

WINTER EDITION

# THE PARENT LINK

A PUBLICATION OF RANDOLPH UNION HIGH SCHOOL GALLOPING GHOSTS

**SPECIAL BUDGET ISSUE  
RANDOLPH UNION HIGH SCHOOL  
APPRECIATES YOUR SUPPORT**

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE 2012-2013 BUDGET PROPOSAL  
ATTEND THE INFORMATIONAL MEETING ON  
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2012 @ 7:00 p.m.  
IN THE RUHS MURRAY AUDITORIUM.

**THE VOTE FOR THE RUHS & RTCC BUDGETS WILL BE HELD ON  
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2012.  
VOTING WILL BE BY AUSTRALIAN BALLOT.**

**February 7, 2012 RUHS Annual Meeting at 7:30 p.m. in Murray Auditorium.  
The regular February meeting of the RUHS School Board  
will be held on Monday, February 13, 2012.**

LEARN THE FACTS BEFORE YOU VOTE! THE FACTS DEMONSTRATE  
THAT RUHS & RTCC PROVIDE QUALITY EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS  
AT A COST COMPARABLE WITH LOCAL DISTRICTS  
AND HIGH SCHOOLS OF SIMILAR SIZE.

**VOTING INFORMATION**

<u>TOWN</u>	<u>POLLING LOCATION</u>	<u>VOTING TIMES</u>
Braintree	Braintree Town Clerk's Office	10:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Brookfield	Brookfield Elementary School	9:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Randolph	Randolph Town Hall	10:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.

*"We Believe in Ghosts"*

## **PRINCIPAL'S REPORT**

I wrote this year's annual report with a great deal of pride in our current accomplishments and in anticipation of all that we have to look forward to in the coming years as a school community. This summary cannot express how thankful I am for the generous ongoing support of the people of the towns of Randolph, Brookfield, and Braintree. We strive every day to be worthy of that support and to create rich educational opportunities that prepare our students for life in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

This year community members who have visited us have noticed some physical changes to RUHS. Changes include: updates to the senior high gym including repairs, removal of the drop ceiling, new lighting, and a fresh coat of paint; new doors by the auditorium, senior high gym, and at the end of the middle school wing; an updated fire alarm system; an upgraded security system; a new Wall of Fame by the senior high gym commemorating a tradition of excellence over many decades; and a beautifully renovated library/media center. This has all occurred within budget. In addition, the tech team has been hard at work with visible, and not so visible, upgrades to our technology resources and our technology infrastructure.

Curricular and scheduling changes continue to allow us to better support our educational and instructional goals this school year and beyond. We are proud to now offer: semester-long high school physical education classes, ongoing virtual learning opportunities for students through Virtual High School (VHS) and the Vermont Virtual Learning Collaborative (VTVLC), ongoing faculty professional development in support of differentiated instruction, student membership on our school decision making body RUHS Senate, and a new academic support class. I am also thrilled to announce upcoming changes to our science curricular offerings that include a new elective course 'Energy' to complement our other science electives: Astronomy, Anatomy and Physiology, and Introduction to Engineering; new semester long courses in Chemistry (Including Organic Chemistry) and Physics, along with redesigned curriculum in our other science offerings.

To support our ongoing curricular changes the school is currently redesigning our Educational Support System (ESS). ESS encompasses academic, culture and climate to shape an overall environment that creates educational accessibility for all students. What this means in practical terms is that we are working this year to plan changes that support more of our students in regular education classrooms. This change will be realized through ongoing technology integration, differentiated instruction, and clear expectations for behaviors that support a 'values' driven school culture.

The ability to discuss, and model, appropriate interpersonal behaviors has been greatly enhanced this year because we have instituted three Restorative Justice options. These include: Mediation, Family Group Conference, and The Fairness Committee. These structures help a person understand the consequences of actions in a broader light: in terms of school values, and by hearing the perspectives of peers.

Our new Peer Learning Center is now up and running in the Media Center. The learning center creates an opportunity for students in all content areas to improve their base of foundational knowledge by getting support from an array of student tutors. This new program was created by a team of RUHS teachers and student services counselors who spent a week in the summer of 2011 designing additional universal supports for students in grades 7-12.

I am also proud to say that our commitment to bringing an international 'flavor,' and international learning opportunities, to our students continues in 2011-2012. We again welcome exchange students through Rotary International and AFS, just hosted visiting students from Japan this winter, will send a group of RUHS students to Shizukuishi, Japan during the summer of 2012, will send a group of RUHS Spanish class students to Spain in April 2012, and will have a visiting teacher from China arrive shortly. As has become the tradition here at RUHS we are also fortunate to be hosting four exchange students this year. Our junior year exchange students include **Vera Anna-Maria Rohmert**, AFS exchange student from Germany; **Risa Hoshi**, AFS exchange student from Japan; **Xenia Aarfelt**, AFS exchange student from Denmark; and senior class exchange student **Srishti "Raya" Dhar**, Rotary exchange student from India. Finally, one additional AFS exchange student, **Rodrigo Ismael Jariton Jara** will be joining us this spring semester from Paraguay.

At this time I am happy to report that seniors are well on their way to completion of Senior Projects. All theses have been approved and paper writing is underway! This year we have 35 seniors who are completing Senior Project through RUHS. These seniors are supported by 35 community member mentors and a total of 41 Senior Project Panel members. This is truly a community endeavor. Please mark your calendars now to join us for Night of the Arts on Wednesday, May 16<sup>th</sup> and Senior Project Open House on Thursday, May 24<sup>th</sup>!

