Teachers report that smaller classes are making it possible for them to give students much more attention. Next year, class sizes at grade 2 will be reduced to an average of 15 students per class.

Student Safety and Management

- **School Safety:** A district safety coordinator began work in September and has conducted school safety audits, overseen school safety drills, coordinated school emergency responses and conducted numerous residency investigations. In December, the

school resource officer position was filled. At the district's request, the school resource officer has been assigned to Rush-Henrietta by the Monroe County Sheriff's Department to assist with law-related education, student counseling and law enforcement. Senior High School and Ninth Grade Academy students and staff report that this uniformed and armed presence is helping to discourage, diffuse and de-escalate situations that might have otherwise elevated to levels requiring police involvement.

- **School Asset Development:** Student asset building activities are being carried out at each of the district's schools. "Beads for Good Deeds," "Salute our Soldiers," "Care is Contagious," "Anti-Bullying," "Kindness Week" and "Get Connected Month" are examples of these asset building programs. In addition, this fall all school staff received six hours of Crisis Prevention Institute [CPI] training. This training helped staff acquire and strengthen skills for preventing and de-escalating confrontational situations with students.

Human Resources Management

- **Professional Development:** District staff are actively participating in a variety of staff development programs that introduce and strengthen knowledge and skills that improve student learning. Examples of these staff development programs are: Guided Reading, Math Investigations, Strategies that Work, Cognitive Coaching, Data Driven Instructional Planning and Technology Integration. In addition, teachers are also engaging in study groups that examine specific issues related to student learning.

Parent Involvement

- **Parent Communication:** After carefully reviewing the results of the Spring 2003 Partnership Schools Survey, the District Parent Advisory

Council [DPAC] has recommended a plan for improving school and district level communication with parents. This plan emphasizes improving parent awareness of parent education opportunities, reducing the volume and frequency of informational flyers, expanding the use of electronic information dissemination, better informing parents of the district's career and college planning service and the Teenage Employment Partnership program, and improving parent awareness of opportunities for school and district level involvement. This plan will be presented to the Board of Education for approval later this spring.

Community Partnerships

- **Teenage Employment Partnership:** More than 75 local employers are now members of the district's Teenage Employment Partnership. This partnership asks employers to serve as good role models for students, to keep track of how their student employees are progressing in school and to establish work schedules that communicate to their student employees that doing well in school is their number one job. More than 125 Rush-Henrietta students are employed by Teenage Employment Partners.

Administration and Operations

- **Facilities Management:** On October 7th, the district officially opened its new Transportation and Operations Center on Lehigh Station Road. This facility was constructed to ensure appropriate, long-term capacity for these two purposes. Renovation of the former 649 Erie Station Road Transportation and Operations Center is nearing completion. In February, the district's Teacher Center and Office of Information Systems relocated to this facility. Shipping and receiving and the district's mail center will move into this facility in late spring.



Teacher Center Celebrates 20th Anniversary

The Rush-Henrietta Teacher Center celebrates its 20th year this year as a primary source for teachers to seek assistance, training and support. Helping close to 600 teachers in the district, the center is part of a network of 127 centers across the state whose purpose is to help teachers to improve the achievement of all students.

"For many teachers – the new ones and the veterans – it serves as a place where teachers can meet other teachers who understand the same issues," said Gail Orione, the center's director. "We are run by teachers to support teachers."

This year, New York teacher centers are celebrating the 20th anniversary of supporting New York teachers in further assisting students through improved education. Forty-four teacher centers were

services in New York State.

The overall goal of the teacher centers is to improve the teachers' abilities to teach and, in turn, the 2,500,000 New York State students' ability to learn. Each center provides services to its constituents based on locally determined needs. Their goals include strengthening teamwork among teachers across disciplines, designing class activities that engage all students, developing curriculum that connects to students' lives, using technology as an instructional tool, including parent support activities in the



*"We are run by
teachers to
support
teachers."*

*– Gail Orione,
Director,
Teacher Center*



The center offers a variety of professional development opportunities in the form of workshops, study groups and conferences. A meeting will be held in May focusing on the National Board Certification. The center's teachers who have received National Board Certification will hold an informational session for teachers interested in achieving national certification status.

established around the state in 1984, with Rush-Henrietta being one of the original centers. More than 230,000 educators have access to teacher center

education process and other activities that improve education for students.

Rush-Henrietta's Teacher Center is located in the West Henrietta Education Building [WHEB] located at 649 Erie Station Road, West Henrietta, NY 14586. For more information

regarding the programs and services of the center, please contact Gail Orione at 359-7970.

New Administrator Sees Strengths at Work in R-H

Deborah Ryan Johnson's father died when she was a young child, and her mother, Catherine – realizing her role as the sole breadwinner – found herself in the challenging dual role of mother to seven children and college student.



Deborah Ryan Johnson

"She went back to school and earned her teaching certification and became a first grade teacher," says Johnson, the newest member of Rush-Henrietta's administrative leadership team. "Even when all else was not going well, my mother helped us understand the importance of a good education. She wanted us to be prepared for any situation and I quickly recognized the importance of a broad education."

Providing children with a quality education is so important to Johnson that she has devoted her entire adult life

to the pursuit. "I have always been drawn to the profession because I wanted a career that would allow me to make a difference."

In February, R-H welcomed Johnson as its new assistant superintendent for instruction. "Deborah has a wealth of knowledge and a can-do attitude and we are confident her arrival signals even better days ahead for students and their teachers," says Superintendent Dr. Kenneth Graham.

