

RJK Word
Presents
Spring Awakening





Editorials



Dear Students,

We're all so grateful that spring is finally here! The ice and snow were getting more than a little tiring. Another thing about spring is that summer is just around the corner. Getting outside and exploring the world is just another great part of the recent warm weather. That's what inspired us to choose our latest theme: Spring Awakening!

Yes, we are aware that this is the title of a musical. But more importantly, it's the title of the ideas we're going to supply you with to improve your life and help you make the best that you can of the new season. If you want to know more, check out page 6.

As you know, we students on the newspaper staff try our best to provide you with the news and entertainment that you want. Please consider writing a letter to our staff giving us your opinion on the newspaper and the school in general. To provide the readers with the information that they want, we first have to know *what* you want.

One thing that's on everyone's mind is the impending finals. As though we don't have enough to worry about, right? But, truly, there is no way to get out of these tests.

The best thing that you can do is to prepare adequately for all your finals. Study hard and attend review sessions, and you should do fine. All of us have the capability to do well; working hard is what makes some of us advance ahead of others. I wish you all luck on your finals.

Don't forget to check out our next and last issue, featuring our farewell theme to the graduating eighth graders!

Your Editor,
Kristen Druse

Hello My Fellow Students,

Now that spring has sprung, it is time to do some cleaning in all aspects of your lives. Cleaning your house, as well as your mind and body, is very important. Organizing your room and helping your parents clean the house is a great way to start. Then you can gradually start getting more fresh air by playing outside, or walking your dog more often. You can also cleanse your mind by getting rid of hurtful people in your life and any unneeded stress.

Getting exercise is very important. It not only helps you stay in shape, but it is a natural, healthy way to get rid of stress. Stress is a natural, but often obstructive, aspect of our lives. To rid yourself of stress, try staying organized, not getting involved in drama, and staying on top of your school work.

More problems that may arise are dreaded tests or a syndrome that some people call 8TH GRADER-ITIS! This is a problem that some eighth graders get before leaving middle school. These problems occur because some 8th graders think that they'll have a clean slate in high school, or that they did well earlier in the year so it doesn't matter, or they just stop caring. 8TH GRADER-ITIS can cause serious damage to your grades. If you do fall prisoner to this syndrome, it is a mistake that you will regret and pay for.

Now that you know how to de-clutter your life, use your knowledge wisely. It can greatly impact your life, and I feel that you will enjoy the benefits. As I bring this editorial to a close, I wish you all luck in your journey to the end of the school year.

Your Assistant Editor,
Rachelle Walker



RJK WORD

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Fun and Free Rice!



It's important to help the less fortunate people in the world. One way to do this is by going to a new, free web-site where you can challenge your vocabulary while at the same time donating rice to hungry people around the world. For each word that you get right, sponsors of this web-site will donate twenty grains of rice to the United Nations World Food Program for distribution to those in need. Play to help end hunger.

Check out www.freerice.com. We challenge you to donate 1,000 grains of rice and do your part to end world hunger!

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editors,

I think that the school dances should be at least half an hour longer than they are. The dances really don't get going until half an hour into the dance.

I think that our school should hold more fund-raisers so we can get better lunches, more gym equipment, new library books, and new textbooks. One way to fund-raise is by having more bake sales. We should also have two musicals a year, along with more clubs, such as a friendship club and a drama club.

-Tatiana Thompson

Dear Tatiana,

We think that you have many good ideas. We don't think that it would be so hard to extend the length of the school dances, as long as there are students willing to fund-raise for it. As for the idea of more clubs, ask a teacher who is willing to start one if they would supervise it. Also, there are many clubs available outside of school, such as at the YMCA.

- The Editors

Dear Editors,

I think that we should have more dances in school. I think that because kids then would not get as many referrals, and a lot more kids would come. The school might get more money to purchase school supplies from the ticket money. I would like to go to more dances because they're really fun.

Another thing that I'd like to bring up is that we should have time for recess. That would also be a lot of fun. All of these things that I mentioned would benefit all of our students.

