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**March 2004**

[www.dcsdk12.org/  
secondary/rchs/  
index.html](http://www.dcsdk12.org/secondary/rchs/index.html)

### **In This Issue**

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Get a preview of the new high school building, pages 6 and 7.

Many students have earned honors, see page 8.

Help fill the new Library, page 9.

See page 11 for summer athletic schedules, open gyms, camps.

**To Empower,  
To Explore,  
To Encourage, and  
To Excel in Education**



**Rock  
Canyon  
High School**

# Canyon News

A Newsletter for Parents, Guardians & Community Members of Rock Canyon High School



The front entrances of RCHS is inviting and ready for students. Photo by Kahtleen Kennedy



Greetings from  
Rock Canyon HS,  
Dan McMinimee,  
Principal

On behalf of the faculty and staff of RCHS I would like to welcome our second freshman class, the class of 2008, to our school community. We are looking forward to the doubling of the size of our school (both staff and students) and continuing to grow into the high expectations we have set for ourselves. No doubt your class will continue to build on our brief history of striving for excellence.

As you are aware, this is a very busy time of the year for us at the high school level. We are starting up spring sports, practicing for the musical, taking the CSAP's, and preparing to move into our new building. We have scheduled our Grand

Opening on May 15, 2004, from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. Currently our student leadership is preparing a *Spring Fest* to coincide with our opening celebration, running from 12:00 to 4:00 p.m. Many games and activities are being planned, and it promises to be a day of fun and excitement as we get together to celebrate the finishing of the construction. Hopefully you and your family can join us for this special day.

Before we know it, summer will be upon us. I hope that this issue of the *Canyon News* will serve to update and inform you regarding our future plans.

In closing, thank you for continued support of our various programs.

Respectfully,

*Daniel M. McMinimee*

Dan McMinimee, Principal

# CLASSROOM HAPPENINGS

## Computer Technology



The computer classes are doing some fantastic work this semester in Information Processing 1 and 2. The Info 1 students have just finished their Microsoft Word unit last week where they created projects such as resumes, brochures, newspapers, and timelines. They are now getting into the Microsoft Excel unit where they will be able to figure out budgets, statistics, and create graphs to go with their data. We will finish out the year learning how to use Microsoft Access database and Powerpoint presentation software as well as learning basic HTML web page writing.

The Information Processing 2 class has done a multitude of projects up to this point in time. Each student had to invest in five companies, research them, track the gains and losses over a two week period, and create a stock portfolio using Microsoft Word and Excel. Our next project consisted of the applications Microsoft Access and Powerpoint. Each student had to come up with a company idea. Using Access database, they had to inventory their products and create a presentation using Powerpoint to present their business idea to the class. We are introducing graphic design using Fireworks and Freehand, part of the Studio MX suite, to transition into web page design using Dreamweaver and Flash.

*Jim McClurg*  
Department Chair

## Science



Third semester started with Physics in Physical Science.

We have had the students show the concepts with their own ideas for Magnetism, Electricity, Light, Color, Sound, etc... The projects have been amazing!!

We have such clever, bright kids!! Their Science Fair Projects are due on March 4, 2004. Ask them what cool facts they have learned. Fourth quarter will begin the study of simple machines where they will have to "invent" a simple machine.

Biology is nearing the end of the Animal Kingdom. We are concluding this unit with a dissection of the fetal pig!

This will help them to see the systems we have talked about with animals and get them ready to study the human body systems. I can't wait to see their Animal ABC Books. I am very impressed with our Rock Canyon students.

*Kristi Piccone*  
Department Chair



## Social Studies

The Social Studies Department is looking forward to many things: a strong finish to the year in our World Geography and Ancient Civilizations courses, adding new, dynamic and excellent teachers, and finally moving into the new building!

Our Ancient Civilizations courses are finishing a study of the early civilizations of Egypt, the Middle East and Asia, while our World Geography courses are about to commence large studies of population, cultural and political geography issues.

Clearly, there is no shortage of current events these days to draw into our discussions! We are also excited to explore with students the upcoming 50th Anniversary of Brown vs. the Board of Education.

We are pleased to have the opportunity to offer honors sections of our courses to both freshmen and sophomores next year; we believe it will better prepare our students for future Social Studies courses. If you are interested in getting more information about any of the above, please do not hesitate to contact us. In the meantime, have a great spring break and we look forward to seeing everyone at the High School dedication in May.

*Megan Brown*  
Department Chair

## Math



Can you believe that it's already spring and finals are just around the corner? We've done quite a bit this year in math and are wrapping up the year in fine fashion.

