

Staff News



Ms. Elizabeth Anderson will join the school district as the Executive Director of Curriculum and Instruction. She will fill the vacancy that was created by the departure of long-time Assistant Superintendent, Dr. Cathy Dietlin. Liz was previously the Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum & Instruction for the Riverside Local

School District in Painesville. Prior to taking over that role in 2005, she was a middle school principal, a high school assistant principal, and a French teacher for that district. Liz is a graduate of Denison University with a BA in French and holds two master's degrees. Upon the successful completion of her dissertation, she will earn a Doctorate in Educational Leadership. According to Rocky River Superintendent, Dr. Michael Shoaf, of the fifteen candidates interviewed for the position, "Liz was the best fit for our district." Dr. Shoaf noted that Liz has a proven track record in the areas of curriculum, state mandates, federal grants, gifted education, technology and other areas that have been identified as being most critical for our district. The Rocky River Schools welcome Liz!

Following the retirement of Kensington Intermediate principal Mr. Bob Rybak, Mr. Todd Murphy will be joining the district to take over that important role. Todd has been a principal at the elementary level in the Lorain City Schools for five years. As principal, he initiated one of the first after school tutoring programs in the district, developed grant programs and improved his school's rating on the State Report Card. Prior to becoming a principal, he spent fifteen years as a classroom teacher at the fourth and fifth grade levels, where he was recognized as a Martha Jennings Scholar Award winner and an Endowment Grant Recipient. Todd has a Master's degree in School Administration from Ashland University. According to Rocky River Director of Human Resources, Mr. Ted Blank, the district reviewed over fifty applications and interviewed seven strong candidates for the position. Ted noted that Todd's instructional philosophy and his vision for the school made him the top candidate for the job. A warm welcome is extended to Todd (pictured center with Board of Education President Scott Swartz, left, and Superintendent of Schools Michael Shoaf, right).

Rocky River High School biology teacher Ms. Ann Brokaw recently received the prestigious Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST), the nation's highest honor for math and science teachers. Ann, a fifteen-year biology and earth science teacher at the high school was nominated for the award by school principal Debbie Bernard. The Presidential Teacher Award recognizes highly qualified educators who improve learning in the classroom and exemplify the highest standards of math and science instruction. As a winner, Ann received a \$10,000 award from the National Science Foundation, a citation signed by the President, and a trip to Washington, D.C. where she attended a series of recognition events and professional development opportunities. Ann is just one of 99 educators in the nation to receive this year's PAEMST award, and we are extremely proud to have her as a member of our teaching staff.



We're Proud Of....

- We're proud of Goldwood students Olivia Smith, JP McMaken and Anna King (pictured L to R) for being selected as winners in the 2008 Earth Day Poster Contest. Over 1,000 area students entered the contest, which promotes recycling and other environmental issues.
- We're proud of Kensington Intermediate School for being a recipient of the Buckeye Best Recognition. This program recognizes schools whose policies and practices reflect creative and comprehensive promotion of nutrition, physical activity and tobacco use prevention.



Spirit Run 2008



The Annual RRHS 5K Spirit Run/Walk will be Sunday, October 19th at the RRHS track. Race day packet pick-up and registration begins at 7:30 a.m. The race begins at 9:00 a.m. and is followed by a fun Ghostbuster Run (one lap around the track) for children ten and under. For registration or sponsorship information, contact Katie Baltas at 440/554-3467.

Community Band & Chorus Programs Seek Participants

If you have ever played an instrument or love to sing, Community Band or Community Chorus want you! These fun groups require no auditions and are open to area residents of all ages. Both groups meet Monday evenings from 7:30-9:30 p.m. at the Rocky River Middle School beginning September 15th. The cost is just \$35, which is collected at the first rehearsal. If you have questions about Band, contact Dennis Viers at 440/356-6889 and for Community Chorus call Emily Ortolanos at 216/661-2028.

RR Schools Best in the West

Once again the editors of *Cleveland Magazine* have ranked Rocky River as one of the top ten public school districts in the Greater Cleveland area and the highest rated district on the west side. Here's the 2008 ranking, which appeared in the magazine's June issue:

- Chagrin Falls
- Solon
- Hudson
- Orange
- Beachwood
- Rocky River**
- Brecksville-Broadview Heights
- Bay Village
- Westlake
- Revere

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



Celebrating Rr Seniors



Class of 2008 Valedictorian
Jasmine Corbin

On June 13th, 212 members of the RRHS Class of 2008 received diplomas during Commencement Ceremonies at Lakewood Civic Auditorium. Each year we invite R Schools readers to join us in our annual celebration of RRHS Seniors! We applaud, congratulate, praise, commend, cheer, admire and extol the culmination of thirteen years of education and the achievements of these outstanding young men and women.

