

FEBRUARY 19 - 23
Midwinter Recess

FEBRUARY 26
Board of Education Meeting
@ HS Auditorium 7:30 PM

MARCH 10
SAT I & II

MARCH 5 - 23
Frank J. Carasiti
Kindergarten Registration

MARCH 15
Superintendent's Forum
@ MS Library 7 PM

MARCH 26
Board of Education Meeting
@ HS Auditorium 7:30 PM

Eagles Soar in Fall Sports

Girls Varsity Tennis

The Girls Varsity Tennis Team, led by Coach Steve Lagnena, were League VIII Champions this past fall with a record of 10 wins and 2 losses. Alicia DiStefano, Renee Ferretti, Michelle Side, and Katie Thalen all received All-League Honors. "Our girls tennis program continues to show excellent growth and success. I extend my congratulations to the team on a fine season. We look forward to moving up a league next year," stated Director of Health, Physical Education, Athletics, and Intramurals Leonard Kies.

Varsity Wrestling

The Varsity Wrestling Team attended the 41st annual Mid-Hudson Wrestling Tournament at Arlington High School in Lagrangeville, New York with Coach Darren Goldstein. Competing in this event were 17 teams from New York State. Rocky Point took first place as they surpassed second runners up - Newburgh Free Academy - 198 to 185.5. The Eagles had three individual champions including Matt Ross at 96 pounds, Anthony Volpe at 112 pounds, and Dennis Filler at 135 pounds. Anthony Volpe also earned the Outstanding Wrestler Award for his exceptional efforts. Eleven of the 13 Rocky Point athletes placed in the top eight in their events.

Award Winners

Football

Mike Kingston	All-County
Tom Palasek	All-County
Larry LoRusso	All-Division
Sean Stamouli	All-Division
Justin Annunziato	All-Division
Sean Graf	2 nd Team All-Division
Matt Clark	2 nd Team All-Division
Pete Vivonetto	2 nd Team All-Division

Field Hockey

Lianne Lavery	All-Conference
Cassie Janaitis	All-Conference
Cassie Quinones	All-Division

Volleyball

Renee Ambrosio	All-League
Diana Hansen	All-League
Meagan Lewis-Bie	Honorable Mention All-League

Girls Soccer

Danielle Vivonetto	All-Conference
Jackie Lyons	All-Conference
Kara Mupo	All-County

Golf

John Vasko	All-League
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Boys Cross Country

Dennis Filler	All-League
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Girls Cross Country

Holly Carneiro	All-League
Caitlin Mallin	All-League
Hirrah Sajjad	All-League
Tiffany Giambrone	All-League

Boys Soccer

Nick Salerno	All-Conference
Shea Frey	All-League

Congratulations to all our athletes and good luck in the coming seasons!

Did You See?

Go to www.beaconrecord.com to read an article published in the December 7th Edition of the *Beacon Record* by Rocky Point High School sophomore Stephanie Osmanski.

Tom Casey, a senior at Rocky Point High School, had an article in *Newsday* on January 12th. To check it out, go to www.newsday.com

The Rocky Point Committee for Special Education is in need of new parent members. The committee is required by New York State Law to include parent members at meetings. Any parent whose child is receiving Special Education Services is eligible to be a parent member. Hours are very flexible. If you would like to assist, please call the District Office of Special Education at 744-1600, extension 2722.



Soaring

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE ROCKY POINT UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT

District Explores Facilities Improvements

State EXCEL Aid Provides Incentive at No Cost to Taxpayers

The Rocky Point Board of Education is considering conducting a public referendum that would enable the District to undertake projects to improve school building facilities at virtually no cost to the community.

Under the Expanding Our Children's Education and Learning (EXCEL) State Aid Initiative, the District would receive State building aid that would be applied to offset the cost of building projects. All districts are eligible to receive this EXCEL aid, which must be used for health, safety, Americans with Disabilities Act compliance, energy efficiency, and technology projects. The Board of Education is currently identifying and prioritizing potential projects.

"This is a win-win opportunity to capitalize on additional funding that will likely not be offered next year," said Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Carla D'Ambrosio. "Many districts in New York State are taking advantage of this opportunity by proposing improvement projects of their own. It is prudent for us to consider this now, in order to maintain our building infrastructure, preserve the community's investment in its schools, and provide our children with the best learning environment possible."

If approved by voters, the District would proceed with a bond issue to initially fund the improvements, which would be reimbursed in their entirety by the State through the EXCEL aid. There would be no tax impact as a result of the projects.

The Board of Education must still finalize a plan and decide whether or not to move forward with a vote, prior to a date being set. Residents can keep up to speed on the latest developments through future editions of *Soaring*, the District website, and other miscellaneous District correspondence.

