



SAVE THE DATE

Spring Event
In Honor of
Ellen Nodelman
38 years of dedication

Saturday Evening
May 5, 2012

at
Town & Country Reception Hall
Congers, New York

FROM THE HEAD

We are almost at the end of our second trimester and our campus has been home to impressive events every month. Our Children's School and Upper School music concerts, followed by our screening of Karen Tull's Taking Up Space, the Pasta Talent Show, and, most recently, our Science Fair demonstrate the breadth and depth of an RCDS education. We are also in the middle of our admission season and have hosted several campus tours with parents interested in joining our community. We have increased outreach to several areas and have begun to see the fruits of that labor. Please help us as we continue to provide your daughters and sons with the learning environment they deserve. Tuition only funds 92% of our yearly budget. We rely on your contributions to the Magnolia Fund to help bridge the gap. We need 100% parent participation. In the coming weeks there will be phone calls made to families about contributing to our annual appeal; please help us maintain the academic and creative environment you have come to know and expect from RCDS!

Re-enrollment

As you know, our re-enrollment process is underway. Please adhere to the deadlines outlined in the letter you received. Today is the deadline to apply for financial aid. Re-enrollment contracts, including the amount of aid awards, will be mailed home on February 24. Contracts and tuition deposits are due back to the school by March 7.

Joan Harding King

In observance of the passing of Joan Harding King, 9th grader Isabelle Kim has created a beautiful card depicting Pitkin Hall and our Magnolia Tree for the family. Students and staff will sign the card when we return from break and the card plus a copy of the very first year book of Rockland Country Day School (1962) will be sent to her family. The message in the card reads: "From Mrs. King's strong roots, we continue to flourish. With gratitude from the students and staff at Rockland Country Day School." Mrs. King's picture and history with our school can be found on our website on the "News" page.

Wise Needs You

Participation in the Wise Program is not just by students, teachers, and administrators, but by community members. We are looking for parents, past and present, and interested friends of the school to join our WISE Task Force which is the body that not only plans for the future but that takes on an advisory capacity, when possible, with the current WISE participants. We would love to have a large enough Task Force so that members can each take on a WISE student advisee and help him/her work through the WISE project. It would be tremendously rewarding to you, as any of us who have mentored students in the WISE program can attest, and of course it would be equally rewarding for the students.

We are planning a WISE Task Force Meeting on Tuesday, 28 February, at 3:00. We would love to have you join us. Future Task Force meetings can be scheduled in the evening if that is more convenient for members - we'll do a survey and find out what the best time is for both adults and students.

Upper School Highlights

- National Merit Scholarship Finalist - Congratulations to Senior ELI CHANG, who has been named as a National Merit Scholarship finalist
- Valentine's Assembly - on Feb 14th, Gr. 7 - 12 students mixed and mingled in the Middle School, celebrating Valentine's Day with cookie decorating, Valentine-making and Wii dancing. THANKS to volunteer Maria MacArthur for helping make this sweet event happen.
- Mask-Making Workshops - Art Department Head Michele Sommer has hosted guest artist Dianne Churchill for a four-week mask-making/self-portrait workshop for RCDS art students in grade 7 - 12, beginning on Tuesday, February 7th. This exciting opportunity has been funded by a generous grant from the Arts Council of Rockland (ACOR).

Word To The Wise

The 2012 WISE season is about to be launched full time and seniors are busily making their final arrangements for their projects.

Currently our projects include:

- A French nursery school internship, combined with assisting Mlle. Perez in the Children's School
- An internship at an energy company, crunching numbers, furthering knowledge of market, programming, and more specifically option pricing... and developing said option pricing model
- Directing and producing three separate student stage productions, one for Children's Theatre, two as more mature productions
- Interning in an Emergency Room OR working with the different populations at Jawonio to augment understanding of medical procedures and nursing
- Baking, with a French accent: understanding French baking techniques and comparing them with commercial American baking techniques through an internship at a local bake shop
- The ONDES MARTENOT (an early and unusual electronic instrument), its history, design and function (e.g., learning how to play it)
- Two Lab Assistant Internships at the Rusk Institute
- The Making of an Eastern-Influenced Hip Hop Album and Documentary
- Creative Writing and Performance Art: New Voices for a New Generation
- Photography: a photo-journalist documentary of the damage that we, and time, have done to the environment
- An internship in the recording industry, looking at the business aspects of the entertainment industry
- The Making of an Album: technique behind the arrangement of an album, the writing and recording process and the production and promotion of the album, focusing on the question: How do you make a cohesive, artistic statement in a simple collection of ten to twelve songs?
- On Stage: Stage fighting as an art

As is always the case with WISE, some of this may be subject to change, but the seniors are getting excited about their projects and beginning to share their experiences with each other, and their mentors, both in Senior Seminar and in weekly mentor meetings.

