



# Community Newsletter

Rush-Henrietta Central School District Summer 2005

## In This Issue...

Roth Students Use Space Camera.....	2
Burger Musicians Fare Well.....	2
Technology Establishes Connection.....	3
Partnership Schools.....	4
New Middle School Schedule.....	4
Diversity Advisory Council Update.....	5
Volunteer of the Year.....	5
Winslow Hosts Native American Day.....	6
Crane's Day of Caring.....	6
Sherman Students Talk Weather.....	6
Leary Students Perform Play.....	7
Fyle Students Visit Seniors.....	7
Preventing Residency Fraud.....	8
Summer Learning Guides Go Home.....	8
Proposed Renovations.....	9
Athletic Facilities Being Studied.....	9
Student Achievement.....	10
District News Briefs.....	11
TEP Award.....	12
Internships Provide Opportunity.....	13
Elementary Attendance Changes.....	14
Education Foundation News.....	14
R-H Installs Fitness Equipment.....	15
2005-2006 School Calendar.....	15

## And the Grammy Goes to...

Rush-Henrietta Senior High School is one of just 42 schools in the United States to be selected as a 2005 GRAMMY® Signature School by the GRAMMY Foundation®. Presented by 7UP, the program recognizes the top public high schools across the United States that made an outstanding commitment to music education during the most recent school year.

In Rush-Henrietta, more than 600 students in grades 9-12 – that's 32.7 percent of the total enrollment – participate in band, orchestra, chorus, or music electives. "We are especially proud that we are receiving this recognition not for a special program or ensemble, but on behalf of the entire high school music department," says Fred Weingarten, Rush-Henrietta's director of music and visual arts. "It speaks volumes about our emphasis on offering a comprehensive music program for all students."

Of the 42 GRAMMY Signature Schools, the top seven have been designated gold recipients. The best of the gold recipients is named the National GRAMMY Signature School. Each receives a custom award and a monetary grant to benefit its music program. The National GRAMMY Signature

School received \$25,000, and the six remaining gold schools each received \$7,000. In the Enterprise Award category, which recognizes efforts made by schools that are economically underserved, two schools received a grant of \$20,000 each. The remaining recipients – including Rush-Henrietta – each received an award of \$2,000 to benefit its music program and a certificate of recognition.

To begin the selection process, last September the foundation mailed notification to more than 20,000 public high schools from districts large and small, urban, suburban, and rural, requesting information about each school's music program. Applications were completed and submitted online. After the applications were scored, finalists were identified and asked to submit additional documentation such as recordings of school concerts, sample concert programs, and repertoire, which was then reviewed by an independent screening committee to determine the schools that merited Signature School status.

Congratulations to everyone involved with Rush-Henrietta's award-winning music program, and thanks to the community for its continued support!

## Roth Students Take Pictures from Outer Space

More than 100 eighth grade science students at Roth Middle School took advantage of a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to see Earth from a different point of view, photographing their planet from 236 miles above sea level.



Students at Roth Middle School used the latest in technology to take pictures from outer space.

Communicating via the Internet with NASA and the University of California at San Diego, Roth students were able to provide commands to a digital camera affixed to the International Space Station, which NASA describes as “the largest, most expensive laboratory ever built in space.”

“It’s one thing to talk about outer space and its relationship to the Earth, but to have the ability to actually take photographs from the International Space Station gives my lesson plans a whole different context,” says teacher Jeffrey Paradis.

Many people have described the high-quality photographs taken from outer space as “stunning.” According to NASA’s program brochure, photographs are “taken by means of remote operations from the ground. Students target and request their desired images by tracking the orbit of the International Space Station, referencing maps and atlases, and checking weather. Their requests are then collected and compiled at the University of California, San Diego.”

With the assistance of NASA representatives at Johnson Space Center in Houston, student requests are sent to a computer on the International Space Station and fed to the digital camera.

## Burger Musicians Fare Well Against Tough Competition

Rich Thompson, a music instructor at Burger Middle School, typically takes his jazz ensemble to the Monroe Community College Jazz Festival to give them a taste of competition.

This spring, however, Burger Middle School walked away with experience and an award. The ensemble’s rhythm section – consisting of bass, drums, and piano – received the 2005 MCC Jazz Fest Outstanding High School Rhythm Section Honorable Mention. The rhythm section is like the engine that drives the jazz ensemble, Thompson says.

The festival is geared to reward high school jazz ensembles for musical excellence. “This award typically goes to a high school, because this is a competition designed for older students,” Thompson says. “The kids worked hard and performed well against more experienced competition.”

Sixteen bands competed in the festival, more than a dozen from area high schools. The Burger Middle School jazz ensemble, consisting of 19 talented musicians, performed three songs: “New Orleans Midnight,” “All of Me,” and “Sonnymoon for Two.”

“By the time students are in eighth grade, we know who has the talent to be a good musician,” Thompson says. “What starts to separate them at this age is their passion, their desire to be an outstanding musician.”



The Burger Middle School Jazz Ensemble performed impressively at a local competition.



