



# Superintendent's Bulletin

December 2023 - Volume 12 - Issue 4

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Dear RCSD Community,

On December 14, something quite remarkable happened at Osborn School. Led by teacher Amy Carman, Osborn School held a school-wide cereal box domino rally to benefit Feeding Westchester, a non-profit organization dedicated to combating hunger in Westchester County. What was most notable to me was how this event encompassed so many of the goals of The Rye Commitment in that it combined problem-solving, collaboration, and social responsibility.

Osborn students and their families collected a whopping 1,475 boxes of cereal. The 5th graders in

Mrs. Carman's class -- whom she dubbed the Spirit Squad -- worked together to figure out how much space they needed for the cereal box domino course, and then they mapped out a route through the hallways of Osborn School, out onto the school's playground, and back inside (including an incredible serpentine formation across the gymnasium!). This required determining how many boxes would fit based on the distance apart the boxes should be spaced (higher math at work). They even built in switchbacks and included gaps just in case someone accidentally bumped a cereal box. These were filled in just before the rally. On the big day, students set up the boxes, sorted by type, naturally!

Osborn students from every class gathered in the hallways for the rally. While they were waiting for the rally to start, teachers asked students questions like, "What is food insecurity?" and "How will this domino rally help people in need?" to encourage them to think about gratitude and helping others.

It took approximately three minutes for the cereal boxes to fall perfectly - no fails in this rally! Parent Liz Kang Smith captured the excitement in a video now posted to YouTube. Click [here](#) to view it. The 5th graders especially enjoyed being able to load up the truck after the rally to send the 1,475 boxes of cereal to Feeding Westchester which will distribute them to their 300 sites throughout the county.

Kudos to Osborn School for a smart, feel-good holiday event that did good, too.

Sincerely,

Eric Byrne, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools



# Lauding our State Champs

By Dr. Eric Byrne



*Left: All bundled up at the girls soccer state championship in Cortland with Athletics Assistant Al Mercado, boys soccer coach Jared Small and some frozen parents*



*Right: Relatively warm at the Dome with Director of Health, Physical Education, and Athletics Susan Reid Dullea and Coach Dino Garr at the football state championships at the Dome in Syracuse*

By now, I think most people in our community have heard that both the Rye High School girls varsity soccer team and the varsity football team brought home the state championships this year. We recognized both teams with Rye Recognition of Excellence awards - awards given annually by the administration and Board of Education to students who have excelled in the arenas of athletics, scholarship, and the arts. They have been feted at team banquets and received Proclamations from the State Assembly, and the City of Rye. They have been lauded by County Executive Latimer (who bought the girls soccer team breakfast at Poppy's), State Senator Shelley Mayer, Assemblyman Steve Otis, and Mayor Josh Cohn. Their pictures have been in the papers and online and all over social media. They are probably truly exhausted from all the attention!

Rye hasn't had a team win a state championship since 2008, although many have come very close. I am so lucky to have been Superintendent during a year when we won TWO -- almost unheard of in the realms of superintendency (and a cause of some real jealousy among my peers, I might add). Despite the distance to some of the far-flung game locales, once there, I savored every minute of the playoff excitement and of course, the victories. Here's to many more - and to finally updating those "Welcome to Rye/Now Leaving Rye" signs all over town. My heartiest congratulations to the student athletes and gratitude to the coaches, parents, and families who gave them the support and encouragement that made it possible for dreams to come true!



# Lauding our State Champs (cont'd)



*The varsity girls soccer team received Rye Recognition of Excellence Awards at the December 5 Board of Education Meeting*



*The varsity football team and JV players who were called up to play in the postseason received Rye Recognition of Excellence awards at the December 19 Board of Education Meeting*



# Spotlight on the Arts

## “Senior Scenes 2023”



*Senior Scenes photos by Grey Cat, Inc.*

Eleven Rye High School seniors were given the opportunity to direct their favorite scenes for this year's Senior Scenes production, presented in two shows with 20 actors on December 2. The seniors got to choose a scene, audition, and “hire” underclassmen actors -- and then direct the scene -- all on their own. The annual tradition is a great way for seniors to try their hand at the other side of the theater.



# Commendations



Boys varsity football team celebrating their State Championship on December 3

- **RHS students** helped Santa answer over 500 letters dropped in mailboxes at Rye Recreation and on Purchase Street
- The **boys varsity football team** beat two-time state champions Maine-Endwell at the Dome in Syracuse to become the New York State Class B Champions
- The Lions Club Athlete of the Month for December is varsity football quarterback and senior **A.J. Miller**
- Freshman cheerleader **Elle Talbott** was featured in Inside Cheerleading Magazine
- Senior soccer midfielder **Maddy Walsh** was named Class A State Player of the Year
- Girls Varsity Soccer Coach and Osborn School teacher **Rich Savage** was named Class A State Coach of the Year following the team's state championship win



