



Rush-Henrietta Central School District

Community Newsletter

Summer
2001

Congratulations Class of 2001!

Best wishes to the Class of 2001! Commencement was held on June 22, 2001 in the Blue Cross Arena of the Rochester War Memorial. Some of the 317 graduates are pictured here. Many of the graduates received awards, commendations and scholarships for their outstanding achievements during their high school careers, and 86 of the graduates were members of the National Honor Society.

Among those who received diplomas this year was George Rossiter, a veteran of World War II who joined the Army after Pearl Harbor was bombed. Veterans across the country who could not complete high school were awarded honorary diplomas as part of the government's Operation Recognition program. The Class of 2001 Valedictorian was Kyra Tichacek and the Co-Salutatorians were Tooba Fayyaz and Marianne Stott.



Board of Education to Move Transportation Center Proposal Forward

This fall, the Rush-Henrietta Board of Education will move forward with its plans to present for voter approval a proposition for a new Rush-Henrietta Central School District Transportation Center.

The special vote is scheduled for Wednesday, October 10, 2001 from 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. in the Dee Strickland Conference Room of the Ninth Grade Academy, located at 2000 Lehigh Station Road.

At its January 22, 2001 meeting, the Board of Education unanimously decided to bring to public vote a proposition that would authorize the acquisition of land located at the corner of Middle and Lehigh Station Roads for the purpose of constructing a 35,000 square foot transportation center at a total cost not to exceed \$9.5 million. The cost includes the acquisition of 56.7 acres; site development; sewer implementation; required permits and easements;

general construction; architect, engineering, insurance and legal fees; and equipment costs.

The Board's decision to bring this project to a public vote was based upon an assumption that current building aid (53.1%) would be available. After building aid, the total net cost to District taxpayers would not exceed \$4.4 million. This translates to an estimated average cost of approximately \$1 per month for a primary residence with a full value of \$100,000 under the STAR program.

The Board of Education had planned to present this proposition to voters along with the annual school budget this past May. However, based upon the fact that the state budget had not been approved, there was uncertainty about state aid revenue for this project and a decision was made to postpone the vote until a later date. Although the state budget remains stalled in the

legislative process in Albany, current information and advice from area legislators, financial advisors and educational organizations closely following the budget debate have given the District assurance that legislators are not likely to change the building aid formula for this type of project next year. Additionally, further information from Albany suggests that state aid for non-instructional building projects, such as this transportation center project, may be eliminated or significantly reduced in two to three years.

The Board of Education has scheduled a Community Forum on the proposed District Transportation Center for Tuesday, September 25, 2001 from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. District residents are invited to attend the forum that will be held in the Dee Strickland Conference Room of the Ninth Grade Academy, located at 2000 Lehigh Station Road.

Kyra K. Tichacek Named Presidential Scholar



Kyra K. Tichacek, Class of 2001, has been named a Presidential Scholar. Kyra is one of only three students in New York State and 141

students nationwide who were so named. Selection was made by a 32-member Commission on Presidential Scholars and is based on academic achievement, essays, self-assessments, activities, school recommendations and school transcripts. The Presidential Scholars Program was established

in 1964 by Executive Order of the President.

During her senior year, Kyra took Advanced Placement (AP) Economics, AP Chemistry, AP Calculus, AP American Government, Spanish V Honors and electives in Sociology and Yearbook. In previous years, she completed AP English Language, AP Physics, AP History and AP English Literature. The Class of 2001 Valedictorian, Kyra is not only an outstanding student, but she has excelled in soccer, has been a community volunteer and has held part-time and summer jobs. Over the years, she has earned over 50 awards in academic subjects, writing, art and athletics.

Kyra and the other winners attended the awards ceremony and other activities during several days at the end of June. Among the

activities were a visit to the White House and a recognition ceremony at which she received a Presidential Scholar medallion. In applying for the program, Kyra named James DeCamp, her 10th grade English teacher, as the teacher who most influenced her. He was also invited to attend the activities in Washington.

In addition to this honor, Kyra won a National Merit Scholarship from the Xerox Foundation renewable for up to four years of college undergraduate study. Kyra will attend Cornell University this fall, where she plans to major in industrial and labor relations. She hopes to eventually earn a law degree.

Community Forum on Understanding Tax Rates Scheduled

At its June 26, 2001 meeting, the Rush-Henrietta Board of Education voted unanimously to host a Community Forum on Tuesday, August 14, 2001 to share information regarding the process for establishing the school tax rates, including the impact of equalization rates and property assessments.

Typically, school tax rates are very close to the tax rates projected at the time the school budget is voted on. However, at the time of the school budget vote, school tax rates are estimates only. Three important pieces of information must be known with certainty to establish school tax rates: state aid, equalization rates and property assessments. Each of these factors is estimated at the time of the school budget vote. If the school district's estimates are accurate, the school tax rate estimate is also accurate. However, if any of these three factors differs significantly from the school district's estimate, actual tax rates will be higher or lower than tax rates projected at the time of the school budget vote.