Johnson worked as a teacher and administrator for nearly 30 years in the Greece Central School District, interacting with students in grades K-12. At R-H, her main objective is to help students and teachers perform to the highest level, an especially challenging task in light of recent mandates dictating rigorous state achievement standards.

"The focus on student achievement is already here," says Johnson, a native of Katonah, NY, about 50 miles from New York City. "Rush-Henrietta has so many committed people and I want to help them build on their successes. I am very

excited about the focus on instruction here, the emphasis on developing relationships with all students and the small class size initiative."

Johnson is also responsible for recruiting and retaining top-flight teachers and encouraging them to progress professionally. Working closely with teachers, she intends to foster professional development opportunities in which educators help one another become better at their craft. "In addition to staying current with our teaching methods and curriculum, we need to model lifelong learning for our students," she says.

A math major with minors in psychology and philosophy, Johnson advocates for a well-rounded education, which she thinks R-H provides. "The district has strong, committed leadership and a lot of talent in the schools in terms of both teachers and students," Johnson says. "I can tell already that it was the right move for me to come to Rush-Henrietta."

Parent Presents School with U.S. Flag

On Thursday, February 5, 2004, Fyle Elementary School held a special ceremony at which time Technical Sgt. Mark Washburn, a Fyle parent, presented the school with a United States flag. The flag holds a very special meaning for the Fyle school community as it flew over the Tallilo Air Force Base in Iraq where Sergeant Washburn, a United States Air Force Reservist, was stationed from October through December 2004.

Guests at the ceremony included parents and family members currently serving or who have served in the military, members of the American Legion, Dr. Kenneth Graham, superintendent of schools and Varun Mehta, senior high school student representing the newly established Salute Our Soldiers initiative, the district's first-ever organized Military Outreach Program.

During this meaningful ceremony, Principal Gina Diesenberg introduced special guests and Sergeant Washburn presented the flag, along with a certificate, to his son's kindergarten class. The 5th grade chorus led the school in the Pledge of Allegiance and kindergarten students presented thank you cards to Sergeant Washburn. The flag and certificate are on display in the main foyer of Fyle Elementary School.



Fyle Elementary Principal, Gina Diesenberg, and Technical Sgt. Mark Washburn



Job Shadowing Provides Head Start on Career Planning

For nearly 10 years, Rush-Henrietta's career shadowing program has offered high school students the chance to experience a profession of their choice for a day. More than 160 students have taken advantage this year, many participating in Groundhog Job Shadow Day, which is held each February 2nd.

"We have arranged shadowing placements since 1995 and, this year, Lisa Cowdery was our 1,000th student to participate," says Sue Beattie, career internship coordinator. "The program gives students a chance to learn about a specific job, to see it, feel it and experience it. Often, it helps them decide – in high school – whether it is something they want to pursue as a career. The experience also can help them avoid going to college for four years, only to find out that the career they chose isn't for them."

Itohan Aghayere recently shadowed a researcher at the University of Rochester Medical Center. We spend so much of our lives at work, she says, that it made perfect sense for her to take part. "To have the chance to preview future job prospects is a privilege unheard of at many other schools," Aghayere says. The program provides students with a chance to "break down and trash every previous idea you once had about an occupation and to then see for yourself what that profession is really like."

After shadowing, many students have



executive. Students also shadowed officers at the Rochester Police Department, carpenters at the Pike Company, a radiologic technician at Pluta Cancer Center and the city historian in Rochester.

Beattie talks to parents who acknowledge they are a bit envious of the shadowing opportunities



Rush-Henrietta high school students intent on learning about careers at the Delphi Corporation, University of Rochester and Suburban Animal Hospital on 2004 Job Shadow Day.

a different perspective on their classroom studies. "They realize that what they are learning in school is applicable to the work world," Beattie says. "A typical question among students is, 'Why do I have to learn this?' After shadowing a professional, they have a much better understanding of why."

A trio of students recently shadowed professional chefs, spending the day at the Holiday Inn in Henrietta and Lodge at Woodcliff in Perinton. Others spent the day at Eastman Kodak Company, shadowing a chemical engineer and a marketing

available to their children. "They all support the program 100 percent," she says. "Sometimes they say, 'Gee, I wish we had this when I was in school!'"

If students start to think about their career paths while they are in high school, it gives them an advantage. "They learn about the skills a person would need to be successful in the workforce," Beattie says. "They discover the importance of being a team player, being able to solve problems, dressing appropriately, being able to communicate with others, all those things kids usually haven't thought about."

T.E.P. Gains Momentum

The Teenage Employment Partnership [T.E.P.] continues to gain momentum in its third year. What began as a collaborative effort to support student achievement between the Rush-Henrietta Central School District, the Henrietta Chamber of Commerce and the Town of Henrietta, remains as a partnership that continues to grow in both number of participating employers and students. The partnership

population as a whole, Rush-Henrietta students working for a participating T.E.P. employer have consistently shown greater success in their academics and school attendance. Every quarter when report cards are distributed, employers receive a list of student employees along with a simple "yes" or "no" that indicates the work eligibility for each individual. If students are meeting the eligibility stan-



Students in T.E.P. program enjoy positive work experiences with local employers . . . Boston Market and Brad's Cookie Nook.

is designed to help students make wise choices when balancing the time they devote to work with time they give to academic studies so that they have the opportunity to achieve their maximum potential both in school and on the job.

