



Building Futures ...since 1876

February 10, 2010

RSD Building Bridges: a once weekly digest of news and information for RSD families and friends, about our school and the Deaf community. [Follow this link](#) for a PDF version of this edition of Building Bridges. Find past issues in the [RSD Web site Newsletters Center](#).

RSD will be closed Monday, February 15 for Presidents' Day. Mid-Winter Recess for students is February 16-19. Classes for students resume on Monday, February 22. [Please follow this link](#) for the February RSD lunch menu and [follow this link](#) for the February Wildcat Zone Residential and Student Life Activities Calendar.

Storytelling and RSD READS

Tomorrow evening, Thursday, February 11 from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., in the Learning Resource Center, RSD Deaf Artist in Residence Patrick Graybill will present the RSD READS program to the community. All are welcome to attend, however please RSVP to [Denise Stappenbeck](#) or 585-286-2841 VP. For more information about this event, please [follow this Web link](#). Save this date: Thursday, April 1 for the "Patrick A. Graybill Storytelling Festival" at RSD.

Parent Staff Association: Mark your calendars! The next PSA meeting is March 1 from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Please attend and help us plan future PSA events! This meeting will be held in the LRC and will be interpreted! Future PSA meeting dates: April 5 and May 3.

Let's Get Physical! Please mark your calendar for another very important date: March 11, from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. RSD Physical Education Department and RASA @ RSD invite RSD families to a Project D.E.A.F. Open House, Healthy Family Dinner and Fitness Night. Dinner will be provided but please RSVP by March 4. For complete details [please follow this Web link](#).

Parents: Your child/children may be spending a lot of time online chatting with other friends. Do you know if they are practicing online safety? Check out the Web site: www.safekids.com/quiz and take the quiz together with your child. It's intended for elementary and above students, and it covers issues such as bullying and giving out personal information. It is a good way to educate your child about how to protect themselves while online.

We are still looking for Volunteers/Walkers! Please spread the word! RSD 2010 River Ramble Volunteers: We're gearing up for our 2nd Annual River Ramble - RSD's 5K run/walk to be held on Saturday, June 5 - and we're looking for volunteers to help us in various capacities (as committee members, race day helpers, refreshment table volunteers, and so on). To learn more please contact Bill Keenan at 585-336-5884 or BKeenan@RSDeaf.org.

Community Basketball at RSD! RSD and the Rochester School for the Deaf Alumni Association invite one and all to participate in community basketball, Fridays from 4 to 7 p.m. in the Westervelt Hall gym. All are welcome. [Follow this Web link for details](#). RSDAA Community Basketball will not be held on February 19 and March 19.

News from the [Wildcat Den](#). The [RSD Martial Arts Club](#) returns February 22. Please consider this activity for your child/children. For more information about the after-school program in Martial Arts at RSD please contact [Mr. Chris Bradley](#), Director of Student Life Programs: 585-336-5876, 866-340-7760 (videophone).

ASL classes for RSD parents and family members are also offered on Monday afternoons from 2:00 to 3:00 p.m. in the Lyon Hall Conference Room #101. Ms. Terri Mertz is the ASL instructor. Please contact Terri in advance if you would like to attend these classes. Contact Terri at TMertz@rsdeaf.org. Unfortunately due to lack of attendance the Wednesday morning class from 8:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. in the Lyons Hall Conference Room #101 has been canceled.

RSD Signs for All: Spring SFA session is right around the corner. Spring is a great time to sharpen your ASL skills, so that you and your family can have a fun and enjoyable summertime. For all of the details about SFA Spring 2010 classes, [please follow this link](#).

Advocacy for RSD and 4201 Schools - We Still Need Your Help! The Deficit Reduction Plan in New York State will reduce aid to our eleven 4201 Schools totaling \$7.7 million. Now more than ever, we as RSD families, staff, and former students must communicate to our elected representatives our strong opposition to these drastic cuts. [Please follow this Web link](#) for more information on how you can help. Thank you.

Rochester After School Academy at RSD is free and is open to all deaf and hard-of-hearing students living and attending schools in the Rochester and Monroe County area. RASA @ RSD provides high-quality academic, recreational, and social after-school activities. [Please follow this Web link](#) for more information, including contacts, the link to download the RASA@RSD registration form, and a new link to the RASA @ RSD annual calendar.

Summer Science & Technology Entry Program (STEP) - an interactive summer program for deaf students in grades 8 to 12 - is 4-weeks of hands-on learning designed to expose highly motivated students to professional work experiences. Last year

the program had its first deaf participant, and more deaf students are encouraged to attend this year. Open to NY State residents, all [application materials](#) are due by February 5, 2010. [Please visit the STEP Web site](#) for more details and contact [Kim Kelstone](#) if you have any questions.

RSD Early Childhood Programs presents a brand new, informational booklet "A Positive Approach to Raising a Deaf Child: Information for New Parents of Deaf Infants and Toddlers" by Andrea Kahn-Richie, with support and co-writing by ECC staff Dawn Rood and Marilyn Curley. It's available any time as a free digital download. [Visit the Web pages for RSD Early Childhood Programs](#) and click on the booklet banner.

RIT/NTID Dance Company presents "Sleeping Beauty" February 11-14, 2010, in NTID's Robert F. Panara Theater on the RIT campus. [Please follow this link](#) for details about the show and ticket information.

The Rochester Broadway Theatre League and the Hearing Loss Association of American Rochester Chapter present open-captioned stage shows at the Auditorium Theatre. Captioned performances include: Spring Awakening, Sunday, February 14, 2:00 p.m. [\[Ticket order form\]](#); Grease, Sunday, March 21, 2:00 p.m.; Wicked, Sunday, April 18, 2:00 p.m. For information about tickets and special seating arrangements please contact Stephen Rapp at 325-7760 x3101 or srapp@rbtl.org

To join the Building Bridges distribution list, update your e-mail address or to opt out, contact:

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