At the June 26 Board of Education meeting, Debbie Rogowicz, Executive Director of Financial Operations for the District, presented to the Board the most recent information available to

school district officials on state aid, equalization rates and property assessments. Additionally, the school board was shown the impact that this information would have on tax rates when the Board sets the school tax rate in August. Board members discussed, at length, the possibility that they would be required by state law to set a school tax rate in August without certain information about state aid. State aid will remain uncertain until the state budget is adopted.

Recognizing that community residents may wish to know more about how the Board establishes school tax rates, the Board of Education will host a Community Forum on August 14, 2001 to share information regarding this. District residents are encouraged to attend this important forum scheduled from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. preceding the regularly scheduled Board of Education meeting. The Board will vote on school tax rates for the 2001-2002 school year at a later time.

The Community Forum will be held in the Dee Strickland Conference Room of the Ninth Grade Academy at 2000 Lehigh Station Road. For more information, please contact the Office of the District Clerk at 359-5010.

Voters Approve Budget and Elect Three Board Members

Voters in the Rush-Henrietta Central School District approved the 2001-2002 budget of \$78 million on May 15, 2001 by a vote of 1,652 to 794. Voters also approved expenditures from two Reserve Funds: a \$1.5 million appropriation from the Capital Reserve Fund for improvements throughout the District (1,697 to 583) and the expenditure of \$800,000 from the School Bus Replacement Reserve Fund (1,693 to 594). The Reserve Fund

propositions do not impact the budget or tax rate.

Three members were reelected to the Board of Education: Susan M. Derrick, with 1911 votes; David R. Pennella, with 1,754 votes; and A. Dirk Hightower, with 1,611 votes. Bernie Fallon and Mohammad Nasar received 837 and 568 votes respectively.

At the July 10 organizational meeting of the Board, David R. Pennella was reelected President, and

52 Staff Earn Tenure

The Board of Education hosted a reception on May 22 for 49 teachers, a school psychologist, a social worker and a principal who were awarded tenure. They were introduced by their respective building principals. Congratulations to the following staff members who were honored:

Senior High School: Ross Amstey, Linda Blake, Jessica Burdick, Michael Fantauzzo, Sarah Kamm, Scott Nash, Daniel McMurray, Gary Parisi, Katherine Pizzutelli and Brian Usselman.

Ninth Grade Academy: Joseph Bellanca, Doreen Blankenbush, Amy Bray, Jeffrey King, Tami Loftus, Marissa Privitere and Carly Tallman.

Burger Middle School: Karyn Magnanti and Felecia Morris.

Roth Middle School: Cristy Balling, Lisa Czebatol, Mary Laio, Lynn Marquart, Suzanne Macauley-Meyert, Kristen Pencek and Sharon Rickard.

Crane Elementary: Kristen Cress.

Fyle Elementary: Tracie Czebatol, Jennifer Dalto, Starla Gerlach, Barbara Hadley and Eileen Lyons.

Leary Elementary: Mary Eunice Sitzer, Martin Fagan, Michelle Stodd (school psychologist), Ruth Teitel and Jessica Weld.

Sherman Elementary: James Loughner, Heather O'Brien, Kimberly O'Mara, Catherine Shutt and Kimberly Usselman.

Winslow Elementary: Ronald Chesterton, Mary Jo Costello, Christine Hess, Michelle Karam, Mary Mullin, Nancy Scott, Ron Springer (principal), Elizabeth Steblenko, Barbara Thorogood (social worker) and Elizabeth Wood.

Sylvia Perez-Hardy was elected Vice President for the 2001-2002 school year.

The Board of Education expresses its sincere gratitude to the community for their support of the budget and propositions. The programs and services that will be supported by the budget are vital to guiding student success.

Three R-H Principals Named

The Rush-Henrietta Board of Education has named three new principals for schools which have had interim leadership during the past year.



Nicholas DiPonzio was named principal of Crane Elementary School effective April 10. He had served as the school's interim principal since last fall and was Teacher on Special Assignment during the previous year. DiPonzio is a former special education teacher in Rush-Henrietta's Leary and Fyle Elementary Schools and has also worked in BOCES programs and Catholic Diocese schools.



Cindy Neth was named principal of Fyle Elementary School beginning in July. She comes to Rush-Henrietta from the Greece School District,

where she was an elementary principal. Neth is also an experienced special education teacher and has worked in Pavilion schools and BOCES programs, as well as the Genesee Hospital developmental unit.



Stephen Barbeau became the principal of Rush-Henrietta Senior High School in July. He was formerly principal of Caledonia-Mumford

High School. He is a former social studies teacher and coach at Pavilion High School and has also served on the LeRoy Town Board.