As I approach the conclusion of this summary I would like to thank the OSSU board and associated school boards for their ongoing guidance through the implementation of our Board Ends. These ends (Critical Thinking, Foundational Knowledge, Ability to Adapt, and Information Technology) are the lenses through which all RUHS decisions are now filtered. We used them this year to align the five components of Senior Project. We are using them in our comprehensive 5-year strategic planning, our assessment and reporting design work, and in helping shape our school-wide values and expectations. A cohesive system that blends the policy work of the school board, the operations work of school administrators, and the daily work of teachers and students only makes us stronger.

I am in my fifth year as a school administrator at RUHS and I am grateful for the ongoing support of the greater Randolph community. I once again ask your support for our budget for the 2012-2013 school year. This year we are asking for a modest increase of .71 percent over last year's budget to maintain the high quality education that you expect from us. It's also important to note that this budget request is 1.0 percent lower than our actual budget from the 2009-2010 school year.

As always, feel free to contact me with any questions related to the ongoing work of our school.

David Barnett  
Principal  
RUHS

**RANDOLPH UNION HIGH SCHOOL  
2012-13 PROPOSED BUDGET**

	2009-10 ACTUAL	2010-11 ACTUAL	2011-12 BUDGET	2012-13 PROPOSED	TOTAL \$INC/DEC
<b>1 GENERAL FUND</b>					
A. LOCAL TAXES	0	0	0	0	0
B. SPECIAL PROGRAMS	790,499	739,705	780,451	803,039	22,588
		-6.43%	5.51%	2.89%	
C. STATE REVENUES	6,793,090	6,775,141	6,813,117	6,836,139	23,022
		-0.26%	0.56%	0.34%	
D. OTHER REVENUES	309,540	361,441	219,362	229,060	9,698
		16.77%	-39.31%	4.42%	
E. SURPLUS/DEFICIT	0	0	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>7,893,129</b>	<b>7,876,287</b>	<b>7,812,930</b>	<b>7,868,238</b>	<b>55,308</b>
		-0.21%	-0.80%	0.71%	
<b>EXPENDITURES:</b>					
F. INSTRUCTION	3,340,529	3,338,819	3,471,574	3,468,225	-3,349
		-0.05%	3.98%	-0.10%	
G. SPECIAL PROGRAMS	1,215,559	1,141,235	1,230,450	1,269,635	39,185
		-6.11%	7.82%	3.18%	
H. ADMINISTRATION	389,987	383,063	404,931	416,376	11,445
		-1.78%	5.71%	2.83%	
I. SUPPORT SERVICES	720,400	685,213	623,986	566,432	-57,554
		-4.88%	-8.94%	-9.22%	
J. MAINTENANCE OF PLANT	684,825	764,417	232,991	226,970	-6,021
		11.62%	-69.52%	-2.58%	
<b>SCHOOL TOTAL:</b>	<b>6,351,299</b>	<b>6,312,746</b>	<b>5,963,932</b>	<b>5,947,638</b>	<b>-16,294</b>
		-0.61%	-5.53%	-0.27%	
K. OSSU/ADMIN/SPEC ED	324,586	391,611	916,750	1,043,560	126,810
		20.65%	134.10%	13.83%	
L. DEBT SERVICE	0	0	0	0	0
M. TECHNICAL EDUCATION	811,056	773,002	797,040	737,510	-59,530
				-7.47%	
N. TRANSPORTATION	149,303	135,857	135,208	139,530	4,322
				3.20%	
O. FOOD SERVICE TRANSFER	43,760	0	0	0	0
P. SURPLUS/DEFICIT	213,125	263,072	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>7,893,129</b>	<b>7,876,287</b>	<b>7,812,930</b>	<b>7,868,238</b>	<b>55,308</b>
		-0.21%	-0.80%	0.71%	

The 2010-11 financials as presented are true and accurate to the best of my knowledge:

