Volleyball Game: Teachers Triumph, Seniors Fall Second
By: Isabella Hudziak

Throughout the years, Richfield Springs has hosted a traditional game between the Senior Class and Staff. Previously, there have been intense basketball games; surprising kickball tournaments; and even a riveting game of trivia. Students gathered in the gym to cheer on a volleyball match during one Friday, March 8.

The Teacher Team, coached by Mrs. Rathbun, was stocked with powerhouses. While they may seem like ordinary teachers during the day, when playing, they are fierce. Mr. D’Apice, Mr. Urtz, and Mr. Busch trekked from their offices to don a competitive spirit. Along with them were teachers Ms. North (math); Mrs. Lamphere; Mrs. Sietsma; Ms. Noyes; Ms. Kingstrom; and other contributing staff: Mr. Frable and Ms. James. When the game came to a start, the secret weapon was revealed: Ms. Shulkie.

The Senior Team, coached by Darien Gavalo, mustered as much school spirit as possible. The majority of the senior class dressed in purple-and-gold attire and cheered each other on. The seniors included: Kennadi Butler; Jenna Ubner; Alicia Pomeroy; Carlie Separa; Walker Dorie; Aaron Bond; Viktor Larkin; Jackie Thomson; Rodney Seamon; Bretten House; Markus Hammont and more!

As soon as referee Mrs. Auger blew the whistle, there was a flurry of action. The volleyball seemed to move from side to side, pushed by bumps and sets of all kinds. In the beginning, the seniors earned numerous points in a row. The score was kept by Mrs. Bobnick and Mrs. Mayne. In the background, a chorus of cheers could be heard from the elementary boosting the spirits of the Teacher Team.

A few notable moments during the game were when Alicia Pomeroy served the ball and it flew through a hole in the ceiling, but did not bounce and was kept in play; when Mr. D’Apice’s shoe flew off; and when Mr. Urtz made a powerful spike that was unstoppable on the senior’s side.

~Continued on Page 3~

RSCS March Madness
By: Orlando Gulley

The popular March Madness tournament for NCAA basketball finally concluded with Virginia beating Texas Tech. With the tournament, Richfield Springs Central School held another annual bracket challenge for teachers and students to participate in.

A total of 33 students and teachers participated (that finished their bracket at least) all with their own varying brackets. Most students ended up picking the main-favorite for winning the championship, Duke, but many brackets were busted due to them losing in the Elite Eight.

The standings were changing every game of the tournament for everybody but by the Sweet 16, most of the top brackets were decided, however many people who were lower in ranking at that point still made a little comeback. The top 5 students and staff in the tournament won a pizza party and the person with the best bracket won an NCAA shirt for a team of their choice.

The top 5 students of the tournament were Andrew Oakley, Damon Thompson, Hannah Bartl, René Wilson, and Kennadi Butler. The top 5 staff were: Ms. Wakefield, Mrs. Seamon, Mr Busch, Ms. North, and Mrs. Young. Congratulations on winning the pizza party and having the best brackets!

The winner with the most points overall was Ms. Wakefield with a staggering 151 points which blew out all competition. I was able to ask her a few questions about the bracket and how she did so well.

Tomahawk: Did you feel good about your bracket from the start?
Wakefield: I didn’t I was gonna win at all, the scores from the beginning scared me.

T: Why did you choose Virginia to win it all?
W: I had a gut feeling about them and I knew Duke wasn’t going to win.

T: If there was one thing you could change about your bracket what would it be?
W: Not having Syracuse go so far.

T: You had Auburn, a 5th seed, going to the final four which actually happened and not many people chose them, why did you?
W: I read an article and it said they were going to be underdogs, so they were my underdog team.

T: What team do you plan to get a shirt for?
W: Syracuse, nothing but love for Syracuse.

