



# Superintendent's Bulletin

March 2024 - Volume 12 - Issue 7

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Dear RCSD Community Member,

Every year at about this time, I begin what I call the "Budget Road Show." Immediately after the next year's school district budget is approved by the Board of Education and changes from the proposed budget to the adopted budget, I am on the move. I've been doing this since I first came to the District in 2017, and it's one of the best parts of my job.

I meet with all kinds of different groups, from the seniors at Rye Rec to the members of Rye Rotary and the Lions Club. I've been welcomed by the Community Synagogue, the nursery schools, and the Women's Club of Rye. I've met with realtors and the volunteers of Children's Philanthropy -- really anyone who will have me! (Hint, hint, I am available if you are a member of a group that is interested).



I generally begin by providing an overview of what the upcoming year's budget covers, and what curricular, programmatic, and physical improvements the budget supports. This year, I'm talking about the new AP Capstone Program and the International Baccalaureate Program at the high school. And the much needed upgrades to the schools' security systems, the gym floor at RHS, the softball field, and the wrestling room. I talk about how the work stemming from the \$79.9M capital bond passed in 2019 is almost complete, and how it's making a difference for students every day.

Without exception, every group has been incredibly welcoming. It's clear that their interest in the welfare of the school district and the students and teachers is deep-seated and real, whether they have children or grandchildren in the schools or not. They understand that the schools belong to everyone in Rye. They have listened with infinite patience and kindness when I talk about the finer points of the school district's budget and its less-than-riveting aspects, like the tax cap calculation. They ask thoughtful, insightful, and sometimes tough questions about the inner workings of the schools and the education the students are receiving.

I have learned so much about Rye, about education, and about people's experiences with both during these meetings. I leave every meeting grateful for this community and its commitment to excellence in public education. Thank you for your support of our schools and our students.

Sincerely,

Eric Byrne, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools

# National Science Bowl Success



For the first time since the pandemic, Rye High School sent two teams in-person to the NYC High School Regional Science Bowl on Saturday, March 2, at Hunter College High School in Manhattan. The teams met and practiced each Friday during community lunch to prepare.

Team 1 took 9th place in the competition, beating archrivals Team 1 from Horace Greeley High School. Team 1 members include: **Andrew Chun** (11th), **Bill Chen** (11th), **Drew Dolan** (11th), **Dean Kim** (11th), and **Grace Wang** (10th). Team 2 members are: **Kimaya Agarwal** (11th), **Katherine Ebeling** (11th), **Ella Froah** (11th), **Inga Iverson** (11th), and **Paloma Tollinchi** (11th). Congratulations to both teams and to advisor RHS chemistry and science research teacher **Sally Mitchell**.

## Osborn Student Council Gives Back



On February 28, members of the **Osborn School Student Council** traveled to the Ronald McDonald House of the Greater Hudson Valley in Valhalla to present a check for \$1,350. The students raised the funds via a school store on Tuesday mornings and afternoons. Students on the council coordinated every aspect of the store, from picking and choosing the stock to manning the books and keeping the books. The council chose Ronald McDonald House as the fall/winter charity and were able to go tour the house and truly see where and how the money will help families with children in need of critical care at Maria Fareri Children's Hospital. Kudos to the students and advisor Osborn Kindergarten teacher **Dina Gelman**.

# The Blue Path to Success



On March 12, students from the **RHS GARNETS** class and **The Academy** led a walk-a-thon fundraiser on behalf of BluePath Service Dogs. Students, teachers, administrators, and staff raised money by walking the track at Nugent Stadium. Thanks in part to generous donations from the **Rye Teachers Association (RTA)** and **City of Rye Police Benevolent Association (PBA)**, the campaign raised \$2,957 for BluePath.

## A Brainy Bee



*Left to right: Rachel Feld-Glazman, OT, Director of the Brain Injury program at Burke Rehabilitation, Nicolas Echlov, and Dr. Erika Trovato, Burke's Associate Chief Medical Officer*

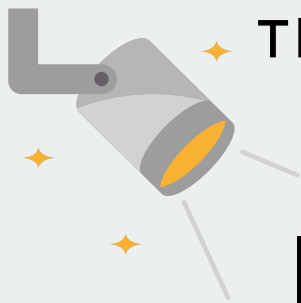
Rye High School senior **Nicolas Echlov** was the winner of the 2024 Westchester Brain Bee Competition at Burke Rehabilitation Hospital on March 7. The Brain Bee is an annual, world-wide competition for high school students who compete by answering a broad range of neuroscience-related questions. Nicolas and the winners of the local Brain Bee competitions around the country will travel to the USA National Brain Bee Championship April 19-21 at the University of Central Florida in Orlando. The Rye Fund for Education (RFE) is sponsoring Nicolas' trip to Florida.