Just a few short months ago, polyhedrons could have been some foreign object floating in space, let alone polynomials. Now, factoring and complex rational equations are second nature (at

least we hope!). All classes are progressing appropriately and students will be finishing the year with being reported out on the Math standards 1 and 6 and will have cumulative finals.

Just a couple of reminders as we head off for the summer and start planning for next year, we strongly recommend that students that will be in Algebra 2 or higher, purchase a graphing calculator. The math department recommends a TI-83 plus. You may want to wait until the back to school sales and look for rebates as well. You can also find some good deals on the internet as well. If possible, if your student could bring the UPC to their math teacher, the math department can use it to help purchase additional technology for the department.

I hope you have a great summer and we look forward to great things continuing next year!

*Gina Stevens*  
Department Chair



## Music Department

The 9th grade students toured the new high school building and were all very impressed with the performing arts wing which contains a choir room, band room, orchestra room, small ensemble room, 2 practice rooms, music library, drama classroom, and auditorium. Rock Canyon High School has the largest orchestra room in Douglas County Schools.

### Coming Events

Concert/Performance Dates:

Bands - Tuesday, May 11, 7:00 p.m. at Rocky Heights Middle School  
Choir/Orchestra - Thursday May 13, 7:00 p.m. at Rocky Heights Middle School Solo and Ensemble:

Several Rock Canyon students will participate in the Douglas County Solo and Ensemble Festival to be held at ThunderRidge High School on Saturday, March 27. Students will play and sing solos, duets, and trios for judges comments.

### Music Booster Meeting

The next music booster meeting will be Thursday, April 8th at 7 p.m. in the Rocky Heights choir room. If you've never been to a meeting before, please come and support your music student in choir, orchestra, or band. Music Boosters support the students in ways the school

*continued on page 3*

## Emergency Contact Information

It is essential that you notify Rock Canyon of changes in telephone numbers for your student's emergency contacts. If you wish to add or remove an emergency contact person, please provide that information in writing to our registrar. For your child's safety, this notification must include a parent signature authorizing the change. We cannot release students to persons other than those designated by parents in writing.

## In Touch Update

Parents were offered access to In Touch Online earlier this year. This website is designed to provide up-to-date information to parents about their student's records including attendance, grades, schedules, etc.

To apply for an account, go to the Rock Canyon website and select "In Touch" on the menu bar. An e-mail confirmation will be sent upon completion of your request. Parents who have already requested accounts may pick up their passwords in the main office upon presentation of a valid ID.

## CLASSROOM HAPPENINGS

*continued from page 2*

district cannot such as through volunteering time, coordinating events, chaperoning trips, being advocates for music in the schools, and fundraising. We have some programs we'd like to kick off before the end of this school year to catapult us forward for next year. Please join us!

*Keith Farmer  
Music Department Chair*

### Theater



RCHS's Theater II performing troupe will be performing *The Boarding House* by Vern Harden on May 14 and 15 at 7:00 p.m. Tickets will become available to purchase the last week of April. Seats will be reserved by the purchase of tickets. For further information, contact

Kippi.vonDuhn@dcsdk12.org.  
303-387-3467.

*Kippi vonDuhn  
Department Chair*

## COUNSELING CONNECTION

During the month of January, 9<sup>th</sup> graders were trained on CHOICES and CX On-line, two computer based career exploration programs. Students completed an interest inventory of CHOICES and should be almost done with the Career Finder/Interest Search on CX On-line. CHOICES can only be used at school, but CX On-line can be used on any computer with an internet connection, see information below.

### Free Service for you and your student through Douglas County

**School-to-Career Center: CX On-line 2004** is a web based career awareness and exploration resource, written in a colorful magazine style. You and your student can explore potential careers, check out college majors, find careers related to school subjects and more.

Go to the web site: **CXOnline.bridges.com**

Type the username: **0099411**

Type the password: **canyon**

### Don't forget...

\*Students need 20 hours of community service to graduate from any Douglas County high school. Community Service forms can be picked up during the school day in the Counseling Office with Mrs. Allred. Please remind students to pick up extra forms for hours they collect over the summer. If you have questions, please call us.

\*Schedule changes for next year will only be made if a level change is required. For example, if your student is placed in geometry, but needs to be in a lower level math class such as algebra, we will be able to make that change. If your student wants to switch out of a computer class for a health class, we will not be able to make those changes. We can not accommodate that type of change since your student's original registration request has been tallied in order for us to hire the correct amount of staff for next year. Thank you for your cooperation and patience in this matter.

\*Douglas County Summer School information hasn't been finalized yet, but will be available in the late spring. If a student needs to take classes over the summer to make up credits, Cyndi Rikert will contact that student with updated information. Otherwise, students can pick up information or ask questions once we receive the information.

