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RVC SCHOOLS Excellence in Education

NEWSLETTER OF THE ROCKVILLE CENTRE PUBLIC SCHOOLS Volume 37• Number 2 December 2015

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DATES TO REMEMBER

January

4 Schools Reopen
6 Board of Education Public Work Session
18 Schools Closed—Martin Luther King Jr. Day
20 Board of Education Regular Meeting

February

3 Board of Education Public Work Session
15-19 Schools Closed—Mid Winter Recess
24 Board of Education Regular Meeting

Season's greetings from the Board of Education

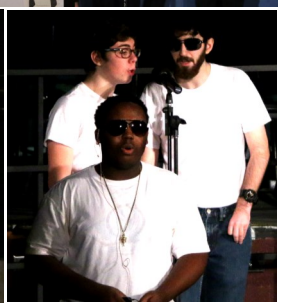
During the month of December students performed in their annual Winter Concerts. Being able to hear the progression from elementary students, who are just beginning to play their instruments, to High School students, was a delight. We wish you all the very best this holiday season and a happy and healthy new year.










National Merit Scholarship Commended Students



Congratulations to Sean Donnelly, Hanna Festa, Lauren Marzolini and Hannah Umansky, who were recognized as Commended Students by the National Merit Scholarship program

News 12 Scholar Athlete

Congratulations to Molly Quinn who was selected as one of News 12 Long Island's Scholar Athletes for the 2015/2016 school year. To watch the clip visit http://longisland.news12.com/sports/high-school/scholar-athlete/scholar-athlete-molly-quinn-1.11182147



School Improvement Bond Update

Work on the south addition at South Side High School continues. The area has been excavated, the footings have been poured, preliminary plumbing and electric work is underway, and the installation of steel has begun. Upon completion, the south addition will be the permanent home to the library, the science classrooms and the testing center. During the 2016 summer, the main building will be reconfigured to include the expansion of the cafeteria as well as the relocation of a number of classrooms and office space. The interior renovations and the south addition are anticipated to be complete by the opening of school in September 2016.

School Improvement Bond work continues throughout the District. Middle School roof work will begin shortly in order to address leaks in the building. Air conditioning is now complete in Watson, Riverside, Wilson, and Covert. Air conditioning in Hewitt and the Middle School is expected to be complete by May 2016. Interior door locksets that meet new NYSED safety regulations have been installed and are fully operational in Riverside, Wilson, Watson and Covert. Installation in Hewitt is underway, and all buildings are expected to be complete by the end of summer 2016.

Visit our website at www.rvcschools.org for the latest updates on projects and additional pictures throughout the year.

Work at South Side High School South Addition



Demolition of Portables at SSHS



Footings being poured



Setup for the pouring of the slab

Celebrating National Inclusive Schools Week

December 7th through December 11th marked National Inclusive Schools Week, which is an annual event that celebrates the progress that schools have made in providing a supportive and quality education to an increasingly diverse student population. The week provides an important opportunity for educators, students and parents to discuss what needs to be done in order to ensure that schools successfully educate all children. This year's theme was "Sharing our Gifts."



Author Sky Burke speaks to students about self-advocating

South Side Middle School students learned about the importance of 'including' and not 'excluding' others and of making sure that every student in school feels welcome, accepted, and respected. All students attended an assembly where speaker, Sky Burke, a young author who is dyslexic, shared her experiences as a self-advocate. Teachers, Ms. Beaumont and Ms. Wallace set up a "Disability Awareness Activity" in the gym and invited the entire school to visit and experience different types of disabilities. Activities addressed vision impairment, autism communication impairment, and navigating in a wheelchair.

The High School participated by displaying the artwork of special education and general education students in the lobby showcase. This beautiful display featured artwork that highlighted each student's special gifts. Students also encouraged their peers and staff members to fill out handprints stating how they could be more inclusive; the hands were then placed around the showcase.

The elementary schools shared the message of inclusion in various ways. Some events included reading about different disabilities, participating in activities that required students to think about how to be inclusive, and learning to communicate in different ways, such as sign-language and Braille.

Covert's Mad Hot Ballroom

Fourth and fifth grade students at William S. Covert Elementary School had the opportunity to show friends and family their dance knowledge during the annual Mad Hot Ballroom event.



The students, who spent the beginning of the year learning how to ballroom dance, performed dances such as the Rumba, Swing and Tango. The instructors are part of 'Dancing Classrooms Long Island' which is a not-for-profit organization that brings dance into schools while teaching students social awareness, social etiquette, respect for each other and the art of dance. Mr. Raymar is being presented with the first ever 'Take the Lead' award for his efforts over the past 10 years in bringing this program to Covert Elementary School and raising funds through the 'Raymar Children's Fund' to support it.

