



EAST ROCHESTER UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT School District News

Fall/Winter 2017

Inside.....

- Three Students Recognized for Musical Talents2
- Commended Student3
- Golden Apple Award4
- Goin' Bald for Bucks5
- Spirit Week6
- ER Area Military Veterans7
- November Calendar8

Follow us on

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Please consider applying to work as a substitute food service worker or teacher aide in the East Rochester School District. Applications can be found at www.erschools.org Employment Opportunities.

What's New

We are off to a wonderful start in the East Rochester School District and there are a number of new and exciting things happening in our schools. One example of something new is our newsletter. This year, we developed a new process for producing our newsletter including the work of students from Ms. Hankins' Journalism Class. The students provide us with valuable perspectives on our school community and in turn, they learn real-world journalism lessons. They are also learning about integrating technology by using Google Documents and working with graphic design professionals. Thank you to Ms. Hankins and her students for their willingness to support our District!

Another new component of our newsletter is that we will be producing it more regularly. Historically, there have been four editions of the newsletter mailed to district residents, and this will continue. In addition, starting in January 2018, you will have access to online newsletters via our District's website. Online editions will be shorter than the hard-copy versions and will include up-to-date news stories, links and pertinent information. Please let your friends, neighbors and relatives know that they will be able to access our online editions at www.erschools.org.

The newsletters will continue to include information about school-related events and activities and you will still hear from East Rochester Alumni Foundation members. We will no longer have ER Town/Village News within our newsletter, however. Our newsletter will allow you to learn about many of the new things that are happening in our school district. For now, read on and enjoy learning why **ER S.O.A.R.S.**



APP

Download our app to your mobile device by searching for "East Rochester Union Free School District" in your app store.

Our Core Values: S.O.A.R.S.

Students First: *Students are our first priority. We dedicate ourselves to holistic student development in a safe, nurturing environment.*

Opportunity: *We provide every student equal access to strong academic programs, clubs, teams and events that enable students to reach their fullest potential.*

Achievement: *Everyone can improve. We collaborate to learn, observe, measure and grow. We proudly celebrate achievements.*

Responsibility: *We are all accountable to ourselves, to our students and to each other. Our shared responsibility is to be respectful.*

Strength: *Together, we will accomplish excellence.*

School Board Recognition

Thank you to our school board members for their service to our school and community.



East Rochester Board of Education Members

Standing: Tim Henry, Matt Hogan, Margy Richards. Seated: Vice-President Vincent Antonicelli, President Jennifer Majewski-Lesinski, Board Clerk Kristen Adler

Strength: PK-12 Curriculum Nights Well-Attended

One of the many strengths of the East Rochester School District is the connection that exists between ER families and the schools. Curriculum Nights, which occur at the start of each school year, highlight the value of parents and teachers collaborating on behalf of students.

On September 18, the *Fourth Annual 6-12 Block Party* (a.k.a. Curriculum Night) took place in front of the school facility. Attendees visited information booths and subject area tent stations. Mr. Fee's culinary classes prepared tacos-in-a-bag and live music was performed by vocal and instrumental groups.

September 28 was reserved for parents of PK-fifth-grade students. Classroom teachers and service providers described their daily schedules, classroom expectations, and, of course, the learning that would be taking place throughout the school year.

The partnerships and relationships that are initiated during Curriculum Nights are critical in making us stronger!



Strength: Elementary Shared Decision Making Team

Members of the East Rochester community may be very aware of the constant bustle and activity in the Elementary School, but behind the scenes there is a group that makes it all possible. This group, the Elementary Shared Decision Making Team, is the backing to many of your favorite events.

Four elementary teachers, four parents, and an administrator make up this team. Each team member comes from their own significant place in the community, they bring their own concerns. "Parents will bring issues that they hear from the community, the teachers will bring in issues they hear about in school, and we just talk about them," says member Denise Alfieri, and since every issue carries the same weight, every member's voice is heard equally.

