

The BLUE DEVIL'S



Wrestle for a cure event!
December 27 @ Richmond Gym

Richmond High School
35320 Division Road
Richmond, MI 48062

Volume 8, Issue 3

December 16, 2011

Can one person really change the world?

Rachel Scott challenges the Richmond community to find out.

By: Anabella Ottenbacher
News Editor

Rachel Scott has made a major impact on the Richmond Community; she has challenged students and adults in the community to be kind and compassionate to those around them.

Rachel Scott was just 17- years-old when she was shot and killed at Columbine High School in Littleton, Colorado in 1999. She was one of 13 victims killed in the worst school shooting in US history.

This alone makes her unique. However, she was much more than a tragic victim of senseless violence.

In her short life, she dreamed of making the world a better place, and she dreamed of being famous. In other words, she dreamed big, and she started with little acts of kindness that affected many long after

her death.

Rachel's Challenge – Starting A Positive Chain Reaction

When Rachel Scott died, her father, Darrell Scott, promised himself that he would not let his daughter's death be in vain. Darrell, along with family members and supporters, began to realize through reading Rachel's diaries, that she had a dream to change the world.

Since she could no longer accomplish her dreams herself, Rachel's family vowed to make them come true in her honor.

Darrell began speaking publicly about Rachel and her message shortly after Rachel died, starting in 2000.

The more presentations that Darrell did, the more people his daughter's dreams impacted. The organi-

zation, Rachel's Challenge, began to get so big that Darrell began to hire more presenters, like the one who visited the Richmond Community, Shane Michael.

Shane, however, was quick to explain that he did not need to be hired to work for Rachel's Challenge; he went seeking a way to help promote the cause. "When I saw the presentation, it made me think of how I could better myself. All I thought was: This is good.

How can I help?" said Shane. Shane changed so much after seeing the presentation, that he felt it was only fair to spread Rachel's message to others. "I just felt like it was only right for me to pass it forward. Everyone wants kindness.

They are just afraid to say it, but Rachel did."

Superintendent Dr. Linda Olson attended a conference where she

saw a session of Rachel's Challenge. She was deeply moved and wanted to bring the presentation to Richmond. Since there has not been a school-wide assembly in many years, this assembly marked a big day for the Richmond Community Schools and the community as a whole.

Richmond is now home to hundreds of the over 16 million people who have seen Rachel's Challenge. September and October are the busiest months, since they mark the beginning of the school year.

Shane said that his goals for Richmond are that more kids will feel comfortable coming to school here, and they will feel cared about, rather than pushed away.

RACHEL cont. on pg 5

AUD kicks off Richmond's Holiday Season

By: Hunter Tousignant
Staff Writer

The Richmond community came together to celebrate the Holiday Season.

The Aud Tree Lighting went on Friday, December 2. Three to four hundred people showed up in the front of The Aud for the pine tree lighting.

There were a lot of volunteers who showed up. Sarah Brown, senior, was one of them. Brown volunteered at a station called "Santa Key Craft". Santa Key Craft is a station where kids ages 4 to 11 make a key craft ornament.

Brown said, "I had a lot of fun, the kids were cute."

Taylor Job, junior, also volunteered for this event through the National Honor Society along with Ashley Barrett. The duo worked at a station that did a key chain craft, where kids ages 2-12 came to do the craft. Job said, "It was a lot of fun, we got to pick a group, so we were with are friends."

Other stations included cookie decorating and writing letters to Santa Claus.

Christmas carols were provided by the Richmond Community Choir outside The Aud during the

parade.

Mr. Agosta said, "I was telling a couple of the Choir Members that evening how I believe this is one of the absolute "best" events we have in the City of Richmond. Everyone is dealing with a whole lot of challenges these days, whether it is financial or simply the pressures of every day life. We need to take advantage of these kinds of events and simply have fun, fun, fun!!!"

The songs that the Community Choir sang were "Jingle Bells", "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer", "Frosty the Snowman" and "O Christmas Tree."

Mr. Agosta said, "Of course, when Santa arrived we made sure we sang "Here Comes Santa Claus", several of the people from the community did participate, which is our goal."

Free hot chocolate and cider were also provided. The tree lighting was at 7:00.

Little Miss Richmond Alissa Cervi was the one to pull the switch on the beautiful three story lighted pine tree. Pictures with Santa immediately followed the tree lighting.

AUD cont. on pg 3

Judges can ask me anything. In fact go ahead

We the People gears up for the competition

By: Mitchell Smith
Staff Writer

You da People?
Nah.

We the People.

We the People is a group of people who read speeches and answer judges' questions about the United States' most important document: the Constitution.

Dr. Ladd, who advises We the People, said his favorite part to teach is all the court cases because it is controversial subject.

"I think this class is fun because there is no other class like this at the high school level," said Dr. Ladd.

Dr. Ladd said We the People is a competitive competition that simulates a Senate hearing, and it is an environment where students must present themselves as Constitutional experts.

"The judges ask questions like; Do executive orders undermine concepts of legislative supremacy? Does civil discourse compromise?" Ladd said. "Some of the past topics have dealt with judicial review, classical republicanism, federalism and citizenship, and this year's topics are pretty much the same except for topics like what values

are embodied in the Constitution and what challenges does the American Constitution face in the 21st century."

Addison Andonoff, a sophomore in We the People, said it is fun and exciting being on the team because she likes to argue, so it makes discussions fun.

"No one really has a specific position on the team. We do everything as a group, which makes it fun because I love the arguing. It makes everything more fun," Andonoff said.

Andonoff said they don't really have a specific role; everything is done as a whole or a group.

"We haven't had any competitions yet, but basically you read the speech you prepared to the judges. Then the judges ask you questions, and then you respond to the questions and the judges' questions are based on your speech," Andonoff said.

The team does not have captains or anyone who talks all of the time. Mostly everybody shares their opinion, Andonoff said.

Colleen Gaffney, a sophomore, said her favorite part of the season is the competition because it **WE THE PEOPLE cont. on pg2**

Today's Forecast: High: 36 Low: 27
Mostly Sunny

School News: 1-5, 14
Feature: 11-13, 15

Sports Updates: 6-7
Puzzles and Horoscopes: 13

Opinion 8-10
Student of the Month: 11



The Blue Devil's Advocate

College professors crash through RHS

Mr. Rineer and Ms. Lepak teaching at local community colleges

By: John Gaffney
Sports Editor

Richmond High School has now had the honor of having college level professors walk through its halls. Both Mr. Rineer, English teacher, and Ms. Lepak, counselor, have added teaching college classes to their schedule on top of their responsibilities at the high school level.

"I am teaching three different composition courses at Macomb this semester," said Mr. Rineer. "I teach two different levels of writing: English 1210 and English 1180."

Ms. Lepak, one of the school's counselors is also teaching English. "I have two classes at St. Clair Community College. I have an English 101 and an English 050 class."

Along with adding more responsibility to their already full schedule, Mr. Rineer and Ms. Lepak have added a little more to their pocketbooks.

"Base pay for adjunct professors at MCC is \$600 per credit hour. I am teaching 13 credits this semester, and being an English teacher, I get a pay increase because of the amount of essays I have to correct. Having 10-plus years of teaching experience plus two master's degrees also brought my pay up," said Mr. Rineer.

