

# NEWS & EVENTS

## October 2010

### ACT READINESS

Rochester Community Schools is continually seeking ways that the district can improve student learning and prepare students for the next phase of their education, whether it is moving to the next grade level, or moving on to post-secondary education. With this in mind, the district is continuing to focus on the ACT College Readiness assessments, both as to how they relate to the Michigan High School Course Content Expectations, and what the data can tell us about how well we are preparing our students to succeed after they leave high school. We will be

using data from the Explore, Plan and ACT testing data to begin to target areas for improvement.

We encourage parents to partner with the district in guiding students toward success. We have added a section to our website with valuable information about what you can do at home to complement our efforts at school. This section is located under the "Parents & Community" tab, College Readiness ACT at the following link:

[Rochester Community Schools : College Readiness ACT:](#)

### Community Coffee Oct. 13

Mr. Pruneau will host a Superintendent Community Coffee on Wednesday, **October 13** from 10:00—11:30 p.m. in the Parker Room of the Administration Center. Parents, students, staff and community members are welcome to stop by for informal conversation with Mr. Pruneau.

Thank you to Oakland Optometry for sponsoring the event.



### Save the Dates

College Night	Oct. 12
MEAP Testing begins	
High School Evening Parent Conferences	Oct. 13
Middle School Evening Parent Conferences	Oct. 14
Middle School Evening Parent Conferences	Oct. 20
High School Evening Parent Conferences	Oct. 21
Escape School	Oct. 25
ELECTION DAY	Nov. 2
No School K-12	
No School K-12	Nov. 8

### AHS Students Visit Germany



For four weeks during the Summer of 2010, 24 Adams High School German students traveled to Germany to live with host families, attend a German high school and visit the capital. This is the group in front of the Brandenburg Gate in Berlin - during the World Cup games!

### COLLEGE NIGHT Oct. 12 Rochester High School 180 South Livernois 6:30 PM

Representatives from approximately 100 in-state and out-of-state colleges and universities, plus the military branches, will be there to answer questions and provide students with valuable information about their programs and schools. All students and their parents are welcome to attend this free open house event!

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## Reuther Kicks off 2010-11 School Year with Special Visitor



Opening Day 2010 at Reuther Middle School was a home run! Students attended a special assembly about Cause and Effect, or PAWS and Effect, that focused on the relationship between our actions and our achievements. The message of the assembly was to set high goals in order to reach excellence. Assisting with the assembly was the one and only PAWS, official mascot for the Detroit Tigers! PAWS also visited with Reuther students during their lunch periods. It's going to be a great year at Reuther Middle School!

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## RapidConnects® Emergency Notification System

The Rochester Community Schools district added RapidConnects®, an urgent notification system, to our communication toolbox. RapidConnects can place 60,000 thirty second phone calls per hour. This system is designed to provide our families with critical information in a timely manner.

Examples of when RapidConnects will be used include, but are not limited to; weather related school closings (snow days), individual school closings, early dismissals or late starts, building evacuations and lockdowns.

RapidConnects **will not** replace other communication methods such as MailOut and website post-

ings, but will add a key component to making the district's communication system more efficient and effective.

RapidConnects uses the primary (home) phone number which was provided by the parent / guardian on the student emergency form to place the first phone call. Families with more than one student in the district at the same primary phone number will receive one phone call.



RapidConnects also offers the option of receiving an additional phone call at a different number. This phone number will not replace the primary phone number. You will receive two phone calls; one at each number. You may also choose to completely opt out of the system.

If you would like to select either of these options, please complete the Alternate RapidConnects Alternate Phone Number / Opt-Out form and return it to the main office at your child's school. The form is posted on the Rochester Community Schools website and can be located by clicking on the Parent Resources page listed under the Parents & Community tab.

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## One Stop Shopping for Parent Information

Did you know that the Rochester Community Schools has a place on the district website where parents and community members can get a variety of information that is school/community related? Under the Parent & Community tab, there is a drop-down menu item called **Parent Resources**. In this section you will find information on the following topics:

- State and U.S. Legislators
- H1N1 Flu
- FERPA

- District Emergency Closing Information
- Helping Hand Newsletter
- Internet Safety
- Oakland County Health Fact Sheets
- Parent Involvement
- RCS Green Initiatives
- Special Education Parent Advisory
- Website for Reading

You will also find links to the

following:

- Free and Reduced Lunch Information
- Recess Resources
- Code of Conduct
- Curriculum
- Graduation Requirements
- MEAP Information
- RCS Budget Information

Information is updated on a regular basis. Check back often!