- Bryan Gil

Dear Bryan,

We like your ideas, but I don't know if the school can afford those things. The only way you would be able to have time for recess is to give up most of

your lunch. I'm sure that you don't want to do that. But get as much outside time in the summer as you can!

- The Editors

Dear Editors,

I would like for there to be school jobs for kids who volunteer to do them. I think it would be great if kids had little jobs to take care of. That would be a better way to teach kids responsibility. I'm not saying that we don't have responsibilities. I just think that it would be better for kids to get ready to be able to handle a job when they grow up.

- Anonymous

Dear Anonymous,

We LOVE your ideas because gaining responsibility is a huge part of growing up. Ask your homeroom teacher if he or she would be willing to give you a daily or weekly job, as well as anyone else in your classroom who is willing to participate.

- The Editors

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR POLICY

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



Correction



We would like to make a correction regarding the last issue of the newspaper. Amber Hadden's name was not included in the newspaper's sports section story which accompanied the Girls' Soccer Team photo. We give her our deepest apologies.

Reading Corner

In this issue, we're featuring a section dedicated to independent reading. We'll highlight a few books that are enjoyed by many of the students at RJK. We'll give you a few titles of books our staffers have enjoyed.

Hopefully, this will encourage you to pick up a book and just read for pleasure or to de-stress.

The Catcher in the Rye by J.D. Salinger is the story of a teenaged boy who runs away from his college preparatory school and tries to find himself in New York City. This novel has long been considered a young adult classic and is highly recommended by our staff.

Time Magazine called it one of the best English-language novels published in the period 1923-2005.

The Outsiders by S.E. Hinton is the story of a gang of young men in Tulsa, Oklahoma. When an accidental death takes place, the story follows the young men as they try to survive on the streets. This fast-paced novel is an excellent read.

Catch 22 by Joseph Heller is a dark comedy set during World War II. It follows the lives of soldiers in the U.S. Army Air Force and is written in a unique style which can be somewhat confusing at times but still entertaining. This is a classic historical novel.

Lord of the Flies by William Golding is a fictional novel using the marooning of several British schoolboys on a deserted island as an example of how culture created by man fails. The book is filled with many hidden meanings, cultural and political.

Although some of the book's messages may be lost on younger readers, it is still a great book to read just to see what happens as the kids try to govern themselves. Watch how they fail, and learn to appreciate your parents' protection and rules. A very deep, entertaining story.

We encourage you to read the **Tips for Reading**.



RJK WORD Wins Award for Excellence

By Staff

RJK WORD Editor-in-Chief Kristen Druse (left) and Assistant Editor Rachelle Walker hold the Award Certificate for Second Place from the American Scholastic Press Association. This is the first year that the school publication was submitted for review. Creativity and editing were the two categories that were cited as excellent. The Editors thank the staff and the student body for their support.

TIPS FOR READING

We asked our school's librarian, Mr. Moss, for a few tips for readers. He gave us three.

1. A good way to find books is to ask for recommendations from a friend whose opinion you trust.
2. If you're reading a book that you don't really like, try to finish at least the first three chapters. At least that way, you can have a good idea of what the book is like.
3. The best thing to do is browse the shelves if you're looking for books. If you have a feeling about a book you see, check it out!

Thank you, Mr. Moss. Students, happy reading!

“Generation Day” Takes Over 8th Grade Floor

By Staff

On Friday, April 18th, an odd thing could be viewed throughout the 8th grade hallways of Robert J. Kaiser Middle School. At first glance, it seemed that a few students had arrived at school that day in a time machine. Hippies from the late 60s rushed through the halls to math class as the 50s girls in wrap dresses got textbooks from their lockers.

Were the students at RJK confused about what year it was? Nope! It was Generation Day, the celebration where students were allowed to dress as a person from their favorite generation.

This day was not all fun and games, though. It was the conclusion of a six-week project that students from Mrs. Knowlton’s 8th grade social studies classes had been working on. Mrs. Knowlton had assigned each group of students a generation to learn as much as possible about. The students then had to complete a poster board project, generation hand-out, a museum exhibit, and a video demonstration using Microsoft Moviemaker.