Watson's Sound Body, Sound Mind Evening

Earlier this year, Watson School became an exciting venue for a *Sound Body, Sound Mind Evening*. The night, which was enjoyed by the over two-hundred students and their parents, was filled with active, fun experiences and was the result of a grant written by Watson teachers and funded by the Rockville Centre Education Foundation. The grant supports the principle that students have improved cognitive skills when there is a balance between a multiple intelligence approach to learning and physical wellness. From kick boxing, to Zumba to yoga, every room in the building resonated with happy children stretching their minds and bodies.



Accompanied by parents on the Tubano drums, young Watson students learn the African Clock Dance.

The gym housed a variety of fitness challenges, including climbing up the cargo net, traversing the school's rock wall, competing in the box jump game and racing with speed stacks. Classrooms were dedicated to logical, mathematical, musical and kinesthetic activities. Students had fun learning how to dance to African drums, create origami animals, and solve brain teasers. Each student created a model of their skeletal system to creatively demonstrate what they learned about the spine.

Watson School will continue to be involved in *Sound Body, Sound Mind* activities throughout the school year.

Students Participate in 'Hour of Code'







Recently, students throughout the Rockville Centre School District participated in a global movement called 'Hour of Code.' The event, which is held in celebration of Computer Science Education Week, was an hour introduction to computer science designed to show students the basics of coding.

Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction, Mr. Pellettieri, is proud that the District participated in the 'Hour of Code.' He said, "The future is now. We want to take advantage of the fact that our youngsters brains are set up for learning new languages, their minds really do soak it up at this age. We want our students to really get immersed in how things work, not just be users of tech but creators of tech as that's where many jobs in the future will lie. We want to empower our students with these great skill sets, and it's really fun." During 'Hour of Code', students had the opportunity to take a virtual ride on *The Road to Code,* where they utilized a variety of websites and apps designed to nurture collaboration, problem-solving skills, logical thinking and creativity.

Students in grades K-5 participated in the event during their STELLAR classes, in grades 6-8 participation took place in the library and in grades 9-12 in the Coding Club.

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The Rockville Centre School District has an App!

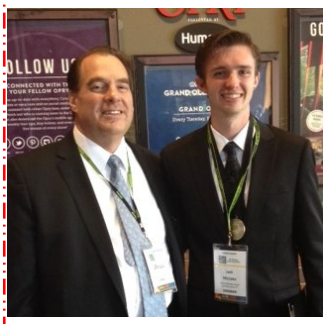
It's everything you want to know about the Rockville Centre School District in one easy-to-use, mobile location! The Rockville Centre School District's custom app gives parents and students easy access to Push Notifications, the District calendar, eBackpack, PowerSchool, lunch menus, lunch account balances, sports scores and more! To download the app, search Rockville Centre Schools in the App Store or scan the QR code!

South Side High School Teacher Named a Semifinalist for the Grammy Music Educator Award



South Side High School teacher Dr. Doreen Fryling has been named one of 25 semifinalists for the Grammy Music Educator Award. In total, more than 4,500 initial nominations were submitted from all 50 states. Nominees are evaluated on a variety of criteria including the measurable difference they have made in the lives of their students, their significant contributions made to the field of music education, and the broader commitment they have made to maintaining music education in our schools. Dr. Fryling was nominated for the Grammy by one of her students. She teaches IB Music and conducts both the Choraleers and the Chamber Singers; she is also the Vocal Director for South Side High School's Spring Musical.

South Side High School Student Participates in the National Association for Music Education's All National Honors Choir



Pictured: Director of the Arts Dr. Brian Zuar and Jack McCabe

Congratulations to South Side High School Student Jack McCabe who sang in the National Association for Music Education's (NAfME) All National Honors Choir. The concert took place at the Grand Ole Opry during the NAfME conference in Nashville Tennessee.

When asked about this accomplishment, Director of the Arts Dr. Brian Zuar said, "Jack is the first student in my 12 years to be selected for a National Honors Ensemble. We routinely have students chosen for All County, All State and All Eastern Ensembles, but never a National before Jack."

To be eligible for the NAfME All-National Honor Ensembles, students must meet strict requirements. Jack has been a member of South Side High School's Chamber Singers since 9th grade, has been chosen for the All County Music Festival the past 4 years and as a Junior he was chosen as an alternate for the All State Music Festival. This year he will also attend the American Choral Directors' Association Eastern Division National Honors Choir .

2016 Kindergarten Registration

Kindergarten Registration for the Rockville Centre Public Schools will be conducted by the District Registrar at South Side High School for children who will be **five years old by December 1, 2016**. Registration dates are as follows:

Covert School— January 11, 2016
Wilson School—January 12, 2016
Watson School—January 13, 2016
Hewitt School—January 14, 2016
Riverside School—January 15, 2016

Please refer to the school district's website for more information.

To All Rockville Centre School District Residents

If you believe that your school-age or preschool child may have a disability, please contact Dr. Noreen Leahy, Assistant Superintendent of Schools for Pupil Personnel Services and Special Education, (516)255-8928, or Dr. Orly Gadon, Chairperson of the Committee on Special Education/Preschool Education at (516) 255-8942.