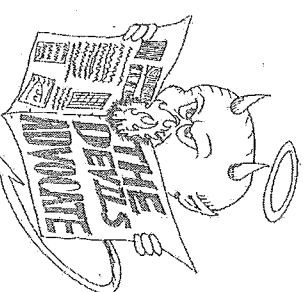


The BLUE DEVILS

Advocate



Richmond High School
35320 Division Road
Richmond, MI 48062

Volume 10, Issue 7

May 22, 2014

Richmond excited to have new superintendent Brian Walmsley

By: Dylan Yore
Sports Editor

As one door closes, a new door opens, some say when starting a new chapter in their life. Richmond Community School District has opened a new door for Brian Walmsley, the newly elected Superintendent of Richmond's school district.

Mr. Walmsley was previously the Chief Academic Officer for Warren Consolidated Schools. WCS includes 25 schools. This will be a tremendous change for him from 25 to three schools.

Mrs. Margaret Telow, President of the Board of Education, said, "Mr. Walmsley has agreed to a 5-year [contract] with Richmond Community Schools which will begin on July 1, 2014. The Board of Education will be approving his contract at our next meeting on Monday, May 19, 2014."

Mr. Walmsley attended Michigan State University where he achieved his Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education. He married in a chapel at Michigan State as well. Mr. Walmsley has been married

for 18 years to his wife Tonya, who he met in high school. Mr. Walmsley and his wife are "extreme" Michigan State fans.

They have two teenage children who attend school in the L'Anse Creuse School District. His sixteen-year-old son, Benjamin attends L'Anse Creuse North High School while his twelve-year-old sister, Madelyn, spends her days at L'Anse Creuse Middle School North.

When asked if Richmond could possibly become "home", Mr. Walmsley said, "Richmond is a great community and I would consider living there one day. However, currently my family does not have any immediate plans to move to Richmond. We have a very close family. I am one of five children and my wife has two sisters. We have ten nieces and nephews. Our two families support and rely on each other, so before any decision to move would be made, we would have to consider the impact on our immediate and extended family." Family is important to him, as is education.

After earning his Bachelor's in Elementary Education, he began to

teach.

While he taught, he attended evening classes at Saginaw Valley State University where he attained his Master's degree in School Administration.

Mr. Walmsley said, "As a lifelong learner, I continued my studies at Oakland University and completed my Education Specialist degree. Recently, I began an online Doctoral program through the University of Phoenix."

During his Master's program, Mr. Walmsley was responsible for a dissertation.

Mr. Walmsley said, "My Master's thesis was researching, developing and implementing a K-8 summer school program to improve fluency and comprehension of informational and fictional text by students. The program I developed during my Master's program was actually implemented in Warren Consolidated Schools as their K-8 summer school program for about five years. My Education Specialist's thesis was researching, developing, and implementing a quality New Teacher Academy to support teachers within their first three year. This academy

was also implemented in Warren Consolidated Schools."

This proof of his growth from a collegiate level to implementing his very own system for WCS shows that Mr. Walmsley can think strategically and work towards a successful final solution possibly for Richmond Community Schools.

Besides his Summer School solution for WCS, Mr. Walmsley has plenty of other responsibilities.

He said, "I am responsible for all aspects of the district's instructional programs from pre-school through adult education as well as the supervision, evaluation and operations of 15 elementary schools, five middle schools, three comprehensive high schools, an alternative high school, career center information technology, athletics, pupil accounting and school-age childcare."

Continued on page 4

Singing to the top RHS choir team qualifies for states

By: Thomas Biafore
News Co-Editor

The state of Michigan has been seeing the colors blue and white nonstop. Richmond High school is making its way on the map.

The Richmond High School Chorale and Choir have both taken hold of the reins and traveled to the State competition.

This competition was held at Walled Lake Northern High School on April 30th. The competition consists of the Choir and Chorale singing two songs. They are then judged on pitch, tone, rhythm, diction, interpretation and presentation. Three judges examine those categories. There is then a fourth judge that offers comments after their performance.