The tournament challenge was fun for everybody to participate in.
Senior Spotlights

Jedediah Panko
Birthday: 3/10/2001
Began attending RSCS in: Since preschool in 2006.
Future Plans: To be more involved in Criminal Justice in MVCC, so I could hopefully become a security guard to help society.
Favorite School Memory: Going outside with my friends on the playground during recess.
Favorite Subject: Global/history
Sports (played): Football during middle school.
Favorite Sports Memory: I passed/caught footballs to other teammates while in practice.
Favorite Music Genre: Rock
Favorite Music Artist: Aerosmith and Lynyrd Skynyrd
Favorite Food: Macaroni and cheese
Favorite Movie: Man of Steel and The Dark Knight.
Advice for Underclassmen: Just be yourself and do the best you can do from your own abilities. Learning from your mistakes can help in the future and could improve your knowledge to work together with others.

Gabrielle Shipman
Birthday: April 6th
Began attending RSCS in: 2006 in Kindergarten
Future Plans: Attending Alfred University to get my masters in Clinical Psychology. I plan to travel the world and help veterans with PTSD
Favorite School Memory: Hearing coach Hoose’s life advice during practice
Favorite Subject: Psychology and digital art
Sports (played): before high school: Soccer, basketball, cheer, dance
During high school: Dance, volleyball, soccer
Favorite Sports Memory: Being a part of the dance team
Favorite Music Genre: Depends on my mood, I listen to everything
Favorite Music Artist: Tim McGraw
Favorite Food: Anything wrapped in bacon
Favorite Movie: The Little Mermaid because I’ve always been drawn to the water ever since I can remember. My grandma used to tell me I was part fish.
Any other interesting facts about you?: I am a musical artist in the emo-rap genre and am under the stage name, Sikk Vikk.

Viktor Wyatt Larkin
Birthday: April 21st 2001
Began attending RSCS in: 2006
Future Plans: To move to Pennsylvania after Graduation and start pursuing a career.
Favorite School Memory: Coming back to RSCS in 11th grade and feeling welcomed, getting love and support from old friends and teachers, as well as new ones.
Favorite Subject: English
Favorite Music Genre: Emo-Rap
Favorite Music Artist: Lil Peep
Favorite Food: Chicken Riggies
Favorite Movie: Crazy, Stupid, Love.
Advice for Underclassmen: Never give up, no matter how hard it is at home, how hard it is at school, or how hard relationships may be. You’ll make it. Just have faith in yourself and use the resources around you to succeed.

Alicia Gee
Birthday: February 14, 2001
Began attending RSCS in: 2009
Future Plans: Cosmetology
Favorite School Memory: French Class
Favorite Subject: Science
Sports (played): Softball
Favorite Sports Memory: Going to the Colgate college for a field trip
Favorite Music Genre: Country
Favorite Music Artist: Chris Stapleton
Favorite Food: Mac and Cheese
Favorite Movie: Lion King
Advice for Underclassmen: TRY to stay outta drama
Senior Spotlights

Devin Foster
Birthday: March 5th, 2000
Began attending RSCS in: Kindergarten
Future Plans: Game programming!
Favorite Subject: Social Studies
Favorite Music Genre: Vocaloid
Favorite Food: Tacos
Favorite Movie Genre: Science Fiction and Fantasy
Advice for Underclassmen: Make the most of your years with classmates!

Giavonna Tremain
Birthday: February 9th, 2001
Began attending RSCS: 8th Grade
Future Plans: General studies at HCCC and eventually becoming a social studies teacher.
Favorite Subject: Social Studies
Sports: Soccer
Favorite Memory: Singing songs on the back of the bus before games and watching Monk with Mr. Hudziak during lunch.
Favorite Music: Country
Favorite Food: Chicken riggies
Favorite Movie: We’re the Millers
Advice for Underclassmen: “Get your work done and come to school or you’ll be here longer than you want.”

Alicia Pomeroy
Birthday: November 23, 2001
Began attending RSCS in: Kindergarten
Future Plans: Attending MVCC for radiology and then transferring to Upstate Medical University.
Favorite School Memory: Our class discussions in Government.
Favorite Subject: English
Sports played: Soccer
Favorite Sports Memory: Scoring goals
Favorite Music Genre: Pop
Favorite Music Artist: Taylor Swift
Favorite Food: Mac and cheese
Favorite Movie: Forrest Gump
Advice for Underclassmen: “Make memories with your class while you still can.”