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## Escape School Presentation on October 25

The nationally acclaimed "Escape School" safety program will be held on the evening of October 25, 2010 in the Harrison Room of the Rochester Community Schools Administration Center, 501 W. University Drive, Rochester. The program runs from 7:00 - 8:00 p.m., and reservations are not necessary.

This free event, appropriate for first through fifth grade parents and children, teaches critical abduction prevention techniques and life-

saving tips on how to escape. The "Escape School" program, developed by former police officer and national safety expert Bob Stuber, helps to dispel fear by teaching proactive strategies in a fun, non-threatening manner.

The program presents many topics including:

- ◆ How to be smart, not scared
- ◆ How all the rules change in a dangerous situation
- ◆ How to identify strangers

not by what they look like, but how they act

- ◆ How to demand help

Sponsors for the event include Rochester Community Schools, Pixley Funeral Homes, and the School Police Liaison Officers.

For more information about Escape School, visit the website: [www.escapeschool.com](http://www.escapeschool.com).

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## REA Awards Scholarships



The Trustees of the Rochester Education Association (REA) Benefit Fund are pleased to announce the 2010 REA Benefit Fund Scholarship recipients: Joseph Dillon from Adams High School, Chelsea Edwards from Stoney Creek High School, and Jennifer Knoblock from Rochester High school.

Each year the REA awards \$1000 scholarships to graduates from each of the three major high schools. Through an annual contribution to the fund, the 900+ members of the REA demonstrate their support of these students' pursuit of higher education. Statistics show that workers with higher education degrees achieve more success financially over the course of their careers.

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## Hampton Elementary Students' Poetry is Published



Ms. Veach's 4th grade class at Hampton Elementary entered a poetry publishing contest held by Creative Communication. Twenty students have had their poems selected to be published in the book *A Celebration of Poets*.

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## Adams High Music Department Performs for Elementary

Fourth grade students from Baldwin, Brewster, Delta Kelly, Long Meadow, and Musson Elementary Schools were treated to a special concert by the Adams High School instrumental and choral departments. The Adams Wind Ensemble and Concert Choir were



conducted by Mr. James Ferden and Mr. Thomas Blue, respectively. A full house was attentive and practiced excellent listening skills experiencing music in the style of a Bernstein Young People's Concert. This will aid students in making their selection for the Rochester Community Schools sixth grade music requirement, and continuing music in middle school choir, band and theater.



## **Brewster Elementary 4th Grade Students Visit Rochester Hills City Offices**

As part of the district field trip offerings, the 4th grade Brewster students visited the Rochester Hills City Offices. Departments visited included Planning, Engineering, Assessing and Taxes, Treasury, City Clerk, Parks & Recreation, and Videography . Students were able to spend about 15 minutes with the Mayor, and learned that Mayor Barnett was the youngest mayor in the United States for a city with over 50,000 people. Students had a great time and the learned a great deal about their city.

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## **Update Your MailOut Subscription for 2010-2011**

To keep your MailOut subscription up-to-date, be sure to modify your selections to reflect your child(ren)'s new grade level or school building.

You can log on to MailOut at [www.rochester.k12.mi.us/mailout](http://www.rochester.k12.mi.us/mailout) or click on the MailOut box on the homepage of the RCS website.

Scroll to the bottom of the page to log in. If you have forgotten your password, please use the Forgot Password feature.

Once you have logged in, you will be able to modify your subscription for grade levels, school building and other options.



**MailOut:**  
[www.rochester.k12.mi.us/mailout/](http://www.rochester.k12.mi.us/mailout/)

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## Rochester Community Schools Foundation and Big Boy Restaurants Team Up to Raise Funds for Schools in October

The Rochester Community Schools Foundation and the Big Boy Restaurant on Tienken and Rochester Road are partnering to sponsor Celebrity Server Night. Volunteers from the school groups serve as waitstaff from 5:00 – 8:00 p.m. during the Celebrity Server Event.

