

Rockville TelegRAM

ROCKVILLE HIGH SCHOOL

Published monthly, September-June
70 Loveland Hill Road
Vernon, Connecticut 06066-2399
860-870-6050

NOVEMBER 2009

IMPORTANT DATES

- November 3 NO SCHOOL – Staff/Curriculum Development Day
- November 4 RHS International Tea, 2:10 p.m.
- November 7 SAT administration at RHS, 7:45 a.m.
- November 10 First marking period closes
- November 11 NO SCHOOL -- Veterans' Day
- November 12 Project Graduation meeting, 7:00 p.m., Staff Lounge
- November 18 First marking period report cards issued to students
- November 18 Student Council meeting, block 3
- November 19 Poetry Club Reading, 7:00 p.m., Library
- November 20 Mr. RHS Pageant, 7:00 p.m.
- November 25 Half day, 11:57 a.m. dismissal
- Nov. 26-27 NO SCHOOL -- Thanksgiving Recess
- December 5 SAT Administration at RHS

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

- Dec. 24-Jan. 1 Holiday Recess
- February 15-16 Winter Recess
- March 1-31 CAPT Administration at RHS
- April 8 College Planning Evening
- April 19-23 Spring Recess
- May 1 Class of 2011 Junior Prom
- May 20 Undergraduate Awards Evening
- May 21 Class of 2010 Senior Prom
- June 4 Class of 2010 Senior Outing
- June 10 Senior Awards Evening

FIRST QUARTER ENDS...

The first marking period ends on November 10. We expect to distribute report cards to students on Wednesday, November 18, 2009 (A day).



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 and WVIT 30) stations. Parents may also access Vernon information online at 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 Wednesday will be a B day when school reopens. The same policy applies for holidays and school vacations.

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. Teachers, counselors, administrators and paraprofessional staff members may also be contacted by email (first_name.last_name@vernonct.org). A complete listing of staff members' email addresses can be found on the RHS website (www.RockvilleHighSchool.org).

AREA CODE NOW REQUIRED

Beginning on November 14, the area code must be included for all local telephone calls due to the addition of a third area code for Connecticut by the Department of Public Utility Control. Visit <http://www.ct.gov/dpuc/cwp/view.asp?a=3359&q=439244> for more information.

REMINDER FROM THE ATTENDANCE OFFICE

Reporting Student Absences: Parents are expected to call the Attendance Office (860-870-6050, option 1) by 9:00 a.m. the day their student is absent. Voice mail is available 24 hours a day. Students who have been out of school must submit to the Attendance Office a written, dated, medical or parent/guardian-signed note of explanation specifying the date of and the reason for the absence within five (5) days of returning to school. Students arriving late to school beyond 10 minutes must report to the Attendance Office to sign in to school and to receive a pass to their class.

Student Visits to Colleges: Juniors and seniors whose visits to colleges or other postsecondary programs cause them to miss classes at Rockville High School must submit written documentation from the college or program before the absence will be considered an excused absence.

PERFORMANCE STANDARDS FOR GRADUATION

CAPT scores for students who completed the required testing in March 2009 were mailed to parents in early September. Grade 11 and Grade 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 are as follows:

Mathematics – Room 138

Tue., November 17 – remediation – 2:30-4:30 pm
Wed., November 18 – remediation – 2:30-4:30 pm
Thu., November 19 – DPT – 2:30-4:30 pm

Writing – Room 150

Tue., December 1 – remediation – 2:30-4:30 pm
Wed., December 2 – remediation – 2:30-4:30 pm
Thu., December 3 – DPT – 2:30-4:30 pm

Reading – Room 150

Tue., December 15 – remediation – 2:30-4:30 pm
Wed., December 16 – remediation – 2:30-4:30 pm
Thu., December 17 – DPT – 2:30-4:30 pm

SAT INFORMATION

The Scholastic Aptitude Test will be administered at Rockville High School on December 5. The registration deadline for the December test is October 30. Students can register online at www.CollegeBoard.com (registration for the SAT does not occur through RHS). While on the College Board's website, students may also learn about careers, try the Question of the Day, register for the SAT, search for colleges that meet their interests, estimate college costs, apply to colleges, look for scholarships, and more. The school code is 070645. The test center code is 07-615.