### Additional Resources:

1. [www.parent-institute.com](http://www.parent-institute.com): An amazing internet site for parents with many concerns of parenting a high school student
2. **CSU Cooperative Extension**: (720) 733-6926, [www.douglascountyextension.org](http://www.douglascountyextension.org)
3. **Highlands Ranch Community Assoc.**: (303) 471-8928 Kim Boeckman, [www.hrcaonline.org](http://www.hrcaonline.org)
4. **Parker Adventist Hospital**: (303) 269-4390 Julie Uhernik
5. **The Parent University**: [www.dcsdk12.org](http://www.dcsdk12.org): Parents Link on Right and to Parent Central
6. [www.DouglasCountyLibraries.org](http://www.DouglasCountyLibraries.org): A link to your community libraries

*Cyndi Rikert  
Counselor*

### A Big Thank You

A big thank you to Pat Dierberger, principal, Paula Bennett, assistant principal, Deb Luchsinger, office manager and all the staff at Rocky Heights Middle School for their hospitality, helpfulness and patience this school year. They have shared their building, resources, staff and hearts with the high school students and staff.

This sharing was a great way to build a cooperative and close working relationship between the high school and middle school. We look forward to many great years working with RHMS.

# BITS & PIECES

## Dinner Table Talk

"I know what I want to say, I just don't know how to say it."

I hear that often and it's a paralyzing feeling. Since we could all use a bit more practice at "saying well" what we'd like to say, I'd like to suggest a fun experiment/experience to practice. In this particular instance the "saying well" practices formulating and stating a thesis statement.

Here's the grand plan: during dinner try developing those strongly held opinions as thesis statement. ("See Mom I told you Dr. Lustie has some strange ideas.") I can give you a bit of a formula and some ground rules.

1. You would need to agree to engage in dialogue, (not monologue or argument.)

Dia - from the Greek word part meaning "through"

Logos - from one of the many Greek meanings of logos, this time meaning "to speak"

Thus, dialogue means to exchange ideas, an interplay, a "back and forth of ideas." Dialogue might avoid indigestion, because it's not about winning an argument, just being able to state the idea as a thesis and both kids and adults would get to try. When someone states a thesis test it against the thesis formula.

2. A thesis states exactly what you want to cover in your writing or conversation. (The tendency is to make this too broad.) Plus: a specific feature, feeling, or stand.

Students have to write or present ideas in almost every class through high school, then through college and then in the business community. If they can become comfortable with developing the thesis statement, which is ultimately about controlling the paper, or presentation, then they can begin focusing their thoughts for the next steps of writing, or speaking or thinking.

Here might be some possible examples of thesis statements:

a) High school students who wear uniforms to school (specific topic) have higher grade points than school students who don't wear uniforms to school (take a stand). This is a thesis that can be researched.

b) State the same thesis only from the exact opposite point of view.

c) High school students who play video games (specific topic) demonstrate \_\_\_\_\_ (you fill in the blank just make sure it follows the formula.)

d) Try making (d) the opposite of (c). It might be kind of fun and provide useful practice.

Let me hear from you. I'd like to know how the Grand-Plan progressed.

Suzanne Lustie  
Language Arts Chair

**Don't Miss Spring Fest!**  
**Saturday, May 15**  
**12:00-4:00 p.m.**

## Mark Your Calendar

Rock Canyon/Rocky Heights first musical production will be performed April 16 and 17 at 7:00 p.m. in the Rocky Heights Commons. This musical comedy is about a group of high school students producing a school musical. Don't miss it!



The 9th grade choir practices for the March 2 concert.

## Rock Canyon High School Homework Policy

Although each teacher establishes classroom expectations, we at Rock Canyon would like to give an overview of our school's expectations of staff, students and parents with regard to homework. We have based our policy on staff discussion and *A Handbook for Classroom Instruction That Works* by Robert Marzano, et al.

As a staff, we work to clearly articulate the purpose and outcome of homework. Sometimes homework is assigned to introduce students to a new topic. Other times we assign homework to provide opportunities for students to practice a concept they've learned. Teachers write assignments on the board often reflecting a weekly agenda which students can write in their planners. Students should expect varying amounts of homework based on course level and year as addressed in the course syllabus.

As parents, there are things you can do to reduce the tension associated with doing homework and increase learning. Marzano et al. says research shows that following these guidelines can help:

- Help set up a consistent organized place for homework to be done.
- Help your student set up a consistent daily and weekly schedule for getting homework done based on when work was assigned. For instance, if an assignment is given on Monday for Friday, students should plan to work on it all week avoiding extensive work the last night.
- Encourage, motivate, and prompt your child, but do not sit with her and do the homework.
- If your child is practicing a skill, ask him to tell you which steps are easy and which are difficult. If your child is consistently unable to talk about the knowledge he is practicing, have him meet with his teacher.
- While Marzano's research shows homework should be approximately 10 minutes per grade level, this will vary based on your child and the course.