Currently, 75 local businesses are members of the partnership. They collectively show support for more than 125 students by subscribing to the Code of Fair Teenage Employment agreement. The code outlines suggested strategies for employers to help R-H students enjoy positive work experiences while maintaining academic success. Students who work part-time for a T.E.P. business agree to maintain good grades and attendance . . .

- no more than one grade below 70% and
 - school attendance is at or above 95% on quarterly report cards.
- When compared with our student

dards, employers are encouraged to give their young adult workers a pat on the back. On the other hand, if a student is not "work eligible," employers are expected to talk with the student and offer encouragement or support for helping the student to improve academic achievement.

The district values the investment that area employers continue to make in guiding the success of Rush-Henrietta students. In recognition of the collective commitment that area businesses have made to this collaborative initiative, participating employers will be recognized at a luncheon on June 30th, at which time the 2003-2004 Teenage Employer Partner of the Year will be announced. For more information regarding this partnership and how to become involved, please contact Peggy Tyler at 359-5239 or ptyler@rhnet.org for information.

Teenage Employment Partners

- 1st Priority Federal Credit Union
- Alphagraphics
- Altier's
- AnC Enterprises
- Arby's, Marketplace Mall
- BalloonHQ.com
- Bi-rite Market
- Bill Gray's Restaurant
- Boston Market
- Brad's Cookie Nook
- Brentland Woods Assisted Living
- Brighton Campus Chiropractors
- Broccolo Tree and Lawn Care, Inc.
- Burger King
- Centre Ice Restaurant, ESL Sports Centre
- Chase Pitkin Home and Garden
- Chuck E. Cheese
- Companion Animal Hospital
- Computer Renaissance
- Cutting Edge Lawn Care
- CVS Pharmacy
- David's Bridal
- Design Services, Inc.
- Domenico's Ristorante
- Don's Original
- Dorschel Automotive Group
- Eckerd Drugs, E. Henrietta Road
- Fairfield Farms
- Fast Signs
- FDR's
- First Rochester Community Credit Union
- Fox Landscaping Service
- Friendly's, Marketplace Mall
- Gardners Greenhouse
- Harris Garden Centers, Jefferson Road
- Henrietta Public Library
- Klee's Mobil
- Michelina's Italian Eatery
- Nu-Look Collision Service
- Old Navy
- Outback Steak House
- Papa John's Pizza
- Peppermint's Family Restaurant
- Petco
- Pitstop Convenience Store
- Pizza Corner
- Pizza Hut [3 locations]
- Regal Cinemas, Henrietta Cinema 18
- RIT Inn and Conference Center
- Rochester Brooks Gun Club
- Romano's Macaroni Grill
- Rush-Henrietta Central School District
- Sharel Ventures: McDonald's [3 locations]
- St. Clair Photo-Imaging
- Suburban Animal Hospital
- Subway [Across from Southtown Plaza]
- Summit at Brighton
- Sunoco - Gladstone Service, W. Henrietta Road
- Syms
- Tanning Bed, E. Henrietta Road
- The Nichols Team
- Tim Horton's, Jefferson Road
- Tim Horton's, W. Henrietta Road
- Tooley's Oak & Amish Furniture
- Town of Henrietta
- Vallence Septic Service
- VP Supply Inc.
- Wal-Mart
- Wegmans, E. Henrietta Road
- Weider's Pro Hardware
- Woodcrest Commons



FOUNDATION NEWS

The mission of the Rush-Henrietta Education Foundation [RHEF] is to enhance and enrich educational **opportunities** for students and staff of the Rush-Henrietta Central School District through charitable giving. This is accomplished by funding educational initiatives, programs and projects that cannot be included in the annual school district budget.

op•por•tu•ni•ty

- 1.a. A favorable or advantageous circumstance or combination of circumstances
- 1.b. A favorable or suitable occasion or time
2. A chance for progress or advancement

Source: *The American Heritage® Dictionary of the English Language, Fourth Edition*

In 2003, the foundation distributed four \$1000 scholarships to graduating seniors. Throughout the course of the year, \$7,720 was approved for 23 mini-grants that funded a portion of the 8th grade trip to Washington, D.C. for several students, who would otherwise not have been able to afford the trip with their classmates. Support was provided for RoboLab, an enrichment opportunity for many students in the 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th grades at Winslow Elementary School that provides the opportunity to design and program machines made of legos. Audio recording equipment for the music education program at Leary and Fyle Elementary Schools was purchased through a foundation mini-grant. Students were also able to attend educational conferences with support from RHEF mini-grants.

To learn more about the mission and activities of the RHEF, visit the web site at www.rhef.org or link to the site from the district's home page.

Upcoming Dates to Remember

RHEF Scholarships

RHEF recognizes that student achievement is not limited simply to academic performance. The RHEF scholarship program was established to help high school seniors who have demonstrated excellence in various areas to continue their educations and pursue their dreams. RHEF scholarships provide financial assistance for education and training beyond high school, no matter what career paths the winners choose. RHEF scholarships may be used to help pay for training that leads to certification in a trade, career preparation in a technical school or graduation from a two- or four-year college or university. **The deadline for submitting a scholarship application is April 27th.** More information about the scholarship and the application are available on the RHEF web site or from the Career Center, located at the Senior High School.

School-to-Work Transition Award

In addition to the four yearly scholarships, the foundation offers a School-to-Work Transition Award to a graduating student to advance their job marketability beyond high school. The award may be used for supplies and other items that will help establish their career in the workforce. The award will be given in conjunction with Senior Awards Night. **The application deadline for this award is April 27th** and can also be obtained from the RHEF web site or the Career Center.

