

# RJK Word

## *Multicultural Celebration*



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### *Inside This Issue*

Hi, Everyone!

Welcome back from spring break! I hope it was an enjoyable one for everybody. This issue of the *RJK Word* addresses an important topic in today's society: different races, cultures, genders, or anything else that makes us different from our peers.

Look around you. Is there anyone who looks or acts exactly like you do? The way in which people differ gives us the world we know today. Without a variety of people in the world, life would be just plain boring. To learn more, check out the article on multiculturalism.

Spring is on its way, and it's time to take advantage of the opportunities a new season can give you. Check out this issue of the *RJK Word* to find out what I mean, and to learn more.

Finally, a note to all of our school's wonderful teachers. Please remember, before you reprimand the daydreaming student, that anybody and everybody always has at a least a *minor* bout of spring fever.

**Your Editor-in-Chief,  
Kristen Druse**



### *On Multiculturalism*

Hello, My Fellow Peers,

I personally think the multicultural theme of this issue is a great topic for our school newspaper to cover. Our school is a very diverse one, and that is a good thing. I also feel that our school has great unity and that people branch out of their comfort zones to be friends with others.

Multiculturalism is a beautiful thing in the world. Our school displays a great vision of this idea. I feel that this issue is great and the others to come will be as well.

I hope the rest of our school year goes wonderfully for each of us! Enjoy the upcoming spring season.

**Your Assistant Editor,  
Rachelle Walker**

### Annual Spelling Bee Set for May 7

The RJK Annual Spelling Bee is scheduled for Wednesday, May 7, 2008 in the school cafeteria and will begin right after school ends.

The First Place winner will be given a trophy; second and third place winners will receive a beautiful marble paperweight.

Past First Place Winners have been: 2002, Max Katz; 2003, Max Katz; 2004, Ja'Quis Lowery; 2005, Jaime Alejandro; 2006, Adrian (A. J.) Derello; and 2007, Adrian (A. J.) Derello.

See your ELA teacher for your Spelling Bee study words. Only the words on the list will be used in the Bee.

This is the seventh year of the RJK Spelling Bee, which is sponsored by the *RJK WORD* school newspaper.

Parents are welcome to attend.

# Spotlight on Mr. Kelly

It would be safe to say that Mr. Kelly is a man of few words. I had a brief discussion with Mr. Kelly and learned a little more about him than the rest of you might know.

Mr. Kelly is retiring this year. He has been a teacher for thirty-five years and worked his whole career in Monticello.

After his retirement, Mr. Kelly plans to travel to Costa Rica to go scuba diving. He looks forward to seeing the turtles migrate in the Fall. Mr. Kelly enjoys digital photography as a hobby.

Thinking at first that he would go into engineering, Mr. Kelly decided to become a teacher instead. What he likes best about teaching math is that it's an easy concept to teach. It's

by **Rachelle Walker**



**Mr. Ray Kelly**

either right or wrong. He enjoys teaching 8th grade

because the students get some of his jokes.

Mr. Kelly said that one way in which students have changed over the years is the way they communicate; some lack the skills to hold a conversation and rely on technology.

Although he doesn't remember much about his childhood, he told me that he was influenced by his high school teachers. They told him that he should teach and that he would be good at it. He went to Nashville Community College and SUNY- New Paltz.

Mr. Kelly will be missed when he leaves this year. He has taught a lot of people over the years and has affected many lives. We wish him good luck in his retirement.

## RJK WORD

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## Letters to the Editor Policy

The Editors of the *RJK WORD* welcome letters of interest to the students and staff of R. J. K. Middle School. We reserve the right to shorten letters and to correct errors of spelling and usage.



# Letters to the Editor

Dear Editors,

I think we should get more soccer balls. In gym, we should play more soccer because in Florida they have warm weather all year long, and here we don't, so we should get indoor soccer in the winter. This could also help us not get tempted to be involved in activities that are not constructive.

I think that we should also have more clubs, but, first, we should get more soccer time.

- Aldo Centeno

*Thank you for your letter! Though it would be nice to have more soccer time during gym, our school has to follow a curriculum mandated by the state. Fortunately, there are other ways to enjoy the sport. You can try out for the school's soccer team next fall, and AYSO soccer is available to students in our area. If all else fails, get a game going after school with your friends!*

- The Editors

Dear Editors,

My name is Michelle, and there are some things that I would like to talk to you about. First, I would like to say thank you for giving me this chance to write a letter to the people who care about student opinions.

