



Elementary News

Rochester School for the Deaf

February 2008

Upcoming Dates and Events:

March 21st - Good Friday. No School

April 11th - End of 2nd Quarter

April 12th-20th - Spring Recess. No School

www.rsdeaf.org

Interview with Ski Club Advisor, Mr. DiGiovanni

Reported by Briana DiGiovanni

I sat down with Anthony DiGiovanni, my father, to ask him about the Ski club at RSD and a few questions about himself. Mr. DiGiovanni set up the ski club because he wanted to teach kids how to become expert skiers. He hopes that the students will be involved with skiing for their whole life. Mr. DiGiovanni is hoping to bring the Ski club to Gore Mountain and White Face Mountain for a couple special trips this winter season.

Mr. DiGiovanni, himself, has gone to more than 20

mountains in his life! His all time favorites are Vail Mountain in Colorado, Alta Mountain in Utah and Stowe Mountain in Vermont.

When asked if he had any advice for Ski club members he explained that Deaf skiers should get an access pass for New York State. An access pass allows Deaf people to ski for free at Gore Mountain, White Face Mountain, and Bellaire Mountain.

Anthony DiGiovanni really enjoys being the Ski team advisor and he hopes to continue the club every year here at RSD.

Interview with Members of Ski Club

Reported by Briana DiGiovanni

This year a group of students from fourth and fifth grade have been skiing together at Bristol Mountain on Monday evenings. All of the skiers are at different levels. The beginners in the ski club are Marlena, Gabby, and Luisa. These three girls are partners when they go to Bristol. All three of the girls reported that they love skiing. Gabby and Luisa shared with me that the biggest challenge for them when they are skiing is trying to stay up and not fall down. Marlena said her biggest challenge is trying to get back up after she falls.

The skiers at the medium level of the ski team are Dalton and myself. We are partners every

time we go skiing. Both of us absolutely love skiing. It is our all time favorite activity in the wintertime. We are both skiing on blue level hills. Some of the blue level hills include Sunset, Glazy and Southern Cross. Dalton said his biggest challenges are the steep hills on the blue trail and moguls. My biggest challenge is the mogul run too.

AV is the only student who skis at the expert level on black diamond trails. AV and our dad Anthony DiGiovanni are partners. They really enjoy skiing. AV's biggest challenge is very steep hills on double black diamond. Anthony DiGiovanni reported his biggest challenge is skiing over moguls on the hills.



Leap Year

Reported by Briana DiGiovanni

This year is a Leap year. A Leap year happens when we have 366 days instead of the usual 365 days in ordinary year. The extra day was added on February 29 and is called a intercalary day. Intercalary means a day or month that is inserted to make the calendar year equal to the solar year. The year 2008 is called a intercalary year. (www.free-dictionary.com/intercalary). People realized a long time ago that our calendar didn't match with the solar year. The Egyptians were the first people to come up with the idea of a

leap year. The Romans decided to put the Leap year on February 29th. The reason a leap year happens is because it takes the earth 364 and $\frac{1}{4}$ days to revolve around the sun. The $\frac{1}{4}$ of a day adds up to a whole day after 4 years and that is why a leap year only happens every four years. If we did not add one day then our calendar wouldn't match the solar year. The next leap year will happen in 2012.



Why Daylight Savings Time?

In keeping with our reporting on Leap Year, it would make sense to report on Daylight Saving Time, which just took effect this week.

We had to set our clocks ahead an hour - losing an hour of sleep on Sunday. You might know that Daylight Saving Time has been extended from the original April - to-October schedule to the newer March-through-November period. Its all supposed to save energy. But do we actually save energy? An Indiana state study found that they actually spent billions more in energy costs!

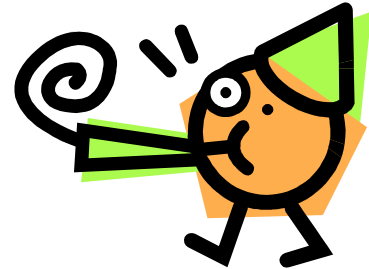
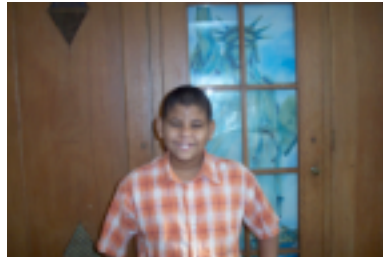
One great thing is that we get to see more of each other!



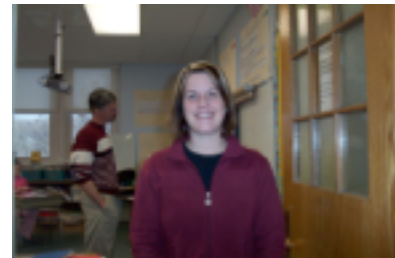
Elementary Birthdays!

Reported by Dalton Taylor

Miss O'Hare's birthday was on January 17th. Her favorite cake is white cake with white frosting. The gift she most wanted for her birthday was a claddagh ring. She went out to dinner for her birthday. Gabriel's birthday was on January 28th. The gift he wanted to receive was the Thomas train. On his birthday he played with the Thomas train. Tre's birthday is on February 24th. His favorite cake is chocolate. The gift he wanted was a Gameboy. Tre invited people to go his party at Chuck E. Cheese. Happy Birthday to you, January and February people.



Birthdays are a special thing!



TV-Turn-Off Week

Reported by Dalton Taylor

During the week of April 21-27, the New York State Department of Health and the Center for SCREEN-TIME have asked that all students and their families turn off their televisions, computer and video games. The reason they have set aside this time is because they want to encourage kids and their families to become active. The article I read from the State of New York Department of Health said "Excessive screen time, particularly television, has an adverse impact on children and their families. It is associated with increased risk of obesity, less nutritious meals and snacks, and increased violence." (French, 2008) I was surprised to read that children between 8 and 18 years old average 5.5 hours of screen time (television, video games, and computer everyday). I think it would better for kids and their friends to go outside and play football or any sport instead of staying inside

and watching TV, playing on the computer, or playing video games. It is recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics that children over the age of 2 limit their screen time to no more than 2 hours per day. So, during the week of April 21-27 students and their families should get outside and play and stay out of the house, away from the television, computers and video games.