A CELEBRATION OF TECHNOLOGY CONNECTING TECHNOLOGY AND CURRICULUM

Students and teachers from the Frank J. Carasiti Elementary School and Joseph A. Edgar Intermediate School recently attended the seventh annual "Celebration of Technology" at Stony Brook University. This program focused on how teachers can successfully integrate technology into an array of areas throughout the curriculum. Teachers and students learned about new applications and observed innovative practices.

Rocky Point students and staff took on a leadership role at the conference, with 18 technology projects. Projects ranged from Math Music Videos to Music Technology Integration, with a variety of subject areas covered, including the core subjects: English, science, math, and history. Students worked with many different computer applications that targeted a multitude of grade levels to expand their knowledge. Troy Richard, a fifth grade GATES student, designed the artwork for the t-shirts students wore at the event.

Later in the program, there was a special recognition ceremony for Jennifer Meschi, Frank J. Carasiti Elementary School's Technology Integration Specialist. Nominated by Anja Groth, Director of Instruction, Ms. Meschi received the "Making It Happen" Award, a nationally recognized award for educators in the field of technology integration in K-12 schools. The "Making It Happen" Program identifies and rewards educational technology leaders around the country for their commitment and innovation. Ms. Meschi was one of two teachers in Suffolk County to be recognized with this



Technology Integration Specialist Jennifer Meschi (2nd from left) won the Making It Happen Award for her dedication and commitment to bringing innovative technological ideas into the classrooms of F.J.C. Joining her for this momentous occasion are (l to r) Frank J. Carasiti Principal Scott O'Brien, Director of Instruction Anja Groth, and Superintendent of Schools Carla D'Ambrosio



distinction. In addition to the award, she also received the honorary pink jacket with, "Making It Happen" written on the back.



www.rockypointschools.org

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District Mission Statement

The mission of the Rocky Point Union Free School District is to develop each child's full potential in a nurturing and supportive student-centered environment that will promote a foundation for lifelong learning.

INSIDE

- RPMS Students Achieve AP Scholar
- J.A.E. ELA Scores Soar
- Fostering Friendship at F.J.C.
- RPMS Gets a Lesson in Character Education

ROCKY POINT SCHOOLS 2007-2008

BUDGET DEVELOPMENT CALENDAR

Date	Time	Location	Event
2/15/07	Thursday • 7:00 p.m.	HS Library	Public Budget Discussion Workshop 1 A. Building Budgets B. Instruction C. Special Education
2/26/07	Monday • 6:30 p.m.	HS Auditorium	Board Meeting and Budget Discussion A. Fine Arts B. Athletics
3/5/07	Monday • 7:00 p.m.	HS Library	Public Budget Discussion Workshop 2 A. Personnel B. Transportation
3/12/07	Monday • 7:00 p.m.	HS Auditorium	Public Budget Discussion Workshop 3 (overview) A. Expenditures B. Revenues C. Bond Explanation
3/27/07	Tuesday • 7:30 p.m.	HS Auditorium	Board Meeting and Budget Adoption
5/8/07	Tuesday • 7:30 p.m.	HS Auditorium	Public Hearing on the School Budget
5/15/07	Tuesday • 7:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m.	HS Gym	School Budget Vote and Annual Elections

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Geraldine Thalen, *President*
Joseph Sansaverino, *Vice President*
Jane Bonner, *Trustee*
Margaret Smith, *Trustee*
Michael Matera, *Trustee*

ADMINISTRATION

Dr. Carla D'Ambrosio
Superintendent of Schools
Sherry Alessandro
Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources and Administration
Anja Groth
Director of Instruction
Michael Ivanoff
Director of Finance and Operations
Eileen Manitta
Director of Special Education
Annette Sclafani
Director of Student Services
Leonard Kies
Director of Health, Physical Education, Athletics, and Intramurals

AROUND DISTRICT *the*

Excellence, Tradition, Pride

Frank J. Carasiti Elementary School, Joseph A. Edgar Intermediate School, Rocky Point Middle School, Rocky Point High School

Taking the Next Step Toward the Future

The Rocky Point Career Advisory Partnership (CAP) believes that career awareness and responsibility extend beyond the classroom and into the community. CAP held its second after-school workshop, entitled "Résumé Preparation," in November with more than 40 students and advisory members in attendance. During the 90-minute workshop, students learned how to prepare a professional résumé that reflects their skills, knowledge, and education relevant to the job they are seeking or the college they are hoping to attend.

The workshop's guest speaker and facilitator was Rocky Point School's Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources and Administration, Sherry Alessandro. In addition, several advisory board members were on hand to critique résumés with the students. Advisory members included Anthony Pelligrino (Windows on the Lake), Chris Damman (High School science teacher), Jane Bonner (Board Member and aide to Legislator Daniel Losquardo), Lisbeth Whitney (Astoria Federal Savings Bank), Lynne Basileo (Business Department Chairperson), and Rocky Point alumnus Richard Poveromo.