**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.

INFO FOR COLLEGE BOUND SENIORS

If you are planning to attend college within Connecticut and live in on-campus housing, Public Act 01-93 requires that you be immunized against meningitis. Contact your family's physician to be sure you receive this vaccination and have proof of its administration prior to the fall semester.

THE RHS GUIDANCE DEPARTMENT

The name of each student's guidance counselor is printed on their schedule. A student may sign up to see their counselor in the Guidance Office and the counselor will contact the student to arrange a meeting. Parents are encouraged to contact their student's counselor by phone or by email.

Guidance Office 860-870-6050, Extension 400
Ms. Kimberly Marinan, Director Extension 401
Kimberly.Marinan@vernonct.org
Mrs. Deborah Duarte Extension 403
Deborah.Duarte@vernonct.org
Mr. Michael Mas Extension 404
Michael.Mas@vernonct.org
Mrs. Rhonda Morgan Extension 405
Rhonda.Morgan@vernonct.org
Mr. David Rhoades Extension 406
David.Rhoades@vernonct.org



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. 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.

ATTENTION SENIORS!

COLLEGE APPLICATIONS: When completed, college applications should be turned in to the student's counselor for processing at least ten school days before they need to be mailed. The target date for submission of all applications is December 4. This will allow time for all applications to be processed and mailed from RHS before the holiday recess. Applications must be accompanied by an envelope (9" x 12" size recommended) addressed to the college (with no return address) and four forty-four cent stamps.

Many colleges are now encouraging students to submit their applications online but information must still be sent directly from the school, including an official transcript and counselor and teacher recommendations. Students who submit their applications online should contact their guidance counselor about having this information sent to the colleges and should provide the counselor with a stamped envelope addressed to the college.

UCONN APPLICATIONS: The University of Connecticut strongly recommends that students complete applications online. Those who wish to apply for Early Action must complete the application online by December 1. All supporting documents (recommendations, transcripts, etc.) must be postmarked prior to December 1. The Regular Admission deadline for the Storrs campus is February 1.

SCHOLARSHIPS & FINANCIAL AID: Scholarship and other financial aid information is posted in the Guidance Office and updated weekly. Updated information about the local scholarship program becomes available in early February.

FINANCIAL AID INFORMATION: 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.

- Click on CSS/PROFILE under "Pay for College" on the student's home page.
- Click on the 2010-2011 PROFILE.
- Enter your 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.

The 2010-2011 Free Application for Federal Student Aid form (FAFSA) must be completed by all seniors who are seeking financial aid. It will be available online in November. 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.

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

CAREER CENTER SERVICES

Submitted by Mrs. Rebecca Brodersen, Career Center Facilitator
The Career Center at Rockville High School exists to support students in making a successful transition from high school to the world beyond. Some of the services provided include:

- Career Counseling
- Job Shadowing— A work site experience during which a student spends time with an employee, observing structured activities and asking questions about the job and workplace
- 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

Stay tuned for special job shadowing days this year! If you are a junior or senior, are able to arrange transportation to and from the shadow site, and have been recommended by a teacher, you are eligible to participate. Start thinking now about your career interests!

RHS DRAMA CLUB NEWS

On Friday, December 4 and Saturday, December 5, the Rockville High School Drama Club will present its fall production of *Harvey*. Come see this off-beat comedy that puts a new twist on man's best friend, an invisible six-foot tall rabbit. Tickets will be \$6 for students and senior citizens and \$8 for adults.

Tickets will be sold at the door on the evenings of the performances. We look forward to seeing you in the audience!



SELECTIVE SERVICE REMINDER

An important reminder for males who will soon celebrate their 18th 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.

CREATIVE SEWING CLASS NEWS

Submitted by Mrs. Patricia Jeans,
Family & Consumer Science Teacher

The students in the Creative Sewing class are in their glory now that their foot is on the pedal and they are behind the wheel...of a sewing machine, of course! They started at the beginning of October, and already beautiful things are being produced. Our room smells of lavender and spice from our fundraising heat sacks which has really helped with purchasing some wonderful fabric, ribbons and other baubles. A small number of Halloween bags were created out of dishtowels as another fundraiser. Not only do the fundraisers help with supplies and Family and Consumer Science awards, we talk about entrepreneurship and potential for extra income either now or in their future. This year, each student embellished their choice of a handbag or a T-shirt to show off their hand stitching and creative talents. A little of this and a little of that has produced many beautiful creations which will be displayed at the end of November. So much to make and so little time! We are so fortunate with donations from the community, and we always welcome donations of flannel, cotton, laces, buttons and ribbons (not the gift wrapping kind). Donations may be dropped off in the school's Main Office. If anyone has any ideas or talents they would like to share, please contact Mrs. Jeans at 860-870-6050 (x127).