2001-2002 School Calendar

September 3	Labor Day (Schools closed)
September 4	Teachers report to work
September 5	Staff preparation for the opening of school
September 6	First day of classes
October 5	Superintendent's Conference Day (No school for students)
October 8	Columbus Day (Schools closed)
October 25	Half Day Grades 1-5 - Kindergarten in session (K-5 Parent-Teacher Conferences in evening)
October 31	Half Day Grades 1-5 - Kindergarten in session (K-5 Parent-Teacher Conferences in afternoon)
November 6	Half Day Grades 1-5 - Kindergarten in session (K-5 Parent-Teacher Conferences in evening)
November 12	Half Day Grades 1-5 - Kindergarten in session (K-5 Parent-Teacher Conferences in afternoon)
November 21-23	Thanksgiving Day Recess (Schools close at the end of day Nov. 20 and reopen Nov. 26)
Dec. 24-Jan. 1	Winter Recess (Schools close at the end of day Dec. 21 and reopen Jan. 2)
January 21	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (Schools closed)
January 22-25	Regents and Midterm Examinations (High school students attend exams only)
January 25	Grading Day (No school for K-8 students)
January 25	First Semester Ends
January 28	Second Semester Begins
February 18-22	February Recess (Schools close at the end of day Feb. 15 and reopen Feb. 25)
March 8	K-12 Parent-Teacher Conferences (No classes K-12)
March 29	Good Friday (Schools closed)
April 15-19	Spring Recess (Schools close at the end of day April 12 and reopen April 22)
May 27	Memorial Day Holiday (Schools closed)
June 18-24	Regents Examinations
June 21	Last day for K-8 Students
June 25	Regents Examination Rating Day
June 25	Last Teacher Work Day

Creative Crane Children

Youngsters at Crane Elementary School presented two terrific musicals this spring on the theme of asset development. Grades 3-5 presented I Like Being Me and Grades K-3 presented Once Upon a Lily Pad. This scene from Lily Pad featured students as birds, snakes, alligators, turtles and fireflies. The Rush-Henrietta community supports and promotes programs and activities that encourage the development of the attributes that help young people grow up healthy, caring and responsible.



R-H Students Travel to French Sister School

Rush-Henrietta Senior High School has had a long-standing relationship with the Lycee Rene Descartes in Rennes, France, one of the Rochester sister cities. Every other year, including this year, students from upper-level French classes travel to Rennes to spend 10 days with their host partners. While in Rennes, they live with families, attend classes at school and participate in a variety of cultural and educational activities. During the alternate years, the French partners travel to Rush-Henrietta to complete the exchange.

This spring R-H students were in Rennes from April 14-24. Their activities included regular attendance in classes at the Lycee Rene Descartes, a guided tour of the city of Rennes, a reception at the Mayor's office and audience with the commercial attache to the U.S. consulate in France, a visit to Quiberon and its wild beaches, a visit to St. Malo (a seaside town on the northern coast of Brittany), as well as bowling and dancing. Students also visited an elementary school to teach younger students about America.

At the end of the trip, students spent four days in Paris, where they visited the major monuments and experienced all that the City of Light has to offer. Among the highlights were Notre Dame Cathedral (and the climb up its 400+ steps), the Louvre Museum, Versailles (where R-H students were interviewed by French TV on the effects of the French strike on museums), the Latin Quarter, the Eiffel Tower, the Arc of Triumph and the famous street les Champs Elysees.

The R-H exchange students included Kimberly Baker, Tho Nguyen, Kara Lamanna, Nick Liberto, Eric Jendryaszek, John Standish, Brian Roman, John Smith, Jeanette Sugrue, Julie Stoll, Katherine Head, Courtney Galusha, Becky

Schreier, Tracy
Roach, Kristina
Parker, Kristine
Cartagena,
Kelly O'Connell
and Jessica
Case. Teachers
Candace Black
and Francia
Gonzalez
accompanied
the group.

All had a fabulous time with their host partners and developed relationships that will last beyond their high school years.



Staff Members Retire

Best wishes for a long and healthy retirement to all the employees who retired from the school district during the 2000-2001 school year. Together, in each of their positions, they were instrumental in preparing Rush-Henrietta students for responsible citizenship, productive futures and life-long learning.

