



Rocky Point Schools

Soaring

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE ROCKY POINT UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT

CHRISTINA McDONNELL



As Class of 2008 **Valedictorian**, Christina McDonnell demonstrated hard work and dedication throughout her academic career in Rocky Point School District. Christina was an Honor Roll student throughout high school and challenged herself with a rigorous course load of Advanced Placement (AP) and Honors classes. She was named a Commended Student in the National Merit Scholarship Program and an AP Scholar. Christina exhibited the same drive for extracurricular activities and was a member of the softball team, earned All-Division on the girls tennis team, and played first chair flute in the concert band. Christina also assumed the role of secretary in the National Honor Society, Math Honor Society, and the Class of 2008 during sophomore through senior year. Additionally, Christina was a member of the Student Council and participated in both the Leaders Club and Mock Trial. This avid writer and winner of the National Council of Teachers of English Writing Competition will take her passion for writing to the University of Notre Dame in the fall, where she will pursue a degree in journalism and attain her future goal of becoming a sportswriter.

JAMES MAYR



James Mayr received the honor of **Salutatorian** for the Class of 2008. James took challenging and rigorous Advanced Placement (AP) and Honors courses throughout high school and participated in a number of extracurricular activities, including the North Shore Youth Council, Be A Nicer Neighbor community service club, Student Council, Singing Santas, and Mock Trial. James was a member of the jazz band, played in the pit orchestra for the school musical *Annie*, and landed a leading role in the Pocket Theater Production of *You Can't Take It With You*. His high scores earned him membership in both the National Honor Society and Math Honor Society. James has been named a National Council for Teachers of English Writing Contest Award winner, an AP Scholar, and a Commended Student in the National Merit Scholarship Program. In the fall, James will attend the State University of New York at Binghamton. Although he is undecided on a major field of study, James will take this time in his educational career to explore interests and to pursue options for a future career.

MEAGAN LEWIS-BIE



As third in her class, Meagan Lewis-Bie was bestowed the honor of this year's **Exhortation Speaker**. Throughout high school, Meagan enrolled in Advanced Placement (AP) and Honors courses and earned accolades during her participation on the varsity volleyball, basketball, and softball teams. Meagan participated in countless extracurricular activities, which included the Marching Band, Concert Band, Leaders Club, and Athletes Helping Athletes. Additionally, she earned membership in both the National Honor Society and Math Honor Society, and was awarded Honorable Mention in the Mark Twain Prose Competition. Meagan was also a recipient of a Business Education Award in Computer Applications and the Suffolk Zone of New York State Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance Award. Meagan also works at McCarrick's Dairy and volunteers her time at a local church and the community library. In the fall, Meagan will pursue a degree in nursing and will play volleyball at Mount Saint Mary College.

HIGH PERFORMING, *Gap Closing*

INSIDE

- A Salute to the Class of '08
- RPMS Hosts First Career Café
- JAE Explores New York
- FJC Dedicates a Tree to Soldiers

For the second consecutive year, Rocky Point School District has been honored with the distinction of being one of New York State's 272 Title I districts, designated as a "High Performing/Gap Closing" district by the Board of Regents and the State Education Department. Thanks to the support of our community and the hard work and dedication of students and staff, students in Rocky Point have shown improvement in academic performance

In order to qualify for this distinction, only districts with a minimum of 30 continuously enrolled students in at least two of the following groups, were eligible for recognition: a racial ethnic group, low-income, limited English proficiency, or students with disabilities.

The community earned this commendation for leading New York in its goal of increasing student achievement, while closing the gap in student performance.

A Message from Your Superintendent

DR. CARLA D'AMBROSIO

"Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much." The words of Helen Keller exemplify the dedication, hard work, and commitment of the Rocky Point community in passing the 2008/09 school budget to maintain quality programs despite increased mandates and insufficient revenue sources. The budget process was a collaborative effort to keep costs controlled, while the two sources of revenue to offset expenses decreased. I thank you for your unwavering support and look forward to planning for the new school year. The commitment this year will be to explore possible areas where costs may be cooperatively shared among our local districts in a concerted effort to consolidate expenses. We are planning to organize community groups to become active in securing additional State Aid for Rocky Point Schools.

As you read this newsletter you will see the accomplishments of our students across all disciplines – the arts, athletics, and academic programs – who have received recognition for their outstanding achievements. Our senior scholars have excelled, gaining acceptance into prestigious colleges for higher academic study. The Class of 2008 has had the highest 4-year college acceptance rate (approximately 60%) of any Rocky Point class into very competitive colleges. The district, for the second consecutive year, has been recognized by the State Education Department as a High-Performing Gap-Closing District. Our students have shown academic growth in English language arts and mathematics. Twelve students were nominated and achieved recognition for their artistic ability in drama, music, and art as Teeny Award Nominees. For their outstanding performances, four young ladies went on to receive the Teeny Awards, similar to the Tony Awards, at a gala event on June 15th. Boys and Girls Lacrosse won the Suffolk County Championships, with the boys going on to win their first ever New York State Championship.

