



Rochester Graduates Grade Boston

By Danielle Novotny

On May 18th the class of 2010, along with chaperones Mr. Mitchell, Mrs. Hughes and Chuck Hughes, boarded the bus at 7:15 AM for our senior trip to Boston, Massachusetts.

We arrived in Boston at 11:00 and dropped our things off at the Radisson hotel. It was a cool and cloudy day. We walked to Faneuil Hall to get some lunch. Next on the itinerary was Spectacle Island, so we walked to the Boston harbor to catch a ferry. The island is a state park where there are many hiking trails. You could take either the north or south summit trails to get to the top of two different peaks for a beautiful view of the city of Boston. We departed from the Island at 3:30 to head back to our hotel to get our rooms. After we were all settled in the majority of us went for a swim in the hotel pool. We were on our own for dinner. Some went to P.F. Chang's, The City Market, and Maggiano's. We were back to the hotel by 8:00.

On the 19th Allyson, Danielle, Matt, Raul, Collin, and Dylan went for a morning power walk/ jog through Boston common and found some breakfast along the way. It was a cool and rainy day. Everyone met in the lobby at 10:00 then we walked to the T to take the subway to the New England Aquarium. We watched the IMAX film *Under the Sea* at 12:00 then walked back to Faneuil Hall and Quincy market for lunch. We were free to wander around the Prudential Center and down Newbury Street that afternoon.

That night the class at dinner together at FiRE+ iCE. It was a new experience for many of us because the restaurant was not like anything you'd find in Vermont. We filled our bowls with uncooked food and bring it over to a huge round grill and they'd cook it right in front of you.

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Sophomores Gain Field Experience in Biology

By Danielle Mishkit

In only three weeks, the sophomores of the Rochester High School went on three different science journeys with their Biology teacher, Mr. Graziadei.

On May 3rd, the class of 2012 headed out on their first adventure. With the combined efforts of Dan McKinley, his crew at the Forest Service, and Mr. Graziadei's 10th grade biology class, they cleaned up our very own White River

In their Biology class, the students had learned about how the White River is very clean, and the water quality is very pure. To keep the river clear, they split up in groups and helped clear the "riparian zone" [the area around the river] of debris and trash. After three hours of work, the teams gathered at the Lions Club Picnic Area to compare truckloads, and have a cook-out in honor of all their hard work. Pictures were taken and stories were shared about the 8 truckloads of waste and rubbish collected from only a short stretch of the river. After their lunch, the students reunited with their Forest Service leaders, and were taken to the Forest Service to separate the trash into piles of metal, plastic, and recyclable items. The students were in awe about how much they picked up

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The Class of 2010 waiting for the boat on the pier in Boston.

RHS Prom Rocks Sugarbush

By Lauren Pratt

On Saturday May 29th, Rochester High School students went on a trip that took them to a ‘tropical dream.’ This was the theme of this year’s Prom, which was held at the Sugarbush Inn. The excursion, although only 30 minutes away, sent the students and their dates on the trip of a lifetime, one that they will never forget.

The event ran from 8 – 11 pm, but really started much earlier than that. Friday during school those students who had bought tickets were given sunglasses to get ready for the voyage. All day on Saturday girls were seen around town with their hair already done, and at 5 o’clock prom-goers began to gather on the Park for the traditional photography session.

As the students started to arrive at the Sugarbush Inn, they began to escape into a tropical dream. Each attendee was given a lei at the door, and they sported them willingly for the next three hours. Refreshments were offered, featuring virgin strawberry daiquiris, pina colodas, and Hawaiian punch. The music was provided by Peak DJ, who hyped the beats with an awesome light show and a smoke-machine.

Near the end of the evening, the festivities peaked with the announcement of the Prom royalty, as voted by the high school students. Matt Brown was elected Prince, and Jackie Potter took the sash as Princess. The 2010 Prom King was Liam McKinley, and the honor of Prom Queen went to Danielle Novotny.

Princess Jackie Potter stated “it was without a doubt a great prom, it was sad, because it was my last one, but I’m glad that I went with who I went with and that I was able to be there with my friends for one last dance.”

The junior class of 2011, who put on the event, was pleased that the Prom reached their expectations after months of planning and years of fundraising. Ethan White commented “it was a lot of fun, and the location was primo, it worked out really, really well for us.”