Feel free to contact the teachers at Rock Canyon if you have other homework related questions.

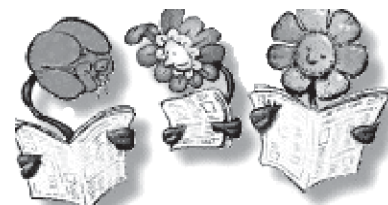
# BITS & PIECES

The Rock Canyon High School Library Media Center will open to high school students in August. Sharon Stevens was hired as the library media specialist in November and has been selecting and ordering books, magazines, equipment, furniture, etc. for the new library since January.

If you are interested in organizing or soliciting donations for a silent auction or some type of fund raiser for the Rock Canyon High School Library, please contact Sharon at 303-387-3446. See page 9



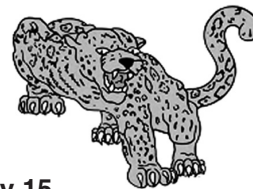
The *beginnings* of the RCHS Library Media Center are shown in these photographs. We need your help in filling the shelves of the library. Photos by Sharon Stevens.



## Spring Fest Booths:

Games  
Contests  
Sports  
Food  
Music  
And More!

Saturday May 15  
12:00-4:00 p.m.



## Amazing... but true!

How well do you know the staff at RCHS? Give this quiz your best shot, and then turn to page 10 for the answers.

- 1 This staff member spends a great deal of time in the gym - watching daughter Lu and son Lance play basketball for TRHS. Lu is a starting post on the number one rated girl's team. Lance is a starter on the number 3 rated boy's team. Lu was on the state winning team last year and Lance on the state winning team the past two years.
- 2 This staff member spent 14 months backpacking around the world after graduating from college. This person also has been to six of the seven continents.
- 3 This staff person loves to scuba dive. He/she has also experienced the thrill of sky diving.
- 4 There are three RCHS staff members with the last name of Stevens. Are any of them related?
- 5 This staff member was the 1998 CHSAA diving coach of the year.
- 6 This native of Idaho has lived in ten states and had moved 20 times before settling in Colorado nine years ago.
- 7 This staff member who comes from a family of teachers (father, uncle, two brothers, sister and sister-in-law) has coached football, wrestling, boys and girls basketball, girls field hockey, cross country and track.

## RCHS Facts

Date of Notice to Proceed:  
June 27, 2002

Date of Final Completion:  
February, 2004

Building size:  
223,000 sq. feet,  
built for 1,600 students

Auditorium:  
Seats 485

Athletic Fields:  
Soccer, baseball,  
softball, 6 tennis courts, 8-lane track, synthetic multiuse field

Mascot: Jaguar

School Colors:  
Black and Gold

## Important Dates

March 15-19  
March 22

April 7  
April 8  
April 16-17  
April 21  
April 28

May 6 - 17  
May 11  
May 13  
May 14, 15  
May 15  
May 15  
May 19, 20, 21  
May 21  
May 25  
May 31

August 10  
August 12  
August 13

Spring Break  
Fourth quarter begins

Inservice Day - Dismiss at 11:45  
Music Booster Meeting 7:00 p.m.  
School Musical, 7:00 p.m.  
4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Progress Grades Mailed  
No school for 9th graders - (ACT testing day)

School Art Show  
Band Concert 7:00 p.m.  
Vocal Concert 7:00 p.m.  
School Play 7:00 p.m.  
Spring Fest 12:00-4:00 p.m.  
RCHS Open House 4:00-7:00 p.m.  
2<sup>nd</sup> Semester Finals  
Last Day for Students  
Report Cards Mailed  
Memorial Day (School Closed)

Check-in for 2004-2005 school year  
First day for 9<sup>th</sup> graders and new students  
School begins for all students



Happy Mother's Day



# THE BIG HOUSE IS FINISHED !

Rock Canyon High School – fondly called “The Big House” by the staff – was officially turned over to the school district in February, 2004. Furniture will be delivered in March and other supplies, books, etc. will be delivered over the next few months.

Head custodian Bob Reiling started at the school March 1.

Here is a sneak preview of the school.

## Open House

*An open house and celebration is set for May 15, 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.*

**Please bring the family and join us for this big event.**



The first floor hallway looking towards the main office. Photo by Kathleen Kennedy



**The state-of-the-art weight room, from two angles.** The weight training facility will provide all students with opportunities to excel in physical education and athletics. Photos by Kathleen Kennedy



**TOP:** Offices and classrooms alike come with lots of built-in storage, along with full wiring for the Internet.

**Above:** This art room combines revealed heating pipes and generous natural light. Photos by Kathleen Kennedy

# A TIME FOR CELEBRATION



The view from the Commons looking to the front doors highlights the soaring support columns, high ceiling and indirect lighting of the main public entrance to the school.

