

# Rockville TelegRAM

ROCKVILLE HIGH SCHOOL

Published monthly, September-June  
70 Loveland Hill Road  
Vernon, Connecticut 06066-2304

## FEBRUARY 2010

### IMPORTANT DATES

- February 4 Online registration deadline for March 13 SAT Administration
- February 4 Grade 8 Orientation, 6:00 p.m., Auditorium (snow date 2-11-10)
- February 10\* Second quarter report cards issued to students
- February 15-16 No School, Winter Recess
- February 25 Grade 10 CAPT Assembly, 9:00 a.m., Auditorium
- February 25 Class of 2010 Cap & Gown Measurements
- March 1-5 CAPT Administration at RHS
- March 7 Springfield National College Fair, Eastern States Exposition, MA 12:00-4:00 p.m.

\*If school is canceled prior to this date, the distribution date will be moved to the following school day.

### MARK YOUR CALENDARS

- April 8 College Planning Evening
- April 13 High Honor Roll Breakfast
- April 19-23 Spring Recess
- May 1 Class of 2011 Junior Prom, LaRenaissance, East Windsor
- May 20 Undergraduate Awards Evening
- May 21 Class of 2010 Senior Prom, Farmington Marriott
- June 4 Class of 2010 Senior Outing, High Meadow, Granby
- June 10 Senior Awards Evening

### GRADE REPORTING NEWS

Second quarter report cards will be distributed to students on Wednesday, February 10, 2010. Third quarter midterm progress reports will be distributed on March 15. Parents are encouraged to contact their student's teachers and/or guidance counselor with any questions or concerns.

### SCHOOL CANCELLATIONS



If inclement weather forces school to be canceled, open late (two hour delay), or close early, announcements will be made on area radio (WTIC AM & FM, WRCH, WZMX) and television (WFSB 3, WVIT 30) stations. Parents may also access Vernon information online at [www.ctweather.com](http://www.ctweather.com) and sign up for email or cell phone text notifications about delays and cancellations. If the opening of school is delayed, the schedule will continue in the usual rotation of an A day or a B day. If school is closed, the rotation will continue on the next school day. For example, if Monday is an A day, and school is closed on Tuesday, then it will be a B day when school reopens. The same policy applies for holidays and school vacations.

### BOARD OF EDUCATION BUDGET PRESENTATION

There will be a presentation on the Board of Education's proposed budget for the 2010-2011 school year on Thursday, February 25, beginning at 7:00 p.m. The session will be held in the Board of Education Meeting Room (3<sup>rd</sup> floor) at 30 Park Street. The public is encouraged to attend.

### COMMENCEMENT DATE SET FOR CLASS OF 2010

Commencement Exercises for the Rockville High School Class of 2010 will be held on Thursday, June 24, 2010, at Rockville High School at 6:00 p.m. Parents of seniors will receive additional information during May regarding times, tickets, graduation rehearsal, etc.



## CONTACTING RHS STAFF MEMBERS

Parents are encouraged to contact their student's teachers and counselor throughout the school year. All staff members may be reached by phone at 860-870-6050. Staff members may also be contacted by email ([first.name.last.name@vernonct.org](mailto:first.name.last.name@vernonct.org)). A complete listing of staff members' email addresses can be found on the RHS website ([www.RockvilleHighSchool.org](http://www.RockvilleHighSchool.org)).

## UPDATE TO ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS

At their January 11 meeting, the Board of Education approved changes to the Attendance Requirements for Rockville High School. The new requirements are posted on the RHS website.

Students will lose credit if they exceed the allotted unexcused absences in a course (8 AUs for a 1.0 credit course; 4 AUs for a 0.5 credit course; 2 AUs for a 0.25 credit course). Parents must either call the Attendance Office (860-870-6050, option 1) or provide a written note excusing the student's absence within five school days. These absences will not be counted toward credit loss. If a phone call or note is not received, the absence will be considered unexcused (AU) and will be counted toward credit loss.

Beginning with the start of the second semester (February 4), there will also be a change in the assignment of detentions for tardiness. For every three tardies (T) to a class, students will be assigned a two-hour Administrative Detention. Failure to serve this detention will result in progressive discipline as outlined in the Student Handbook.

## GRADE 8 ORIENTATION PLANNED

On Thursday, February 4, Rockville High School will hold its annual Grade 8 Orientation Evening, beginning at 6:00 p.m. in the Auditorium. All students currently in the eighth grade and their parents are encouraged to attend. A presentation will introduce the RHS administration and review items about the high school such as course selection, school counseling services, and athletics and other extracurricular activities. Then parents and students will have an opportunity to tour the building and speak with representatives from all academic departments. Contact Director of School Counseling Kimberly Marinan (860-870-6050 x401 or [Kimberly.Marinan@vernonct.org](mailto:Kimberly.Marinan@vernonct.org)) for additional information about the evening's activities.

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT CAPT

The Connecticut Academic Performance Test will be administered between March 1 and March 5 for all Grade 10 students and students in Grades 11 and 12 who must retake sections of the test. School will operate on a modified schedule to accommodate the testing. All students will receive notification at home by mail in late February regarding testing times and room assignments for testing. The letter will also include information about the modified schedule for the testing days.

Grade 9 students will also be scheduled for CAPT simulation testing during this time period. Students will receive notification at home by mail in late February regarding their testing location.