The retirees are Carol Andrews, elementary teacher, 34 years; Loretta Biller, reading teacher, 14 years; Theresa Capluzzi, elementary teacher, 33 years; E. Joyce Carson, clerk, 12 years; Deanna Coats, bus driver, 26.5 years; Carol Conti, elementary teacher, 34 years; Jim Cox, physical education teacher, 33 years; James Davidson, science teacher, 34 years; Robert Dayton, science teacher, 33 years; Elizabeth DeMersman, bus driver, 28 years; Eugene DeVeto, bus driver, 11 years; Michael DuPre, Science & Health Director, 11 years; David Eike, social studies teacher, 34 years; Gerald Everling, physical education teacher, 26 years; Robert Fleming, science teacher, 33 years; Richard Fratta, English Language Arts Director, 9 years; Barbara Freeman, paraprofessional, 19 years; Myrthia Grabenstetter, food service helper, 7.5 years; Richard Guido, English teacher, 31 years; Linda Halldow, paraprofessional, 18 years; Geraldine Hogan, English teacher, 32

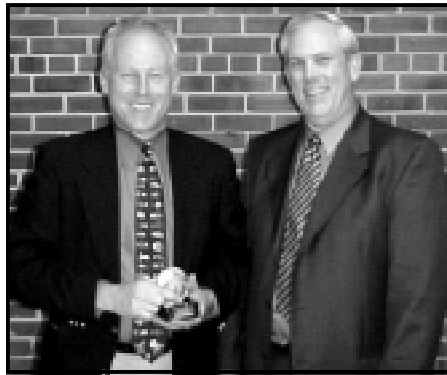
years; Marsha Hughes, English teacher, 29 years; and David Jamieson, cleaner, 38 years.

Retirees also included Donna Kleinhans, enrichment teacher, 8 years; Thomas Langan, maintenance mechanic and courier, 22 years; Edward Leary, science teacher, 33 years; Karin Melkis, bus driver, 24 years; Shirley Meston, math teacher, 30 years; Carole Mills, elementary teacher, 31 years; Dorene Misner, food service helper, 28.5 years; Joan Mortier, paraprofessional, 23 years; Marcia Nabut, special education teacher, 23.5 years; Maureen O'Connor, elementary teacher, 33 years; Ruth Pick, paraprofessional, 21 years; Leola Porter, bus driver, 28 years; Sue Raymond, physical education teacher, 33 years; Gary Rich, physical education teacher, 34 years; Penelope Rider, library-media specialist, 33 years; Phyllis Rosen, paraprofessional, 13 years; Pamela Scheg, elementary teacher, 31 years; Barbara Sloan, bus driver, 36 years; Katherine Smith, elementary teacher, 31 years; Linda J. Smith, science teacher, 33 years; Linda Steinberg, elementary teacher, 32 years; Robert Stiles, cleaner, 37 years; Margaret Thurston, elementary teacher, 33 years; Sandra Wiborg, bus driver, 31 years; and Gerald Zeltmann, English teacher, 32 years.

Michael Yudelson Named R-H Volunteer of the Year

Each year the Rush-Henrietta Central School District gives special recognition to a school volunteer whose contributions to the District have been particularly noteworthy. This year, more than 20 people were nominated for this honor. From this excellent group, Michael Yudelson was selected Volunteer of the Year. Yudelson is a long-time District resident and father of three children, a son at Winslow Elementary School and two pre-schoolers.

Yudelson has been heavily involved with Winslow for the four years his son has attended Winslow. He can be found working at almost every school event during and after regular school hours. He served as Vice President of the Winslow PTO for one year and President for the past two years. In this capacity, he actively worked to change the perception of the PTO from a fundraising organization to one that encourages parent involvement in the education of their children. He serves as a parent representative on the Winslow Shared Decision Making Team, and in that role helped the team start monthly Parent Forums where staff gather information from parents to help guide future school improvements and initiatives. He was instrumental in the success of many Winslow initiatives, among them the



Michael Yudelson, left, Volunteer of the Year, is pictured with Dr. Kenneth Graham, Superintendent of Schools.

40th birthday celebration and PTO family picnics.

In his professional life, Yudelson was the Director of the Town of Henrietta's Recreation Department and Youth Bureau as well as Deputy Town Supervisor. In this capacity, he was a strong advocate for the Student Assets initiative and other joint efforts of the school district and town in support of this community's youth.

Mike Yudelson's generous work and positive interest on behalf of Winslow children and the District are greatly appreciated and set an example of how important parents are as partners in providing an environment conducive to student success.

Foundation News

The Rush Henrietta Education Foundation (RHEF) awarded four scholarships at the Senior Awards Night on May 24. Four graduating seniors received the first ever scholarships awarded by RHEF.

The School-To-Work Award was granted to Jimmy Cleere in the amount of \$1,000. This award is given to an R-H senior who is going directly into the work force upon graduation.

Lacey Laskowski and Michael Patterson each received a \$1,000 scholarship toward college.

The fourth scholarship, funded by a private contribution from a parent and presented in the memory of Chris Tanski, was awarded to Dan Bond in the amount of \$300.

Joe Bellanca, RHEF Trustee and Scholarship Chair, commented at the presentation of the four awards. "In its first year of grant-making, RHEF is pleased to award four scholarships to four deserving seniors who demonstrated achievement not only in the classroom, but also in their daily activities."

