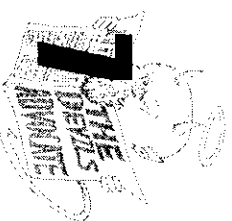


In Our Opinion



Question of the Week

~*~

What are you thankful for?

Staff



Mrs. Szychowicz: I'm thankful for my family

Senior



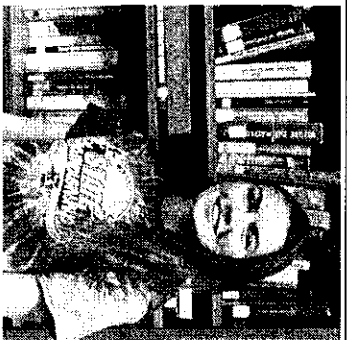
Jessica Niebauer: Emma Charlton

Junior



Alex Yarnboom: All the people in my life

Sophomore



Emma Charlton: Jessica Niebauer

Freshman



Savanna Boyd: Music

Staff Editorial: Be Ever Thankful

By: **Brandon Furtaw**
Co-Sports Editor

How did we get here? No, not RHS but here as in earth. How did we come in to this world? Quite simply, when mommy and daddy love each other very much...you know the rest.

With Thanksgiving here and gone in a flash what were you thankful for?

What are you thankful for?

What is so special that we get three days off of school? Me, I'm thankful for my mom and dad. My parents made and shaped me into the being, the person, I am today. Without them I wouldn't be here, this article wouldn't exist and without your parents you wouldn't be reading this right now. Boom! Think about that.

Without our parents we wouldn't get to experience this weird and sometimes challenging place we call home. The twists and turns and adventures of what we all call life.

Thanksgiving is all in the name, a time to be thankful and a time to appreciate what we have. It is my belief that Thanksgiving is overlooked and underappreciated for turkey and Black Friday shopping. This would be nothing without family. That's the whole reason why Lincoln made it a national holiday.

Thanksgiving, according to Abraham Lincoln, is a time for Americans to ask God to, "Commend his tender care all those who have become widows, orphans, mourners or sufferers in the lamentable civil strife" (History.com).

Not to be morbid but the life expectancy of people now a days is what, 70-80 years? Now think big picture, 70-80 years is nothing, some would even consider it a breath. And if it is all so fleeting why am I telling you this? Because if we

can't enjoy life, then what are we doing?

Now, life is short and we should all eat better pizza (thanks Jets), but what is your "better pizza". To me that better pizza is adventure with the ones that we love and care about, the little things that make us smile. The laughter and, yes, even the tears, because through all the bad, something good is coming.

How many people are in the world? Close to seven billion. Now think of all the places you could've ended up on this earth. Of all those places you made it here, to this very moment and some way somehow you sit there reading this very article on some day at some time in some place. Now what are the odds of that? If you ask me, seven billion to one and that's pretty special.

That's what makes our parents something to be thankful for. Our parents teach us how to be humans; they're the ones who raise us and keep us in line.

Even if you dislike your parents or your parents gave you up for adoption, someone wants you, someone cares about you and yes, it's up to us to prove that to everyone and anyone who feels alone.

The world is a big boat with a lot of holes and a lot of water. Even though sometimes we feel like we're in our own boat there's always gonna be someone watching out for you when you can't find that leak.

Be thankful, be happy, and appreciate today for what it is because as my grandpa always says, "You're going to wake up one morning looking like me and ask yourself, 'What happened to me?'"

We're all special and we're all in this together.

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Mission Statement:

High Richmond School's student newspaper, The Blue Devils' Advocate, strives to serve the student body and provide a public forum to make their ideas heard to the school and community. Our goal is to provide both accurate and balanced stories in order to heighten understanding, entertain, and inform.

