



Congratulations & good luck to all 2009 graduates!



Tree Planting

Alicia Waite & Hannah-Mollie West

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On Friday May 1st the sophomores at Rochester School, took part in repairing the riparian zone along the section of the White River located behind the Rochester School. The sophomores, acting as mentors, helped all of the elementary students plant 325 trees and 100 shrubs. Throughout the day each elementary grade took a turn coming out and helping the sophomores plant trees. At the start of the day it was a bit rainy, but all of the students thought it was perfect weather for planting trees. Michael Graziadei, the biology teacher, along with Mike Bald from the White River Partnership oversaw the project.

Mr. Graziadei and his class had been learning about the importance of preserving the river banks, and how the environment would be affected if these

banks were gone. By having all of the elementary students there to participate, it showed them all how important it is that future generations start taking care of the Earth now. By the end of the day all of the students felt pleased with themselves. After talking with a few of the fifth graders who participated, Carly Turnbull stated "I think it is so cool that we are helping to save our town".

Her comment made it clear that everyone understood just how important this project was, not just to the Earth, but to Rochester itself. All of the participants in the restoring of the riparian zone project did an amazing job. The students hope that all 425 trees and shrubs help to fix Rochester School's river bank.

Students at Rochester School took part in restoring the riparian zone along the river banks behind the school.



5th grade students, along with sophomore Tyler McIntyre, each had his/her own job while planting this tree.

Brigitte Orliac



The Rochester School has been extremely fortunate to have been able to bring on board several wonderful, new teachers in the last couple of years. One of them is French teacher Ms Brigitte Orliac. This is Ms Orliac's second year of teaching French at the Rochester School. She first

came to the United States in the early 1980's to work towards her Master's degree in French at the Pennsylvania State University where she also taught beginning French to undergraduate students. Her journey from Penn State to Rochester has involved a number of moves and a lot of education!

After successfully completing her Master's program, Ms Orliac went to work for one of the early developers of language translation software. In time she helped develop computer programs that translated between the major European languages. She left her job in 2001 to pursue a Ph.D. in linguistics at the University of Montreal. She chose as the subject for her dissertation the development of a translation program which looked for idiomatic phrases such as, "to pay a visit". While this expression makes perfect sense to an English speaker, someone learning the language might wonder, "How much do I 'pay' someone for a visit?" Her next and most recent academic achievement was completing the Master of Teaching program at the University of Vermont in Burlington. After a year's internship teaching at Montpelier's U-32 High School, Ms Orliac began teaching in Rochester.

This year elementary students have been meeting once a week with Ms Orliac. They are studying the basic vocabulary and structure of the French language. "We use cue cards that have visual representations of words and are arranged by categories, for example people, objects, actions. Cue cards are a great way to memorize words and

practice combining them to form complete sentences very early on. Students are also starting to write. The fifth and sixth graders are learning to speak, read, write and comprehend the French language." Ms Orliac adds, "Unfortunately, middle school students were not able to fit French into their busy schedules".

High School students may choose French as an elective, which meets every day. This year we have students studying French, Levels 1, 2, 3 and 5. Here are brief descriptions of what the students are learning: In French 1 they study words and phrases related to greetings and talking about oneself, school, home and family, foods, and the basics of grammar. In French 2 students study words and phrases related to sports and leisure activities, traveling, health and more grammar. Students in French 3 are now reading *Le Fantome du Louvre* or *The Ghost of the Louvre*. This is a detective story set in the Louvre Museum which was first published as a serial. French 5 students have begun reading *Cyrano de Bergerac*. Ms Orliac also has students with schedule conflicts who were unable to attend her upper level classes. These students are working on-line with a program titled *Tell Me More* which helps them develop their listening, speaking and comprehension skills. As part of this program she is able to monitor her students' progress.

Ms. Orliac says that she likes the freedom she has in developing her curriculum, being able to choose resources, materials and methods that she feels are most appropriate to what she is trying to accomplish and that works with specific students. "I really like teaching in a small school and am very pleased with the support I have received. It's great being really close to the students who you teach. You're part of a close-knit community here, feeling supported and connected. Everyone has been welcoming, warm and friendly. Ms Orliac says that she was a 'city kid' all her life but that being here "feels very natural and right". "I've entered another phase in my life. The first phase was the formative one. The second was developing and realizing myself. Now I am in the phase where I give back." The students and community of Rochester have been the fortunate recipients of this giving back. We are grateful to know that she is looking forward to being with us again next year.

