

# Rr Schools

YOUR SOURCE FOR ROCKY RIVER SCHOOL NEWS

## Congratulations to the

# *Class of* *2014*

On June 13, members of the Rocky River High School Class of 2014 received their diplomas during commencement ceremonies at Lakewood Civic Auditorium. We are proud to highlight some of the achievements of the Class of 2014 in this issue of the *Rr Schools*.



*Class of 2014 Valedictorian*

Ellen Corcoran



*Class of 2014 Salutatorian*

Megan Killeen



### Senior Prom

Ricky Bremkamp, Kayla Helleis, Pat O'Brien, Grace Tighe, McKenna Klodnick and Eric Sperli enjoyed Rocky River High School's senior prom, which was held at the Ritz Carlton's Silver Grill.

### After Prom

*Rivering Bros. and Bernard & Pirate 2014 Circus - The Greatest Class on Earth!* was this year's After Prom theme.

Senior parents hosted the event at Rocky River High School, which started after prom ended and lasted until 3:00 am.

During the party, students enjoyed midway games, food, inflatable amusements, live entertainers, and prizes.



# RRMS Students Stop the Hate and Win \$10,000

Rocky River Middle School has been awarded a \$10,000 grant from the Maltz Museum of Jewish Heritage as part of the museum's annual Stop the Hate: Youth Speak Out essay contest. The annual contest is open to all students in grades 6-12 in seven area counties, including Cuyahoga. This year's theme was, "What would you do to fight discrimination?" Students were asked to reflect, in 500 words or less, about a time they witnessed an act of discrimination or hate, how they responded, and how they might change their response the next time. The top prize was a \$40,000 scholarship, up to \$10,000 per year for up to 4 years.

This year, the contest sponsors introduced three new prizes of \$10,000 each that were specifically for schools rather than students. Winners were the school with the grand-prize winning entry and one of the eight Cleveland Public schools chosen to participate in Stop the Hate: Youth Sing Out. The third new prize, and the one Rocky River Middle School won, was for having the highest percentage of student essays entered in the contest. Over 500 RRMS students entered.

Two RRMS students also submitted winning essays. Nolan Weaver took third place in the 7th grade category and Thomas Schill won first place in the 8th grade category. They received their prizes at the annual contest celebration, which was held on March 12. Ms. Jenny Doran, who is Nolan's English teacher, and Ms. Michelle Buttari, who teaches Thomas, accompanied their students to the celebration, as did principal Mrs. Megan Rose.



*Rocky River Middle School principal Megan Rose and students Nolan Weaver (left) and Thomas Schill accept a \$10,000 grant from the Maltz Museum of Jewish Heritage.*



## Rocky River Middle School Principal's Award Reception

The following students were recognized in June for having earned straights As on their report cards for seven or more quarters during their three years in middle school: Margo Alibeckoff, Claire Bednarski, Rachel Berchak, Benjamin Brej, Elizabeth Cipriani, Elizabeth Demers, Diana Fekete, Benjamin FitzGibbon, Isabel Fox, Oleg Golev, Catherine Hauck, Anna King, Sophia Krebs, Elizabeth Kysela, Alekso Miller, Yazan Roupail, Camarie Schmidt, Jamie Spallino, Emily St. Pierre, Grace Sullivan, William Thesken, and Elizabeth Weixel.



## Fourth Graders Gone Fishin'



Allison Gifford shows her catch to Kensington fitness teacher Tim Shreve at the 17th Annual 4th Grade Fishing Trip.

On Friday, May 23, the Kensington Intermediate School fourth graders went on the 17th Annual 4th Grade Fishing Trip to Bradstreet Landing. The bright, sunny weather matched the students' moods, even when the fish weren't biting.

Retired RRCS physical education teacher, Mrs. Neitzel, pointed out that this annual trip is a cross-curriculum event. "[Physical education instructor] Mr. Shreve has taught the kids to fish, which is perfect for

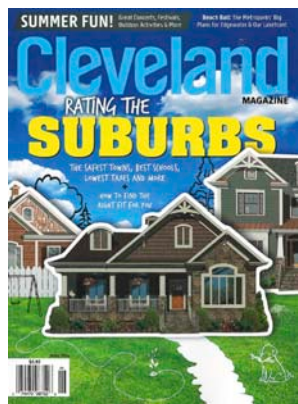
summer," given the proximity of Lake Erie's fishing opportunities to Rocky River students.