"SC4 pays about \$1800 dollars per course," said Ms. Lepak.

Both teachers have added these classes to increase the amount of time that they get to spend teaching.

"This has been a lifelong pursuit of mine for a long time," said Mr. Rineer. "I went back [to college] about four years ago so that I could teach at the college level. I like helping people learn to write, and I wanted the challenge of trying to teach the different types of people. To be able to instill confidence in them that they are good writers is a great feeling."

The opportunity to teach at the college level does have its costs for Mr. Rineer.

"Unfortunately, it's really hard to balance my

schedule between Richmond and MCC and my family. I am doing a great job keeping Richmond and MCC separate, but fitting the family in the middle is hard," he said.

"My family knew this was going to happen, so they were prepared before I started the job, and it's really hard because I miss my family very much," he added.

Ms. Lepak said that she just simply missed teaching. "Being a counselor, I still get to work with kids on a daily basis, but it's just a different

"I like helping people learn to write, and I wanted the challenge of trying to teach the different types of people."
-Mr. Rineer

setting than actually being a teacher," she said.

Teaching at Macomb Community College, Mr. Rineer said that he noticed some big differences between his high school classes and his college writing

courses.

"One of the big differences is that at the college, people really want to be engaged in class," said Mr. Rineer.

"I do approach the writing portions of the classes [high school and college] the same, and I have the same expectations, but don't offer extra credit and I let the students be more independent at the college level," said Rineer.

Ms. Lepak said that she uses a lot of the same methods that teachers in the high school use to teach her college courses. "I work with mostly adults, so most of them are self-reliant," she said. "If someone misses an assignment you don't have to chase them down to find it."

Constitution.

"For practices we meet after school at either Tim Horton's or Mr. Ladd's room. Practices usually last 2-3 hours and we read our speeches and study for the competition," Smith said.

The best part of the season is definitely the actual competition because you show everything you prepared in front of other schools, Smith said.

"It's really five people on each team and everyone is basically equal," Smith said. "I learn from We the People things I can take from the class and apply them to everyday life. It made me an effective writer

Added face time with students also comes along with added workloads behind the scenes.

"I spent about 80 hours this summer planning out my lessons for MCC this semester," said Mr. Rineer.

On top of that, Rineer said he spends a bunch of time correcting college essays. "I can usually correct about five essays in an hour, six if I am at a good pace," he said. "I usually end up spending about five hours correcting papers for each class."

With three classes, that makes for quite a bit of time spent on essays.

Ms. Lepak said she checks papers at a similar rate, about five per hour, but as for her lesson plans, she said it depends on each class.

"For each class it will vary, depending on how familiar you are with the material and how you want to teach it. I like teaching Power Points, so that is how I plan out my lessons," she said.

Mr. Olsen said that he is happy to have universities acknowledge the proficiency of our teachers. "I have met with both of the professors, and they both said that they have used some of the teaching techniques that we learn [during high school professional development] at the college level," Olsen said.

Students at RHS seem happy to know that their teachers are working at a college level as well as within the walls of our own school.

"Knowing that he is a college professor as well as a high school teacher definitely makes me respect him more," said junior Kelsey Williams, who is in Mr. Rineer's AP English class.

Jordan Vandenbusche, also a junior in Rineer's AP class agrees. "It seems like it gives him more credibility. It makes him seem like he really knows what he's talking about. Hearing him talk about how our papers are similar to the ones that college students are writing is really cool," he said.

in other classes."

Dustin Piteel, senior, who was in the class last year, said that he learned a lot about the American Constitution, court cases, and a lot of flaws that had to do with the American Government.

Pitel said his favorite part, of that class was that they got to work in groups. They were assigned groups to work on their topic. He said Dr. Ladd also made it really fun and enjoyable plus all the papers they had to do for that class made him better writer because after so many papers each one seemed easier.

WE THE PEOPLE cont. from pg 1

demonstrates that the team understands the Constitution and basic government principles.

"The speeches I prepare answer questions about the Constitution and how it applies to modern government," Gaffney said.

Gaffney said that most of the research that the team does happens outside of school and takes an immense amount of time for research. We also have to meet with our groups a lot.

Anna Smith, a junior, said that We the People is a competition where you answer questions about the

YOUR OCCASION Florist

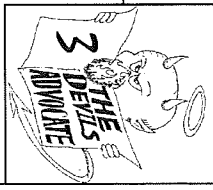


586.727.0963
88085 Main Street
Richmond, Michigan 48062

WWW.CRIMSONANDCLOVER.US

Student News

December 16, 2011



The Blue Devil's Advocate

Midterm Changes At RHS

RHS looks to make Midterms similar to the ACT

By: Anna Fraser
Opinion Editor

You may have noticed teachers giving more practice ACT tests in the last few weeks. This is just the beginning of a school-strengthening project.

Scores from last year's ACT test revealed a downward trend that not only affected students, but our State-wide ranking, as well. In an effort to boost our scores, the mid-term exam layout has now been changed to an ACT format for all subjects.

"Scores are low. We need more experience of taking tests in this style," said Mrs. Michon, the assistant principal at RHS.

Many mid-term exam will now include a reading portion and a writing portion to simulate the ACT.

Mrs. Michon said the biggest struggle at RHS is that students don't take the ACT and MME tests seriously. She hopes that by taking the practice tests, students will not be as stressed when they take the real ACT because it won't be anything new or strange.

Social Studies teacher Dr. Ladd said, "It makes sense. It's more practice, so you'll be better at it."

The goal of the math department is to enhance the students'

application of problem-solving skills with a cause and effect reading and response portion.

Math teacher Mr. Germain said, "We've kind of been doing the ACT layout with multiple choice for a few years now. The new part is the writing portion."

He said the new writing portion will be a good way to see what students understand and it is definitely going to force them to write more in math every year. Mr. Germain has no worries on how students will do on the exam as long as they do what they are supposed to do all year.

To prepare students for this addition, math teachers will be incorporating writing problems within the homework.

Mr. Roodbeen, science teacher, agreed with Dr. Ladd. He said he likes the new layout and thinks it is going to give students a better opportunity to improve scores.

The science department will prepare students for the reading and writing portion on the exam by incorporating more persuasive essays that are subject-based to each class. For instance, biology classes will have biology-related essays and so on.

Students have mixed opinions on

the decision to switch to this new format.

Pierce Treend, a junior, said, "I think mid-terms will be harder because the ACT is a pretty tricky thing."

Although he was concerned about the switch to the new layout, Treend was also pleased with the practice he is receiving in class for the real test.

He went on to say that having mid-terms set up like this will help him get used to how the ACT is.

Sophomore Donny Ede said, "I think it will be easier because you now have a quarter of the chance to get the answer right, and I can look for the answers quicker."

This is true. All exams will now be in multiple choice format.

However, this is not a huge change for some classes. Mid-terms for certain subjects, like math and social studies, have always had a multiple choice base.

What is changing is the preparation students will receive for exams.

Unlike previous years, students will no longer receive mid-term review sheets.

Mr. Roodbeen said, "Some students will obviously not like the switch because it's not something

you can really study for; others will accept the challenge."