This year, much like past years, the Elementary Shared Decision Making Team is spotlighting the New Family Dinner and Learning Night, both of which always receive positive feedback. The former is a nerve-calming night, which provides a place for new students and their families to put a foot into East Rochester programs early in the year. New students are able to meet teachers and browse clubs they may want to join. And the latter, contrary to its name, is very kid-oriented. Learning Night includes many activities, such as musical chairs, sight-word fishing, reading dogs, and writing workshops.

All great projects must first start as an idea or goal. Last year and this year, the Elementary Shared Decision Making Team set its sights on increasing parent involvement in the school. Parents who may have negative feelings about their school experiences, tend to shy away from involvement in things pertaining to their child's schooling. The Shared Decision Making Team wants to welcome parents into the school and show them how their involvement can improve the school experience for their child and for many other children, which is always our top priority.

Achievement: Three East Rochester Students Recognized for Musical Talents

Senior trumpet player **Alex Ziebarth** has been named to the All State Jazz Band, and is seated as the #5 jazz trumpeter statewide. Junior clarinetist **Talor Marren** has been named to the All State Symphony Orchestra. Talor's inclusion in the symphony means that she is one of the top three clarinetists in the state.

Talor, and sophomore flute player **Haylie Cyrkin**, have also been named to the Area All State orchestra and band, which are comprised of the top musicians from our eight-county region.

Thank you for modeling that time, effort, and practice are required for high achievement.



(L to R): Haylie, Alex, and Talor are SOAR-ing in instrumental music.

Achievement: Rebekah Boy Commended as Promising Scholar



Over 1.6 million students took the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test last October, and 50,000 of the highest scorers were identified. ER Senior, Rebekah Boy was one of these students. Rebekah was named a Commended Student by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation. Commended Students are recognized for their exceptional academic promise as demonstrated by their outstanding performance on the qualifying test.

Opportunities: Teens-and-Tots Learning Together

We are continuously looking for fiscally responsible ways to increase opportunities for East Rochester students and families. One result of these efforts is a new partnership with Monroe #1 BOCES and its *Teens-and-Tots* program, which is being held within the East Rochester School District facility. In the *Teens-and-Tots* program, eleventh and twelfth grade students from surrounding school districts work closely with 2 and 3 year old children in a BOCES-run preschool program. Participating high school students learn about stages of child development, cognitive, language, social, emotional, and physical development through research and classroom instruction and then they have the opportunity for practical application in the on-site preschool.

The Early Childhood Education Program's presence also allows participating high schoolers to offer supports within our preschool and kindergarten programs. Students push-into classrooms and support individual or small groups of students. Having another pair of hands to assist with our youngest students is an invaluable resource!

In addition to offering this opportunity for high school students, East Rochester families are eligible to send their two- and three-year-old children to the BOCES-run Early Childhood program, if space allows. Information regarding the program can be found at www.monroe.edu/webpages/preschool/index.cfm or by contacting Danielle Depeaux at (585) 387-3835 or Danielle_Depeaux@boces.monroe.edu.

A special thank you to the **East Rochester Alumni Foundation** for supporting this program and providing financial support for identified ER families that participate in the BOCES preschool program 2 and 3 year olds.



Opportunities for Achievement at ER Elementary School

Box top Contest

Early in October, each grade level worked together in order to bring in the most box tops. Although all students were very enthusiastic, second-graders claimed the win and the pizza party! Box tops help to raise funds for the ER PTA.

Fire Prevention Week

The week of October 9-13 was dedicated to teaching students fire safety. For the younger students, fire trucks parked in front of the school so students could go out, see the trucks, meet firefighters and be informed on what to do in case of a fire, while older classes visited and got a tour of the fire hall.

Chase Farms

Second grade classes enjoyed a field trip to Chase Farms on October 10, and returned with potatoes!

Ganondagan Reservation

On October 17, fourth-graders took a field trip to the state historic site in Victor. They learned about Native American culture and toured the long houses.

