

YOUR SCHOOLS

NEWSLETTER OF THE ROCKVILLE CENTRE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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DATES TO REMEMBER

August

29 BOE Tour of Buildings

September

4 Superintendent's Conference Day
5 Schools open—full day
10 Board of Education—Public Work Session
17/18 Rosh Hashanah—Schools closed
26 Yom Kippur—Schools closed
27 Board of Education meeting

THANK YOU TO ALL OF THE 2012 RETIREES FOR THEIR MANY YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE ROCKVILLE CENTRE SCHOOL DISTRICT !



Pictured at left: Board President Liz Dion, June Clark, Diane Durdaller, Deborah Harty, Dory Mayr, Superintendent of Schools William Johnson.

Pictured at right: Board President Liz Dion, Homer Norton, William Rhodes, and Superintendent of Schools William Johnson. (Not Pictured: Charles Dodd, Lottie Green, Charlie Grant, and Johnnie Smith.)



Pictured at left: Karen Pratt (and her grandson). Board President Liz Dion, Rosalie Marshall, Karen Baer, Eugene Kaplan, Ernest Kuehl, Jr, Ann O'Brien, and Superintendent of Schools William Johnson. (Not pictured: Jill Calderone)



Pictured at right: Past and present Board members and Administrators pose with District Clerk Cynthia Geones during the June 4, 2012 Board meeting where she was recognized for her many years of service to the RVC School District.



NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP FINALIST

Mark Bevilacqua of South Side High School has recently been recognized as a National Merit Scholarship Finalist based on his outstanding PSAT scores from 11th grade.

As a full IB (International Baccalaureate) candidate, Mark has enjoyed learning at this intense level. He has challenged himself with some of the most rigorous classes that South Side High School has to offer. Outside of the classroom, Mark is an extremely talented musician who plays several instruments. He is often spotted in the Music room after school honing his skills and jamming with his friends. Mark is a dedicated young man. For his Eagle Scout project, Mark wanted to share his passion for reading with disadvantaged boys. He strongly believes that reading is an enriching experience that should be available to all. Therefore, he organized a book collection and then categorized the donations along with books that the school already had. He felt that the boys at the LaSalle School deserved to choose books from an organized and broad selection.

Mark will proudly attend American University in the fall where he will study History Education. Congratulations Mark on this well-deserved honor.



South Side High School senior Mark Bevilacqua

School Roundup

COVERT

Covert Elementary School held their second annual Mini-Relay for Life on Friday, May 18, 2012. Nancy Mauser, the Covert teacher who is responsible for putting together this wonderful event, is the co-chairperson of the Bellmore-Merrick Relay for Life and has used her experience to create a fundraising opportunity that Covert students are sure to remember.

"During last year's Relay we focused on teaching the students how to lead a healthy lifestyle, with emphasis on sun safety, not smoking, good nutrition, and exercise. I expect this year's event to be even better than last year's event!" said Ms. Mauser, who went on to say, "For this year's event I enlisted a large staff to assist me. We planned many new fundraisers, including an all-purple bake sale, UV-beaded bracelets which show the effects of sun exposure on the skin, and we will be selling Relay for Life T-shirts to the Covert students and staff. We hope that everyone will come to the Mini-Relay dressed in Relay attire, excited, and ready to have a great day!"



Covert students raised over \$1300 and also received donations of bananas from Jandi's of Oceanside, Associated of Rockville Centre and Stop & Shop of Oceanside, as well as a generous donation from the King Kullen of Rockville Centre. Relay for Life is the American Cancer Society's largest fundraiser and is held in many communities around the country as a celebration of life. During the Relay people remember those they have lost to cancer and honor those who are survivors.

HEWITT

Kindergarteners at Hewitt Elementary School got a lesson in grammar, that they're sure to remember, when they held a ceremony to marry the letters "Q" and "U" last month. With the auditorium beautifully decorated, Chris Pellettieri, the Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, officiated the ceremony and Kindergarteners James Beatty (Q) and Maggie Miller (U) played the parts of bride and groom. The rest of the Kindergarteners played supporting roles as other members of the alphabet groomsman and bridesmaids.

Students Maggie Miller (U) and James Beatty (Q) pose for a picture after the wedding of Q & U



RIVERSIDE

Last month the StarLab Planetarium made a stop at Riverside Elementary School and the students were treated to a very special science program involving stars and constellations. For an entire week classes had a chance to observe the beauty and science of the night sky in an inflatable planetarium. Inside StarLab's 16 by 11 foot dome a projector displays the night sky as it looks from anywhere on the Earth. Fourth grade teacher, Keith Eckert, facilitated the use of the StarLab and taught students about the night sky and how stars are different from one another. The students also learned how to recognize star patterns in the sky from cultures around the world.

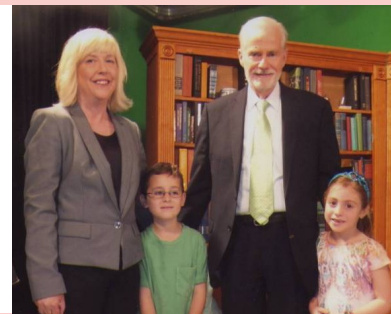


School Roundup

WATSON

Kindergarteners throughout the district recently enjoyed watching chicken eggs hatch inside their classroom. The students then cared for the chicks for over a week. The kindergarten science program adds a variety of enrichment activities throughout the year creating an awareness of the natural world around them. The "Embryology Unit" was designed to provide students an opportunity to witness a life cycle and care for animals.