Other Rye High School students who participated in the Bee include **Allie Falzone** (9th), **Sofia Jovanovic** (10th), and **Haley Kloepper** (11th). The USA Brain Bee was founded in 1998 as a means of encouraging high school students to learn more about the brain and encourage them to pursue careers in neurology and neurological research. Nicolas plans to pursue studies in neuroscience after high school. Congratulations, and best of luck at the Championships!



# Spotlight on the Arts

## ✦ The Parsons Street Players Present Mamma Mia!



*Scenes from the PSP production of Mamma Mia! (photos courtesy of Joel and Anne Darelus of Grey Cat, Inc.)*

On March 1 and 2, The Rye High School Parsons Street Players put on two evening and one matinee performance of *Mamma Mia!* to wildly enthusiastic audiences of all ages. The cast of 29 performers and 20 crew put on a show that had them dancing in the aisles.

# Commendations

- Senior **Amelia Brooks** received the 2024 St. Vincent's Hospital Youth Award. The Youth Awards recognize students from area high schools whose volunteer service best exemplifies the hospital's mission
- On February 24-25, the **boys varsity squash team** competed at Nationals in the U.S. High School Squash Nationals in Philadelphia, PA, in Division IV and finished in 4th place
- Senior **Will Squarek** had a phenomenal race at the NYSPHSAA Indoor Track and Field Championships, breaking the school record with a 1:23.59 finish. He was named the February Athlete of the Month by the Rye Lions Club
- Four Rye students won an award for their research at the Westchester Science and Engineering Fair WESEF this past weekend. The 2024 Regeneron WESEF Awards Ceremony was held on Thursday, March 21 at Somers High School. The four students, all juniors, are: Ella Froah, Bill Chen, Dean Kim, and Aidan Schmidt.

## All Section and All League Honors

As the spring sports season is in full swing, a number of Rye High School and Middle School athletes earned All Section and All League designation for the 2023-2024 winter sports season:

### Boys Varsity Basketball

Jake Kessner (11th) All League & All Section

Carson Miller (10th) All League

### Girls Varsity Basketball

Phoebe Greto (10th) All League

Paige Tepedino (10th) All League

### Ice Hockey

Henry Bagley (12th) All League & All Section

Seth Dorfman (12th) All League

Jamie Showers (11th) All League

### East Green Wave Girls Ice Hockey Team - Section One East Girls Ice Hockey (merged team with Mamaroneck)

Selkie Brown (9th) All League & Section 1 Rookie of the Year Award

Mia Lynch (9th) All League

Cece Neise (9th) All League

Abby Roberson (10th) All League Honorable Mention

### Boys Indoor Track

Camille Cherpion (9th) All League

William Puzzuoli (12th) All League

William Squarek (12th) All League

Clayton Stark (10th) All League

Ben Truman (10th) All League

Jake Zion (10th) All League

### Girls Indoor Track

Sophia Bubeck (11th) All League

Charlotte Fitz (10th) All League

Anne Kearney (11th) All League

Fiona Marino (9th) All League

Ambar Quinonez Mendez (10th) All League

### Boys Ski Team

Trent Bisceglia (12th) All League

Zach Choo (9th) All League

Harrison Gelinias (11th) All League

Kiran Gounden-Kobes (11th) All League

# Commendations

## All Section and All League Honors (continued)

### Boys Ski Team (continued)

Justin Gray (12th) All League & All Section

Lukas Steinmann (12th) All League

### Girls Ski Team

Charlotte Derman (12th) All League

Margaret Derman (10th) All League

Tori Hobbins (10th) All League

Audrey Meier (11th) All League

Kira Woolsey (10th) All League

### Boys Swimming & Diving

Niko Field (8th) All League

Finn Hansen (9th) All League

Bryan Lavery (12th) All League

Kieran Moran (9th) All League

### Wrestling

Jack Anderson (10th) All League

Tommy Anderson (12th) All League & All Section

Mauro Flores (12th) All League

Hunter Gillies (10th) All League

CJ Luth (10th) All League & All Section

## Looking Ahead

### **Monday, April 1**

Unused Snow/Emergency "Giveback" Day

Schools and Offices Closed

### **Thursday, April 4**

Rye Fund for Education Spring Gala

6:30 - 10:30 p.m. Westchester Country Club

### **Monday, April 8**

3:15 - 3:30 p.m. Solar Eclipse Viewing Party

All Schools

### **Tuesday, April 9**

Board of Education Meeting - Social Emotional Learning (SEL) update

7:30 RMS Multipurpose Room

### **Thursday, April 18**

Elementary Schools Early Dismissal for Parent/Teacher Conferences

### **Friday, April 19**

Superintendent's Conference Day

No School for Students

### **Monday, April 22 and Tuesday, April 23**

Passover

Schools Closed

Offices Closed Monday, April 22

### **Tuesday, April 30**

Board of Education Meeting - Critical Thinking Student Expo

7:30 p.m. RMS Multipurpose Room