Prom Court: King Liam McKinley; Queen Danielle Novotny; Princess Jackie Potter; Prince Matt Brown

McKinley Wows Judges, Wins first Valley Idol Honor

By: Jackie Potter

Rochester recently experienced the first annual Valley Idol Competition sponsored by the Route 100 Snow Travelers, Inc. After an open audition for contestants ages 13 and up, the competitors had a chance to win a first place cash prize of \$250.00, or a second place cash prize of \$200.00.

Donna Bryan, the head of Valley Idol for the Snow Travelers, commented, “there were definitely a lot less auditions than we hoped for, but we believe that now everyone knows what it’s about, so there will be many more auditions next year, mostly because it’s going to be different. Instead of a cappella auditions, we’re going to let them use the karaoke machine or use their own music. There was really good attendance that far exceeded our expectations!”

The a cappella auditions were held in the Rochester High School Auditorium from 8:00 A.M. -3:00 P.M. on March 13th, 2010. There was a charge of \$10.00, a one time entry fee for contestants, and if the general public wanted to listen, there was a \$5.00 admission fee. All of the money collected was used towards the prizes.

On Saturday March 27th at 7:30 P.M the contestants performed and got comments from the judges, with the use of a karaoke machine, or their own instrument.

In the final round, the audience’s votes were combined to determine the winners. This competition was held April 10th, 2010 at 7:00 P.M. The first place winner was 16 year old Jorah McKinley, who sang “Almost Lover” by A Fine Frenzy. The second place winner, Andrew Torsnes, sang “Ring of Fire” by Johnny Cash. The judges for the final rounds were Kelly Kelly, Don Crickard, Willy Walker, Joanne Mills, Jan Stratton, and Andy West. Reflecting on the experience, Jorah McKinley said, “it was a really good experience and I’m glad that I did it. I really encourage more people to do it next year because it was really fun!”

A little less than \$3000 was raised by the end of the competition. Donna Bryan concluded, “we definitely knew there was a lot of talent in our Valley, which is why we wanted to tap into it. Everybody really had a lot of fun and a lot of the town has asked to do it again! And The Route 100 Snow Travelers, Inc would like to thank everyone for their support and participation!”

Bio Trips Promote Environmentalism

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from the river.

Sophomore Fred Waite commented about his experience, "I was amazed at how many truckloads of garbage we pulled out. We found everything from tires, to a refrigerator, to clothes, to a water heater."

One week later, on May 10th, the same troop headed out yet again to improve our beautiful surroundings, and help restore the river banks behind the school. Mr. G's class made many trips down to the river, for various labs, and physical, hands-on activities throughout the school year. Each time they traveled down there, they noticed a pattern. They saw how the bank kept eroding and getting closer and closer to the corn field.

Mr. G and his Biology class from the previous year had planted about 400 one foot ash, maple, and fir trees behind the school, in hopes of repairing the river banks so that future townspeople can experience the White River in its true beauty. This year, with the help of Greg and Mary Russ from the White River Partnership, the 10th graders planted 50 eight foot sugar maple trees, 50 feet from the edge of the river bank, hoping to speed up the repairing process of the banks.

The students spent the last half of their day planting the trees along the river in the sun. The sophomores learned how important it is to have a stable river bank, and how anyone can help restore it. "I really enjoyed planting trees because it gave me a time to get outside, help the riparian zone and spend some fun quality time with Mr. G and my peers." Mal Smith commented about his experience.

The next Wednesday, on May 19th, the sophomores and a few of the juniors embarked on their last journey for the year. They travelled one and a half hours to the Philbric-Crenciti Bog.

Every year Mr. G takes his 10th grade Biology class to the bog. Unfortunately last year the class of 2011 wasn't able to go, so when the field trip was set up for this year, the 11th graders were asked to tag along.

The bog is an area of wet marshy ground, where a body of water is underneath the vegetation. The 10th and 11th graders were very excited to explore on their own around the bog. The group had a blast even though the weather conditions weren't very likeable.