Student-Teacher Volleyball Game
~Continued from Page 1~

The teacher’s triumphed in the first set with a close score of 25 to 23 points. As the bell rung in 10th period, the teams switched sides for a second set. The game continued, packed with action. The teachers and seniors were tied multiple times during both sets, but after each close call, the teachers jumped back into action to take the winning title.

The second set ended with cheers of victory from the Teacher Team, who won with 25 points to the Senior Team’s 19. The Teacher Team remains victorious in this yearly tradition, but who knows what next year may hold?
Junior Future Prep: Job Shadows
By: Isabella Hudziak

During the morning of April 1, RSCS Juniors boarded a school bus to Herkimer County Community College. Brochures, pens, and knowledge of potential colleges were acquired. Students were encouraged to speak with representatives to get a feel for what college might best suit them in the near-coming future. Mr. Busch helped set up a job shadow for each student, where they would watch a professional work to get an understanding of job fields they are interested in. Students were expected to dress professionally and exercise the best behavior.

Promptly after the college fair, the majority of students were separated between two buses for drop-off at their job shadow locations. A few students stayed on Herkimer campus to follow a Science Professor and meet with a Military Recruiter. The buses followed time-efficient routes to adequately drop students off for the most time available to complete the shadow.

Locations ranged from the Family Court offices in Herkimer, to the police station, a hospital, Herkimer College campus, and even a car-dealership. Students were given packets of questions to interview their mentor to get the most out of the experience. Mr. Busch & Herkimer BOCES took special care to play students in careers they had previously shown interest in, such as newspaper editing and agriculture.

“It was really cool to follow Judge Brennan around,” said Isabella Hudziak. “He was really kind, and gave me a true insight on how being a Family Court clerk can work. It’s a very emotionally taxing and time-consuming profession, but being able to help a family-especially children- seems worth it.” Professionals were graciously given permission and time to allow students to interview them, which was a great opportunity for learning.

Tori Graml went to the Mohawk Valley Community Action Agency. There, the facility exercises childcare. “I knew beforehand that I wanted to work with children,” she said. “It helped me realize how many necessities children really need.”

This opportunity proved to be an unforgettable experience. For some, it opened the doors to potential internships to further explore their career of interest. For others, it may not have been the job they wanted, but it gave a new perspective on work and allowed them to understand what adult-life can be like.

Athletes of the Month

Joseph Seamon
Tomahawk: What is your favorite part about playing baseball?
Joey: Having a team to fall back on- off and on the field.

T: When did you decide to start playing baseball? Why?
J: In 5th grade to hang out with my friends more.

T: Do you plan to go to college and continue playing? If yes, what college?
J: No, I’m not that good.

T: Do you have plans for after high school and/or college?
J: Herkimer College for Criminal Justice to hopefully become a State Trooper.

T: Are you excited about this season? What goals do you hope to achieve?
J: Yes. I want to hit a home run!

T: How do you keep yourself motivated?
J: “It’s not motivation, it’s a lifestyle.” (Also, the fans who show up to games)

T: As an athlete, what is some advice you would give underclassmen considering baseball?
J: Do not suck, and if you’re not first, you’re last.

Caroline Furner
Tomahawk: What is your favorite part about playing softball?
Caroline: My favorite part about playing softball is the competition.

T: When did you start playing? Why?
C: I started playing softball 6 years ago. I started to play softball because I wanted to play sports with my friends and I would be the first to play softball in my family

T: Do you plan to go to college, and if do, do you plan to play softball? If so, which college do you hope to play for?
C: I am planning to go to college, I am not planning to play softball in college.

T: Do you have plans for after high school and/or college, or are you still deciding?
C: I am planning to go to college after high school but I am not sure what I am going for yet.

T: Are you excited about this season? What goals do you hope to achieve?
C: I am excited about my season, the goal I want to achieve is to get better at softball.

