

Save the Date

May 13
Public Hearing on
School Budget
HS Auditorium – 7:30 PM

May 20
School Budget Vote
and Elections
HS Gym 7 AM – 9 PM

May 20
Board of Education Meeting
HS Auditorium – 7:30 PM

May 26
Memorial Day –
Schools Closed

June 23
Board of Education Meeting
HS Auditorium – 7:30 PM

June 27
HS Graduation
HS Track/Field – 6 PM

Your Vote Counts!
Please Remember to Vote
on May 20th at the HS Gym
from 7 AM – 9 PM

Winter Sports Wrap-Up

BOYS BASKETBALL

Tom Palasek – Academic
All-County
Tom King – All-League
Mike Duke – Honorable Mention
All-League

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Hope Heiselman – All-League

CHEERLEADING

Lauren Young – LICCA All-Star

GIRLS WINTER TRACK

Amanda Cohen – All-League

BOYS WINTER TRACK

Larry Schneider – All-League in the
110-meter/high-hurdles event

WRESTLING

Ed Canepa – All-League
Jerry Ceccio – All-League
Matt Clarke – All-League
Billy Coggins – All-League,
All-County, All-American

Brandon Escobar – All-League,
All-County, All-State
Bill Jenkins – All-League
Daqwan Johnson – All-League
Mike Lopez – All-League
Vincent Loscalzo – All-League
Anthony Pantori – All-League
Matt Ross – All-League,
All-County, All-State, All-American
Anthony Volpe – All-League,
All-County
Lou Volpe – All-League

EAGLE HIGHLIGHTS

Bowling: This past winter, the Rocky Point Bowling Team completed an excellent season of 7 wins and 5 losses. Team member John Passaro rolled a perfect game of 300 during the season, and Ed Cheslak was awarded the League V Sportsmanship Award.

Cheerleading: For the fourth consecutive year, Rocky Point Cheerleaders won the UCA Regional Championship, which qualified them to head to Orlando, Florida this past February to compete in the National Cheerleading Competition.

Wrestling: Rocky Point Wrestlers built on last year's progress and have received their second consecutive League Tournament Championship. Overall, the season was a success with 16 wins and 3 losses, with the team finishing the season with a ranking of 25th in the State and 6th in Suffolk County. Freshman Matt Ross's personal standings earned him 2nd place for Suffolk County and 5th place in New York State for his weight class, making him the youngest place-winner in Rocky Point Wrestling history. Also of note, Anthony Volpe was a 4th Place League Champion and 3rd Place Champ for Suffolk County, Brandon Escobar placed 3rd in Suffolk County and 4th in New York State, making him a two-time State winner, and Billy Coggins was ranked 5th place for Suffolk County.

Soccer: Javier Rodriguez, Ethan Goldman, and Michael Abbate have all committed to playing soccer in the fall at Dowling College. These three Varsity Soccer players have been in the district's soccer program since seventh grade. They will be attending this Division II soccer power in the fall as Dowling Golden Lions.



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and Intramurals*

****ECRWSS****
POSTAL PATRON

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.



Soaring

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE ROCKY POINT UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT

COMING TO A COMPUTER NEAR YOU

The Rocky Point eSchoolData ESP Parent Portal officially opened in March 2008, and will be available initially to high school and middle school parents and guardians. Elementary and intermediate school parents and guardians will be invited to access the site in June 2008.

The eSchoolData ESP Parent Portal is a part of the district's web-based data management system, which stores all student records and information and will facilitate communication between the school and the home. Parents and guardians will be able to access information 24/7 by logging on to the ESP Parent Portal from either home or work, using any computer that has Internet access. The eSchoolData ESP Parent Portal will provide easy access to student data that will be both confidential and timely.

Here is the information about your student you will be able to access:

- Progress Reports
- Report Cards
- Schedules
- Live Attendance
- Transcripts
- School Building Announcements
- District Newsletters

Information is available on the district's website to help you access and navigate the parent portal. If you have any questions, please contact District Technology Coordinator Susan Wilson at 849-7080, or e-mail eschool@rockypoint.k12.ny.us.

INSIDE

- HS/MS Musicals are a Success
- JAE Has Heart
- FJC Student Essay State Winner
- District Staff and Officials Recognized for Excellence

Writers In THE MAKING NEWSDAY WRITERS AT RPHS

If you have opened a Friday edition of *Newsday* in the past several months, you might have noticed the names of five students from Rocky Point High School appearing in the "New Voices" section. These students were all challenged to write for *Newsday* in teacher Jessica Rubin's Journalism class.

The New Voices column of *Newsday* features original, nonfiction student essays of up to 400 words. This section highlights the issues and concerns of today's youth, by providing them with a forum to express their thoughts and feelings on a variety of subject matters.