Students also learned about the science and biology of Lake Erie, including the life cycle of the lake and different species of fish. "When we're here," explains fourth-grade teacher Mr. Judson, "we talk about landforms, peninsulas, things we've been covering in the classroom."

Meanwhile, students back near the parking lot were busy learning about fly-fishing lures. Mr. Olivari, a member of the Fly Fishing Federation, was on hand as he has been for the past few fourth grade excursions. He donates his time every year and makes each student a fly to take home.

The fishing trip is also an art lesson for the kids, who learned about photo developing using solar paper. Mrs. Braddock had an array of items the kids could set on the paper and create a shadowy image.

The few fish that were caught were instant celebrities, with brave students given the chance to touch it or throw it back. Which will give them, like years of fourth-graders before them, a terrific fish tale to tell at the dinner table.



## Rating the Suburbs

For the third year in a row, the Rocky River City School District is ranked second in Cleveland Magazine's June 2014 issue, Rating the Suburbs. Rankings for education are awarded based on the total scores in each category such as national and state test scores, attendance,

graduation rate and curriculum offerings. Ohio Department of Education district data files provide the information used.

## A New Playground for Goldwood



Any child can tell you: playing is serious business. At Rocky River's Goldwood Primary School, the grown-ups know it too. That's why a group of parents undertook a playground renovation for the school, with the support of the community.

A few years ago, parents started noticing that the playground at Goldwood, which serves pre-schoolers through second graders, was in need of a little sprucing up. Mom Deb DeCarlo met with Goldwood's Principal, Carol Rosiak, and posed the question: is the Goldwood playground ready for a facelift?

The principal agreed it was, and a committee was born. Parents Beth McBride, Erin Konet, and Liz Harmath are co-chairs of the Playground Renovation Committee, and in February of 2013, committee representatives presented their idea to the Rocky River Board of Education. "Our plan was just to let them know what we wanted to do and why," Beth McBride recalls. "We did not expect any district funding. But the board said, 'we think this is a great idea and we want to partner with you.' They gave us the first donation towards the project. It was a huge surprise and a huge boost."

Shortly after that, the group was awarded a generous grant from the Rocky River Education Foundation. The Lakewood and Rocky River Rotary and the Rocky River Women's League pitched in too. The grassroots efforts to raise funds for a new playground involved sending out a brochure to detail the fund drive, complete with donation levels ranging up to naming rights for \$20,000.

The new playground will incorporate four existing structures (including the much-loved dinosaur!) and add nearly three dozen new play components, including 5 slides and a capacity for more than 110 children. The committee is especially pleased to note that no existing blacktop or green space will be sacrificed for the project.

The playground will be installed during the summer and a ribbon-cutting ceremony is scheduled for August 15, 2014 at 4 PM, rain or shine.

# SCHOLARSHIPS

The Class of 2014 earned in excess of \$8.6 million in scholarships to help them pursue college and university degrees.

- The **Rocky River High School Alumni Association** awarded scholarships to Christina Drobney, Nicole Lochner and Joseph Weger.
- The **Danny Scherry Memorial Scholarship** was awarded to William Pelger.
- John Anderton and Kate Blossy were awarded scholarships by the **Rocky River Teachers Association**.
- The **Ohio Association of Public School Employees #381** awarded scholarships to James Brown, Jack Gerlack and Lorena Opris.
- The **Rocky River Middle School September 11th Memorial Fund** presented Sydney Bowen with a \$500 scholarship.
- Natalie El Dabh was the recipient of a **Medical Mutual of Ohio Scholarship**.
- Emma McGorray, Tuyaa Montgomery and William Spallino are **National Merit Finalists**.
- John Anderton, Elisabeth Cahill, Natalie El Dabh, Megan Killeen, Kevin Mahoney, and Alexandra Manoloff are **National Merit Scholarship Corporation Commended Students**.