Parents and students may contact Ms. Marinan in the Guidance Office with questions regarding the CAPT administration, the modified schedule, and testing locations.

## PERFORMANCE STANDARDS FOR GRADUATION

Grade 11 and 12 students who have not met the Mathematics Performance Standard for Graduation and/or the Reading/Writing Performance Standard for Graduation may participate in a three-day Mathematics, Writing, and/or Reading DPT session. Each session will include two days of remediation in the specified area followed by the administration of the District Performance Task (DPT) on the third day. Students who wish to participate in any or all of these DPT sessions should sign up with their guidance counselor. The dates for the final sessions of the school year are as follows:

### Writing – Room 150

Tue., February 2 – remediation – 2:30-4:30 pm  
Wed., February 3 – remediation – 2:30-4:30 pm  
Thu., February 4 – DPT – 2:30-4:30 pm

### Mathematics – Room 138

Tue., February 9 – remediation – 2:30-4:30 pm  
Wed., February 10 – remediation – 2:30-4:30 pm  
Thu., February 11 – DPT – 2:30-4:30 pm

### Reading – Room 150

Tue., February 23 – remediation – 2:30-4:30 pm  
Wed., February 24 – remediation – 2:30-4:30 pm  
Thu., February 25 – DPT – 2:30-4:30 pm



## ATTENTION SENIORS!

**DEADLINES:** College and scholarship applications, financial aid forms, college acceptance commitments, etc., all have deadlines that must be met.

**MIDYEAR GRADES:** Students are responsible for notifying the Guidance Office if they would like their first semester grades sent to colleges.

## SCHOLARSHIP NEWS

**Local Scholarships:** All local scholarship applications will be available online in early February through the Naviance program. A limited number of scholarship lists will also be available in the Guidance Office. An explanation of the Local Scholarship Program will be provided to all seniors by the counselors in their English 12 classes. Completed scholarship applications are to be returned to the student's counselor. Most have a due date of February 26.

The McCarthy-Miller Scholarship awards more money to seniors each year than any other local scholarship. The application requires copies of income tax returns for 2009 for the applicant and their parent(s). These applications are due to the student's counselor before April 9. Last year, \$118,000 was awarded to thirty members of the Class of 2009 and a similar amount will be awarded this year. Be certain to complete and turn in the application before the April 9 deadline.

The application for the State of Connecticut Capitol Scholarship is available online at [www.ctdhe.org](http://www.ctdhe.org) or from a counselor. Seniors who rank in the top 20% of the Class of 2010 or have scored an 1800 on one sitting of the Scholastic Aptitude Test (or 27 on the ACT) are eligible. The application deadline is February 15, 2010. The FAFSA must also be filed by this date in order to be eligible for the Capitol Scholarship. Visit [www.ctdhe.org](http://www.ctdhe.org) for additional information about this scholarship program.

The U.S. Department of Education has announced that scholarships will be available under the Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholarship Program for the 2010-2011 academic year. Byrd Scholarships are awarded to selected high school seniors for full-time study at colleges located within the United States. Students must rank within the top 2% of their class during junior year or have a combined score of 2100 or better on the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) or a composite score of 32 or better on the ACT. Additional information is available online at [www.ctdhe.org](http://www.ctdhe.org). The deadline for submission of the application is April 1, 2010.



## INFO FOR COLLEGE-BOUND SENIORS

Seniors who plan to attend college within Connecticut and live in on-campus housing must be immunized against meningitis. Contact your family physician to be sure you've received this vaccination and have proof of its administration prior to the fall semester.

## FINANCIAL AID INFORMATION

The 2010-2011 Free Application for Federal Student Aid form (FAFSA) must be completed by all seniors who are seeking financial aid. This form determines eligibility for all federal monies. The family completes this form, indicating the colleges to be informed of the results. After it is processed, the student receives a Student Aid Report (SAR). The FAFSA must be completed online after January 1, 2010 at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov).



\*\* Parents and students should visit the website in advance of filing the FAFSA to request a PIN because there is some "wait time" before the number is assigned. A separate PIN is required for parents and students. This PIN is necessary to electronically "sign" your application. Electronically signing the application allows you to save time in the filing process.

Many colleges require that students file the PROFILE financial aid form in order to qualify for any financial aid at their school. Register for your customized PROFILE application at [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com).

- Click on CSS/PROFILE under "Pay for College" on the student's home page.
- Click on the 2010-2011 PROFILE.
- Enter your [collegeboard.com](http://collegeboard.com) user name and password (or click "sign up" and provide the required information).
- Save your user name and password.
- Click on "Register for PROFILE."
- Print the Pre-Application Worksheet and Application Instructions before beginning to help you complete the PROFILE process.
- Complete the registration questions, select the colleges and programs to receive your PROFILE report, and pay the registration processing fee. Your registration information is not saved until these steps are completed.
- Register at least two weeks before the earliest priority filing date specified by your colleges and programs. Go to the PROFILE Online home page and click on "Participating Institutions" to check the priority filing date for each of your schools.