Counselor and tenth grade English teacher Ms. Till said now students will be tested on skill level rather than what they memorized off of an exam review sheet.

She said, "I think kids will be worried. In the past, we gave out review sheets. That's not the case anymore. We can't give out a review on skills."

Ms. Till explained how a new State-wide concept is slowly approaching our school. "Common Core" is a program that will not affect high-schoolers now, but seventh and eighth graders in the future. The main idea of "Common Core" is that in order for a student to receive credit in a class, they must pass a state test at the end of the year.

"This test will be more of an open response test. Students will have to verbalize understanding which is why we are pushing for the writing portion on each exam," Mr. Germain said.

Changing the mid-term exam format is just a small step towards where RHS and the rest of the state plan on going.

AUD cont from pg.1

The volunteers who helped enjoyed the event. "This is my first year, but I will probably do it again for NHS next year," said Job.

Paxton McCarty, senior, said "It went awesome, best turn out." Their sponsor was the Early Childhood Development.

This event has happened for many years but this was the second time it happened at The Aud.

"I don't recall exactly which year we were first invited to sing for this

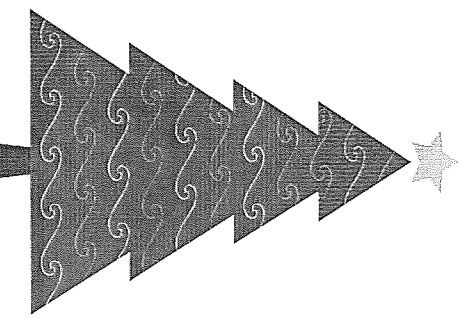
event. I know we have participated and sung for the Richmond Christmas Tree Lighting event for at least 7-8 years. Possibly more," said Mr. Agosta.

Volunteers liked seeing the children have fun. Ashley Barrett, junior, said "I enjoyed seeing the kids and helping them out. It is a good service opportunity."

Brandon Townsend, a senior volunteer, said, "It was a lot of fun. We got to do a lot of the crafts and help with the Santa Key Craft." Many people hope this event

carries on throughout the years. Townsend, who will be moving on to college next year, said, "I want to be there next year, if I am not away."

Mr. Agosta said, "The people of Richmond and surrounding communities truly enjoy the opportunity to gather and visit with their neighbors in a 'fun' and 'full of life' atmosphere. I cannot think of a better area for that kind of activity. Absolutely, I would support doing this event well into future years."



H & H Student Driving School - 2011

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

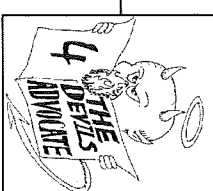
Segment 1 -- \$279.00

- 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. R. Harbabin for details on upcoming classes.



The Blue Devil's Advocate

'Tis The Season

Richmond Band and Choir kick off the Holiday Season

By: Samantha Schaefer
Staff Writer

Start the holidays with 'Tis The Season Concerts!

The RHS and RMS choirs and bands came together on December 1-3 to play and sing for the community. On Thursday and Friday, they sold out.

Last year, there were not enough seats for everyone to come to the concert. That is why there were four shows this year instead of the traditional three. Mr. Osadchuk, Choir Director, said, "Mrs. May and I believe that anyone who wants to come to the concerts should be able to. It was worth the extra work."

Students did a great deal of practicing to prepare. The RHS Choir did an exercise called sectionals. This is when each section, separated by the pitch of their voice, goes into another room to learn their parts. This ensures that each section knows exactly what they are supposed to be doing.

The RHS Choir, Chorale and the 6-8 Grade Choirs performed. The RHS Choir sang "God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen" and "December's Keep" together. Each gender group also had a special song. Girls sang "Snow is Falling" and boys sang "Coventry Carol".

Amber Engelhard, a sophomore in Choir, said her favorite song was "God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen". "I thought it had a unique tone," she said.

The Choir programs at Richmond schools sang many different types of songs.

Mr. Osadchuk said, "We featured different songs from different religions and different parts of the

world. For instance, we sang songs for Hanukkah, some African songs, some sacred and secular music. We kind of covered the whole spectrum."

RHS does a special styled performance. It is called collage style.

"Picture yourself in the auditorium. Close your eyes and music is happening all around you. The music may start in front of you, then the next song to the left, then the right, then behind and back to the front. It was just a steady flow of music the whole hour-and-fifteen minutes," said Mr. Osadchuk.

Jordan Vandenbussche, a junior in Choir, said, "It was cool how a lot was going on from the back to the sides. It wasn't a usual concert."

The RHS band played three songs alone: "Do You Hear What I Hear", "Portraits of Christmas" and "Celtic Carol". Each middle school band, sixth through eighth grade, played two songs each.

At the end, all the bands come together for the sing-along, which is when the audience sings with the Choir. The sing-along featured music such as "Jingle Bells", "Oh Christmas Tree" and "We Wish You A Merry Christmas".

Band students really liked "Celtic Carol".

"The saxophones taught the freshman "Celtic Carol" at band camp by memory. It's kind of their theme song," Mrs. May, the band director, said.

Jacob Matthes, a freshman in Band, said, "As a freshman, [band] is sweet because everything is so pumped up [at Christmas time]." The Band got into the spirit. At the concert, they decorated their

instruments with things like tinsel or garland.

At school, they took a vote on a festive holiday activity. Their choices were White Elephant, Secret Santa or a party. They chose Secret Santas. This is a gift game where you secretly give people presents.

Jennifer Merriman, sophomore, said, "It's really fun and we get to know each other on a deeper level."

On December 19, they will be putting gifts into band lockers. On December 20, they will make a circle, hand out presents and guess who their Santa is.

The concert also got the audience in the Christmas spirit. "For some people, it's their favorite way to start the seasons," Mrs. May said. Anna LaTorre, a sophomore in Choir, said, "You can tell when it makes someone's whole holiday better."

The majority of the feedback was good from both the audience and the performers. LaTorre said, "Overall, I think we did a great performance. There were hiccups, but we recovered nicely."

Vandenbussche said, "It went better than we thought. We pulled it off." They received many complements, said Mrs. May. There were a few big obstacles they overcame.

Mr. Agosta, piano accompanist, injured his left hand the day before the concert due to an incident with his lawnmower. He had to have surgery.

Despite this, Mr. Agosta still had a part in the concert. "Fortunately, we recorded everything the day before," Mr. Osadchuk said. Jared Jurgens, a senior in Choir, said, "It broke our confidence a

little. I'm so used to having him in the productions I'm in."

Mr. Osadchuk said, "Mr. Agosta is a special, special man and he cares so much. I know this just broke his heart."

Then, Mrs. Michon, RHS Vice-Principal, had to take over the lighting on Thursday night. They had a hard time finding techies for the show because most of the normal people were in the band. "I didn't have a clue about how the light board worked," Mrs. Michon said. She only had a 10 minute tutorial, but she made everything work.

The RHS Choir did not just touch the hearts of their audience but also those outside the auditorium.

They went Caroling for Cans on December 10 from eleven in the morning to seven at night. This is the fifth year that the choral program has gone around town caroling and asking for pop cans. They make about \$1,000 every year. The funds go toward future expense.

Engelhard said, "We covered a lot of land, got a lot of cans and made a lot of money."

