

RR Schools

YOUR SOURCE FOR ROCKY RIVER SCHOOL NEWS



Students Help Keep Board Informed

Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Michael Shoaf, introduced a new program this year aimed at enhancing communication and providing additional ways for students to get involved in their schools. The Student Board Liaison program was created to provide high school students with an opportunity to provide input and insight to the Board of Education and district administration.

The Student Board Liaisons consist of two students per grade from grades 10, 11 and 12 who were selected based on recommendations from high school teachers and administrators. Each month these students meet with board member Jean Rounds, principal Debbie Bernard, and Dr. Shoaf prior to the regular Board of Education meeting. Dr. Shoaf shares with the students information about the board agenda and the topics being discussed or voted on

by the board. The students provide their perspective on some of these various topics and also discuss with the superintendent any issues or concerns they have. Then each month at the board meeting, two or three of the students attend the meeting and provide an update on happenings or topics of interest from the high school.

"The Student Board Liaisons provide us with a unique perspective on a variety of topics," said Dr. Shoaf. "They ask wonderful questions, provide thoughtful comments and great insight," he noted. Dr. Shoaf also stressed that the program provides students with a better understanding of the role of the board and administrative leadership. "This is an education about how the system works and it will help students learn how they can work with the system to improve their schools," Dr. Shoaf added.

This year's Student Board Liaisons are Ed Locci and Tori Bartolozzi (grade 12), Stuart Huller and Grace Summers (grade 11), and Sarah Morford and Henry Nisiobincki (grade 10). Pictured with Board of Education president Scott Swartz at a recent board meeting are (L to R) Ed Locci, Tori Bartolozzi and Stuart Huller.

AFS Student Returns

In recognition of Rocky River High School's 50 years of support of the American Field Service (AFS) program, internationally recognized artist and former AFS student at Rocky River High School, Jann Klose, recently performed an intimate concert for students and the community.

According to AFS advisor and concert organizer, Karen Naftzger, Jann Klose came to Rocky River from Hamburg, Germany for the 1989-90 school year and got his musical start with River's Edge show choir, under the direction of teacher Ron Muth. While attending RRHS, his host family was John and Christina Urbank. Jann currently lives in New York and performs nationally and internationally. He has recorded several CDs, the latest of which is "Reverie."

AFS is an international, voluntary, non-governmental, non-profit organization that provides intercultural learning opportunities to help people develop the knowledge, skills and understanding needed to create a more just and peaceful world. Rocky River High School hosts AFS students each year and River students also have the opportunity to spend a summer or school year in another country.

RRHS senior and AFS co-president, Dhurata Bregu, presents former AFS student Jann Klose with an AFS t-shirt following his performance at the school.



School Levy Approved By Voters

See story on page 4

SMART SCHOOLS

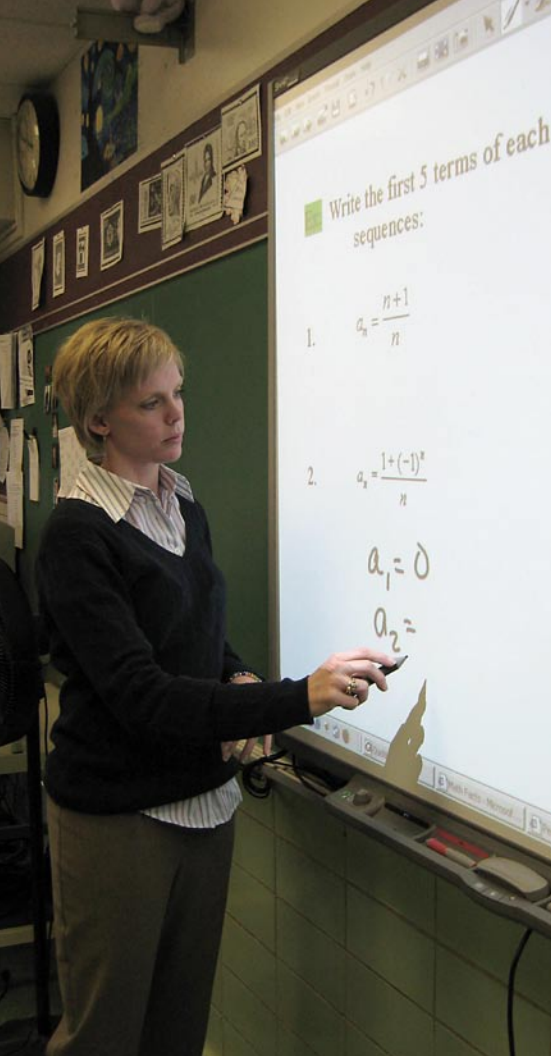
Technology Supporting Classroom Teaching