The accolades go on and on as Rocky Point continues to excel to new heights. As I attend the concerts surrounded by standing room only audiences and bleachers packed with community supporters, it is understandable why our students are progressing. Parents and guardians are participating in the education of their children and making that the focal point of the family. It takes a whole family to educate a child and a strong positive attitude that we – parents, students, and educators – can achieve at all levels.

Thank you for your support and enjoy the respite of the summer with your families and friends.

Health Corner

In April 2007, legislation was passed by the New York State Education Department requiring childhood obesity screening using Body Mass Index (BMI) percentiles for age and gender. These measures are being taken to collect data regarding school-aged children and adolescents at the State and local levels in order to understand the severity and distribution of obesity among our youth. In addition, the information will be used to evaluate whether the actions taken by local schools, school districts, and communities to improve access to healthy foods and increase physical activity are making a difference in reducing childhood obesity.

The New York State Education Law will require Student Health Appraisal Forms to report each student's BMI and weight status to be completed by the student's healthcare provider and submitted to the school by parents at school entry, and in kindergarten, grades 2, 4, 7, and 10.

The district has been selected by the State as a sample school district for the 2008-2009 school year. As a sample district, Rocky Point will provide aggregate weight status data to the Department of Health.

THE BOARD REORGANIZES

The Board of Education held its annual reorganization meeting early in July, swearing in newly elected members and appointing Board duties. Diane Burke and Michael Nofi have joined the Board for the 2008-2009 school year. Joseph Sanseverino was appointed by the Board to serve as President, and Margaret Smith will serve as Vice President.

At the June Board of Education meeting, the Board recognized Geraldine Thalen and Michael Matera for their years of commitment and dedication to the Board of Education. For the past nine years, Ms. Thalen served as a Board member, eight of those as Board of Education President. Mr. Matera dedicated twelve years of service as a Board member.

In July, the Board of Education reorganized and welcomed their two newly elected members Michael Nofi and Diane Burke, and elected Joseph Sanseverino as President and Margaret Smith as Vice President.



(Above) Former Board of Education members Geraldine Thalen (center right with flowers) and Michael Matera (center left) were recognized at the June Board meeting for their years of service to the community.



RECOGNIZING EXEMPLARY SERVICE

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Carla D'Ambrosio recommended 18 teachers and staff members for tenure at the May Board of Education meeting. Student achievement and success is a true testament to the professionalism and dedication of the teaching staff. Earning tenure is a milestone to be celebrated in a teacher's career.

It is with great pleasure that the district congratulates these fine teachers and staff members: Erica Alemaghides (Social Studies), Kelly Birnstein (Special Education), Emily Breiner (Elementary), Christina Capaldi (Elementary), Frank Centrone (Special Education), Joselle Cespe (Special Education), Nancy Colamussi (Elementary), Michael Conlon (School Counselor), Laura Flanagan (ESL), Jessica Gerbino (Elementary), Katerina Kyriakakis (Art), Mara Lopez (Elementary), Jaimie Mancini (Special Education), Sandra Ortega-Lydic (Spanish), Kerri Thomas (Mathematics), Laurie Varriale (Elementary), David Ventura (Music), and Anja Groth (Director of Instruction).

A Fond Farewell

The district bids farewell to 16 staff members who are retiring with more than 469 years of collective experience in the Rocky Point School District. The 2008 retirees are: Linda Bovich (Science), Christopher Brown (English), Susan Burdette (Reading), Carla Cantera-Potter (Art), Patricia Carr (School Teacher Aide), Dennis Desmond (Business), Linda Fine (Elementary), Marjorie Fischer (German), Francis Hempton (Science), Lois Ingebretsen (Special Education), Janet Kirwan (Elementary), Richard Menard (Mathematics), Richard Parsons (Physical Education), Patricia Secko (Physical Education), Stephen Schultz (Social Studies Coordinator), and Thomas Vagn, Jr. (Elementary).

The Board of Education and administration would like to extend their best wishes to these exceptional staff members as they begin a new chapter in their lives.

YOGURT POPS

Beat that summer heat with a refreshing yet healthy treat. Yogurt pops not only contain the nutritional value needed for children's everyday activities, but will cool them down on a hot summer day. This easy-to-make recipe will be the hit of the summer for your children.