WHO WILL BE MR. RHS 2009?

The Class of 2010 will sponsor the annual Mr. RHS Pageant on Friday, November 20, 2009, beginning at 7:00 p.m. The event is a major fundraiser for the senior class and always draws a huge crowd. Senior contestants will compete in several categories for the title of Mr. RHS 2009 as well as prizes such as two free Prom tickets, a free yearbook, and a free Class Day ticket. Tickets will be \$6 per person. Advance tickets may be purchased from Mr. Courtois (Room 150) or Mrs. Courtois (Guidance Office) beginning on November 12. We look forward to a full house on the evening of November 20!



POETRY READING PLANNED

Submitted by Mrs. Victoria Nordlund, English Department Head
The RHS Poetry Club will host its first reading of the year on Thursday, November 19 at 7:00 p.m. the RHS Library. Join us for a fun-filled night of poetry and music. Admission will be \$2.00 at the door and free refreshments will be available. Come support your talented RHS poets!

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. 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 and click on the "Education Express" link to register. For more information about the program, call 800-599-9017 or email questions@bigyeductionexpress.com.
- TARGET will donate money to RHS based on your purchases using your Target Visa or Target guest card. Connect to www.target.com and click on "Take Charge of Education." RHS' ID number is 39284. You can also register at 800-316-6142.



Happy Thanksgiving!



FAMILY & CONSUMER SCIENCES DEPARTMENT NEWS

Submitted by Mrs. Patricia Goff, Department Head
The pitter-patter of little feet will soon be heard in the halls at Rockville High School as the Child Development and Childhood Education students begin running a three-day-a-week nursery school program for forty preschool-aged children from the community on November 4. While the high school students learn about, observe, and plan for the children's development, the nursery school students participate in an early childhood program that promotes their social, cognitive, physical and emotional growth. This hands-on, laboratory-based classroom is a benefit for all. Thank you to all of you that share your young children with us. The high school students are learning important life skills and knowledge that they will remember and that will help them throughout their lives.

FRUIT SALE NEWS

The World Language Department will hold its annual Fruit Sale from November 2-20. Proceeds will directly benefit students by supporting in-class and in-school World Language activities. Examples are field trips, the German American Partnership Program Exchange, end-of-year prizes, the Puerto Rico trip, and "Taste of Languages," an annual community event planned for February. Anyone interested in information about the fundraiser or in purchasing fruit for delivery in December should contact a World Language student, Ms. Osorio (Alba.Osorio@vernonct.org or x160) or Mrs. Prattson (Sara.Prattson@vernonct.org or x161).



LITERARY ARTS NEWS

The Literary Arts Magazine Club is now meeting on Tuesdays in Miss Berg's room 232! Gather your poems, short stories, artwork, plays, essays, and photos to enter them into the 2010 magazine. Don't pass up the chance to get your work published—the 2010 Literary Arts Magazine is under construction, so bring your entries to Room 232. See Ms. Berg if you would like more information or if you are interested in becoming part of the magazine staff.

NEWS FROM THE SERVICE CLUB

Submitted by Mrs. Mary Leslie & Ms. Alba Osorio, Club Advisors
The Rockville High School Service Club is hosting several activities and programs for this year. Staff members paid for the ability to "dress down" on Fridays (\$40 for a full year and \$20 for a semester). They were given a blue and yellow bracelet to wear each week to indicate their participation in "Dress Down Friday." Eighty staff members participated, raising a significant amount of money for the Service Club treasury. The club will host two Halloween parties at after-school programs at Lake Street School and at the YMCA on October 27 and 28. The Service Club is also planning to donate Thanksgiving baskets to families in need in the community. They will be collecting donations from various groups and clubs at RHS. To get involved with these programs, please contact Mrs. Leslie (Mary.Leslie@vernonct.org or x138) or Ms. Osorio (Alba.Osorio@vernonct.org or x160). The Service Club meets monthly in Room 138. All are welcome to join.