One of the first Rocky Point students to appear in New Voices this year was Alexis McAllister, who challenged the age-old issue for high school students; the importance of the SATs. Michele Kurtz wrote about tolerance for those with autism, and Alexa Bennett-Rosman addressed the dissolution of the D.A.R.E. program and how HealthSmart will be taking its place. Krystie Serviss wrote about parents' involvement in their children's lives, and most recently, Jaime Seno noted her concerns with the way her generation uses colloquialisms.



Rocky Point High School students (l to r) Alexis McAllister, Krystie Serviss, Jaime Seno, Alexa Bennett, and Michele Kurtz were published in *Newsday's* "New Voices" section. Students are pictured with Journalism teacher Jessica Rubin and English Coordinator Nicole Waldbauer.

Putting Poetry onto Paper

Seventeen Rocky Point Middle School English students and two high school students were published in the most recent edition of the *Anthology of Poetry by Young Americans*. Each student submitted poetry that was chosen to appear in this elite compilation of student poetry.

Congratulations to tenth-grade student Grace Noto, ninth-grade student Catia Cunha, and eighth-grade students Alyssa Edgeney, Alison Gohn, Maria Guerrisi, Ryan Hilbert, Cori Iacopelli, Elizabeth Johannesen, Caroline Krapf, Tommy Lettieri, Jessika Losee, Kyle Martello, Dan McQuade, Neil Obeso, Alan Rozet, Rebecca Wade, Travis Wheeler, Deanna Whitney, and Megan Young.



PRESENTING:

THE SUN WILL COME OUT TOMORROW



Most of us know the tale of little orphan Annie, the young girl who struggled to find her family and escape the perils of orphan life. Through professional-looking costumes and sets and harmonious song, the entire Rocky Point High School theatrical cast and crew gave audience



members a performance of the Broadway hit they could never have imagined. To bring the play to life, the school even held a casting call for a friendly dog to play the role of Annie's canine friend, Sandy. Roxy, a black lab, was awarded that role and worked beside leading actress Brittany Infranco, who played Annie.

The entire cast, crew, and musicians of *Annie* brought 1930's city life to Rocky Point's auditorium to fill their audiences' evenings with first-class entertainment.



Happily Ever After at RPMS



Many of us know the Brothers Grimm tale of a girl falsely credited with turning straw into gold. Rocky Point Middle School students who participate in the drama club recently transformed

themselves into the story's characters during their production of *Rumpelstiltskin*. With 52 students, including cast and crew, from sixth through eighth grade, students practiced day in and day out with the assistance of middle school teacher and director, Eric Filardi, to present a wonderful theatrical performance for their peers and community members.

The scenery, costumes, and makeup all added to a spectacular production of this well-known fairytale. With an evil villain, romance, and humor, the middle school thespians presented a sight for the eyes and the ears that showcased their professionalism and superb acting abilities.

Officials and Staff *Recognized for Excellence*

The Suffolk County Organization for the Promotion of Education (SCOPE) held its 7th Annual School District Awards Banquet, during which three district officials and staff who exemplified the night's theme were honored for "Shining Above the Rest." Joining last year's winners, Communication Coordinator Joe Spina and Board of Education Member Mike Matera, are Board of Education President Geraldine Thalen, teacher aide Patricia Scalone, and Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources/Administration Dr. Sherry Alessandro. These award winners were nominated by Superintendent of Schools Dr. Carla D'Ambrosio for their commitment to excellence while serving the district.

Board President Geraldine Thalen received the School Board Service Award for advocating for increased educational opportunities for all students, while supporting fiscally responsible decision-making. Ms. Thalen has made many strides towards providing the students of Rocky Point with state-of-the-art technology, and helped implement various learning initiatives.

The Support Staff Service Award was given to Patricia Scalone, a teacher aide at Frank J. Carasiti Elementary School, who helps to create a school community that is in the best interests of the children. Ms. Scalone embodies professionalism and goes beyond expectations to support and foster a warm and inviting atmosphere at FJC.

Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources/Administration Dr. Sherry Alessandro received the Administrator Service Award for instituting districtwide operations for human resources and personnel. Dr. Alessandro has helped to establish a mentor plan for the district and assists in securing funding for this mandated initiative.

These three district officials and staff have dedicated many hours of service toward providing the best educational services possible to the students and residents of Rocky Point, and are recipients of SCOPE's "Shining Above the Rest" award. They were three of 68 district officials and staff islandwide to be chosen.

Future Business Leaders of America ACHIEVE RECOGNITION

Rocky Point School District is proud to announce that several students who participated in the Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) Suffolk County Regional Competition qualified for the New York State Competition. Students Nick Cosgrove, Jason Roset, Kacey Murphy, and Jimmy McLoughlin all traveled to the state contest in early April, in Ellenville.