What you will need:
Favorite Flavor Yogurt (amount depends on containers being used)
Set of Ice Pop Molds
OR
Paper Cups, Plastic Wrap, and Popsicle Sticks

Directions:
If using Ice Pop molds, pour yogurt almost to the top of each mold and close each pop with a cover (that has a plastic popsicle stick attached). Let freeze. When frozen, yogurt pops should slide out of the mold. If using paper cups, fill almost to the top and cover the top of the almost completely filled cup of yogurt with plastic wrap. Puncture a hole through the plastic wrap with the popsicle stick and stand upright in freezer. Allow to freeze and when done peel the paper off of the yogurt and enjoy!

Time to freeze will vary according to size of container.

Note: Plastic wrap helps to keep the exposed yogurt from getting frost bite.

Spreading The Word



NEWSDAY JOURNALISM WINNERS

Seven Rocky Point High School students were honored as winners in the annual *Newsday* School Journalism Awards Contest. These students write for the monthly edition of the school's newspaper, *Eagle's Eye*. *Newsday* provided a journalism contest medallion and an award certificate to the school in recognition of the writers, Editor-in-Chief Stephanie Osmanski, and Newspaper Adviser Jessica Rubin. The students cited by *Newsday* are: Krystie Serviss, Stephanie Osmanski, Tom Gordon, Bryan Maggio, Brittany Tiedemann, Alexa Bennett-Rosman, and Paulina Markiewicz.



LI PRESS AWARD WINNERS

The high quality of the Rocky Point High School newspaper, *Eagle's Eye*, was confirmed when seven writers were honored as winners in the Long Island Press School Journalism Awards Competition. The entire newspaper staff, their families, and Newspaper Adviser Jessica Rubin attended the awards ceremony and celebration dinner held at Hofstra University's Mack Sports Complex. The following students were recognized as Long Island Press School Journalism Award recipients for 2008: Greg Savage, Tom Gordon, Michele Kurtz, Alexa Bennett-Rosman, Jeanne Timmons, Lauren Belcastro, and Rebekah Cleary.



PUBLISHED POETS

Rocky Point Middle School students Rachel DiCamdia, Amanda Wells, and TJ Strazzeri are published authors in *A Celebration of Young Poets* poetry anthology, Fall 2007 and Spring 2008 editions. After learning about the publication through English teacher Danielle Donadoni, Rachel entered her poem, *Winter Into Spring*, Amanda submitted her piece, *Snow Angel*, and TJ entered his verse, *Poetry*. These three students' creative talents are to be commended.



Middle School Library Media Specialist Cathy O'Connell, recipient of the Best Buy Teach Grant.

"Grant"ed, They are Winners

Two of the district's schools were chosen as recipients of several grants that will greatly benefit our students' education with enhancements to curriculum.

Middle School Library Media Specialist Cathy O'Connell secured two awards. She was presented the Best Buy Teach Grant, which recognizes creative uses of interactive technology in K-12 classrooms. Selected from a national pool of applicants, Ms. O'Connell's \$2,000 Best Buy gift card will be used to purchase state-of-the-art digital equipment to enhance a current sixth grade author study project that promotes reading.

In addition, the Middle School Library is among the 3,000 libraries chosen to receive the *We the People* "Created Equal" Bookshelf Grant, which provides free hardcover editions of 17 classic books on the theme of "Created Equal," Spanish translations of four of the titles, and supporting materials. The grant is awarded by the National Endowment for the Humanities in cooperation with the American Library Association.

Frank J. Carasiti Elementary School was the beneficiary of a grant from the Citi Success Fund, a program sponsored by the Citi Foundation and administered on Long Island by the Mentoring Partnership of Long Island. The Citi Success Fund encourages teachers to develop innovative projects that will enhance curriculum and learning for those students most at risk. Assistant Principal Dr. Courtney Herbert and Student Assistance Counselor Jamie Adamski were awarded the grant for a project entitled M&Ms (mentors and mentees). The project is a mentoring program that allows teachers and staff to spend quality time with students at FJC.



FJC Assistant Principal Dr. Courtney Herbert (right) and Student Assistance Counselor Jamie Adamski (left) accepted the Citi Success Grant.

Honor and Dedication

Rocky Point High School recently welcomed 37 new inductees into the National Honor Society. These students were recognized not only for being top students, but also for displaying excellent character.

Honor Society officers Lydia Belanich, Adam Kurtz, Christina McDonnell, and Heather Coggins led the traditional candle-lighting ceremony, during which each student spoke about the character traits that represent the National Honor Society. Each spoke on one of the four pillars of the National Honor Society: Service, Character, Scholarship, and Leadership.

The ceremony ended as the newest members recited the National Honor Society Oath.

Taking Home the Teeny Award

Several Rocky Point student-actors were nominated for a number of *Teeny Awards*, which pay tribute to the performers' outstanding talents in two of this year's district drama productions, *Steel Magnolias* and *Annie*. The high school received a total of twelve nominations for the productions.