FYI

- **District Launches RHTV Cable Programs**

A school district initiative during 2001-2002 is to broadcast school activities and events on cable television. Beginning in July, the District is presenting two two-hour cable television programs on Channel 15 (Brighton/Henrietta), generally on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month from 7:30-9:30 p.m. There were two programs in July, and there will be one program on August 8. Video-tapes of each program will be available for loan to District residents who live outside the cablecast area or who do not subscribe to cable. This initiative will enhance communication and provide opportunities to share some of the many successes of R-H students and staff with area residents. Those wishing to borrow a tape may make arrangements by calling 359-5000.

- **School Calendars Will Be Available**

In mid-August, school district calendars and sports calendars will be mailed directly to parents of children attending R-H schools and will be available to all community members at several locations. As supplies last, the calendars will be available at the Henrietta, Rush, Brighton and Pittsford libraries; the Henrietta Town Hall, Senior Center and Youth Bureau; and the Parker Administration Building, 2034 Lehigh Station Road. The calendar will also be on the website at www.rhnet.org in early August.

- **Stardust Display**

Community members are invited to visit the District administration building during the summer from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. to see the bulletin board display featuring Stardust, the Fyle Elementary School "Horse on Parade." The bulletin board display is on the lower level of the Parker Administration Building located at 2034 Lehigh Station Road.

Newsmakers

All students and staff mentioned below were Newsmakers during the 2000-2001 school year.

- The Transportation Department selected **Mike Bell** as this year's Professional Pupil Transportation Employee of the Year, a program of the Rochester Area Transportation Supervisors Association. Over 30 school districts and transportation organizations select employees for this celebration of student safety, which was held on May 21. Bell has been an R-H bus driver since 1998. He has a perfect attendance, a good safety record and gets along well with all staff members. He also resides in the school district.
- Three R-H students were named finalists for the Young Women of Distinction Award given by the Women's Council of the Greater Rochester Metro Chamber of Commerce. They are **Christina Kettles**, **Shana Page** and **Denise Siebert**. This award is designed to recognize young women in their junior or senior year of high school in the Monroe County area who have demonstrated superior academic performance, volunteer service and leadership.
- Six R-H cheerleaders were selected as members of the All-American Cheer and Dance Squad that will perform in the 2002 National Football League Pro-Bowl in Hawaii. They are juniors **Kristen Bithorn** and **Rhea Santangelo** and sophomores **Jenna DeMersman**, **Amanda Carden**, **Caitlin Minute** and **Amanda Locke**. The girls are all members of the R-H Varsity Cheerleading Team, which earned third place at the Eastern Cheerleading Association Cheer and



Dance Nationals in March. The six were nominated by their coach, **Michelle Bealle**, and they were accepted for the All-American Squad on the basis of their individual performances at the nationals. The team is accepting donations toward the expenses of the trip. The Varsity Cheerleaders also took second runner-up in their division at the Eastern Cheerleading Championship in Virginia.

- The New York State Athletic Administrators Association presented a Distinguished Service Award to Barb and Chris Tanski, Jr. in memory of the late **Christopher Tanski, Sr.**, former Senior High School Principal. Mr. Tanski was well-known for his extensive background in athletics. The award is presented annually to a person, or in memory of an individual, who has made a significant contribution to athletics.
- Two members of the R-H community received community awards at the annual dinner of the Henrietta Commerce Network on May 9. **Jean Lazeroff**, Director of the R-H Teacher Center, earned the Education Award for her contributions to the community and the impact of the Teacher Center on professional development for teachers in the school district. **David Pennella**, president of the R-H Board of Education, earned the Public Service Award for distinguished service to the community and school district as a member of the school board.
- The following students organized and implemented workshops at this year's Rochester area leadership conference at Nazareth College in March. Over 425 area students attended. R-H student presenters included **Joe Pennella**, **Fernando Nussenbaum**, **Gretchen Oechsle**, **Meaghan LaRocca**, **Vicki**

Coons, **Margaret O'Neill**, **Elizabeth Schirmer** and **Amanda Carden**.

- **Sherman Elementary School** students and staff are truly caring and giving. Among their activities this year was collecting many items on the Wish List of the Rochester Ronald McDonald House. Staff members again raised money for various charities through Dre\$\$ for Dollar\$. Once a month for the past three years, staff members have "dressed down," and for that privilege, they add money to the charity "kitty." This year they collected \$1,054.35.

Miss Deaf America Visits R-H

Miss Deaf America, Lauren Teruel, was a guest in Rush-Henrietta schools, where she discussed her experiences growing up as a deaf child, the pageant and her work as Miss Deaf America. She is pictured signing the word "practice." Over 600 students in R-H schools study American Sign Language (ASL). Students can begin studying ASL in sixth grade or when they get to high school. Teruel's visit was arranged by the Deaf Education/ASL Department of Monroe I BOCES.