## CLASS OF 2010 CAP & GOWN MEASUREMENTS

Senior cap and gown measurements will be done on Thursday, February 25, 2010, from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the Senior Lounge. Every senior must complete their measurements on that day while the company representative is at RHS. The fee will be \$35 (graduates keep the cap & gown after Commencement). Extra tassels will be available for purchase on February 25 for \$5 (cash & carry). Checks should be made payable to Rockville High School. Please contact Class of 2010 Advisor Mr. Courtois in Room 150 or by email at [Paul.Courtois@vernonct.org](mailto:Paul.Courtois@vernonct.org) with any questions.

Other upcoming events:

- Senior Prom – Friday, May 21, 2010 at the Farmington Marriott
- Class Day outing – Friday, June 4, 2010 at High Meadow Resort in North Granby

## AG ED SENIORS

Out-of-town seniors in the Agricultural Education program may be eligible for scholarships offered by their hometown. Call your local high school to ask about any you may qualify for and complete the applications.

## JUNIOR & SENIOR ATHLETES

Students who plan to participate in Division I or Division II intercollegiate athletics during their freshman year in college must complete an NCAA Initial Eligibility Clearinghouse form. Students should register at the end of their junior year after an informed judgment has been made as to their potential at the Division I or Division II level. Prospective student-athletes should access the registration materials online at [www.ncaaclearinghouse.net](http://www.ncaaclearinghouse.net). From the home page, click on "Prospective Student-Athletes," which will link the user to the necessary information. Once the online registration is complete, the student must notify the Guidance secretary so that their transcript will be mailed in June.



NOTE TO PARENTS: Beginning with the Class of 2011 (current grade eleven), general level courses will no longer be acceptable as core courses by the NCAA Clearinghouse, making students ineligible for Division I or Division II athletic participation.

## SAT INFORMATION



The Guidance Department recommends that students register online for the SAT Reasoning and Subject Tests ([www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com)). When students register online, they receive immediate confirmation and test center assignment. They may print and/or make corrections to their admission ticket as well. The high school code for RHS is 070645. The test center code for RHS is 07-615.

The deadline for online registration for the March 13 administration of the SAT at RHS is February 4. The testing fee is \$45 per student.

Note: Most colleges and universities require that official SAT scores be reported to them directly by the College Board. Within the online registration process, students may choose up to four schools to receive their scores from The College Board at no cost. If this step is not completed during the registration process (or if scores are to be sent to more than four schools), an additional fee (\$9.50 per report) will be charged. SAT and ACT scores are not reported on the high school transcript.

\*\*As a service to its students, Rockville High School is an official site for the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT). The examination and the process of administration are the exclusive property of the College Board and any and all surveys such as the Student Search Service are not subject to any Federal Education Rights and Privacy (FERPA) regulations. Please feel free to contact the Rockville High School Guidance Office (860-870-6050 x401) or the College Board (866-756-7346) for further information.

## NATIONAL COLLEGE FAIR

The National Association for College Admission Counseling will present the Springfield National College Fair at the Big E Fairgrounds on Sunday, March 7 from 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Information regarding the event can be found at [www.nacacnet.org/NCF](http://www.nacacnet.org/NCF), including the most current listing of institutions in attendance, location, workshop information, etc. A similar event will also be held at the Connecticut Expo Center in Hartford on Thursday, April 8, 2010. Additional details about that event will be posted in the March and April newsletters

## STUDENTS AS EMPLOYEES

The Connecticut Department of Labor requires all 16- and 17-year-olds to obtain working papers in order to work within the state. A student must bring a written promise of employment from their employer to the Career Center (blue hall) to obtain this necessary document. New working papers must be obtained for each place of employment.

## RHS – HVCC CONNECTION

Submitted by Mr. Paul Courtois, Student Activities Director  
Rockville High School, along with four other area high schools, is teaming with the Hockanum Valley Community Council to help stock their new food pantry. The program asks each participating school to collect a certain type of food each month. The schools collect a different food each month. RHS is



responsible for the collection of canned **SOUP** in February. HVCC recently moved into a much larger facility that will allow them to service a larger number of needy families. However, this calls for a larger donation from the community. Please consider donating several cans of soup during February. Donations can be turned into the Main Office, Room 150, or the Guidance Office. We hope that the donation will grow with each passing month. Stay tuned for March's "food of the month"!

## SCHOOL SUPPLIES COLLECTION

Submitted by Ms. Megan Cameron,  
Counseling Department Intern

The RHS Social Workers and the Peer Advocates will be holding a gently used and new school supplies drive from Monday, January 18 through Friday, February 5, 2010. Please consider making a donation.

New supplies:

|                |                          |
|----------------|--------------------------|
| 3 ring binders | notebooks                |
| book covers    | pens                     |
| pencils        | looseleaf notebook paper |

Gently used, like-new supplies:

|                       |             |
|-----------------------|-------------|
| 3 ring binders        | book covers |
| unused notebook paper |             |

Drop-off boxes will be located in the main lobby, at the entrance by the student parking lot, and in House C. Contact Ms. Turchi or Ms. Cameron (House C) or Mrs. McTighe (Room 235) with any questions. Thank you, in advance, for your support.

## FEBRUARY POETRY SLAM

Submitted by Mrs. Victoria Nordlund, RHS Poetry Club Advisor  
Rockville High School will host the fifth annual Poetry Slam on Friday, February 12, beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the Auditorium. A dozen of Rockville's finest performance poets will compete for ultimate poet glory. Tickets will be \$5 per person and will be available at the door. Contact Mrs. Nordlund (Room 224 or [Victoria.Nordlund@vernonct.org](mailto:Victoria.Nordlund@vernonct.org)) for additional information about the Poetry Slam.