Bus Tour

Second-graders took a bus tour of East Rochester on October 17.

Opportunities:



TIES (Together Including Every Student) is a program which promotes the participation of children/young adults with developmental disabilities in extracurricular and community activities by providing effective support. This support is provided by trained student volunteers in grades 8-12 in the East Rochester School District.

Participants and volunteers join a wide variety of activities, sports programs, after-school activities, drumming circles, school of religion, etc. Volunteers attend a 45-minute training session at their school. The time commitment is based on the volunteer's schedule.

If you are interested in volunteering or have questions about TIES, please contact Laura Connard at 746-1738 or laura.connard@erschools.org.

Strength: Eighth-Grade Science Teacher Jason Brownell Honored with Golden Apple Award

On Tuesday, October 10, Mr. Jason Brownell was rewarded for his excellence in leadership and teaching. One of his former students, Paulina Lexer, who nominated Mr. Brownell, said, "Mr. Brownell didn't just teach me science, but he taught me how to overcome obstacles." After winning the Golden Apple Award, although it was difficult for him to find the words, Mr. Brownell stated, "After being someone who wasn't good at science, then getting to excel at it is something that is very important to me."

Congratulations Mr. Brownell!



Responsibility:

MLA Students Promote Digital Citizenship

"Privilege comes with proof of competence." This quote can be useful when teaching young adults new skills or when giving them increased responsibilities. Parents and/or teachers can assist children by letting them know that, as they demonstrate increased competence, less adult supervision may be needed--this doesn't mean that adult supervision has to disappear. One of the primary places where "privilege" and "competence" apply is in the realm of social media.

It is incumbent on all of us to model the appropriate use of social media and technology, and we should monitor the social media accounts of children. Young adults rely on role models to show them what's acceptable. Being able to use social media independently is a privilege. Its use by children should be guided and monitored so they can become increasingly competent.

Strength: Elementary School New Family Dinner

On Wednesday, October 4, members of the Elementary School staff provided a dinner for families who are new to the East Rochester community. Attendees enjoyed pizza, salad, a beverage and good company. Community groups were also present so students could sign up for activities and clubs. This "strengthening" activity is sponsored by the Elementary School Shared Decision Making Team and is supported by the East Rochester Alumnae Foundation.



Before you speak:
THINK
T = Is it True?
H = Is it Helpful?
I = Is it Inspiring?
N = Is it Necessary?
K = Is it Kind?

Responsibility: MLA Adopts a New Vision

Important journeys must begin with a destination in mind. Faculty, staff, and students in the Middle Level Academy (MLA) helped clarify their destination by creating an MLA Vision Statement that emphasizes three necessary components for school success: Self, School, and Community. The additional focus on continuous improvement and togetherness will be used to guide staff and students throughout the school year.

The reorganization of administrative assignments allows Mr. Cafalone to connect and collaborate with MLA faculty and students. Mr. van Harssel, Mr. Cafalone, and the MLA staff, students, and parents will be doing the "heavy lifting" needed to achieve the vision! The MLA Vision Statement can be found on banners hanging above the main entrance to the Middle Level Academy and in MLA hallways.



Strength: Goin' Bald for Bucks in ER



Goin' Bald for Bucks is a compassionate gesture that young people make to benefit those in need. On October 24, 11 students chose to either cut 8 inches of their hair or shave their heads. This was done to show support for a student who was diagnosed with lymphoma. Zoe Zutes, a freshman, saw an opportunity to help a friend and took a brave stand to shave her head and start a movement. Asking Zoe why she did this, she said,

“Six weeks ago when I found out Hannah was nervous about losing her hair, I dropped everything and decided to shave my head. The last thing I would want is for Hannah to feel uncomfortable in her own skin and her appearance at school.”

Zoe went through the *Bald for Bucks* website and then spread the word. In a matter of days she raised hundreds of dollars to support her campaign. The amazing part is that all of the donated funds stay in Rochester and go toward the *13thirty* Cancer Center at Roswell.