We will be posting a schedule for the final presentations which will begin at the end of May and proceed through the first two weeks of June. All members and friends of the RCDS community are invited, and encouraged, to attend these exciting presentations.

First/Second Grade Winter Update

We have finished our unit "Mapping the U.S. with Paul Bunyan." The U.S. rug map was the perfect vehicle to chart his journey. We did this with yarn and made our way from the state of Maine through the Appalachian Mountains, up toward the Great Lakes, across the Great Plains, down to Texas, across the desert to California, and up to the untouched wilderness of Alaska. We all walked the walk then used yarn to also trace his travels on our wall map. We were impressed that they then used a state map to diagram this course on individual maps using state abbreviations. Everyone wrote "He did what??" facts they remembered and recorded page numbers from the text to prove it. It was great fun to listen to the Tribute to Woody Guthrie album as students did their work. Students wrote a collaborative tall tale about Ms. Tull ("so small she could fit in a coffee cup") and illustrated their own copy. Then they wrote original tall tales using themselves as heroes and they are working on the illustrations with Ms. La Brake. Here are some titles:

The Tall Tale of Animal Love, The Tall Tale of the Ocean Creator, Esme's Tall Tale, The Tall Tale of Neven in the Wilderness, Talia's Tall Tale, The Tall Tale of the Animal Saver, The Rainbow Maker, The Tall Tale of Isabella's Garden, The Tall Tale of the Jewelry House, Dollars for the Poor, The Tall tale of the Natural Re-saver (of Resources)

Congratulations to flautist Zoe Levine, who participated in the Rockland County Music Educators Association's Senior All-County Band on February 3rd and 4th. This year, the band was conducted by Bruce Moss from Bowling Green State University. The two-day festival involves rehearsing the concert repertoire, which students prepare on their own beforehand, and culminates with a performance at the end of the second day. Students are selected to the Senior All-County Music Festival based on their participation in the NYSSMA festival.

Creative Space

Creative Space is growing. Our staff is busy putting new work up on our website collection of student work and produced the first printed sampling, **A FEW LEAVES FROM CREATIVE SPACE**, a four page piece featuring work by Children's School, with middle and upper schoolers as well. The staff distributed the "first edition" of **A FEW LEAVES** on Friday, Feb. 3rd. If you missed it, you can access it by clicking on this link: <https://sites.google.com/a/rocklandcnds.org/collection-for-creative-space/a-few-leaves>.

Once you're on the Creative Space website, on which **A FEW LEAVES** is now archived, (find it by itself at <https://sites.google.com/a/rocklandcnds.org/collection-for-creative-space/>) you'll be able to read the complete works from which these samples are derived. We hope to make the distribution of A FEW LEAVES a monthly event, so watch for the next issue in March.

Currently on Creative Space: more poetry by Loisa Fenichell and Briana Gwin, the full essay by Yayue (Annabelle) Luo, the beginning of Mary Reddington's novel, a Spanish project by Jonathan Kohlmeier, French work by Sergei Bluman, David Karp, & Maeve Crispi, Coby Pohs and Carly Avezzano, and the Algebra II Landscape Architecture projects.

Coming soon: more Grades 3 and 4 creations, artwork from across the school, and the latest additions to Poor Rockland's Almanac.

So tune in and see what's going on in and outside of RCDS classrooms.

P.S. You can also find Creative Space on the usual RCDS website (www.rocklandcnds.org), click on Academic Divisions, then on Creative Space on the sidebar. You'll be there.

The TALL Tale of Ms. Tull by First/Second Grade Writers

Once upon a time there was a little girl named Ms. Tull. She was as small as a coffee cup and had her own secret hideout in a cookie tin in New Jersey.

She began her career cheering up ladybugs. Soon she was making her parents laugh by talking in different voices and telling jokes. Ms. Tull cheered up the poor by serving them a cake as big as a stadium.