The celebration included a poster board and artifact demonstration on one day, and on the next, food and music from the different time periods. In keeping with the theme, music was played on an old-fashioned record player from the 1950s and a transistor radio from the 1940s.

Thursday’s museum exhibit was a huge hit among the faculty and students; people were walking in and out of the classroom all day. The exhibit featured artifacts and poster boards highlighting the defining moments, people, core values, and events from the generations.

When Mrs. Knowlton was asked about how she thought the project turned out, she said, “Many of my students have a better understanding of the defining moments of different generations, beginning with the G.I. Generation.”

And would she assign this project again? “Yes,” she said, “I would, but with modifications.”

This project was a wonderful way to summarize the school year.

It was an assignment that these students won’t soon forget!



What’s New Best of the District Web-site

Do you or your organization have something to tell us about? Contact us at msnewspaper@k12.mcsd.net.

Boys & Girls Club to Hold a Spring Celebration and Talent Show

The Boys and Girls Club will host a **Spring Celebration** on Friday, **May 30**, from 3:00 to 5:00 P.M. in the school parking lot of St. John Street Education Center on St. John Street, off Broadway. Come and enjoy the music, raffles, a free car wash, bake sale, and more! The rain date is June 6. Also, be sure to mark your calendars now for Friday, **June 20**, when the Boys & Girls Club stages its **Talent Show**. The show begins at 6:00 P.M., at the St. John Street Education Center. Admission will be \$1.00.

Try the ‘Homework Hotline’ Pilot

The newly-installed RJK “**Homework Hotline**” pilot program is available now to help students stay on top of their assignments. A recording will state the day’s homework in the four core subjects by team. The recording will repeat as many times as needed. The system can be accessed after 2:30 P.M. by dialing the school’s telephone number, 796-3058, and the team’s extension:

Team 8K (dial extension 20703)

Team 7R (dial extension 20702)

Team 6R (dial extension 20701)

If the pilot program is considered successful, the District will implement it for all teams beginning in September, 2008. Let the school know what you think of it.

School Budget Passes

This is to thank the residents of our school district for passing the 2008-2009 school budget on May 20. The proposition to replace three school buses was also passed.

Now, everyone, let’s start talking football....

School District To Erect Wind Turbine

By Fall, we’ll be able to see something new on the landscape — a wind turbine! The proposed 22-foot diameter turbine will sit atop a 100-foot high support and will be situated between the high school and Rutherford Elementary School. We’re going greener!

RJK Presents

Spring Awakening

It's wonderful to watch the snow melt, and hear the first birds. But this year, instead of just enjoying spring, how about taking advantage of it!

In this issue we're featuring the title *Spring Awakening*, centering on the idea of using spring as a fresh start. Everybody makes mistakes, and everyone does things that they regret.

We're inviting you to try out the idea of refreshing yourself by starting anew. Have a hobby idea you want to try? Want to boost your grades before finals? Have you been avoiding cleaning out your closet for the past few months?

It's time to do the things that you've been waiting to do, so you can get a fresh start for spring. Now we're going to give you the building blocks for how to do just that.

Raising Your Grades

Sometimes when you get the winter slumps, it can be difficult to focus on your grades. Before we begin to stress about finals, try to boost your fallen math grade, so you can take more time focusing on the enjoyable parts of spring: the impending summer break!

Students sometimes don't know how to begin raising their grades. Talk to your teachers about doing extra credit work, and attend lunch and after-school tutorials to catch up on missed assignments and learn the material you need.

One important thing to remember is never to feel ashamed about your grades. If you put in the effort, you should be proud of whatever mark you receive.

Classic Spring Cleaning

Everyone has some type of clutter built up. Winter objects, such as gloves and hats that seem to have built

a permanent home in your locker really have to go! Who can enjoy the warm weather when you catch a glimpse of a reminder of the cold winter months every time you open your locker?