BANNER YEARBOOK NEWS

Enclosed with this newsletter is valuable information about yearbook ordering for all students and senior parent messages for the 2010 graduates. This year, the RHS Yearbook will be in **full color** -- that's right, full color -- and for the same price of \$65. Please take a minute to read over the ordering information and place your order before January 15, 2010. This year we will not be ordering any extra books so if you do not pre-order by the deadline, your student will NOT be able to get a yearbook. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact one of the yearbook advisors: Derrick Magoun (x145 or derrick.magoun@vernonct.org) and Bryan Wright (x105 or bryan.wright@vernonct.org). Thank you, in advance, for your support and patronage.

CLASS OF 2010 NEWS

Submitted by Mr. Paul Courtois, Class of 2010 Advisor
The senior class completed a VERY successful Yankee Candle sale in October with forty students earning free Senior Prom tickets through their sales efforts. Twenty-one of those forty students also earned Class Day tickets. Overall the class added nearly \$5000 to the treasury which will greatly benefit all seniors for spring activities. Candle orders will be delivered in December. Thanks to everyone who placed an order!

CLASS OF 2013 UPDATE

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



The freshman class recently completed their first fundraiser of the year with a successful pie sale, earning a profit of approximately \$600. Thank you to everyone who ordered a pie (or more) in support of the Class of 2013. The frozen pies will be delivered the week before Thanksgiving, just in time for holiday celebrations. The freshmen were also very well represented during the fall Spirit Week with many duplicate outfits on Twin Day, many colorful T-shirts on Tie Dye Day, lots of school color on Blue and Gold Day and some interesting nerdy costumes on Class Day. The class will be involved with several service projects in November and December helping with items for the Service Club's Thanksgiving baskets and sending holiday cards to service men and women who are deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan this year. Freshmen should listen for announcements about block 1 class meetings and after school activities. For more information about upcoming events, contact Mrs. Courtois (Rita.Courtois@vernonct.org or x400) or Mr. Mas (Michael.Mas@vernonct.org or x404).

GSA UP & RUNNING

Submitted by Ms. Bernice Freedman, Club Advisor
The RHS Gay Straight Alliance (GSA) is in its fourth year of meeting to increase peace and tolerance. The GSA is a proactive student-run club which meets at 2:30 p.m. in Room 118 on the first and third Wednesday of every month. The faculty advisors (Mrs. Bengtson, Ms. Turchi, and Ms. Freedman) provide a safe environment for students to meet and talk about issues related to sexual orientation and tolerance. The executive board consists of a President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary who plan and run meetings. The primary goal is to bring together *all students and staff* to end hate and promote tolerance about gender issues within our school community. For more information, call, email or visit one of the advisors.

Mrs. Bengtson -- Rm 118 -- ext. 118

Patricia.Bengtson@vernonct.org

Ms. Freedman -- Rm 229 -- ext 229

Bernice.Freedman@vernonct.org

Ms. Turchi -- House C -- ext. 410

Maria.Turchi@vernonct.org

ALLIED HEALTH PROGRAM UPDATE

Submitted by Mrs. Rebecca Brodersen, Career Center Facilitator
One of the most popular College Career Pathways programs offered at RHS is the Allied Health Program. It is a two-year program for students who may be interested in a career in Health Occupations and Technology. Students apply for the program in the second semester of their sophomore year and complete courses during their junior and senior years at RHS. Upon successful completion of the course sequence, students may receive college credits from Manchester Community College. Allied Health 1 is a one-semester course during the fall semester of junior year. It introduces students to many career options within the health care industry through class instruction, guest speakers, films, independent projects, field trips and job shadowing experiences at Rockville General Hospital and Manchester Community College. During their senior year, Allied Health students complete a year-long Human Anatomy & Physiology course. Students interested in more information about the Allied Health program, the application process, requirements for the program, etc. should see their guidance counselor, listen for morning announcements, or contact Mrs. Brodersen in the Career Center (blue hall).

PROJECT GRADUATION NEWS

Project Graduation is off to a great start this year. We are working on several fundraisers to help make the 2010 celebration the best one yet. We are always looking for volunteers so please consider joining us at the next planning meeting.

One of the most popular fundraisers is the bus trip to New York City. See the attached flyer for all the information you need to do some holiday shopping, visit a museum or see a show.

On November 14, from 8:00 to 10:00 a.m., there will be an Applebee's Flapjack Fundraiser at the restaurant at 191 Deming Street in Manchester. Start off your day supporting Project Graduation and eating some fantastic flapjacks. Tickets are available for \$5. Please contact Beth at 860-871-8422 for more information or to purchase tickets.