Join the Career Advisory Partnership as they host additional programs this spring:

- "Learn How to Talk the Talk – Public Speaking Tips & Tricks" February 15 – 2:30 p.m. @ HS Library
- "Business Etiquette Workshop" March 21 – 2:30 p.m. @ HS Library
- "Dressing for Success Fashion Show" April 11 – 2:30 pm @ HS Library

The culmination for CAP will be the Career Brunch, which will be held on April 26 at The Inn at East Wind for all students who have been active in the CAP Program throughout the year. This year's theme is "The Road to Success...Spotlight on Alumni." Be sure to listen to announcements or visit www.rcap.org for more information.

HARD WORK TO EXCELLENCE ROCKY POINT HIGH SCHOOL

Sixteen seniors at Rocky Point High School have earned the designation of AP Scholar by the College Board in recognition of their exceptional achievement on the college-level Advanced Placement Exams during their junior year. The College Board's Advanced Placement Program offers students the opportunity to take challenging college-level courses while still in high school, and to receive college credit, advanced placement, or both for successful performance on the AP Exams.

After completing challenging college-level courses at the high school, students took AP Exams in major core subject areas ranging from Biology to Calculus in May 2006. The students who received the AP Scholar Award had to earn grades of 3 or higher on three or more AP Exams. The AP Scholars from Rocky Point are James Browning, Anna Defrank, James Dimino, Ahmad El-Gendi, James Filimon, Rebecca Gimple, Gregory Hanson, Daniel Leckie, Danielle Lyons, David Napolitano, Colleen Quinn, Hirrah Sajjad, Dylan Schaefer, Kaitlin Sidersky, Kara Sparling, and John Vasko.

Recent graduates of the Class of 2006 also earned the honor of AP Scholar, including Christa Abatemarco, Jaelyn Craig, Carissa Ely, Nicholas Kenyon, and Clay Knapp. Matthew Kershis and Kaitlyn Murphy both received AP Scholar with Honor designation by earning an average grade of at least 3.25 on all AP Exams taken and grades of 3 or higher on four or more of these exams. Michael Baptista, Ian Czekala, and David Maggio all earned the honor of AP Scholar with Distinction by earning an average grade of at least a 3.5 on all AP Exams taken and grades of 3 or higher on five or more of these exams.

The Rocky Point School District would like to congratulate these exceptional students, past and present, for their hard work and dedication and wish them luck on future AP Exams as they strive for additional distinctions.



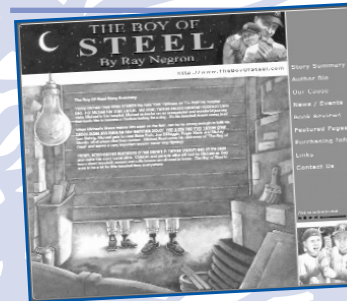
Coffee House Poetry Jam



Rocky Point High School's first annual *Coffee House Poetry Jam* was a huge success and an exciting night for those who attended. Approximately 30 students recited poetry for an audience of family members, peers, teachers, and administrators. Students who read original poems were Jennifer Chiodo, Gregory Hanson, James Mayer, Nancy McCarville, Stephanie Osmanski, Nicholas Palun, and Danielle Sanford. The evening was organized and co-hosted by Rocky Point High School English teachers Christine Blume and Shari Hull.

The Coffee House Jam served as an appropriate venue for students to showcase their own poetry or to share favorite poems in a noncompetitive atmosphere. The bright candles, contrasted with the dark lighting of the room, created an outstanding setting for this event. The student dining room was transformed into a cozy, inviting "coffee house" environment complete with refreshments and softly playing jazz music. National Honor Society students handed out programs and helped clean up after the event.

The Coffee House Poetry Jam evening reflected not only an appreciation of the beauty of language, but the desire to encourage and celebrate young poets. Students are already enthusiastic about next year with high hopes of this becoming a tradition that will be highly regarded by the Rocky Point High School faculty, students, and families.



Never Give Up

Ms. Capaldi, a third-grade teacher at Joseph A. Edgar Intermediate School, had the privilege of meeting author Ray Negron earlier in the year at a Suffolk County Reading Council meeting. Mr. Negron was interested in sharing his book *The Boy of Steel* with students at J.A.E.

The Boy of Steel is a heartwarming tale about a young boy, Michael, who has brain cancer. One day, a Yankee ballplayer came to visit him in the hospital and gave Michael the opportunity of being a batboy for a day. When Michael's illness overcame him, he met with Yankee greats Lou Gehrig, Babe Ruth, Mickey Mantle, Joe DiMaggio, and Roger Maris - all of whom had passed away from cancer. This is how Michael earned the nickname "The Boy of Steel" and learned from these men to never give up.