Linda Gendreau

New to the Rochester Elementary School (RES) this academic year is math teacher and native Vermonter Linda Gendreau. Gendreau was born in Burlington and grew up in Ferrisburg on a working dairy farm. Also on the farm were her parents, three brothers, two sisters, and lots of chickens, pigs, a horse, cats and dogs. Ms Gendreau is presently living in Vergennes but says that she would like to move closer to Rochester.



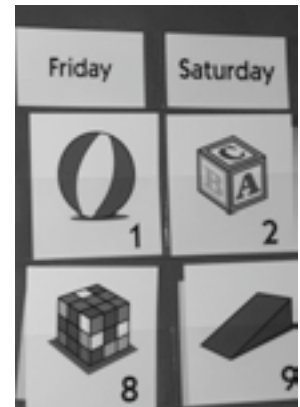
Also new to RES is the *Bridges In Mathematics* math program. Gendreau received training in the Bridges program a few years ago while working as a substitute at Mary Hogan Elementary School in Middlebury. When she learned that RES was going to pilot the program this year she was very pleased. The Bridges program is designed to be taught to one grade level at a time. Gendreau is using the program with 2nd and 4th grade students and Mrs. K and Mrs. Cruikshank are working with students in grades 1 and 3 respectively. Gendreau's enthusiasm for the Bridges program was apparent during my interview with her.



students located cities on a map of the United States. This map consisted of a black outline of the country covered by a grid. The names of the cities that matched the coordinates the children were working with were written in the appropriate place on the

map. Next the children would locate the city on a traditional United States map. Students were learning about grids, coordinates, longitude, latitude, reading graphs and the location of states all in this one activity.

When Gendreau's 2nd grade students aren't learning about geometric shapes they're shopping! Shopping starts at the beginning of class when each student picks a card from a display on the bulletin board. On the card there is a picture of an object and price. How



much money each student has to spend is determined by looking at a chart to see how many days they've been in school. This particular day is the 151st, so each kid has \$1.51 to spend. Students work independently to find out just how many cupcakes they can buy with their \$1.51. Speaking again of the Bridges program Ms Gendreau said that the "kids were doing great" and that she has seen a lot of growth in them. "The kids like the visuals and games. It's all very hands-on."

Ms Gendreau is enjoying being in the Rochester School. "I just love this small town. I've been in a lot of big schools but I like the idea of everybody being closer together. Being so small we all talk to each



other. I love the sharing of ideas." Ms Gendreau ending by saying, "The people here are wonderful!"

There was a young man from Trinity,
Who solved the square root of infinity.
While counting the digits,
He was seized by the fidgets,
Dropped science, and took up divinity.
~Author Unknown



3 One Act Plays

On Friday, May 22, 2009 the Rochester School Drama Program presented *3 One Act Plays*. An enthusiastic audience, which had the auditorium almost full, was treated to a delightful and often hilarious evening of theater.

The Underground Venus

An adaptation of Mark Twain's story.
By Tim Kelley & Directed by Tony Goupee.

CAST:

Tanner Haskins – George Arnold
Tyler Schnabel – John Smith
Hannah Domas - Mary
Dom Smith – Giovanni & Mrs. Morgan
Gavin Curtis – Professor Parnelli and other
Various characters

“Mark Twain enjoyed writing short stories that smiled at human foibles, and this clever romp is no exception. Penniless sculptor George Arnold is distraught because he can't marry his sweetheart Mary Morgan unless he has \$50,000.00 in the bank, a condition insisted upon by Mary's dragon of a mother who is wintering in Italy where George lives. George's law student friend comes up with a wacky scheme to ensure the wedding will take place. Using his knowledge of Italian jurisprudence, he chops up George's marble statue entitled "Columbia" and buries it in a plot of land he buys for the unsuspecting artist. Months later, when the pieces are exhumed and joined together, the authorities are certain they've unearthed a statute of the Roman Goddess of Love and Beauty, Venus. Obviously, the statue was created centuries ago by some long-forgotten sculptor! Soon George's studio is invaded by tradespeople eager to extend credit and a government official with a large check. Will the hoax be exposed?” *Dramatic Publishing*, www.dramaticpublishing.com/index.html.

In Search of Three Sillies

An adaptation of an English folk tale.
By Z. P. Fowler & Directed by Kay Stringer with assistance from Amber Haas & Linda Bennett.
Produced by Andy Pezzulo.

CAST:

Jorah McKinley – The Storyteller
Montana Bowman – Young Jack
Sierra Cruikshank - Jennie
Daley Crowley - Mother
Ethan White - Father
Liam McKinley – Farmer's Wife
P. J. Parrish- The traveling Salesman

“In this adaptation of the famous English folk tale we see Jack, an energetic young man, who is about to ask the girl he loves to marry him. But when he meets her family, he is flabbergasted. They are faced with a problem that's so simple a little child could solve it—but they can't. "How silly can people be?" Jack wonders. Can he marry into this family? He decides to make a search. If he can find three other people as silly as his sweetheart's family, he will return and marry her. This lively play portrays his search for three sillies.” *I. E. Clark Publications*, <http://www.ieclark.com/childmen.html>.