## Technology Helps Students Establish 'French Connection'

Students at Rush-Henrietta Senior High School used newly installed distance-learning technology to "attend" class this spring with their counterparts in France. The hour-long sessions allowed students on each continent to discuss their thoughts on a variety of topics, including career opportunities for women, terrorism, travel, popular movies, racism, and school safety.

French students from Rush-Henrietta participated in a videoconference with students at a college near Paris. The session, the second of two transatlantic meetings, featured conversations almost exclusively between students; half of the interaction was in English and half was in French. The experience was especially useful for a group of Rush-Henrietta students who traveled to France the following week.

In many instances, distance learning is used to connect schools within the district or link Rush-Henrietta to a different district. However, as technology progresses, it is used to help students and teachers interact throughout the world. These advances are possible because of Rush-Henrietta's commitment to technology, and a belief that it should be integrated into students' daily learning experiences.

Several years ago, the district started adding \$250,000 annually to the budget for five years, money designated toward enhanced technology for student learning. One of the district's nine priorities for the school year is an emphasis on integrating technology into its schools and classrooms. This spring, polycom units were delivered to each of the district's 11 buildings. Polycoms are small, portable, distance-learning cameras that sit on top of a projector and provide a large-screen image for easy viewing. They have the ability to pan the classroom or to zoom in on a certain area of the classroom. A high-quality microphone is able to pick up voices anywhere in the room.



Students taking French at the Senior High School used distance-learning technology to speak face-to-face with students near Paris.

Before introducing polycoms to each district building, teachers and students who wanted to connect to the outside world would have boarded a bus for the Ninth Grade Academy on Lehigh Station Road to use the designated distance-learning room. The new arrangement is much less disruptive for teachers and students, saving a lot of time that can better be used for learning and sharing.

"Rush-Henrietta is far ahead of the technology curve when it comes to enhanced student learning via videoconferencing," says Holly Sharp, supervisor of distance learning and telecommunications for Monroe No. 1 BOCES. "The technology, while a very critical piece to the equation, only achieves winning results when there are people in place. People not only to manage the network, but also schedule and work with teachers to search for the best content for each class. R-H has always known that people are needed to keep their technology valuable. By the addition of polycom units in each school, more students and staff will be able to share the many resources available from around the world. I applaud the district's continued expansion in the field of distance learning."

### *R-H Information is Only a Click Away!*

Visit the district's redesigned Web site for comprehensive information about Rush-Henrietta schools. Also, consider subscribing to one of the district's latest services, E-News, which provides brief e-mail notifications, announcements, and reminders about important meetings, activities, and issues. Visit [www.rhnet.org](http://www.rhnet.org) today!





## Partnership Schools Survey Reflects Positive Trends

Parents completed and returned more than 1,800 Partnership Schools surveys this year, giving the Rush-Henrietta Central School District important information it needs to continue enhancing the educational experience for students and parents, says Superintendent Dr. Kenneth Graham.

Results and agenda setting for the upcoming school year were discussed at the annual Partnership Schools Forum on June 16. The 40-question survey, distributed each year to parents of all Rush-Henrietta students, focuses on topics such as parenting education, home-school communication, parent involvement, and school-family-community relations. "Overwhelmingly, we saw major improvements," says Dr. Kenneth Hilton, executive director of school improvement. "Right away, as I reviewed the data, I realized that almost all of the items we had identified as needing improvement last year experienced significant gains."

The district seeks at least an 80 percent positive rating – obtained by adding "good" and "satisfactory" scores – for each question. In 2004, the average positive score for all questions was 81.29, but that rose significantly this year to 84.26. The bottom line: On average, more than 84 percent of parents responding to the survey believe their child's school is doing a good or satisfactory job.

In the 2005 Partnership Schools Survey, there were 10 areas in which the positive response rose at least 5 percent, and only one area in which it declined by more than 5 percent. "We take these results very seriously," Hilton says. "These results, in many ways, launch the cycle of planning for each of our school buildings for the new year."



Diane McBride (right), a member of the Board of Education, is among the many R-H stakeholders volunteering to enhance Rush-Henrietta schools.

## New Middle School Schedule Emphasizes Core Subjects

Starting in September, students at Roth and Burger middle schools will receive more instruction in core subject areas.

Rush-Henrietta students need and deserve more time in core curriculum areas such as math, science, social studies, and English Language Arts. The changes include adding classes such as "Literacy Plus" to give students of all skill levels and learning types additional class time. The state requires that middle school students receive 19,440 minutes of instruction in each of the four core subject areas. The district, which has offered that baseline amount, now will offer 24,300 minutes of instruction in each subject. "This enables us to enhance the learning experience for all of our students," says Deborah Ryan Johnson, assistant superintendent for instruction.

Goals of the schedule changes include meeting or exceeding state requirements for mandated subject areas; increasing instructional time for English Language Arts and math studies; and adding a science lab so students in eighth grade can take accelerated Earth science.

Andrea Hyatt, Rush-Henrietta's director of science, supports the renewed emphasis on core courses. "Research shows that an effective science program not only includes rich content, but engages students with inquiry and research opportunities," she says. "When kids can take the content and apply it to a real-world problem, they are far more likely to return those skills and the information long-term."