Newsmakers

- **Molly Conway**, an eighth grader at Roth Middle School, was selected as one of 30 students to participate in Geva's Summer Academy 2001. She will train with professional actors to help develop and explore acting talents. The program will include courses in acting, voice and diction, movement, rehearsal productions, music ensemble and text analysis. Molly's activities include theater, band and chorus at Roth, dancing and serving on the teen editorial board of Bluejean Media.

- **Rush-Henrietta employees** contributed a whopping \$33,000 for United Way this year. **Kristin Mosher**, Assistant Director for Human Resources, organized and coordinated this year's successful campaign.

Teachers of the Year



Two R-H teachers were honored this spring as Teachers of the Year. Lisa Pastore, left, a sixth grade science teacher at Burger Middle School, was named the Henrietta Sam's Club Teacher of the Year. Pastore received the most parent and student votes at the Henrietta location. Pastore will receive a plaque and a \$500 grant, which she plans to donate to the school's Homework Hangout program. Carol Andrews, right, a recently retired fifth grade teacher at Crane Elementary School, was named Henrietta Walmart Teacher of the Year. She received the most votes from students and teachers at the Henrietta store. Andrews received a certificate from Walmart at the Crane Faculty/PTA Volunteer Breakfast in June. The school will receive a grant for \$500 in Andrew's honor.

Tops in Stocks

Students representing six teams from Fyle Elementary School were honored at the Democrat & Chronicle's Spring Stock Market Game Awards for finishing in the top 20 teams of 102



teams competing regionally. Fifty Fyle fifth graders participated in this on-line simulation coordinated by Donna Plain, Fyle's Enrichment Technology Teacher. Each team was given \$100,000 to invest in the stock market. Students met twice weekly for 10 weeks to select and track their stock portfolios.

The six teams in the top 20 were, finishing 8th - Elizabeth Bowser, Angela Wambach, Victoria Nachar, Wendy Latham; 9th - Zachary Angus, Joseph Wang, Alex Phillips, Kyle Walsh, David Hassett; 13th - Maneesha Jones, Stephanie Cravatta, Brittany Pfluke, Shannon Herrick, Anna Nwokelo; 14th - Jonathan Neri, Nate Delone, Ryan Leonard, Cory McAllister, Brandon Guerrero; 18th - Kerri Hogan, Dominique Richardson, Alexandra Giuliano, Abbey Tedrow, Sheila LaMere; and 20th - Jordan Deane, Heather Kidder, Joanna Vail, Lauren Fulkerson, Nicole Groth. Representing the six Fyle teams at the awards ceremony were, from the left (bottom) Joseph Wang, Zachary Angus, Kyle Walsh, Alex Phillips, (top) Alexandra Giuliano, Abbey Tedrow, Angela Wambach, Wendy Latham, Victoria Nachar, Elizabeth Bowser, Shannon Herrick and Anna Nwokelo.

- **Jared Rosenau** has been awarded the 2001 Antoinette Brown Blackwell Scholarship. Jared, a graduating senior at R-H Senior High School, was a junior board member of the R-H District Parents Advisory Council and Senior High School Student Council. He also performed with the R-H singers in Europe and in Carnegie Hall.

- **Andrea Campo** and **Sue Cotterman's fifth grade class** at Leary Elementary School enjoyed a marketing unit in which the students designed and made Leary Laces, designer shoe laces, and Jimbobobs, bead key chain animals. The students marketed their products to other students, making a profit of about \$400, which they used for books for the school library and a donation to the Rush Fire Department.

- **Jessica Burdick**, a social studies teacher at the Senior High School, was selected for the Excellence in Secondary School Teaching Award from the Graduate School of Education and Human Development of the University of Rochester.

- Ten R-H Senior High School students studying at the Eastern Monroe Career Center (EMCC) have earned special honors. Nine were named to the third quarter Honor Roll for maintaining an A average in their vocational education classes. They are **Amy Boula** and **Thomas Welch** (Culinary Arts), **James Cleere** (Precision Manufacturing), **Brandon Detlef** and **Reinaldo Vasquez** (Auto Services), **Brian Eshelman** (Trade Electricity), **Kevin Kneller** (Carpentry), **Elizabeth Pisu** (Criminal Justice) and **Sarah Potter** (New Vision Medical Careers). In addition,

Newsmakers

Cosmetology student **Cydney Hess** was a second place winner in the New York State Vocational Industrial Clubs of America Skills Championship in Syracuse this spring.