Second, there are things in my school that girls would like to have. We feel that we don't have enough activities in our school for girls. I would like to say that we need a Double Dutch team in our school because there are lots of girls in this school who can jump rope, and we need a girls' football team. Yes, we know that football is not for girls, but there are over twenty-six girls in this school who can play, and I mean *play*, football.

Then, I would like the school to consider trying to start a drama class. There are girls, and boys as well, who can act. Then there's cooking classes for sixth or seventh graders.

- Michelle Deshommes

## Famous Quotations on Multiculturalism

"We have inherited a large house, a great 'world house' in which we have to live together — black and white, Easterner and Westerner, Gentile and Jew, Catholic and Protestant, Muslim and Hindu — a family unduly separated in ideas, culture and interest, who, because

we can never again live apart, must learn somehow to live with each other in peace."

- Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

"We allow our ignorance to prevail upon us and make us think we can survive alone, alone in patches, alone in groups, alone in

racess, even alone in genders."

- Dr. Maya Angelou

"We become not a melting pot but a beautiful mosaic. Different people, different beliefs, different yearnings, different hopes, different dreams." - Jimmy Carter

# More Letters to the Editor



*Michelle, you certainly have lots of good ideas! A Double Dutch or jump-roping team would definitely be extremely beneficial to our school. If you would like to write a letter about it to your principal, I think she would definitely appreciate your idea and how much you care about the school. A low budget, high exercise sport like Double Dutch is a wonderful idea.*

*A football team is another good idea. The School Board is considering making football a school sport, in which case anyone, including girls, will be invited to try out. I highly encourage you to try it if this is a sport you seriously would like to do.*

*As for your drama and cooking class ideas, both are offered at the high school. So if you are willing to wait, you can always be in those classes. Also, the school musical in the fall is another excellent way to show off your acting talents!*

**- The Editors**

Dear Editors,

I think that we should make the Snapple prices lower again, back to seventy-five cents. In the beginning of the year, my friends and I came with seventy-five cents to buy a Snapple. We were devastated when we saw that they were a dollar, rather than seventy-five cents, like last year.

Also, I think that they should bring back pizza logs. I don't know why they don't have them any more. That is my opinion about our school's cafeteria.

**- Angie Velasquez**

*Though I share many of the same opinions as you about our school's cafeteria, unfortunately many of the things that we want can't be given to us. The price of Snapples rose because the price that the cafeteria had to pay for them rose. We have no control over that. Pizza logs were also a nice treat, but they are actually too unhealthy to be supplied by the school. Thanks for your letter, and I hope this has helped you.*

**- The Editors**

Dear Editors,

One complaint that I have is that there are not enough dances. We should have a dance every month. I also think we should be able to go even if we have a referral. Another thing is that seventh graders should be able to go to the sixth grade dances. This way we will have more dances throughout the year.

**- Miguel Rosado**

*I totally agree with you. Dances are a wonderful way to hang out and enjoy spending time with friends outside of school in a safe and healthy environment. But one thing that is impossible to change is the rule about getting referrals. Just remember, if you can behave for a week, you can have the time of your life on Friday night. That should keep you out of trouble!*

**- The Editors**

Dear Editors,

I think all seventh grade students should be able to go on a field trip. Students and teachers are always doing fundraisers and getting money, but they use it for books, pencils, and other school supplies.

Seventh grade students need a break from working. Yes, I will agree that when there is nice weather we go outside during lunch, and we also get gym class outside. But those activities are not enough. Students want to hang out with their friends, get fresh air and go to new places. On most field trips students learn new information and benefit from it. Not many seventh graders have enjoyed a field trip this year and the school year is almost over. I am definitely not the only one who would like a field trip, and I am willing to use my voice to take a stand.

**-Amber Hadden**

*Talk to your team teachers about getting more involved with field trips in your school! You may not realize it, but there are many free fieldtrips for students of all ages; you just need to know where to find them.*

**- The Editors**

## *Family Reading Night Draws 180 People to the Fiesta!*



**Mrs. Blanca Reyes performs solo.**

The 10th Anniversary of the RJK Family Reading Night was a multicultural festival of books, storytelling and dance. Sponsored by the Literary Club, Family Reading Night was held in the cafeteria, on Thursday, February 28, from 6:00 to 8:00 P.M.

The once-a-year event, timed to coordinate with **Read Across America Day**, brought 180 people out in 12 degree temperatures.