About half-way through their rounds, they changed things up. Instead of caroling for pop cans, they were caroling for canned food. They donated about twenty bags full of food to the Lions Club.

Mr. Osadchuk said, "It was a good time and a good way to spread the holiday cheer."

In the future, they hope to spend a whole day devoted to collecting canned food. "It gives back to the community," Mr. Osadchuk said. If you missed the live concert, check out the Richmond TV channel. The performance will be playing over the holidays.

RHS experiences Wicked

Drama Club visits the Detroit Opera House

By: Natasha Woodruff
Staff Writer

On Wednesday, December 14, Mr. Applegate took the Drama Club kids and the Theater Arts class to see the musical *Wicked* at the Detroit Opera House.

The musical is two-and-a-half hours long, which includes a 15-minute intermission between Acts One and Two. The musical is playing at the Detroit Opera House from December 7 to the 29 while at this stop on their tour.

Wicked has won numerous awards over the years, including a Grammy for best musical album and several Tony awards.

After their performance in Detroit, the cast and crew will continue their tour into 2012. They will travel all over the United States and to various parts of Canada.

The tickets for the musical usually run from \$100 to over \$260 depending on where the musical is being shown and what seat is purchased. They can go up from there.

However, tickets for the students' trip were only \$40. *Wicked* is a musical based on the novel by Gregory Maguire. It was

written about the life of the Wicked Witch and how she became "wicked."

Both the play and the novel are based off the movie *The Wizard of Oz*.

Students in Theater Arts class who attend the musical have a paper to write about a play of their choosing.

"Many of them end up doing the play that we see together," said Mr. Applegate. Theater Arts and English teacher. The paper that they write contains good and bad qualities in a play, and helps the students with describing plays to peers. They can also talk about the costumes, characters and directing of the musical. They usually write about the things that they appreciated in the play and what they thought about seeing a professional musical.

"Many of the students that go on the trip are interested in seeing a professional play, but don't have the opportunities to go out and see one," said Mr. Applegate. "They all really enjoy it."

As a class, the students discussed their opinions about the performance during intermissions and on the bus ride home from the musical.

Mr. Applegate chose to take the students to see *Wicked* because he knew that it is a good quality show that students would enjoy. "They get to see what it looks like to see a story told on stage with world famous performers and million dollar budgets," he said. The students were excited before the show.

Ellen Kovalcik, sophomore and former cast member of *West Side Story*, said before the show, "I have never seen it before and I am interested to see the different methods of acting so that I can improve my own."

Seeing professional plays and musicals benefit the drama department at RHS. "It helps the students to see the different ideas that people have, and have something to aspire to," said Mr. Applegate.

Martisa Pier, sophomore, read the novel that the musical was based on. She enjoyed it. She was really looking forward to seeing the play and all of the different costumes that they would have.

The students were not the only ones excited about *Wicked*. Mr. Applegate was looking forward to seeing the students' reactions to the musical. He wanted to know what they would think about seeing all of the hard work that goes into it. "I am most looking forward to hearing

the kids' feedback on what they think, what impressed them and how much they enjoyed it," said Mr. Applegate before the play.

After going on the trip, Alex Newman, freshman and cast member of *West Side Story*, said, "My favorite part would probably be the beginning. When it first started, the dragon had smoke coming out of its nose and its eyes lit up and moved its head."

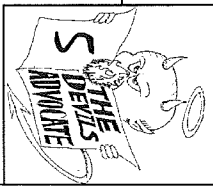
Samantha Franz, senior, said, "'Defying Gravity' is right before intermission and it was the most famous part of the play. I would say so. I liked the song."

Señora Dolland, Spanish teacher and chaperrone, brought her daughter to see *Wicked*. Her daughter loved it. Señora Dolland said, "When was little she was a *Wizard of Oz* fan. She loved Dorothy and all those characters." Her daughter also enjoys RHS productions.

Jacob Evans, sophomore and former cast member of *West Side Story*, had seen a professional production before. He saw *How to Succeed in Business in New York City*.

As for *Wicked*, he enjoyed Act One. Evans said, "Glenda is singing to the wicked witch and about how she could be popular. It was just so funny." *Help from: Melissa Resk, Sam Schaefer.*

The Blue Devil's Advocate



RACHEL cont from pg 1

The Impact On Richmond Students Of All Ages Was Strong

December 1 marked the big day: Rachel's Challenge came to Richmond in three separate student assemblies.

Elementary students walked to the high school and sat in the big gym to learn about Rachel's acts of kindness and compassion. Mr. Olsen, Richmond High School Principal, said, "The elementary students were taught more about being nice to one another. They did not touch on all of the details of Columbine."

Elementary students were challenged to treat everyone with kindness, even if a person is different from you. They were challenged to choose good influences and write down their goals, something Rachel believed very strongly in doing.

In the middle school presentation, more graphic topics were discussed, and students learned more about the events of the shootings at Columbine. Students were taught that even the smallest acts of kindness can go a long way and maybe even change someone's life. The last presentation of the day was the high school assembly.

Students filed into the gym and sat tightly packed in amongst all of their peers, ready for what they thought was going to be just another bullying assembly.

Little did they know, they would be getting much more. Some, like senior Holly Uhl, were anticipating something more emotional. Uhl said, "I was expecting to be moved, because I knew about the Columbine shooting. I thought it would definitely be unlike other presentations."

Students were introduced to Rachel Scott, and they quickly learned the sad, terrifying events of the day she died. Students saw live footage of the Columbine shooting, as well as people who were there that day discussing their experiences.

Also discussed were some stories of kids that Rachel had shown small acts of kindness to, and they

discussed how much those seemingly small acts actually affected them.

One story was about a boy named Adam, who was picked on relentlessly because of a physical and learning challenge that he has. Adam said that he had thought of taking his own life at one point, due to all of the harassment he received from his peers.

But then Rachel stood up for him just once and that changed his outlook on his life.

Alexandria Newman, a freshman, said, "When they shared Adam's story, it was personal for me because I have been in his position. I bawled my eyes out when I heard the story."

Newman was also very touched by the journal entries Rachel wrote. One such entry was a picture that Rachel drew prior to her death that was believed to be a symbol of the Columbine shooting after she died. Newman said, "I was convinced of Rachel's message when they showed that picture. She did change the world by just drawing that picture."

Like Newman, many students were deeply moved by the presentation, especially when the presenter, Shane, helped students to relate it to their own lives.

He asked everyone to close their eyes and think of seven people they loved the most, and then just as everyone was thinking of their most cherished loved ones, he said, "Now imagine them all being gone and taken away from you."

Many students, including Uhl, said that at that moment, they believed in Rachel's dreams that she could change the world with just simple acts of kindness and compassion.

Teachers, Faculty And Adults In The Community Were Also Moved

In addition to the three student assemblies, a special presentation for parents and other members of the community was held later on that night. Parents were told about what their children are challenged to do, and they too were challenged to

accept Rachel's message.

As well as adults attending the late night presentation, many teachers attended the morning presentations with the students. Mrs. Van Ham, math teacher, said, "I think students realized that a simple act of kindness-smiling to a new student or sitting with a student who's alone at lunch-can have a bigger impact than they imagined."