Ms. Tull was as fast as an ostrich; so fast, she could run across water. She was as smart as a dolphin and could talk like one too!

When she was twenty she knew 1000 gazillion facts. She would write them on paper and pass them out at schools a trillion times an hour. Ms. Tull began teaching children all around the world. When she got enthusiastic she started to grow. Her eyes would pop and she'd start to dance.

By the end of the day she was so tired she fell asleep on her eraser. Ms. Tull lived for 3000 years and you can still hear her giggling to this day!

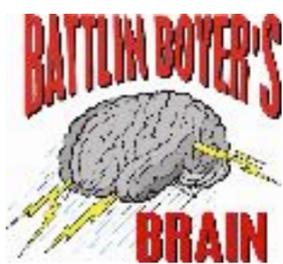
Upcoming Events

2/20-2/24 Mid - Winter Break
2/27 Middle School Information Session @ 7pm

2/28 An Afternoon with Sarah Berkovits

3/07 Re-enrollment forms due back
3/11 Rockland County Youth Fest @ 11am - 4pm
3/16 Campus Tour

3/16 International Luncheon and Assembly
3/24 Ice Cream Social



Dec. 09, 2011 Problem. If 72% percent of Americans have straight hair, 76% have brown eyes, 87% are high school graduates, and 88% are less than 6 feet tall, what is the minimum percentage of Americans who have all four attributes?

Solvers: Jae Hoon Lyu

For the previous problem with solution, a list of solvers, and the current Problem of the Week:

<https://sites.google.com/a/rocklandcnds.org/mr-boyer-s-website/problem-of-the-week>

Send answers to: jboyer@rocklandcnds.org

Calendar art correction:

The month of May 2012 art is by artist Savanna Clarke, entitled There's Always Room for One More. It is a 2011 mixed-media crosshatch drawing of Savanna and her friends



Congratulations to the students in our Children's School!

The Winter Concert this year was based on the subject of "wants" versus "needs," a unit of study which began in Ms. Tull's first and second grade classroom and expanded across the curriculum. Students as young as Pre-Kindergarten, communicated their strong understanding of this concept in song, dance, original poetry, and instrumental music. The theme of the concert made for a serene but festive tone, and every student graced the stage emanating joy and confidence; it was truly a sight to behold.

There were many highlights of the evening including a slide show presentation of students' photos taken by Maria Rocco and Cynthia Whitten, followed by "All I Really Need," performed by all students and accompanied by Julia Liu on piano and Greg Talenfeld (father of Esme and Lula) on banjo. "Light a Little Candle" was sung by Pre-K and Kindergarten, "I'd Do Anything" was sung and choreographed by grades one and two, and "Il Faudra Leur Dire," a lyrical French song taught by Ms. Perez, was sung by grades three and four. Each musical piece in the program was beautifully enhanced by a projected backdrop of student artwork presented in a slide show created by Michele Sommer.

Of course, "Grandpa" Mike was on hand to capture the special moments of this evening and his photos can be viewed at the following link: http://grandpamike12.smugmug.com/RocklandCountryDaySchool-1/RCDS-Childrens-School-Winter12/21125303_6FbsCG#!i=1680427131&k=zHwCqQQ.

DVDs of the concert will be available soon, so stay tuned.

Maria Rocco, Children's School Music Instructor

From the Parents' Association

The reviews are in, and we'd like to congratulate the entire RCDS community on what was arguably the best Pasta Talent Night ever! The performances were fantastic, and our parents turned out in droves to help with set-up, kitchen help and clean-up. Special thanks go to Michael Heller, our volunteer chef, Chef Marc for arranging all the necessary supplies, our student volunteers, and Kathy Hoehmann, Pasta Talent Organizer Extraordinaire. Ticket sales grossed over \$1,400! Thanks to everyone who came.

We are also grateful to the many parents who contributed baked goods to our two bake sales this week, for Valentine's Day and the Science Fair. Combined sales raised \$159.

Our next big campus event will be the International Luncheon and Assembly, on Friday, March 16th. This is a wonderful opportunity to share and experience the foods of the many cultures that make up our diverse student body. We ask all families to consider bringing in a dish that represents your heritage. Or bring an exotic dish that you just need an excuse to prepare. Watch for the coming flyer with full details.