## *Diversity Advisory Council Making Progress*

The Rush-Henrietta Diversity Advisory Council, established to promote a better understanding of the diversity of the district's student body and its affect on student learning, is focusing on racial differences in an effort to close a significant achievement gap that is facing many school districts nationwide.

Since its inception last fall, the Diversity Advisory Council [DAC] has discussed at length student achievement data and strategies to mitigate achievement gaps. The DAC was formed to combat achievement gaps, such as the ones that exist between students of various ethnic backgrounds. Members have identified potential causes for the gap, including stereotyping, biases, and insensitivity; the rigor of curriculum, assessments, and student placements; communication in teacher-student relationships; parent participation and communication; peer pressure; and differentiation of instruction between genders. Starting in

September, a team from the DAC will visit each school, presenting information to faculty members and staff.

The DAC consists of parents and staff members from each of the district's nine schools, and representatives from the Board of Education, school and district administration, parent groups, students, alumni, residents, and faith communities. It is charged with making recommendations focusing on curriculum and instruction, parent involvement, professional development, student management and support, and workforce diversity.

The Diversity Advisory Council meets from 7 to 9 p.m. on the third Tuesday of each month at the Transportation and Operations Center, 1133 Lehigh Station Road. If you would like to serve, please call the superintendent's office at 359-5021, or e-mail Superintendent Dr. Kenneth Graham at [kgraham@rhnet.org](mailto:kgraham@rhnet.org).

## *Advocate Named Volunteer of the Year*

Phyllis Wickerham, who for nearly 15 years has quietly built an impressive resume of civic involvement and volunteerism, is the Rush-Henrietta Central School District's 2005 Volunteer of the Year.

Each year, Rush-Henrietta pays special tribute to a volunteer whose contributions to the school district and its students are particularly noteworthy. Superintendent Dr. Kenneth Graham presented this year's Volunteer of the Year award, and knows first-hand how deserving Wickerham is. "Her generous work and positive interest on behalf of all children and the school district is greatly appreciated and worthy of this honor," Graham says.

For the past 13 years, Wickerham has served as a parent representative on the Rush-Henrietta Committee on Special Education, and as a member of the Special Education Parents Forum, three as chairwoman and five as scholarship coordinator. She also serves on the Budget Advisory Council, District Parent Advisory Council, and Diversity Advisory Council. She and her husband, Tom, and their two children, Scott and Tyler, have lived in the district for 18 years.

Rush-Henrietta encourages community members to become involved with the school system, helping to enhance student

learning and the school experience. With nearly 6,000 students in nine schools, there are numerous opportunities for the civic-minded. To learn more about becoming involved in Rush-Henrietta schools, please call the Office of Community Relations at 359-5031.



Ed Lincoln (left), president of the Board of Education, and Superintendent Dr. Kenneth Graham congratulate Phyllis Wickerham, 2005 Volunteer of the Year.

## Winslow Hosts Native American Heritage Day

Fourth graders at Winslow Elementary School experienced Native American Heritage Day this spring. The event included festivities designed especially for their interests and aligned with curriculum they were studying in class at the time.

Students were assigned to small groups – identified by Native American tribe names – that rotated through each of six sessions throughout the day. The sessions included a special focus on artifacts, dream-catchers, basket making, music, and games. Children also enjoyed gathering in the cafetorium to hear a Native American storyteller, who kicked off the day's events, and to learn more about the medicine wheel, which wrapped up the Native American Heritage Day festivities.



## Crane's Day of Caring Breakfast Draws Smiles



Crane Elementary School held its annual Day of Caring breakfast this spring, bringing smiles to the faces of dozens of community residents. The school invited regulars from the Henrietta Senior Center, members of the Board of Education, and retired teachers and staff members.

More than 40 people attended the event, which was organized in large part by the school's student council. Students, who dressed up for the event, greeted visitors, served breakfast, and waited on tables. The fifth-grade chorus performed two delightful songs, which earned hearty applause.

## Sherman Students Talk Weather with Meteorologist

Glenn Johnson, chief meteorologist for 13WHAM News, visited Sherman Elementary School, sharing his passion for weather with dozens of students. The visit was part of the fifth graders' science unit, which includes studying weather.

Johnson, who has worked at 13WHAM for two decades, shared his recollections of major storms in recent Rochester history, and explained the many instruments – barometers, thermometers, satellites, and more – that he uses to predict and measure the weather. Other topics discussed include El Nino, global warming, and the record rainy weather that occurred during the spring.





## Leary Students Perform 'Twelfth Night'



Third and fourth graders at Leary Elementary School starred on stage, presenting "Twelfth Night" for their parents in the school cafeteria.

Written by William Shakespeare in about 1600, "Twelfth Night" has long been regarded as one of his classic works. The play has been recast for children in recent years as "Twelfth Night: For Kids," part of Lois Burdett's "Shakespeare Can Be Fun" book series.