3 One Act Plays (continued from page 4)

Jolly Roger: King o' the Pirates

By Wayne Mitchell, Shane Mitchell and Erin Dagon & Directed by Mary Sue Crowley.
Sound- Michael Delisle.

CAST:

David Crowley - Jolly Roger, King of the Pirates
Jackie Potter – Jolly Roger's 1st mate
Doug Kingsbury – Captain Cleverly
Graham Leathers – Nate, a first mate
Hugh Randall – Dick, a sailor
Billy-Jo Leonard – Lady Loveaduck
Vanessa Mongeur – Margaret, a maid



“This light hearted melodrama of the High Seas is set aboard the good ship Albatross whose fearless leader, Captain Cleverly, has the unfortunate job of handing over Lady Loveaduck and her maid Margaret to Jolly Roger, the King o' the Pirates. Lady Loveaduck's husband and three children were captured by pirates many years ago making it necessary for her to marry Jolly Roger. The story unfolds with Captain Cleverly facing the dilemma of being in love with Jolly Roger's first mate and adopted daughter, the beautiful Annabelle. He realizes that he will never see her again once she has been given to Lady Loveaduck as a wedding gift from the dashing Jolly Roger. What follows is a comedy of deceptions and mistaken identities which culminates in a deliriously, delightful chase scene when all the characters find “themselves” aboard the ship. Fortunately, a happy ending is had for all, or is it? *Mary Sue Crowley & Susie Smolen*

Thanks to all who attended for supporting our students and staff in their dramatic escapades.

Jump Rope for Heart

On Thursday, April 30th, Rochester students in grades 1 through 6 participated in the American Heart Association's (AHA) *Jump Rope For Heart* program. According to AHA's web site this is the 30th Anniversary of this annual event which “engages elementary students in jumping rope while raising funds to support lifesaving heart and stroke research. Jump Rope For Heart is a national educational fund-raising program that is sponsored by the American American Heart Association and the Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance (AAHPERD).”

Rochester's physical education teacher Terry Pacquette coordinated this year's *Jumpathon*. Mrs. Pacquette views the students' participation in this program “as a service project. The children collect pledges from community members prior to jumping. This year they raised almost \$1,000.00! Thank you very much to all those who donated towards this effort.” The AMA acknowledges the students' efforts by rewarding them with gift certificates based on the dollars they raise for free P.E. equipment from U.S. Games. Schools also receive the newest educational kit with heart-healthy curriculum and activity ideas.



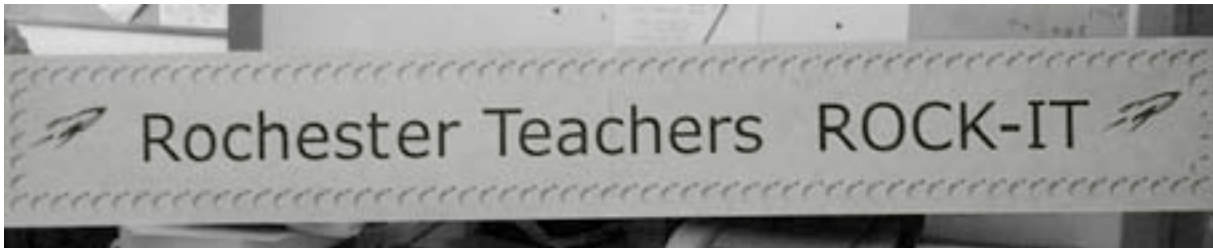
Toby April
Amber Ashley
Grace McConnell



Teacher Appreciation Week

*A teacher affects eternity:
he can never tell where his influence stops.*
Henry Adams

Teacher Appreciation Week is a week in the academic calendar which is dedicated to all teachers around the world. It is a time to say thank you to teachers for all of their help and show our gratitude for all the time and effort that they have put into our children's education.



This year Teacher Appreciation Week was celebrated May 3 -8, 2009. Banners, like the one pictured above, were hung up the Elementary and Middle/High schools by members of the Rochester School PTO. On Friday, May 8th, the PTO put bouquets of flowers, baked goods, and snacks in each of the teacher lounges. Parents contributed to the celebration by donating both money and food.