## Rocky River Education Foundation Scholarship Program

Chloe Alibeckoff, Laura Anderer-Armstrong, Heather Bonsky, James Brown, Angelica Buczkowski, Alexis Burnley, Adrienne Copa, Ellen Corcoran, Kailynn Donati, Christina Drobney, Liesl Fahrenkopf, Maria Franko, Gregory Ginley, Cheyenne Gregg, Cassandra Hamker, Effie Henry, Emily Hubbell, Lauren Ihnot, Michael Ittu, Kara Johanson, Dominic Liva, Nicole Lochner, Ian Lupica, Alexandra Manoloff, Tuyaa Montgomery, Enxhi Myrtaj, Robert Olander, Justin Reynolds, Alexandria Riegelsberger, Eric Salberg, Hawken Sawyer, Carson Shaw, William Spallino, Anna Stanton, Garrett Stefani, Forrest Stoddard, Joseph Suchecki, Jacob Tisdale, McKenna Turk, Joseph Weger and Mitchell Williams.



### Hall of Fame Inductees

**Tuyaa Montgomery, William Spallino and Emma McGorray: National Merit Finalists**



### Hall of Fame Inductees

**John Armour and Eric Salberg: All-Ohio Boys' Swimming & Diving**  
**Abby Elinsky and Grace Bennett: All-Ohio Girls' Soccer**



# AND AWARDS



## Awards of Distinction

**Kate Blosssey and Kara Johanson:** *"Best It Can Be" Award*

**Bradley Pease:** *Principal's Silent Leadership Award*

**Adrienne Copa:** *Principal's Leadership Award*

**Ellen Corcoran:** *All-Ohio Academic Team Recognition*



## Medical Mutual Scholarship

**Natalie El Dabh** is presented the Medical Mutual Scholarship by RRHS principal Debra Bernard and assistant principal Jeff Schultz.



## Scholarship Recipients

*Back Row:*

Dominic Campanalie, Trent Newby, Ryan McDermott, Kara Coffman and Nicholas Dawson

*Front Row:*

Ryan Gilboy, Teodora Bodea, Sara E. Connelly, Sydney Bowen, Jessica Mravec and Courtney Warland



## Athletic Recognition

**Logan Drell:** *Archie Griffin Sportsmanship Award*

**Andrew Brown:** *OHSAA Courageous Student Award*

**Brock Riemenschneider:** *Outstanding Senior Athlete Award*

**Jackson Farling:** *U.S. Army Reserve Scholar Athlete Award*

**McKenna Klodnick:** *"Goody" Marcks Sportsmanship Award*

**Alexandra Manoloff:** *U.S. Figure Skating - 2014 Graduating Senior Gold Level Award*

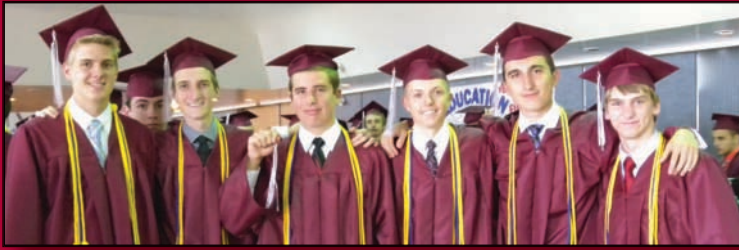
**Isabel Quinones:** *NFHS/OHSAA State Award for Sportsmanship, Ethics and Integrity*