**Jessica Nesin** played world classics on the keyboard as children and young adults arrived, setting the stage for the many talented performers to follow.

**An Opening Circle Ceremony, led by Ms. Donna Coane, an Iroquois-Mohawk Native American, called for everyone to hold hands in a circle.**

Throughout the night, students visited several stations. One station involved making bookmarks, while other students learned the legend of corn husk dolls, as told by a Taino Native-American guest, **Mr. Robert Delgado**. **Miss Wylie**

### By Staff

helped students make Native-American dream catchers.

Students also played games from other cultures with **Mr. Moss, Harsh Parekh** and **Aniket Patel**. Others joined in a storytelling circle with **Miss Bertorelli**.

Many attended the **Scholastic Book Fair**, which featured multicultural books this year, according to **Mrs. Robin LaFountain**, PTA president and a coordinator for **EPIC**.

Many gift certificates from the Scholastic Book Fair were raffled off by **Ms. Wood** throughout the evening.

There was a presentation of the flags of many countries made by students.

**Dishes of ethnic foods, prepared by parents of EPIC, were arranged on a table for all to enjoy, but the high point of the evening was the entertainment.**

**Mr. Genas**, dressed as the Cat in the Hat, read *Green Eggs and Ham*, after everyone sang "Happy Birthday" to Dr. Seuss. The birthday cake was provided by the PTA. Both children and adults sang the birthday song to Dr. Seuss and blew out the candles.

**Mr. Delgado** shared an authentic Taino legend. **Mrs. Wilson** followed with a moving portrayal of Rosa Parks reading from her journal.



**Mr. Matuszak supports Mr. Genas.**

The second half of the entertainment was given over to dancing. **Christian Giunta** opened with a tap dance. Dances by students in the Migrant Program from Cooke, Rutherford, RJK Middle School and the high school were performed.

**Mrs. Blanca Reyes**, together with **Mrs. Marta Mangual**, a bilingual coordinator for **EPIC** and a Migrant Program Educator, spent many hours teaching and rehearsing students in the dance steps. Their performance of the Bachata drew enthusiastic applause. A dramatic Mexican dance solo by **Mrs. Reyes** ended the evening's festivities.

**A table of free books for all ages caused much excitement. Every child left with a book to read and cherish.**

"We're creating readers," said **Mrs. Barbara Hill**, who has been organizing Family Reading Night for all 10 years. "This year is the best ever," she said, "thanks to the good work of so many people."



Left: Mr. Delgado, a Taino Native-American tells an authentic Taino legend. Above: Mrs. Wilson portrays Rosa Parks reading from a journal. Below left: Students dance the Bachata. Below: Literary Club members sell drinks.



**DANCERS**  
Left to right, bottom row: Hariel Mangual, Omar Arriaga, Carlos Carvajal, Javier Carvajal, Hector López. Middle row: Dennis Rivera, Tiffany Mangual, Jesus Mangual, Melody Mangual, Diego Reyes, Ashley DeJesus, Leslie DeJesus, Chelsea DeJesus, Alejandra Carvajal, Cecilia Carvajal, Luisa López, Adriana López. Back row: Christian Giunta, and Mrs. Blanca Reyes.

## Activities Day Planned for Fun

PBIS (Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports) will be held Friday, April 25, from 12:00 to 2:00 P.M.

Activities will include movies (*The Sandlot*, *Iron Giant*, *August*), video games, board games and cards, dancing, scrapbooking, cooking, tie-dyeing, building bird houses, sports activities, crafts, such as making T-shirt pillows, gardening and designing clay pots for planting.

## Celebrate Wellness and Earth Day

On Saturday, April 26, 2008, the district will be hosting a Wellness and Earth Day Celebration in conjunction with the 20th Annual Monticello Track and Field Games. The Wellness event will be held from 10:00 A.M. – 2:00 P.M. in the high school cafeteria and surrounding area.

The Environmental Club will have an information table with activities and ideas for recycling. The Community Collaborative Panther Team would like to help the RJK MS Environmental Club by sponsoring a Reduce, Reuse and Recycle mini-yard sale. If you would like to bring some of your too-good-to-trash items to sell, your group or organization can rent a table for \$10 and sell your treasures.

Please contact Mr. John Langseder if you have any questions or would like to reserve a table. This is a great opportunity to help out the Environmental Club and the environment.

