



RBlue

RBlue issue one

Fall 2011

Parent Newsletter

www.RBHS208.org
708.442.7500

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Bulldogs Job One!

By Dr. Kevin Skinkis, Superintendent

The Township District 208 Board of Education and I would like to welcome back all the returning students and incoming freshmen for another great school year. Riverside Brookfield Township High School is celebrating its 104th year, and our goal will be to continue to strive for excellence in everything we do. Every stakeholder, whether they are a parent/guardian, student, staff member, alumni, or community member, has a significant role in contributing to the success of RB. My mission is to ensure

that your public high school is providing outstanding experiences that foster the intellectual, social, and emotional development of your child in a manner that is efficient, effective and fiscally responsible. During my first year I want to meet with as many stakeholders as possible. I want to listen and learn from you what we can do to continue to improve and excel at RB.

While it would be wonderful to only focus on the excitement of a new school year, we cannot ignore the

current economic status of the country, state, and our school district. RB will experience some reductions this school year in regards to building budget, staff, and co-curricular programs. I realize that these events and decisions are difficult, and I fully appreciate the parents' concerns about their child's education. We will have to work together as a Community/District to provide the best academic and extra-curricular experience for all of our students. Thank you for your continued support—Go Bulldogs!



The 2011-12 school year is off to a positive start, thanks to our wonderful students and their dedicated teaching and support staff, who provide exemplary academic and co-curricular programs here at RB while maintaining a safe, nurturing environment where each individual receives the attention and support required to succeed.

On the first day of school, our incoming freshman class was welcomed into the building by cheering students who lined the

A Positive Start!

By Pam Bylsma, Principal

halls to the auditorium. Our Student Association (SA) President Julie Sinde addressed the freshmen, along with other student leaders. Freshman students joined the choir, band, cheerleaders, poms, and SA members in the school song before moving on to their Homerooms to meet their Homeroom teachers. Each student received a card of helpful tips, entitled, "What

every freshman should know." Group tours were given of the school highlighting important places to know. Each student spent time in an Activity Fair, talking to older peers and club sponsors about the opportunities available to them as students of RB. Then the entire student body joined the new freshmen and began the first day of school.

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Plans for Homecoming Underway!

From Julie Sinde, SA President

Welcome Back to what is sure to be another fantastic year at RBHS! Student Association has already gotten off to a great beginning with Freshman Orientation on the first day of school. The theme for orientation was **"Make the most of high school and get involved."**

The Homecoming Dance, sponsored by SA, is on Saturday, October 15th, from 7-10pm. SA will choose the theme for Homecoming on Wednesday, September 7th, at 7:20am in room 130. Spirit week will be filled with many exciting events and activi-



ties! Everyone looks forward to the themed dress days where classes are assigned a different color or pattern to wear and earn points for their grade.

The class with the most points wins the Spirit Bone. Pep Rally will be held on Friday, October 14th at 2:15pm and later that night, don't miss the football game where RB will be battling against Nazareth. SA looks forward to seeing everyone at the game!

The first of two SA blood drives will be held on Wednesday, November 2nd in the Alumni Lounge. Students 16 and over can sign-up for an appointment to donate blood (16 year olds must get a parental consent form signed). Students must be healthy, weigh over 110 lbs, and have no recent tattoos.

SA meets every Wednesday in the Forum Room #130 at 7:20am.

A Positive Start!

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On the second and third days of school, Assistant Principal of Student Affairs John Passarella and I held grade-level meetings with all students. I spoke to the students about many important topics, including the research which indicates that setting goals and working hard are more accurate predictors of academic achievement than aptitude or natural ability. Many students believe that intelligence and talent are fixed entities you

are born with. I told them this is not true, for talent, knowledge, and skills **can** indeed be taught. I urged them to believe in the truth of this equation: **"Effort = Achievement."** Students need to understand that by working hard to improve, they can achieve far more than they ever thought possible. In fact, research confirms that positive attitude, and feelings of hopefulness about the future have a dramatic impact on student achievement. Current research on tens of thousands of students conducted by The Gallup Poll and America's Promise Alliance

noted that **"Hope scores are more robust predictors of college success than are high school GPA, SAT, and ACT scores."** Please help us reinforce these messages about goal setting, hard work, positive attitude, and hopefulness.

Mr. Passarella spoke to the students about our school-wide, character education initiative, called **CHARACTER COUNTS! (CC!)**. He discussed the Six Pillars of Character, which are the core ethical values of **Trustworthiness, Respect, Responsibility,**

continued below

A Positive Start!

Continued from above

Fairness, Caring, and Citizenship.

The staff at RBHS remains committed to the embodiment of these values in the work we do and how we operate with all school members. Using personal stories and examples, Mr. Passarella brought the significance of these values to life as he connected each to the behavioral expectations and rules outlined in the Student Handbook. Both the student hand-

book and the assembly power point presentation are posted on our school's website.