Children in Mrs. Pugsley's and Mrs. O'Mara's classrooms performed the play, presented this spring as part of Leary Elementary School's "Globe Theater." For weeks, more than 40 children diligently rehearsed their scenes, dance numbers, and speaking parts. The cast and crew presented the play again later that week for their schoolmates.

In June, fourth grade art students blended their artistic abilities with their knowledge of English Language Arts, creating puppets resembling characters from books – including "Twelfth Night" – that they read at school.

## Fyle Students Visit Senior Friends

On a cloudy, rainy day in June, students from Fyle Elementary School brought sunshine to a group of senior citizens in Rochester. For three hours, students visited the Episcopal Church Home, 505 Mt. Hope Ave., spending time with residents, many of whom they consider friends. This is the sixth year Rush-Henrietta students made the trip.

Sixteen first and second graders visited the Episcopal Church Home. "I like to go to the nursing home to see my friend, Flo," says Matthew Passaretti, 6. "She wants me to call her Flo because her friends do, even though her real name is Florence. I like to go to see her and take her to good places to eat!"

The students' visit is consistent with the district's participation in the Healthy Communities-Healthy Youth program, which is based on 40 important factors that shape young people's growth and development. Tracie Czebatol, a Fyle teacher spearheading the project, says the visits have become more meaningful as more students spend time with their resident outside of the school day. "Many of the students have formed close relationships beyond the school visits and written correspondence - they spend holidays and other special days with each other," she says.





## Preventing Residency Fraud Helps Strengthen Our Schools

Since November 2003, the Rush-Henrietta Central School District has worked diligently to identify residency fraud in its schools, an initiative that has spared taxpayers from considerable unnecessary expense. Rush-Henrietta's Office of Student Management and Safety conducted more than 120 such investigations this past school year.

Many families living outside of our community would like their children to attend Rush-Henrietta schools. That sentiment isn't surprising, given the district's high-quality programs and services. However, the school district has an obligation to students and taxpayers to ensure that the community's resources are used appropriately.

District leaders are engaged in old-fashioned detective work to identify residency violations. Many times, residency fraud is detected during the school enrollment process. When these family members are questioned about inconsistencies in their application materials, they often decline to complete the registration process. In each case, the district avoids spending thousands of dollars each year to educate an ineligible child. The sum of those unspent resources provides an important statistic referred to as cost avoidance.

If a potential case of residency fraud is identified during the school year, Rush-Henrietta researches the facts. In many cases, it invites the child's parents or guardians to a meeting to discuss the issue in more detail. On occasion, parents admit during these meetings that their child shouldn't be attending Rush-Henrietta schools, and action is taken to end the practice. Sometimes, an investigation was started and the family either was planning to move before the inquiry, or decided to move after learning of the investigation. In other cases, suspicions are unfounded, meaning that an investigation was conducted and the district determined that the child is a district resident.

Rush-Henrietta is a regional leader in the fight against residency fraud. Although it is easy to sympathize with families who live elsewhere but would like their children to attend our schools, Rush-Henrietta schools are here to serve Rush-Henrietta students.

The community plays a key role in helping us identify residency fraud. Should you suspect such fraud, please contact the Office of Student Management and School Safety at 359-7954.

## R-H Distributes Summer Learning Guides

At the end of the school year, children in grades K-5 brought home Summer Learning Guides. These guides include valuable information, activities, and suggestions that will help parents keep learning alive during the summer for their children. National education research [and R-H research] consistently points out the huge summer learning loss many children suffer in July and August. These guides are designed to help counter this "summer slump" by providing kids and parents with engaging and fun learning activities that help them to keep their school skills sharp. In the fall, the district will be surveying parents to get feedback on how effective and user friendly these guides were and what recommendations parents have for improvements in future years.



Rush-Henrietta sent Summer Learning Guides home with each student in grades K-5 in an effort to keep learning alive between now and September.



## *Proposed Renovations Will Enhance Middle Schools*

In order to maintain equitable and adequate space for more than 1,500 students in grades 6-8, the Rush-Henrietta Board of Education supports the superintendent's recommendation for two capital improvement projects – at Burger and Roth middle schools – that will enhance student learning and safety.

The community is rightfully proud of its middle schools, yet it is evident that both buildings must expand to meet the evolving needs of students and the community. The recommendation to renovate Burger and Roth middle schools supports the district's efforts to guide student success by continuing to provide the high-quality schools and educational resources that Rush-Henrietta students deserve and require.

For more than a decade, new programs and services have created demands for more space at Roth and Burger middle schools. At Burger, these space demands have required the conversion of classroom space for different instructional purposes. The Board of Education's proposed \$10.6 million renovation plan addresses student, parent, and staff concerns that Burger is inequitable when compared to Roth; it is often perceived that Burger provides an inferior learning environment when compared to its cross-town counterpart.

The Burger Middle School renovation proposal includes the creation of a new main entrance and auditorium – the building, which was reopened as a middle school more

than a decade ago, doesn't have an auditorium. In addition, the proposal allows for the construction of a music wing, additional physical education space, an expanded library, additional cafeteria space, additional classrooms, and a renovated home and careers area. There also are a number of safety issues at Burger that would be addressed by the plan.