Distinguished Alumni Award

Each year, RHEF honors several of Rush-Henrietta's many exceptional graduates with the Distinguished Alumni Award. The honorees are chosen by a selection committee that is comprised of

representatives from RHEF, the school district and members of the Henrietta and Rush communities. **Nominations for the awards must be received by June 18, 2004.** A list of past award recipients, nomination criteria and forms can be found on the RHEF web site.

Apple for the Teacher?

While this is a truly healthy way to recognize a special teacher or staff member, why not consider recognizing them by giving a donation of any amount you choose to the Rush-Henrietta Education Foundation in that person's name, either individually or as a group? RHEF will send a certificate, suitable for framing, to the person you have honored. All donations will be used to fund the awards and grants made by RHEF. **May 2-8** is celebrated in schools as Teacher Appreciation Week. Why not give special recognition through the Honor a Special Teacher Program that will provide educational enrichment for years to come? To learn more about this opportunity and download a printable donation form for the Honor a Special Teacher Program, visit www.rhef.org.

If you have any questions about these programs or how you can work with RHEF to help fulfill its mission, e-mail info@rhef.org or phone 359-5008.

Check Us Out . . .



www.rhef.org

RIT Professors Cite R-H Education as a Reason for Their Success

Three Rush-Henrietta graduates, each of whom have doctoral degrees in microelectronic engineering, are passing their knowledge on to a new generation of students at Rochester Institute of Technology, where they work as professors. Karl Hirschman, Rob Pearson and Bruce Smith cite the math and science skills they obtained during high school as a key reason for their professional success.

The professors teach microelectronic engineering at RIT, an internationally recognized leader in the field. "This is the enabling technology for anything that has electronics in it today," says Pearson, showing off a silicon wafer, an integrated circuit used to run everything from automobiles to cell phones. Pearson joined RIT upon his department's creation in 1983, a move coinciding with the advent and increasing popularity of personal computers. "Back then, no one could have envisioned all of the things that we are making today," he says.

The R-H grads attribute a good portion of their professional success to their schooling, citing the district's excellent programs in math and science. Pearson, a 1976 graduate; Smith, a 1977 graduate; and Hirschman, a member of the class of 1985, each took college-level courses at RIT while they were in high school. As a sophomore, Smith attended college classes as much as three times a week. Hirschman had a similar experience. "I took calculus classes here at RIT and my professor was Bob Luce, who was also teaching math at R-H at the time," he says. "Rush-Henrietta's strong math and science programs are what led me to succeed at RIT."

The trio teach the foundations of microelectronic design, fabrication and testing, providing students with the knowledge necessary for them to develop cheaper, smaller, more powerful electronic devices. "Any time you use a product such as a computer or a digital camera, chances are good that someone who was a student here at RIT worked on that," Smith says. He and



RIT professors [from left to right], Rob Pearson, Karl Hirschman and Bruce Smith, cite the math and science skills obtained while attending Rush-Henrietta Senior High School as a key reason for their professional success.

his colleagues do research in the Clean Room – one of the largest labs of its kind in the world – where they experiment with ways to make today's technology even better. The materials they work with are so small, Hirschman says, "that you truly cannot see what you are fabricating unless you look under an electron microscope."

Hirschman has hosted busloads of R-H students for tours of RIT and he, Pearson and Smith look forward to growing the partnership between the college and school system. "Having the heart, passion and desire

"Having the heart, passion and desire to be a microelectronics engineer is not enough. We need incoming students who have a high-quality foundation in math and science and Rush-Henrietta provided that for us."

*— Dr. Bruce Smith,
Intel Professor and Associate Dean for Graduate Studies,
Rochester Institute of Technology*

to be a microelectronics engineer is not enough," Smith says. "We need incoming students who have a high-quality foundation in math and science and Rush-Henrietta provided that for us."



FOR YOUR INFORMATION

ART SHOW AT THE HENRIETTA TOWN LIBRARY

As part of Youth Art Month, Nancy Beikirch's Senior High School drawing and painting students will present mixed media interpretations of local historic architecture at the Henrietta Town Library through April 16th. These drawings are a result of student participation in a field trip to the Landmark Society's Corn Hill District, as well as a tour of historic landmarks in the Rush and Henrietta communities. Participating students are: Timothy Reeves, Gary Au, Michael Scally, Sarah Stephens, Christie Zawiski, Stephanie Sturgis, Kerri Marchese, Erica Epps, Tiffany Karnath, Steffon Penke, Elizabeth Stockmeister, Nikkia Rivera, Linda Gabbert, Amy Lafleur, Alyson Brown, Alexandra Goldfarb, Wan Ting Zou, Sarah Langner, Courtney Moore, Stevie Welch, Alfred Horr, Caitlin Smith, Jennifer Vantyne, Christopher Brancato, Jennifer Doran, Klara Manning, Elaina Moredock, Michael Farrell, Juliana [Bresovski] Strassner and George Lumb.

