

**GOOD NEWS GRAMS... FROM
ROCKY HILL PUBLIC
SCHOOLS...**

FEBRUARY 12, 2009

Rocky Hill High School

The football team had a 10-1 regular season and went to the state semi-finals. Two members of the team were selected for all-state Collin Boske and Joey Carducci.



Art teacher, **Eileen Schnyder**, reported that five students from Rocky Hill High School won awards at the Annual Connecticut Scholastic Art Awards Competition. Organized by the Connecticut Art Education Association (CAEA), this yearly competition is part of the National Scholastic Art Awards program and is one of the largest in the country. The goal of this recognition program is to honor creative excel-

lence in the arts. Each teacher from over a hundred schools across the state, including large public and prestigious private schools, can enter 4 student works. These works are then reviewed by panels of artists, educators, arts professionals and gallery and museum professionals and awarded gold keys, silver keys or honorable mentions in a variety of categories. Over a thousand entries are reviewed each year and only half are selected, so it is an honor simply to be included in this highly competitive and prestigious recognition program.

The winners from Rocky Hill

High School include: William Pazdzioca who won a gold key in the painting category. Rebecca Rhoads won a silver key in the ceramics/glass category. Jennifer Beaty won an honorable mention in the ceramics/glass category. Pawel Kania won an honorable mention in the sculpture category. Joshua Frey won an honorable mention in the computer art category.

The work will be displayed at the Silpe Gallery at the Hartford Art School until February 5, 2009.



MUSIC MASTERY



Claire Burnett, Rocky Hill Schools Music Program Supervisor would like to recognize the following students for their music achievements: Northern Region High School Chorus on Saturday, January 17, 2009 at New Britain High

School at 5:00 pm: Gianna Acca (10), Derrick Holmes (9), William Pazdziora (12), Tabitha Pindell (11), Abigail Rosenberger (11)

New England Music Festival Chorus on Saturday March 21, 2009 at Coginchaug High School in Dur-

ham at 2:00 pm: Alexandra DiBacco (11), William Pazdziora (12), Tabitha Pindell (11).

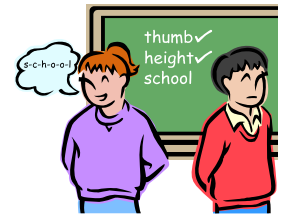
Please note: Selection to both groups is by competitive audition.

SPELL S-U-C-C-E-S-S AT GRISWOLD MIDDLE SCHOOL!

Congratulations to the six grade students who won the class spelling bees! These **Burgundy Team** students will participate in the grade 6 team spelling bees: Heather Shonta, McKayla Poliquin, Jacob Tvaronaitis, Ana Engelhardt, Brittany Belgrave-Sealy, Alyssa Gualano, Matt Fazzina, Morgan Robb, Dylan Belardi, and Erika Smith. Good luck to all! 8th grade **Royal Team** teacher **Colleen McClain** reports the Lan-

guage Arts Classroom Spelling Bee winners: Yvis Rodriguez, Matthew Gamelin, Mallory Monaco, Prachi Shah, Kathleen Barry, Runners-up were: Alpa Kotak, Alexa Louro, Stephen Lamari, Miranda Piacentini, Holly Knoechel. These ten students will compete in the upcoming Royal Team Spelling Bee to see who will move on to the schoolwide competition. The Red Team language arts teachers announce that the following students will compete in


our team bee on January 16th: Michael Costello, Natalie Fulco, Hope DeJohn, Aleksander Kocaqi, Gabriela Whonder, Ryan Steinman, Xander Casey, Kara Bates and Abby O'Keefe.



WINTER ARTS FESTIVAL

Rebekah Harding, Music teacher, announced that GMS held its Winter Arts Festival. Families had the opportunity to view art work created by 6th, 7th, and 8th graders and hear performances from string ensembles, choirs, concert bands and jazz band. It was a huge success.

COOKIES AND COMMUNITY

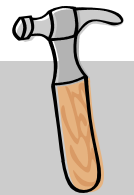
 **Cheryl O'Connor**, Family & Consumer Sciences said: "Some of our 7th grade students had a wonderful opportunity to bake cookies with senior citizens from Emeritus. Students and seniors worked together to measure, mix and bake cookies. The cookies were brought back to Emeritus to be shared with all the other senior citizens. It was a great experience for all those that attended. Another exchange is scheduled for next quarter."