*George R. Gray, Treasurer*  
George Gray, RUHS School Treasurer

**RANDOLPH UNION HIGH SCHOOL  
EXPENDITURES**

<b>Account Name</b>	<b>2009-10 Actual</b>	<b>2010-11 Actual</b>	<b>2011-12 Budget</b>	<b>2012-13 Proposed</b>	<b>Balance Under (Over)</b>	<b>% Inc/(Dec)</b>
<b><u>F. INSTRUCTION:</u></b>						
Salaries	2,126,646	2,203,684	2,301,215	2,301,045	-170	-0.01%
Benefits	672,297	677,808	732,083	731,741	-342	-0.05%
Drivers Education	4,487	20,444	7,800	2,700	-5,100	-65.38%
Testing/Tutorial/OT-PT Svcs	45,225	10,703	7,190	5,580	-1,610	-22.39%
Co/Extra Curricular	264,441	263,610	261,645	261,650	5	0.00%
Tuition	57,231	33,887	20,000	20,000	0	0.00%
Travel/Field Trips	16,599	13,632	16,500	16,500	0	0.00%
Supplies/Textbooks/Equip	153,603	115,051	125,141	129,009	3,868	3.09%
<b>Total Instruction</b>	<b>3,340,529</b>	<b>3,338,819</b>	<b>3,471,574</b>	<b>3,468,225</b>	<b>-3,349</b>	<b>-0.10%</b>
<b><u>G. SPECIAL PROGRAMS:</u></b>						
Salaries	478,908	471,809	512,840	466,160	-46,680	-9.10%
Benefits	136,422	141,275	178,750	167,465	-11,285	-6.31%
Professional Svcs	90,136	92,649	94,000	129,100	35,100	37.34%
Transportation	64,608	48,144	64,375	53,500	-10,875	-16.89%
Supplies/Textbooks	9,850	8,025	9,335	9,335	0	0.00%
Tuition	239,627	236,388	226,000	283,000	57,000	25.22%
Testing/Tutorial/OT-PT Svcs	127,225	66,194	85,150	84,075	-1,075	-1.26%
Speech Services	68,782	76,750	60,000	77,000	17,000	28.33%
<b>Total Special Programs</b>	<b>1,215,559</b>	<b>1,141,235</b>	<b>1,230,450</b>	<b>1,269,635</b>	<b>39,185</b>	<b>3.18%</b>
<b><u>H. ADMINISTRATION:</u></b>						
Salaries	268,708	280,026	263,975	273,210	9,235	3.50%
Benefits	74,877	78,399	92,931	95,141	2,210	2.38%
Repairs/Maintenance	8,174	0	8,000	8,000	0	0.00%
Travel	1,925	1,435	1,000	1,000	0	0.00%
Supplies/Equipment	36,302	23,203	39,025	39,025	0	0.00%
<b>Total Administration</b>	<b>389,987</b>	<b>383,063</b>	<b>404,931</b>	<b>416,376</b>	<b>11,445</b>	<b>2.83%</b>
<b><u>I. SUPPORT SERVICES:</u></b>						
Guidance	249,705	272,402	272,968	281,182	8,214	3.01%
School Nurse	94,755	97,713	103,059	101,947	-1,112	-1.08%
Media Services	290,832	173,551	168,944	103,988	-64,956	-38.45%
Board of Education	19,560	19,681	22,190	22,490	300	1.35%
Legal Fees	37,737	78,588	15,000	15,000	0	0.00%
Fiscal Services	27,811	43,277	41,825	41,825	0	0.00%
<b>Total Support Services</b>	<b>720,400</b>	<b>685,213</b>	<b>623,986</b>	<b>566,432</b>	<b>-57,554</b>	<b>-9.22%</b>
<b><u>J. MAINTENANCE OF PLANT:</u></b>						
Salaries	236,696	-122	0	0	0	
Benefits	100,284	482	0	0	0	
Contracted Svcs	17,841	13,774	0	0	0	
General Liability Insurance	29,847	31,818	35,970	35,970	0	0.00%
Utilities	143,107	158,957	197,021	191,000	-6,021	-3.06%
Repairs & Maintenance	93,192	34,854	0	0	0	
Supplies/Equipment	63,858	524,655	0	0	0	
<b>Total Maintenance</b>	<b>684,825</b>	<b>764,417</b>	<b>232,991</b>	<b>226,970</b>	<b>-6,021</b>	<b>-2.58%</b>
<b>SCHOOL TOTAL</b>	<b>6,351,299</b>	<b>6,312,746</b>	<b>5,963,932</b>	<b>5,947,638</b>	<b>-16,294</b>	<b>-0.27%</b>
<b><u>K. OSSU/ADMIN/SP ED</u></b>						
OSSU TECH ASSESS	0	60,000	80,000	176,067	96,067	120.08%
OSSU MAINTENANCE	0	0	488,545	496,200	7,655	1.57%
<b><u>L. DEBT SERVICE:</u></b>						
	0	0	0	0	0	
<b><u>M. TECHNICAL EDUCATION:</u></b>						
State - Act 68	457,130	419,965	423,685	406,550	-17,135	-4.04%
Local Tuition	353,926	353,037	373,355	330,960	-42,395	-11.36%
<b><u>N. TRANSPORTATION</u></b>						
	149,303	135,857	135,208	139,530	4,322	3.20%
<b><u>O. FOOD SVC TRANSFER</u></b>						
	43,760	0	0	0	0	
<b>SURPLUS/DEFICIT</b>	<b>213,125</b>	<b>263,072</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	

**RANDOLPH UNION HIGH SCHOOL  
REVENUE**

<b>Account Name</b>	<b>2009-10 Actual</b>	<b>2010-11 Actual</b>	<b>2011-12 Budget</b>	<b>2012-13 Proposed</b>
<b><u>A. LOCAL REVENUE:</u></b>				
Assessments	0	0	0	0
Special Ed Assessments	0	0	0	0
<b>Total Local Revenue</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b><u>B. SPECIAL PROGRAMS:</u></b>				
Core Block Grant	171,186	168,115	162,716	169,939
Special Ed Reimbursement	490,653	462,325	522,000	553,000
Extraordinary Reimb.	91,652	87,479	95,735	80,100
Special Ed Aide Reimb	11,956	0	0	0
Care & Custody	25,051	21,786	0	0
<b>Total Special Programs</b>	<b>790,499</b>	<b>739,705</b>	<b>780,451</b>	<b>803,039</b>
<b><u>C. STATE REVENUE:</u></b>				
State Education Fund	6,224,475	6,280,640	6,323,932	6,369,089
State Technical Centers	457,130	419,965	423,685	406,550
State Transportation	68,675	69,056	61,000	56,000
State Placed Students	38,568	0	0	0
Driver Education	4,242	5,480	4,500	4,500
<b>Total State Revenue</b>	<b>6,793,090</b>	<b>6,775,141</b>	<b>6,813,117</b>	<b>6,836,139</b>
<b><u>D. OTHER REVENUES:</u></b>				
Tuition	96,408	86,457	91,000	91,000
Overhead Tuition Cost	78,214	103,914	80,000	80,000
Interest	15,040	40,133	15,000	25,000
Athletic Fees	4,905	5,879	5,000	5,000
Contracted Services	45,097	27,270	28,062	27,910
Sale of Equipment	0	0	0	0
Rental Income	220	165	300	150
Subgrant - Title I ARRA	37,848	0	0	0
Prior Year Refunds	31,808	97,625	0	0
<b>Total Other Revenues:</b>	<b>309,540</b>	<b>361,441</b>	<b>219,362</b>	<b>229,060</b>
<b><u>E. SURPLUS/DEFICIT:</u></b>				
	0	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>7,893,129</b>	<b>7,876,287</b>	<b>7,812,930</b>	<b>7,868,238</b>



