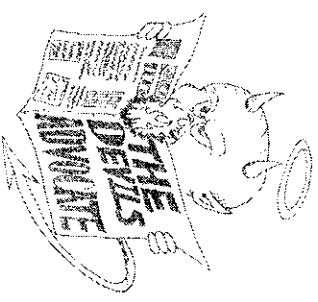




Check out the basketball team article on page 4!

The BLUE DEVIL'S



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It's Better To Give Than To Get This Christmas Season

By: Christina Farkas
News Co-Editor

NHS-Bell Ringing

The red kettle has been an American icon for 125 years. Now its tradition is continuing in the Richmond community, partially throughout RHS's program, the National Honor Society.

From Thanksgiving to Christmas Eve, the buckets can be found in Kroger and K-Mart where local residents and NHS members go to ring bells for donations.

Bell ringers raise an average of \$30 per hour. In just two hours of ringing, they'll raise enough money to provide a week's worth of groceries for a family of four.

Mr. Rineer, advisor of the NHS, said, "The whole community comes together and finds the time to schedule a moment where they can bell ring, either at Kroger or K-Mart."

One of those people is junior Emily Biafore who said, "I love helping the needy, and bell ringing was a great opportunity to do that." Biafore stood 3 times and found it exciting.

"It was a nice experience," said Biafore. "It made me happy to see people smile when they knew what cause we were giving to."

During the eve of Thanksgiving shoppers were running in and out Kroger, so that meant more donations for the red kettle.

"It was exciting. It was the busiest day I bell rang," said Biafore. "Alex Cmark and I probably made around \$60-70 that day."

Mrs. Fruin, a helpful hand in the organization of the bell ringing, transfers that money to the Salvation Army when the red kettles are turned in. That is where the money will be counted.

and eventually distributed to the needy. Red Kettles raise millions for Salvation Army programs that provide food, shelter, rehabilitation, disaster relief, and much more for people and families in crisis.

Key Club- Giving Tree/"Backpack Blessings"

For about eight years, RHS's Key Club has set up a giving tree for the less fortunate at Turning Point- a safe haven for abused women and children.

After Thanksgiving, Key Clubbers put up the giving tree, and make ornaments in the shapes of mittens, stockings, and trees. On those little ornaments are items written out, from which students or teachers may choose from.

They all hold qualities, such as: jar and canned items, boxed items, gift cards, household items, and so on. Key club member, Emily Biafore said, "I hope it makes their day and Christmas a little merrier."

Emily Biafore is participating in the festivities as she has chosen from two ornaments. "My friend and I walked into the media center, where I chose from many different varieties- finally deciding on Pop Tarts and granola bars."

Probably heading to a local Kroger, Biafore will purchase the boxed items. Bringing it back to RHS, placing it underneath the Giving Tree.

Mr. Murphy, advisor of the Key Club, said, "We've been able to bring a carload down to Mount Clemens every year. It doesn't look like a lot but it is a great amount."

"So far, we have had a good amount of items. We hope that more will be brought in," said Mr. Murphy. The deadline is the Thursday before Christ-

mas break, where Mr. Murphy will pack up and drive the goods over to Turning Point.

At another standpoint, the Key Club is joining in on Backpack Blessings. A charity for children in need. Emily Biafore said,

"It's a good idea. We do the same thing at my church. The kids will not go to school hungry, and be less at risk of starvation." Just as the giving tree, those items will be delivered to the children, treating them to a Christmas gift and hopefully brightening their Christmas spirits.

SADD- Sandy's Kids

Sandy Monzo, a former social worker, has been helping the needy children in Richmond for a good time now.

Developing a project called Sandy's Kids. Between 20-30 children benefit from this charity. It involves the donation of toys, clothes and other necessities that can make a child's Christmas a bit more jolly in any way possible.

Mr. DeJore, adviser for Students Against Drunk Driving (SADD), said, "Members really enjoy participating in the cause during the holiday season when it comes to the less fortunate." Emily Biafore has been involved in



Students gather around Key Club's Giving Tree with gifts for Turning Point.

this charity once before. "These kids are young and deserve to experience a Christmas where they feel love and know that someone is there for them," said Biafore.

For at least 12 years, Sandy's Kids has been a big hit around RHS. Evelyne, even non-members of SADD try and give to the cause.

"What people provide has been amazing," said Mr. DeJore. "RMS, RHS, NHS and local community centers have gathered and we have gained so many items for the kids." Providers never really have had a chance to meet the families with items, but keep in thought the smiles on the children's faces. "All we can do is hope they are happy, and that we've made their Christmas a bit brighter," said Biafore.