During the assembly, Ray Negron spoke of his childhood, being a batboy for the Yankees, and working for George Steinbrenner as an adult. Along with Ray Negron, Yankees Fitness Trainer Mr. D. Cavalia spoke with students about health awareness.

Innovators of the Future

Joseph A. Edgar GATES students in third through fifth grade are participating in the Exploravision Program in the Toshiba Science Contest. Exploravision is designed for students of all interests, skills, and ability levels in grades kindergarten through 12. This program encourages students to create and explore a vision of future technology by combining science and their imaginations. Creative thinking and problem solving are key elements in all the inventions and innovations created by the students.

Students at J.A.E. are working in research and development teams to improve upon a technology that already exists. Ideas range from creating a fishing pole with a GPS system and sonar so that it is easier to locate fish in the water, to disease alert 1.0, a device that can detect an infection or disease in the body. "It is exciting to think I am making something that could become a product one day," stated GATES student Samantha Taveras.

Students must submit a detailed entry about their vision for the future, which includes writing a detailed description of the history, possible consequences, design process, and present and future technology. Students also have to submit web page graphics to market their vision for the future.

Best of luck to the GATES students and their innovative inventions in the Toshiba Science Contest.



Take A Look Fostering Friendship

First graders in Christine Edmonds' and Jessica Lukas' classes at Frank J. Carasiti Elementary School have been working on a program called "Fostering Friendship." Once a week, a special education class and a general education class collaborate for one class period. Students were assembled in groups containing two general education students and one special education student.

The teacher leaders utilize all of the inclusion models in order to maximize the program's effectiveness. Collaborative time will include both academic and social time, allowing all students to be successful, despite their limitations, disabilities, or behaviors. "We contend that more integration among students of all varying needs and abilities will lead to acceptance and belonging for all children in our school and community," stated Ms. Edmonds and Ms. Lukas.

Once a week, the two classes are brought together to work on character education traits. When discussing the trait of caring, students read the book *One Smile*, which is a story that depicts the impact one caring action can have on many people.

This buddy program encourages students to create new friendships, a sense of belonging, recognition, importance, learning, laughter, choice, and independence. Students also gain a model for positive acceptance for all people no matter what obstacles they must overcome.

The Gift of Giving



MIDDLE SCHOOL REACHES OUT TO MARINE MOMS

Rocky Point Middle School Student Government and Community Service Clubs participated in the Long Island Marine Moms' holiday care package drive this holiday season. The students organized a monthlong collection of various items requested by the organization, then donated all the goods collected to the Marine Moms.

Long Island Marine Moms is a nonprofit organization that is supported by mothers of service men and women who are overseas serving our country. As part of their mission, each year they collect thousands of items that soldiers have requested, and then prepare care packages for the holidays.

Students were able to contribute by bringing in goods to school and by making donations to get into grade-level dances as opposed to paying for their tickets. Nearly 4,000 items including clothing, nonperishable food products, personal care items, books, and magazines were collected by the middle school students.

CARASITI CARES ABOUT OUR SOLDIERS

During an assembly at the Frank J. Carasiti Elementary School, Principal Scott O'Brien presented the founder of Long Island Marine Moms, Darlene Claus, and member Lisa Rinaldo with a myriad of items that will be sent to active personnel in all branches of the military who are currently serving in Iraq and Afghanistan. Students participated by presenting the items to the Marine Moms.



The character education theme for the month was "caring." The students demonstrated their concern for others through their overwhelming participation in this event. Beyond donating and collecting toiletries, food, and other useful items that will be sent to those serving our country, students also wrote letters and drew pictures showing those who are away from home that they are in many people's thoughts. In return, the Marine Moms presented the school with a plaque to show that what the students did was greatly appreciated and would be treasured by those receiving the many items that were donated.

A LESSON IN CHARACTER FROM EBENEZER SCROOGE

Seventh graders at Rocky Point Middle School attended a live performance of Charles' Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* at Port Jefferson's Theatre Three. Five years ago, seventh grade English teacher Ms. Scott started this tradition as a way to enhance the curriculum, as well as provide students with an opportunity to experience the joys of live theatre.

"For some of our students, this may be their only chance to see what live theatre is all about. It can really leave a lasting impression on them," stated Mrs. Scott.

As part of the ongoing character education program, students were able to watch Ebenezer Scrooge transform his uncaring and selfish character into a giving and selfless man by the lessons of compassion and generosity he was taught throughout the play. "It was a fun and educational experience," said student Michael Gonzalez.

Ms. Scott and the Rocky Point Middle School look forward to continuing this educational tradition for many more years to come.