GO TEAM!

 **Amy Hall**, Cheerleading Coach says, "School spirit is in full force at GMS! The GMS Cheerleaders have been cheering on both the boy's and girl's home basketballs teams. The cheerleaders have been working very hard since October, learning new cheers, routines and even two different cheer dances! The Griswold bear has also been making guest appearances at our home games, helping to pump up the crowd and show our school spirit."

HANDWORKS AT GMS

Technology teacher **Steve Patarini** submitted: The GMS woodworking club had eight students stay after school to build wood framed mirrors in the shop with Mr. Patarini, Mr. Benson and Mr. Siciliano. Explore and Soar funds allowed students to use fine hardwoods such as cherry, black walnut, ash, and white oak to build their mirror frames. Tri-State Glass of Old Saybrook generously donated all the mirror materials for the project. All the students completed their mirrors by Christmas and many were given as holiday gifts.



A trip is planned to visit Mr. Siciliano's high school wood shop to see student projects there and perhaps do a little woodworking too. Several former GMS wood club members are now star woodworking students at Rocky Hill High School. Congratulations on finishing your mirrors to: Mike, Evan,

Stevens School

Congratulations to **Kristen Spain**, 5th grade Social Studies teacher, and **Jilani Scherer**, Art teacher, for their good news! Read the letter they received from **Picturing America** as a result of their request for materials for their classrooms:

*"Congratulations! Your institution has been awarded **Picturing America**, a free education resource of the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), distributed in cooperation with the American Library Association.*

***Picturing America** award materials include forty images mounted on twenty double-sided, laminated posters for display and classroom use and a teachers resource book. These materials will be shipping to awardees in March and April of 2009, and will be yours to keep at no cost."*

Check out their website at: <http://picturingamerica.neh.gov/about.php> Great art speaks powerfully, inspires fresh thinking, and connects us to our past.

Moser School

Moser School student, staff and volunteers had a picnic lunch in the gym to watch the historic inauguration of President Barack Obama. The gym was patriotically decorated in red, white and blue streamers and stars by second grade teacher **Sandy Fravel**.



Mystic Aquarium will visit Kindergarten classrooms with their "Suitcase of Surprises" at Stevens School. Children first learn about ocean animal survival by using colorful and lifelike props in a role play game. The second part features a "touch and learn" experience as students may handle live sea creatures under the guidance of the Mystic Aquarium Educator.

Suzy Kline, author of the Horrible Harry book series as well as smaller series of the characters Song Lee and Herbie Jones will give presentations on January 29th for grades 1 through 3. Ms. Kline's books are written at grades 1-3 reading levels and she has authored over 50 children's books to date.





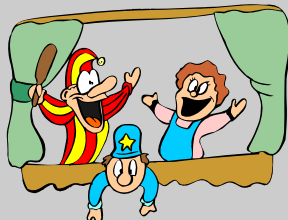
West Hill kindergartens are excited about becoming readers! The teachers and support staff

have collaborated to create an enriching literacy program including guided reading and phonemic awareness. Our students are focusing on story elements during shared reading.

Judy Buch and her puppets presented a show aimed at bully prevention and character education for West Hill students with emphasis on responsibility, respect, and creative thinking and problem solving through vignettes. With Judy, the students will identify respectful, responsible behaviors, and also recognize some of the unacceptable behaviors at school. Through the art of ventriloquism with her "peoploids," Judy uses routines demonstrating helpful and hurtful behaviors and how to resolve is-

sues. She includes volunteer participation to demonstrate how

to stand up for another student without putting anyone in danger.



Sandy Phair, second grade teacher, is excited to see the Chinese Ribbon Dancers who are coming in February to share their ancient dances that represent every province of China. Mrs. Phair's students have been learning about China, the Chinese people and the Chinese New Year. It is always an exciting unit of study! Thanks to a grant from the Explore and Soar funds, they are able to see this special performance.



The Rocky Hill *Explore and Soar* program seeks to bring quality enrichment programming to all of the students in the Rocky Hill Public Schools.

Enrichment sparks ideas, creativity, motivation, imagination and life-long learning.

For more information contact:

Marguerite Alpert, Enrichment Coordinator, K-12

Phone: 860-258-7706

Fax: 860-258-7710

E-mail: alpertm@rockyhillps.com