Sarah Bradley won for Leading Actress in a Drama for *Steel Magnolias*. The award of Best Supporting Actress in a Drama was given to Amanda Galasso. For the same production, Laurie Phillips and Ashley Martin were awarded Best Set Design.

This is the First Annual Teeny Awards for Northern Brookhaven Schools and is sponsored by the Greater Port Jefferson Northern Brookhaven Arts Council and a variety of local businesses. The Teeny Awards is a scholarship program that is patterned after the Tony Awards program, and helps student-actors in the Northern Brookhaven region pursue a career in theater.



Beginning A New

CLASS FACTS

- 90% of the 2008 graduating class earned a Regents Diploma or higher
- 42% earned Advanced Regents Diplomas
- 9% earned Advanced Regents Diplomas with Honors
- 90% will be attending college in the fall
- 60% of the class were accepted to 4-year colleges
- 4% will be going into Career Education
- 4% are heading directly to the workforce
- 2% will enlist in the military



Brendan Abatemarco, Suffolk County Community College

Michael Abbate, Dowling College

Luke Aiello, Fashion Institute of Technology

Lindsey Altan, Stony Brook University

Justin Annunziato, Syracuse University

Raymond Anzalone, St. Joseph's University

William Bakewicz, Suffolk County Community College

James Baptista, SUNY Delhi

Mark Barcelo, SUNY Farmingdale

Lydia Belanich, St. Joseph's College

Rebekah Bennett, Juniata College

Alexa Bennett-Rosman, Pennsylvania State University

Miluska Berrospi, Binghamton University

Timothy Blake, Syracuse University

Brittany Bonneville, St. Joseph's College

Jessica Bornemann, Career Education

Kelsey Borrman, SUNY Cortland

William Brennan, Suffolk County Community College

James Brewer, Career Education

Chelsea Bruno, Dowling College

Renyu Cai, SUNY Stony Brook

Rachel Cambria, Johnson & Wales University

Edwin Canepa, Work

Matthew Carrara, SUNY Stony Brook

Christopher Carter, Suffolk County Community College

James Caschetta, SUNY Delhi

Danielle Castellano, St. Joseph's College

Daniel Cervello, Suffolk County Community College

Edward Cheslak, Suffolk County Community College

Matthew Clark, Lebanon Valley College

Victoria Clark, Suffolk County Community College

Kimberly Coberg, New York Institute of Technology Worldwide

Heather Coggins, Northeastern University

Amanda Cohen, Sacred Heart University

Desiree R. Coleman, University of Central Florida

Bernadette Colli, Suffolk County Community College

Robert Collins, Adelphi University

Brian Coman, Work

Michele Cosgrove, SUNY Brockport

Nicholas Cosgrove, Quinnipiac University

Justin Costantini, Suffolk County Community College

Joseph Cote, St. Joseph's College

Lindsay A. Cottone, Suffolk County Community College

Julia Cullen, Suffolk County Community College

Gregory Cwik, Susquehanna University

Toni-Anne D'Amico, Suffolk County Community College

Thomas D'Angelo, Suffolk County Community College

Angelina Daisy, Suffolk County Community College

Victoria Dalessio, Briarcliffe College

Jaime Defeo, Suffolk County Community College

Matthew DeLeonardis, Suffolk County Community College

Thomas DeLeonardis, Suffolk County Community College

Heather Delio, Suffolk County Community College

Anna DeLucia, St. Joseph's College

Johnathan DelValle, Career Education

KatieBet DeNardi, Western Carolina University

Michael Dorsi, Suffolk County Community College

Robert Dougherty, Air National Guard

Gene Dozier, Dowling College

James Drago, Suffolk County Community College

Patrick Duggan, Suffolk County Community College

Michael Duke, Full Sail Real World Education

Michael Eamotte, Career Education

Samantha Ehrich, St. Joseph's College

Brandon J. Escobar, SUNY Morrisville

Mary Falco, Suffolk County Community College

Fabrice Fantal, Suffolk County Community College

Joseph Farruggio, SUNY Stony Brook

Ginger Feist, Career Education

Renee Ferretti, Suffolk County Community College

Matthew Fertig, SUNY Oswego

Danielle Finn, St. Joseph's College

Jerry Fiore, Suffolk County Community College

Daniel Gabriellini, Suffolk County Community College

Ryan Galietti, Suffolk County Community College

Felicia Gallina, Career Education

Christopher Gerace, SUNY Oneonta

Amanda Geraci, Suffolk County Community College

Tiffany Giambone, Binghamton University

Magdalena Gil, Hofstra University

Matthew Golda, SUNY Stony Brook

Ethan Paul Goldman, Dowling College

Ross Goldman, Suffolk County Community College

Kurt Gordon, Suffolk County Community College

Thomas Gordon, Suffolk County Community College

Steven Grieger, St. Joseph's College

Jacqueline Grillo, Suffolk County Community College

Mark Gross, SUNY Buffalo