The 485 seat theater features a spacious stage and lots of set construction space.  
Photos by Kathleen Kennedy



The competition gymnasium has been designed to seat more fans, along three sides to the court, with a second full size basketball court to the north for practices. Photo by Kathleen Kennedy

9th grade students celebrate their first visit to RCHS. They are standing in the entrance to the Commons. Photo by Dawn Land



# STUDENTS EXCEL

## Art

**Scholastic Art Show** - students Tyler Blair, Troy Gustin, Natalie Zanko, Erin Felty, Kelly Parsons, Erin Jaske, sent art pieces to represent RCHS.

**Continental League Art Show** - 2-D: Grant Wells, Kelsey Shepard, John Fenton, Dylan Fudge, Bryce Allen, Erin Felty, Sy Taft, Brian Gray, Natalie Zanko, Kayla Jones; Ceramics: Sarah Tur; Jewelry: Laura Stadler, shared selected art pieces in this art show open March 8 through March 19.

Kayla Jones' art work was selected to silk screen on the t-shirts made for the RCHS production of *Who Poisoned His Meatball?*

**Feeder Art Show** - 40 to 50 RCHS students art pieces will be on display April 9 and 10 at Mountain Vista High School.

**District Art Show** - RCHS will be represented by a few selected artists' pieces on show at Park Meadows April 16-23.

**RCHS & RHMS Art Show** - each student completing an art class will have their best piece shown in this show May 6-17.

The art students are instructed by Kippi vonDuhn.

## Music

Rock Canyon HS had 7 choir and 2 orchestra representatives for the Continental League Music Concert on February 23rd. Students were selected by audition from 16 different high schools in Douglas County, Littleton, and Aurora to come together and form an honor choir, orchestra and band. The performance of these groups was Monday, February 23rd at Boettcher Concert Hall. The concert concluded with all three groups on stage performing *The Battle Hymn of the Republic*. It was an outstanding event for all and a great experience for Rock Canyon participants. Congratulations to the following music students who performed February 23 at Boettcher Concert Hall in Denver.

### Honor Orchestra

Todd Jeremy Castro - cello

Julia Parrotta - violin

### Honor Choir

Kristina Abernathy    Brittany Castleberry    Liz Classen

Zak Dimond            Kelsey Fisher

Annalyse Matson    Emma Tur

RCHS instructors are Keith Farmer, orchestra and Annette Marsdon, choir.

## Student of the Month

RCHS has started a *Student of the Month* program. Students are recommended by teachers in each department. The student must have demonstrated one or more of the school's missions - "to Empower, to Explore, to Encourage, or to Excel."

## January Students of the Month

**Art/Theater** - Chelsea Higgins and Chelsee Merullo

**Computer Technology** - Kevin Allen and David Clodfelter

**Foreign Language** - Malcolm Nicholson and Arika Torr

**Language Arts** - Andrew Harders and Taylor Norman

**Math** - Karin Gaertner and Nick Rhodes

**Music** - Megan Morrison

**PE/Health** - Ryan Fulps and Taylor Temby

**Science** - Erin Jaske and Chelsee Merullo

**Social Studies** - Kristina Bane and Sy Taft

**Counseling/Activities** - Todd Castro and Julia Parrotta

## Athletics

Chelsea Higgins is the first RCHS varsity letter award winner.

Chelsea was presented a RC letter jacket and her letter on February 25 at an assembly held at the high school gym.

Chelsea won her letter in swimming. She finished the season with:

- 7 First place finishes in varsity meets
- 1 Second place finish in varsity meet
- 3 First place finishes in non-varsity
- Qualified for the varsity league meet in every event she competed in

Her coaches are Kristi Piccone, Megan Brown and Sohne Van Selus

Julie Gannon was named the most valuable player of the 2003-04 9th grade girls basketball team. The girls are coached by Jennifer Kyle.

Leading scorers for the 2003-04 9th grade boys basketball team were Mark Moerschbacher, Ryan Fulps, and Josh Karr. All averaged above 10 points a game. Josh also led the team in rebounds with 8 a game. The boys are coached by Jim McClurg.

Adam Bennett is the first RCHS wrestler to place 1st in a wrestling tournament - at ThundeRidge HS. The wrestlers are coached by Gregg Sheehan.