BUDGET RELATED DATES

April 20, 2004	Special Meeting of the Board of Education - Adoption of the Proposed 2004-2005 Budget, 5:30 p.m., Superintendent's Conference Room, Parker Administration Building
May 3, 2004	Board of Education Candidates' Night, 7 p.m., Roth Middle School cafeteria
May 11, 2004	Board of Education Meeting & Final Public Hearing on the Proposed 2004-2005 Budget, 7 p.m., Ninth Grade Academy
May 12, 2004	Voter Registration Day, 11 a.m.-8 p.m., All R-H Elementary Schools
May 18, 2004	Budget Vote & Board of Education Election, 6 a.m.-9 p.m., All R-H Elementary Schools
May 18, 2004	Budget Vote & Board of Education Election Results, 9 p.m., Winslow Elementary School

OFFICES MOVE TO 649 ERIE STATION ROAD

With renovations complete at the 649 Erie Station Road facility, please note that the Rush-Henrietta Teacher Center and the Information Systems office have moved from the Vollmer building to Erie Station Road. Please note that phone and fax numbers will remain the same.

EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION

In the event that emergency situations occur in the district or at one or more of its schools, information will be posted to the home page of the district web site as a Parent Alert. The web site allows for the timely release of sensitive information and is a communication tool that allows immediate access to such information. Please access www.rhnet.org to confirm information you may hear regarding emergency situations that may pose a threat to the safety or well being of Rush-Henrietta students, staff or school property.

Check Us Out . . .



www.rhnet.org

Rush-Henrietta Central School District SAFETY TIP LINE



To anonymously report non-emergency situations that may pose a threat to the safety or well-being of Rush-Henrietta students, staff or school property, **DIAL 359-STOP [7867]**

WHO can call this number?

- Students
- Teachers
- Staff Members
- Bus Drivers
- Parents
- Administrators
- Community Residents

WHAT should be reported?

- Violence and threats of violence
- Theft and vandalism
- Drug or alcohol use and abuse
- Talk of suicide
- Sexual harassment
- Weapon possession
- Residency concerns





FOR YOUR INFORMATION

SPRING CONCERT DATES

Crane Elementary School	May 26	
Fyle Elementary School	May 26	5th Grade Concert, 7 p.m.
	June 2	4th Grade String & Recorder Concert, 7 p.m.
Leary Elementary School	June 2	7 p.m., Roth Middle School auditorium
Sherman Elementary School	April 28	Grade 4, 7 p.m.
	June 9	7 p.m.
Winslow Elementary School	April 29	4th Grade String Concert, 7 p.m.
	May 19	7 p.m.
Burger Middle School	May 17	7 p.m.
	May 24	7 p.m.
	June 7	7 p.m.
Roth Middle School	May 10	Small Ensemble Concert, 7 p.m.
	May 17	6th Grade Concert, 7 p.m.
	May 24	7th Grade Concert, 7 p.m.
	June 7	8th Grade Concert, 7 p.m.
NGA/Senior High School	May 25	Stage Band/Symphonic Band/R-H Singers, 7 p.m.
	June 1	Chamber Orchestra/Academy Chorus/Fiddle Group/Women's Ensemble, 7 p.m.
	June 8	Concert Band/Jazz Ensemble/Spectrum Singers, 7 p.m.
	June 10	String Orchestra/Mixed Chorus/Full Orchestra, 7 p.m.

JUNE CALENDAR CHANGES

Please note the following changes in the 2003-2004 school calendar schedule:

June 11, 2004: ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS . . . NO SCHOOL

This day has been made a Superintendent's Conference Day that K-5 teachers will use for grading and using this assessment data for instructional planning. Middle school and high school students will attend school on this day as planned.

June 16, 2004: MIDDLE SCHOOLS . . . LAST DAY OF CLASSES

Wednesday, June 16th will be the last day of classes for middle school students, not June 15th.

2004-2005 SCHOOL CALENDAR

September 8	Schools Open – First Day of Classes
October 11	Columbus Day [Schools closed]
November 1-2	Superintendent's Conference Days [No school for students]
November 11	Veterans' Day [Schools closed]
November 24-26	Thanksgiving Recess [Schools closed]
December 24-31	Winter Recess [Schools closed]
January 17	Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Birthday [Schools closed]
January 25-28	Regents and Midterm Examinations – High School students [9-12] attend by exam schedule only
January 28	Grading Day [No school for K-8 students]
January 28	First Semester Ends
January 31	Second Semester Begins
February 21-25	February Recess [Schools closed]
March 25	Good Friday [Schools closed]
April 18-22	Spring Recess [Schools closed]
May 30	Memorial Day [Schools closed]
June 10	Superintendent's Conference Day [No school for K-5 students]
June 16-24	Regents Examinations – High School students [9-12] attend by exam schedule only
June 24	Last Day for K-8 Students
June 24	Regents Examination Rating Day
June 28	Last Teacher Work Day

SCHOOL REPORT CARDS

Each year the State Education Department compiles a "report card" on every public school and school district in New York State. Copies of 2002-2003 report cards for each school in the district are on file in the main office of each school building and in the Office of Research and Evaluation located in the Parker Administration Building. Parents or interested residents of the district are welcome to examine these documents. For an appointment to review specific school report cards, please contact the main office of the respective school. To view the district report card, please contact Dr. Kenneth Hilton in the Office of Research and Evaluation at 359-5018 or 359-5020. Both district and school report cards can also be accessed through the district web site at www.rhnet.org by clicking on 'Administration' and then selecting 'Research and Evaluation.'