Mrs. Van Ham was pleased with the way students responded to the presentation, saying, "I thought the students took it seriously and began to think about some of their behaviors."

RHS Counselor Ms. Lepak agreed with Mrs. Van Ham, and said, "I'm hoping that people will stop and think about their actions and try to understand where others are coming from, and treat people with respect." Ms. Lepak added, "I think that the presentation related to issues at our school very much. Rachel's Challenge may have helped people realize that we shouldn't take people for granted."

Adults and students alike learned the value of life through Rachel's story and to always appreciate those people that you love and care about.

Keeping Rachel's Challenge Alive

Students of RHS do not plan on letting Rachel's Challenge just dwindle away.

Students and teachers are working hard to keep the message alive. After the initial presentations, about 100 students were selected to attend a special training session later on in the day.

There, they were taught about how to keep Rachel's Challenge going after the assembly, and things they can do to spread kindness and compassion throughout RHS.

Ms. Lepak attended the special session with the students. She said, "It was pretty emotional and intense to hear students share their stories. I think it helped break down some barriers between people. We are more alike than we are different." Uhl and Newman both agreed that when students stood up to share their own stories and struggles, they

realized that everyone has problems and that everyone could use a little compassion every now and then.

Students at RHS were able to sign up to join the school's new Friends of Rachel, or FOR club. Tons of students were interested and eager to spread Rachel's message throughout their community.

Students have already started making efforts through FOR club to change their school.

Most students have noticed little notes on the bathroom mirrors, and signs throughout the school with words of encouragement on them.

Students also wrote letters to professionals at the school whom they felt were underappreciated.

The students are looking forward to working on many more projects in the future. Junior Jordan Vandenbusse, said, "We are planning on making locker signs every two weeks. We are also thinking of making a giant chain that would stretch across the whole school."

These are just a few things to look forward to seeing from the FOR club in the future. The FOR club is hoping that, like Rachel, they will be able to start a chain reaction.

Rachel's Five Challenges:

1. Look for the Best in Others
2. Dare to Dream
3. Choose Positive Influences
4. Use Kind Words
5. Start a Chain Reaction!

W

im lovin' it

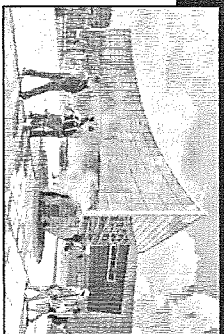
Eric Groeneveld DDS, P.C.
Family Dentistry
 68720 Main Street
 Richmond, MI 48062
 Tel: (586)727-0990
 Fax: (586)727-4872
 www.EricGroeneveldDDS.com

Pradko & Gallagher
Slane
 PROFESSIONALS
 IN FAMILY DENTISTRY

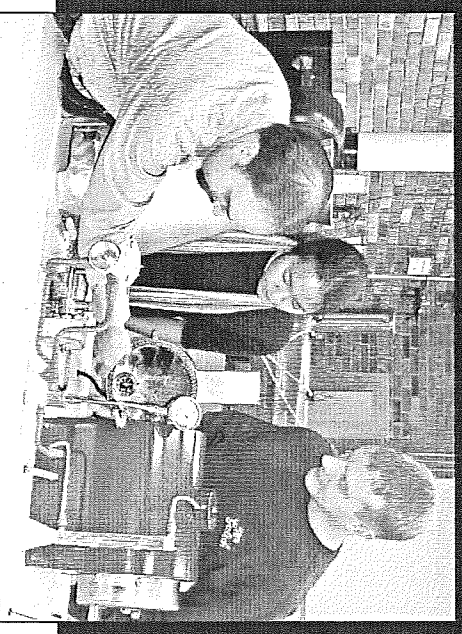
MAKING HISTORY. ERIC GROENEVELD, D.D.S., P.C.
 RICHMOND, MI 48062
 586-727-0990
 586-727-4872
 Fax: 586-727-4950
 www.EricGroeneveldDDS.com

A Degree That Pays Off!

- ▶ The earning power of a Lawrence Technological University degree is tops in the Detroit area
- ▶ All undergrads provided high-end personal computers with all needed software – a unique benefit valued up to \$15,000
- ▶ Growing residential and varsity sports options



Waive your application fee at www.ltu.edu/apply/fee



Explore over 100 undergraduate, master's, and doctoral programs in Colleges of Architecture and Design, Arts and Sciences, Engineering, and Management.

Lawrence Tech
 LAWRENCE TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY

Lawrence Technological University
 Office of Admissions
 2100 West Ten Mile Road, Southfield, MI 48075-1053
 800.225.5581 | admissions@ltu.edu | www.ltu.edu

2012
 HIGHER EDUCATION
 UNIVERSITIES
 IN THE MICHIGAN
 REGION

DEVIL SPORTS

Shreddin' ice

Richmond hockey players prepare to drop the puck

By: Samantha Kowalczyk
Staff Writer

While basketball, wrestling and competitive cheerleading are preparing for their seasons, there is another sport that is not offered at Richmond but has RHS students ready for action: hockey.

Hockey, like any other sport, can be enjoyed by both competition and just playing for fun. Pierce Treend, a junior, is one of many students here at Richmond that enjoys playing hockey for the pure fun of the sport.

"[I enjoy] the intensity that the other players bring," said Treend. He likes playing with his friends on his pond, typically five on five. He likes to play with Steve Romantz, Mitch Ward, Jack Fisher and Gino Mini. Treend has been playing for three years as a defenseman and likes to chuck everybody over the

snow banks.

Roller hockey is another form of hockey students like to participate in. Steven Romantz, a senior, enjoys playing roller hockey. He stated that his favorite part would be scoring a goal.

So what is it about hockey that makes people love it?

"It's the greatest sport in the world, and I like how it is a fast moving sport," said sophomore Gino Mini, who has been playing hockey since he was three. He plays out of Fraser for Summit Plastic as a defenseman.

"It's just a place where everything is okay and I can't make mistakes," said sophomore Danny Munfo. "You get corrected and you get yelled at but, it's at a place where it's okay to make mistakes and get yelled at. It's only going to make you a better player."

Munfo plays for the Saint

Claire Shore Saints as a center and right wing, three times a week. Munfo and his team play 50 games a season and he averages 43 to 45 goals a season, which is almost a goal a game.

Hunter Barjaktarovich, freshman, has been participating in hockey for eight years and his favorite part is skating. He currently is a left defenseman for the Fraser Titans, who practice three times a week. Depending on the season, he averages around 10 goals a season. He loves the speed of the game and it is what he is best at.

Hockey players also have tournaments to go to. Tournaments are a series of games in which different teams compete to get the highest title possible.

HOCKEY, con't on pg 7

Take the hill by storm

RHS students gone boarding

By: Jake McKiernan
Staff Writer

Winter brings around many things: Christmas, winter sports and cold weather. That means snow, snow sports and, of course, snowboarding.

Snowboarding is a fun activity for many people in Michigan, and all over the country. Boyne Mountain, Black Jack ski resorts; Powder Horn Mountains and Marquette Mountain are just the few hotspots for winter fun in Michigan.

Many RHS students enjoy snowboarding. Whether at large snowboarding hills or in their neighborhood backyard, students still find many

ways to enjoy this activity.