Rachel Grubbs, Nyack College

Nicole Grudier, Iona College

Meredith Gubernick, Suffolk County Community College

Patrick Gugel, Career Education

Jillian Guidice, Career Education

Vincent Guido, Long Island University - C.W. Post Campus

Katie-Ann Guthy, St. Joseph's College

Lauren Haefner, Work

William Hamann, Suffolk County Community College

Janine Hamdan, Valencia Community College

DeAnn Hamelin, Suffolk County Community College

Ashley Harlin, Suffolk University

George Hayduk, Five Towns College

James Hellen, Suffolk County Community College

Roland Hepburn, Suffolk County Community College

Brittany Hernandez, St. Joseph's College

Mark Hertzovitz, Suffolk County Community College

Brittany Hoff, Work

Daniel Huber, Career Education

Doris Huggins, Suffolk County Community College

Steven Iasimone, Military

Elise Incze, Pratt Institute

Andrew Ingoglia, United States Navy

Anthony Iovine, Suffolk County Community College

Erik Janiel, SUNY Stony Brook

Angelica Jannace, Manhattanville College

William Jenkins, Suffolk County Community College

Russell Johann, St. Joseph's College

Peter Johnson, Suffolk County Community College

Steven Kaastra, Suffolk County Community College

Rachel Kerremans, St. Joseph's College

Elise Kethman, University of San Diego

James Kidney, Suffolk County Community College

Laura A. Kilean, CUNY Baruch College

Rory King, SUNY College at Cobleskill

Jacqueline Kmiotek, Stony Brook University

Leah Knight, Suffolk County Community College

Niki Koutsaris, Suffolk County Community College

Daniel Kramer, Towson University

Adam Kurtz, SUNY Geneseo

Michele Kurtz, Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania

Chapter



It was a beautiful, sunny day as the members of the Class of 2008 marched onto the high school football field for the 34th Annual Commencement Exercises of Rocky Point High School. The high school band performed *Pomp and Circumstance* as the senior class, adorned in blue and white, took their seats on the field. The stadium filled with family, friends, and teachers, as administrators and Board of Education members looked on.

The ceremony commenced with Jacob Rusek and Jessica Micallef performing the *Star Spangled Banner*. Exhortation Speaker Meagan Lewis-Bie took the platform next, and encouraged her classmates to “discover a world outside of the high school.”

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Carla D’Ambrosio spoke to the students about their future in the world ahead. “Whatever path you choose, college, military, or work, you are about to take your place in the world,” she stated. “The future belongs to you!” Salutatorian James Mayr addressed his classmates, bestowing on them words of wisdom and advice.

For the first time ever, three retiring teachers were invited to address the Class of 2008. With a collective 99 years of teaching in the Rocky Point School District, Linda Bovich, Christopher Brown, and Marjorie Fischer imparted their priceless advice. “Use your eyes to see the best the world has to offer, not the worst. Use your hands to do good deeds, not bad. Use your legs to take you where you should go, not where you shouldn’t. Use your ears to gain wisdom, not distrust,” stated Mr. Brown. U.S. Senator Charles Schumer was also among the guest speakers. Valedictorian Christina McDonnell addressed the class, sharing her feelings about what the future has in store.

The class members were awarded their diplomas, instructed to move their tassels from right to left, and declared graduates of the Rocky Point School District. Students were elated as they tossed their caps in the air.

Marina Labate, SUNY Stony Brook
 Matthew Lacovara, Suffolk County Community College
 Chelsea Lambert, Loyola College
 Brittany Lent, Suffolk County Community College
 Meagan Lewis-Bie, Mount Saint Mary College
 Anthony Librizzi, Suffolk County Community College
 Francis Licciardello, Alfred University
 Agata LoCascio, Suffolk County Community College
 Nicholas Loiacono, Suffolk County Community College
 Brienne LoManto, Northwestern University
 Lindsey Lopez, Suffolk County Community College
 Andrea Loreda, Suffolk County Community College
 Justin Luongo, Suffolk County Community College
 Johnilee Lysen, Suffolk County Community College
 Bryan Maggio, St. Joseph's College
 Charles Maggio, SUNY Oneonta
 Shayla Mansfield, Dowling College
 Vox Dei Mansilungan, Suffolk County Community College
 Nicholas Martello, Suffolk County Community College
 Vincent Martino, Wesley College
 Samantha Masone, St. Joseph's College
 Dustin Mayor, Suffolk County Community College
 James B. Mayr, SUNY Binghamton
 Matthew Mc Cabe, New York City College of Technology