Seasonal Cheers were sent from Rock Canyon High School just before the December holidays when the 9<sup>th</sup> grade class collected money for families across the globe. The science classes of Kristi Piccone and Jenny Dallman collected over \$600 in less than three weeks. The money went to purchase very unique gifts that may provide a life long impact. The gifts included one goat, lifesaving medicines and supplies, harvest packs to perpetuate continued gardening, fruit trees, warm winter kits, and food to feed an entire village. The students showed their generous spirits and concern for people who are much less fortunate. Their love will be felt deeply. Way to go Rock Canyon. *You Rock!*



# Fill the Rock Canyon Library Shelves



The Rock Canyon High School Library Media Center will be opening in August 2004. The purpose of this letter is to solicit donations to help us “*fill the shelves*”. The funds contributed will enhance our library program and provide additional library materials for Rock Canyon students. Several levels and suggested donations are listed below. A donation plate with your name on it will be placed in any materials that are purchased with your level of funding.

- All library materials purchased **will** comply with *Douglas County Schools Library Media Selection Policy*.
- The *Douglas County Educational Foundation* will match donations up to \$2,500. Grant application closes April 2004.
- Remember your contribution is tax deductible as provided by law.
- Please make your check payable to *Rock Canyon Library Media Center*.
- The *Rock Canyon Jaguar Club* will oversee this event as with any fundraising for Rock Canyon High School.

Please return this form with your check to *Rock Canyon High School Library c/o 11033 Monarch Blvd. Highlands Ranch, CO 80124 (through May 31, 2004, after that date mail to 5810 McArthur Ranch Road, Highlands Ranch, CO 80124-5207)*. Books purchased with donations received by June 1, 2004 will be on display when school opens in August. You may make a flat donation or choose from the following levels:

## Miscellaneous Furnishings

_____ Donation for artwork in the library	\$ _____
_____ Donation for plants in the library	\$ _____
_____ Donation for library signage	\$ _____

## Magazine Subscriptions

_____ Flat Donation \$ _____	_____ \$18.50 Car & Driver
_____ \$28 National Geographic	_____ \$35 Newsweek
_____ \$95 People Weekly	_____ \$21 PC World
_____ \$15 Skateboarder	_____ \$15 Snowboarder
_____ \$72 Sports Illustrated	_____ \$63 Time

## Library Materials

_____ Flat Donation \$ _____	
_____ \$10 – one fiction book	
_____ \$22 – nonfiction book on endangered animals and habitats	
_____ \$22 – nonfiction book on systems of the human body	
_____ \$22 – nonfiction book on world history topics	_____ \$35 – <i>Cultural Atlas of . . .</i> book
_____ \$26 – nonfiction Opposing Viewpoints book	_____ \$45 - atlas
_____ \$35 – nonfiction book on America’s decades	_____ \$350 for 10 vol. America’s Decades set
_____ \$57.50 - 4 nonfiction books on scientific elements	_____ \$110 – 5 books – Holocaust library
_____ \$100 – 10 fiction books	_____ \$110 – 5 books - Women in history
_____ \$115 – 8 artists titles	_____ \$130 – Encyclopedia of Mathematicians
_____ \$130 – 6 books on religions of the world	_____ \$150 – 8 vol. – Fashions of a Decade
_____ \$150 – 8 vol. – International Encyclopedia of Art	_____ \$150 – 11 <i>Chicken Soup for the . . .</i> titles
_____ \$200 – 3 vol. reference set History of World War I	_____ \$200 – fiction books
_____ \$205 – 12 world mythology titles	_____ \$250 – 20 life skills titles
_____ \$205 – 23 poetry titles – Outstanding Books for the College Bound	
_____ \$300 – 23 nonfiction titles – Outstanding Books for the College Bound	
_____ \$320 – 13 vol. America in the Twentieth Century	_____ \$340 – Ancient Civilization
_____ \$360 – 36 science fiction titles	_____ \$375 – 39 mystery/suspense fiction titles
_____ \$400 – 26 titles – drug abuse prevention	_____ \$400 – 13 vol. Great World Writers
_____ \$420 – 8 vol. - Health Matters	_____ \$440 – 17 vol. – Encyclopedia of Mammals
_____ \$450 - 40 fiction titles - Outstanding Books for the College Bound	
_____ \$425 – 30 fantasy titles	_____ \$475 – 27 career titles
_____ \$525 – 30 titles In American History	_____ \$800 – set of 22 encyclopedias
_____ \$1200 – 53 books - the United States of America	

## Equipment

_____ \$950 Student computer
_____ \$3500 Coin-Operated Student Use Photocopy Machine (approximate cost)

# VOLUNTEER VOICE

What a flurry of activity occurred in February! I have so many people to thank for the variety of events that took place at RCHS. We certainly can say we have run the gamut of events from fundraising to social to charitable contributions and have had a high level of community participation as well as student involvement. We are fortunate to have such wonderful support from parents in our inaugural year at RCHS.