## GROUNDHOG JOB SHADOW DAY UPDATE

Submitted by Mrs. Rebecca Brodersen,  
Career Center Facilitator

Approximately eighty students have signed up to participate in our job shadowing event on February 18, 2010. Students will spend part or all of a day job shadowing the following professionals:

|                        |                    |
|------------------------|--------------------|
| Attorney               | Accountant         |
| HR/Marketing Manager   | Paramedic          |
| Firefighter            | Auto Technician    |
| Occupational Therapist | Physical Therapist |
| Vernon IT Director     | Psychologist       |
| Journalist             | Teacher            |
| Architect              | ...and many more!  |

It is too late to sign up for this year, but students should know that opportunities like this exist all year. Visit the Career Center for more information!

## SCHEDULING FOR 2010-2011

Scheduling for the 2010-2011 school year began during the exam week in January. If your student has not brought the form home for your signature, please contact their counselor by phone or email.

Students in Grades 9, 10, and 11 are required to elect a minimum of 6.50 credits. Grade 11 students must also elect Junior Seminar. Grade 12 students must elect at least 6.0 credits plus Senior Seminar.

Students should check all course options when finalizing their 2010-2011 schedules. Courses in Business, Computer Science, Art, Music, World Languages, Agricultural Education, Family and Consumer Sciences, and Technology Education all enable students to experience a well-rounded, comprehensive secondary school education.

## CLASS OF 2013 UPDATE

Submitted by Mrs. Rita Courtois and Mr. Michael Mas,  
Class of 2013 Co-Advisors

The Class of 2013's next fundraiser will be held from February 17-26. Freshmen will be selling goodies from Munson's Chocolates. All orders and payments are due by March 2 with delivery in early April, just in time for filling Easter baskets! All freshmen are encouraged to participate in this easy fundraiser to boost the class treasury which eventually will support class activities such as the proms and the senior outing. A class meeting will be held during block 1 study hall prior to February vacation to distribute the Munson's brochures and provide details about deadlines, etc.



## COMING SOON: IPOD / MP3 PLAYER REGISTRATION PROGRAM



Submitted by Ofc. Earl Middleton, School Resource Officer The Vernon Police Department, in partnership with Rockville High School, has begun offering an iPod/MP3 player registration program for the students and staff of the high school. The program is considered to be a proactive crime

prevention measure being taken to address an ongoing and increasing problem of iPod/MP3 player thefts at the high school. As a result of this program, students can register their iPods/MP3 players with School Resource Officer Earl Middleton. Students are asked to fill out and sign a registration form that includes a description of the MP3 player along with the serial number. The student must have their MP3 player present at the time of registration. It is then entered into a database and kept on a computer file. The student undergoes a brief counseling session regarding "Theft Prevention" and receives a "Safety Tips" handout. The student also receives a sticker to place on their iPod to show that it has been registered with the police. In the event that a registered iPod/MP3 player is reported "stolen" or "missing," the registered information will be accessible to the police and school administration to assist with the investigation. The pre-registration of iPods/MP3 players is not meant in any way to replace a theft report, but is considered to be another tool in the investigation of the stolen or missing items, and perhaps a deterrent to prevent some of the thefts. Once the student graduates from the high school, their information will be removed from the data base. If you have any questions please feel free to contact Officer Middleton (860-870-6050 x317 or by email at [Earl.Middleton@vernonct.org](mailto:Earl.Middleton@vernonct.org)).

## LITERARY ARTS FEBRUARY FUNDRAISER

Submitted by Ms. Erica Berg, Literary Arts Advisor

From Wednesday, February 3 through Tuesday, February 9, the Literary Arts Magazine Club will be selling Valentine's Day carnations for \$1.00 each during all lunch waves. The carnations will be delivered to recipients at school on Thursday, February 11! Get a carnation for a friend, girlfriend, boyfriend, favorite teacher, or send one as a secret admirer! See Miss Berg in Room 232 with any questions.



## ROCKVILLE HIGH SCHOOL ALLIED HEALTH PROGRAM

Submitted by Mrs. Rebecca Brodersen, Career Center Facilitator Did you know that RHS was one of the first schools in the state to offer an Allied Health program to its students? Our partnership with Manchester Community College and Rockville General Hospital has existed for nineteen years. It consists of two courses, one in the junior year, and one in the senior year. Students have the opportunity to job shadow various healthcare professionals, are exposed to basic concepts of working in the healthcare field, and learn anatomy and physiology. College credit is awarded upon completion. Students should see Mrs. Brodersen in the Career Center or their counselor for more information.

Applicants must:

- be sophomores;
- have successfully completed Algebra 1 (or higher) and Biology with a 75 or better by the end of their sophomore year;
- commit to the two years of the program;
- complete an application – due March 1;
- attend an informational meeting on Friday, February 12 from 1:15 – 1:54 p.m. in the Career Center.

Interested students should see Mrs. Brodersen at the information table outside the cafeteria on February 10 or February 11 to sign up for the meeting and receive a pass to attend. Students who are unable to attend the meeting but would still like to apply can pick up an application in the Career Center or School Counseling Office. Interviews will be scheduled for students based on completion of the application criteria and acceptable attendance and discipline records.