NEWSMAKERS

ART

- As part of Youth Art Month, the following **Senior High School** student artwork was selected for exhibit at Pizza Café during the month of March. Congratulations to: **Craig Aulph, Tiffany Burke, Jasmine Burroughs, Amanda Cantie, Kevin Daniels, Lisa Freeman, Dorian Guci, Tiffany Heinrich, Brian Loeung, Donald McDermott, Lauren McDonald, Jesse Pivnick-Ford, Joshua Post, Jillian Smith, Rachel Smith, Nicole Vierthaler, Nathan Wong, Lauren Woods, Michael Farrell, George Lumb, Klara Manning, Courtney Moore, Caitlin Smith, Stephannie Sturgis, Alexandra Goldfarb, Victoria Hamel, Sarah Langner, Stevie Welch, Michael Scally, Dennis Bones, Mallory Diamond, Ashley Laughlin, Matthew Turner and Subia Khan.**

DISTRICTWIDE

- The district is pleased to announce that its newly erected Transportation and Operations Center was selected for exhibition at the 2004 National School Boards Association Exhibition of School Architecture. Winning submissions were reviewed through a jury selection process. In selecting entries for exhibition, prime consideration was given to design solutions that uniquely reflected the challenge presented and how the architect met this challenge in the response to function and aesthetics. The school **Facilities Department** had a two-board exhibit in Orlando, Florida in March where more than 14,000 school board members, superintendents and other attendees were able to view and study the exhibition featuring outstanding school architecture.

MUSIC

- As part of "Music In Our Schools Month," an annual survey was conducted jointly by the country's top organizations devoted to music and learning. It named the **Rush-Henrietta Central School District** as one of the **Best 100 Communities for Music Education in America** for 2004. The roster, which represents 30 states, includes school districts whose commitment to quality music education-measured across a variety of economic, curricular and programmatic criteria-has enabled them to excel despite the many pressures that are hampering programs across the country.
- The following students are to be congratulated on their acceptance into the New York State School Music Association Zone 2 Elementary All-County Music Festival.

Chorus

- Crane Elementary School [5th graders]: **Fatima Bawany, Ayana Couvertier, Samantha Hoffmeier, Meredith Smith**; Fyle Elementary School [5th graders]: **Lea Joy, Emily Lamica, Amanda Nicholas, Jennifer Taft**; Leary Elementary School [5th graders]: **Brandy Johnson, Robert Marks, Alison Massaro, Leah Mould**; Sherman Elementary School [5th graders]: **Stephanie Barbado, Danielle Crawford, Emilee Vitelli**; Winslow Elementary School [5th graders]: **Lia Conti, Amy Dana, Hayley Johnson, Gretchen Dykes**; Burger Middle School [6th graders]: **Madeline Carpenter, Stacey Hooper, Osha Jones, Jared Joy, Eric Partridge, Ferey Turey**; Roth Middle School [6th graders]: **Rachel Carlton, Shannon Davies, Mackenzie Diamond, Lauren**

Henry, Sean McShea, Richard Sturgis, Clarissa Sullivan

Band

- Burger Middle School [6th grader]: **Cameron Thurnherr, trombone**

Orchestra

- Crane Elementary School [5th grader]: **Greg Bischooping, violin**; Burger Middle School [6th grader]: **Amanda Kritz, viola**; Roth Middle School [6th graders]: **Nathaniel Barnett, violin**; **Alexandra Vasso, violin**

- The following **Burger Middle School** students are to be congratulated on their acceptance into the New York State School Music Association Zone 2 Junior High All-County Music Festival.

- Mixed Chorus [7th graders]: **Brian Cronin, Jamie Gruschow, Jennlyne Rizzo, Regina Schlosser, Michael Truice**; [8th graders]: **Amanda Burgio, Nicholas Condello, Timothy Diederich, Eric Hardy, Jacob Hubbard, Cody Joy, Kirstie Quail**
- Women's Chorus [7th graders]: **Biancha Castner, Amanda Edd, Alycia Gilbert, Kelsey Mattiaccio, Carley DeFranco**; [8th graders]: **Amanda Guiter, Erin Hassett, Emily Riorden**
- Orchestra [8th grader]: **Joseph Wang, violin**

- The following **Roth Middle School** students are to be congratulated on their acceptance into the New York State School Music Association Zone 2 Junior High All-County Music Festival.

- Mixed Chorus [7th graders]: **Candice Colosi, Chris Mould, Mark Repka**; [8th graders]: **Angela Briggs, Alexa Wade**
- Women's Chorus [7th graders]: **JoJo Dzielski, Kathryn Friedman, Vanessas Knipe, Melanie Little**;

NEWSMAKERS

- [8th graders]: **Destani Thomas, Amilyn Bement, Caitlin Bunce, Jennifer Diana**
- Orchestra [7th grader]: **Joseph Parrino**, cello; [8th graders]: **Sara Dobjeleski**, violin; **Greg Lebens-Higgins**, viola; **Peter Parrino**, violin
 - The following **Ninth Grade Academy** students are to be congratulated on their acceptance into the New York State School Music Association Zone 2 Junior High All-County Music Festival.
 - Junior High Women's Chorus: **Julia Eddy, Nina Fiandach, Kaylee Kramer, Jennifer LaVigne**
 - Junior High Mixed Chorus: **Amy DeWolf, Matthew Moran, Matthew Simpson, Carson Smith, Rebecca Soule**
 - Junior High Band: **Michelle Schlosser**, clarinet
 - Junior High Orchestra: **Marirose Dempsey**, viola; **Samuel Elliot**, violin; **Thomas Kern**, violin; **Victoria Vasso**, cello; **Allison Thurnherr**, French horn
 - The following **Senior High School** students are to be congratulated on their

acceptance into the Senior High All-County Music Festival.