The Board of Education also has endorsed making enhancements at Roth Middle School. Among the highlights of a \$4 million proposed renovation plan: Eliminating the two-cafeteria system that has been in place for decades, and replacing it with a single cafeteria to better serve students. This would allow the creation of multiple service lines, reducing student waiting time and disciplinary referrals. A one-room model also would increase efficiency by eliminating the duplication of services in both cafeteria areas. The renovations also call for a new general music room and classroom renovations that include designating one area of the building as a sixth-grade wing.

More details on each of these proposed renovation projects are forthcoming, and the proposals will be presented for voter approval this fall at a time to be determined. For more information regarding renovation projects, please visit [www.rhnet.org](http://www.rhnet.org) and click on Renovations in the Quick Links menu, or contact Stanley Polmateer, director of facilities, at 359-5385 or via e-mail at [spolmateer@rhnet.org](mailto:spolmateer@rhnet.org).

## *Senior High athletic facilities being studied*

Acting on suggestions and inquiries from community members, the Rush-Henrietta Board of Education continues to study a potential capital improvement project regarding physical education facilities at the Senior High School. However, the board has decided not to proceed with such a project this fall.

Potential renovations would address the need for additional gym space, an indoor track, a fitness center, field house, batting cages, a dance studio and aerobics room, and trainers' room. Any recommendation also will address traffic flow and parking improvements at the Senior High School.

As with all capital improvement projects, cost will play a big role in any decision. Although there is a need to upgrade the Senior High School's indoor physical fitness, recreation, and sporting facilities, the Board of Education is approaching any potential renovation with caution. This type of improvement project isn't eligible for the same level of state aid as are two board-approved middle school renovation projects that affect classroom space.

In June, the board gave the superintendent the go-ahead to continue exploring further options and alternative revenue sources to fund enhancements at the Senior High School.



## From Toddlers to Teens, Celebrate Student Achievement

In June, the Rush-Henrietta community witnessed a number of exciting new beginnings, from year-end celebrations to moving-up ceremonies to graduation. Each event offered students a well-deserved pat on the back and a fresh start to tap their unlimited potential.

For example, hundreds gathered for the Even Start “graduation” celebration. Even Start, based at the Vollmer Building, is a special literacy program for preschoolers and their parents. During the celebration, children ages 2 to 5 sang songs, performed dance routines, and received certificates acknowledging their outstanding achievements. The touching event brought to a close another successful year of teaching, learning, and growing, giving children a positive send-off as they prepare for next school year.



Students ages 2 to 5 enrolled in the Even Start program celebrate the close of another successful year.

At Rush-Henrietta’s elementary schools, many students took part in moving-up ceremonies to celebrate their achievements. Many fifth graders, who will be entering middle school in September, had the opportunity to tour the middle school where they will spend grades 6-8. When school re-opens in September, eighth graders from Burger and Roth middle schools will be welcomed enthusiastically to the Ninth Grade Academy.



Rush-Henrietta’s Class of 2005 celebrated graduation at the Blue Cross Arena at the Rochester War Memorial.

On June 24, more than 400 young men and women from the Senior High School entered commencement exercises at the Blue Cross Arena as students and

departed as graduates. These graduates met and exceeded some of the most rigorous New York state academic standards in recent memory. They also have enjoyed years of personal growth – both at school and at home – designed to help them be successful in the workplace and society.

Each graduate leaves Rush-Henrietta with a well-rounded education that offered multiple opportunities for the identification and refinement of a special skill, such as art, music, sports, volunteerism, or a trade. The school district – from teachers to cafeteria staff to bus drivers – has offered them support, guidance, and enthusiasm. Although they have graduated, the R-H school family remains committed to their success.

Rush-Henrietta is intent on fostering the intellectual and personal development of each student, preparing them for responsible citizenship, gainful employment, and lifelong learning. District leaders thank the many partners in the community for their important part in the process, for playing such a key role in the growth and development of each of our students, from preschoolers to graduates. Together, we are guiding student success ... one child at a time.



## News Briefs From Around the District

### Summer School Provides Boost

More than 800 Rush-Henrietta students are taking advantage of additional learning opportunities this summer. For some, the extra offerings provide a safety net; others take summer classes that provide a chance to get ahead in their studies. Rush-Henrietta offers three major programs for students each summer. Hundreds of children in grades K-5 are attending the five-week-long Summer Math and Reading Time [SMART] program. At the Middle School Summer Academy, held at Burger Middle School, students are involved in programs designed to bring their skills up to par.

In addition, the district is offering a Senior High School summer program. Hundreds of students are attending the six-week courses offered this summer at the Ninth Grade Academy. Although remediation classes in core subjects such as English, math, science, and social studies are offered, some students are taking drivers' education, as well as a number of accelerated programs, including economics, health, and participation in government. District leaders thank the community for its continued support of these programs.