Thanks to the support of the Rocky River Education Foundation, the schools will have ten new SMART Boards in classrooms soon. SMART Boards are interactive whiteboards that combine the simplicity of a whiteboard with the power of a computer.

According to Assistant Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Cathy Dietlin, using SMART Boards in the classroom, "...engages students and creates a dynamic learning environment." The touch-sensitive board connects to a computer and digital projector. Teachers and students can access and control any computer application or Internet resource by simply touching the board's surface.

The district had twelve of the boards in classrooms that had been purchased through grants and as the result of other funding opportunities. Kristen Stephens, high school honors math teacher, has used a SMART Board in her classroom and sees the benefits to teachers and students. "The integration of technology in our school has added a new excitement to both teaching and learning," she said. She added that Rocky River High School is a SMART Board Showcase School. "Our school now serves as a host site for other schools that are interested in learning how the SMART Board technology can enhance student achievement," Kristen explained.

"Our efforts to get more SMART Boards in the hands of teachers and students" said Superintendent of Schools Dr. Michael Shoaf, "is another example of our ongoing effort to enrich the learning experience through dynamic technology." He added that the new SMART Boards would be installed and ready to use next school year.



Student Fashion Show Supports Relay

Students from Rocky River High School raised over \$1,000 in support of the Rocky River Relay for Life and the American Cancer Society by organizing a prom fashion show.

The event was organized by students Tori Bartolozzi and Megan Smith using the theme, "Across the Seven Seas." Tuxes from Tuxedo Junction and dresses from David's Bridal represented fashions from around the world. High school student models walked the runway in designs inspired from Hollywood, Milan, Tokyo, Greece, London and the Bahamas. The final fashions were representative of Paris, France

in honor of Rocky River High School French teacher Madame Thibo, who lost her battle to cancer in 2007. Nearly forty students modeled or helped with the show, which filled the community center at Memorial Hall. Embellish Accessories, CC's Salon, Francesca's Collection, and Donte Lucci Salons all donated goods or services to support the students' efforts.

The Rocky River Relay for Life will be held on Friday, May 23 to Saturday, May 24 at the RRHS Stadium.

The RRHS Prom Fashion Show raised over \$1,000 for the American Cancer Society.



Models Bobby Fitzsimmons and Brittany Milla work the runway during the Prom Fashion Show.



AROUND THE DISTRICT...

Spring is a busy time around the district.

Here are just a few things that have been happening in RR schools:



- RRHS Media Specialist Cherie Pandora (pictured center) and Principal Debbie Bernard presented a big check to Superintendent of Schools Dr. Michael Shoaf. The check represents \$23,845 in grant funding that the district was awarded to create a new computer lab in the school's media center. The grant from the Institute of Museum & Library Services and the State Library of Ohio will allow the school to create a lab featuring 31 new computers and a printer in a wireless setting. The Education Foundation also provided some of the funding for the new lab, which will be ready to use next school year.



- Being a secretary in a busy elementary school building is chaotic and noisy. That's why the special Secretary's Day treat that Kensington Intermediate School interim principal, Mr. Bill Burkhardt, arranged for the secretaries at Kensington Intermediate School was so incredibly special. Bill's talented wife, Becky, spent the entire afternoon on April 23rd in the school's office serenading secretaries Nancy Bondy and Theresa Holby with beautiful harp music. The talented harpist's music was so wonderful that it attracted teachers and staff from around the building who stopped by throughout the afternoon to enjoy the performance. Pictured is secretary Nancy Bondy (L), along with students and staff who filled the office to enjoy the music.