The deadline for items was December 19th. In the afternoon, the items were organized and sent to the families attached to Sandy's Kids.

Band And Choir Hit All The Right Notes This Concert Season

By: Lauren Duche
Advertising editor

The RHS band and choir has been working hard for months to prepare for their annual Christmas concert. Since the fall, both groups have been reading, playing, and perfecting their music so they're ready for the fall.

Maddy Yaek, a junior drum major and base clarinetist, said, "We work in class cohesively to do the songs but for me most of the practice happens at home. I go over my part at home a hundred times that way when I get into class I can play it with as little problems as possible. If everyone can do their part perfectly, then it all sounds good. So it's not just about doing it as a group you have to take the time to do it yourself or it won't turn out."

The Christmas concert isn't just all fun and games, it helps prepare for

festival in the winter.

"We don't have a fall concert," Yaek said, "so the Christmas concert is the first time since marching season that we're able to perform in front of people and it's a lot different," she said.

The choir on the other hand have already had one concert, but none the less, the Christmas concert is perfect practice to prepare for festival.

Senior, Brianna Maloney, an alto, said, "The fall concert is more fun than anything. It's just about getting comfortable in front of a crowd and getting to know each other better. Once the Christmas concert rolls around we start to focus on the dynamics of signing and improving as much as we can as a group before festival."

The weeks leading up to the concert weren't easy. There were many obstacles both groups had to face.

Yaek said, "People are absent a lot and even when you're missing one person, believe it or not, the sound is different. So even though it's often out of people's control, it's still a pain and a bit stressful."

They didn't let the stress get to them though, both the band and choir concerts were a success.

Senior, Nicole Rhein, a member of the brass section was able to perform a trio at the band concert with her two siblings.

"Because I'm a senior it was really nice to be able to work on something with my two younger siblings and perform in front of all of our friends and family," She said.

The trio was fun but it often came with challenges.

"I love my siblings, but we are siblings. We fight. We get irritated. We get off task. But despite all of that we worked hard and were able to come together and really excel."

she said.

And they did. In addition to a trio, there was also a solo from senior flautist Rachel Rigole.

Rigole has been performing solos since she was in middle school but this year wanted a challenge.

"Before I had taken different songs and combined them together and different things like that and this year I decided I wanted to create my own solo," she said.

Her piece was entitled "Christmas Peace" and it took her weeks to complete.

"The most difficult part of composing my own piece was finding the creativity and motivation to complete it," she said.

At the end of the day, she was able to compile a piece she was proud to perform.

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DECA, The Acronym Into The World Of Business

By: Devon Dentai
Student Writer

"This Monday we have a meeting then we're going to a Detroit Pistons game," said senior Stephen Ingman III.

On Monday, December 12th, Mr. Wagner and the DECA students got to experience a night at the Palace.

"It was all chill. We all grouped up and if you brought money to buy stuff you could go and buy stuff like food and what not. Then we went to our seats to watch the game. We were all super stoked or at least I was. The game was fantastic down to the last shot, after the game we all got up from our seats and tried to frantically make it to the exit before leaving, definitely a day to remember," Stephen said.

The reason they went? Well as soon as the half time buzzer went off, DECA held a mock trial for what they will be faced with at the big competition at the end of the

DECA "season" as well as what the DECA regionals will feel like!

"The game was basically an event, to learn about careers in the world of business and get some more applied real world experience," Eric Donato, a senior, said.

Not being Eric's first Pistons game, yet it did have its own different feeling of it!

"It's weird because it feels much more casual do to being with so many of your peers yet at the same time you feel or at least try to feel professional because you're there for business, basically it felt a lot like being in a class room!" Donato said.

DECA is a program led by RHS's Business teacher Mr. Wagner. DECA is put in place to help better prepare students for the world of business. With big shoes to fill from the former DECA director Mr. Brown, Mr. Wagner had a lot of weight on his shoulders. "I was

very excited while at the same very overwhelmed," he said.

Mr. Wagner is obviously doing a good job under all the pressure as enrollment to the club has gone up a staggering 600% (5-30) from last year. "To hear that, makes me happy to hear as well as makes the work I have done feel truly worth it," Mr. Wagner said.

To better educate the subject, senior Eric Donato describes DECA as "a club/Contest in which the school(s) / students are given a topic (targeted at a certain skill used in the business world). As for Stephen's case hospitality. They will then be given a scenario based around the topic. After receiving the scenario, the participants will have a very miniscule amount of time to make a game plan before going before judges," Eric said.

What does the art of hospitality mean? Well when the contestants arrive before the judges, they then have 10 minutes to describe in great

detail to the judges how they're business idea will better help a business's common hospitality.