## "AS SCHOOLS MATCH WITS"

Submitted by Mr. Paul Courtois, Student Activities Director On March 10, RHS will compete for the first time on the television show *As School's Match Wits*, a high school quiz show produced in partnership with Westfield State College and WGBY, the PBS affiliate in Springfield. The show first aired in 1961. Rockville's team will consist of four students. They earn points by correctly answering questions in six categories: Literature, Arts and Entertainment, Math and Science, World Events, Social Studies, and General Knowledge. The episode will be taped on March 10 but the broadcast date is not known yet. Watch for team updates in future newsletters. Good luck, Rockville!

## TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION DEPARTMENT NEWS

Submitted by Mr. Matthew Kibbe, Department Chairperson  
Did you know that students can now fulfill their physical science requirement in an alternative way? Beginning with the 2010-2011 school year, students can now receive one physical science credit by successfully completing the Electronics I and Electronics II semester course offerings within the Technology Education Department at RHS. These courses enable students to apply both technical and physical science concepts while engaged in interesting hands-on activities. This gives students another option to meet their graduation requirements. Cross-credit means that students, along with the counselor, can choose whether the credit is applied toward their Science or Vocational Education requirement. The Board of Education approved this option on January 11. This is great news for students.

In addition, the RHS Electronics course also qualifies for College Career Pathways credit with Asnuntuck Community College in Enfield. Students can earn three college credits applied toward their Manufacturing Electronics & Controls Technology or Manufacturing Electronics Fundamentals program options. The equivalent Asnuntuck course is listed as MFG 137, Circuit Theory. This is another great career preparation opportunity for students to take advantage of that can lead to significant income potential. Please keep this in mind when choosing electives for the coming year.

The Technology Education Department is also pleased to announce that we have three students participating in a job shadowing experience with the Town of Vernon's Department of Information and Communication Technology. The director and sponsor of this activity is Mr. Beirn. Rockville High School students Kevin Sommers, Tiffany Fielding, and Alex Collin have signed up to attend. These students are currently enrolled in the Computer Repair - Hardware class taught by Mr. Kibbe. Former computer repair student, Tanner King, who is now working for Mr. Beirn, will assist by conducting an on-site tour of the facilities. This activity was organized through the combined efforts of Mrs. Brodersen in our Career Center, Mr. Kibbe and Mr. Beirn. This event will take place in mid-February and should be a great opportunity to help determine if this is the right career path for these students.

## ART DEPARTMENT NEWS

Submitted by Mrs. Jill Goldberg, Art Coordinator

The Vernon Public Schools' Art Department is pleased to announce the annual Student Art Exhibit in The Edith Peck Room at the Rockville Public Library from February 26 to March 30, 2010. The opening reception will be held on Monday, March 1, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Join us in a celebration of students' achievements in the visual arts. Please stop by the Library to enjoy the artwork of many talented Vernon students.



Connecticut Regional Scholastics is organized by the Connecticut Art Education Association as part of the National Scholastic Art Awards program which was created in 1927. Administered by the Alliance for Young Artists and Writers, it is now the largest student visual arts competition in the country for students in grades 7-12. Our congratulations go to the RHS students whose work was juried into the highly competitive 2010 Connecticut Scholastic Art Awards program. The students were honored at an awards ceremony at the University of Hartford Art School and their artwork was part of a month-long gallery exhibit there. Congratulations to this year's award recipients from RHS as well as to their instructors (Mrs. Goldberg, Ms. Robinson, Mrs. Stacer, and Mrs. Crowne)!

Sheila English – Gold – Painting (Special Honors for Best Traditional Media)  
Gold – Ceramics & Glass  
Silver – Mixed Media

Peter Quinn – Gold – Photography  
Amanda Arcand – Silver – Drawing  
Emily Cyr -- Honorable Mention – Drawing  
Deyquan Little – Honorable Mention – Ceramics & Glass

Deisy Morales – Honorable Mention – Sculpture  
Jesse Sullivan -- Honorable Mention – Drawing

## HOMEWORK HELPLINE

Big Y's *Homework Helpline* is now in its 18<sup>th</sup> year of providing homework assistance for students. This free service is available Monday through Thursday from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. at 800-866-2449 or online at [www.bigy.com/homework](http://www.bigy.com/homework). The *Helpline* is staffed by certified teachers with a variety of experience in many subjects. Through the years, many parents, students, and teachers have found the program to be an excellent resource. Check it out!

## ROCKVILLE HIGH SCHOOL NURSERY SCHOOL NEWS

Submitted by Mrs. Patricia Goff,  
Family & Consumer Sciences Department Head



In coordination with two high school courses (Child Development and Childhood Education), a nursery school program is available to the community.

The primary purpose of this program is for the high school students to learn about the development of young children through a truly hands-on experience in working with and planning for their development. However, they are not the only ones learning as the RHS Nursery School accepts forty preschool-aged children who attend a three morning per week program from November through May. Nursery school meets Wednesday through Friday from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Transportation must be provided by the parent or caregiver. Applications for the Nursery School program become available during the last week of February. Children must be three years old by September 2010 to be considered for acceptance. Please call 870-6050 x126 for more information about the nursery school.

