

YOUR SCHOOLS

NEWSLETTER OF THE ROCKVILLE CENTRE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Inside This Issue

- New staff members
- School roundup
- School enrollment
- National Merit Semi-finalist
- Letter from the Board

DATES TO REMEMBER

September

29/30 Schools Closed — Rosh Hashanah

October

10 Schools Closed—Columbus Day

11 Board of Education—
Public Work Session

22 Homecoming

25 Board of Education meeting

November

1 Board of Education—
Public Work Session

8 Schools Closed—Election Day

11 Schools Closed—Veterans' Day

15 Board of Education meeting

24/25 Schools closed—
Thanksgiving holiday

December

13 Board of Education meeting

26 Schools Closed—Winter recess

January

3 Schools reopen

A Letter From The Board

The Rockville Centre Board of Education would like to welcome everyone to the 2011/2012 school year. We hope that all of our students are settling in and adjusting to their new environments.

This school year we are very excited about many new technology upgrades. We recently launched our new [website](#) and we feel that this new tool and others, such as our District [Facebook page](#) will allow for greater communication between the District and the community. Not only will the information on the website be timely, but we also seek to make it more complete. Throughout the year we will gain greater capacity with the website, such as allowing parents to view their child's program, teachers' webpages, a personalized calendar, as well as ability to communicate with teachers in a quick and efficient manner. Each time we add something we will be sure to let you know. Our hope is that the site will be the source for all information throughout the District.

We have also begun to distribute iPads for teacher and student use and have added several smart tables in elementary school buildings. With these technological updates we are proud to take this great leap forward into 21st century teaching and learning.

We urge residents to attend our monthly meetings or to watch them on Thursday evenings on the RVC School Channel (channel 19 for Cablevision subscribers or channel 36 for Verizon FIOS subscribers). For a complete list of Board of Education meetings please visit our website: www.rvcschools.org. Your input about our District will enable us to continue to provide students with the best education possible.

To All Rockville Centre School District Residents

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

Sincerely,
Liz, Mark, Gregg, John and Mayda
Rockville Centre Board of Education

Meet The New Staff 2011-2012



New High School staff, left to right: Christina Megherian, Hillary Broder, Anthony Zito, Michael Musilli, Jason Miller, Jaclyn Sorensen, Sheena Batchelor

SOUTH SIDE HIGH SCHOOL

Sheena Batchelor—Special Education

Ms Batchelor earned her Bachelor of Arts degree at Monmouth University, West Long Branch, NJ and her Master of Science degree at Long Island University/Brooklyn Campus. She has been working as a Special Education teacher for the New York City Department of Education at IS 71 Juan Campos Morel Secondary School, Brooklyn, NY.

Hillary Broder—Art

Ms Broder received her Bachelor of Fine Arts degree at Rhode Island School of Design and her Master of Arts degree at Adelphi University. She worked as an Art teacher at John F. Kennedy High School.

Mary C. Coleman—Mathematics

Ms Coleman holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Seton Hall University and a Master of Arts degree from New York University. She worked as Supervisor of Mathematics, Business and Computer Education at Hicksville Union Free School District, and previously taught Mathematics at South Side High School from September 2006 through June 2008.

Andrea Logios—Foreign Language

Ms Logios earned her Bachelor of Arts degree at SUNY Oneonta and her Master of Arts degree at Long Island University/C.W. Post Campus. She is a former employee of the Rockville Centre UFSD who taught both Spanish and ESL at SSSH.

Christina Megherian—Science

Ms Megherian earned both her Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts degrees at Adelphi University. Although Ms Megherian is not new to the Rockville Centre School District this year, we would like to acknowledge her employment with us since she only commenced working as a Science teacher at SSSH as of December 10, 2010. Prior to coming to RVC, Ms Megherian worked as a leave replacement at both New Hyde Park and Floral Park School Districts.

Jason Miller—Foreign Language

Mr. Miller earned his Bachelor of Arts degree at SUNY Stony Brook and his Master of Science degree at Dowling College. He previously worked as a Spanish teacher at Levittown Public Schools; prior to that, he was a secondary Spanish teacher at William Floyd High School.