The next Project Graduation meeting will be held on Thursday, November 12 at 7:00 p.m. in the RHS Staff Lounge (blue hall).

FFA NEWS

Submitted by Ms. Karen Fitzpatrick, Agricultural Education
The Rockville FFA Chapter held its annual Welcome Freshman Picnic on Thursday, September 24 with 200 parents, students, and guests in attendance. The FFA officers kicked off the year with their first FFA meeting and the FFA Auxiliary (formerly known as the AgEd Parent's Group) held a Silent Auction. It was a great night!

The FFA Livestock Judging Team, coached by Mrs. Harlow, practiced their beef judging skills at the Eastern States' 4-H Beef Judging Event on Friday, September 25 after school. Juniors Danielle Skoglund and Emily Thompson and seniors Chelsea Barnett and Sarah Dewey judged three classes of beef cattle with the 4-Hers. Their state competition is on November 6. Wish them luck!

The following students participated in the Big E Corsage Making Demonstration on Thursday, October 1: Malaina Dube, Morgan Fournier, Sean Hayden, Justine Jackman, Katlyn Knapp, Jacob Lipton, Autumn Morin, Elizabeth Staples-Perry, and Leah Whitaker. These students made corsages for six hours and educated the public about The FFA Organization. The chaperones for the trip were Mrs. Brodersen and Mrs. Harlow.

Upcoming AgEd events include:

- November 6 -- Fall CDE's at UConn
- November 19 -- Ag Ed Open House for 8th Graders
- November 23 -- Advanced Leadership Conference at UConn
- November 30 -- December 4 -- Wreath Making and Poinsettia Sale



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 to obtain this necessary document. New working papers must be obtained for each place of employment.

STUDENT INFORMATION CHANGES

Please be sure to contact RHS to report any changes in student or parent addresses and phone numbers. It is important that the school have the correct information in order for students and parents to receive newsletters and other important information by mail throughout the school year. Parents may call the Main Office (860-870-6050) with new information.

VERNON DRUG AND ALCOHOL PREVENTION COUNCIL

The Vernon Drug and Alcohol Prevention Council is a long-standing decision-making body that provides funding for local prevention activities and assists in the development of state and local policy with regard to substance use prevention. Local police, school administrators, parents, Youth Services staff, local non-profit staff, and especially RHS youth sit on this vitally important council.

Most of the Council's work is unseen and unknown to most Vernon residents but this quiet group helps our youth in so many ways. Another example of the Council's work is the funding of overtime for Vernon Police to conduct "compliance checks" of alcohol sellers – making certain that liquor stores and grocery stores are not selling alcohol to underage youth. In short, the Council helps fund, protect, educate and ensure the safety of Vernon youth. It was the Council that provided the funding to purchase breathalyzers at RHS and the Council pushed for policy change at the Board of Education to allow the use of these breathalyzers. Last year Council-funded programs reached more than 1,500 students and 800 parents. Be assured that we will continue our efforts on behalf of your children and you!

Council Membership: RHS administration and guidance, Vernon Police, KIDSAFE CT, parents, RHS Peer Advocates, Vernon Public Schools Central Office, ERASE, Vernon Youth Services

We are looking for parents to become members of the council. For more information or if you are interested in joining, please contact Alan Slobodien, Director of Vernon Youth Services (860-870-3557).

HOMEWORK HELPLINE

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

HOW THE "HOUSE PARTY" LAW IMPACTS PARENTS

Contributed by Mrs. Kim McTighe, Peer Advocates Advisor



Many parents are unaware of the House Party Law, Public Act 06-112, which went into effect three years ago (October 1, 2006). The House Party Law makes it illegal for youth to possess alcohol on private property, unless accompanied by their parent or legal guardian. Under the "house party" statute, minors are subject to fines of up to \$500, while adults -- anyone from friends to siblings to other parents -- who permit minors to drink at their home, would be fined at the first offense, and possibly jailed for repeat offenses.

This law does not make it illegal for parents to provide alcohol to their own children. Rather, it prevents other adults from knowingly allowing children other than their own to possess alcohol on private property.

