

RONDOUT VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2016

Principal's Corner

I hope everyone had a nice holiday and the New Year is off to a good start. We are nearing the end of the 2nd quarter and our teachers and students are busy preparing for midterm exams and regents exams. As a reminder, we will not be holding regular classes from Tuesday 1/26 through Friday 1/29 as midterm and regents exams are scheduled during those days. Unless your child has an exam scheduled, he/she will not be required to attend school during those days. The only exception is for those students that attend Boces. Students are expected to attend Boces unless they have an exam scheduled at Rondout. Please refer to our website for the complete testing schedule.

On February 1st, we will be holding a course fair in the morning, as well as, having guest speakers from the Rondout Valley Business Association. Students will have the opportunity to talk to teachers in all subjects about the courses that are offered and make better, informed choices as to which electives they would like to take. This will help when they meet with their counselor to develop their schedule for next year.

Students will also have the opportunity hear from a diverse group of business leaders in our community on a wide variety of topics. One of the topics will be about tips for success when interviewing for a job and what potential employers are looking for in candidates.

On February 3rd, we will be holding our 2nd annual mock interviews in the library during all three lunch periods. Please encourage your child to sign up for a slot.

Also on February 3rd, we will be holding a forum and conversation sponsored by the school district and the Rondout Valley Growers' Association entitled "A Bridge to the Future: Sharing our Agricultural Bounty." This event is from 7-9 PM in

the high school Library, it is free and open to the public. We will also be having some of our national Honor Society students give tours of the high school from 6-7 PM. I encourage you to attend.

I look forward to seeing you at our various events and I am also looking forward to a successful second semester for all of our students. Thank you very much for your support at home. Our partnership is crucial to the success of our students and children.

Sincerely,

Robert Cook
Principal

Save the Dates!

1/26 – Parent's Assoc. Mtg, 7 pm, HS Library
2/3 – Mock Interview Day, 11-1:00 pm, Library
2/15 – School Closed, President's Day
2/19, 20 & 21 – School Musical
2/23 – Parent's Assoc. Mtg., 7 pm, HS Library
2/26 - High School Winter Dance, 6:30-9:00pm
HS Gym
3/5 – All County Chorus Concert, UCCC, 4 pm
3/15 – District Wide Pops Concert, HS, 7 pm
3/18 – Half day for Students, 11:30 dismissal

SAT Prep class is a hit!!

The first SAT scores are coming back from our in-school SAT Prep class, and we are breaking records. One of our students improved their SAT score by over 500 points. This is amazing growth! Why pay for an after school SAT prep class when your child can take one during the school day for free? The new SAT is coming this spring! High school students can prepare for it by taking the spring semester SAT prep class during Period 4 or 9. Your child should see his or her guidance counselor to enroll in the class. This course has produced an average improvement of 190 points.

Important Yearbook info

Yearbooks are on sale now at www.jostens.com. Yearbooks ordered by 1/31 are \$55.00; order by 3/15 they are \$65.00. Don't hesitate, order yours today!

Art Achievements

Mrs. Burns had 13 students enter the scholastic art and writing awards competition. Below is Sofi Ticknor's piece that was entered.



Student Shout-outs!

Two of our nine graders, **Will Nussbaum** and **Lucy Soman** have been selected to perform in two awesome fund raising rock concerts:

-Tribute to Elton John- Bearsville Theater was held on Jan 2nd

-Best Of Season 2015, Bearsville Theater, Feb 6th, 7pm, featuring best performances of fall 2015 by 8-18 years old students of Paul Green Rock Academy Rock, the founder of the School of Rock.

Junior Class Update

The Junior class is looking for students to join two committees, one is for the Senior Trip and the other is for The Senior Prom. We would like to start planning and have things in place before June. We meet on Thursdays in the library at 2:30 and any Junior classmate is welcome to attend.

Sports and Entertainment Marketing Class is scoring BIG!

A group from the SEM class invited different 4th grade classes to participate in a halftime contest during one of our boys' basketball games. The students competed in a free-throw shooting contest. The classes are being given a pizza party for their participation.

RVHS Musical- *Once Upon a Mattress*

Feb 19th - 21st

Show times:

2/19, 7:00 pm

2/20, 7:00 pm

2/21, 2:00 pm

Thank you to everyone who came out to audition this year. *Once Upon a Mattress* will begin rehearsals on January 4th. We will need lots of hands to help with all sorts of tasks. If you would like to share your talent and lend a hand please send Mr. Randy Loder and email with how you can help make this year's show another success: rloder@rondout.k12.ny.us

We will also be looking to sell advertising space in the program so if you would like to promote your business and contribute to the cause, your support is always appreciated. Also please note that the performance will be the weekend of February 19th-21st, the week before it is listed in the district calendar.

Financial Aid Night

SUNY Ulster will be holding Financial Aid Days on 2/20/16 as a service to all prospective college students. The programs are designed to answer questions and help with the financial aid process – call 1-800-342-3811 or check www.suny.edu/studentevents for more information.



RVHS Music:

"Working to become independent, creative, thinking, musicians"

After a wonderful winter concert and a celebration of the season we are buckling down to the details of learning music through solos. All students choose solos to study focusing on their individual musical development. After the first hurdle of learning notes and rhythms students have the opportunity to express themselves through interpreting the artistic intent of the composer. Although students are not required to attend the NYSSMA solo festival, they are encouraged to take advantage of this feedback from an outside expert. As always the Music Booster are happy to help financially support students who cannot afford this opportunity.

January 20th Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute's a cappella vocal ensemble, Rusty Pipes will present a workshop for band, chorus members and interested students at 11:00 in the Chorus Room

The Jazz Appreciation Month Concert has been moved to Wednesday, April 6th at 7:00pm.

Rondout Valley Parent's Association

The Rondout Valley High School Parent Association is scheduled to have their next meeting on Tuesday, January 26th at 7pm. Items on the agenda:

- Larry Sicheri presentation on Science Research and how we can support this program with mentors, Booster club, and ideas.
- Rondout Valley Business Association (RVBA): Report on Internship/Shadowing Opportunities, Mock Interview update, and Leadership Institute.

Rondout Valley Business Association

High School students need the opportunity to explore the professional world so that they can begin to see where their educational path could lead and what skills they need to work on. The RVBA Education Committee is building a list of local professionals who are willing to host a student(s) for a few hours while they work.

Mock Interview is an opportunity to practice interviewing skills with local business leaders including feedback. February 3.

An elective ¼ credit program consisting of workshops to identify personality strengths, styles of leadership, career paths, leadership skills and more is being offered. A large range of guest speakers conduct each workshop and discussion; sharing their own experiences and insights. March 7- May 2, 2016.

- Communication Committee- Facebook, Newsletter
- Outside Entrance
- Student Questionnaire
- Guest Speakers
- Lunch Speakers organized by Lynn Gilbert

Our upcoming Tuesday night meetings:

January 26th
February 23rd
March 26th
April 26th
May 24th

The meetings are open. We welcome your input!

The mission of the Association is to support and promote programs and activities that enhance critical thinking and problem-solving, encourage student-directed learning, and foster collaborative team work, so that our graduates are prepared with skills and inspired to be stewards and empathetic leaders in this community and beyond.