Junior Kyle Pollari snowboards at Mt. Holly in Groveland Corners.

Pollari goes snowboarding every winter with his friends and cousins.

"The thrill is hard to explain. It's really fun, even if you wipe out," said Pollari. "You don't really worry about it. It's just great to know that you're up and doing something that you love."

Pollari first snowboarded when he was 13. "I just decided to give it a try one day, and I loved it," said Pollari.

Sophomore Ryan Tellow also snowboards at Boyne Mountain and at Pine Knob. Tellow first snowboarded last year, when he went up

north with his friend.

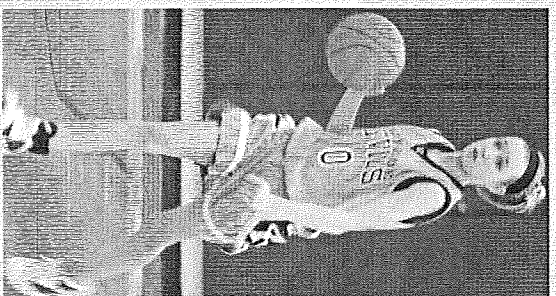
"We went up to his dad's cabin up north. His dad took us to the Snow

Snake Ski lodge," said Tellow. Tellow said that he has an aunt that lives up there as well.

"I usually go about once a week in the winter." Tellow said he would definitely recommend it for others. "Nobody else does it, and it would be better if more people gave it a try," he said.

Other students enjoy snowboarding as well, but on a much lower level.

SNOWBOARDING, con't on pg 7



Emily Swantek

Age: 15
Grade: 10th

Nickname: Swaney

Sport(s): Basketball and Soccer

Favorite pump up song: I Don't Want

This Night to End by Luke Bryan

Favorite Movie: *Blades of Glory*

Favorite food: Chicken Alfredo

Favorite class: Biology with Mr. Pearson, because she has always liked science.

Future goals: Go to college and become a surgeon.

STAR ATHLETES

Ryan Boyd

Age: 15
Grade: 10th

Nickname: R.B.

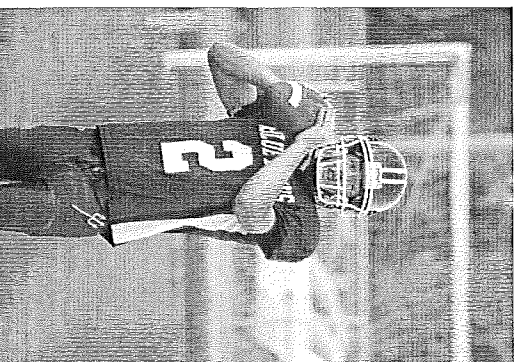
Sport(s): Baseball, Basketball, and Football

Favorite pump up song: Remember the Name by Fort Minor

Favorite Movie: *The Hangover*

Favorite food: Pizza

Favorite class: Biology with Mr. Pearson,



because he is a good teacher.
Future goals: Graduate, go to college, and get a good paying job.



Coaches vs. Cancer

Scoring baskets for a cure

By: Sarah Verscheure
Feature editor

The RHS varsity basketball teams will play a Game for the Cause on January 13. Both varsity teams will play at home against Cross-Lex. Boys JV coach, Coach Baerwolf, brought up the idea of "Coaches vs. Cancer" to the rest of the basketball department and began looking into it.

Coach Baerwolf, Coach Failla (boys assistant JV coach), Coach Baumgarten (girls assistant varsity coach), Mrs. Weaver, and Mrs. Pentz are all a part of planning this fundraiser. Together they contacted the American Cancer Society. The coaches came to find out Richmond had already donated money from the volleyball's team "Volleys for a Cure" but Rachel Baumgarten said, "[My mom] just really wanted to do this with the school."

They came up with the idea to begin selling bracelets. Team members from boys seventh grade through varsity and girls freshmen through varsity have been asked to sell ten bracelets each. These bracelets have been available for two dollars a piece. Each bracelet sold makes one dollar in profit and all of the money earned from their sales will be donated.

All of the girls varsity players have completed selling their bracelets. "Selling the bracelets was easy because people are willing to help a good cause," said girls varsity player, Tyler Queen.

At the game there will be other ways the team will make money for the fundraiser. There will be a concession for selling t-shirts with a multicolored ribbon on the back to support all types of cancer. Coach Baumgarten is hoping the shirts will be sold for \$10 each.

This is the first year for the basketball teams to raise money for this donation, therefore, both the boys and girls varsity are working together to help the cause. "It's a collaboration between both of us," said Coach Pearson. The money goal this year is set for \$1,000. All of the money is donated directly to the American Cancer Society for them to disperse to research areas they chose. Somewhere in the school there will be a "Wall of Hope." Mr. Ladd has taken part in this plan by organizing a blanket donation of money to the ACS. Any students interested in helping the cause can sign a paper cutout for free

Upcoming Events

Richmond Wrestling

- 12/16/11 at Macomb County (A)
- 12/17/11 at Macomb County (A), Cros
- Lex (B), Romeo (JV)
- 12/27/11 at Hudson (Alumni Night)
- 12/28/11 at Medina, OH

Boys Varsity Basketball

- 12/20/11 at Marine City, 6:30 pm
- 12/23/11 at Mt. Clemens, 7:00 pm
- 12/28/11 at New Haven, 5:30 pm

Girls Varsity Basketball

- 12/20/11 at home vs Marine City, 6:30 pm
- 12/26/11 at Cardinal Mooney, TBA
- 12/28/11 at Cardinal Mooney, TBA

The Blue Devil's Advocate

HOCKEY,
con't from pg 6

Tournaments generally happen from two to four times a year depending on the sport.

"Most tournaments take place in Northern Canada, and they are a great bonding time for the players, parents and coaches," said Munofu. Two years ago, Munofu and his team won a tournament in Port Huron and Munofu was awarded MVP.

Richmond does not have a hockey team, but the feelings on whether or not we should are mixed. "I would love Richmond to have a hockey team, but a concern for me would be how many people would be interested in it," said Munofu.

"Not a lot of hockey players go to this school, and we would be at a low division," said Mini.

In order for teams to get better as a whole, practice is crucial. It helps players fix what they are doing wrong so when it comes to game time they are prepared.

Mini said that his practices consist of being both on and off the ice. His team is on the ice for an hour and a forty-five minutes working on passing, shooting, breakouts and occasionally scrimmaging. Off the ice, his team runs and lifts weights.

Barjaktarovich has practices that last an hour- and-a-half. He stated that they start up with warm-up drills and also do different drills throughout the practice.

Munofu said that his practices are an hour-and-a-half and they basically work on skills such as passing, shooting and a lot of communication.

Hockey is a mind and body sport. Not only do players need to be ready physically, but mentally as well.

Different forms of preparation help players get in tune with themselves. Mini listens to music and gets focused before a game.

Barjaktarovich said, "[I] sleep and have Gatorade, or something to drink."

Goals are expectations that players set for themselves. They help to keep a player on track and give them something to work hard towards.

"I want to get my team up to the top five teams in our division," said Mini.