**Thomas Robenalt, II :** *OHSAA State Farm Insurance Scholar/Athlete Award*



## Meta Kramer Scholarship

John Ballas, Eileanor Johns, Shannon Barrett and Victoria Simon



# CLASS OF 2014

Mohamad Walid Abdelhamid • Kaitlin Joy Abt • Rochelle Lynn Achour • Lauren Jana Adkins • Justin David Aldinger • Chloe Christine Alibeckoff • Laura Claire Anderer-Armstrong • John Joseph Anderton • Chelsea Madison Arena • John William Armour • Saif-El-Deen Assad • Cevat Mesut Bagcioglu • John Peter Ballas, II • Laura Baltmiskyte • Shannon Colleen Barrett • Sean David Baxley • Kyle Patrick Becka • Grace Elizabeth Bennett • Kate Clutterbuck Blossley • Teodora Stefania Bodea • Denis Bofe • Ian G. Bokas • Heather Nicole Bonsky • Eric Edward Bouria • Sydney Acey Bowen • Andrew James Brown • James Raymond Brown • Molly McDonald Buckner • Angelica Lisa Buczkowski • Michael Robert Buehner • Alexis Etonde-Kimatipa Burnley • Briana Leigh Bushea • Elisabeth Deehan Cahill • Brikena Caku • Dominic Paul Campanalie • Kathryn Sinclair Chapman • Mille Friis Clausen (Cert. of Attend) • Kara Emily Coffman • Christian David Colister • Sara Elizabeth Connelly • Adrienne Terese Copa • Ellen Elizabeth Corcoran • Christina Therese Cupple • Breana Philomena Curry • Joseph Michael Cyran • Nicholas Hugh Dawson • Renata Rodrigues Furtado De Mendonca (Cert. of Attend) • Abigayle Leigh DeCrane • Julia Elise Deems • Zachary Robert Deems • Christopher Michael Deprez • Robert–Anthony Matthew DiFranco • Kailynn Elizabeth Donati • Logan Armstrong Drell • Christina Lee Drobney • Juord Duraj • Carly Ann Egan • Natalie Marie El Dabh • Sydney Elinsky • James Thomas Engler • Rachel Leigh Ermacora • Liesl Kathryn Fahrenkopf • Jackson Edward Farling • Katherine Jane Farr • Thomas Michael Fisher • • Matthew Thomas Forlini • Maria Isabell Franko • Bernard John Frohnapple, IV • Retha Moayyad Ganim • Jack Robert Gerlack • Ryan James Gilboay • Gregory Thomas Ginley • Joshua Anthony Ginley • Melis Gjergo • Kevin Michael Green • Cheyenne Janette Gregg • William Richard Hamge • Natalie Ann Hamilton • Cassandra Ann Hamker • Joshua Sang Gee Han • Joseph Dominic Carter Hatina • Kayla Marie Helleis • Effie Ann Henry • Jessica Lynn Hofelich • Ashley Joyce Holtzhauser • Isabella Annalise Hoskins • Emily Jae Hubbell • Lauren Elizabeth Ihnot • Joseph Anthony Immormino • Ali K. Iqbal • Michael Reed Ittu • Evan Charles Jacob • Callie Kathleen Jacobs • Alexander James Jaffe • Kyle Patrick Jarvis • Kara Marie Johanson • Eleanor Kathryn Johns • Marcel Lonnell Johnson • Ryan T. Jones • Alexander Christian Kane • George Van Swearingen Kaull • Brendan Michael Kelly • Cierra Mackenzie Kelly • Caleb Stephen Kershner • Seamus Joseph Kilbane • Megan M. Killeen • Maribeth Ellyn Kilpatrick • Marissa Lauren King • McKenna Moran Klodnick • Spencer James Klodnick • Ravi Maximin Kobetic • Casey Morgan Kosmala • Ryan Frederick Kostelnik • Jacob Chase Kovesdy • Mary Katherine Krajcer • Josephin Kramer (Cert. of Attend) • Holly Louise Krampitz • Tyler James Kristoff • Mindy Bernadette Kurz • Jessica Helen Laskowski • Annie Li Fen Lei • Jessica Stadler Lekstutis • Elise Marie Leonard • Mary Callahan Leonard • Stephen Michael LePrevost • Ryan Parker Lertzman • Keegan Campbell Lewins • William Patrick Lewis • Benjamin James Liberatore • Jennifer Mae Lim • Dominic Remiggio Liva • Olivia Taylor Lloyd-George • Nicole Marie Lochner • Ellen McKenzie Lombardo • Erin Elizabeth Looney • Shannon Rose Looney • Noah Jeffery Lorincz-Comi • Kaylee Rose Losch • Steven Luong • Ian Sebastian Lupica • Kevin Liam Mahoney • Alexandra Clark Manoloff • Kaleigh Lynn May • Moira Patricia McDermott • Ryan Patrick McDermott • Emma Laurel McGorray • Kerry Anne McGovern • Grant Jeffrey Meyer • Garrett Matthew Milks • Enkhe-Tuyaa Dugarova Montgomery • Quinn Patrick Mooney • Brendan Patrick Moran • Jessica Ann Mravec • Tariro Chido Mupaso • David Patrick Murphy • Diana Musa • Enxhi Myrtaj • Trent Patrick Newby • Ensilda Nuredini • Robert Seton Olander • Lorena Alexandra Opris • Amanda Noelle Oster • Venkat Rama Rao Deshpandya Padaraju • Raj Kirtikant Patadia • Bradley Joseph Pease • William Frank Pelger, II • Camilla Pitton (Cert. of Attend) • Nicholas Jack Pyros • Isabel Cristina Quinones • Eman Rahman • Ahmad Rajeh • Justin Taylor Reynolds • Alexandria Marie Riegelsberger • Brock Teagan Riemenschneider • Madia Marie Rizi • Thomas Durbin Robenalt, II • Hunter Reece Romell • Daniel Jacob Roth • Anthony Bernard Rubino • Jessica Nicole Rucker • Joshue Kaleb Ruckman • Emma Eileen Russ • Aziz M. Saab • Eric Carmen Salberg • Scott Sanderson • Hawken Ezra Sawyer • James Robert Schiau • Emma DeAnne Schmotzer • Austin Michael Schroth • Karen Anne Schultz • Samantha Taylor Selby • Bryan Joseph Shaver • Carson Laurel Shaw • Mackenzie Shannon Sheehan • Adam Brandt Shepherd • Justin Frederick Simon • Victoria Elizabeth Simon • James Connor Simpson • William Jesse Spallino • Anna Elizabeth Stanton • Joshua Benjamin Stark • Ryan Alexander Steele • Garrett Wade Stefani • Tyler Matthew Stephens • Forrest Alexander Stoddard • Jacob Thomas Suchecki • Joseph Felix Suchecki • Yasmin Amjad Suleiman • Gordon Thomas Taylor • Alexander Scott Theiling • Kathryn A. Thorp • Grace Bernadette Tigie • Jacob Charles Tisdale • William Austin Tisdale • Mary Erini Tjotjos • McKenna Kathryn Turk • Sara Katelynn Vacha • Mackenzie LaVohn Vining • Courtney Brook Warland • Andrew Murray Wax • Joseph Paul Weger • Keeley Lynn Williams • Mitchell Gareth Williams • Summer Rain Williams • Victoria Joy Wilson-Craciun • Samuel Montgomery Wolf • Brian Anthony Yuhasz • Jared Spencer Ziegelmayr