### Employees Say Farewell

Nineteen Rush-Henrietta employees made the 2004-2005 school year their last. Retiring with fond memories and many accomplishments are Gail Agnello, Susan Arney, Walter Bettin, Jane Capellupo, Thomas Dulmage Jr., Diane Elmslie, Dennis Glanton, Robert Johnson, Erwin "Bud" Kipfer, Cynthia Loeffler, Joan Madigan, Lynn Ousterhout, Robert Patten, John Perelli, Steven Tinch, Ron Vitale, Sharon Weyrauch, Judith White, and Byron Wilmot. We wish each of them a happy, healthy retirement, and thank them for more than 500 years of collective service on behalf of our community's children.

### Saudi School Counselors Visit

Eight student guidance supervisors from the Saudi Arabian Ministry of Education visited Rush-Henrietta during April, speaking with administrators, teachers, and students in an effort to better understand the challenges and opportunities in U.S. schools. The International Visitor Exchange, a program of the U.S. State Department, sponsored the visit.

During their visit, members of the Saudi Arabian Ministry of Education visited the Ninth Grade Academy and Senior High School, and were greeted warmly at both locations. During a question-and-answer session with Superintendent Dr. Kenneth Graham, the participants discussed a variety of topics, including cooperation between suburban school districts and how best to address the needs of students who need additional help versus those who would benefit from additional challenges.

"They were very interested in how students in the United States learn about job and career opportunities, about how students who have special needs are assisted with planning, about vocationally oriented programs, and about peer counseling," says Peggy Tyler, Rush-Henrietta's director of career and technical education. "We had a wonderful exchange of ideas."

### District Enforcing Parking Regulations

Rush-Henrietta continues to experience a number of vehicles parked illegally in fire lanes and other areas immediately adjacent to and around schools and other district buildings.

It is mandatory that all vehicles be parked in appropriate and designated parking areas on school property. The only exceptions to this are police and emergency vehicles, school transportation vehicles, school service vehicles, and school events for which special parking arrangements are directed and overseen by district and school security personnel. Violations will be referred to the town code enforcement officials or police for issuance of a court appearance ticket.

Thank you for your compliance in this matter, which ensures the safety and security of students, staff, and community groups using district buildings and grounds.

### Stroud Re-elected to Board of Education

In May, Rush-Henrietta voters re-elected William B. Stroud to the Board of Education. Stroud began a three-year term on July 1, 2005. Voters also approved the 2005-2006 Rush-Henrietta Central School District budget by a more than two-to-one margin.

## Wegmans Wins Teenage Employment Partnership Award

Many community leaders gathered at the RIT Inn and Conference Center on June 22 for the annual Teenage Employment Partnership and William J. Welch Scholarship awards.

Wegmans Food Markets was honored with Rush-Henrietta's Teenage Employment Partnership Award. Superintendent Dr. Kenneth Graham addressed those in attendance, encouraging them to continue with the program. "We are very proud of the effort and the way this partnership has grown," he says. "Our community business partners model and represent all of the values that demonstrate what this program is about."

Making a commitment to hire students through the Teenage Employment Partnership program requires developing a philosophy that taking part in such an effort is important, says Greg Lull, president of the Henrietta Chamber of Commerce, who is a champion of the program.

Richard Olson, a senior who works for the company and attended school full-time, nominated Wegmans. The Teenage Employment Partnership program, led by Peggy Tyler, director of career and technical services, strives to find the perfect balance between school studies and work experience, always



Jenelle Zaias and Linda Caterino, of Wegmans Food Markets, with Richard Olson, a Rush-Henrietta student who nominated the company for the Teenage Employment Partnership program's Partner of the Year.

making sure the priority is doing well in school. "The Teenage Employment Partnership provides our students with a real-life, real-world application of classroom learning," Tyler says.

At the breakfast gathering, three Rush-Henrietta seniors – Rashida Cox, Nicole Welshhons, and Lily Yan – were honored by the Henrietta Chamber of Commerce with William J. Welch scholarships. Each will pursue business studies at college starting this fall. Congratulations to all!

### 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
- CVS Pharmacy
- David's Bridal
- Diamonds Limousines
- Domenico's Ristorante
- Don's Original
- Dorschel Automotive Group
- Eckerd Drugs, E. Henrietta Road
- Execuclean
- Fairfield Farms
- Fast Signs
- FDR's
- Fox Landscaping Service
- Friendly's
- Gardners Greenhouse
- Harris Garden Centers, Jefferson Road
- Henrietta Public Library
- Infantino's
- Klee's Mobil
- Michelina's Italian Eatery
- Monroe County Fair and Recreation Association
- Monroe Tractor & Implement Co.
- Nu-Look Collision Service
- Old Navy
- Outback Steak House
- Panera Bread Company
- 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]
- 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
- Tony Pepperoni
- Tooley's Oak & Amish Furniture
- Town of Henrietta
- Vallence Septic Service
- VP Supply Inc.
- Wal-Mart
- Wegmans (both Henrietta Stores)
- Weider's Pro Hardware
- Wendy's
- Woodcrest Commons
- Xpress Marketing



## Internships Offer Students Unique Window to Working World

During the Senior High School's Career Internship Recognition Breakfast in June, 23 student interns and 15 employers were recognized for their participation in this valuable program.