Kelsey Mc Glone, Suffolk County Community College
 Ryan McAllister, SUNY Farmingdale
 Christina McDonnell, University of Notre Dame
 Meghan McEntee, Work
 William McGee, SUNY Farmingdale
 Marielle McMahan, Manhattan College
 James McManus, Suffolk County Community College
 Kyle Meditz, Mount Saint Mary College
 Ryan A. Messina, SUNY Stony Brook
 Jessica B. Micallef, SUNY Stony Brook
 Rachael Micca, Career Education
 Carl Millard, Dowling College
 Brett Moran, Suffolk County Community College
 Lauren Morcerf, SUNY Cortland
 James Murrin, SUNY Morrisville
 Jacqueline Nicolich, University of Massachusetts at Amherst
 Patrick Nolan, United States Marine Corps
 Justin Norbury, Suffolk County Community College
 Peter Noto, Marion Military Institute
 John O'Connor, Quinnipiac University
 Kyle O'Connor, Stony Brook University
 Meagan O'Gallagher, Mount Saint Mary College
 Brinna O'Hara, SUNY Cortland
 Thomas Palasek, Johns Hopkins University
 Anthony Pantori, Work
 Benjamin Paquette, SUNY Cortland

April Parris, Suffolk County Community College
 Jesse Passiglia, New York Institute of Technology Worldwide
 Erin Peacock, Suffolk County Community College
 Angelica Perez LaLota, St. Joseph's College
 Muge Polat, Suffolk County Community College
 Joseph Polidora, CUNY Hunter
 Robert Prechtl, Work
 Joseph Prunty, Long Island University - C.W. Post
 Lee Rasanen, St. John's University
 Lauren Amy Retundi, SUNY Stony Brook
 Joseph Ricigliano, Brooklyn Polytechnic University
 Javier Rodriguez, Dowling College
 Carissa Rosado, Suffolk County Community College
 Bryant Roy, United States Army
 Jason Rozet, Ithaca College
 Jacob Rusek, New York University
 Brian Russ, Suffolk County Community College
 Erica Rutherford, Suffolk County Community College
 Alexandria Sabo, Suffolk County Community College
 Anthony Sampogna, Suffolk County Community College
 Christina Sanford, Suffolk County Community College
 Gregory Savage, Towson University
 Eric Schmeling, United States Marine Corps
 William Schmitz, Suffolk County Community College

Lawrence Schneider, Suffolk County Community College
 Joseph Sendra, Suffolk County Community College
 Krystie-Ann Serviss, Slippery Rock University
 Ashley Shevlin, Suffolk County Community College
 Brian Smith, Arcadia University
 Steven Smith, Work
 Peter Smullen, Suffolk County Community College
 Brianna Spatarella, Manhattan College
 Diana Squatriglia, John Jay College of Criminal Justice
 Stefanie Stanchio, Suffolk County Community College
 Allison Staudt, Adelphi University
 Sarah Stewart, SUNY Buffalo
 Cassandra Sticco, Suffolk County Community College
 Taralynn Sugarman, King's College
 Vincent Sullivan, Suffolk County Community College
 Brittany Tiedemann, Suffolk County Community College
 Jeanne Timmons, Suffolk County Community College
 Kevin Tobiassen, Villanova University
 Frank Toldo, Five Towns College
 Deanna Toronto, St. Joseph's College
 Joseph Tully, Suffolk County Community College
 Tabitha Ueblacker, Fashion Institute of Technology
 Keith Vagle, St. Joseph's College
 John Vicedomini, Dowling College

Nicholas Viscusi, Suffolk County Community College
 Ghia Vitale, SUNY Cobleskill
 Sabrina Vitale, Suffolk County Community College
 Courtney Vitello, Work
 Danielle Vivonetto, United States Naval Academy
 Louis Volpe, SUNY Farmingdale
 Kaitlyn Vosper, Suffolk County Community College
 Amanda Walker, Suffolk County Community College
 Morgan Walters, Suffolk County Community College
 Katelyn Wandle, Suffolk County Community College
 Erin Weresnick, SUNY Cobleskill
 Robert Whaley, Suffolk County Community College
 Brooke Wheeler, SUNY Farmingdale
 Alyssa Whitehouse, Dowling College
 Candace Whitney, SUNY Brockport
 Alexander Paul Williams, Suffolk County Community College
 Kiernan Williams, St. Joseph's College
 Michael Williams, SUNY Oneonta
 Thomas Wilson, Dowling College
 Jillian Winters, SUNY Cortland
 Ashley Wojcik, Suffolk County Community College
 Lauren Young, Southern Connecticut State University
 Oskar Ziaja, Poznan University of Medical Sciences
 Erik Zimmer, Work
 Janine Zirpolo, Suffolk County Community College

Shooting Hoops for Wounded Warriors

Rocky Point High School's "Be A Nicer Neighbor Club" held its first annual Rick Smith Memorial Basketball Tournament. The competition consisted of faculty members representing three school districts – Rocky Point (with two teams), Miller Place, and Shoreham-Wading River – joining together to raise money for the Wounded Warrior Project.