- Jasmine Corbin was named the Class of 2008 Valedictorian and Ellissa Brandt earned the honor of Salutatorian.
- Thirty-seven members of the class were recognized as having earned High Honors (3.75 or above GPA) on all quarterly report cards during four years of high school. Those students were Ryan Altemare, Laura Aylward, Karen Benko, Ellissa Brandt, Andrew Brehm, Andrew Breidigam, Suzanne Campanella, Joseph Constantino, Christine Copa, Jasmine Corbin, Heather Culp, Carolyn Demanelis, Alexander Drake, Lisa Duge, Anna Feagan, Marius Fekete, Hui Gao, Megan Haas, Daniel Hamlin, Joshua Harkleroad, Lindsey Hobson, Kelly Kraus, Todd MacMillan, Christopher



Manno, Manon McGovern, Christopher Mengay, Sarah Milkovich, Peter Montgomery, Maria Nugent, Katelyn Oster, David Rea, Carolyn Rudy, Kyle Salberg, Nora Scullin, Jamie Tylicki, Jacob Wagner and Ashley Zkiab.

- Jasmin Corbin, Hui Gao and Kyle Salberg were named 2008 National Merit Finalists and Ryan Altemare, Ellissa Brandt, Carolyn Demanelis, Joshua Harkleroad and Todd MacMillan were named Commended Students in the prestigious academic competition.
- Forty-nine students earned Academic Letters in recognition of their scholastic achievements. Those students to earn an Academic Letter were Bryana Arancibia, Laura Aylward, Karen Benko, Jenna Berg, Kevin Bhasin, Ellissa Brandt, Andrew Brehm, Michael Budinger, Christine Copa, Jasmine Corbin, Lisa Duge, Ryan Eldridge, Leah Emery, Mary Farah, Kristin Galbincea, Ryan Gallagher, Megan Haas, Joshua Harkleroad, Andrea Hobson, Lindsey Hobson, Abigail Kacpura, Christopher Kane, Maureen Kessler, Kelly Kraus, Kaitlin Laubscher, Todd MacMillan, Manon McGovern, Christopher Mengay, Sarah Milkovich, Matthew Mitcheltree, Kevin



Class of 2008 Salutatorian
Ellissa Brandt

The first day of the 2008-09 school year is Tuesday, August 26th. Visit www.rrcs.org to view the school calendar as well as activities and events.

Continued on page 2

Celebrating RR Seniors, continued from page 1

Moeller, Paige Nagy, Daniel Owens, Hannah Pempus, Alex Plachta, Carolyn Rudy, Kyle Salberg, Michael Schauer, Alexis Schmidt, Nora Scullin, Keti Sulaj, Ben Sullivan, Ian Trudell, Ben Turturice, Jamie Tylicki, Mary Grace Umerley, Katarina Verlickovic, Jacob Wagner, and Ashley Zkiab.

• Ellissa Brandt and Andrew Breidigam were presented with the Outstanding Senior Athlete Awards and



Awards of Distinction recipients (L to R) Best It Can Be Award winners Robert Fitzsimmons & Madeline Strang; Principal's Leadership Award winner Joesph Constantino; All-Ohio Academic Team Recognition recipient Lindsey Hobson and Distinguished Service Award winner Jacob Wagner.

Kristen Strang and Adam Voll received the Archie Griffin Sportsmanship Awards.

• Lindsey Hobson, Jacob Wagner, Joseph Constantino,



Robert Fitzsimmons and Madeline Strang were presented with Awards of Distinction by RRHS principal Debbie Bernard.

• Seniors Clare Barry, Bridget Beirne, Michael Budinger, Diane Capuano, Gloria Counihan, Heather Culp, Grace Czerniawski, Lindsey Hobson, Sarah Lacy, Monica LaFleur, Eduardo Locci, Todd MacMillan, Erin McCafferty, Meaghan McIntyre, Emma Pavlik, Courtney Van Atta and Ashely Zkiab each participated in the high school's optional Senior Project program.

• Fifty-nine members of the Class of 2008 earned the distinction of being members of National Honor Society. Those students are: Ryan Altemare, Laura Aylward, Karen



Maura Neundorfer accepts the Prudential Spirit of Community President's Volunteer Service Award from RRHS Associate Principal Alan Wilhelms.