Why was this law necessary? House parties are *the* primary source by which youth obtain alcohol. In fact, 77% of high school students report obtaining alcohol at home, with or without parental permission. This law reduces easy access to alcohol by youth and holds teens and adults accountable for their behavior. Finally, this law reinforces a consistent message that underage drinking is unhealthy, unsafe, and unacceptable. For more information about the House Party Law, visit www.housepartybill.org. For more information about the dangers of underage drinking, please visit www.settherulesct.org.

FRIENDS CLUB FUNDRAISER

The Friday Friends Club will hold a Friendly's Fun Night fundraiser at the Vernon restaurant on Route 83 on Monday, November 2 from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Please come and support this worthy cause by enjoying dinner or ice cream that evening at Friendly's. The Friends Club will receive a percentage of the sales for that evening (take-out orders count too).

ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT NEWS

Thanksgiving Day Game: Advance tickets for the Thanksgiving Day football game at South Windsor will be sold on Monday, November 23 & Tuesday, November 24 from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and on Wednesday, November 25 from 8:00 a.m. to noon. The price will be \$5.00 for everyone in advance or at the gate on Thanksgiving Day. The Thanksgiving Day game begins 10:30 a.m.

Winter Sports Team Information: Before a student may participate in try-outs for a winter sport, they must submit either a physical form or a note from their doctor stating they may participate in a sport (dated May 1, 2009 or later) to the Nurse's Office. Students who participated in a fall sport must pick up their card in the Nurse's Office prior to try-outs. Permission forms for all winter sports must be picked up in the Athletic Office or downloaded from the website. All forms must be submitted to the coach on the first day of practice.

Try-outs for the girls' basketball team will begin on Monday, November 23. All other winter season sports teams will hold their try-outs beginning Monday, November 30 (boys' basketball, wrestling, hockey, and boys' and girls' indoor track). Winter sport coaches will hold informational meetings in November. Students should listen to the morning announcements for dates and times.

Student-athletes and parents should check out the Athletic Department's website at www.vernonschools.com. The site contains RHS sports schedules (linked to the CIAC website) with accurate, up-to-date information about days, times, and locations for each sporting event. All paperwork that athletes are required to submit to their coaches is also available in addition to contact information for the coaches, the Student-Athlete Handbook, and Travel Release forms.

NOVEMBER SPORTING EVENTS

- Nov. 2 (6:30) – Boys Soccer vs. Fermi (home)
JV plays at 4:30
- Nov. 2 (6:30) – Girls Soccer at Fermi
JV plays at 4:30
- Nov. 5 (3:00) – Fr. Football vs. Plainville (home)
- Nov. 6 (6:30) – Football vs. Plainville (home)
Senior Night
- Nov. 9 (3:00) – JV Football at Ellington/Somers
- Nov. 12 (3:00) – Fr. Fball vs. NW Catholic (home)
- Nov. 14 (10:30) – Football at Northwest Catholic
- Nov. 16 (3:00) – JV Fball vs. NW Catholic (home)
- Nov. 19 (3:00) – Fr. Football at South Windsor
- Nov. 21 (10:00) – JV Football at South Windsor
- Nov. 26 (10:30) – Football at South Windsor
Thanksgiving Day game



VETERANS DAY

On Wednesday, November 11, Rockville High School students and staff (as well as many working parents) will enjoy a day off. Do you know why?

When Francis Scott Key wrote the “Star Spangled Banner” nearly 200 years ago, he called America, “the land of the free and the home of the brave.” Those words are as true today as they were then. Throughout our history, America’s soldiers, sailors, airmen, marines, and coast guardsmen have answered the call to defend our freedom, to aid our friends and allies, and to turn back aggressors. We can never fully repay our debt of gratitude to the more than 650,000 American service members who died in battle or the 1.4 million who were wounded. However, we can recognize and thank the 25 million veterans still living today.

These words are inscribed on the Korean War Memorial in Washington, D.C.: “*Our nation honors her sons and daughters who answered the call to defend a country they never knew and a people they never met.*” Those words also apply to many of our World War I, World War II, Vietnam War and Gulf War veterans, as well to today’s active duty service members (tomorrow’s veterans) who are helping to maintain peace throughout the world.

Today, it should be our privilege to say “thank you” to all of America’s veterans, to let them know that we appreciate them for their service and honor them for their sacrifices. So, on this Veterans Day, as we celebrate America’s veterans for keeping this nation “the land of the free and the home of the brave,” be sure to thank a veteran!