- Mixed Chorus [10th graders]: **Nathan Berry, Christina Julian, Kevin Schweitzer**; [11th graders]: **Jamie Acito, Lilliana Alvarez, David Gusmano, Anne Marie Sengillo, Nicole Welshhons, David Zeigler**; [12th graders]: **Anton Ali, Byron Fernandez, Stephanie Kolb, Sean McClellan, Crystal Muniak, Edward Wooten**
- Orchestra [10th graders]: **Zeke Auburn**, violin; **Tyler Lucero**, violin; **Yi Wang**, violin; [11th graders]: **Luke Auburn**, violin; **Rebecca Barnett**, violin; **Joshua Jones**, violin; **Britta Rauch**, viola; **Jesse Stevenson**, bass; **Hilary Wilcox**, violin; [12th graders]: **Kristine Germeroth**, viola; **Cassie Gill**, bass

SCHOOLS

- Kudos to the **Leary Elementary School 5th grade lunchtime book club students** who participate in "Books at Brentland," a program where the students go to Brentland Woods, a senior

living community, to read with residents. The students go about once a month, are matched up with one or two residents and spend time reading with them.

- Congratulations to **Hayley Johnson**, a fifth grader at **Winslow Elementary School**, who, after five grueling rounds, emerged the winner of the 2004 Geo Bee. Congratulations also to **Josh Mouferrage** [5th grade], first runner up and to **Danielle Maio** [4th grade], who placed third.
- Congratulations to the following students who took top honors at **Roth Middle School's** Oral Spelling Bee held on March 10th: **Sahil Mehta** [8th grade], 1st place; **Jason Love** [8th grade], 2nd place; **Nik Sangave** [6th grade], 3rd place and **Nathaniel Barnett** [6th grade], 4th place. The top three winners went on to participate in the Regional Spelling Competition on March 21st where Sahil Mehta placed 4th overall.

Continued on page 14.

- The below **Senior High School students** participated in the creation of the visual props for the Epilepsy Foundation's Annual Chocolate Ball. The theme this year was 'New York City Lights.' Kudos to Ms. Ziehl's students [**Lyz Cottone, Jasmine Kearsse, Ashley Purdy, Courtney Purdy**], Mr. DeWald's students [**Jon Burgess, Vincent Cunico, Peter Falsone, Brandon Garrand, John LaRocca, Erich Reichert, Ryan Rowan, Kevin Siriphantong**] and Ms. Flisnik's students [**Molly Conway, Megan Cooper, Julia Kenyon, Erin McGraw**]. The following students were volunteers at the event: **Nate Bennett, Caitlin Macauley, Cristina Maxon and Liz Pennella.**



Epilepsy Ball props created by R-H students



NEWSMAKERS

Continued from page 13.

- The proud recipient of a grant from the American League of Theatre Producers, the Rochester Broadway Theatre League [RBTL] has expanded its educational programs, designing and implementing a program geared specifically for middle school students. **Roth Middle School's eighth grade enrichment team** is one of five partnering middle schools benefiting from this partnership. By creating strong partnerships between middle school academic teams and the RBTL, students in the classroom learn the academic background of the play and visit the Auditorium Theatre for some active participation in a variety of experiences, which include watching the production and a post show visit.
- **Elizabeth Lincoln**, a **Senior High School** senior, has been participating as a committee member for the Rochester Lilac Festival. She has been working with other committee members to bring the Rochester Lilac Queen event back to life. After many hours of research and discussion, the Lilac Festival organizers are proud to be able to bring a bit of nostalgia back to the Lilac Festival, held at Highland Park in May. Liz will also be a judge during the Lilac Queen selection process and will be participating in organizing the Lilac Festival's version of American Idol, called "Search for the Stars."

SPORTS

- Congratulations to **Jeff Standish** who placed 6th in the large school division in the NYSPHSAA [NYS Public High School Athletic Association] Wrestling Championships held at the University of Buffalo in February.
- Congratulations to **Chelsea Martin**, a student at **Roth Middle School**, who, with fellow similar pair figure skating partner Carol Kim of Brighton, won a gold medal at the 2004 Empire State Games held in Lake Placid, NY in February. All five judges for the Similar Pairs I event awarded the two with first place scores on their performance. Similar Pairs is a figure skating event made up of two same sex skaters. Typically, the pairs wear the same outfits and skate to a choreographed routine performing a variety of elements in unison.
- Many thanks to the **Rush-Henrietta Sports Booster Club** and the **hockey team parents** who donated \$2,810.52 to be used directly in support of the hockey team. Hockey parents, working in cooperation with the Sports Boosters Club, raised this money through the sales of programs at hockey events.

STAFF

- Congratulations to **Chris Reed**, boys varsity basketball coach, who was named Section V AAA Basketball Coach of the Year, as well as Coach of the Year for Monroe County Division I.
- **David Simpson**, a technology teacher at **Burger Middle School**, was recognized by Project Lead The Way for being selected and for serving as a Master Teacher for five years at one of Project Lead The Way's National Summer Training Institutes. Master Teachers are exemplary classroom instructors who demonstrate and maintain an outstanding level of proficiency in their area of expertise in the Project Lead The Way pre-engineering program. Master Teachers also reflect the knowledge, creativity and teaching ability consistent with the principles and rigorous quality standards of PLTW.
- **Pamela Colosi** and **Lisa Schlapfer** have been selected as the 2003-2004 Transportation Employees of the Year.