Contemporary Spring Cleaning

Besides the classic spring cleaning, there is another type of de-cluttering that is a good idea. Removing "waste" from your mind and your life can be as beneficial as a twelve hours' night sleep. "**Frenemies**" (people who pretend to be friends with you, but who are actually your enemies) can really clog up your head.

Another type of de-cluttering is to remove yourself from situations or activities that don't make you happy or help you to feel good about yourself.

Are you in a sport that is eating up all your time and not really enjoying it? We're not telling you to quit, but talk to your coach about working out a system that you both can agree on and enjoy.

Trying Something New

Everyone has a secret desire. Some people want to learn to skateboard, and others want to learn to make pottery. Sign up for a class, or buy the materials you need to participate in your dream and learn on your own. Now is as good a time as ever to learn a hobby that you're interested in.

Summing Up

To sum up this column, I want to plant this seed of an idea in your head: If you really want to do something, or want to change your life in some way, spring is a time of new birth. Take strides to do what you love and improve your life. No one deserves to have a depressing, cluttered, annoying feeling. Slough off the stress and use this bright, cheerful season to help discover the new you!

Plant a tree.

Plant a bush.

Plant a flower.

And water.





Spotlight on Mrs. Rutkowski

By Rachelle Walker



I had the great pleasure of interviewing Mrs. Rutkowski for our third issue. The experience was very insightful and helped me understand what learning a language does for people.

Mrs. Rutkowski is a wonderful French teacher. She has taught in Monticello for twenty years. Her love of languages inspired her to teach and she has spread knowledge to many children.

Some of her favorite things about teaching French are that it gives you a view into the world, and it opens your mind to other peoples' cultures. Another part of teaching that she loves is that her students are very funny.

Mrs. Rutkowski is also a very well-educated woman. She attended Philadelphia High School for Girls, Temple University, and a college in Florida.

She has also met many different people from all around the world because she operated a Bed and Breakfast



establishment in France for nine years.

She loved her stays in France because she experienced many wonderful things. Yet her love of knowl-

edge and teaching drew her back to America to teach.

Mrs. Rutkowski has been working in our school for many years and has witnessed many children maturing. One change she has noticed during this time is that many children no longer seem to take much responsibility for their work, or their actions.

Mrs. Rutkowski has enjoyed her many years of teaching. She has done numerous things to benefit our school. Her trip to Paris, taking with her twenty-two tourists, mainly students and their parents, from our school was a big success! She wishes to do the same again soon.

We are highly indebted to Mrs. Rutkowski for her many years as an excellent teacher of French at our school.

Thank you, Mrs. Rutkowski, for this interview. We hope you are here for many more years!

Sports

Spotlight on JV Sports

By Staff

Though you may not know this, a few of Monticello Middle School's own students have participated in JV or even Varsity sports this year. The most common have been skiing and track throughout the fall and spring, and a few young men and women have also done softball and baseball this spring.

We'd like to focus on the four students who have gone the extra lengths of participating in sports this season. Spring sport JV participants include our very own Paulina Pavese and Samantha Cohen for softball and Sean Ruess for baseball.

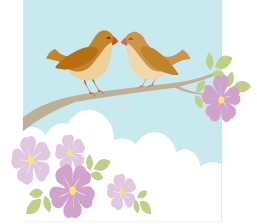
These students have shown exceptional abilities and commitment to their chosen sports, and we would like to commend their efforts. Participating in sports above your age level shows a type of responsibility that is rare in young people these days.

So, in closing, we would like to congratulate all JV and Varsity participants throughout this school year. We wish the best this season to spring players.

Spring Awakening

Word Search

S E I G R E L L A L
 E S V R S U R T W E
 I R A I N D E A S F
 L B C S O N R F E L
 F I A W V M R I E O
 R F T R T E H R B W
 E N I H S N U S U E
 T R O H A S I S R R
 T S N R N L U S R S
 U T S F L I I S H R
 B A N B E I W I E A



WORD BANK

FRESH
RAIN
WARMTH
ALLERGIES
FLOWERS

BIRDS
BEEES
BUTTERFLIES
SUNSHINE
VACATION