

NEWSLETTER

January 29, 2018

Happy 2018!



Community Open House Night

On Thursday, February 22, ROWVA will be hosting a community open house night. Mrs. Carlson is in the process of revamping our LMC; there will be several books available for free. The building trades program will be raffling off the playhouse, picnic tables, and adirondack chairs. Tickets will be available for purchase that night. The elementary will be showcasing their genius hour projects at every grade level. The junior high will have a book museum, a wax museum, projects, and more. The high school will be showing class projects from throughout the year. Come for dinner in the cafetorium and stay for a night of fun. There will be a district-wide scavenger hunt with prizes available at the end of the night. Last year, we had almost 500 people at the event. We are hoping to top that this year! Please come out to see all of the wonderful things our students are doing.

What's happening in the Elementary?

House Update

Our last House Meeting was December 21st. We began our meeting with everyone in the gym. We discussed that even though we may belong to different houses, we are all part of the ROWVA Central Elementary Family. We must remember to be kind, safe, and responsible members and treat others with kindness and respect as well. The meeting continued with the game called "Clump." A teacher would call out a number and students had to form a "clump" of that number with members of other houses. After the game concluded, all the houses returned to their meeting spots. The next challenge was to build a bridge for a ball to cross. Students were given a limited number of resources to complete the task, and it was interesting to see the different designs they came up with. Students and staff had another house meeting on January 19. Students and staff dressed in their House color from head to toe. The meeting began by teaching the character trait of self-discipline. Students talked about how to stop, think, and then react to a situation. We thought of a traffic light to remind us what to do. Red, stop. Yellow, think about how to react. Green, Take action. Students were given different scenarios and were asked to role play the appropriate way to react to a situation using self-discipline. After that, the students were challenged to build a structure that could hold as many pennies as possible with various materials.

1st Quarter Winners: Tankare



2nd Quarter Winners: Sonadores



Upcoming Events

Beat the winter blues with BINGOPALOOZA! On January 30th from 6:00-7:00 PM, bring the family and come play bingo. There will be different types of Bingo and prizes for the winners.

ROWVA Elementary will have a visit from a sled dog team and their musher on January 31. Sled dogs must trust one another as well as their musher. They must work as a team to accomplish a common goal. We are looking forward to this visit .

High School/Junior High

ROWVA senior named State Scholar

Oneida – Nate Peters has been named a 2018-2019 Illinois State Scholar.

Based on his exceptional class rank and SAT scores, this senior has been named among the top academic students in the state. There is no application to complete for the State Scholar Program; standardized test scores and performance-based academic data reported by the high school are key factors in the formula used to determine eligibility.

High school counselors provide necessary information including the sixth semester class rank. Sixth semester is defined as the third semester prior to graduation, which is typically the end of a student's junior year, summer term not included.

Illinois State Scholars are chosen specifically from ACT or SAT scores, and from the class rank as of their sixth semester of high school, after their junior year but before senior year.

FFA

Don't forget that we have biscuits and gravy every Friday in the Ag room! All proceeds go to Relay for Life. Come by the Ag room to get yours between 7:20-7:50.

Scholastic Bowl

Scholastic Bowl team started their Matches Jan. 4. They compete every Thursday through February. Varsity will compete in 3 or 4 Tournaments on Saturdays. This past Saturday, they placed 4th out of 20 teams in a tournament.

NHS Sells Treats to Raise Funds

Every week, NHS members sell treats to raise money for their dues and activities, along with buying crafts for RaT pack. If you would like to learn more about this, or buy treats from the organization, contact Nate Peters at npeters18@rowva.k12.il.us

Musical

The musical this year will be *Disaster!* It's about people on a cruise ship who encounter a series of disastrous weather phenomena. The production also includes many hits from the 70s. Keep your eyes open for the date!

Sports - Upcoming Games

Girls Basketball

- 1-20 LTC Tournament
- 1-22 @ West Central
- 1-24 -vs- Mercer County
- 1-29 -vs- Annawan (Senior Night)
- 1-31 @ Stark County

Boys Basketball

- 1-23 -vs- Ridgewood
- 1-26 LTC Tournament
- 1-27 LTC Tournament
- 1-30 LTC Tournament
- 2-2 LTC Tournament
- 2-3 LTC Tournament
- 2-6 -vs- West Central
- 2-9 @ Mercer County
- 2-10 @ Illini Bluffs
- 2-13 @ Annawan
- 2-16 -vs- Stark County (Senior Night)

Jr. High Volleyball

- 1-22 @ Costa
- 1-23 -vs- Lombard
- 1-24 -vs- Wethersfield
- 1-25 @ Monmouth ICS
- 1-29 @ United
- 1-31 -vs- Galva
- 2-5 @ Stark County
- 2-7 -vs- Annawan
- 2-12 @ Cambridge
- 2-14 -vs- AlWood
- 2-15 @ Visitation
- 2-17 LTC Tournament
- 2-21 @ Monmouth-Roseville



District Page

A Note from Mr. Sornberger

I hope that everyone had a great holiday and that this year will be better than last year. At ROWVA, we are excited about the upcoming open house, school building projects, and student achievements.

