

# RIVER DELL NEWS



NEWS OF THE RIVER DELL SCHOOLS

WINTER 2016

## *A Message From The Superintendent*

Dear River Dell Community,

Recently, several Bergen County school districts received a series of threatening phone calls. The appropriate police authorities investigated the matter, eventually clearing each district involved to resume normal class schedules. Certainly, situations of this nature are troubling, but it's important to keep the following in mind:

- 1) The River Dell School District has established protocols to address emergency situations. These include the active involvement of both the Oradell and River Edge Police Departments and Offices of Emergency Services.
- 2) In the event of a crisis, it is vital that all community members, including parents, remember to allow school officials and local law enforcement professionals to do their jobs and not interfere while an event is still unfolding.
- 3) As difficult as it is for parents, this includes not coming to the school or evacuation area while the situation is unfolding. And, if your child contacts you via cell phone or other social

media, please encourage them to follow the instructions provided by school officials.

Our District communicates openly and frequently, but given security considerations, can only comment in general terms about safety protocols. River Dell maintains crisis management plans that were developed with the assistance of local law enforcement. We conduct regular drills to ensure that staff members will respond appropriately during a crisis to insure student safety. Please provide us with the time to deal with emerging issues and recognize that we may not be able to provide all requested information immediately.

We take matters of this nature very seriously, and are regularly adjusting plans in relation to different scenarios. Considering all factors, I am confident that the students attending the River Dell Public Schools are being educated in extremely safe learning environments.

Patrick J. Fletcher  
Superintendent of Schools

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### *My name is Dr. Jennifer Chatmon...*

I am passionate about creating life-long learners and very happy to join the district as the new Assistant Principal for River Dell High School. I have had the opportunity to speak with many of you and appreciate the welcome arms and assistance that I have received.

Before coming to River Dell, I served young people in the public education sector for close to 16 years in the capacity of classroom teacher, track coach, disciplinarian and administrator. During these years, I earned both my masters and doctorate degrees from Rutgers University in Educational Administration/Supervision and the sociology of education, respectively. Prior to working in education, I spent many years in the music industry, both on the record label side and on the stage performing.

My journey has shown me that successful people have their social, emotional and academic needs met; thus my primary objective is to ensure that we are meeting each student where they are and inspiring them to be and do more. I am grateful for the opportunity to serve in my new role. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me if you have any questions, concerns or vegan desserts you'd like to share with me. Be well!

## Congratulations to...



The River Dell High School Select Choir for their tremendous performance in December at the North Jersey School Music Association High School Region I Choral Festival held at Teaneck High School! They received an Excellent rating (highest level) from both adjudicators who were most impressed with the choir's level of excellence and artistry. On March 7 at 7:00pm, the select choir will be performing at Carnegie Hall through Distinguished Concerts International New York. They will be performing Ola Gjeilo's *Sunrise Mass*.

High School students Soyoung Park, Caroline Mui, Irene Yoon and Susan Kang have been accepted into the 2016 North Jersey School Music Association Region I High School Chorus.

Giesu Ahn was selected for the All State Symphonic Band.

Lauren Cardone and Brooke Stewart, among others, have been accepted into the 2015 North Jersey School Music Association Region I Junior High School Chorus.

Paul Jeong and Mina Chung were accepted into the NJSMA Region I Junior High School Orchestra.

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## Athlete Overcomes Odds



Recently Sebastian Quiana, a senior at River Dell, signed his National Letter of Intent to accept a scholarship to the University of Illinois. What makes this amazing is that eight months ago Sebastian underwent surgery to fix a problem with his right elbow. Many doctors advised it would

end his gymnastic career which began when he was three years old. Thanks to a surgeon at the Hospital for Special Surgery, Sebastian was able to once again compete at the USA Gymnastics Junior Olympic National Championships. After his New Jersey State Floor Championship in March, Sebastian placed eighth at nationals. He was recognized as an academic All-American and placed in the top 40 all-around.

"Ever since my surgery, I've wanted to become a surgeon," said Sebastian. "So I decided that bioengineering would set me up for medical school."