- **Margaret O'Neil**, a junior, coordinated a DWI reenactment at the R-H Senior High School on June 1. Held on the morning of the Senior Ball, the reenactment was meant to show students what can happen when people drink and drive. Many agencies participated, including the Henrietta Fire and Ambulance Services, the Monroe County Sheriff's Department and the Medical Examiner's office.
- **Colby James Burke**, a student at Leary Elementary School, was featured in the *Democrat and Chronicle* as a person who is making a difference. Colby takes special care to make sure his younger brother is okay.
- **Cheryl Merzke**, Monroe #1 BOCES interpreter at the Senior High School, coached a Monroe #1 BOCES team of high school students that won second place in the Gallaudet University Northeast Regional High School Academic

Celebrating Reading

All of the elementary schools celebrate reading with special activities. Winslow Elementary School held the "Great New York Read Aloud" during which community members such as Julia Figueras of WXXI Radio, left, enjoyed reading to the youngsters. Channel 13

reporter Mary McCombs was one of the guest readers at the Fyle Elementary School Read Aloud Program. She is pictured reading to Rhonda Mannara's third grade class, right.



Bowl for Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Students. The competition, one of five regional contests in the country, was held at the American School for the Deaf in West Hartford, Connecticut.

- **David Bryan Buttram** of Finucane Road, Henrietta, has been elected to represent the Rush-Henrietta Central School District on the Monroe #1 BOCES Board of Education. His term of office runs from July 1, 2001 through June 30, 2004.

Buttram was nominated by the R-H Board of Education and elected by board of education members in the 10 school districts that comprise Monroe #1 BOCES. He replaces John Guarre, who chose not to run after serving on the BOCES Board for eight years. Buttram is a lawyer and minister at Southside Church of Christ. He also works as an instructor of paralegal students at Bryant & Stratton. He is a board member and volunteer for Christian Youth Services, Inc.

Class of 2004 Starts a New Tradition

The District takes great pride in the success of the Ninth Grade Academy during its first year of operation. The opening of the academy was a major initiative of the



District that received widespread support from staff, students, parents and the community. The Class of 2004 marked the end of a successful first year by marching from the Academy to the Senior High School on June 15. The parade signified the end of the first year of a new initiative as well as a new beginning for those students who will attend the Senior High School in the fall.

Newsmakers

- **Karen Baker**, a teacher at Fyle Elementary School, participated in a Rotary International Group Study Exchange with Japan for four weeks this spring. She was one of the four people in various professions selected for the trip with Rotary members. The purpose of the exchange was to increase global understanding. Baker was granted a leave to take the trip by the R-H Board of Education, and upon her return, she attended a Board of Education meeting to thank the Board and describe the many highlights of the study exchange. In each of four cities she was involved in cultural opportunities, vocational studies and attending Rotary meetings. She was able to get a first-hand look at the educational systems in three of the cities, where she visited five different classrooms and met two principals, both of whom had many questions about her teaching in Rush-Henrietta.

Students Learn to “Check It Out”

For the past two years, students in the health classes in the Senior High School have benefited from the excellent “Check It Out” program of the Hadassah organization on detecting breast and testicular cancer. Among the many volunteer speakers this year were Donald DeBlase, far left, a testicular cancer survivor; Dr. Jason Mendler, center, an R-H graduate and physician currently studying for a Ph.D. at the University of Rochester; and Linda Loy, right, a breast cancer survivor.



- Seven R-H Senior High School students were inducted into the Eastern Monroe Career Center (EMCC) chapter of the National Vocational Technical Honor Society. They are **Katie Giroux**, **Sarah Potter** and **Julianne Thurston**, New Vision Medical Careers; **Laura Laredo**, Photography & Imaging; **James Cleere**,

Precision Manufacturing Technology; **Nicole Pagan**, Early Childhood Education; and **Keven Kneller**, Carpentry. To be eligible for the Honor Society, students must have a 90% average, a 95% attendance rate and demonstrate leadership and initiative at EMCC.

- Rush-Henrietta Music Parents Association (RHMPA) awarded Summer Enrichment Grants to the following students for 2001: **Meghan Beattie**, **Nathan Berry**, **Margaret Rich**, **Michael Cottone**, **Simon Fletcher** and **David Goebel**.

- The Senior High School American Sign Language (ASL) Club signed the National Anthem for the third consecutive year at the Red Wing “Dummy Hoy/Deaf Night” game on June 9. The following students performed: **Beth Erenstone**, **Mitch Nichols**, **Ashley Ozelek**, **Nathan Lantz**, **Stephanie Barraco** and **Vincent Bertolone**. Dummy Hoy was the first deaf baseball player. The ASL Club signs at Red Wing games to help raise awareness about Dummy Hoy.

STOP DWI Poster Winners



Three students from the Senior High School were winners in the Monroe County Stop DWI Poster Contest this year. They are Justin Bombard, first place; Laila Garsys, honorable mention, and Andrew Hoffere (not pictured), third place. Justin’s poster will be made into a billboard in the City of Rochester. Justin and Andrew are juniors and Laila is a senior.

Newsmakers

• After a rigorous selection process, R-H sophomore **Chase Buckman** was selected to participate in the World Scholar Athlete Games in June along with students from over 160 countries and all the U.S. states. This event upholds the tradition of the Olympic Games while celebrating scholarship and cultural growth. Chase, a scholar-musician, attended as a member of the International Symphonic Orchestra.