## A ‘Thank You’ to School Recyclers

The school community is starting to recycle its paper. Did you ever wonder who the students are who come around to our classrooms and collect the newspapers and contents of those recycling boxes? They are Lauren Roy, Melody Mangual, Justin Garcia, Sthefany Lopez, Neatly Martinez and other helpers. Ms. McBride is their advisor, so a big thank you to her as well as to the recyclers.

Remember: Newspapers are to be kept separate from the contents of the recycling boxes. Also, please be sure to keep all materials other than paper out of the boxes. That means no plastic, no cans, no gum, no candy, no wet materials allowed.

## What is the LST Program?

Many students in RJK Middle school have participated in the Life Skills program. But what exactly is Life Skills Training?

Life Skills is mainly a program to teach students how to cope with the pressures and normal, everyday occurrences that can hurt you or your life. Some topics discussed are gangs, drugs, and friendships. It's a great program!

## Multicultural Book List

By Staff

**If you are interested in reading books about other cultures, you might enjoy reading any one of these books.**

*The White Deer and Other Stories Told by the Lenape*, edited by John Bierhorst (Morrow, 1995). It includes 25 stories from the Lenape, or Delaware, culture. The Lenape lived in this area.

*All for the Better: The Story of El Barrio* by Nicholasa Mohr (Steck-Vaughn, 1993). Highly-regarded Puerto Rican writer Mohr tells the true story of a young girl, Evelina Lopez Antonetty, who made a difference in her community.

*Pink and Say* by Patricia Polacco (Putnam, 1994). This is about the friendship between a black and a white soldier during the Civil War.

*The Glory Field* by Walter Dean Myers (Scholastic, 1994). Myers takes readers from 1753 to 1994 as he tells about a family and its struggles over six generations.

*Sheltering Rebecca* by Mary Baylis-White (Lodestar, 1991). A girl is sent out of Germany to stay with another family during the Holocaust.

*The Journey: Japanese Americans, Racism, and Renewal* by Sheila Hamanaka (Orchard Books, 1990). Hamanaka writes a deeply personal book about the racism her family endured while imprisoned in a U. S. concentration camp during World War II.

*Ooka the Wise: Tales of Old Japan* by I. G. Edmonds, illustrated by Sanae Yamazaki (Linnet Books, 1994). The scales of justice are always balanced after Judge Ooka sets right a variety of challenging and complex situations.

# Sports

By Staff

First, we'd like to say congratulations to all the sports teams that participated in the winter sports season. Basketball, skiing, and wrestling would not be the same without your enthusiasm and team spirit. Congratulations on a wonderful season!

## Coach Caruso Announces Modified Baseball Roster

Coach Caruso announced the names of the members of the Modified Baseball Team. They are: Eighth graders Connor Briggs, Ian Campbell, Devon Chester, Steven Demestrio, Paul Gomez, Anthony Gray, Edwin Jones, Garret Lapolt, Duncan McCausland, Brandon Skok, Victor Vargus, and Josh Etkin.

Seventh grade team members are: Shawn Cargill, Shane Jackson, Andrew Krotje, and Dennis Rivera.

This year's baseball team is shaping up to have a successful season. As our reporters trekked through the early spring mud, they caught a glimpse of our school's Modified Baseball Team training. It's shaping up to be a successful year!



## Coach Ebeling Announces Girls' Softball Roster



Coach Ebeling announced the names of the members of the Modified Softball Team. They are: Eighth graders Rebecca Wood, Jessica Gray, Lacey Gray, Heather Schoenleber, Rachel Klein, Dayanara Torres, Melody Mangual, Shanice Mack, Emily Morey, and Cassi Smithem.

Seventh grade team members are: Yadria Montez, Jessica Wagner, Katina Rokicki, Kristen McEneaney, Annie Purcell, and Brittany Stein.

Good luck on your season!

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### Players and Coaches

Please give us your stats and any other information that you want us to write about on our sports page.

*Good luck to all participating athletes in this year's spring sports! The staff members and editors of RJK Word wish you a fun, successful season!*

# Multicultural Word Search



LARLCMUUMOCG  
 AHRDIORLOLGG  
 RPUEOGIIEIAO  
 ULPRMHPMNLHA  
 TCFEVOLNCNMU  
 LUREAFHLROAD  
 UROMIROGAILT  
 CELSHTAECGEU  
 IHP IHSDNEIRF  
 TTP IPLSDCLDE  
 LANGUAGELENL  
 UGLEAILRORUH  
 MEAAGELNGERH



### Words

Multicultural	Gender	Race	Religion	Clothing
Appearance	Language	Love	Friendship	Home