Way to go, Sebastian!

## Middle School Hosts Quiz Bowl Tournament

The Academic Competition Club, led by Advisor Mrs. Sue Keitel, will host the first annual Bergen Winter Classic, a NAQT (National Academic Quiz Tournaments) invitational tournament.

Quiz Bowl is becoming more and more popular nationwide and can be nicknamed Jeopardy on steroids! Students compete in multiple 20 question rounds in a tournament bracket, can earn power by responding early and get three bonus questions for each toss-up question won. Four students compete on a team, often with an alternate to sub in when necessary.

The top 15% of the teams at this tournament are invited to attend the National Tournament which will be held in Atlanta this year in early May. Quiz Bowl gives students the opportunity to be a steward of knowledge. It requires memorization, connections and a desire to learn more every single day.



## Students Lend a Hand

Senior Patrick Carney was one of the student photographers who managed to capture all the fast-paced action at the Oradell Kids Foundation 5K event. The following students also assisted at the 5K event with set up, games and any other tasks that came their way: Olivia Schuster, Matt Palathingal, Tyler Yuen, Alexander McNally, Morgan Aronoff, Stephanie John, Jenna Craig, Kristina Craig, Josh Goldfarb, Nick Quinn and Alex Chu.

The National English Honor Society collected hundreds of letters of gratitude written to members of the military. The letters will be sent to Operation Gratitude where they will be included in the care packages that are sent to deployed military personnel. Troops say that personal letters are the most cherished part of the care packages they receive.

The Eighth Grade Ambassadors are planning a field trip to the New Bridge Center kindergarten class to facilitate various activities and crafts with the students surrounding the theme of friendship. Projects will include reading books about friendship and pairing into small groups to make "friendship flowers."

## In The Classroom



Family and Consumer Science teacher Claire O'Connor and Physical Education/Health teacher Katie Lord collaborated in a joint lesson on health and nutrition. Utilizing what they learned about consuming

nutrient-rich foods and physical activity, each group of students had to create a healthier alternative of a favorite snack or meal. The person or group with the best revision and highest nutrition level got to present their recipe revision in Mrs. O'Connor's cooking lab. After watching a demo of the winners' recipe, the class was able to create their own version by utilizing five kitchens in Mrs. O'Connor's classroom. Each kitchen made sweet potatoes, kale and beet chips. The winners were Fallon Oddo, Maria Mustard, Nicole Munz and Sarah Pfohl. The students found this experience fun and educational. A wonderful experience for all!

Can a 5-pound gummy bear stop a 2,865 mph bullet? Physics teacher Ross Pohling's freshman students watched a video in which a 5-pound gummy bear is shot with a rifle. Students apply Newton's Laws and the concept of momentum to explain why the bullet travels just one inch inside the gummy bear before disintegrating; they calculate the force between the .20-caliber bullet and the giant sugary treat. And yes, this is all done in Microsoft OneNote.



During the first four months of the school year, Liz Stiles' Advanced Placement Government & Politics students assisted approximately 100 teenagers to register to vote. On December 23rd, the students went to senior classes "voter registration caroling" and helped over 50 of their peers complete voter registration forms.

SUPA Forensic Science students are dripping blood! Simulated blood that is, to determine point of origin, direction and relative velocities of the spatter. And yes, doing the math! Students use the sine trigonometric function to determine the angle from which the blood was released. As gruesome as this may appear, it is a vital aspect of physical evidence analysis to support or negate eyewitness accounts or to determine the order of events at a crime scene.



## Athletic News

**Boys and Girls Cross Country**—Both Will Daly for the boys and Shannon Gorla for the girls finished 2nd at the NJSIAA State Group Championships. Colin Daly finished sixth and the boys team took 3rd place and the girls 4th place. The boys team and Shannon qualified for the State Meet of Champs.

**Girls Cross Country**—Head Coach Brianna Bayersdorfer selected *The Record's* North Jersey Girls Cross Country Coach of the Year.