## GSA NEWS

Submitted by Mrs. Bengtson, Ms. Turchi and Ms. Freedman,  
GSA Advisors





On December 16, the GSA hosted Patrick McKenna, a speaker from True Colors. He is the advocate for GSA groups in Connecticut and he was very pleased to tell us that our group is the

largest one he's visited. He shared community resources and spoke about the issues LGBTQ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgendered & Questioning) students face each day in school. Patrick also spoke about the XVII Annual True Colors Conference to be held at the University of Connecticut on March 12 and March 13. It is the largest Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans, Intersex & Ally Youth Issues Conference in the nation. For some students it is also the first time in their lives that they feel completely safe and accepted. They hold cutting-edge workshops and performances geared for youth, educators, social workers, clinicians, family members, and allies. His talk was followed by a question and answer period and wonderful homemade refreshments. Our meeting was very well attended and we were fortunate to have several faculty members stop in to show their support. Anyone and everyone is welcome to attend our meetings, even if it's just to stop in for a few minutes. The mere existence of a GSA reduces the incidences of self-harm and suicide attempts. Join us – we are the Rock of Tolerance.

## YOUR ASSISTANCE IS APPRECIATED!

Several corporations with locations in our area have programs in place that will provide funding or equipment to Rockville High School based on their customers' purchases or use of services:

- STOP & SHOP's A+ Bonus Bucks Program will donate cash to Rockville High for educational needs based on the amount of points earned by shoppers who register their Stop & Shop card online at [www.stopandshop.com/aplus](http://www.stopandshop.com/aplus). Rockville High's ID code is #06103. You can also call 877-275-2758 to register your card by phone. The program runs through March 25, 2010. Even if you registered your card last year, you must re-register it this year for RHS to receive credit. 
- The Big Y Education Express program will provide RHS with needed equipment and supplies. Customers should register their Express Savings Club card for the program and designate RHS as the beneficiary of their normal, everyday grocery spending. Visit [www.bigy.com](http://www.bigy.com) and click on the "Education Express" link to register. 
- TARGET will donate money to RHS based on your purchases using your Target Visa or Target guest card. Connect to [www.target.com](http://www.target.com) and click on "Take Charge of Education." RHS' ID number is 39284. You can also register at 800-316-6142.

## FOURTH ANNUAL OVERNIGHT VOLLEYBALL LOCK-IN PLANNED

The Vernon Drug and Alcohol Prevention Council along with the Peer Advocates and SSNAP

(Students Seeking New Achievements



Positively) Group will be sponsoring the 4th annual overnight Volleyball Lock-In on March 5 from 10:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m.

More than 250 students participated in the event last year. Students will be expected to stay for the entire event and parents will be notified if any registered students do not attend. Team sign ups will take place from February 22 to March 2. We are currently accepting monetary donations and donations of food, drinks and prizes. Please contact Kim McTighe at 870-6050 x416 or [Kimberly.McTighe@vernonct.org](mailto:Kimberly.McTighe@vernonct.org) for more information.

## **MANAGING ANGER: THE KEYS TO SUCCESS**

In collaboration with Scott Goldsmith, Licensed Professional Counselor and School Psychologist, RHS is hoping to run an eight-week anger management program for students in grades 9 through 12. This weekly, one-hour program would be offered in the evening. Participants will develop improved anger management, emotional coping and relationship skills. Most major insurance plans will be accepted. If your student might be interested, or you would like more information, please contact Mrs. Diane Madore, School Social Worker, at 860-870-6050 x409 or Scott Goldsmith at 860- 646-9668. To learn more about Scott, visit his website: <http://sgoldsmith1.tripod.com>.

## **CLASS of 2012 NEWS**

Submitted by Mrs. Diane Madore, 2012 Co-Advisor  
Class Rings will arrive soon! Rings will be distributed on February 9 outside the cafeteria during lunch waves. Final payment must be made to Josten's by that day. If final payment cannot be made by February 9, Josten's will send home a letter with different payment options. If your student is unable to pick up their ring that day, please contact Mrs. Madore at 860-870-6050 x409 to make alternative arrangements.

Our spring fundraiser selling RHS umbrellas will be held March 15 through March 26. There will be two sizes, 42-inch folding and 60-inch golf size. Umbrellas will be royal blue with a Ram logo and "RHS" in gold. Show your RHS pride and take cover from April showers by ordering your umbrella! Remind your son or daughter to get involved by stopping by House C to see Mrs. Madore. Watch next month's newsletter for an order form as well.

We will also be selling Smencils and Sniftys (scented pencils and pens) during lunch waves outside the cafeteria from March 1 through March 12. Smencils are made from 100% recycled newspaper. What a great way to make school work more fun! Tell your son or daughter to stop by our table and check out these delicious smelling pens and pencils.

## **FFA NEWS**



Submitted by the FFA Public Relations Committee

The Rockville FFA Chapter hosted the Extemporaneous and Creed Speaking contests on December 17, 2009. For the Creed Speaking contest, which is only open to freshmen, participants recite the FFA Creed to a panel of judges and answer questions on specific content. For the Extemporaneous Public Speaking contest, participants are given a topic and thirty minutes to prepare. They then give a four- to six-minute speech on their topic and answer questions from the judges. The participants this year for the Creed Speaking contest were Irene Darko, Elise Lapointe, Sarah Lueckel, Harmony Luginbuhl, and Courtney Wheeler. Finalists Irene and Sarah now move to the district contest. For the Extemporaneous Public Speaking contest, the participants were Kyle Kneeland, Tiffany Minakhom, Becky Morrill, and Kaylyn Morrill. The two finalists for this contest were Kaylyn and Kyle. Finalists Irene, Sarah, Kaylyn, and Kyle will represent the Rockville FFA Chapter at the District contests on March 11, 2010. Congratulations to all the contestants!