Over a period of three weeks the sophomore biology class was lucky enough to have their adventurous teacher Mr. G. take them out on three fun-filled journeys. The 10th graders had a lot of fun, and learned so much in a short time. Rhianna Graham-Frock talks about Mr. G.'s fun field trips and teaching style. "We go down to the river a lot, and I really like it because it enhances our learning while we have fun. My classmates and I really appreciate how much Mr. G. wants us to have a fun time while we learn Biology."



Jorah and Rhianna planting trees.

Senior Trip to Boston

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You could create dishes with pasta, hamburgers, cheese steaks, veggies, and much more, and then complete your concoction with a sauce. Afterwards we walked back to the hotel. Some chose to go back out and roam the city while others lounged around the hotel.

On the last day wake up call was at 7:30 so that we could pack our bags and meet in the lobby by 9:00. It was a warm and sunny day. We rode the T to the Museum of Science, where we spent about 1 ½ hours, then we walked to the North End, Little Italy! We met at Faneuil Hall at 2:30, walked back to the hotel to board the bus at 3:00, and picked up the 2nd and 3rd graders from the Aquarium to head home.

The trip went by quickly but we had a lot of fun and felt as if we were one big family. Liam commented that it was a "blast-and-a-half" and Raul said it was "great". Mrs. Hughes added "The ferry and Spectacle Island was a highlight for me. It was a fun trip and I am glad that everyone had a good time!"



The truckloads of garbage hauled from the White River by the sophomores.



6TH GRADE GOES GREEN



By Paige Crickard

This year the 6th grade decided to “go green” and put out recycling bins around the school to try to reduce the waste from the building. The school has two big dumpster bins that were being filled each week. The class’s goal was to reduce the trash enough so only one would be necessary. Each dumpster costs about \$200 per month, so getting rid of one of them would be a financial and environmental benefit.

The class had been learning about the environment, and wanted to do something to help. They made posters and the boxes for each classroom and the hallways. They collect all of the recycling on Fridays and sort it out in Mrs. William’s room. Then they take it to the recycling shed out back. All of the students wanted to help out and they were really glad to be doing this.

Maintenance supervisor Tim Dunham said that the work did succeed in lowering the waste count a lot and made a difference for our school.

6th grader Phoebe Parrish stated that she loved being able to help out her school and the environment.

Classmate Ben Wardwell mentioned that he loved to help out the earth and thinks that we should all do this so we can save the planet.

Mrs. Williams said that she is really glad that the class decided to do this because she want to raise awareness for the class and the school and to everyone that we only have one world so we need to take care of it.



Sixth Graders Garvi Jesso White, Ember Benatti, and Kelcee Blair sorting through mounds of recycling.



Beautiful Baccalaureate Ceremony

The traditional baccalaureate ceremony for Rochester High School’s Class of 2010 was held at the Federated Church on Wednesday June 9, with a large crowd of family, friends, and staff in attendance.

The evening began with a greeting and inspirational words from Reverend Greg Holman. Fifth grade teacher Faye Severy then stepped to the podium, and after a reading explained how this class had made a time capsule back in the year 2003. Baccalaureate seemed to be the perfect time to break the seal and relive the past.

The seniors took turns opening packets containing what they had chosen to save as fifth graders - most of them had completely forgotten what they had chosen to put away as history. The results were both touching and hysterical. It was a nice, unique touch to the ceremony.

Senior Hugh Randall and his friend Abe Doughty followed with an outstanding musical performance, Hugh providing slick drumming to back Abe’s guitar chords.

The highlight of the evening was the featured speaker, former Rochester teacher Paul Parsons. Mr. Parsons had taught the Class of 2010 for many years in middle and high school. In his talk, he mixed humor with complements and advice in addressing the class both individually and as a group. His words and observations illustrated how the class members grew as writers, creative thinkers, and people. Amazingly, Mr. Parsons still had old pieces of writing and even academic progress reports which he shared with the class, to their embarrassment and delight. The seniors deeply appreciated his speech, and that he was able to be in Rochester to share the event with them.

The end of the ceremony featured with a time for audience members to share their memories of the class, and a performance from Ms. Bushnell’s trio, mixing scripture with a musical interpretation.

Baccalaureate concluded with some closing remarks from Reverend Holman, and a reception for the seniors.

For the Class of 2010, it was a memorable evening, a wonderful ceremony and another big step towards graduation.