The student audiences were attentive and receptive to our message. Their behavior, attitude, and spirit over these beginning days of school demonstrate their interest in being people of excellence and ethics. **We are proud of their efforts and look forward to great leadership from this group of outstanding students.** Young adults, like the rest of us, understand

the importance of these Pillars even as they struggle with them. While we do not expect perfection from any of our RB members, our expectation is that all individuals strive to be their personal, ethical best. When they fall short of the goal, we will help them reason through their shortcomings in order to find more productive ways to respond to life's challenges in the future.

CHARACTER COUNTS!SM

Applied & Fine Arts Matters By Nick Gehl, Applied & Fine Arts Chair

A good road trip is not defined by the destination, but by the journey getting there. Just as in the arts, the meaningful stops along the way can sometimes be more important than the final product. The progression of brainstorming, creating, problem-solving, and finalizing is a beneficial experience for each individual. The process allows us to take ownership of our ideas and see them through to completion. We encourage students to take advantage of the arts at RB because they will not only benefit from the product but will also learn the skills

involved in the process.

“When young people are involved with the arts, something changes their lives.” -*Arts Education Partnership and the President’s Committee on the Arts and the Humanities.*

coming up in the a r t s

Choir Concert / Tuesday, Oct. 4th, 7pm

Orchestra Concert / Thursday, Oct. 6th, 7pm

Fall Concert / Wednesday, Oct. 26th, 7pm

**See the RB Marching Band
at all the Home Football Games!
Fall Concert—Wednesday, October 26th,
7:00pm—Auditorium**



Telethon 2011 LIVE

The Riverside Brookfield High School Educational Foundation will hold its annual LIVE Telethon on Saturday, November 12th, from 1-9pm on RBTv. The Telethon is the Foundation’s main fundraiser and features students, teachers, and staff in front of and behind the camera. You can watch locally on Comcast channel 16, on AT&T U-verse channel 99/ Brookfield, and streaming over the internet at www.RBTv.tv. This year’s



show will feature great local entertainment from our schools and community. There will also be some really great premiums to purchase and items on which to bid. Please tune in and enjoy local TV at its finest. Please support the RBEF in its pursuit of educational excellence for the students and staff at Riverside Brookfield High School. www.RBEF.tv

Patrons’ Council UPDATE

Parents... here is a club for you! The RB Patrons’ Council is just like the PTA. We assist students and faculty throughout the year. We have supported the RB Open House, Day of Service, We Are RB, Teacher Appreciation Lunches, Safe Prom Buses, Senior Awards Night, and many other activities. This year, we hope to support some new projects that RB cannot afford due to budget limitations. We need your support! Please pur-

chase our \$25 membership at Open House on September 7th and get a raffle ticket for great prizes! You are also invited to join us at our first meeting on Monday, September 12th, at 7:30pm. Meet our new superintendent and find out more about the RB Patrons’ Council.

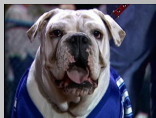
For more information, please contact Janell DiVittorio or Rosemary Santoro.

www.rbhs208.org/Patrons/PatronsCouncil.htm



Students in summer team building class

Bulldog Sports



By Art Ostrow, Athletic Director

As we enter the Fall 2011 athletic season, I would like to welcome back all returning athletes, coaches, and families as well as all new members of the RB community. I hope all our student athletes enjoy the opportunity to participate in interscholastic athletics with the goal of continuing the outstanding tradition of success that the RB Bulldogs have experienced.

This past season was very thrilling with exceptional competition. Highlights from the 2010-2011 season included a Metro Suburban Conference title, 6 IHSA Regional titles, an IHSA Sectional title, 2 IHSA team qualifiers and 14 individual state qualifiers. Our 4x800 meter relay team broke a school record and took 3rd place in the 3A division.

Please visit www.rbhs208athletics.org for a schedule of athletic contests. You can also visit

Important Dates!

- Girls' Basketball—October 31**
- Competitive Cheerleading—November 2**
- Boys' Basketball—November 7**
- Girls' Gymnastics—November 7**
- Boys' Wrestling—November 7**
- Boys' Swimming—November 21**

team pages for additional information concerning program goals, schedules and weekly highlights.

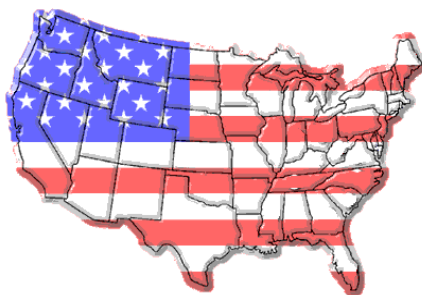
Show your support for the Bulldogs! Design and order spirit wear by visiting the athletic website and clicking on the link at the bottom of the home page.

Student Services-On The Road Again...

The counselors at RB were on the road this summer traveling to various colleges for campus tours and meeting with admission representatives. From the east coast to the west coast, counselors visited the University of Vermont, Cornell University, Georgetown University, Boston College, University of Michigan, University of Kentucky, Cal-Berkeley, and Stanford University. Counselors ventured into Canada and visited McGill University in Montreal.

With the start of the a new school year, the counselors at RB are once again preparing to face a new group of seniors in various stages of the college admission process, and we are excited to share our travel experiences with them. Please visit the Student Services Department website for important dates and valuable resources on

colleges, careers, financial-aid and scholarships. We look forward to working with your students and assisting them with their post-secondary planning.



