

Attention Loyal Supporters!

In the past, we have received many gifts using the donor envelopes that have been included in our newsletters. With our new newsletter format, these envelopes will not be included. However, we hope you will use the form below when sending in a gift. Your continuing generosity will ensure we are able to provide exceptional educational opportunities for deaf children.

Yes!

I am delighted to support the Rochester School for the Deaf.

Enclosed is my gift of \$ _____

GIVING LEVELS:

- Friend \$1-\$99
- Partner \$100-\$249
- Sponsor \$250-\$499
- Director's Level \$500-\$999
- President's Level \$1000-\$1,875
- Founder's Level \$1,876 and up (1876 was the year the school was established)
- Memorial Gift (In memory of _____)
- Honorary Gift (In honor of _____)
- My employer (or spouse's employer) will match my contribution. (Enclosed is my matching gift form.)
- Rochester School for the Deaf is named in my will.
- I want to include Rochester School for the Deaf in my will. Please send me information.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____

VISA, Mastercard, and American Express are also accepted. (Please circle one.)

Card # _____

Name on card _____

Expiration date _____

Signature _____



Inside This Issue...

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Building Futures is designed to keep staff, families, and friends of Rochester School for the Deaf informed about the school's programs. Communication with the school is encouraged. To learn more, please contact us today at 585-544-1240 (Voice/TTY) or visit our website at www.RSDeaf.org.

Harold M. Mowl, Jr., Ph.D., Superintendent



Building Futures

Fall 2005

Issue No.109

A NEWSLETTER FROM THE ROCHESTER SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF

Into the Wild!

Adventures in Education with Rusty Johnson, Explorer and Wildlife Educator

Renowned Explorer and Educator Rusty Johnson will emerge from the jungles of the Amazon as our featured guest for our Adventures in Education program, Thursday, October 20, 2005 at the Rochester School for the Deaf Auditorium. Prepare yourself for an exotic experience as Mr. Johnson presents "The Twilight of the Wild," an educational journey that bridges the gap between humans and the earth's wild creatures, and even includes live animal ambassadors.

Having spent many years in both the Amazon and African wilds, Mr. Johnson will help us to understand more about the fragile world ecology, the challenges to help preserve our natural wilds, and the opportunities to leave a lasting, positive impact on our earth.

To prepare for this unique event, RSD students in all grades will be studying world cultures and environments, as well as other related subjects. Now in its 13th year at RSD, Adventures in Education is a six-week program that fosters student learning and exploration in enriching and exciting ways.

An hors d'oeuvre and dessert reception will begin at 5:00 p.m. in the Learning Resource Center, followed by the 7:00 p.m. presentation. Interpreters and

real-time captioning will be provided. Immediately after the presentation, Mr. Johnson will be available at a book sale and signing. Tickets for the reception and presentation are \$45 (\$80 for patron level support and \$250+ for underwriting support).

As part of this exciting evening, the annual Perkins Founder's Award and the Lyon Founder's Award will be presented to this year's recipients. The Perkins Founder's Award, which recognizes individuals who have provided outstanding service to RSD as benefactor, volunteer, board member, or community leader, will be presented to Mr. Gilman Perkins, great grandson of the founders of RSD. He has served the RSD Board for 34 years, and follows a long line of family members who have served on the Board. The Lyon Founder's Award will be presented to Ms. Carla Bonaldi for her professional contributions to the education of the deaf. Ms. Bonaldi has been a teacher for 26 years and has positively impacted the lives of countless students.

RSD would like to thank our Honorary Chairpersons Charlotte and Leo Landhuis, and the Adventures in Education Committee for their efforts in bringing this extraordinary learning opportunity to our doorstep. We also



Adventures in Education speaker, Rusty Johnson and owl "animal ambassador."

extend special thanks to the Board of Directors and our generous individual and corporate supporters who have helped us deliver another awesome Adventures in Education program.

Proceeds from Adventures in Education are used to further RSD's educational programs and other exciting learning opportunities for our students. For more information or to purchase tickets, contact the school at (585) 544-1240 (V/TTY).

Rochester School for the Deaf 1545 St. Paul Street, Rochester, NY 14621

A Preeminent Provider of Educational, Developmental and Evaluation Services to Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Children and Their Families in the Nation

To learn more, please contact us today at 585-544-1240 (Voice/TTY) or visit our website at www.RSDeaf.org



Summer Work Experience

LEARNING VALUABLE SKILLS, ON AND OFF CAMPUS

Any opportunity to learn valuable skills and gather practical work experience helps to bolster academics and gives students an important sense of achievement outside of the classroom. That's why RSD has made a strong push to involve students in part and full time work, both on and off campus.

Led by RSD staff members Laurie Way, Betsy Waughtel, Paul Kelly, Scott Gentzke, Julie Shahin, Rick Simpson, Kathy Wright, Charles Forty, and Debra Metzger, approximately 40 students put forth tremendous effort across a wide range of fields during the summer program, which ran from July 11 through August 19, 2005. Here are a few of the highlights:

Off Campus

- Chad Evingham and Jamil Haque worked with Margaret's House at Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT) as classroom interns with their Lil Kids on Campus program. Margaret's House is a child care center on the RIT campus, and the Lil Kids on Campus program is for children in Grades 1-4. As interns, Chad and Jamil proved to be a tremendous help with the children in the program.
- Matt Poe and Daniel Baker were part of the grounds-keeping crew at The Strong Museum facilities department. The boys did an outstanding job and the Museum was appreciative of their help.
- As their first off-campus work experience, Keila Heredia, Jaime DiLella, and Jessica Derleth spent many hours at Ward's Natural Science where they packaged science kits. The kits are distributed to high schools, colleges and universities across the country.