Michael Musilli—English

Mr. Musilli earned his Bachelor of Arts degree at SUNY Oneonta and his Master of Science degree at Hofstra University. He has worked as an English teacher at Herricks High School and Middle School, New Hyde Park, NY.

Anthony Zito—Special Education

Mr. Zito earned both his Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts degrees at Adelphi University. He has been working as a Social Studies teacher/teaching assistant at East Rockaway Jr. & Senior High Schools.

SOUTH SIDE MIDDLE SCHOOL

Kerri DeJean—Art

Ms DeJean earned her Bachelor of Fine Arts degree at the School of Visual Arts and is presently enrolled in a Masters Program at City University at Queens College. She fulfilled her student teaching requirement at Sewanhaka HS, Floral Park, NY and Munsey Park Elementary School, Manhasset, NY.



New Middle School staff, left to right: Anthony Pomponio, Adam Mills, Dan LaManna, Kerri DeJean, Caitlin Keogh, Allison Eckert

Meet The New Staff 2011-2012

Allison Eckert—Elementary

Ms Eckert earned her Bachelor of Science degree at Iona College and her Master of Science degree at Dowling College. She worked in the District as a permanent substitute and as a teaching assistant in Covert School.

Caitlin Keogh—Mathematics

Ms Keogh earned her Bachelor of Arts degree at SUNY Cortland. She has been working in District as a permanent substitute since February 2010.

Daniel LaManna—Technology

Mr. LaManna earned his Bachelor of Science degree at SUNY Plattsburgh. He fulfilled his student teaching requirement at New Hyde Park Memorial Jr. H.S., New Hyde Park, NY and H. Frank Carey Jr. H.S., Franklin Square, NY.

Adam Mills—Technology

Mr. Mills earned his Bachelor of Science degree at SUNY Oswego. He has worked as a Technology teacher at Riverhead Central School District. Prior to that, he worked as a permanent substitute Technology teacher at Riverhead Central School District.

Anthony Pomponio—Music

Mr. Pomponio earned both his Bachelor of Science and his Master of Arts degrees at Hofstra University. He worked as a part-time Band teacher in Huntington UFSD, P.S. 195K and Wantagh UFSD. Prior to that, he worked as a Band teacher at the Plainedge Middle School.

Nicholas Rakatas—Elementary

Mr. Rekatas earned his Bachelor of Arts degree at Boston University and his Master of Arts degree at Long Island University/C.W. Post Campus. He has been working in the District as a permanent substitute since September 2, 2010; prior to that, he worked as a teaching Assistant at SSMS.

HEWITT SCHOOL

Tara Madden— Special Education

Ms Madden earned her Bachelor of Science degree at SUNY Geneseo and her Master of Science degree at Hofstra University. She has been working in District as a teaching assistant since September 1, 2007; she was tenured on September 1, 2010.

Bridget Schepis—Special Education

Ms Schepis earned her Bachelor of Arts degree at Marist College and her Master of Science degree at *Walden University*. She worked as a teacher at P.S. 277, Gerristen Beach, Brooklyn, NY.

WATSON SCHOOL

Lisa Kakis— Special Education

Ms Kakis earned her Bachelor of Arts degree at SUNY Oneonta and her Master of Science degree at Molloy College. She has been working at Watson School as a permanent substitute from June 2009 through June 2011.

WILSON SCHOOL

Amy Rose—Grade 3

Ms Rose earned her Bachelor of Science degree at SUNY Old Westbury and her Master of Science degree at Long Island University/C.W. Post Campus. She has been working in District as a permanent substitute from September 2008 through June 2011.



New District Elementary schools staff from left to right: Jannette Rodriguez, Amy Rose, Lisa Kakis, Bridget Schepis, Tara Madden, Virginia Stamatakis, Peter Gibbons

DISTRICTWIDE

Christina Russo—Music

Ms Russo earned her Bachelor of Science degree at Hofstra University. From January 2011 through June 2011, Ms Russo fulfilled her student teacher requirement at Watson/Covert Schools.