Six years ago, 2017 ER graduate, Gabriella Lexer shaved her head as part of a *Bald for Bucks* fundraiser. Today Gabriella says,

“*Bald for Bucks* is the most rewarding experience I have had in my life thus far. I’ve met such amazing people because of the program and I knew I was making a difference the entire time. I honestly wouldn’t be me if I hadn’t done *Bald for Bucks*.”

The act of shaving one’s hair makes the person with cancer, and who has to experience much greater sacrifices, feel like they’re not alone. That is a very beautiful and selfless thing. Big thanks to Mr. van Harssel who had his head shaved to show ER students how they could get involved. Thank you to all the students who raised money for this event, pictured below L to R: Miles Sirois, Tanner Swagler, Jacob Mercado, Paulina Lexer, Hannah Griffith, Zoe Zutes, Samantha Freiburger, Autumn Reeves, Emma Henrichs, Amalia Bridson and Abigail Weltman. Not pictured: Cory Wilkinson. #bombersgobaldforbucks.



Achievement: ER Faculty and Staff Earn Tenure



L to R: Ms. Hesiman, Ms. Kirchmaier, Mrs. Schutterop, Miss Cicero, Miss D’Ercole, Mrs. Flynn, Mrs. Cassavaugh

On Wednesday, October 11, 2017, a number of dedicated professionals were celebrated for earning tenure:

Faculty Members: Alexandra Barnes, Alyse Palumbo, Tia Kirchmaier, Kerry McMillan, Hannah Cicero, Kristina D’Ercole

Teaching Assistants: Kathy Fitzsimmons, Kim Flynn, Michelle DeMay, Laura Connard, Laura Heisman, Erika Roos, Shannon Dunn, Cassie Kerg, Janine Burns, Katie Cassavaugh, Thang Bui, Vince Correa, Paul Girouard, Christine Schutterop

Administrator: Mary Gullace

Congratulations to these dedicated professionals!

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Find us online:
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Achievement: High School Journalism Students Get Real-World Insights

Students in Ms. Hankins' Journalism class learned from two of Rochester's most prominent news people. Rebecca LeClair (pictured at left), former news anchor on Channel 10, and Justin Murphy, a writer for the *Rochester Democrat and Chronicle*, spoke to students about their experiences in journalism, communications, and marketing. In addition, students asked questions about the positive and negative impacts of technology on reporting and they learned how they can improve their craft as writers.

Mr. Stephen Dawe and Mrs. Heather Campo, communications experts from Monroe #2 BOCES, spoke with students about the practical sides of reporting, including: print requirements, website design, and things to consider when producing a final product.

When asked what she learned from meeting with people who are doing the work of journalists in real-life, ER STUDENT, **Kaitlynn Pacher** said, "It gave me an idea on what the day in the life is as a journalist. I learned things I never even thought of before talking with them." Student **Francesca Alfieri** added, "Hearing an outside source from someone who lives the life of journalism, we as a class got to see the difference between old and new news, all writing types,



Former News10 NBC journalist, Rebecca LeClair, shares her insights with the high school Journalism class.

layouts, and how to connect better as a school. The most interesting part was hearing about all the struggles a journalist goes through with the drastic change from old media to evolving media with everything being online or hand held."

Students will apply their new learning during the creation of District Newsletters (hard copies and online), school newsletter *ER's Voice*, and in-class assignments. Journalism is one of many elective classes from which students can choose.

Students First:

Spirit Week Promotes Unity Within School

Spirit Week occurred early this school year, but that didn't dampen the spirit of students in the Middle Level Academy or High School. There were plenty of events taking place during the week of September 18-22, including fashion-themed days, (see Principal, Mr. van Harssel on Mis-Match Day pictured at left). Congratulations to the Juniors and Freshman on winning the PowderPuff game this year.