Once again, the parents providing food for the parent/teacher conferences held Feb. 10 outdid themselves with a night of excellent mouth-watering meals for the teachers. This may seem like a small task, but the teachers confided that they never had such pampering in the schools they came from and it is such a wonderful outpouring of support for what they do. They are so appreciative of this effort and look forward to conferences and the GREAT meals that parent volunteers provide. Thank-you Faye Finkelstein for coordinating the meals and to all parents who cooked, baked, and brought wonderful sustenance for the teachers/staff at RCHS.

Our first RHMS/RCHS book fair was an enormous success with 1,348 books sold! That translates into hundreds of free books for our library. All book purchases made for RCHS teachers will travel with them to the new building. My praise and appreciation go out to over 60 parent and student volunteers who worked tirelessly the week of Feb. 9 -12 under the expert guidance of volunteers Cindy Cranstone and Joanie Micale to make this event a fun-filled and rewarding experience. Thanks also to the teachers and Security Officer Kiesow for their participation in the humorous lunch time antics that entertained the kids! How did those pies in the face taste Officer Rick?

Freshman Physical Science students are participating in a science project exhibit. All students are being judged on their individual projects by teachers, staff, and parent volunteers using science fair criteria. The kids have done an amazing job being both creative and scientific in the choice of their projects. Thank-you to those parents who offered to judge the students work. Winners will be announced soon.

## UPCOMING VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:

**Career Day is scheduled for our next ½ day of school, Wed., April 7.** Preparations are now underway to incorporate a very diverse group of talented career professionals to speak to our students. Parents may be needed to assist with set-up and other tasks. Please watch your e-mail for additional information or call me at 303-387-3309.

**Jaguar Freestyle/Greco Wrestling Club begins April 6 from 6-7:30pm** with a parents meeting beginning at 6:00pm. This club will run through May and culminate with the 1st Annual Jaguar Freestyle /Greco Tournament on Saturday, May 21<sup>st</sup>. Volunteers are needed for set-up, registration and check-in, scorekeeping, hospitality room, concessions, and many more tasks. If interested, please e-mail Coach Sheehan at [Gregg.Sheehan@dcsdk12.org](mailto:Gregg.Sheehan@dcsdk12.org) or call and leave a message at 303-387-3340. Lots of parents are needed for this sports event. No experience necessary!

**Teacher Appreciation Week is May 3<sup>rd</sup>-7<sup>th</sup>.** I have a volunteer parent heading up this event committee, but others are needed to assist her throughout the week with fun-filled ideas and tokens of appreciation. Please contact me if you are interested.

**RCHS/RHMS Band Booster Club will hold their next meeting on April 8** in the Choir Room. Volunteers are needed in various roles to assist with ongoing projects and organization.

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THE VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION DAY LUNCHEON - APRIL 28 – PLAN ON ATTENDING THIS END OF THE YEAR EVENT HONORING YOU! WATCH FOR MORE DETAILS TO COME!**

## THANKSTHANKSTHANKSTHANKSTHANKSTHANKSTHANKSTHANKSTHANKSTHANKSTHANKSTHANKS

The following businesses have been very generous in donating their food products and other items for various school functions. Please remember to patronize them whenever possible.

Award and Sign Company - Englewood  
Crowfoot Valley Coffee – Quebec & Lincoln Ave.  
Flying Horse Catering – Douglas Cty. Events Center, Castle Rock  
King Soopers  
Krispy Kreme Donuts  
Lamars Donuts  
Mimis Café – Yosemite St.  
Red Umbrella Deli and Catering – Castle Pines Parkway  
Safeway - Wildcat Reserve Pkwy. & McArthur Ranch Rd.  
Castle Pines Parkway  
Perry St., Castle Rock

Thank-you for choosing to volunteer your time and energy in support of RCHS and your child.