On Campus

- Under the supervision of RSD teacher Paul Kelly, a woodworking crew of five students was formed to tackle woodworking projects around the campus. The crew was responsible for several projects, which involved repairing, refinishing, and refurbishing furniture, doors, outdoor seating, and wooden play equipment.
- RSD teacher Scott Gentzke led a graphic arts crew that planned and painted wall murals at the school. Students learned the creative planning process and painting techniques. Their handiwork can be seen in the hallway of Westervelt Hall as well as around the art room.
- Students Monica Wilmot, Victoria Foster, Ameena Patterson, and Barbara Spiecker were involved in scheduling, planning, and facilitating a number of summer activities and events. They planned a crafts and computer activity, and a "water fun" event for ECC and elementary students, an obstacle course event for elementary students, and a "Survivor" week for our middle school students. These young ladies stepped up to the challenge of taking on the responsibilities of running a classroom and were quite impressive with their maturity and ability to plan and manage a number of events.

Summer was far from a quiet time as all across the bustling campus, students gained experience as classroom interns, grounds and maintenance crews, transportation interns, dietary services staff, office support assistants, and physical education interns. It was a most satisfying summer, enjoyed by staff and student workers equally. Most importantly, these sorts of experiences help students to grow and learn in fun and unique ways.

Summer Fun & Learning

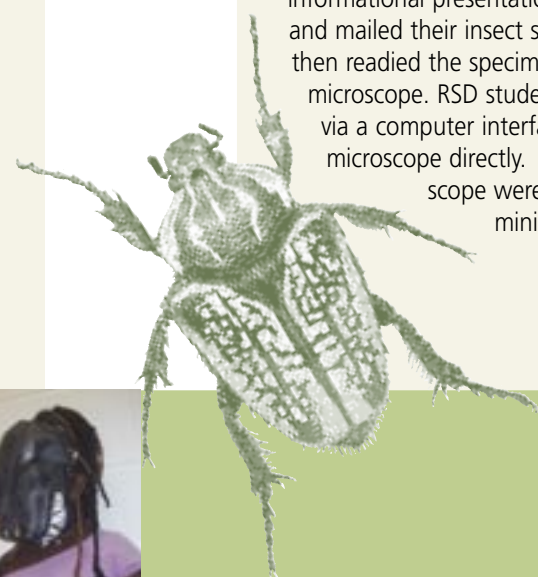
EXCITING ACTIVITIES KEEP STUDENTS ENGAGED

Early this summer school session, RSD primary and elementary students caught Red Wing fever when Travis Bowyer, pitcher for the Rochester Red Wings baseball team paid a visit to the school. As a culminating activity surrounding a thematic unit on sports, Travis taught the students how to throw fastballs and curve balls and demonstrated appropriate handling of the bat and batting stance. He encouraged students to try on protective gear as supplied by 11-year-old Penfield Little League player Dylan Burrows, son of RSD teacher Angela Burrows. Mr. Bowyer told the students to pursue their dreams, citing that role models in his life led to his career as a professional ball-player. The students were thrilled to meet him. Thanks to the Red Wings and Mr. Bowyer for this exciting visit.

During Mid-August, several of our students were able to get "up close and personal" with bugs! Through a program offered by the University of Illinois, students remotely operated an electron microscope right from the Learning Resource Center mini-theater. The university's powerful microscope's magnification gives views 20 to 1000 times larger than the actual size. In preparation for the day, participating students put together a brief informational presentation about the insect they chose and mailed their insect specimens to the university, which then readied the specimens for viewing under the electron microscope. RSD students connected to the microscope via a computer interface and were able to control the microscope directly. Real time images from the microscope were projected on the screen in the mini-theater for easy viewing by all.

Summer School is also a great time to prepare for fall events like Adventures in Education – this year featuring Rusty Johnson, Explorer and Wildlife Educator. As a tie-in to that event, teacher Patti Wink brought an array of animals from her home to RSD for students to study and experience first hand. The visiting animals were a ball python, bearded dragon lizard, leopard gecko and hermit crab. Several teachers and their classes came together as students of all ages watched, measured, and held the animals, and learned all sorts of facts about their habitats, diets, and more. Mrs. Wink stated, "This was a fantastic way for the kids to gear up for Mr. Johnson's visit. Seeing the animals live helps build the excitement and anticipation."

Summer is still a time to learn—albeit in fun and unusual ways—and these are just a few of the activities that were enjoyed by about 80 RSD summer school students during the six-week program from July 11 through August 19, 2005. Many thanks to the faculty and staff of RSD who provide engaging learning opportunities through the fleeting months of summer to brighten our students' days and build their futures.



Summer Photo Gallery



Young students learn that community helpers are their friends.



Students act out the book, *The True Story of the Three Little Pigs*.

What's more fun than eating snacks? Making them first!



Students learn basic physics concepts by building a working model of a roller coaster.



NEW LOOK FOR RSD MATERIALS:

We are pleased to present our newsletter in a new bold and colorful format. We have extended this unique and energetic look across all of our informational pieces and website as an expression of the commitment, vitality and enthusiasm we exude every day at RSD. We encourage you to visit our new website at www.RSDeaf.org.