Students First:

After-School Advantage

Meeting students' individual needs is a crucial part of the success of East Rochester Schools. Through After-School Advantage, not only does the school fulfill this, but it also provides a comfortable environment where students can ask for help with homework or simply have a designated time and space to accomplish assignments.

Led by Tina and Paul Finn, this program is a student favorite, every library table is filled. Ms. Luce, Mr. Girouard, Mr. and Mrs. Finn can be seen constantly bustling around the library, helping out with a difficult problem or offering words of encouragement. Monday through Thursday students have an open invitation to take advantage of East Rochester's "computers and supplies for projects, and support from teachers," says Tina Finn.

As well as being beloved by the students, it is also greatly appreciated by the community. This community does not simply tip its hat in respect, though. Many members, like the East Rochester Alumni Foundation, the PTA, Wegmans, Tops, Lilac Dental, ESL, and more, contribute donations for this program.

After-School Advantage has inspired students to reach for success, and it will continue to serve as a stepping stone towards higher achievement.

East Rochester Area Military Veterans

The East Rochester Alumni Foundation added a Veteran's Page to its website (erschools.org/alumni.cfm) on Veteran's Day, November 11, 2017. The purpose of this page is to honor and thank current and former area residents who chose to serve and protect our country as members of one of our country's Armed Services. This page will become a permanent part of our website.

To add someone (yourself, a family member or friend) **please e-mail as much of the following information as you have available** to Ms. Kimberly Romach at Kimberly.Romach@gmail.com.

Mr. /Ms. Last Name, First Name

Branch of Service, Years Served (ex. 1963-1967)

Theater(s) of Operations (ex. WWI, WWII, Korea, Vietnam, Okinawa, Desert Storm, Ft. Sill, Andrews AFB, Continental U.S.)

High School Attended

Other (ex. B-17 Navigator, USS America CV-66, 1st Marine Regiment, 82nd Airborne, 1st Infantry, USNA)

A Birthday With Honor



As noted in past district newsletters our Alumni Foundation has begun a veterans' page for our website. This site serves to "honor current and former area residents who have chosen to serve and protect their country as members of America's armed forces." While there are many veterans in the area, this story is about one special veteran.

This November Wilbur H. Cooper of the ER Class of 1935 will celebrate his 100th birthday. After graduating from East Rochester Bill attended Hobart College, and soon after graduation was drafted into the army. Beginning in 1941, his 94th Infantry Division participated in maneuvers in the Tennessee woods where strategies and tactics were developed that were eventually used by General Eisenhower, who credited the Division with a major part of his victory. Bill received an honorary Masters of Military Science Degree from Cumberland University for his work. In Europe Bill and the 94th Division joined Patton's Third Army and fought in the Battle of the Bulge.

Bill still lives in the area and enjoys spending time with his family. He and his wife have been married for 71 years. Bill is a lifelong fan of big band music, and as his son says, a devoted supporter of the Buffalo Bills and the Sabres – and is praying for championships for both in his lifetime.

A few years ago, Bill delivered a copy of his book From V-Mail to Email to our East Rochester Department of Local History. The book chronicles his life from childhood through World War II to work and family, and ends with his 90th birthday in 2007. Bill shares memories of a life well-lived. The History Department appreciates his gift as well as his life's reflections.

The Alumni Foundation congratulates Bill on his 100th Birthday, and we pay tribute to him for his time served in World War II.

Submitted by Anita M. Mance



2017 Sam Urzetta Alumni Classic

"A great time was had by all"

This year's tournament was held at Lima Country Club on Friday, August 4. A near-record 206 players enjoyed a beautiful day on the course, with a total of 250 players and guests on hand for the post-tournament awards luncheon and presentation of this year's Distinguished Alumni Award. Proceeds from this event will, as always, be used by the Foundation to fund education oriented grants for the benefit of East Rochester students across all grade levels. In addition to the very generous support of more than 150 individuals and businesses that donated cash, gifts and prizes valued at over \$16,000, the Foundation raised over \$3,000 by raffling off four Cleveland Browns vs. New York Jets "Club Tickets" which were donated by ERHS Class of 1991 graduate and Brown's Comptroller David Jenkins. The Sam Urzetta Alumni Classic (the "SUAC") has been the Foundation's primary fundraiser since the SUAC was first held in 2007 and has raised more than \$140,000.