Susan Santamaria-Fenton  
Volunteer Coordinator  
RHMS/RCHS  
303-387-3309  
[Susan.SantamariaFenton@dcsdk12.org](mailto:Susan.SantamariaFenton@dcsdk12.org)

### *Amazing...but true – the answers*

1. Wanda Wilson, SPED 2. Megan Brown, Social Studies 3. Tom Lynch, PE  
4. Sharon Stevens, Librarian and Bart Stevens, AP/AD are married 5. Kristi Piccone, Science 6. Terese Allred, Registrar 7. Jenny Dallman, Science

## U.S.O.C. - Olympic Talent Development

### Parenting Champions: Advice from Athletes, Parents, and Coaches

#### *Achievement Strategies*

- Emphasize a "can do" / "Don't quit" attitude.
- Allow kids to learn on their own, stand on won feet.
- Challenge your child to reach as far as her or she can.
- Encourage your child to problem solve in a healthy and constructive manner (e.g., explore all the options, seek advice and help when necessary).
- Expose your child to elite achievers in a variety of settings. Let them see that "ordinary" people just like them can achieve extraordinary things.
- Help athletes understand and value the connection between hard work and achievement.
- Strive to provide your child with the optimal push - a mix of unconditional support and parental motivation. Recognize that the optimal amount of push will change as your child ages, and it will vary from child to child.
- Help your child cope with failure and frustration. Help him or her see set backs as a normal and helpful part of striving for and achieving success.

#### *General*

- Provide your child-athlete with a safe and enjoyable environment.
- Don't try to live through your child.
- Encourage open and honest communication.

After the open house on May 15, we will begin using the high school gym. Basketball camps and a free-style wrestling tournament are scheduled at the end of May. We will be running our summer weight and speed camp starting in June out of our new weight room.



## ATHLETICS

### Summer Camp Opportunities

Weight & Speed Camp	June & July	7:30-9:30 a.m.	\$100
Soccer grades 7 & 8	June 7-11	4-6 p.m.	\$40
Soccer grades 9 & 10	June 14-18	4-6 p.m.	\$40
Volleyball open gym	June & July Wed.	6-8 p.m.	\$35
Volleyball grades 7 & 8	May 3-7	3-5 p.m.	\$50
Volleyball grade 9	May 10-14	3-5 p.m.	\$50
Volleyball grades 9 & 10	Aug. 2-5	9-11:30 a.m.	NC
Volleyball grades 9 & 10	Aug. 2-5	1:00-3:00 Cond. Camp	NC
Basketball open gym	June & July	9:30-11:30 a.m.	TBA
Youth Camp grades 4 - 8	June 21-24	9:00-3:00 p.m.	\$100
RCHS Camp	May 10-13	5:30-7:30 p.m.	\$30
Cross Country	July 12, MWF	7:00 p.m.	NC

### Spring Sports

Spring sports practice has begun for baseball, boys lacrosse, boys and girls track, girls soccer, girls tennis and boys swimming.

The following sports will co-op: girls tennis with Mountain Vista, girls lacrosse with Douglas County and boys swimming with Highlands Ranch.

Get out and support your teams.



### Wrestling Tournament

On May 21 and 22 RCHS will host the Jaguar Free Style and Greco Club wrestling tournament. The tournament takes place Friday afternoon and all day Saturday in the RCHS gym. For more information contact coach Gregg Sheehan at [Gregg.Sheehan@dcsdk12.org](mailto:Gregg.Sheehan@dcsdk12.org) or at 303-387-3340.

To find all of the RCHS daily sports activities and team schedules, go to:  
**HighSchoolSports.Net**

### Boys Basketball Camps and Open Gym

**Spring Camp** for next year's 9th and 10th graders will be from May 10-14 (Mon.-Thurs.), 2004 from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at Rocky Heights Middle School. Summer teams will be selected on the 14th. Summer schedule of weights, speed camp, open gym, leagues, and camps will be posted. 8th graders are welcome to come to this camp as well. Cost is \$30/camper. (Make check payable to Rock Canyon Boys Basketball, send to: Jim McClurg, 6022 Blue Ridge Dr. Apt. F, Highlands Ranch, CO 80130).

**Mini-Jaguar Camp** (grades entering 4-8 next fall). The youth camp will be from June 21-24th (Mon.-Thurs.), 2004 from 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. at Rock Canyon High School. Cost is \$100/camper. Each camper will receive individual fundamental instruction and team play along with a t-shirt and basketball. Campers are required to provide their own lunch.

Go on-line to: <http://www.dcsdk12.org/secondary/rchs/Links/Athletics/Basketball/Boys%20Basketball/index.html> to download the registration form. (Make check payable to Rock Canyon Boys Basketball, send to: Jim McClurg, 6022 Blue Ridge Dr. Apt. F, Highlands Ranch, CO 80130).



Frank and Julie Higgins, proud parents of Chelsea Higgins, applaud as their daughter receives the first RCHS varsity letter on Feb 25. Chelsea lettered in swimming. See page 8 for more on Chelsea. Photos by Kathleen Kennedy



Principal Dan McMinimee announces the official name of the Rock Canyon mascot – Dr. J. – during the Feb. 25 assembly. This was the first assembly in the new HS.

**Rock Canyon High School**  
5810 McArthur Ranch Rd.  
Highlands Ranch, CO 80124-5207