# 2012 Yearbook Order

STUDENT NAME \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE # \_\_\_\_\_

NUMBER OF BOOKS @ \$30.00 EACH \_\_\_\_\_

CASH / CHECK #

ORDERS AND PAYMENTS CAN BE MADE THROUGH THE MAIN OFFICE OR THROUGH MS. HAZARD IN RM 153. WHEN PAYMENT IS RECEIVED, THEN A RECEIPT WILL BE ISSUED AND SHOULD BE SAVED BY THE PURCHASER UNTIL THE BOOK HAS BEEN PICKED UP.

PLEASE LET ME KNOW IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS. MY PHONE # IS 728-3397 X153 OR EMAIL [khazard@mail.ruhs.k12.vt.us](mailto:khazard@mail.ruhs.k12.vt.us)

# 2012 Yearbook Order

STUDENT NAME \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE # \_\_\_\_\_

NUMBER OF BOOKS @ \$30.00 EACH \_\_\_\_\_

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PLEASE LET ME KNOW IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS. MY PHONE # IS 728-3397 X153 OR EMAIL [khazard@mail.ruhs.k12.vt.us](mailto:khazard@mail.ruhs.k12.vt.us)

## **CLASS OF 2012 NEWS**



Members of the senior class are deep in to the year now, working on Senior and Tech Projects, applying to colleges, and planning end of the year events, including their senior class trip.

The graduation ceremony, the senior section of the yearbook, and the senior class trip are funded primarily through senior class dues. Seniors are strongly encouraged to make full payment on their dues as soon as possible in order for reservations and deposits to be made. Dues may be paid to any senior class officer or in the RUHS Main Office. Reservations for the senior class trip need to be made soon, and the funds for the trip must be available in order to make the reservations.

Graduation will be Friday, June 15th, at 6:30 p.m. under the tent. See you there!

## **MUSIC BOOSTERS NEWS**

Music Boosters is having a busy year. As usual, we are subsidizing private music lessons at RUHS for all interested music students. We are also continuing to sponsor music student tickets to designated music events at Chandler Center for the Arts for the following events:

Sat, Jan 28	Ian Ethan	Upstairs Gallery
Sat, Feb 4	Bow Thayer & the Holy Plow	Upstairs Gallery
Sat, Feb 25	Leon Redbone	Main Stage
Sun, Feb 26	The Pacifica Quartet	Main Stage
Sat, Mar 3	The Return of Crazy Chase	Upstairs Gallery
Fri, Mar 9	Woods Tea Company	Main Stage
Sat, Mar 10	Jeannie & the Hi-Tops	Upstairs Gallery

The list of events sponsored for music students at Chandler continues throughout the school year! To support these and other endeavors, we are now gearing up to work on the new updated edition of the local phone directory.

## Senior Project Update

On October 12, 2011, 35 RUHS seniors, many accompanied by their mentors, met with school and community panel members to discuss this year's Senior Project proposals. Following a delicious lasagna dinner prepared by RTCC Culinary Arts instructor Jerry Sullivan and his students, seniors met individually with panels to discuss plans for their products, papers, displays, and various other aspects of each project.

Over the next few weeks, the Kimball Public Library staff and the RUHS Media Center staff collaborated to provide individual seniors with research skills strategies as the students continued to gather resources for their projects and fine tune thesis statements for their papers.

Panel heads and mentors received first drafts of seniors' papers in late November and provided feedback about thesis, topic and focus, and accuracy of content. The students are now using this information as they continue the editing and revision states of the paper-writing process. Final drafts of Senior Project papers are due on February 24. The Senior Project paper reading team will assess papers over the next several weeks.

Mid-year meetings were held on Tuesday, January 10. These meetings provided an opportunity for everyone involved in each project – senior, mentor, and panel members – to reconvene and discuss progress midway through the project. Another similar meeting will be held on Monday, April 9, as students continue to work on their products, compile documents for their portfolios, and plan their displays and presentations in preparation for “Senior Project Week,” May 18-25.

Senior Projects will be on display in the RUHS Media Center on Thursday, May 24, 2012, from 8:30 a.m. until 8 p.m., and on Friday, May 25, 2012, from 8:30 a.m. until 11 a.m. Everyone is invited and encouraged to come and see the fantastic results!

If you have any questions or concerns feel free to contact me anytime via email or phone.