Because of the large numbers of players, the tournament is played on both of Lima's 18 hole courses. This year's winning foursome on Charleston Pines was captained by Joe Bock. His teammate was Bob Clow. First place finishers on Island Oaks were Trevor Clancy, Jared Zito, Evan Zito and Pat Zito

"Proficiency Awards" (i.e. Closest to the Pin, Most Accurate Drive, etc.) went to Ed Waud, Andy Seidel, Joe Ricotta, Evan Zito, Lori Arnold, Gordy Lamb, Bill Keller, Annie Pauly, Tom Conners, Sr. and

Ursula Arnold. Collecting \$100 each for being closest to the pin on our two "Mulligan" holes were Al Krokenberger and Annie Pauli. Richard Pugliese won the Putting Contest and received the \$100 cash prize.

During the Awards Luncheon, the Foundation's 2017 Distinguished Alumni Award was presented to Tony Cilento ('57). His award plaque read "From humble beginnings, and overcoming a number of personal obstacles, Tony become a world class photographer, a major influence in the photographic industry and a champion of numerous national and international charitable initiatives."

Mark your calendars now for the 2018 Sam Urzetta Alumni Classic which is set for Friday, August 3 at Lima C.C. If you are planning a class reunion for 2018, please consider holding it the weekend of August 3rd through the 5th so you can include the eleventh Annual SUAC on your schedule of reunion events.

Finally, thanks to all players, sponsors, guests, volunteers and Golf Committee members. We could not have pulled off this wonderful event without your help and encouragement. We and the students of East Rochester thank you with all our hearts!

Carl Tobin





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Opportunity:

High School Offers Europe Trip for Interested Students

During the summer of 2018, interested East Rochester High School students will be participating in a trip to Europe. This trip will give students the opportunity to visit England, France, and Italy. Students were asked to sign up for this trip during the 2016-2017 school year. Participating students are conducting fundraisers to offset the costs for this trip.

Opportunity:

Tri-M Music Induction Ceremony

The East Rochester High School has a strong instrumental music department led by Mr. Mark Gowman. On October 18, 2017, ER held a Tri-M Music Induction Ceremony and recital. This event offers students who have a strong passion in music to be a part of something prestigious and rewarding. According to the Tri-M application, Tri-M Music Honor Society is "the international music honor society for high school students. It is designed to recognize students for their academic and musical achievements, reward them for their accomplishments and service activities, and to inspire other students to excel at music and leadership." Tri-M Music members participate in community service projects with music and learn music from other professionals. They may also mentor younger musicians. We would like to congratulate this year's newest inductees Ella Chamberlain, Haylie Cyrkin, Eliza Fox, Johnny Gates, Talor Marren, and Alex Ziebarth!

Opportunity:

Bioinformatics Club

Bioinformatics is a field of science that uses computer science, statistics, mathematics and engineering to interpret biological data or DNA. Luckily for our students, East Rochester has a Bioinformatics Club, where students can be a part of a real world experiment and learn about DNA and its sequences and how it helps living things survive. The first meeting was on **November 2**, but don't worry, there's still time to join! Interested students can talk to Mr. Bates in room 620 to get more information.

Upcoming Events:

December

- 6 Grades 2-12: District Winter Art Show Begins
- 9 ER Christmas Festival and Advent Craft Sale
- 9 PTA Breakfast with Santa
- 12 Grades 6-12 Instrumental Concert, 7:00 p.m.
- 19 Grades 3-5 Vocal Music Concert, 7:00 p.m.
- 25-Jan 1 Winter Break

