

# RrS Schools

YOUR SOURCE FOR ROCKY RIVER SCHOOL NEWS

## Rocky River High School Earns National Blue Ribbon

Rocky River High School earned the National Blue Ribbon award from the United States Department of Education. The Blue Ribbon Schools Program is a national recognition program honoring elementary and secondary schools in the United States that make significant progress in closing achievement gaps or whose students achieve at the highest levels in their state. Recognized schools are models of academic excellence and achievement. "Their success is an example for others to follow," U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan said.

"We are all so very proud of our RRHS staff, students and parents, for their hard work, commitment to excellence, and motivation to achieve that earned this prestigious national recognition," said Debra Bernard, Rocky River High School Principal. "Our high school learning community along with our intense focus on learning and collaboration has promoted student learning to extend beyond their own individual experiences."



Student Council officers Hallie McCue, Madeline Fitzsimmons and Jacob Nicholson accept the National Blue Ribbon School flag on behalf of Rocky River High School students.

"The National Blue Ribbon Award is significant as it recognizes outstanding student academic achievement and community collaboration," said district superintendent Michael Shoaf. "Rocky River High School is a fine example of how successful students can be when working in an environment rich with high expectations."

## Hoops For Hunger Tops 50,000



Hoops for Hunger co-founders Rob Hendricks and Madelyn Cook present the Cleveland Foodbank with 50,000 worth of food and funds at the River vs. Bay basketball game on December 7.

During the 5th Annual Hoops for Hunger campaign November 17 through December 7, students in Rocky River and Bay Village collected over 50,000 in cash, checks, and food items to donate to the Cleveland Foodbank. This translates into 220,000 meals that the Cleveland Foodbank can provide to those in need.

Corporate sponsors of the event included Giant Eagle, PNC and SportsTime Ohio.

**SAVE THE DATE!**

**Rocky River High School Spring Musical**

**PIPPIN!**

April 18, 19 & 20, 2013 @ 7:30 PM

# RRMS 8th Graders Honor Local Veterans

For the fifth year in a row, eighth graders at Rocky River Middle School observed Veterans Day by celebrating local Veterans. This event, known as the Ring of Honor, is an opportunity for students to see their neighbors in a new light. "It's important that these people are all local," explains Ben Purdy, the eighth grade American history teacher who created the celebration. "It's your buddy John's grandpa or your friend Maggie's dad. That makes it more personal. These guys are actually around town and walking down the sidewalks every day."

At the start of the school year, Mr. Purdy put out a call to the eighth grade class. Anyone with a relative who is a Veteran or active-duty service member was encouraged to invite him or her to the tribute. This year, there were twenty relatives present. Mr. Purdy noted that there were representatives of all the wars that have surviving Veterans, and of every one of the branches of service, including the Coast Guard.

"When those vets walked out from behind the curtain the students were immediately captivated," Mr. Purdy relayed. "There were about three seconds of silence, then they jumped to their feet and applauded."

The eighth grade choir, led by Mrs. Fancher, sang an Armed Forces medley. As each Veteran's branch was mentioned in song, that Veteran stood, providing a moving sight for the students. After, each participant was presented with an appreciation award and escorted on a tour of the building by his Guardian. The tour included stops at the school's Remembrance Board and 9/11 Memorial.

Each year, the Ring of Honor offers a chance for two important lessons to take place: the first is for the students, who learn that the people who have sacrificed so much for them are right here among them. The second important lesson is for the Veterans, who learn, first-hand, just how valued their service is by so many.



Active-duty service member Patrick Mahoney and veteran Wink Carpenter pose with Rocky River Middle School teacher Ben Purdy in front of his collection of military memorabilia.

## School Nutrition



Parents, you think it's a challenge deciding what to pack in your kids' lunches every day? Try deciding the lunches of every kid in the entire district. That's the challenge facing Tina Wasserbauer (shown at left), Nutrition Specialist for the Rocky River City School District. Ms. Wasserbauer is more than prepared to meet that challenge, having been in the field for more than a decade, with a BS in nutrition and dietetics from the University of Akron, a Master's in nutrition and public health from Case, and a registered dietician's license from the State of Ohio.