The Rush-Henrietta Central School District thanks each of the businesses that participated in the Career Internship Program, and appreciates their willingness to foster student education. This year's partners are Biznetix Inc., Broken Glass Films, CP Rochester, Henrietta Fire District Station No. 4, Micromod Automation, *NextStep* magazine, Office of the District Attorney, Rochester Museum and Science Center, Rush Henrietta Family Chiropractic, Schiano Law Office PC, Sentry Group, Strong Memorial Hospital, and the University of Rochester Medical Center.

During the recognition breakfast, two of Rush-Henrietta's outstanding seniors, Lindsay Dakin and Tatiana Chichanowicz, spoke about their experiences as student interns. Dakin spent time with the director of clinical operations in the department of radiology at the University of Rochester Medical Center, while Chichanowicz worked with the director of sales at Biznetix Inc.

Each year, the Senior High School's College and Career Center organizes the Career Internship Program. An internship is an unpaid work experience that provides students with an opportunity to work with professionals in many fields.

The Career Internship Program provides juniors and seniors with the opportunity to experience a career of their choosing. Internships are available throughout the year, even during the summer, and are designed to meet the specialized needs and interests of each student. Students who participate in the program must demonstrate a strong career focus, possess a satisfactory academic record, and be committed to working a minimum of 54 hours during their internship. In addition, they must demonstrate responsibility, initiative, and motivation, and have a

desire to learn and work in a professional setting. Upon completion of their internship, students can receive school credit.

The internship experience provides students with clarification of career goals, increased knowledge of the skills needed to be a member of the workforce, a better understanding of the relationship between high school learning and the work world, and an increased ability to

make informed decisions on high school course selection, college selection, and career choices. The community also benefits from this program by having shared in the development of students who will become productive members of the workforce.

The College and Career Center continually seeks new and expanded opportunities for students to become involved in a workplace setting. To learn more, call Sue Beattie, Career Internship Coordinator, at 359-5222.



Ryan Rowan, a member of the Class of 2005, took part in a teaching internship at Fyle Elementary School.



## Changes to Elementary Attendance Areas

In April, the Board of Education unanimously approved adjusting two attendance boundaries for elementary school students.

Effective in September, all homes located on Citation, Pacer, Trotter, Paddock, Wildherd, and Yearling drives, on Edmar Court, and on Reeves and Tobin roads, will be moved from the Leary to the Winslow attendance area. In addition, all homes located on both sides of Pinnacle Road south of the Thruway overpass for .75 miles will be moved from the Leary to the Winslow attendance area. This includes all homes on both sides of Pinnacle Road north of No. 1650.

Children living in these areas who currently attend Leary may remain there until being promoted to middle school. Younger siblings of those children choosing to remain at Leary will attend Winslow. Parent appeals, based upon extenuating circumstances, may be made to the superintendent. All other children of elementary school age moving into this area will attend Winslow.

In addition, the Board of Education adjusted the

attendance boundaries for students in the Whipple Park neighborhood. In 1999, elementary school-age children living there were assigned to attend Winslow. Current enrollment and future projections show Crane Elementary School far below its maximum capacity, and noted that the round-trip distance between Whipple Park and Crane is three miles shorter than between Whipple Park and Winslow.

Effective in September, all children living on Murlin Drive, Quinby Road, Richardson Road, and Conant Road in the town of Brighton will be moved from the Winslow to the Crane attendance area. Children living in this area who currently attend Winslow may remain there until being promoted to middle school. Younger siblings of those children choosing to remain at Winslow will attend Crane. Parents may appeal extenuating circumstances to the superintendent. Other children moving into this area will attend Crane.

For more information, please contact Dr. Kenneth Hilton, executive director of research and evaluation, at 359-5018, or by e-mailing [khilton@rhnet.org](mailto:khilton@rhnet.org).

## Education Foundation News

### Take a Seat for Education!

The Rush-Henrietta Education Foundation is planning its first Charity Chair Auction and Gala for Wednesday, December 7, 2005. The goal is to establish the event as an annual fund-raising effort for the foundation. The organization is seeking artists who are interested in participating, by creating a functional work of art, from a chair or stool in several categories of entries:

- **Sponsored entries** will be a standard Adirondack style chair that will be supplied, along with artist materials by a community business or organizational sponsor. Artists will work with their sponsors to establish a theme for their entry.
- **Adult and student freestyle entries** may use any style chair or stool to create the finished piece. Artists will be asked to submit a theme for their entry, and should plan on providing their own chair or stool.

The Rush-Henrietta Education Foundation also seeks businesses and organizations in the Rush-Henrietta community to sponsor an artist in the Adirondack chair category.

Entries will be judged in all categories, based on quality of the finished piece and how successfully the theme is portrayed. All chairs will be offered for auction at the gala. The proceeds will go to support the work of the foundation. All entries will be displayed in advance on the foundation's Web site. The deadline for submitting a finished chair is November 1, 2005.

For more information about this event, or to obtain artist and sponsor entry forms, visit [www.rhef.org](http://www.rhef.org) or e-mail [chairs@rhef.org](mailto:chairs@rhef.org).