"I think we did really well because we had to be ranked in the top 40% to even make it to States," said Mrs. Shack. She is very happy with how the choir performed. She believes that as long as the students are constantly putting in as much effort as

they can, that she will always be proud of them.

"We could have done better but I still think we did really well," said Emma Brockett, freshman. This is Emma's first year of Concert Choir in high school and she loved going to States.

"My favorite part was clinic. This is when the fourth judge takes us in a room and gives us feedback on how we did," said Brockett. The Choir received many comments on how well they performed in this competition.

Although many people think that this is a terrifying experience, the Richmond High school Choir and Chorale love the rush of performing in front of judges. The Choir sang, "E Ala A," and "Simple Gifts and Sanctus", while Chorale sang, "Nothin' Gonna Stumble my Feet," "Weep No More," and "Hallelujah." Mrs. Shack believes that these songs were an excellent choice to showcase the various vocal talents they have. Mrs. Shack, along with a handful

of the other members of the Choir and Chorale, was very pleased with how they did in this competition.

"Although getting up and singing was terrifying, it was so much fun," said Brockett. She loved being in the spotlight.

However, now that the pressure of States has passed for these fellow students, they now have their Spring Concert to worry about. "The theme for our Spring Concert is musicals," said Mrs. Shack. She chose this theme because of how much interest the students show in this as well as all the good literature there is out in the world to sing.

Mrs. Shack is most excited to listen to the *Les Miserable* medley that the class has been working on. "It's long, but it features a lot of great music from the show," said Mrs. Shack. She believes that all the different vocal ranges that the Choir and Chorale have to offer will serve all these songs justice.

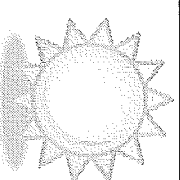
The Choir and Chorale have been practicing for this concert since March. All their class time has gone

in to preparing for this. "I can't

wait to sing 'The Ballad of Sweeney Todd.' It is such a good song to sing," said Brockett. She is looking most forward to the seniors singing "Seasons of Love" from "Rent."

Since the seniors have given so much to the choir department, they get their own song to sing. This year that song is "Seasons of Love" from the musical "Rent." Mrs. Shack thinks that this is an appropriate song because of how much the seniors will be missed. "Although we're losing a lot of talent, we're gaining a lot too," said Mrs. Shack.

The year has been busy for Richmond High School's Choir and Chorale. They've competed in States and have amazed the school with many wonderful concerts.



Today's Forecast
Mostly Sunny
High: 68
Low: 55

School News1-3
Opinions.....7,8
Question of the day.....7
Local Features.....9-11

Sports Updates.....5
Star Athlete.....5
Student Star.....10
Movie Reviews.....9

Show us your Stuff.....9
Horoscope.....12
Advertisements.....6



Order in the court!

By: Beth Beindit
Coordinating Editor

Bang. Bang. Goes the sound of the judge's gavel. She's guilty for the first degree for murder.

Lawyers, detectives, investigators. The list goes on. But it's not Law and Order or CSI. It's Mock Trial.

Mock Trial has been implemented into Richmond High School (RHS) to provide students with an interactive and realistic way to convey what they have learned as well as their abilities to either prove someone innocent or guilty in court. This concept has been around for about over ten years.

Alex Wyatt, junior, is part of the forensic team. He is in charge of sketching the crime scene.

When seniors, Haley Schweiger and Riley Thompson, were killed in the same room, Wyatt had to depict the room and sketch it to scale.

Mr. Bordeau found the two seniors lying dead on two separate days in room 403 next to Mr. West's room where one senior was shot and the other was stabbed.

Wyatt said, "This experience taught me to never assume anything because you never know. We thought Riley was the killer, but then she got killed."

But the experience isn't all pretend for Wyatt.

He said, "I'm really excited to be part of this because it gives me real-world experience into the field I want to go into as well as hands-on activities that I couldn't do if I wasn't in the class."

Although Wyatt does not have his future planned out, the forensic field has sparked his interest. He enjoys solving cases to bring justice to society.

"There's definitely a demand for forensic scientists so it could be a

good field to head into," said Wyatt. Brett Brincefield, senior, is one of the prosecution lawyers also participating in Mock Trial.