Benko, Laura Berkeley, Ellissa Brandt, Dhurata Bregu, Andrew Brehm, Michael Budinger, Suzanne Campanella, Jeffrey Carroll, Joseph Constantino, Frances Cook, Christine Copa, Jasmine Corbin, Heather Culp, Carolyn Demanelis, Alexander Drake, Lisa Duge, Leah Emery, William Evans, Anna Feagan, Lee Feinerer, Robert Fitzsimmons, Hui Gao, Megan Haas, Daniel Hamlin, Joshua Harkleroad, Brian Harpster, Lindsey Hobson, Kelly Jameson, Kaylee Janes, Sara Jaratz, Christopher Kane, Kelly Kraus, Kaitlin Laubscher, Eduardo Locci, Todd MacMillan, Allison Manuel, Manon McGovern, Christopher Mengay, Sarah Milkovich, Maria Nugent, Katelyn Oster, Alexander Plachta, Samantha Reinbold, Drew Ridgway, Carolyn Rudy, Kyle Salberg, Michael Schauer, Nora Scullin, Jillian Severinski, Megan Shaughnessy, Mark Sperli, Kristen Strang, Armando Toska, Jamie Tylicki, Courtney Van Atta, Jacob Wagner and Ashley Zkiab.

SCHOLARSHIPS & AWARDS

Class of 2008 members were awarded over \$8 million in scholarship dollars to help them pursue college and university degrees.



Five members of the RRHS Pirate Football team will be 2008 Hall of Fame Inductees for being named 2nd Team All-Ohio. They are from left to right, Zach Youseff, Andrew Breidigam, Kevin Orris, Sean Belanger and Jonathan Gipson.



Some of the members of the RRHS Class of 2008 to receive local scholarships during the high school's annual Recognition Assembly included (L to R) David Dunne, Andrew Breidigam, Karen Benko, Ellissa Brandt and Joseph Constantino.

Eduardo Locci, Sara Jaratz, Jonathan Gipson, Maura Hagan, Joshua Harkleroad, Ellissa Brandt, Todd MacMillan, Chris Mengay, Alexandra Spaeth, and Meaghan McIntyre were each awarded scholarships managed by the Rocky River Education Foundation.

• The RRHS Alumni Association awarded scholarships to Lisa Duge, Alex Plachta, Jamie Tylicki, Brooke Towner, Manon McGovern, Leah Emery, Armando Toska and Christopher Kane, while PTA organizations granted scholarships to Alexander Drake, Anthony Fox, Lee Feinerer, Genevieve Goran, Daniel Lembke and Katelyn Oster.

• Special scholarship awards included a \$500 cash prize to Samantha Reinbold for placing 3rd in the 18th Annual Jack London National Writing Contest. She was also the recipient of a \$1,000 Kohl's Kids Who Care Scholarship



Seniors Armando Toska, Lisa Duge, Brooke Towner, Manon McGovern and Peter Montgomery were recipients of local scholarship awards.

in recognition of volunteer service to the community. Other special awards included the first annual Rocky River Middle School September 11 Memorial Fund Scholarship, which was presented to student Marco Cazares, who intends to pursue a career in safety services. Receiving Meta Kramer renewable scholarships this year were Lindsey Hobson, Marissa Kristoff, Carolyn Rudy and Jacob Wagner. Megan Shaughnessy was the recipient of the Medical Mutual of Ohio Scholarship. This is the second year that Medical Mutual, the district's health insurance provider, awarded a scholarship to a graduating senior.

• Other students who received scholarships included Sean Belanger, Kevin Allison Memorial Scholarship; Jessica Madigan, Baker & Company Scholarship; Jasmine Corbin and



Suzi Campanella received one of three Nev Chandler Memorial Scholarships from Rocky River Education Foundation president Dave Furry.



RRHS senior Samantha Reinbold accepts a certificate and \$500 scholarship from RRHS Assistant Principal Sam Gifford in recognition of earning third place in the 18th Annual Jack London National Writing Contest. Reinbold was also the recipient of the Nev Chandler Memorial Scholarship and a Kohl's Kids Who Care Scholarship, which were all awarded during the high school's annual May Recognition Assembly.

Kelly Kraus, Beach Cliff Women's Club Scholarship; David Rea and Courtney Van Atta, Judy Hanson Memorial Rocky

River Soccer Organization Scholarship; Karen Benko, League of Women Voters Scholarship; Brittany Milla and Sara Piannecki, OAPSE Scholarship; Laura Aylward, Andrew Brehm, Christine Copa and Peter Montgomery, Pepsi Scholarship; Bobby Fitzsimmons and Lindsey Hobson, Red Cross Scholarship; Dhurata Bregu, Megan Haas and Maria Nugent, Rocky River Junior Women's Club Scholarship; Alyssa Abraham and Clare Barry, Rocky River Kiwanis Scholarship; Daniel Hamlin and Ashley Zkiab, Rocky River Teachers Association Scholarship; Carolyn Demanelis, Susan J. Romell Memorial Scholarship; Heather Culp, Charles Scott Salon Scholarship; Matthew Breidigam and David Dunne, Danny Scherry Memorial Scholarship; and Anna Feagan, Thomas & Thomas West Shore Studio Scholarship.



Congratulations and best of luck to the Class of 2008!