Important S.S. Dates!

September 27th—Future Focus at Triton College—7-9pm

October 4th—College Planning Tips for Freshman Parents—6-7pm

The Year Was 1918

RB's first Rouser was issued

There were 14 seniors in the graduating class

Six stars were added to RB's service flag for "those who have answered to Uncle Sam"

There was a contest for landscaping the front of the school... first place \$6.00

A common theme throughout the 1918 yearbook was "as young Americans we must have true American school-spirit"

The RBHS football team won six and lost two

One of the main advertisers in the yearbook was "Riverside Fuel & Feed... Coal, Wood, Coke, Feed and Hay"

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Executive Functioning Program Begins 4th Year

In this age when children are exposed to multi-media overload and are multi-tasking at ever increasing levels, we are pleased to announce that RBHS will be, for the 4th year, implementing Executive Functioning. This goal of this program is to make sure our students are given the skills and tools they need to succeed in this fast-paced world.

There is a great deal of educational data indicating a strong correlation between an Executive Functioning Curriculum and a student's

- improved academic performance
- increased standardized test scores &
- decreased discipline referrals.

The Executive Functioning Program will give students an opportunity to understand the importance of mastering the skills necessary to achieve greater success in high school, college, and in the work place. Through our collaboration with the RUSH Neurobehavioral Center, we will teach students organizational skills, time management strategies, goal setting (*in relationship to both academic and personal goals*), and how to create and utilize effective study strategies. In previous years we made this program available only to freshmen, but this year we are expanding the program to all sophomores, too.

If you would like more information please contact Christine Sutton, School Social Worker, at extension 2195.

"You must be the change you wish to see in the world"

- Mahatma Gandhi



A Look Ahead...

End of First Grading Period

October 14th

Parent Teacher Conferences

October 20th

Thanksgiving Holiday

November 23-25

First Semester Finals

December 20-22

Attend a Board of Education Meeting

The Riverside Brookfield High School Board of Education meets publically twice each month in the RB Alumni Lounge. The **Regular Meetings** of the Board of Education take place on the second Tuesday of the Month at 7:00pm. **The Committee of the Whole** meetings take place on the fourth Tuesday of the Month at 7:00pm.. You can watch the **Regular Meetings** live on RBTv and archived meetings on the RBTv Youtube Channel www.Youtube.com/myrbtv. You have a voice... there are several opportunities for visitor statements during the **Regular Meetings** of the BOE.

Upcoming Meetings: September 13th, Regular Meeting

September 27th, Committee of the Whole



TEACHER Feature

name: Tim Olson

DEPARTMENT: Math

DEGREE: BA-English, MA-Math

FAMILY: Married in July



Staff Member Of The Month—April

HOBBIES: Collects Baseball Cards

MUSIC: Wilco, Mumford & Sons, Kid Cudi

MOVIES: Outlaw Josie Wales, Hoosiers

NOBODY WOULD BELIEVE: I'm Sensitive

TV: Breaking Bad, The Wire, Modern Family

FOOD: Mexican

BOOKS: "Atlas Shrugged" by Ayn Rand

The Back Page—Odds & Ends—FYI

RBTV National Winners

Congratulations to RBTV students and staff for winning 4 first place national awards at the 2011 Hometown USA Video Festival. The winning videos are posted on RBTV's newly launched Youtube channel www.youtube.com/myrbtv. The winning videos include: Junior Haley Buntrock for producing/editing "Orchesis Synergy", Alum Dan Fleming for his stop-motion animation

"Gretchen", Alum Jette Pleasant for her documentary "Cemeteries: Stories in Stone II", and Nick Gehl & Gary Prokes for their educational profile "RBHS Fine Arts". Watch RBTV locally on Comcast 16, AT&T U-verse channel 99/select Brookfield, and streaming world wide from their new website www.RBTV.tv. RBTV broadcasts 24-hours a day—7 days a week.



Notes About *Character Counts!*

Look for the CHARACTER COUNTS! Column in the current and upcoming Parent Newsletters. Each column will highlight activities related to CC! at the school and in the community.

For your interest, we have added a link on our school website to the weekly "Commentary Newsletter" produced by the founder of CC!, Michael Josephson, whose award-winning daily radio commentaries have been broadcast across the country and around the world since 1997.

The Joseph & Edna Josephson Institute of Ethics is a public-benefit, nonpartisan, nonprofit membership organization founded by Michael Josephson to improve the ethical quality of society by advocating principled reasoning and ethical decision making. The CHARACTER COUNTS! youth-edition initiative is a project of the Institute. The Institute is a 501 (c)(3), tax-exempt organization funded by individual memberships and gifts, foundation and corporate grants, fees, and contributions for services, and sales of publications, curricular materials and other products. CHARACTER COUNTS! is a trademark of the Josephson Institute, and used with permission. For more information, go to www.charatercounts.org.

The IHSA (Illinois High School Association) has adopted the Six Pillars of Character from the CC! sports initiative, called "Pursuing Victory with Honor." All of the United States Olympic coaches are trained by Michael Josephson in this ethical decision-making framework.