Both ladies will be honored at a brunch sponsored by the Rochester Area Transportation Supervisor's Association on May 17th at Logan's Party House.

Survey Results Document High Level of Parent Satisfaction

Parent satisfaction with the district has reached an all-time high. Each year, parents are asked to complete and return a Partnership Schools Survey and in its third year, results show a marked improvement not only in parent participation, but also with their level of satisfaction for district and school programs their children are using. Building level results will be released later this spring.

Parent participation in the survey continues to improve each year with the number of responses increasing from 1,821 last year to 2,119 in 2004. The level of parent satisfaction this year shows the most significant improvement in any one year that the survey has been administered. Not only was overall satisfaction increased, but a dramatic improvement in parent approval was documented.

As part of on-going improvement initiatives, this year's survey was revised with input from the District Parent Advisory Council to better reflect stakeholder concerns and expectations. Survey results provide valuable information about how effectively the needs of Rush-Henrietta students and families are being met and enable the district to move forward with improvement efforts on behalf of all students.

Thank you to all parents who returned the survey . . . the district respects and values your opinions. Together, we share the responsibility for ensuring student success both in and beyond the classroom and with parent input, the district can better meet student needs. For more information regarding survey results, please contact Dr. Kenneth Hilton, executive director of research and evaluation at 359-5018.



SED Recognizes Improved Achievement at Sherman Elementary

Test results released by the State Education Department [SED] show that Sherman Elementary School is among an exclusive group of only four suburban Monroe County elementary schools named to the state's Most Improved List in both English language arts and math.

In 1999, the state instituted new tests in English language arts [ELA] and math, on which students receive scores of 1 to 4; the higher the score, the better the performance. A score of 3 indicates an acceptable level of proficiency. Between 1999 and 2003, the number of Sherman students scoring 3 or 4 on the fourth grade ELA test skyrocketed from 43 percent to 89 percent. Likewise, the number of students scoring 3 or 4 on the fourth grade math test rose from 69 percent to 94 percent.

"We are proud of everyone at Sherman . . . teachers, staff and students alike," says Dr. Ken Hilton, the district's executive director of school improvement. "In 1999, we met with Principal Mark Turner and some of his staff. They were shell-shocked by the disappointing scores and committed to turning it around. They devised effective strategies for teachers and students and identified the most important curricular areas that needed strengthening. In addition, instead of focusing solely on fourth graders, they made a commitment to improve student performance at every grade level. Everyone – teachers, students and parents – pitched in and got to work," Hilton says. "The 2003 test results speak for themselves. It is just a remarkable turnaround."

Throughout R-H, scores are on the rise. For instance,

throughout the district, just 59 percent of fourth graders scored 3 or 4 on the ELA test in 1999, as opposed to 74 percent in 2003. In 1999, 74 percent of fourth graders scored 3 or 4 on the math test, compared with 83 percent in 2003.

One reason math scores are on the rise is because R-H included reform mathematics curricula in its core math curriculum, a shift in how math is taught and learned. The method employs a more engaging curriculum that requires students to use math in context to solve problems, to encourage them to make sense out of the processes they learn and to communicate mathematically more than they ever had to in the past.

"We chose this program because it helps kids practice explanations and better understand the math," says Jody Hoch, director of K-12 math. "Now, we ask students to tell us what they think and to explain to us why they are approaching a problem in a certain way." Having a good grasp on mathematics fundamentals is essential to functioning in our increasingly complex society. Offering an effective, inclusive mathematics program requires students to develop their ability to communicate, explore, conjecture and reason logically, as well as calculate accurately and manipulate symbols efficiently.

R-H constantly strives to provide students with enhanced learning opportunities. The district is encouraged by the improved student achievement and is determined to do even better. Congratulations to students, teachers and parents!

Summer School 2004

In an era of high academic standards and stricter graduation requirements, summer school has become increasingly important in the Rush-Henrietta Central School District. R-H has summer programs for students in grades K-12, providing some of our most fragile students with an opportunity to improve their academic skills, retake courses which they may have failed during the regular school year or get a jump on additional courses needed for graduation. During the summer of 2003, over 700 R-H students attended one of three summer school programs. Elementary [K-5] summer school, SMART [Summer Math and Reading Time], will run from July 6 through August 6 and will be housed this year at Fyle

Elementary School. Students in need of extra help in reading, writing and math are invited to enroll. Busing is provided for all students. Principals will be sending out letters to the parents of eligible students within the next several weeks.

Middle [6-8] school Summer Academy will run from July 6 through July 30 and will be housed at Burger Middle School. Several programs, serving the needs of different groups of middle school students will be offered this year. Many students attend to repeat courses that they failed during the regular year. Others, with identified special needs, are invited to attend a special reading clinic, or the "Concepts Math" or "Concepts ELA" classes, which

focus on improving basic skills.

The Senior High School [9-12] summer school will run from July 6 through August 18 and will be held at the Ninth Grade Academy. While it generally serves the needs of students who want to retake courses that they did poorly in during the regular school year, many others take driver education or accelerated classes in health, economics or Participation in Government.

Those with questions about any of the district's summer programs should contact their child's principal or counselor. They are also invited to call Dr. Kenneth Hilton, executive director of research and evaluation, who supervises all K-12 summer school programs, at 359-5018.

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Celebrating Music In Our Schools



As part of "Music In Our Schools" month, students in grades 5-12 performed at the District Band Festival held at the Senior High School in March.