On February 22, 2018, ROWVA will be hosting an Community Open House Night. The event will run from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. at both the Elementary and Junior/High School. This is a great event, and we would like everyone in the community to attend and see what creative and exciting things that ROWVA students and teachers are working on in the classroom. This will be the second year of the open house, and we hope to surpass the attendance numbers from last year. Please mark February 22, 2018, on your calendars and bring family and friends.

ROWVA High School building projects are underway. The front entrance has brand new sidewalks and windows. The doors for the T-hall and the front entrance will be replaced beginning in February. The high school roof has had issues for awhile. In late February, the roof by the high school gym will be updated to work on roofing and flashing issues. In other project news, the ROWVA School Board and the ROWVA Public Schools Foundation are working together to remodel the high school chemistry lab. The project is projected to be somewhere from \$100,000 to \$130,000.

I would like to recognize a ROWVA student that has made a positive impact on the ROWVA School District. Whitney Koss is a senior at ROWVA High School. Whitney had an article published about her experience as a ROWVA student and the positive changes that have been made in the high school. This article was published online through the Rural School Collaborative. The article has been included in this community newsletter.

*Newsletter compiled by ROWVA Sophomore Mallory Shea

A RURAL DISTRICT IN WESTERN ILLINOIS EMBRACES OPTIMISM AND CHANGE

Oneida, IL

JANUARY 16, 2018

By Whitney Koss, Senior, ROWVA High School

When thinking of a small town school, it's common to think of the close-knit communities that give teachers and students the opportunities to work together to create individualized learning. I am a proud senior at one of those small rural community schools. ROWVA High School is located in Oneida, IL and consists of five towns: Rio, Oneida, Wataga, Victoria, and Altona. Although we are small, we pride ourselves on making academic improvements. Improvements to the buildings and grounds; however, has been a slower process. Originally the four towns all had their own schools for different ages of kids. Over time, more and more of the age groups began to come together at the Oneida location. We built a new elementary building in 2013, so now all students, K-12, are in Oneida. Although the elementary was new, not much else had changed. The board and superintendent realized we couldn't keep going off of an improvement plan from 1993. It was time for change.

As a student, I would walk over the old mismatched flooring and plain walls, and just see time. Time showed in our school. Other than some small changes, the school had looked the same for years. The appearance of the school has been the same since before I was even born. Alumni from the 1970s could walk through the school and feel as if it were the same from when they went to school. The building should have seen some change from then to now. Change needed to come and it needed to come soon.

Becoming "Future Ready" is something that grabbed the whole school's attention. It is a program where the students, the teachers, and the community have a voice in the changes they want to see in their schools.

The small changes were instant. We, as students, were able to say what we loved and wanted to change about our school. Teachers could voice their opinions and share what they thought needed to change. The community could help us update our image and bring in an outsider's perspective. Because of a new mindset, I watched our school become truly future ready.

The first change the community saw was the physical changes within our school. Students led projects like painting stripes down our hallway to show our Tiger pride and creativity. Then, a new floor was put in. A new floor might seem like a minor change, but it meant our school made a leap away from the way things used to be. At this exact moment, a new entryway is in the process of being finished. Students are even working on a plan to redesign our Learning Media Center in a way that is more comfortable and open for students and teachers to use.

The first change that students and teachers saw was a mindshift towards innovation. Teachers began to show their creativity and experiment with their styles of teaching. This has led to more interactive

styles of teaching that vary from teacher to teacher and keeps students engaged all day. Our teachers don't have to fit a specific mold. They are encouraged to be creative. Technology has also become a strong part of our curriculum. All students in the Elementary have access to multiple computer labs and all students in the Junior High and High School have chromebooks that they take with them to all of their classes. Genius Hour projects are also being integrated into the curriculum. Through Genius Hour projects, students have the opportunity to choose subjects of interest, such as engineering, architecture, and fine arts. They then create a project related to their subject and present it. Our school has accepted a growth mindset.

ROWVA schools have grown so much in the past year. Now as I walk through the halls, I see optimism. Our school has big dreams. With our Future Ready plan and the help of our community, we have many more projects and goals that we wish to accomplish. We now have hopes to build new chemistry, STEM, and innovation labs, and to upgrade all of the classrooms to be 21st century learning spaces. I have seen our community come together in an amazing way, and I can't wait to see what we will accomplish next.