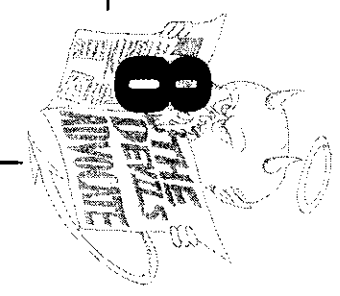
Letters:

We invite readers to share their thoughts with us by writing to the Editor. See the drop off box in the library or you may email us at: mmurphy@richmond.k12.mi.us. Include your name, address, and grade level.

Opinions

December 1, 2016

FEATURES



Jutila Helps Build RHS's Band Program One Shelf at a Time

By: Alyssa Call
News Co-Editor

Senior Ethan Jutila helped the RHS band clear through the clutter and bring organization to the band's percussion room.

Why? Because Jutila needed a merit badge and the band's percussion room needed a new look. The band's percussion room is a small area home to four base drums, two quads, three snare drums, a Malay percussion and harnesses. All of which are stored, stacked and shoved into the room and on the floor for the eight RHS percussionists.

Mrs. Schack, RCSD's band teacher, said, "We had a few shelves and some hooks to hang carriers on but equipment was just piled on top of each other. It probably wasn't safe and most certainly wasn't good for the equipment."

No organization. No clear walk way. No easy way to access equipment.

"Traditionally the room was a mess. We [me and the students] try to keep it organized but there was just never enough room," said Mrs. Schack.

Something needed to change.

And this is where Jutila stepped in. Jutila, along with his father, uncle, and a few other members from his Boy Scout Troop 84, built shelves in the crowded percussion room.

The project took place on October 13 and 14, both half days at RHS. "We worked from about noon till dark," said Jutila.

Jutila and his crew worked together to create shelves that allowed equipment to not only be easily taken from the room, but to be easily put back and organized.

Jutila said, "With the shelving units, I helped utilize the vertical space [of the room] instead of having it [the equipment] on the floor.

This style of shelves allows equipment to be moved, organized and accessible.

Senior percussionist, Sam Calderone, said, "This will be the first year [with shelving] and it's always been super crowded. Sometimes we had to use color guard's room and shelves."

Now, they won't have to.

On top of this good news, all supplies, such as plywood sheets and 2x4x8, for the project were donated by the 983rd Engineering Battalion.

This project didn't cost Jutila a single penny.

Instead, it only cost two days of his time.

However, this project wasn't always that simple. Jutila said, "I had to deal with an odd room design, which forced me to reevaluate my blueprints and plan for the shelves."

This set him back slightly, but it didn't prevent him from persevering to not only build the shelves for the Band, but to earn himself a merit badge for helping a non-profit organization.

Not only did building the shelves help Jutila, who's been a percussionist for the RHS band since 6th grade, earn a merit badge, but it also helped make the percussion room more functional and easier to use. Mrs. Schack and many other students are grateful for Jutila's help.

Mrs. Schack said, "It was extremely thoughtful that he decided to give back to the program. Finding funding and the man-power to do a project like this would be difficult without a vision like Ethan provided."

Calderone said, "I like [the shelves] a lot. I think everyone did."

Jutila's hunger to acquire merit badges is fueled by his goal to become an Eagle Scout, which is something that Jutila has hoped to achieve since he became a Boy Scout of America.

Hence, Jutila pounced on the opportunity to help out his band.

Jutila's Boy Scout Journey

Since he was six-years-old, Jutila has been involved in some form of Boys Scouts, whether it be Cub Scouts or Boy Scouts—thanks to his parents. Jutila's parents placed him in Cub Scouts at the age of six and supported him throughout his career as he joined the Boys Scouts of America when he was 11.

Jutila said, "My parents made me join, but I definitely have enjoyed it since."

Besides partaking in cross country, bowling, and track, Jutila attends Boy Scout meetings from fall to the end of spring/beginning of summer.

The meetings are every month on every Tuesday.

"A typical meeting will consist of the Scouts stating the Scout pledge and the Pledge of Allegiance, working on whatever task the Scoutmaster has [the troop] doing, usually involving a merit badge of some sort, then perform a closing ceremony.