On Sunday, March 11th we will have a table at Rockland County Youth Fest, at RCC in Suffern. Students from our school will be performing, and we'll be handing out brochures to further promote and publicize our school.

Lastly, please mark your calendar: our next PA meeting will be Tuesday, April 24th at 7pm, where we will be collecting nominations for next year's officers, among other hot topics of business.

REMEMBER to support the Ice Cream Social (3/31) and the spring musical, "Urinetown" (4/20-22). These are wonderful campus performances, fun for all ages.

Kindergarten and Pre-Kindergarten's words on Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Morgan Minniefield: "Dr. Martin Luther King encouraged people to do what they want. He helped people with what they were trying to do. He made people happy because he said you should go to whatever school you want no matter the color of your skin. We should respect people. People should respect people. Even though he died a long time ago we should still be respectful."

Jayden Perry: "Dr. Martin Luther King is not alive but he can live in our hearts like God actually. What Martin Luther King did was he took care of everything and we had joy in our world and all over the world."

Leo Litle: "Martin Luther King Jr. helped make things fair for people when it was not fair. I don't understand why he was killed because his ideas were already out to people. They were probably people without love in their hearts who did that to him."

Lilyanna Mayer: "Dr. King let everyone do what they wanted. He helped everyone go to the same school. Going to different schools was not fair. We should mix them together."

Kayla Nelson: "Martin Luther King was a doctor and that makes me happy. He helped people to live and be strong."

Deven Molina: "A long time ago people with different skin went to different schools. Dr. Martin made everything normal."

Lila Hely: "In the schools, a long time ago, they set the schools by the color of your skin. Dr. Martin Luther King said this is no fair. So, he put all those people together and said, in a happy way, this is no fair!"

Maddie Devine: "Things were not good. People were being separated just because of their skin. People weren't happy. Martin Luther King said something. He said this was unfair to thousands of people. Things changed."

Lola Leach: "Dr. Martin Luther King encouraged people to do good things. Different colored people could then go to school together and do religion together. He was a good person."

Alumni News

Fashion Designer Brian Wolk ('91) of the RUFFIAN line is getting ready for the new show and Fashion Week 2012. Get a preview at <http://thefashioninformer.typepad.com/informer/2012/02/fall-2012-preview-ruffian-.html>

Naomi Vladeck ('88) has started her own, very successful, business, coaching students in college essay writing. Naomi got a start here at RCDS working with Ellen Nodelman and the classes of both 2011 and 2012 on their essays. She has been featured in the Tarrytown Patch, <http://tarrytown.patch.com/articles/moms-who-rock-around-our-towns-sleepy-hollow-manor-s-naomi-vladek>

Tim Bidon('10 and Ithaca College '14) had an article published in Ithaca College's Fall 2011 360 Magazine entitled "Without a Compass." The issue was devoted to the ubiquitous debt problem in today's society. He wrote his article from an unusual perspective, as someone who has not had to go into debt to finance his education but who has, instead, found himself deep in debt, morally, to his family because of the sacrifices they have made for him.

2012 College Acceptances

The college acceptances are rolling in, and our seniors are going to be faced with some real dilemmas when it comes to deciding where to go – so many choices!

Three of the seniors applied early decision and were accepted, which means they're going: David Karp is going to NYU, Tae Hee Park is enrolling at Emory, and Matthew Schmuckler is headed for the University of Rochester.

The other seniors are still awaiting many of the decisions which will be coming in between now and early April. We will keep you posted as these and scholarship offers arrive. In the meantime, here is the list as updated on the 15th of February.

College Acceptances as of 2/15/2012

Allegheny College Mercy College
Benedict College University of Michigan
Bethune-Cookman University New York University (ED)
Case Western Reserve University Newbury College
Cheyney University Northeastern University
College of Charleston Penn State
Clark Atlanta University Purdue University (Engineering)
Dickinson College (2) University of Rochester (ED)
Dillard University St. John's College
Dominican College of Blauvelt St. John's University
Drew University St. Thomas Aquinas College
Eckerd College SUNY Binghamton University
Elmira College SUNY New Paltz University
Emory University (ED) SUNY Stony Brook University
Fairfield University The Hartt School, Univ. of Hartford
Full Sail University Utica College (2)
Green Mountain College University of Vermont
Lincoln University Virginia State University
Long Island University, C.W. Post Voorhees College
Marymount Manhattan College Wheaton College MA (2)