# RR Education Foundation Funds Biggest Year Ever

The 2013-2014 school year is Rocky River Education Foundation's biggest year ever! Fall 2013 and Spring 2014 grant awards to teachers totaled over \$48,000.

Fall 2013 grant awards totaled over \$14,000 plus an additional \$10,000 donation to the new Goldwood playground.

The Spring 2014 grant awards include funding for:

- Math applications for iPads for Goldwood Primary School.
- New hardcover biographies for the Kensington Intermediate School library.
- Common Core math learning stations for use by third graders at KIS. RREF doubled the requested amount.
- Music enhancement for grades 3-5 at KIS to improve instruments for Beginning Band Night in the fall.
- Forty-five students from Rocky River Middle School to participate in the National History Day competition in March at the Western Reserve Historical Society. The group went on to take first place with its Japanese American exhibit and will move on in the competition.
- Multi-sensory teaching equipment at RRMS which includes exercise balls, headphones, and writing gel pads.
- Two ELMO projectors and magnifying lenses to project items onto SMART Boards for the RRMS science department.
- The expansion of the RRHS's choral music library.
- A partnership between the RRHS art and special education departments to bring in a professional artist and provide supplies for forty students to complete silk painting projects.

In addition to its grant program, RREF kicked off funding efforts for the Rocky River City Schools Speaker Series. Rocky River City Schools has been fortunate the past two years to have noted authors Loung Ung and James Swanson speak to the student body and the community as part of RRHS's summer reading program. RREF, which helped fund the substantial cost of having these speakers appear, recognized the impact such speakers had on our students and the larger community and wanted to help ensure that the school district would be able to continue to bring in quality speakers. As a result, RREF had a special fundraising effort at its annual auction and raised just under \$15,000 for the Speaker Series to bring authors/speakers annually to schools throughout the district. RREF will continue its own fundraising efforts and look to partner with other organizations to help bring in author/speakers to one or more schools in the district each year.