He works together with the other prosecuting lawyers on his team to put questions together that they can use in court in order to build their side of the case.

Being involved in this experience has provided lifelong lessons for Brincefield.

He said, "I want to be a forensic scientist and specialize in blood splatter. So it helps me understand how trivial the case or investigation can be and prepares me because if I want to be a forensic scientist I'll have to be in court quite often."

This year, Brincefield has learned the ins and outs of the court system.

"Between last year when I took Criminal Justice at Pankow and this year taking the Law and Justice class, I've grown in being able to

write and create openings and closing statements for court as well as learn how the different laws work and how complicated they can be," added Brincefield.

He said each crime can change the context of the law so it can often be difficult to fully understand.

"It's a good way to understand how the process works," said Brincefield. Brincefield has always wanted to be a part of the mock trial since he watched the trial his freshman year, but he never had an opening in his schedule until this year. He was very excited to get up on stage and show everyone what he has been working on all year long.

Continued on page 3

Teacher appreciation

By: Austin Yannatter
Sports Editor

The appreciation of teachers during teacher appreciation week is important at RHS.

The Student Government and NHS, assisted by Dr. Ladd and Senora Smallwood, has done various things for teacher appreciation for the teachers at RHS.

The two RHS groups collaborated together in making a special week for the teachers and staff.

"NHS went around and got lunches at subway for the teachers. During the teachers' prep hours, the student government went around and gave them little treats," said Carolyn Schweiger, Student Government Representative.

The teachers received Jimmy Johns from NHS for lunch on Tues-

day May 6.

The treats the teachers and staff received from the Student Government were little candy items along with water bottles.

The candy was Swedish Fish, Smarties and Payday candy bars. Each of these items was received on different days of the week.

"We gave them gifts that had sayings on them to show our appreciation towards them," Kaitlyn Niebauer.

These items had sayings on them that were intended to spruce up the teachers' day.

The tradition of doing this for teachers has been going on as long Mrs. Smallwood has been here at RHS.

Over 10 years of service for the student government she has put in. "It has been a tradition that the

Student Government recognizes teachers and staff during appreciation week," said Mrs. Smallwood.

The planning that went into doing all the various things for the teachers and staff was muscle memory for Mrs. Smallwood and the Student Government.

Mrs. Smallwood uses the same sort of ideas each year for the teachers depending on how much money they have put away for this week.

"Some have been in place for a couple years and some new ones have been added in time," said Mrs. Smallwood.

The students were able to sign up for what they wanted to do and what days they wanted to deliver the treats to the teachers and staff.

Along with Teacher Appreciation Week there was a Secretary Day the week before.

NHS along with the Student Government and teachers made sure this day was special for the four secretaries at RHS. Mrs. Thuneme and Mrs. Ferranti are in the office, Mrs. Lozowski is in the counselor office, and Mrs. Baumgarten is in the athletic office.

Beth Beindit and others involved in NHS went and asked the secretaries what they wanted for Secretaries Day.

NHS went out and bought them gift cards to Teds and Subway.

"It was nice to know that through these small acts we can show our appreciation for our fellow secretaries that do so much to help our school," said Beindit.

Continued on page 3

H & H Student Driving School — 2014

At Richmond High School
23 Years of Experience
State Bonded, Fully Licensed and Insured

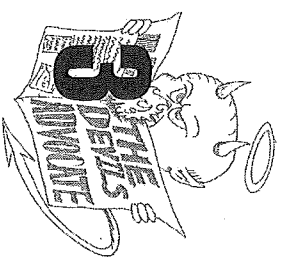
Segment 1 -- \$279.00

- Must be 14 years & 8 months of age on first day of class
- Parental permission and original birth certificate
- \$100 deposit on day 1 of class

Segment 2 -- \$30

- Must possess a valid Level 1 Learner's License for 90 days
- Parental permission (Signed Permission of 30 Hours practice Driving)
- Driving permit

Classes held spring, summer, and fall. See Mr. B. Harbison for details on upcoming classes.



NWEA Testing is back

By: **Jonah VandenBussche**
Staff Writer

Student after student sits down at computer after computer to complete test after test.