He said that in order to win states he and his team need to play physical, play with a lot of intensity and put shots on net. Barjaktarovich said that his goal for the season is also the team's goal, which is to win States. "We have to play how we know we can play, be disciplined and not slack off," he said.

Munofu said, "One of my goals for the season is to work hard and prove my haters wrong."

Roadrunner's Club racin' around Cross-country keeping youths in shape

By Katie Szeszenia
Staff Writer

As winter approaches, more and more people go inside, the Richmond Road Runners Club are doing something different.



Cross-country runner Leya Gonzalez is helping out and brings her running talent to the middle school Road Runners Club. (Photo Courtesy of the RHS)

The Richmond Road Runners Club consists of four through eighth graders who are interested in running. The club has 24 kids signed up this year.

The club originated a few years ago and was run by former middle school teacher Mrs. Wood. After a few years without the club, Mr. Brown decided to pick it up once again.

The club is coached by Mr. Brown, business teacher, cross country and track coach.

For the past two years, Mr. Brown has been coaching the group to get kids an opportunity try out running.

"I do enjoy coaching the kids. They have a lot of energy and make me laugh," said Mr. Brown.

The group also has varsity cross country runners as the assistant coaches.

Mr. Brown said he likes getting the varsity runners to help out with the club because they do a lot.

High school runners encourage the kids and help with team spirit. Mr. Brown also added that he could not do the club without their help.

For each mile a member in the club runs, they receive a shoe token of a running man, which encourages the kids to run as much as they can.

"I think the club is a good way to get people interested in cross country and running," said senior Michael Graham, who participated in the Road Runners club the past two years.

The club has met on Mondays and Wednesdays at the middle school for over an hour since November 7.

Practices usually consist of a warm up, stretching, playing a game that involves running and then the kids run on track or in the forest behind the middle school.

High school volunteers get a lot out of helping with the Road Runners Club. "I'm in the Runner's Club to get in shape for the run," said sophomore Casey Malburg.

Leya Gonzalez said she joined the club to get in shape for soccer in the spring.

Both Gonzalez and Malburg plan on running cross country next fall. "I thought it would be cool to coach the kids and run the Jingle Bell Run," said freshman Beau Brockett.

The club spent over a month preparing to participate in the Jingle Bell Run, held December 11. The club ran 3.1 miles through the streets of New Baltimore.

The weather for the race was cool and sunny, which was a major improvement from last years. Last year's race took place during the first heavy snowfall of the year.

The Richmond Road Runners Club finished strong as they competed at the Jingle Bell 5K run.

"A lot of the runners from last year improved their times this year," said Graham. "Those who ran all came in before 30 minutes."

Mr. Brown said everyone that ran seemed to enjoy it and some beat last year's time.

Along with the kids running a great race, the assistant coaches also ran well.

Graham finished the race in 19 minutes and 10 seconds, taking fourth in his age division.

Nick Fitzsimons and Brockett also participated in the race. Fitzsimons ran the 5K in 19 minutes and 45 seconds, placing eighth in his age division, while Brockett ran it in 21 minutes and 18 seconds, placing twelfth in his age division.

"The kids got great times and were all under 30 minutes," said Brockett. Mr. Brown said his favorite part of the club is the post-race feeling of accomplishment the kids get.

Mr. Brown hopes to have a seventh and eighth grade cross country team next fall, which will determine if they continue the Road Runners Club next year.

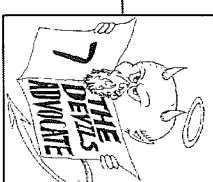
SNOWBOARDING, con't from pg 6

Freshman Caitlin Reynolds said she likes to snowboard on her neighbor's sled hill. "My neighbor has a hill like 12 feet high," said Reynolds. "I've gone probably twenty times. All of my neighbors snowboard, and my brother. I'd recommend it as something fun to do."

Wade Mazur, a sophomore, also snowboards on a much smaller scale hill; he uses a gravel mound in his backyard. "It's a great workout, and it's exiting," said Mazur. "Just the thrill of knowing that you're going so fast and all that's making you move is a little piece of plastic, it's sweet."

Mazur goes boarding a couple times a week from the first snow of

CANCER,
con't from pg 5



and it will be placed in different room around the school. These cutouts can be found in Mr. Murphy's room, Mr.

Delore's, and Mr. Ladd's. Anyone can put their name on one to show they are helping. These cutouts are available currently, Mr. Ladd said that any students interested in signing these will show that they are supporting a good cause. Also, at the game there will be volunteers selling papers cut outs during the game and putting them up on the wall to help raise the awareness. Each cutout will be one dollar.

This is a way for everyone to help, whether being a part of our school or not. This way they will be available to be bought by the visiting fans. This will broaden the scope of awareness even more.

When people attending the game enter the door, they will be asked if they are a cancer survivor. Players and students can also recommend their family members to come to be honored.

Each survivor will be given a button dealing with their triumph over cancer and they will be called down the court during half time of the boys game.

This will be not to make money, but to honor and applaud cancer survivors. "Our family has been blessed enough to not have anyone with cancer," said Rachel Baumgarten. To see neighbors and other students' family members on the floor having survived cancer shows us the importance of supporting the cause for finding a cure. This will strengthen the meaning and purpose of holding this benefit game.

The American Cancer society has taken a downfall in their funding due to the economy. According to the ACS website (www.cancer.org), "As a result, a significant number of potentially life-saving research ideas could not be pursued by these investigators." Every little bit of money helps because it can add up to what is needed for each grant. Each grant ranges from \$69,000 to \$850,000. The amount of money they have raised this year is \$201,156, as of November 30.

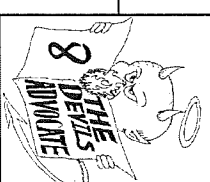
"I'm excited for the game, because it is helping a good cause," said Varsity boys player, Justin Weaver.

Snowboarding in Michigan is an affordable activity, depending on the resort. Pine Knob Ski Resort charges \$32 for single lift tickets and \$45 for all day passes. Snowboard and ski rentals cost \$26 and helmets cost an additional \$10. Boyne Mountain in Bay Harbor charges \$40 for a lift ticket. Snowboards and boots can be rented after noon for a price of \$27. Boyne Mountain and Pine Knob each offer lessons on learning to ride. Pine Knob charges \$50 per hour for a private lesson. Boyne charges \$58 total for a private lesson or \$44 for a group lesson.

Anyone can learn to participate and enjoy the sport of snowboarding. Pollari said that snowboarding is a great, stress free, recreational activity.

"Everyone should give snowboarding a try," said Pollari.

IN OUR OPINION



Question of the Month

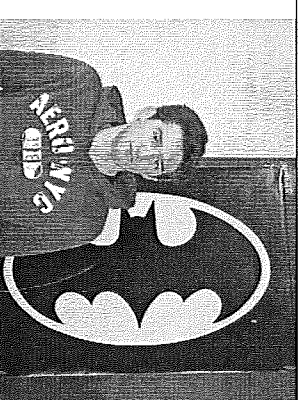
What is your favorite holiday and why?