Support for our students does not end at graduation. RREF works with a host of generous donors to administer scholarships to RRHS seniors. We are proud to announce that at the Spring Recognition Ceremony on May 22nd, over \$45,000 in 40 scholarships were awarded to the class of 2014.

With the generosity of the Rocky River community, local businesses, and RRCS's teachers, staff, and administration, Rocky River Education Foundation continues its mission to help enrich the educational experiences of our students.

For more information about RREF and its mission, visit [redfoundation.org](http://redfoundation.org).

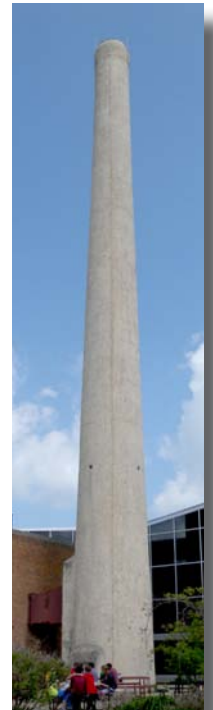
# Summer Work at RRHS

It is going to be another busy summer at Rocky River High School. The RRHS smoke stack is coming down and the stadium is getting a new turf field.

No longer used, the smoke stack will be removed over the summer and the courtyard renovated to create an outdoor space for students. Access to sections of the high school will be limited during the removal period.

The stadium will be closed from Monday, June 9 through Sunday, July 27 in order to replace the turf field. Ramps will be constructed to move equipment on and off the field and protect the track. The entire stadium area will be an active construction site, thus not accessible to the public for safety reasons. Public access will resume on Monday, July 28.

Please check the district website at [rrcs.org](http://rrcs.org) for updates.



## Rocky River Campus Foundation

The mission of the Campus Foundation is to enhance and enrich the campus setting of all Rocky River City School District buildings. Rocky River High School was the first project the Campus Foundation undertook. Naming rights have been sold for various landscaping plots around the building but there are still some available at various price points. There are also opportunities to contribute to purchase trees, benches and picnic tables throughout the campus.

The Campus Foundation plans to continue on in perpetuity. They will be paying for maintenance of the beds, sprinkler systems, fall clean up, etc. Please consider naming the Rocky River Campus Foundation, Inc. in your estate planning.

Please feel free to contact one of the Board Members listed below if you would like to support the Campus Foundation.

Information is also available at:  
<http://www.rrcs.org/CampusProject.aspx>

David W. Furry (440) 333-8118  
[dfurry@northerntitle.com](mailto:dfurry@northerntitle.com)

Rob Jurs (440) 953-1567  
[rjurs@ggengineers.com](mailto:rjurs@ggengineers.com)

Gregg Mylett (216) 325-0407  
[gmylett@corporateunited.com](mailto:gmylett@corporateunited.com)





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**Rocky River Board of Education**

1st row: Jon Fancher and Jean A. Rounds  
 2nd row: Scott Swartz (Vice President), Kathleen Goepfert and Jay Milano (President)

**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 Pupil Services 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, and/or Title III, Limited English Proficient, please contact the Division of Pupil Services at 356-6006. If you would like to provide input for Title I, Title II-A Professional Development Program or eTech/Ohio, please contact the Assistant Superintendent at 356-6001.



**Important Dates 2014-2015**

- August 14/15.....New Teacher Orientation
- August 19.....Teacher Professional Day
- August 20.....First Day of School
- September 1.....Labor Day
- September 2.....First Day of Preschool
- October 17.....NEOEA Day
- November 6.....Parent Conference Day
- November 7.....Teacher Professional Day
- November 26/27/28.....Thanksgiving Vacation
- December 22.....Winter Vacation Begins
- January 5.....School Resumes
- January 19.....Martin Luther King Day
- January 20.....Teacher Record Day
- February 16.....Presidents' Day
- April 3.....Spring Vacation Begins
- April 13.....School Resumes
- May 25.....Memorial Day
- May 28.....Last Day of Preschool
- June 4.....Last Day of School
- June 5.....Teacher Record Day