**Boys Cross Country**—Will Daly for his selection as the Runner of the Year by *The Record*.

**Volleyball**—the team defeated Group 3 State Champion Demarest to defend their own Group 2 state title. The team won back-to-back state championships for the first time in school history for any sport.

**Boys and Girls Indoor Track**—Big North Patriot and North 1, Group State Sectional Champs; Head Coach Mike Urso was named National Federation of High Schools' NJ State Coach of the Year for Boys Track.

**Wrestling**—Joe Longobardi, County Champion; the team was named Group County Champions.

**Boys Basketball**—Bergenfield Holiday Tournament Champions

Congratulations to all our student-athletes and coaches for River Dell ranking among the top 5 high school sports programs in New Jersey by Niche.com.

## Middle School Art



Eighth grader Kristina Gelber's artwork, *Expressive Landscape*, was selected for the NJ State YAM Exhibit held in March at the Trenton State House.

The artwork of eighth grade students, Jessica O'Neill, Julianna Hronic and Yoshiki Kakehi, was chosen for exhibit at the NJ Performing Arts Late Winter Exhibit through April 1.

Eighth grade students, Jeremy Convocar and Keila Seeley, had their artwork selected for the NJ Performing Arts Winter Exhibit.

Congratulations to all our artists!

# UPCOMING EVENTS AT RIVER DELL

## MARCH

- 5 SAT exam at High School, 7:30am
- 7 One Session Day—PD for Staff
- 11 M/S Semi-Formal Dance in M/S, 6:00pm
- 14 BOE Meeting at H/S Media Center, 8:00pm
- 25 Schools Closed—Good Friday
- 28 Schools Closed
- 29 BOE Meeting at H/S Media Center, 8:00pm
- 31 M/S Drama Club Performance in M/S Auditorium, 7:00pm

## APRIL

- 1 Spring Musical at H/S Auditorium, 7:00pm
- 2 Spring Musical at H/S Auditorium, 2:00pm & 7:00pm
- 3 Spring Musical at H/S Auditorium, 3:00pm
- 9 ACT exam at High School, 7:30am
- 11-15 Schools Closed—Spring Recess
- 21 Tri-M Honor Society Induction at H/S Auditorium, 7:00pm
- 25 BOE Meeting at H/S Media Center, 8:00pm
- 28 Class of 2016 Last Chance Dance at H/S Cafeteria, 7:00pm

## MAY

- 7 SAT exam at High School, 7:30am
- 10 BOE Meeting at H/S Media Center, 8:00pm
- 12 M/S Spring Concert at M/S Auditorium, 7:00pm
- 17 PTO Meeting at H/S Media Center, 7:00pm
- 19 H/S Spring Concert at H/S Auditorium, 7:00pm
- 23 BOE Meeting at H/S Media Center, 8:00pm
- 24 Spanish/French Honor Society Induction at H/S Auditorium, 7:30pm
- 26 Tri-M Pops Recital at H/S Auditorium, 7:00pm
- 30 Schools Closed—Memorial Day

## JUNE

- 4 SAT exam at High School, 7:30am
- 6 BOE Meeting at H/S Media Center, 8:00pm
- 11 ACT exam at High School, 7:30am
- 16 Class of 2016 Senior Prom, 5:30pm
- 17 M/S Moving Up Ceremony at High School, 1:30pm
- 23 Graduation Ceremony at High School, 5:00pm  
Last Day for students
- 27 BOE Meeting at H/S Media Center, 8:00pm



**Watch RDTV on Cablevision Channel 77 or FiOS Channel 28!**

**DUE TO PRIVACY RESTRICTIONS, WE ARE UNABLE TO PUBLISH ANY PERSONALLY IDENTIFIABLE INFORMATION ABOUT A STUDENT WITHOUT PRIOR WRITTEN CONSENT FROM THE STUDENT'S PARENT/GUARDIAN.**

**River Dell's Web Site: [www.riverdell.org](http://www.riverdell.org)**

**RIVER DELL REGIONAL BOARD OF EDUCATION  
230 WOODLAND AVENUE  
RIVER EDGE, NJ 07661**



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