On October 26 **Brewster Elementary School** will participate in

Celebrity Server Night. On November 15 the Adams High School Music Department will host.

These groups will receive all tips from 5:00 - 8:00 p.m. as well as 10% of the sales. Please stop by to support them!

Contact the Foundation Office at 248.726.3190 for more information on the Celebrity Server program for Rochester Community Schools.



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## Make Your Travel Plans Through the RCS Travel Site!



The Rochester Community Schools travel site is the place to look if you are interested in purchasing airfare, hotel, vacation packages, cruise packages and much more. You can even buy flowers!

A wonderful vacation experience is just one click away at:

<http://www.ytbtravel.com/rcstraveler>

(Best of all, 60% of the commissions are used to benefit Rochester Community Schools students. Helping your schools has never been so easy, or so much fun.

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## Go Green with RCS Reusable Tote Bags

Rochester Community Schools and PTA Council are partnering to bring tear resistant, water repellent, reusable bags made of recycled material to Rochester families.

The roomy black bags are imprinted with the Rochester Community Schools logo, and will hold

your groceries, books, toys or other items. Proceeds from the sale of the bags will go toward each building's "green" initiatives.

Bags are \$3 each and will be available for purchase at school PTA meetings, at the reception desk at the Administration Center, and in the Community Relations

Office on the third floor of the Administration Center, 501 W. University Drive.



Rochester  
Community Schools

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Great Schools  
Great Communities  
Great Opportunities!

Administration Center  
501 W. University Drive  
Rochester, MI 48307  
248.726.3000

[www.rochester.k12.mi.us](http://www.rochester.k12.mi.us)

Newsletter produced by  
the Community Relations  
Department

Debra Hartman, Manager  
Jackie Miracle, Secretary



## Notice of Nondiscrimination

Rochester Community Schools does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, creed or ancestry, age, sex, marital status, or handicap including but not limited to Title II, Title VI, and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Educational Amendment Act of 1972, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. In addition, individuals will not be excluded from, or be denied, the benefits of participation in any program or activity for which the Board is responsible.

Rochester Community Schools has designated the following individual as Compliance Coordinator: Title IX, Section 504, Title II, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction, 501 W. University Drive, Rochester, MI 48307, 248-726-3106.

## Hometown Hustle Planned for October 9



The Rochester Community Schools Foundation is sponsoring its 4th Annual 5K Fun Run/Walk on Saturday, October 9, 2010 to support educational programs and services in Rochester Community Schools.

Serious runners as well as casual walkers will all enjoy this event. The "Hometown Hustle" will begin at the Rochester Community Schools Administration Center at 501 W. University and wind through the picturesque residential area, along the Clinton River Trail, into downtown Rochester, up the Paint Creek Trail and around the Rochester Municipal Park. **Runners will be chip-timed!**

Check-in will begin at 7:30 a.m. with start time at 8:30 a.m.

Be sure to save the date of October 9 to enjoy the sights and variety of settings that make Rochester such a great place to live, work and play. Gather your family and friends and come out for a morning of good fun and healthy activity, in support of the students in Rochester Community Schools!



Rochester Community Schools  
*Board of Education*  
2010-2011

*Members of the Board of Education*

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Mrs. Lisa Nowak, Trustee

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Term Expires: 2013

*Meeting Dates for 2010-11*

July 26

August 9 and 23

September 13 and 27

October 4 and 18

November 1 and 22

December 13

January 10 and 24

February 14

March 7 and 21

April 11 and 25

May 9 and 23

June 13 and 27

**Board of Education meetings**

are held at 7:00 p.m. in the Harrison Room of the Rochester Community Schools Administration Center  
501 W. University Drive  
Rochester, MI 48307

**Agendas and Minutes** of the board meetings are posted on the Rochester Community Schools website at [www.rochester.k12.mi.us](http://www.rochester.k12.mi.us)

**Videotapes** of Board of Education meetings are rebroadcast on our community access cable television channels: WOW 15 and Comcast A59 or B20 on Sundays at 6:00 p.m., at 7:30 p.m., and Thursdays at 2:00 p.m.

***The public is invited and encouraged to attend Board of education meetings. The Board recognizes the value to school governance of public comment on education matters. During the meetings, there will be designated times for members of the public to express themselves on issues relating to the school district.***