During the month of December, the students of the AgEd program in grades 9-12 contributed their hard work to the annual Wreath Sale. The students helped make wreaths as well as sell them to family, friends and faculty. The proceeds from this fundraiser go back into the Rockville FFA Chapter to aid in funding chapter activities.



### **Upcoming Events:**

- On February 10, the Rockville Ag Ed Department will host an SAEP Fair for all Ag students. This event will provide excellent information on the out-of-school project called the SAEP (Supervised Agricultural Experience Project) which is required for all students in the program. Sophomores, juniors, and seniors will showcase their projects at this event. All the displays will be set up outside the school auditorium.
- Following the SAEP Fair, there will be a cake and pie auction held by the Rockville FFA Auxiliary Group. A variety of donated cakes and pies will be auctioned that evening. Both of these events are open to the public. We're looking forward to a great time, and hope to see everyone there!

## CAREER CENTER SERVICES

The RHS Career Center exists to support students in making a successful transition from high school to the world beyond. Services include:

- Career Counseling
- Job Shadowing
- Employment Opportunities
- Interview Preparation/Mock Interviews
- Application, Resume and Cover Letter Support
- Working Papers
- Information regarding visits from military recruiters
- Career Speakers -- Members of the business community share career experiences and expectations with students
- Access to a comprehensive database that offers: interest inventories, college searching, resume templates and career research
- Employability skills

## TASTE OF LANGUAGES NEWS

Goedendag! 안녕하세요 (ahn nyeong ha se yo)

नमस्ते, (namaste)

Can you guess the languages in the title? The World Language Department is pleased to announce the fifth annual "Taste of Languages" for Wednesday, February 24 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at RHS (snow date February 25). Families and community members are invited to "taste" a non-traditional language and to sample some multicultural entertainment and international goodies as well. The 45-minute language "tastings" will be held in the purple hall classrooms. Attendees will then proceed to the auditorium for some multicultural entertainment. The event will conclude with ethnic culinary treats in the cafeteria. American Sign Language, Arabic, Chinese, Czech, Dutch, Italian, Laotian, Polish, Portuguese, Russian, Swahili, Tamil, Turkish, Urdu, Ukrainian, and Wolof are among the sessions that will be offered. Mark your calendars! Children ages 5-8 can be enrolled in our International Playground organized by our Juniorettes. Please enroll your child early as space will be limited. To register for the event, visit [www.vernonschools.com](http://www.vernonschools.com) and click on the Taste of Languages link. To help with this event by preparing and sharing ethnic foods and for additional information, contact World Language Coordinator Jaya Vijayasekar at 870-6050 x329 or by email at [Jaya.Vijayasekar@vernonct.org](mailto:Jaya.Vijayasekar@vernonct.org).

## ATHLETICS DEPARTMENT NEWS

Spring sports begin on March 22 (March 15 for pitchers & catchers). It's not too early for athletes to pick up paperwork and schedule a physical if they haven't played a sport this year at RHS. Stop in to the Athletic Office for more information.

### FEBRUARY SPORTING EVENTS

- Feb. 2 – Boys' Basketball at E.O. Smith  
Fr 3:45; JV 5:30; V 7:00
- Feb. 2 – Girls' Basketball vs. E.O. Smith (home)  
JV 5:30; V 7:00
- Feb. 5 – Boys' Basketball vs. Bloomfield (home)  
Fr 3:45; JV 5:30; V 7:00
- Feb. 5 (8:50) -- Hockey at Bolton/Coventry/Lyman Memorial (played at Bolton Ice Palace)
- Feb. 5 – Girls' Basketball at Bloomfield  
JV 5:30; V 7:00
- Feb. 6 (7:00) – Hockey at Tri-Town  
(played at South Windsor Arena)
- Feb. 9 – Boys' Basketball at Tolland  
Fr 3:45; JV 5:30; V 7:00
- Feb. 9 – Girls Basketball vs. Tolland (home)  
JV 5:30; V 7:00
- Feb. 10 (8:30) – Hockey at Newington-Berlin  
(played at Newington Ice Arena)
- Feb. 10 (6:00) – Wrestling vs. RHAM (home)  
\*\*Senior Night
- Feb. 11 (4:00) – Girls' Indoor Track at Class L meet
- Feb. 12 – Boys' Basketball at RHAM  
JV 5:30; V 7:00
- Feb. 12 (4:00) – Boys' Indoor Track at Class M meet (Hillhouse High School)
- Feb. 12 – Girls' Basketball vs. RHAM  
JV 5:30; V 7:00  
\*\*Senior Night
- Feb. 13 (7:40) – Hockey vs. Northwest Catholic  
(home – Bolton Ice Palace)
- Feb. 15 – Girls' Basketball at Fermi  
JV 5:30; V 7:00
- Feb. 16 – Boys' Basketball vs. Hartford Public (H)  
Fr 3:45; JV 5:30; V 7:00
- Feb. 18 (4:00) – Hockey vs. Hall-Southington  
(home – Bolton Ice Palace)
- Feb. 19 – Boys' Basketball vs. Berlin (home)  
Fr 3:45; JV 5:30; V 7:00
- Feb. 20 (7:40) – Hockey vs. Bolton/Coventry/Lyman Memorial (played at Bolton Ice Palace)
- Feb. 20 (12:00) – Boys' & Girls' Indoor Track at State Open (Hillhouse High School)
- Feb. 22 – Boys' Basketball vs. Fermi (home)  
Fr 3:45; JV 5:30; V 7:00  
\*\*Senior Night
- Feb. 25 (4:00) – Hockey vs. Wethersfield  
(home – Bolton Ice Palace)
- Feb. 27 (7:40) – Hockey vs. E.O. Smith-Tolland-Windham (home – Bolton Ice Palace)  
\*\*Senior Night