### RHEF Seeks Distinguished Alumni

The Rush-Henrietta Education Foundation is seeking nominations for the sixth annual RHEF Distinguished Alumni Award. The award is presented to graduates who exhibit qualities that reflect favorably on the Rush-Henrietta Central School District, such as outstanding citizenship and community service. For more information, or to download a nomination form, visit [www.rhef.org](http://www.rhef.org). If you have further questions, please contact Joe Bellanca at 334-5147, or e-mail [bellanca4@aol.com](mailto:bellanca4@aol.com).



## R-H Installs Fitness Equipment, Trains Students

Two weeks after a *New England Journal of Medicine* study suggested that unchecked childhood obesity could shorten life-expectancy rates, a six-man delivery crew unloaded a treasure trove of fitness equipment throughout the Rush-Henrietta Central School District.

The equipment – including treadmills, elliptical machines, stationary bikes, and weight-training machines – recently was delivered to Burger Middle School, Roth Middle School, the Ninth Grade Academy, and the Senior High School. “This is great news for our students. We take their physical education seriously,” says Tom Stewart, director of athletics. “We’ve been told that this fitness equipment is unrivaled among schools in our state.”

The equipment is made possible by the federal government’s Carol M. White Physical Education Program, which provided Rush-Henrietta with a \$481,419 grant, the largest given to any school system in New York. The program aims to assist local education agencies and non-profit, community-based organizations initiate, expand, or improve physical education programs for students.

The delivery and installation of the new fitness equipment is timely given a Children’s Hospital Boston study published this year in the *New England Journal of Medicine*. It suggests that U.S. life expectancy could be shortened by 2 to 5 years if the epidemic of childhood and adolescent obesity continues. Obesity increases the risk for heart disease and cancer, and has triggered an unprecedented rise in Type 2 diabetes in children.

At Roth Middle School, students and teachers outside for a physical education class cheered when they saw the fitness equipment being delivered. “The students are very excited,” says Kelly Cosgriff, a physical education teacher. By June, every student had many opportunities to use the fitness gear and become comfortable with it.



State-of-the-art fitness equipment has been installed at Roth and Burger middle schools, the Ninth Grade Academy, and the Senior High School.

## 2005-2006 School Calendar

The district looks forward to welcoming students back to school in September! The annual school district calendar will be mailed in August to homes of all parents who have children attending R-H schools. It is a general guide to events. School-specific information also can be obtained from each of the district’s nine schools, or from the district’s Web site at [www.rhnet.org](http://www.rhnet.org).

### September

- 6 Superintendent’s Conference Day - Teachers & Paras Report to Work
- 7 Schools Open - First Day of Classes

### October

- 10 Columbus Day [Schools closed]

### November

- 7-8 Superintendent’s Conference Days [No school K-12]
- 11 Veterans Day [Schools closed]
- 24-25 Thanksgiving Recess [Schools closed]

### December

- 26-30 Winter Recess [Schools closed]

### January

- 2 Winter Recess [Schools closed]
- 3 Schools Reopen
- 16 Martin Luther King, Jr.’s Birthday [Schools closed]
- 24-27 Regents & Midterm Exams - High School students attend by exam schedule only
- 27 Grading Day [No school K-8]
- 27 First Semester Ends
- 30 Second Semester Begins

### February

- 20-24 February Recess [Schools closed]

### April

- 14-21 Spring Recess [Schools closed]

### May

- 29 Memorial Day [Schools closed]

### June

- 14 Last Day of Classes [9-12]
- 15-23 Regents & Final Exams - High School students attend by exam schedule only
- 16 Last Day of Classes [6-8]
- 19-23 Middle School Exams – Middle School students attend by exam schedule only
- 22 Last Day of Classes [K-8]
- 23 Regents Examination Rating Day
- 23 Graduation
- 26 Last Teacher Work Day

## *Rush-Henrietta* **Rush-Henrietta Central School District**

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### **Published by the Office of Community Relations**

Ms. Nanette P. Hance, Executive Director

## ***Rush-Henrietta District Web Site Rated One of Nation's Best***

Against formidable competition from throughout the United States, the Rush-Henrietta Central School District has won a prestigious Award of Excellence in recognition of the redesign of its content-rich Web site at [www.rhnet.org](http://www.rhnet.org).

Notification of the award came in June from Richard D. Bagin, executive director of the National School Public Relations Association. The Award of Excellence is the highest honor among three designations given by the association. Rush-Henrietta was among the elite school districts recognized with the Award of Excellence; less than 5 percent of sites that were entered in the contest earned the highest distinction.

The Rush-Henrietta Web site was redesigned within the past 12 months under the direction of the district's Office of Community Relations. The site is refined on a regular basis, with additional content and photos added daily. The redesigned Web site is intended to serve the Rush-Henrietta community more effectively.

Rush-Henrietta also received from the National School Public Relations Association an Award of Honorable Mention for its brochure outlining the district's Teenage Employment Partnership. The Office of Community Relations also created this brochure as part of the district's ongoing efforts to improve communication.