RHS recently introduced a new form of standardized testing called North West Evaluation Association (NWEA). This is an organization that is research-based that measures student learning and growth.

There are three different topics tested: English, Reading and Mathematics.

RHS counselor Ms. Till said, "The test works like this: it takes what a student is supposed to know at a certain age and then creates an adaptive test based on what they know."

The NWEA testing takes a student's results and makes questions and answers more personalized.

"The main purpose of the testing is to see where a student is at and where groups of students are going to be in the future," said Ms. Till. There are a few ways the school

benefits from the testing.

One of the most important benefits is that teachers will adapt what they are teaching based on what students know.

The other main reason is that results will give the school many ways to differentiate learning.

The NWEA testing also provides school counselors with results to see what classes they should continue to offer, which classes to rid of and which new classes they could add to curriculum.

This program was provided to our school district for free on a grant for three years from the Macomb Intermediate School District.

Principal Mrs. Michon said, "We have two more years of the testing with the grant. After the two years is up, we can choose to keep the pro-

gram or rid it away."

As of now, the whole high school is being tested, all 626 students.

The staff is deciding whether to make it mandatory for senior students due to the fact that they do not take it seriously.

The testing has two sole purposes. The first is that the tests show an evaluation of the teachers. This is required by Michigan to show growth through testing three times a year (once at the start of the year, December and May).

The second being when the test is taken, the results are displayed similar to a menu; it shows the specifics of a student's strengths and weaknesses.

This will further show teachers how to identify the weak areas, identify growth and help students who are struggling with certain aspects of a subject.

Mrs. Michon said, "The testing gives us where students are according to the norm and national standards. Also, it shows where an individual is weak and where work is needed."

The testing also identifies weakness in curriculum as a whole. The staff then uses the improvement plan to make changes in the curriculum so holes in learning are filled. Professional development days are used to analyze results.

"We look at the fall segment of NWEA and we pull up each class and students. We see how we can help the kids in each and every class. Then at the end of the year

when we test NWEA again, we look to see if there was any growth and where the growth took place from the fall to now," said Mrs. Michon.

The consecutive rounds of testing are to show growth in a student's knowledge. If there isn't growth in the students' knowledge, then the

staff finds out why there is none and will address it in the following year.

Mrs. Michon said, "My main goal with the testing is to help us with the curriculum. We need to identify the holes in knowledge and fill them in.

The tests will better inform the students of their strengths and weaknesses. The staff will then need to make better decisions for students based on the data."

English teacher Mr. Rineer said the tests offer a good glimpse of the student's skills and knowledge.

"To become a better teacher, I can use the results of the testing to take the low scoring students and elevate their knowledge while taking the high scoring students' results and helping them achieve even more," said Mr. Rineer.

He hopes that through the NWEA testing, students will realize the seriousness of testing and will take tests and classes more serious.

He said, "By exposing students' strengths and weaknesses and knowing where the struggles are, we can then heighten their skill levels which could higher ACT/MME scores."

Mrs. Michon said standardized testing is here no matter what. It will not go away.

Order in the court!

Continued from page 2

On the other side is sophomore Stephanie Woodruff, who is part of the defense attorney. She is in charge of writing the opening and closing statement. This can be very important for a case because it sets the tone for the entire trial.

Mock Trial can be an eye-opening experience, and it has been especially for Woodruff.

She said, "You learn what really goes into the process of the trial and the different types of trials there can be."

Woodruff is confident these skills may be useful for later life.

"It'd be helpful to know some basic information if someone you know has to go to court; you'd have some background knowledge and you wouldn't be completely clueless," said Woodruff.

Woodruff does not want to pursue a career in law; she wants to become some form of a social worker.

Working on this trial, however, has given her a taste of what helping people is all about.

She said, "Somebody's life and reputation is on the line. So you need to do the best you can to either clear their name or put them away."

Getting up on stage in front of the entire school can be nerve-wracking, but Woodruff has grown to get used to it.

She's thrown the nerves out the window and was excited to get up on stage and present the case.

She said, "I'm excited to see the outcome and I think it'll be a very good case."