T: As an athlete, what is some advice you would give underclassmen considering softball, or a sport in general?
C: Some advice I would give to a underclassmen considering sports is to play and get the experience of playing with other people.
What is Easter?
Easter is a Christian holiday that celebrates the belief in the resurrection of Jesus Christ. The holiday concludes the “Passion of Christ”, a series of events and holidays that begins with Lent, which is a 40-day period of fasting, prayer and sacrifice. Lent ends with Holy Week, which includes Holy Thursday, the celebration of Jesus’ Last Supper, Good Friday, on which Jesus’ crucifixion is observed, and Easter Sunday.

When Is Easter?
Easter 2019 occurs on Sunday, April 21. Easter falls on a different date each year though.
Easter Sunday is considered a “moveable feast”. Despite its significance as a Christian holy day, many of the traditions and symbols in Easter observances actually have roots in pagan celebrations. Particularly the pagan goddess Eostre, the ancient Germanic goddess of spring.

Religious Tradition of Easter
The resurrection of Jesus, as described in the New Testament of the Bible, is essentially the foundation upon which the Christian religions are built. Hence, Easter is a very significant date on the Christian calendar. According to the New Testament, Jesus was arrested by the Roman authorities, essentially because he claimed to be the “Son of God”. He was sentenced to death by Pontius Pilate, the Roman prefect in the province of Judea from 26 to 36 A.D. Jesus’ death by crucifixion and subsequent resurrection three days later is said, by the authors of the gospels, to prove that he was the living son of God. In varying ways, all four of the gospels in the New Testament state that those who believe in Jesus’ death and resurrection are given “the gift of eternal life”.

Passover and Easter
Easter is also associated with the Jewish holiday of Passover as described in the Old Testament. These links are clearly seen in the Last Supper, which occurred the night before Jesus’ arrest. The Last Supper was essentially a Passover feast. However, the New Testament describes it as being given new significance by Jesus: He identified the bread he shared with his 12 apostles as his “body” and the cup of wine they drank as his “blood”. These rituals would come to symbolize the sacrifice he was about to make in death. As Jesus’ arrest and execution were said to have occurred during the Jewish observance of Passover, the Easter holiday is often close to the former celebration on the Judeo-Christian calendar.

Easter Traditions
In western Christianity, including Roman Catholicism and Protestant denominations, the period prior to Easter holds special significance. This period of fasting and penitence is called Lent. It begins on Ash Wednesday, and lasts for 40 days (not including Sundays). The Sunday immediately prior to Easter is called Palm Sunday, and it commemorates Jesus’ arrival in Jerusalem, when followers laid palm leaves across the road to greet him. Many churches begin the Easter observance in the late hours of the day. In Eastern Orthodox Christianity, Easter rituals start with the Great Lent, which begins on Clean Monday. The last week of Great Lent is referred to as Palm Week, and it ends with Lazarus Saturday, the day before Palm Sunday.

Easter Eggs
Irrespective of denomination, there are many Easter-time traditions with roots that can be traced to non-Christian and even pagan or non-religious celebrations. Many non-Christians choose to observe these traditions while essentially ignoring the religious aspects of the celebration. Examples of non-religious Easter traditions include Easter eggs, and related games such as egg decorating. It’s believed that eggs represented fertility and birth in certain pagan traditions that pre-date Christianity. Egg decorating may have become part of the Easter celebration in a nod to the religious significance of Easter.

Easter Bunny
In some households, a character known as the Easter Bunny delivers candy and chocolate eggs to children on the morning of Easter Sunday. These candies often arrive in an Easter basket.
The exact origins of the Easter Bunny tradition are unknown. However, Rabbits are, in many cultures, known as enthusiastic procreators, so the arrival of baby bunnies in springtime meadows became associated with birth and renewal.
Notably, several Protestant Christian denominations have opted to formally abandon many Easter traditions, deeming them too pagan. Many religious observers of Easter also include them in their celebrations though. An Easter dinner of lamb also has historical roots, since a lamb was often used as a sacrificial animal in Jewish traditions, and lamb is frequently served during Passover. Today, Easter is a commercial event as well as a religious holiday, marked by high sales for greeting cards, candies (such as Peeps, chocolate eggs and chocolate Easter bunnies) and other gifts.
Sports Overview
By: Owen Cline