Meg Allen

Rochester School Registrar &
Middle/High School Administrative Assistant
A note from Susie Smolen



If I had 'speed dial' on my telephone, Mrs. Allen's phone number at the school would definitely be among the top ten listings! I'm taking this opportunity to publicly thank Mrs. Allen, "for the numerous times you have patiently handled all of my many phone calls and questions over the years; questions I've asked as a community member, parent, and school employee. In my position as editor and publisher of the *Rocketimes* this year, your help has been invaluable. Thank you!"

Did you know that Mrs. Allen has a teaching degree in K-12 physical education...and that she was in the second class of civilian women to live on the campus of Norwich University?

ROCKETIMES**Past, Present & Future****The PAST:**

In the autumn of 1989, Volume 1, No. 1 of *The Rochesterian* was published by The Technology Class under the guidance of Bill Zucca, Publisher and Betty Howlett, Editor-in-Chief. The 5-page newsletter contained student poetry, articles about graduation, sports, and new staff. What *The Rochesterian* staff felt was especially remarkable about this new venture was reported on the front page: "*The Rochesterian* is the first school-wide project at the Rochester Schools which has been written and produced entirely on computer. We are confident that it will not be the last."

During the summer of 1990 a contest was held to name "the new and improved valley school newspaper...The children of all 5 valley schools" voted and chose overwhelmingly the name *Rocketimes*. Colby Campbell, an 11th grade student at Rochester High School had submitted the winning entry and was rewarded with "dessert and coffee for two, courtesy of the Huntington House Restaurant".

Middle and High School English teacher, Marty Gephart followed Howlett as Editor-in-Chief. Susan Bushnell became involved with the paper in 1993 when she joined the Rochester School staff. Along with Zucca these two teachers formed the staff hub of the *Rocketimes*. It was their common goal to have the *Rocketimes* serve as a vehicle for student learning. Gephart, as mentioned, was Editor-in-Chief, Zucca oversaw layout and photography, and Bushnell handled the business end of things – accounts payable and receivable, advertising and marketing. Students were involved in every aspect of the paper's production with time built into their school schedules for this work. Each student received an assignment and off they went to gather and to create the content of the next *Rocketimes*.

Bushnell spoke to me about the time the publishing class was invited to do a presentation at a National Tech Conference, "People were very impressed that a school the size of Rochester could accomplish what they did in terms of integration and interdisciplinary teaching including practical application of break-even analysis and cash flow". The publishing class

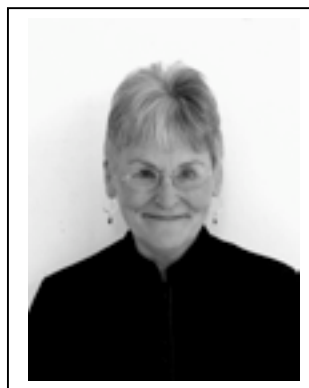
was also involved with the publication of the Yearbook and of a student literary magazine titled *Penstroke Press*.

The PRESENT:

You're holding it in your hands, this, the second issue of the 20th Volume of the *Rocketimes*!

The FUTURE:

Next year, Publishing will once again be offered as an elective class to high school students. The class will be team taught by Bushnell and Moltz and both are really looking forward to it. When I spoke with Moltz he was uncertain if the class would be offered all year long and added, "If not, it's a start". He went on to say, "If I wasn't a teacher I'd probably be a journalist". He covered Rochester School sports for The Herald for about ten years and says that he "really loved it". Moltz also occasionally covered high school sports championships for the Rutland Herald. He says that he's also feeling inspired by his daughter Jenny who took a Journalism class at UVM that she enjoyed tremendously. Moltz laughs as he tells me, "I actually bought her text book from her".



Moltz would like to see the paper have more of a web presence and feels that it's good for the students to know that their work is going to be more widely read. Bushnell ended our interview saying, "I

believe in the James Burke approach to life-long learning. It's all about connections. The more ways we can make connections between disciplines with the world itself, the better critical thinkers the students become".



Class of 2009

Front Row: Amanda Bowen / Lauren Thompson / Midori Cruikshank / Crystal Bowen

Second Row: Cindy Belisle / Jacob Hubbard / Megan Harvey / Megan Pratt / Kiersten Needham / Vanessa Mongeur

Third Row: Amber Haas / Toni Richardson / Billy-Jo Leonard / Tanner Haskins / David Crowley / Doug Kingsbury / Sid Twitchell / Alex Kelly

Fourth Row: Chris Johnson / Miles Fleming / Dan New / Taylor Fuller / Herman Manning / John Champion

Please note our sincere apologies for having omitted Miles Fleming's name in the June 09 Rockettimes list of graduates. Photo by Jeff Mather.