• The District Wellness Council planned a Spring Training Day for about 100 high school students selected as Natural Helpers. The focus of the day was “School Climate: Where do we draw the lines?” The day was planned by Lea Theuer, Janice Hargrave and George Falcón. Students talked about behavioral norms in school and addressed issues such as teasing vs. harassment & bullying, reckless driving and other peer behaviors that affect school climate. They improved their own understandings and talked about what they can do in their role as Natural Helpers to influence school climate. Students who participated in two or more of the Natural Helpers’ 12 community service projects this year were also recognized: **Ashley Baker, Cody Baker, Kevin Berliner, Matt Berliner, Laura Caraballo, Mandy Carden, Dan Cleveland, Jason Conway, Lisa Cowdery, Lea Daley, Crystal DeBuck, Jenna Demersman, Danielle Doyle, Chris Felluca, Kristin Fusco, Tameesha Gamble, Steven Gilman, Lacey Godden, Matt Haschmann, Colleen Irving, Josh Kessler, Meghan Larocca, Richard Lawson, Sam Marcello,**

Blake Martin, Frank Martin, Veronica McClive, Molly McGinnis, Walter Moore, Fernando Nussenbaum, Kelly O’Connell, Geoff O’Connor, Kim Sanderson, Rhea Santangelo, Erin Saxon, Elizabeth Schirmer, Tim Schirmer, Amanda Schulmerich, Brittany Sisson, Amanda Smith, Kristin Spano, Megan Treuthart, Michael Weaver, Michelle Williams and Dawn Wood.

• The **R-H Distance Learning Center** has been a great success this year in connecting students and staff in “real time” with people and events around the world. On April 2, Gary Parisi’s Advanced Placement Politics &

Government class attended a distance learning program called *Lessons from Little Rock* broadcast from the Museum of Tolerance/ Simon Wiesenthal Center in Los Angeles. R-H students were able to meet and converse with Dr. Terrence Roberts, one of the nine African American students who, under the protection of federal marshals, integrated Central High School in Little Rock, Arkansas. Dr. Roberts’ family eventually moved to Los Angeles, and he became a clinical psychologist and college professor. The R-H students were awed to speak with someone who was part of this important milestone in the civil rights movement.

Employer Recognition Breakfast

Employers of R-H students were recognized at the annual Employer Recognition Breakfast on May 31. Among them were some of the 66 employers of the 102 students in the Cooperative Work Experience Program. Also attending were some of the 54 mentors in 38 different companies (including eight R-H schools) who accepted 68 students for “shadowing” placements. Forty-three percent of the senior class participated in shadowing during their high school career. Tim Spencer, bottom, who had three experiences shadowing a teacher, a veterinarian and a pet store manager, said these opportunities helped him make a better informed decision about his future. For his last shadowing (Petco), he combined his love of animals with his interest in business and was offered a part-time job, which he is greatly enjoying. Also pictured is Dan Blom of the Henrietta Volunteer Ambulance Service receiving a certificate of appreciation from Sue Beattie.



Rush-Henrietta Central School District

2034 Lehigh Station Road
Henrietta, New York 14467
(716) 359-5000
www.rhnet.org

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ATTEND

a Community Forum
on the proposed
District Transportation Center
Tuesday, September 25, 2001
7:00-9:00 p.m.
Ninth Grade Academy
2000 Lehigh Station Road

READ

about the proposed
District Transportation Center
in a special brochure to be mailed
to all District residents in late September



on the proposed
District Transportation Center
Wednesday, October 10, 2001
6:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Ninth Grade Academy
2000 Lehigh Station Road

Voter Eligibility

- You must be registered with the Monroe County Board of Elections or the Rush-Henrietta Central School District.
- You must be a United States citizen.
- You must be at least 18 years of age by October 10, 2001.
- You must be a resident of the school district at least 30 days prior to the vote.
- You do not have to own property in the District.

Voting Location

The proposed District Transportation Center vote will be held only at the Ninth Grade Academy (Webster Building), Strickland Conference Room, 2000 Lehigh Station Road, Henrietta.

Registration Day

Thursday, October 4, 2001 from 11 a.m. - 8 p.m. is Rush-Henrietta School District Registration Day. Those wishing to register should go to the Ninth Grade Academy, 2000 Lehigh Station Road. A person's registration continues in effect as long as that person lives at the same address. Anyone who is registered with the Monroe County Board of Elections does not have to register with the school district.

Absentee Ballots

Absentee ballots are available to qualified residents of the District who are unable to vote in person on October 10, 2001 for reasons specified by law. Voters must complete an application for an absentee ballot in order to receive a ballot. Applications are available by phone or in person at the District Clerk's Office, Administration Building, 2034 Lehigh Station Road. If you have any questions, you may call Elizabeth Bevan, District Clerk, at 359-5010.