The Wounded Warrior Project helps to empower and honor U.S. military soldiers who have been wounded in battle. Lt. John Fernandez, a former Rocky Point student who lost portions of his legs in the current war, attended the basketball tournament and addressed the audience, thanking them for their support of the troops. Erica Smith, daughter of Air National Guardsman Rick Smith, who died in the line of duty, and other members of her family, joined in the fundraiser named in her father's honor.

Students coached the teams and each faced off in several games as residents from the three communities came together to support this worthy cause. In total, the fundraiser garnered more than \$8,750.



Going Green to HONOR THE TROOPS

Throughout the year, students in Mrs. Edmond's, Mrs. Conner's, and Mrs. Lukas' classes at Frank J. Carasiti Elementary School have been participating in a program entitled Fostering Friendship. The program was developed to integrate special education students of varying abilities into general education classes on a weekly basis.

In an effort to be earth friendly, the three classes in the program began recycling cans on Armed Forces Day in May. For a little less than a month, students continuously recycled cans and pooled their money together to purchase a tree.

The tree was planted on the back field of the school in honor of soldiers currently fighting in the war who are part of the FJC school community. A plaque was placed at the foot of the tree trunk, bearing the names of all those soldiers to whom the tree is dedicated. In addition, the three classes wrote letters to each soldier explaining the project. Accompanied by a photograph of the tree, letters were then mailed to the soldiers.



MAY THE FORCE BE WITH YOU

A short time ago in a school not so far, far away, students in Scott Wendt's third grade class performed the seventh installment of the movie box office hit and dual-trilogy, *Star Wars*. For three consecutive years, Mr. Wendt has incorporated the six *Star Wars* episodes as a tool for learning in his classroom. Students became familiar with the films, viewing clips from the movies for the last 20 minutes of school on Fridays.

After much thought about how the films could be integrated further into the curriculum, Mr. Wendt began to have some students create a script during Writer's Workshop of what would happen following the final *Star Wars* episode. Once a script was drafted, the writers auditioned their classmates and utilized a program entitled Readers Theater to choose the actors and actresses for the various roles.

Students used their imaginations to create the script, additional characters, and the set. After rehearsing for several weeks, students performed their rendition of *Star Wars Episode VII - The New Apprentice*. As students echoed such phrases as, "May the Force be with you," fellow classmates, family members, and teachers enjoyed the theatrical performance. The exercises enhanced the students' writing abilities in a unique genre, and also gave them an early lesson in acting.

Breakfast of Champions



More than 100 students at Rocky Point Middle School were selected for recognition at this year's Breakfast of Champions, a morning set aside for students from each grade level to receive a special breakfast and certificate of achievement in their honor.

"The Breakfast of Champions program gives the school a chance to recognize academic accomplishments and positive student character," stated Principal Dr. Joseph Centamore.

To be chosen for this recognition, each student was nominated by a teacher in the school for demonstrating the following characteristics: shared purpose, respect, impulse control, compassion, and equity.

Staying Safe at FJC

Kindergarten students in Carlyle Ritchie's class at Frank J. Carasiti Elementary School helped to pilot the McGruff Safety Program. During a four-week period, students were taught about safety-related issues such as bullying and stranger danger from local law enforcement officers. The event culminated with a special visit from Suffolk County Sheriff Vincent DeMarco, Officer Everett Oliver, Lieutenant Charles L'Hommedieu, and McGruff the Crime Dog. Each student was awarded a certificate of completion and reminded of the importance of knowing about bullying and stranger danger.



After the award recognition concluded, parents were invited to participate in Operation Safe Child. Under this program, children are photographed, fingerprinted, and have key identifiers placed on a card in the event a child is missing and the police need pertinent information.



Exploring New York

As part of the fourth-grade social studies curriculum, students at Joseph A. Edgar Intermediate School took an in-depth look at the great State of New York and Long Island on which they live. Students embarked on a scavenger hunt and were given the entire year to collect items that related to New York State or Long Island. Students gathered artifacts, took photographs, created projects, and even recorded themselves singing, "New York, New York." In addition, students brought the objects they discovered to school to share with their classmates.

"My fellow teachers and I at JAE felt that it is important for students to learn about the place in which they live," stated fourth-grade teacher Kristie Jackson. The students did just that as they not only researched New York and Long Island, but explored the area with their families throughout the year as well.

The New York State Scavenger Hunt culminated with a closing ceremony that announced the top winners, and shared information about what the students learned throughout the year.



Career Café

As part of the first-ever Career Café at Rocky Point Middle School, eighth-grade students had the opportunity to explore a plethora of career paths available to them as they continue on in their education.