Fellow classmates and Suffolk County's Mr. and Mrs. FBLA, Mary Veach and Jack Bernard, who earned this title by placing first overall in the competition, took their outstanding scores to the state contest as well. Priyanka Tope, who placed first in Public Speaking, and Emre Kocahasanen, Kamil Remisewski, and Adam Pometti, who placed first as a Network Design Team, joined the rest of the Rocky Point Team as they competed against districts throughout New York.

FBLA is a national organization that prepares students by promoting business know-how, leadership skills, the understanding of private enterprise, knowledge on how to achieve career goals, and self-confidence.



Student

With hearts aflutter, Joseph A. hearts for some heart-healthy pu time participating in the classic J twist. To promote various healthy roping, double dutch, skip-it, and

Students collected donations t Heart, which benefits the Americ teacher Maria Amascato coordin \$6,326.25. The day was a success students' dedication to keeping t

100 Bears for 100 Days of School

Every year students at Frank J. Carasiti Elementary School celebrate the 100th day of school, building on skills they have learned in the classroom. Students participate in a number of activities, including counting to 100, creating projects with 100 items, and reading stories about the 100th day of school.



This year, students in Mrs. Colamussi's class went above and beyond counting to 100 to help those in their community. The goal for the class was to collect 100 teddy bears by the 100th day of school for Mather Memorial Hospital's HUGS Program. The program utilizes the bears to bring comfort to children who enter the hospital.

As students and faculty throughout the school brought in a variety of teddy bears, Mrs. Colamussi kept a tally on a poster board in the kindergarten hallway to show how many bears were collected and how many more were needed. By the 100th day of school students surpassed their goal by sending more than 100 teddy bears to the hospital.

HAVING IT DOWN TO A Science



Rocky Point Middle School students in both eighth-grade accelerated Living Environment classes recently attended a special workshop with Brookhaven National Laboratory representatives Kahille Dorsinvil and Sarah Maine. Students participated in two labs: Gene Transfer and DNA Extraction.

Each class received an education on gene therapy and DNA that extended far beyond the class curriculum, as students handled authentic materials. Students used the professional instruments of actual scientists in conducting their research. Through both labs, students learned how to perform a gene transfer and a DNA extraction.

Students Have Heart at JAE

Edgar Intermediate School students used their hearts for some heart-healthy purposes. More than 150 students recently spent time at JAE for the Jump Rope for Heart program, but with a JAE twist. In addition to jump rope activities, students were engaged in jump rope hula hooping. Many students pledged to participate in the Jump Rope for Heart program for the American Heart Association (AHA). Physical Education teachers supported the program, and in total, students raised money for the program thanks to parent and staff volunteers, and the students' hearts pumping all afternoon.

With hearts aflutter, Joseph A. Edgar Intermediate (JAE) School students used their hearts for some heart-healthy purposes.

Easing the Transition

As the school year enters the final few months, many students in the district will be transitioning from one building to another to start a new chapter in their Rocky Point school career. To ease that move, Joseph A. Edgar Intermediate School fifth-grade students have been invited to the middle school for a series of visits to acclimate themselves to the building, schedule, and new faces they will be seeing in September.

The kickoff to the orientation program began with JAE students being invited to a special viewing of the middle school production of *Rumpelstiltskin*. The following week, JAE students started regular visits to the middle school building. Part of their time at the middle school involved shadowing a sixth-grade student who became their buddy for the day. Younger students entered the classes of their sixth-grade counterpart to see what life for them will be like next year in the new building – learning about the different subjects they will be taking and a new schedule for changing classes.

Also during that time, incoming students met with different administrators and staff in the building that they will come to know and see on a daily basis.

"These visits to the middle school have made me more comfortable with coming to a new building next year," commented one fifth grader. "I am excited to start a new school year, with new teachers and a new class schedule."



Sixth-grade student Julianna Cambria helps fifth grader Amanda Corbett open her locker. Afterwards, Amanda shadowed Julianna as she went to class, to experience what life in the middle school will be like for her next year.

Why Julia Loves Returning to School

Frank J. Carasiti Elementary School second-grade student Julia Bogart won the Long Island Presidents' Council Essay Contest for her submission for this year's theme, "Why I Love Returning to School in September." She won first place in Rocky Point before advancing to the Suffolk County Competition. After placing first in Suffolk County, Julia went on to compete and win for all of Long Island. For winning, Julia will receive a \$500 check, and will have the opportunity to make a recording of her story that will be aired on the radio. Also, the RPTA has generously awarded Julia \$100 for placing first in the K-2 division in Rocky Point, and she will receive an additional \$250 from the Long Island Presidents' Council for placing first in Suffolk County.



Julia Bogart is congratulated by Frank J. Carasiti Principal Dr. Scott O'Brien for placing first for all of Long Island in the Long Island Presidents' Council Essay Contest, "Why I Love Returning to School in September."