Watson kindergarten students, Julianna Bivona and Matthew Licata, and their teacher, Laura Moore, were special guests on Dr. Johnson's television show "Exploring Our Schools." Dr. Johnson asked the students to share all of their newly learned facts and vocabulary. The students also demonstrated how to hold a chick and how they cared for the chicks in the classroom.



WILSON

Each year the Wilson Student Government holds a carnival. The carnival is made up of games like football toss, lollipop pull, kickball bowling and bean bag toss. The students in grades kindergarten through fifth grade participate in playing the games. The representatives in first through fifth grades conduct the activities. Candy is given out as prizes. The carnival is a special treat that Student Government organizes as a way of thanking all the students for their support during the past year of canned food drives, spirit days and charity events.



In addition to the carnival, a canned food drive is held each June to benefit local food pantries. Food is needed during the summer months as well as around the holidays.

For each can that a student brings in they are given a raffle ticket. This year 15 lucky winners will win a gift certificate to Carvel, Ralph's Ices, or Matty's Toy Shop. This is again a way for the members of Student Government to thank their classmates for supporting all activities organized by the representatives.

Every Thursday Student Government sells ice cream during lunch. The proceeds from the sales support many activities around school. The representatives voted to support a student through Help International - Help Uganda which will allow the child to have food, clothing, education and medical care for a year.

MIDDLE SCHOOL

On Tuesday, May 22, 2012, students at South Side Middle School got the chance to expand their knowledge and understanding of bullying and the negative effect it has on all those involved when they attended a field trip to see the recently released documentary **BULLY**.

Principal Shelagh McGinn said, "This was a wonderful opportunity to expand upon our efforts to address bullying, build community as a school, as well as to continue our discussion about bullying in this social climate."

Twenty two busses were needed to transport South Side Middle School students and staff supervisors to the theater. This trip was funded through a grant from DonorsChoose.org, a nonprofit organization that connects public school teachers with people who want to support classroom learning.



HIGH SCHOOL

On May 24th South Side High School held their annual Centre Stage Production. This year's play was called Wizard of South Side and featured themes from Wizard of Oz, the Wiz, and Wicked. Students, Bryan Nesdill and Rick Cisario, worked with Ellen White to write this original play. The cast of Centre Stage was made up of both special education and general education students.





Captain Covert Makes his big debut for Students

The Results are in!

This year a total of 1,205 students came out to vote during the student elections on May 15th! At Covert, students voted on their mascot and the winner was Captain Covert. At Hewitt, students voted on whether they'd like a hotshot basketball tournament in Physical Education, free choice week in Physical Education for one week, or a special AIM Assembly - Chicago Boyz Acrobats - and the winner was free choice week in Physical Education for one week. At Riverside, students voted on which activities they'd like to participate in during Field Day and students chose group A which included games like tug-of-war. Watson students voted on which treat they'd like at their family picnic and the winner was Italian ices. Students at Wilson voted on what dessert will be served at the Wilson School Barbeque and the winner was Italian ices. Finally, Middle School Students voted on whether or not they'd like school Uniforms; the winner was no.

Field Day 2012!



South Side High School Students Receive New York State Award

Seven South Side seniors have been selected as recipients of the New York State 2012 Series Scholarships for Academic Excellence. These scholarships provide financial aid for full-time study in an approved program at an institution located in New York State and are awarded based upon outstanding academic accomplishment. All seven deserving students have demonstrated not only their unyielding dedication to academics, but also to school and community involvement as well. Congratulations to Shannon Buckley, Megan Dacek, Victoria DeFina, Mark Hamilton, Kasey Ng, Emily Passarelli and Carly Roman.



Pictured with the students are Dr. Carol Burris and Ms. Laurie Levy.

Field Day 2012!





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Tenured Teachers



Congratulations to the following teachers who were recognized for their appointment to tenure. Pictured above are Board of Education President Liz Dion, Katelyn M. Dunn, Christine M. Falciano, Nicole A. Jones, Debra A. Levy, Jennifer M. Lodico, Cynthia J. Marasco, Ashley E. McAree, Johanna Medina-Bowers, Angelica M. Nicotra, and Superintendent of Schools William Johnson

Not pictured: Virginia K. Stamatakis

The District has implemented a new communication process for emergency notifications. School closings and other urgent messages will be sent through ConnectEd, a telephone and email communication system. Contact information on file for students and staff will be utilized for these notifications. Other community members who wish to receive District-wide messages should send an email with their name, phone number and/or email address to connected@rvcschools.org or send a letter to the Business Office in the Administration Building at 128 Shepherd Street, Rockville Centre, NY 11570 requesting to be added to this messaging list. Parents who would like to change their contact information should contact the main office of their child's school.



South Side High School was ranked number 22 in the Nation, number 2 in New York State and number 1 on Long Island in a recent U.S. News and World Report Ranking. The publication analyzed 21,776 high schools in 49 states and the District of Columbia based on factors including their effort to educate all students, not just the college-bound. All 11th-graders at South Side are required to take the toughest literature course offered: International Baccalaureate Language and Literature, Higher Level.



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