Respectfully,

Jamie Kinnarney  
Athletic Director/Senior Project Coordinator



**REMINDER!!!!**

**PLEASE BE SURE THE SCHOOL HAS  
ALL CURRENT CONTACT  
INFORMATION ON YOUR STUDENT!**

# STUDENT SERVICES

## Senior Information

### Financial Aid

Parents may begin filing financial aid applications any time after January 1<sup>st</sup>. Parents are encouraged to apply electronically if possible. The web sites are [www.fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov) to apply for federal financial aid and [www.vsac.org](http://www.vsac.org) to apply for state grant assistance. Paper forms and worksheets can be downloaded from the websites if necessary. Listed below are some tips with regard to filing:

- ♣ Apply early, starting after January 1<sup>st</sup>. Many schools award financial aid on a first come, first serve basis. The early bird gets the worm so to speak!
- ♣ Depending on the college, students may have other forms to complete. Many private schools require submission of the **Profile Form** (administered by Collegeboard.com), and some have their own institutional forms. Be sure to check with each college for their specific requirements.
- ♣ You do not have to complete your federal tax return before you file. You may use estimated figures, and provide a copy of your final tax return to colleges when it is completed.
- ♣ Keep copies of completed forms as well as any correspondence you receive from colleges. Always follow up with colleges after you send information.
- ♣ Watch for deadlines-they vary with each college but most have a March 1<sup>st</sup> priority date. To meet that deadline you need to submit information by February 1<sup>st</sup>.

Please feel free to contact Carolynn Parker with questions at any time!

## **Scholarship Information**

The VSAC Scholarship booklet was distributed to seniors, and is also available on the VSAC website. This is a wonderful resource for locating Vermont generated scholarship programs. The Gilman Scholarship Trust Scholarship is administered through VSAC. This is a substantial scholarship source all Randolph Union High School students are eligible to apply for. Students must complete the VSAC unified scholarship form located at [www.vsac.org](http://www.vsac.org) and submit the supplemental materials by March 9<sup>th</sup> to be eligible. Applications received by February 10<sup>th</sup> will be entered in a drawing for one of three \$1000 scholarships.

An updated list of available scholarships from outside sources is posted on the Student Services bulletin board and will also be sent through the Senior Parent email list. Applications are often available via the Internet, but some scholarships still have paper applications. Paper applications are on file here in Student Services.

## **Money Corner (Scholarships)**

### **Program**

### **Deadline**

#### **The American Legion**

**April 1, 2012**

Open to all students planning to continue their education. Application available in Student Services

#### **Knights of Columbus Scholastic Achievement Awards Program**

**February 15, 2012**

(Father must be a member)  
Application available in Student Services

#### **Vermont Grocers Association Scholarship Program**

**April 30, 2012**

(Must be an employee of VGA member store  
or dependent of VGA employee)  
Email for an application: [donna@vtgrocers.org](mailto:donna@vtgrocers.org)

**The St. Andrew's Society of Vermont Scholarship**

**February 15, 2012**

Apply: [www.standrewsocietyofvermont.org](http://www.standrewsocietyofvermont.org)

For VT residents: selection based on academics, recent SAT scores or for students who will enroll to study Scottish history, language, arts, literature, dance and/or music.

**Combat Nursing Home Abuse**

**February 15, 2012**

New \$5,000 scholarship, exclusively for students pursuing a degree that will help combat nursing home abuse. Eligible students will be studying applicable majors such as nursing, social work, and psychology. Scholarship details and application at: [www.nursinghomeabuse.net](http://www.nursinghomeabuse.net)

**Alice Angney Scholarship for Leadership and Service**

**March 23, 2012**

The scholarship was established by the Vermont Superintendents' Association to recognize one Vermont high school senior who has demonstrated leadership, academic achievement and has overcome a specific challenge.

Application available in Student Services

**Fletcher "Buster" Brush Memorial Scholarship**

**April 16, 2012**

\$1,000 renewable scholarship to recognize a student who shows compassion, school spirit, leadership, community service and a desire to challenge him/herself. Applications available in Student Services.

**Vermont Golf Association**

**April 20, 2012**

\$1000 renewable scholarship available to students demonstrating academic achievement and a strong connection to the game of golf. Applications available at [www.vtga.org](http://www.vtga.org)



# **JUNIOR AND SOPHOMORE INFORMATION**

## **Alumni Forum 2011**

The 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Alumni Forum was held on December 21<sup>st</sup>. Ten RUHS alumni returned to their alma mater to talk to students in grades 9-12 about their adventures in the real world of college. It was a wonderful opportunity for these young adults to share their newfound wisdom and offer advice to current high school students about how to make the most of their high school education. Five RUHS students currently attending the Vermont Academy of Science and Technology at VTC met with several interested students to talk about their experience with co-enrollment. Thank you so much to alumni for taking the time to come visit us!

## **Pilot J-Term Project, “Life After High School”**

Juniors enrolled in American Literature and American Experience had the opportunity to focus on the topic, Life After High School. The culminating activity will be to write an essay comparing and contrasting three different post-secondary transition options. English instructor, Jamie Koenhlein, along withCarolynn Parker, organized the two weeks of activities designed to help students think about their post-secondary options and the decision making process. Students brainstormed post-secondary options, learned how to write an extra-curricular resume, practiced college admissions interviewing with Kara Merrill (a Middlebury College alumni interviewer), had a visit from Dwight Cross, Admissions Director at VTC who spoke to them about how to jump-start their college search process, and met with various professionals who talked about their career development process. On the last day students met with several recent alums who talked about their college search process, and offered advice on such topics as Senior Project.