## PROM DRESS COLLECTION

The high school prom is a rite of passage for many high school students. Last year we received many requests for donations and/or prom dresses to enable RHS students to attend their prom. Vernon Youth Services is still collecting "gently used" prom dresses to assist these students with their upcoming proms. Swiss Cleaners in Vernon has graciously agreed to dry clean and bag all of the donated dresses. Please call Kim McTighe at 870-6050 x416 for more details or to arrange to drop off a dress.



## NEWS FROM THE DRAMA CLUB

The musical comes early this year as Rockville High School proudly presents *The Wedding Singer* on Friday, March 12 and Saturday, March 13. Check the March newsletter for more information about the show and about ticket sales. We hope to see everyone there!

## SELECTIVE SERVICE REMINDER

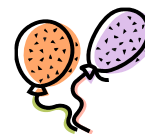
An important reminder for males who will soon celebrate their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday: federal law requires that you register with Selective Service within 30 days of your 18th birthday. When you register, you stay eligible for federal student loans, federal job training, and federal jobs. Registering is easy. See Mrs. Courtois in the Guidance Office with your Social Security number to complete the registration process that takes about five minutes.

## PARKING PERMITS REQUIRED

All students who drive to school must obtain a parking permit in the Main Office to ensure appropriate parking (in the correct lot) and to increase safety and security on school grounds.

## PROJECT GRADUATION NEWS

With the new year under way, we are working hard to make sure the graduation celebration for the Class of 2010 is the biggest and best ever. The Project Graduation celebration is free to all graduating seniors so support from parents of students of all ages is important. Our next meeting this year will be held on February 17 at Beth Waggoner's home. Please call Beth (860-871-8422) for more information if you would like to attend the meeting.



Our next fundraiser will be fun for the whole family. It is a Hypnotist Comedy Show on Friday, February 26. The doors open and an ice cream social begins at 6:30 p.m. The show starts at 7:00 p.m. The cost is \$3 for students & senior citizens and \$5 for adults. Letters will be mailed soon to RHS families in hopes that we will receive donations of time and/or money to help with this event. Advance tickets may be purchased from Mrs. Courtois in the RHS Guidance Office or by contacting Linda (860-646-1657), Sue (860-649-5164), Beth (860-871-8422), or Jeri (860-872-9601).

We are planning ahead for the festivities and one important part is the food. If you own or work at a restaurant/food store and would like to help donate food for the graduates, give us a call. Some of the favorites include wings, tacos, pizza, snack foods, water bottles, and soda. Please call Sandra at 860-872-6649 if you can help.

Mark your calendars! There will once again be a bus trip to New York City in May. Check the March newsletter for additional information about the trip.



*Go  
Rams!*

# February 2010

| Sun | Mon                                  | Tue                                  | Wed  | Thu   | Fri  | Sat |
|-----|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|---|--|-----|
|     | 1<br>Semester exams*<br>Blocks 5 & 6 | 2<br>Semester exams*<br>Blocks 7 & 8 | 3<br>Full day*<br>All 8 blocks meet<br><br>Second marking period<br>ends*                  | 4<br><b>A day</b><br><br>Third marking period<br>begins*<br><br>Online registration<br>deadline for March SAT<br><br>Grade 8 Parent<br>Orientation, 6:00 p.m. | 5<br><b>B day</b>  | 6   |
| 7   | <b>A day</b> 8                       | <b>B day</b> 9                       | <b>A day</b> 10<br><br>Second marking period<br>report cards<br>distributed to students*   | <b>B day</b> 11   | <b>A day</b> 12  | 13  |
| 14  | 15<br>NO SCHOOL<br>Winter Recess     | 16<br>NO SCHOOL<br>Winter Recess     | <b>B day</b> 17  | <b>A day</b> 18   | <b>B day</b> 19  | 20  |
| 21  | <b>A day</b> 22                      | <b>B day</b> 23                      | <b>A day</b> 24  | <b>B day</b> 25<br><br>Grade 10 CAPT<br>Assembly, 9:00 a.m.<br><br>Class of 2010 Cap &<br>Gown Measurements<br>during lunch waves                             | <b>A day</b> 26  | 27  |
| 28  |                                      |                                      | * Date subject to<br>change as a result of<br>school closings due<br>to inclement weather. |   | If school is canceled<br>due to inclement<br>weather, the rotation<br>of "A" days and "B"<br>days will continue on<br>the next school day. |     |