# Commendations (cont'd)

## **All Section and All League Honors**

A number of Rye High School athletes earned All League and All Section designations for the 2023 fall sports season:

### **Cheerleading**

- **Elle Talbott** - All League, All Section

### **Cross Country - Boys**

- **Will Squarek** - All League

### **Cross Country - Girls**

- **Jessica Bourne** - All League
- **Aine Kennelly** - All League
- **Lily Oberbannscheidt** - All League

### **Field Hockey**

- **Cara Bartlett** - All League, All Section
- **Sophie Bourne** - All League
- **Caroline Doyle** - All League
- **Chloe Holden** - All League
- **Rachel Kelly-Walsh** - All League
- **Issy Mann** - All League, All Section
- **Brigitte Middleton** - All League
- **Kate Morreale** - All League, All Section
- **Sienna Myers** - All League
- **Kate Puzzouli** - All League
- **Beau Whaling** - All League, All Section
- **Lilly Whaling** - All League, All Section

### **Football**

- **Jack Acciavatti** - All League, All Section
- **Thomas Anderson** - All League
- **Archer Fenton** - All League
- **Jason Gonzalez** - All League, All Section
- **Chris Iuliano** - All League, All Section
- **Jake Kessner** - All League, All Section
- **Patrick McGuire** - All League
- **A.J. Miller** - All League, All Section
- **Ronan O'Byrne** - All League
- **Charlie Saurack** - All League

### **Soccer - Boys**

- **Tommy Broderick** - All League, All Section
- **Lex Cox** - All League
- **Max Crothall** - All League, All Section
- **Ollie Lincoln** - All League
- **Kieran Traynor** - All League
- **Tyler Triolo** - All League
- **Kaden Zion** - All League

### **Soccer - Girls**

- **Bowyn Brown** - All League
- **Isabel Harvey** - All League, All Section, All State (First Team)
- **Charlotte Keenan** - All League, All Section
- **Lyla Keenan** - All League
- **Tessa Labovitz** - All League
- **Clare Nemsick** - All League
- **Sage Ruttenberg** - All League
- **Maddy Walsh** - All League, All Section

### **Tennis - Girls**

- **Svetlana Andikyan** - All League
- **Hannah Cali** - All League
- **Alexandra DiMeo** - All League
- **Brooke Gori** - All League
- **Charlotte Lorraine** - All League
- **Alexandra Sherman** - All League

### **Tennis Varsity B - Girls**

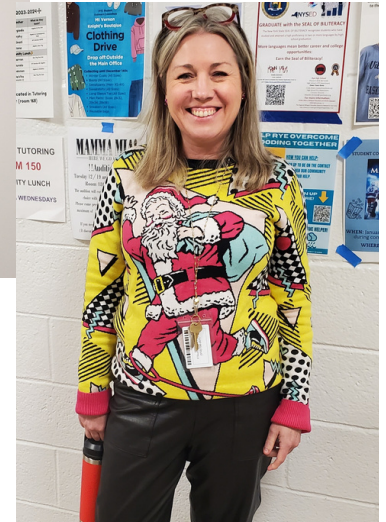
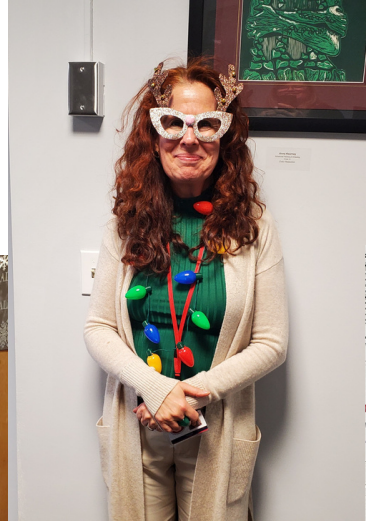
- **Laeticia Clauss** - All League
- **Kathleen Denvir** - All League
- **Kiera Hanlon** - All League

### **Volleyball**

- **Erin Ball** - All League, All Section
- **Ashley Dehmer** - All League
- **Emma Lunstead** - All League
- **Valeria Medina** - All League
- **Anna Nolasco** - All League



# Rye High School's Ugly Sweater Contest



The winners of this year's Ugly Sweater Contest at Rye High School - congratulations to all for their festive garb (and for their willingness to wear it)!

Left to Right: First Place winner **Megan Biddle** (Library Media Specialist), Second Place to science teacher **Clare Goldin**, and a tie for Third Place between special education teacher **Laura Cunningham-Barrett** and teaching assistant **Sybil Howley**

## Looking Ahead



**Monday, January 1-2, 2024**

Winter Recess

Schools and Offices Closed

**Wednesday, January 3**

Schools and offices reopen

**Tuesday, January 9**

Board of Education Meeting

7:30 p.m.

RMS Multipurpose Room

**Monday, January 15**

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Day

Schools and offices Closed

**Tuesday, January 23**

Board of Education Meeting

7:30 p.m.

RMS Multipurpose Room