## **Junior Spring College Visits**

Spring is right around the corner, the perfect time for juniors to make college visits. The college visit is probably THE most important step in the college selection process. Many colleges will have Saturday open house opportunities, and others have special junior programs during February and April school vacations. Registration for these events is usually done via the college website or through the admission office of the college.

## **College Pathways 2012**

This year there are three dates for VSAC’s highly successful College Pathways event. This college planning event is for both students and parents as they look ahead to college. This year’s programs are being held on March 17<sup>th</sup> at St. Michael’s College, March 24<sup>th</sup> at Castleton State College and March 31<sup>st</sup> at Lyndon State College. Register online starting February 1 @ [www.vsac.org](http://www.vsac.org).

## **RTCC Orientation and Visits**

On January 23<sup>rd</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> Pat Halpin, Guidance Coordinator for RTCC, will hold informational meetings for all sophomores and juniors. Mr. Halpin will introduce students to RTCC's program offerings and requirements as well as answer any questions. For those students interested in further exploring RTCC, visits will take place on February 13<sup>th</sup> for sophomores and February 10<sup>th</sup> for juniors. Applications for fall 2012 enrollment should be submitted by March 31.

## **Middle School Student Services**

All seventh graders participated in transition groups until the middle of December. Within these groups, students learned about student services, set some academic SMART goals, accessed their Powerschool accounts, and explored careers using VT Guidance Central. These groups have finished, and I will be leading topic-specific groups for the second half of the year, such as a girls' group, changing families, and social thinking. Please feel free to contact me if you would like to refer your student to a group.

In the beginning of February, I will be working with seventh graders to choose elective courses for eighth grade. We will be looking at the 2012-2013 Middle School Program of Studies to choose the elective classes that most appeal to them. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions about this process.

Eighth graders will begin to hear about ninth grade courses at the beginning of February. I will teach all eighth graders about the 2012-2013 High School Program of Studies during a Humanities class. I will then meet individually with students to select ninth grade courses using input from eighth grade teachers. We also discuss four-year planning for the rest of high school. I encourage parents/guardians to be a part of this process. If you would like to schedule a time to come in for a meeting with your student or just have a conversation with me on the phone, please contact me. My phone number is 728-3397 ext. 143 or you can email me at [kmerrill@mail.ruhs.k12.vt.us](mailto:kmerrill@mail.ruhs.k12.vt.us). I look forward to working with eighth graders around this exciting transition into high school!

Kara Merrill - Grade 7/8 Counselor

### **\* Important Dates to Remember \***

February 27-March 2 - Winter Vacation  
March 5 - In Service Day - No School  
March 6 - Town Meeting Day - No School  
April 23-27 - Spring Vacation  
May 25 - 1/2 day of school - SR Project Presentation Day  
May 28 - Memorial Day - No School  
June 15, 2012 - Graduation Day

## Conference Committee

**Cathy Printon**, Conference Chair  
Parent Program Coordinator  
VSAC Vermont State GEAR UP  
(802) 542-2293, printon@vsac.org

**Ken Page**  
Executive Director  
Vermont Principals' Association  
(802) 229-0547, kpage@vpaonline.org

**Lindsay DesLauriers**  
Public Policy Associate  
Voices for Vermont's Children  
(802) 229-6377 x 204, lindsayd@voicesforvtkids.org

**Sherry Gile**  
Director of Professional Programs  
Vermont Chapter of the National Educators  
Association  
(802) 223-6375, sgile@VTNEA.org

**Dave Cobb**  
Director of Development  
Vermont Principals' Association  
(802) 229-0547, dcobb@vpaonline.org

**Karin Edwards**  
Director  
Vermont Department of Education Special  
Education Unit  
(802) 828-1622, Karin.edwards@state.vt.us

## Schedule

8:00-8:45  
**Registration & continental  
breakfast – Judd Hall**

8:45-9:00  
**Welcome**

9:00-9:45  
**Keynote address**

9:45-10:00  
**Break**

10:15-11:15  
**Session I**

11:30-12:30  
**Session II**

12:35-1:35  
**Lunch – VTC Cafeteria**

1:40-2:30  
**Special topics panel – Judd Hall**  
Burlington School District Reflects on  
School-Community Partnerships and  
Family Engagement

## Registration

Register at  
**www.vsaac.org/ParentEducatorsPrincipalsConf**

Registration  
**opens January 17, 2012**  
**closes March 15, 2012**

Cost:  
**\$50 per person includes lunch**  
**\$200 per school teams of four or**  
**more, including parents**

Parent scholarships are available through GEAR UP and  
the Vermont Family Network and Parent Information and  
Resource Center of Vermont (VFNI/PIRC-VT). Contact  
PIRC-VT toll-free at 1-800-800-4005.

## Directions

**Directions to Vermont Technical College,  
Randolph Center**

From exit 4 off I-89, turn onto Route 66 and head uphill  
away from McDonalds (right turn off northbound exit,  
left turn off southbound exit).

Proceed ¾ mile to the intersection at the top of the hill  
(cars travelling up the hill have the right of way at the  
intersection).

Drive straight through the intersection to reach the  
visitor parking lots for the main campus.

Please park in the visitor lots. No parking permits are necessary.  
Registration will be in Judd Hall, past Conant Hall and Old Dorm.