By: Christina Farkas
News Co-Editor

Is it an administrator? Is it a new janitor? No! It's Mr. Ogilvy. He is Richmond's new English 12 teacher who's starting out on this 2016-2017 school year.

Mr. Ogilvy wasn't always sure he wanted to be a teacher. There was even a point in time where he wanted to go into law enforcement. However, he always had an interest in reading.

Mr. Ogilvy grew up in Detroit and graduated from Grosse Pointe North with the hopes of continuing his education at Wayne State University, where he eventually obtained a bachelor's degree in Secondary English and History Education.

"I could honestly not see myself doing anything else," said Mr. Ogilvy. "Teaching is very important part of my life because it makes me so happy to see a kids face light up when they understand what I teach them."

The staff at Richmond has welcomed Mr. Ogilvy to the high school with open arms.

"Everyone has been very welcoming and supportive," he said.

He's attended football and volleyball games and even joined in on the homecoming festivities.

"I was in the homecoming parade as the freshman class advisor and chaperoned the homecoming dance," Mr. Ogilvy said. "It was an exciting and fulfilling week."

On Halloween, Mr. Ogilvy participated in wearing a costume, coming to school as Superman—a man he looks very similar to. Around RHS, students call him Clark Kent.

Super Ogilvy Flies into RHS Richmond is not his kryptonite

"That's a compliment if I ever heard one," said Mr. Ogilvy, laughing.

Mr. Ogilvy involves his family with community events. His wife and their children always enjoy the excitement. "We are excited for the new events coming up," he said.

In the classroom, Mr. Ogilvy feels at home. Teaching for 10 years makes him feel like he belongs standing in front of interested faces.

"I'm actually pretty shy and that tends to come off as cold. However, I'm actually very laid back and easy to get along with," stated Mr. Ogilvy.

Students couldn't be grateful enough that he is here at Richmond.

Senior Sydney Jonson said, "I think he's a pretty nice guy, cares about his students and wants to see them succeed. He's a good teacher and tries to be a friend."

Mr. Ogilvy thinks that to be a good communicator, you should be a good listener. He listens to his students in order to learn what they need.

When Mr. Ogilvy sees a student's face light up, he knows they understand what he's been teaching.

"Every time I see the lightbulb turn on above students' heads it makes me very happy," said Mr. Ogilvy.

Mr. Ogilvy just wants to inspire his students and help them in the quest of knowledge.

"I enjoy sharing my experiences with students. I feel it allows them to learn about the world around them," said Mr. Ogilvy.

The same thing goes for his children. "I am first and foremost a father and a husband. My

family means the world to me," said Mr. Ogilvy.

He says the best part of being a father is the multiplication of love children bring into your life. With the inspiration of strong people that influenced him, he hopes to pass down the ideas of those men to his children.

"I have had some very strong male role models in my life. My grandfather, being one of them, taught me the value of a hard day's work and to stick to your beliefs even if they are unpopular," said Mr. Ogilvy. This is a memory he still uses to motivate himself in his everyday life.

"I want to inspire my children, Danielle, Andrew, and Mary, with the same thought that they can be whoever they can be," said Mr. Ogilvy.

Other than being a father, he loves reading books, cooking, and listening to music.

"Some of my favorite books are *One Flew over the Cuckoo's Nest*, *Cannery Row*, *Sweet Thursday*, *Islands in the Stream*, *Les Misérables*, *The Count of Monte Cristo*... Actually, the list could go on and on," said Mr. Ogilvy.

All of his other time is devoted to his students. "I try to build relationships by being a listener first; finding out their interests, aspirations, and how they learn best," said Mr. Ogilvy.

Mr. Ogilvy's ambition is to help his students and to let them find what they aspire to be, as Mr. Ogilvy did when he was a student himself.

Mr. Ogilvy hopes his students will remember his class and leave loving literature.

FEATURES

December 1, 2016