"When I started out in this field," she remembers, "it was at a time when schools had contracts with Pepsi and Coke to sponsor their scoreboards and things. We'd have pop trucks pulling up to schools and candy machines for the kids." But all that has changed. "It's an interesting time to be in school lunches," she notes, "largely due to Michelle Obama's initiatives to get kids eating healthier in order to combat obesity."

To that end, Ms. Wasserbauer's predecessor made great strides in bringing the Middle and High School lunch offerings in line with federal guidelines (Goldwood and Kensington do not offer hot lunch, with the exception of twice-monthly PTA-sponsored pizza days). "My goal this year is to bring back some of those snack items that are allowed to be sold, that can help keep our food services self-sustainable." She worked with two snack-food providers to find a la carte options, like baked chips and pretzels, that comply with nutritional guidelines.

A big step toward that goal opened up recently at the high school. The Snack Shack, located in the cafeteria, offers cappuccino and hot chocolate with high calcium content, as well as a slush machine. (How does a slush machine fit in with a healthy diet? The base of the drink is frozen apple juice.) There are also breakfast sandwiches and burritos, as well as muffins. The Shack will be open each school day from 7AM-1PM. Ms. Wasserbauer notes that there is no financial outlay for the equipment, which is also repaired and maintained by the products' respective companies.

It can be hard for parents to let their kids loose in a cafeteria, making food choices that Mom and Dad can only hope are the healthiest ones (especially when the kids are young). Tina Wasserbauer, the district Nutrition Specialist and a mother of three young boys herself, understands that concern and is taking steps to ensure that all the young diners' options are not only healthy, but appealing as well.

# The Silk Road Leads to Rocky River



Rocky River High School teachers Patricia Tobin and Mary Baddour received funding for a silk painting workshop through a Rocky River Education Foundation grant.

Art students received two preparatory lessons in advance of the workshop, which was taught by professional silk painter Gunther Schwegler.





## ECRWSS Residential Customer

### Rocky River Board of Education

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

### 2013 Important Dates

|   |                                    |
|---|------------------------------------|
| January 2 ..... School Resumes          | April 8 ..... School Resumes       |
| January 18 ..... Teacher Record Day     | May 27 ..... Memorial Day          |
| January 21 ..... Martin Luther King Day | May 30 ..... Last Day of Preschool |
| February 18 ..... Presidents' Day       | June 5 ..... Last Day of School    |
| March 29 ..... Spring Vacation Begins   | June 6 ..... Teacher Record Day    |

### Search for Children with Disabilities

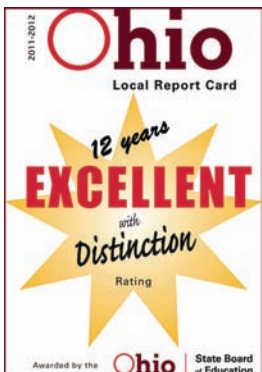
The Rocky River School District, along with districts across the state, is participating in an effort to identify, locate and evaluate all children from birth to age 21 who may have a disability. A disability is a condition such as speech or language impairments, hearing impairments, visual impairments, 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.

## RRCSD Earns Top Rating

Rocky River City School District has earned the highest ranking from the Ohio Department of Education, according to preliminary results released last fall. For the 12th year in a row, Rocky River will be rated Excellent with Distinction, having met all state indicators for testing, attendance and graduation. The district's Performance Index of 110.8 also lands the school district within the top five school districts in the state and second in northeast Ohio.



"We continue to be proud of the performance of our students, the support of our parents, and the dedication of our teachers and staff," said assistant superintendent Elizabeth Anderson. "Our team works hard every day to ensure our students are prepared not just for success on state assessments, but are also armed with a strong foundation of knowledge and skills on which to build new concepts for future success in life."

## Goldwood Addition

If you have driven down Center Ridge Road and wondered what was behind the green fence in front of Goldwood Primary School, here is a peek of the new addition that will be ready in early spring. Principal Carol Rosiak (shown below) and the office staff will move into the new space, which provides a secure entrance to the school. The old office area located in the center of the building will be used for tutoring and preschool services.