## Sponsors



## SESSION I 10:15–11:15 am

### TIPS — Teachers Involve Parents in Schoolwork

*Dr. Joyce L. Epstein*, Director, Center on School, Family, and Community Partnerships and the National Network of Partnership Schools

TIPS (Teachers Involve Parents in Schoolwork) Interactive Homework is part of a comprehensive program of school, family, and community partnerships designed, implemented, and tested by researchers and educators as a Type 4—Learning at Home activity. Using TIPS, any teacher can keep more families informed and involved in their children's learning and help more students complete their homework. Join Dr. Epstein as she shares the TIPS program and process.

### Creating a Vision for Family Engagement

*MaryBeth Pinard-Brace*, Family Engagement Specialist, Vermont Family Network and Parent Information and Resource Center of Vermont

To create a vision for family engagement, it is necessary to understand common barriers to effective communication and to assess the factors affecting your ability to develop successful strategies for engagement. Participants will leave this session with their own vision statements for family engagement and will identify two or three personal steps they can take to improve engagement. If time allows, participants will work on personal vision boards for engagement.

### Utilizing Service-Learning, Creative PTO Development, and Career Exploration to Strengthen School–Community Partnerships

*Jerry Cassels*, Middle School Counselor, Northfield Middle/High School

Embedded in every successful approach to dynamic and creative partnership-building are the core principals of service living and civic engagement. Without committed volunteers, school PTOs, after-school activities, and other enhancement programs wouldn't be possible. What are the differences between communities with strong partnerships and cohesive relationships, and those without? What passions and skill sets of yours will help your partnerships thrive for the benefit of the entire community? Explore what you have to offer, and identify the networks critical in building strong relationships.

### Creating “Success Momentum” for At-Risk, Out-of-School Youth

*Michele Delhove*, Educational Counselor, VSAC Career & Education Outreach

*Drew McDowell*, Transition Counselor, State of Vermont Vocational Rehabilitation

This interactive, experiential workshop will focus on ways to serve out-of-school youth who have fallen through the cracks. Using case scenarios, small groups will discuss how best to collaborate and utilize community resources for the ultimate success of youth most in need of training and education beyond high school. We will also address ways to share case management and resources.

### Student-led Conferences: An Engine for Parent-Teacher-Student Engagement

*T. Elijah Hawkes*, Associate Principal, Randolph Union Middle/High School

Student-led conferences (SLCs) are parent conferences that shift the dynamic from a two-way conversation between teacher and parent to a three-way conversation that includes the student. Student work is on the table while grades, learning goals, and student work habits are discussed, with the student leading as much of the conversation as possible. Schools that use this model experience not only extraordinary jumps in parent engagement at conference time, but also a good deal of change in the classroom as students become more responsible for their education. Learn about student-led conferences as an exhibition of both student learning and teacher practices.

### Cyber-communications: Connecting in the 21st Century

*Terri Vest*, Teacher, Twinfield Union School

In today's busy world, how do parents, teachers, and students find time to communicate? What's happening at school? What about homework, long-term projects, evening events, missing work, and picture day? In this interactive session, participants will learn about an existing program at Twinfield Union School that uses cyber-communications to increase the ties between school and home without adding to the workload of parenting or teaching. You'll discover how to build systems to send information quickly and efficiently between school and home and back again. Participants will need to bring a computer.

### The Common Core: What Parents and Teachers Should Know

*Karen Heath*, Literacy Coordinator, Barre School

This workshop will introduce participants to the new K–12 Common Core State Standards. The session will provide a brief history of its inception, an overview of the Common Core, key points concerning focus in instruction, and what parents should know about the standards and new assessments that will replace the NECAP.

## SESSION II 11:30 am–12:30 pm

### Fostering Parent and Professional

#### Collaboration: Partnership Strategies

*Janice Sabett*, Family Support Consultant/Training Specialist, Vermont Family Network

In this fun and interactive workshop, participants will work in groups to identify specific ways in which professionals and parents can foster collaborative relationships characterized by respect, trust, open communication, and shared goals. Participants will have time to reflect on a specific collaboration to identify what worked well and what might have been improved.

### Barriers to Engagement: Using Community Engagement Strategies to Strengthen Family and Community Support of Education

*Alisa Del Tufo*, Founder and Executive Director, Threshold Collaborative

This session will present data and insights collected during an initiative implemented in the Southwest Vermont Supervisory Union in 2009. Participants will discuss the implications of these insights when it comes to reaching out to families and to developing family and community engagement initiatives in Vermont.

### It Takes A Village

*Anthony Popoli*, Teacher, Twinfield Elementary School

Join this discussion of approaches to engaging families with the school community. This is a true example of a parent–school creation over one year. Find examples from your own creation. Share helpful hints and approaches, get the inspiration to try it out your way and instill positivity in all of us!

### How to Tap into Creative Thinking: Knowing Your Child's Innate Creative Abilities at Home and in the Classroom

*Susan A. Cherry*, Author of *Curiosity and Creativity* and former music teacher from St. Johnsbury

This session will demonstrate ways to assess personal creative strengths using a valuable new discovery based on the theory of multiple intelligences (Howard Gardner) and a new taxonomy of curiosity published in Susan Cherry's new book, *The Curiosity Wheel: Finding Your Innate Creativity*. Useful to both parents and classroom teachers, this workshop will teach participants to tap into their curiosity in order to understand their natural creativity.

### The OSSU 200 Early Literacy Book Club

*Nancy S. Frenette*, Principal, Braintree Elementary School

In this session, participants will learn about the benefits of establishing Early Literacy Book Clubs in elementary schools and will review the benefits of the program for families and the community.