Mr. Roodbeen, science teacher, oversees

the forensic portion of the case. He teaches all the skills students need to know to solve a crime, from dusting for fingerprints to interpreting blood spatter.

The lead investigators of the case were Nina Smith and Morgan Connor who assigned duties to classmates and made sure the correct procedure has been followed.

He said, "The kids are working to gather all the evidence and use the skills they were taught in class to process the evidence and question possible suspects in order to find the main suspect."

He continued, "The way people have stepped up and taken the initiative to go above and beyond the scheduled class time to solve the case."

Roodbeen said students use techniques taught in class to process and evaluate evidence such as analyzing fingerprints and blood.

For example, when students discovered Schweiger and Thompson dead, they found white powder at the scene. With their new knowledge, they were able to test it and see what it was. The students found the mysterious white powder to be Tylenol that Shelby Tschiggey – the accused murderer of Thompson – carries for her headaches which Thompson also happens to be allergic to. It was later used as evidence in the trial.

However, students kept listening to hearsay and assumed things instead of focusing on the main clue—the evidence.

All in all, Roodbeen was looking forward to watching the trial from the sidelines.

"It's nice to see how people represent themselves with what they learned and how they communicate it to the rest of the school," he said. "It'll be interesting to see how it all plays out."

Teacher Appreciation

Continued from page 2

The secretaries were very appreciative of the gifts they received from NHS.

"We got a lunch provided to us from the Honor Society, we got gift cards from Mr. Brown and the Student Government, we also received coffee from Mr. Barnes, and Mrs. Michon got us some decorative note cards," said Mrs. Ferranti.

She was very appreciative of the gifts she received and she enjoyed all of them very much.

The teachers and staff were also very appreciative of the gifts they received.

"They were very thoughtful and clever," said Mrs. Woodruff. Mrs. Woodruff's favorite candy was the Payday because she likes candy bars.

This was a very special week for all of the staff at RHS because it allowed the students to give back to the teachers and it also allowed the teachers to show their appreciation to their peers.

On This Day

1892 - Dr Washington Sheffield invents tooth-paste tube.

1906 - Wright Brothers patent an aero plane.

1957 - Red Sox set AL record by smashing 4 HRs in 6th inning in 11-0 win.

Source: <http://www.historyorb.com/day/may/22>



Pinning Flowers

New Superintendent

Continued from page 1

Wrestling flower sale brings joy to area mothers while helping raise funds for Wrestling Program

By: Jacob Thomas
News Editor

Mother's Day and flowers. It's a great combination and as people all around scramble for flowers to show thanks to the ones who brought us into the world.

One place they can depend on is the RHS Mother's Day flower sale sponsored by the Richmond Wrestling Team.

Mother's day was on May 11 and the RHS wrestling team had their annual flower sale over the weekend.

For the 22nd consecutive year, the Richmond Wrestling Team hosted their flower sale providing people the opportunity to show thanks.

The sale was once again a success. All of the flowers were sold over the weekend.

This is just one of the many traditions Coach Day has kept in place for the Blue Devils wrestling program over the past decade.

The sale first started in 1992 by former wrestling coach George Hamblin.

"Coach Hamblin and his family initially started the idea. His family

was in the produce market business," said Coach Day.

The sale has good intentions to help support the wrestling program at RHS.

"All proceed go to the Richmond Junior Devil Wrestling Club, Richmond Middle School wrestling team and the Richmond High School wrestling team. The money helps us provide a great experience for all of our student athletes," said Coach Day.

Coach Day credits the parents throughout the years for their hard work and dedication to make the flower sale happen.

"We have had so many great people set up for the sale over the years like Pat Schweiger, Dennis LaFore, Dennis Boyd, Judy Picel, Veronica Dupuis, Debbie Garlick and many more," said Coach Day.

Of course weather has played a factor in the past sales at RHS and this year rain had a small effect on the sale as well, but it is always considered a success not just because of the sales but because of the message to the community.

"It all depends on the weather. We usually have loyal customers. The Richmond teaching staff has been great to us over the years. We like to use the sale to communicate to the community all of the great things that are happening inside the Richmond School District," said Coach Day.