- Students and parents at Goldwood Elementary School enjoyed a fun night of hands-on learning during Family Math & Science Night. Students and a parent were invited to spend an evening with teachers engaged in fun learning activities and experiments. From making soap bubbles, watching raisins float and taking measurements, the students and parents had fun together while learning too. Everyone also received packets of information to take home filled with ideas for other easy and fun math and science activities and experiments to try at home.



- Making the transition from middle to high school can be a nervous time. To help ease the transition, a new

program coordinated by the middle school and high school has been introduced to provide middle school students with more information about all the exciting opportunities awaiting them at RRHS. High school student volunteers visited the middle school in April and talked with students about the wide range of clubs, activities, sports and fun that are available at the high school. The program is intended to improve each incoming freshmen's awareness of the many opportunities to get involved at the high school, and to lower the level of anxiety that some students might experience when moving from one school to another.

Thanks Voters!

On March 4th, voters in the Rocky River School District approved a 5.9 mill operating levy to provide much needed funds to the district. Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Michael Shoaf, the Board of Education, teachers, staff and students express their thanks to the entire community for their continued support of the award-winning Rocky River Schools. Special thanks are extended to Melissa Ferchill-Swingos who chaired the levy campaign, her husband, Nick, who served as the treasurer, and the numerous community and staff members who volunteered their time to serve on the levy committee.

According to Dr. Shoaf, the funds from this operating levy will be used for teaching, technology and textbooks. He noted that although the levy was passed this year, the district will not begin to collect revenue from the levy until 2009. "Our operating budget as we begin the 2008-09 school year will continue to be extremely tight and we will continue the spending controls that have been in place for the last several years," he said. However, Dr. Shoaf stressed that with the passage of the levy the district can effectively begin to plan and focus on critical needs. "We have maintenance issues, such as leaks in the high school roof, that we are already addressing, aging technology in our classrooms that we are currently developing plans to update and other priorities for our facilities and classrooms on which we can now focus," Dr. Shoaf noted.

"Thanks to the voters in Rocky River," Dr. Shoaf added, "we can now concentrate on our educational programs and maintaining the incredible reputation that the Rocky River Schools have always enjoyed."

Jumping for Joy?

While Superintendent of Schools Dr. Michael Shoaf was very pleased that the district's operating levy was approved in March, here he is actually jumping to help raise money for the American Heart Association. Each year the students at Kensington raise money during a week long Jump Rope for Heart campaign. This year's efforts resulted in 1.4 million jumps and over \$4,000 to support research and education programs.



Preschool Children Needed as Role Models

The Rocky River Early Achievement Program (REACH) is seeking preschoolers to participate as "typically developing peers" for the 2008-09 school year. The REACH Program is part of the Rocky River School District. Children must be 3-5 years old and Rocky River residents who are typically developing and potty trained. REACH has morning and afternoon classes Monday-Thursday each school week for 2 1/2 hours a day. If interested, call Learning Resource Services at 440/356-6006.

First Day of School

The first day of the 2008-09 school year for student will be Tuesday, August 26th. Check out the school web page at www.rrcs.org for a complete calendar for the coming school year.

Search for Children with Disabilities

The Rocky River School District, along with districts across the state, is participating in an effort to identify, locate and evaluate all children from birth to age 21 who may have a disability. A disability is a condition such as speech or language impairments, hearing impairments, visual impairments, learning disabilities, behavioral, multiple or severe handicaps, mental retardation, or other health impairments. If you have a concern about a child, please contact the Division of Learning Resources (LRS) at 356-6006.

Grants

Each year the school district receives federal and state money through several grants. The yearly focus of the district's grant projects is developed with input from parents, staff and community members. If you would like to provide input for Title VI-B, Preschool Children with Disability, Safe & Drug Free Schools, and/or Title III, Limited English Proficient, please contact the Division of Learning Resource Services at 356-6006. If you would like to provide input for Title II-A, Professional Development Program and Title V, Innovative Programs or eTech/Ohio, please contact the Assistant Superintendent at 356-6001.

**Rocky River
Board Of Education**
21600 Center Ridge Road
Rocky River, Ohio 44116-3980
440-333-6000

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Cleveland, Ohio
Permit No. 1932

ECRWSS
Postal Customer