School Roundup

COVERT

This year the students and teachers at Covert School are being asked: "What can you do to achieve your personal best?" Each member of the Covert community is striving to achieve a personal best in an area of their choice. Mad Hot Ballroom, Philanthropy, Healthy Living, Academics, etc.

The tradition at Covert is to celebrate the uniqueness of each student and adult; urging everyone to find an area of success to improve upon and turning weaknesses into strengths.

Covert celebrates its sixth year of participating in the ballroom dancing program Mad Hot Ballroom. Mad Hot Ballroom is an exciting way for students to learn to respect each other and become ladies and gentlemen through the art of ballroom dancing. Students in grades four and five will participate in twenty lessons during the autumn months and conclude with a performance in early December at South Side Middle School.

Covert also encourages students to participate in philanthropic events throughout the year. By working together to help others students learn invaluable lessons along the way, providing them

the framework to be excellent leaders of tomorrow. Each grade level sponsors at least one fund-raising program. Over the years Covert has raised thousands of dollars for noble causes and the Raymar Children's Fund continues to help many local residents at Covert, the entire District, as well as surrounding communities.

There has been a worldwide focus on leading a healthy life. We continue to encourage all the members of Covert to be actively involved in fitness activities and promote healthy living choices. Staff members have invited parents to be members of our Weight Watchers Club as an example of involving the entire community.

The staff at Covert continues to challenge each student and adult to achieve their personal best, whatever it may be. The unbelievable school spirit within Covert and the community continues to be an inspiration.

With the use of technology Covert will be unveiling a music video as a tribute to the theme to be premiered at the Annual Variety Show in May 2012.



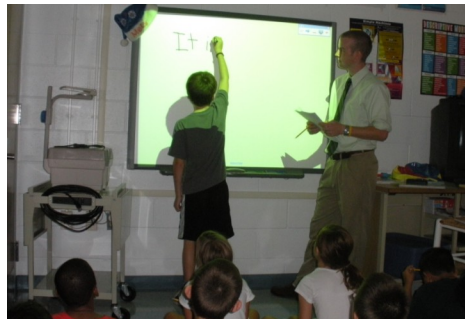
HEWITT

Hewitt School opened its doors Tuesday morning to welcome some 461 smiling faces to another wonderful and spectacular school year. The Hewitt faculty and staff were scattered throughout the hallways to meet new students and welcome back returning students from their summer vacations. The hallways of Hewitt sparkle, thanks to the amazing custodial staff and the classrooms look bright and beautiful anticipating the arrival of hundreds of children.

There are so many new and interesting things waiting to be explored by all. SmartBoards now hang in all of our classrooms with mounted projectors. Our teachers could not wait to turn them on and get things rolling. Mrs. Powers got right to work on the first day introducing her new first graders to the SmartBoard by executing an introductory math lesson to familiarize the children with the workings of the SmartBoard.

RIVERSIDE

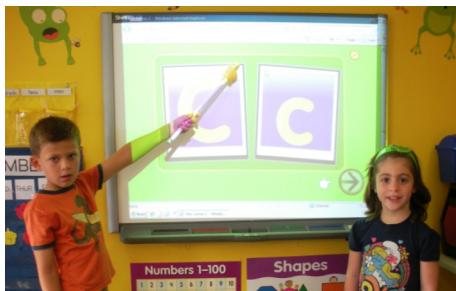
At Riverside, it was back to school and as usual the teachers and students all started their year by using technology. The students of Riverside Elementary School continue to learn interactively with the enhancement of the SmartBoard. Over the past few years, the SmartBoard has become an integral part of classroom instruction within the District. The technology of the SmartBoard merges the familiar white-board concept with the many attributes of a computer.



Students in Mr. Eckert's fourth grade class are very excited to use the SmartBoard while learning Language Arts.

WATSON

Kindergarteners Robert Pruno and Julianna Bivona use the SmartBoard on the first day of school



On the very first day of school, Watson Kindergarteners began to use SmartBoards. These learning tools were installed in their classrooms this past summer. The children are becoming adept at using this interactive technology to enhance their learning. The teachers are excited to integrate multi-media tools to enrich the Kindergarten curriculum. The SmartBoards provide opportunities for the students to learn through visual, tactile and auditory modalities. The 2011-2012 school year promises to be productive and exciting for these students!