### Parent Primer

*Dawn Moskowitz*, Family–School–Community Coordinator, Burlington School District

This session will introduce participants to Vermont schools, will cover the top ten things parents need to know to help their students succeed, and will review the ways in which schools can help.

### How to Avoid The Seven Deadly Sins That Corrupt Relationships with Parents

*Curtis Reed, Jr.*, Executive Director, Vermont Partnership for Fairness and Diversity

School administrators unwittingly drive parents to litigation in cases of harassment/bullying because administrators fail to recognize and avoid “seven deadly sins” of school policy. This workshop will detail proactive strategies designed to avoid these seven deadly sins and build productive relationships with parents or guardians who perceive that the school has failed to protect their children. The session, involving both guided discussion and group work, draws on experience working with hundreds of parents over the last 15 years.

The 2011-2012 RUHS theater season draws to a close with "A Man For All Seasons." This historical drama, detailing the conflict between Henry VIII and Sir Thomas More, will be presented March 15-17.

Although the show has been cast, opportunities remain for students to participate - most notably with the stage crew and construction of both set and costumes. Interested students should contact Mr. Rainville, Mrs. Sease, or Mrs. Yawney for more information. A profound range of young people gather within the walls of Murray Auditorium to create meaningful and varied works for the stage while enjoying genuine opportunities for personal growth and development.



Whether exploring the world of actor, technician, director, designer or stage manager, our youth are immersed in an engaging, safe, supportive, respectful, challenging, and drug-free environment.

Our thespians have been VERY busy this school year. The classic musical "You're A Good Man Charlie Brown" was performed in October. The classic comedy "The Importance of Being Earnest" went up in December. And just before Halloween 54 students, parents, and alumni journeyed to New York City to see a Broadway show!! Next season promises to be very busy as well, with RUHS students planning to perform the musical "How To Succeed In Business Without Really Trying" in November 2012 and "The Adventures of Mr. Toad" in March 2013. April 2013 will find the Vermont State Drama Festival returning to RUHS - where 10 productions from throughout the state will take the stage in Murray Auditorium. This celebration of youth theater is an exciting, and ambitious event for which an army of volunteers will be necessary. A mix of alumni, parents, students, and folks from the greater Randolph community will work together to bring this event to life - and we invite your participation!

**In our continuing efforts to go green, we will continue to post the Parent Link on the school's brand new website at:**

**[www.ruhs.k12.vt.us](http://www.ruhs.k12.vt.us)**

# Randolph Shizukuishi Exchange Project



The connection continues! Ten junior high school students and two teachers from our sister school in Shizukuishi, Iwate, Japan arrived Friday, January 6. Randolph has hosted students from Shizukuishi for 19 of the last 21 years. The program began in 1992 when Carolyn Covalt, daughter of Bill and Betsy Arnold, brought a group of her American Culture students to Randolph for the first time. In 2000, our middle school began sending groups of students to visit Shizukuishi. We are planning another visit there with Randolph students in June.

Students enjoyed weekend activities with their host families, a Monday field trip with a visit to Eaton's Sugarhouse for a pancake breakfast, and a visit to Billings Farm and Museum. Monday night was our annual potluck dinner, always open to all. This year there was a gift exchange between our two schools and a birthday celebration for one of our students from Japan, and we enjoyed some traditional Japanese dishes made by our guests.

Our guests from Japan left Wednesday, January 11, on their way to NYC for a few days of sightseeing before heading home.

The Randolph-Shizukuishi Exchange Project would also like to recognize Dean Meltzer and Anna Sease, who are stepping down this year after many years as advisors for the program. Their dedication and hard work have helped to sustain the project over many years so that we can continue to offer this amazing opportunity to students in Japan and here at home.



## **A NOTE FROM**

Thanks to all parents for keeping your children home when they have been sick. You have been most diligent and cautious! Like last year, the result has been less illness in school than we have experienced in years past. The teachers and coaches have also done their parts to encourage early dismissal when they have suspected illness in a student. Flu season is not over, so keep up the good work!

### **To avoid colds & flu:**

Remind your child to get daily fresh air and exercise, eat healthy, drink plenty of fluids and get needed rest. They also need to remember to wash their hands frequently.

### **Tips for cold or flu season:**

If you feel a cold or flu coming on make sure to keep warm. Cover your feet, neck, and lower back. Drink plenty of water and avoid sweets, caffeinated beverages and milk products. Sugar and caffeine deplete the immune system, and milk increases mucus. Try to decrease your activities and get plenty of rest, which is sometimes hard to accomplish!

### **Dental services for children 18 years of age or younger who have Dr. Dynasaur:**

Vermont Dental Care, Barre. 802-476-6785. Northfield Elite Dental, 485-4848, as well as some local dentists.

### **Dental services for no or low income adults 18 years and older without a dental plan:**

Red Logan Dental Clinic, White River Junction. 802-295-7573

### **Other Resources include:**

**Central Vermont Community Action Council** located in the Ayers Brook Center across from Randolph Elementary School @ 728- 9506.

**Randolph Food Shelf** has moved to Prince Street @ 802-431-0144.

**Health Connections @ Gifford Medical Center** offers help with signing up for state run health insurance programs. Michele Packard is there to help and may be able to help with assistance for some prescriptions. Call her @ 728- 2323.

**2-1-1** is a toll free and confidential hotline that provides information about available community resources.

**Thank you to parents who have heeded Trudy DeFlorio's reminders to have your child properly immunized.** The Health Department should be pleased with our school's compliance rate!