Staff



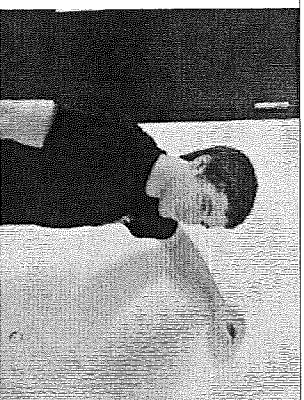
Ms. Thueme says Easter because spring has sprung and summer is just around the corner!

Senior



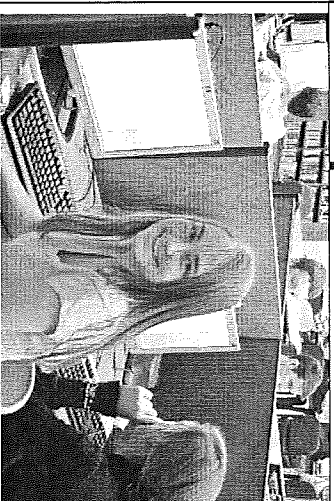
Travis Zube loves Christmas and the presents!

Junior



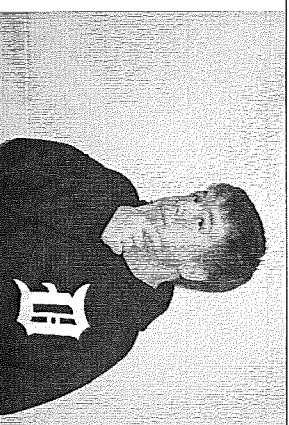
Jon Saelens says spending time with friends and family over Christmas is the best.

Sophomore



Olivia Kesler loves to celebrate New Years!

Freshman



Joe Gusmano agrees and says New Years is a time to celebrate!

Staff Editorial:
Rachel's Challenge:
Let's continue the chain reaction

Sarah Verschuer
Features Editor
April 20, 1999: the deadliest day in American high school history. Two students with the mindset to kill changed the lives of hundreds as they killed 13 people at Columbine High School in Colorado.

The first student killed was Rachel Joy Scott. In honor of her death, her father created an organization known as Rachel's Challenge. This organization teaches students about the way Rachel chose to live her life and invites us to try and do the same. The presentation will reach its 6 millionth person by the end of this year.

During the assembly, we learned the story of Rachel Joy Scott through Shane Mitchell. Throughout the presentation, many students were brought to tears. The message was not just anti-bullying but was rather one for kindness, compassion and caring.

We were asked to accept Rachel's Challenge as it was explained in five points throughout the course of the presentation.

The first, and perhaps the most important point made, was to remove prejudice in your heart. In Richmond, a place with little diversity, this may seem like an easy thing to do. But it is not necessarily being prejudiced against different skin color or different religion, but rather being prejudiced regarding difference itself, including being prejudiced against cliques or people with different grade-point averages.

To apply this to a high school with hormones running wild and following the most popular teen movies, we would think that this goal is one over-preached. Over the course of our years in school there have been countless people trying to make us stop bullying one another and putting each other down; it has never stopped. Their messages are, unfortunately, received with eye rolls and judgment.

Many went in to the presentation expecting the same thing: another long-winded presenter that tells stories of how the two shooters were bullied and how we need to end bullying in our school.

Fellow students and staff members were given more than they bargained for when not only did he explain the problems of bullying but he introduced us to a person, a real human being that had the ability to step back and see the wrongness in reality.

Our second challenge is to dream big, write down our goals and keep a journal. This was given not for us to practice our writing for the ACT or English classes, but to become a focused person.

One of Rachel's quotes taken from a letter sent to her cousin is one that embodies finding your true self. She wrote, "Don't let your character change color with your environment. Find out who you are and let it stay your true color."

By writing down daily thoughts, perhaps you could find yourself, focus on what makes you, you, and come to accept it. Accepting ourselves is the first step to accepting each other. The third challenge is to choose posi-

tive influences. Through the halls of RHS, the latest gossip spreads. It is not only about student body gossip but the latest media coverage about celebrities, scandals and sports teams.

Some students choose classic role models such as their favorite sports player, a particularly helpful teacher or historical leaders. Rachel chose Anne Frank; the shooters chose Hitler. Their influences could have led to the decisions made by each individual. If the shooters would have grown up realizing the horror of Hitler's dictatorship, perhaps their choice to lead their own homicidal rampage would have changed.

Perhaps, though, we would be our own person no matter who we look up to. Listening to raps by known convicts with lyrics that describe violence, doing drugs and abuse doesn't mean that we will all grow up to be harmful citizens.

But maybe these songs will influence one student to act on their lyrics, to become caught up in the fictional world, and make harmful decisions. Should we be willing to take this risk of choosing the wrong person to idolize?

The fourth way to follow in Rachel's footsteps is to speak with words of kindness. Not only refrain from saying words that can hurt people, but say things that will make others feel good and create a better environment for everyone.

By giving the simplest compliment to a fellow student that is having feelings of discouragement, you could completely alter their day for the better.

This can result in a chain reaction that Rachel had always dreamed of beginning. Try to imagine the flow of compliments that could begin if instead of gossip flowing through the halls, there was encouraging words.

The challenge Rachel left behind for us is to start your own chain reaction. Perhaps the most touching and tear-jerking part of the presentation was when Shane asked us to close our eyes, picture seven people you love, and imagine them gone from your life.

Whether you pictured parents, siblings or the people sitting right next to you, the thought of having them killed-shot by two people that made the wrong choice-became a humbling experience.

In order to make the halls more inviting, fill it with compliments. If everyone has the urge to carry out the compliments for the creation of a continuous chain, it could counteract the darkest feelings of faking a human life due to one's desperation from becoming an outcast. This could, at its greatest success, save someone you love.

We believe this presentation was needed at RHS. With the recent history of fights, and the seemingly enjoyment of watching fellow students be mean to each other, a message for kindness and tragedy could not have come at a better time.

What if rather than breaking out of the daily schedule with rudeness we break out of it by spreading joy and acceptance. Would this not be a change from the normal way we treat each other? Starting this chain of kindness could mean the end, or at least the reduction, of our student body creating hurt in one another's lives.

THE BLUE DEVIL'S ADVOCATE

Adviser
Mr. Murphy

News Editors:
Anabella Ottenbacher
Hannah Townsend

Editorial Editors:
Victoria Breiling
Anna Fraser

Sports Editors:
John Gaffney
Angela Szaba

Features Editors:
Regan Blissett
Sarah Verschuer

Coordinating Editor:
Nasha Woodruff

Advertising

Managers:
Krystal Geister
Melissa Resk

Staff Writers:
Jessica Bibeey, Adam Boyd, Brett Brincefield, Sam Kowalczyk, Jacob Marlow, Jake McKiernan, Sam Schafer, Mitchell Smith, Emily Swanek, Katie Szczesiak, Hunter Tousignant, Lizzie Urban

www.bluedevilsadvocate.weebly.com

Mission Statement

Richmond High School's student newspaper, The Blue Devil's 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 understandings, entertain, and inform.

Letters

Guest editorials/letters are welcomed from any reader who has an opinion to express and should be given to the editor two weeks in advance of the publication date to be considered. Letters to the Editor should not exceed 250 words in length and must be signed by the author, although the author's name can be withheld upon request. Email us at: admin@richmond.k12.mi.us

Please include your name and grade level.