School Roundup

WILSON

Wilson School has gotten off to a terrific start this year. All facets of the building and grounds are in operation, the lunch program is in place, transportation is on time and reliable and our classes and programs are going well. Team meetings on the building and District levels have begun, and our staff is very focused and engaged in the beginning of school activities and completion of all required tasks. With Back-to-School Night around the corner, we are excited at the prospect of Wilson parents getting a better look at what their children will be doing for the remainder of the school year.



At Wilson a parent escorts his children to lineup outside of the building on the first day of school.

MIDDLE SCHOOL



Mr. Art Rosenthal, the Director of Confide talks to students about drug and alcohol addiction.

On September 7, 2011, we held the 2nd Annual "Challenge to Choose Wisely" assembly for the entire school. The purpose of this presentation was to stress the importance surrounding good decision making and the dangers of risky behavior. The speakers included Mr. Frank Mullahey, a throat cancer survivor who communicates through a voice recorder; Det. Frank Marino, who spoke on the reality of gang affiliations and bullying in our community; Mr. Wayne Rothwell, Director of Adolescent Care at South Oaks Hospital, who discussed brain chemistry and addictive behaviors; Mr. Art Rosenthal, Director of Confide, who relayed stories of drug addiction, and Judge Anthony Paradiso, who described the court system and the consequences of making risky decisions.

The students were fully absorbed in this assembly and learned through some role playing on how to cope with a situation that could intimidate a youngster into making a poor decision. They also were armed with some solutions to deter becoming a victim in a bullying situation or any negative behavior happening around them.

The administrators and staff at South Side Middle School are dedicated to educating the whole child and in this age of technical advancement and social networking, students need to be aware of the consequences which could be the result of the lack of information. We believe this assembly and panel of speakers have been instrumental in helping our students make the "Right Decisions" and navigate the world in which they live.

HIGH SCHOOL

In order to make sure that South Side High School students are prepared for the new Common Core standards, South Side is implementing features of the Common Core this year in English Language Arts and Literacy. The Common Core State Standards (CCSS) are designed to make all students college and career ready, and they will form the basis of a new assessment system in the years to come.

The learning outcomes of the CCSS in reading, writing, listening and speaking "are internationally benchmarked, aligned with work and post-secondary education expectations, and inclusive of the higher order skills that students need..."(Common Core Background). The standards demand that considerable instructional time be dedicated to literary and non-literary (or informational) texts. For example, our English curriculum will place a greater emphasis on literacy skills and less emphasis on literary analysis.

All teachers across the curriculum will be required to support this effort because a school-wide approach is needed to help our students meet these high literacy standards. Across courses, teachers will work to develop each student's *academic vocabulary*. South Siders will read more, both in and out of class, with an emphasis on the development of their *close reading* skills. These are terms which we all will become more familiar with as the *Common Core State Standards* unfold.

In addition, the International Baccalaureate Organization has introduced a new course, *IB Language and Literature*, whose aims and objectives are aligned with the Common Core standards, and demand the same high level of critical thinking. The course includes both traditional literature instruction and an investigation of more non-literary, informational texts. All eleventh-grade students are taking this course this year.



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SCHOOL ENROLLMENT

<u>ENROLLMENT BY SCHOOL</u>	<u>2011</u>
Covert	316
Hewitt	458
Riverside	167
Watson	277
Wilson	400
South Side Middle School	820
South Side High School	1143

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.

National Merit Scholarship Semifinalist



South Side High School is proud to announce that Mark Bevilacqua is a semi-finalist in the National Merit Competition. He is being recognized for his outstanding PSAT scores. Mark is an outstanding scholar. He is an International Baccalaureate Diploma candidate and is active in many school and community activities. In addition, he is a talented musician as well as an Eagle Scout. This past spring Mark received the Good Deed Award for organizing a book drive for disadvantaged boys in Freeport. Congratulations to Mark Bevilacqua on this prestigious accomplishment.

Pictured with Mark is SSSH guidance counselor Marcia Pedone