Various speakers visited with students over the course of several hours and spoke about their careers. As each acted as a spokesperson for their industry, they discussed the type of training and education required and what their job entails, in addition to how they were influenced to pursue their careers. Guests included Superintendent of Schools Dr. Carla D'Ambrosio, chefs, an author, a professional athlete, and technology specialists.

Professor Steve Clark of Instructional Technology from Suffolk County Community College visited students at Rocky Point Middle School during their Career Café. He spoke about the many ways in which technology is utilized across a variety of career fields.

Moving Up, Moving Forward

As the final weeks of the 2007-08 school year came to a close, each Rocky Point school building celebrated the many successes of the school year. Students moved forward to start a new chapter in their educational journey, inspired by words of congratulations from Frank J. Carasiti Elementary School Principal

Dr. Scott O'Brien, Joseph A. Edgar Intermediate School Principal Carol Tvelia, and Rocky Point Middle School Principal Dr. Joseph Centamore, all of whom wished their departing students well for the future. Congratulations and best of luck to all who have moved up and moved forward.



Save the Date

August 19
Kindergarten
Orientation

August 21
Kindergarten
"Kinder-Social"

August 25
Board of Education
Meeting
7:30 PM @ HS
Auditorium

September 1
Labor Day

September 3
First Day of School

Spring Sports Wrap-Up

Baseball -

Peter Craig - All-County, All-League,
Suffolk County Gold Glove
Sean Craig - All-League
Ryan McAllister - All-League
Tim Popko - All-League
Phil Rado - All-League
Dan Smiles - Academic All-County
Lou Volpe - All-County, All-League

Softball -

Cassie Jonaitis - All-League
Kyle Meditz - All-League
Nicole Reany - All-League
Brittany Stevenson - All-League

Boys Tennis -

James Bouker - All-League, All-Division
Adam Pometti - All-League, All-Division
Kevin Tobiasen - All-County, Division
Doubles Champion
Keith Vagle - All-County, Division Doubles
Champion

Boys Track & Field -

Matt Clark - All-League, All-Division (Shot Put)
Peter Johnson - All-League, All-Division (200m)
Larry Schneider - All-League, All-Division
(110m High Hurdles)
Will Singh - All-League, All-Division (400m)
Kevin Vasko - All-League, All-Division
(Long Jump)
Tom Wilson - All-League, All-Division (800m)

Varsity Girls Track & Field -

Cassidy Bohan - All-League
Amanda Cohen - All-League
Jessica Kenyon - All-League
Caitlin Mallin - All-League
Cassie Sticco - All-League

Girls Lacrosse -

Chelsea Bruno - All-League
Aimee Capps - All-County, Academic
All-American
Christy Dougherty - Unsung Hero
Caitlin Gargan - All-County
Jessica Hassett - All-Tournament

Brianne LoManto - All-County, Academic
All-American
Samantha Mazzeo - All-County
Kara Mupo - All-County, All-American
Abby Ross - All-County, All-Tournament
Brienne Spatarella - Academic All-American
Allison Staudt - All-County
Danielle Vivonetto - All-County, Academic
All-American

Boys Lacrosse -

**Coach Mike Bowler - Long Island Coach of
the Year**
Justin Annunziato - All-County, All-American
Tom Kelly - All-County
Dan Kramer - All-County
Bill McGee - All-Division
Mike Muller - All-County
Matt Palasek - All-County
Tom Palasek - All-County, Under Armour
All-American, U.S. Lacrosse All-American,
All-American, Newsday Player of the Year
Jesse Passiglia - All-Division



BOYS VARSITY LACROSSE TEAM

Eagles Take Flight

The Rocky Point **Varsity Boys Lacrosse Team** had an amazing season from start to end. The team took home the first New York State Class B Lacrosse State Championship in Rocky Point history. The team began their journey by defeating Comsewogue to earn the Suffolk County Championship, and then defeated traditional lacrosse powerhouses Garden City (Long Island Championship), John Jay (State Semifinal) and Carthage HS (Class B State Final). The team finished with an overall record of 21-1 and was ranked #1 by the New York State Sportswriters Association in Class B.

the League VI Championship for the first time ever in the school's history. The team finished with an overall record of 17-7 before losing in the playoffs. In addition, the Junior Varsity and Varsity Baseball Teams were recognized as the Eastern Suffolk Umpires Association Baseball Program of the Year for Outstanding Sportsmanship.



GIRLS VARSITY LACROSSE TEAM



BOYS VARSITY BASEBALL TEAM

The **Varsity Girls Lacrosse Team** earned their 4th consecutive Suffolk County Class B Championship, with an overall record of 16-4. The team put forth a valiant effort, but eventually lost to Garden City in the Long Island Championships. The **Varsity Boys Baseball Team** captured

Excellence, Tradition, and Pride



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Rocky Point Schools

Soaring

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE ROCKY POINT UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT

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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.