Then a chosen few will be selected to attend states to which they will perform against the best schools in the state, with the winners becoming DECA champions. "The winners will receive medals based on their respected place, bronze silver or gold," Stephen said.

So why? Why join DECA? Well for starters there are about \$300,000 in scholarships, just for being in DECA. As well as DECA looking great on a resume, who doesn't want to add another field to their extra-curricular activities section on college applications?

"There really isn't a reason not to join. It doesn't take up much time and can really help you down the road," Ingman said.

Band and Choir Physics Class Races Towards Success

Continued from page 1
As for the choir, Junior, Haley Fortuna, a soprano, had a solo.

"I've done both solos and duets, but ultimately I liked this years solo the best because I was able to do my favorite Christmas song 'My Only Wish This Year,'" she said.

Over all, the concerts were a success, and everyone is looking forward to the future.

"There is always room for improvement, but I think we did well all things considered," Fortuna said. As time goes on and classes graduate, it's common to wonder what will happen to the program. Will it get better? Will more people join? The music department only plans on expanding after sixth grade talent surfaces.

Fortuna said, "The sixth graders were amazing. Watching them sing and have fun on stage really gave me hope that the program will continue to grow. Most of these kids are only 11 or 12 and to see them working as hard as they are and to see them do as good as they did really made me happy."

By: Jenna Stafford
Features Co-Editor

The children's game "King of the Hill" took a new twist for Richmond High School's physics class. Students were faced with a new challenge: they had to create cars out of mousetraps and a few other materials.

These cars would need to have enough speed and power to propel up a hill and down the other side, beating the opponent who had the same objective from the other side of the hill.

The class was given some requirements, such as a mandatory 20 x 20 cm size. The most crucial one to follow was that the car had to use at least one, but up to three, mouse traps—not rat traps, as those would be too powerful.

Besides the few requirements, the cars were an open ended challenge and student's needed to engage their creativity to make them functional.

The construction was a trial and

error process. Senior Brandon VanGorp said, "My first design didn't work at all. I really had to mess around with the different parts to get one that worked how I wanted it to."

He described his struggle for the perfect design as finding a happy medium of power and functionality. His first design used three mouse traps, but found it was too powerful and couldn't drive in a straight line. His final design used one mousetrap for power and CD's wrapped in balloons as tires.

The real challenge came when the cars were finished and the class held the "King of the Hill" tournament. Each student put their hard work to test.

VanGorp's car sped in with a third place finish in the tournament, meaning his car beat around five other students' designs.

Seniors Amanda Gorr and Amanda Job took the first place title and sophomore Emily Gorr and her partner, senior Emma Caperton, came in a close second.

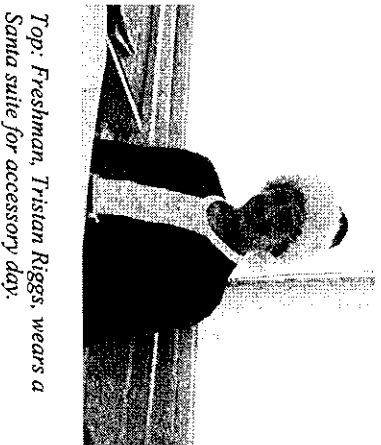
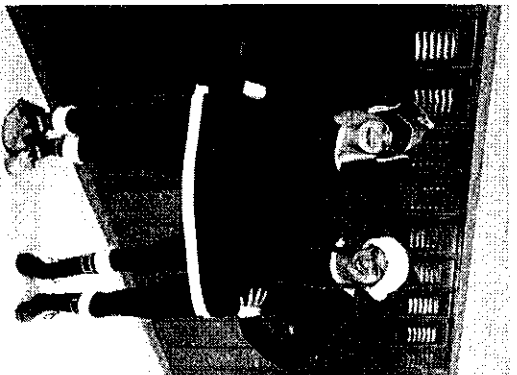
Amanda Gorr and Job used lids from jars of peanut butter for wheels and one mousetrap.

"We did a lot of trial runs before the actual competition because we wanted to make sure it worked every time," A. Gorr said.

The idea was to teach students the basic mechanics of how a car works, along with lessons on momentum and acceleration.

The students thoroughly enjoyed all parts of the project. "My favorite part of the experiment was definitely the competition," VanGorp said.

RHS Decks The Halls With Spirit



Top: Freshman, Tristan Riggs, wears a Santa suite for accessory day.

Left: Paige Koehn and Aspen Davenport pose for the camera for ugly sweater day.

Right: Students show off their festive pajamas on pajama day.