Mr. Walmsley additionally supervises and evaluates over 50 instructional administrators and works with over 900 teachers in a variety of capacities.

He shares the responsibility for the development and implementation of the district \$170 million budget, specifically \$110 million for instruction.

As a member of the district's Bond Team, he had the oversight of \$65 million in critical needs, which encompasses interactive

classroom projector systems, video and data management systems, wireless networks, public address systems, roofs, parking lots and renovations to classroom and ancillary facilities.

Mr. Walmsley said, "During the 2013-14 school year, under the umbrella of the district's strategic plan, I was responsible for the research

and development, implementation and successful launch of three year-round elementary schools and a Middle School Mathematics Science Technology Center. The Middle School Mathematics Science Technology Center was modeled after the district's internationally recognized high school program."

Mrs. Tellow and the Board of Education are very excited to see what Mr. Walmsley can bring with him to RCS. She said, "Mr. Walmsley possesses many positive qualities that will be a tremendous asset to Richmond Community Schools."

Mr. Walmsley will be bringing his leadership skills in many aspects of running a school district.

Mrs. Tellow said, "Coming from a larger school district, he has been able to be successfully involved in all facets of the operations of a school district, such as collective bargaining, budget process, bond implementation, but most importantly, the development and enrichment of the curriculum in his present district."

"Mr. Walmsley possesses many positive qualities that will be a tremendous asset to Richmond Community Schools."

- Mrs. Tellow, School Board President

Mr. Walmsley has a mentality that school districts should be student-based. He has already begun planning the beginning of his journey at RCS.

He said, "Based on the information I received from focus groups, reading the individual school and district school improvement plans, reviewing data as it

relates to student achievement, enrollment and finances, I have begun working on the frameworks for a Strategic and Marketing Plan for the district."

This marketing plan is a significant stepping stone towards his goal for RCS.

Mr. Walmsley said, "My goal for Richmond is to be an outstanding school district in which all students achieve success and are prepared for the world beyond high school. I want Richmond to be a school district that families want and choose to send their children to."

Appreciation for your mother goes a long way!

By: Peter Owen

Advertising/News Editor

Mother's Day is all about appreciating mothers for everything they do and the importance of them around the world.

Mother's Day was declared a holiday on May 9, 1914 by President Woodrow Wilson. He made a presidential proclamation that officially made Mother's Day a national holiday. From then on, the second Sunday of May will forever be known as Mother's Day.

The holiday had already been celebrated in Virginia by Anna Jarvis. She wanted to have a day to appreciate her mother, who was a peace activist.

Mother's Day is one of the biggest holidays celebrated throughout the world.

Annually, an estimated \$671 million is spent on cards alone.

Jarvis said that "A printed card means nothing except that you are too lazy to write to the woman who has done more for you than anyone else in the world."

A handwritten card can really illustrate what you are thinking and how much you appreciate your mother. Instead of spending money to show your love, it may be a good idea to write out how you feel in a well written card made from scratch.

Senior Stacey Weidner said, "Making a gift is more important because it shows that it's from your heart. They would appreciate the effort put into it."

Weidner thinks that making a gift will show affection more than buying a gift.

Some gifts that need to be bought have sentimental value to

mothers. They have to be bought but the thought of the item means a lot.

Senior Jennifer Merriman said, "To be completely honest, I got my mom pillows for the furniture, a cooler she wanted, and another bead for her bracelet. Every holiday I give her another bead so she can add it to her bracelet. It is the most sentimental out of the rest of the gifts."

Jennifer showed appreciation for her mother for everything she does for her.

The most important thing about mother's day is that mothers everywhere are happy.

Senior Alajiah Bashi said, "Spending time with you mom and making sure she knows she is appreciated is the most important thing about Mother's Day."

er's Day."

All three girls show their appreciation for their mother in different ways. Just because one may spend more money, it doesn't mean that they love their mother more.

Mother's Day has different traditions from year to year. Traditions can vary from going out to eat somewhere special or just staying home and enjoying time with Mom.

One thing that has stayed the same throughout the years is appreciation for your mother.