Senior Night Send Off

By: Isabella Hudziak

February 13 was the final home game for the boys’ basketball teams. The game began on a bittersweet note as seniors on the Varsity boys basketball team and the cheerleading squad were recognized for their participation in their respective sports. One-by-one, each senior was called down with their parents to receive flowers, a sports drink, and a little goodie-bag put together by the Sports Boosters.

There were tears shed as names were called and future plans were shared. The event began as the cheerleaders clapped for their own: Alexis Fahey, Faith Graml, Sarah Calta, Katherine Winslow, Gabriella Hudziak, and Victoria Young. The Varsity boys basketball team cheered for fellow players Patrick Twomey, Austin Snyder, Josh Misencik, and John Kohler as they were welcomed onto the gym floor.

After tears dried and cheers ceased, the game against Stockbridge was underway. The crowd, full of proud parents and friends, cheered loudly. Many joined in alongside the cheerleaders with favorites such as “Woo-hoo!” and “Bring It!” The crowd was humming with excitement, many pounding the bleachers in excitement. In the first few minutes of the game, spirits were high as Richfield spectators cheered “Let’s go, Richfield!”

Spirits remained high despite the Varsity ultimately falling to Stockbridge. They fought valiantly, but were unable to close the gap between the two team scores. Junior Keith Widger shot a 3-pointer and sophomore Jacob Bennett shot many foul shots. The younger players of the team fought hard alongside their senior teammates.

On the sidelines, the cheerleaders gave it their all. Captains Victoria Young and Katherine Winslow called many crowd-favorites that roused the crowd. The cheerleaders performed their final “Hello” cheer of the season, and even included junior cheerleaders Colton Scheffler and Paige O’Connor in jumpline.

When asked how she felt about February 13 being her last game, Gabriella Hudziak commented, “On one hand, I’m happy that I’m going to have all this free time now, but I’m kind of really sad it’s over.” Hudziak, along with Calta and Graml joined the cheer squad in 2016. About the end of the season, Josh Misencik stated that it was “bittersweet. I’m gonna miss when I’m gone.”

On Propane at RSCS

By: Gabby Hudziak

School buses are an important tool for schools to transport their students to and from the building. School buses are also important for school trips, an easy way for schools to transport entire classes to a specific location. There are various types of school buses, such as diesel and propane. Richfield Springs Central School has 12 buses total, 8 of which are propane, 2 are diesel, and the other two are gas.

New York State Energy Research and Development Authority had an initiative to get more schools to use propane buses, as they’re more environmentally friendly than diesel or gas buses. RSCS began using propane buses due to this initiative, as the state would give discounts and aid if schools switched to them. In recent years, RSCS has stopped since receiving the aid.

The maintenance of the different types of buses is very similar, but diesel does require more attention. “Diesel buses every so often would come out with admissions standards and that’s increased the maintenance and the maintenance cost and that’s the big reason they changed to propane.” stated Stan Grose, the transportation supervisor at Richfield Springs.

Propane is more environmentally friendly than the other fueling options, and the cost of the fuel has always been traditionally less than the other options as well. “From what I’ve seen, the propane is a better vehicle. They run cleaner, they’re less maintenance cost, there’s less issues with them. They seem to be an overall better vehicle than diesels.” claimed Grose.

Propane does have issues of its own however. The mileage on the diesel buses is much better than the propane, and the school prefers to use those instead on school trips. Propane also tends to burn hot, which can lead to warping of the exhaust system. There’s also a lack of fueling stations for the propane buses. “Right now the plan is to go to gas,” said Superintendent Tom Piatti. He explained that school is planning on replacing two of the propane buses with gas buses, citing the improvements in the technology.
Senior Spotlight

Faith Graml

Faith Graml was born March 19th, 2000. She has a 12 year old step brother named Austin, a 12 year old brother named Tommy, a 15 year old sister named Vicky, and a 21 year old sister named Crystal. Faith’s favorite extracurricular activity is Cheerleading because of all of the close friends she has made over the two years she has participated. Some of Faith’s favorite hobbies include reading, listening to her favorite music, and hanging out with her friends. When she’s at school, Faith’s favorite class is English, “because I love to read different types of literature from different periods of time.” She doesn’t really have a class that she dislikes. Faith’s favorite high school memory has been all of the bus rides to BOCES with her friends because they have all become connected and very close with each other. Faith is currently taking Culinary at BOCES and after she graduates she plans on possibly moving to Albany to work in a restaurant. When Faith was asked how she would like to be remembered after leaving Richfield Springs Central School, she replied, “I don’t care how people remember me because the people who matter most to be will stay in touch with me after I leave high school.

Dhara Patel

Dhara Patel was born on March 1st, 2000. She has two older brothers. Her oldest brother, Shiv, is 24 and in Med school in Syracuse. Sunny, who is 19, is in his second year of college at the University of Rochester. Dhara’s favorite after school activity in her high school career has been soccer. “I’ve played soccer since I was 5 years old,” she stated. “I love the sport and I’m really sad that it’s over!” Some of her hobbies and interests include taking naps after school, watching The Office, and baking. Dhara says, “I like trying different recipes and making lots of cookies for my friends.” During the school day, Dhara’s favorite class is Media Production. She says that her least favorite class is Journalism. “LOL sorry Mrs. Lamphere,” she apologizes to her Journalism teacher. Her favorite high school memory has been eating at the pizzeria with her “friendo” Peyton and going to school basketball games. After she graduates high school, Dhara plans on attending either the University of Rochester or Cornell University and majoring in Biology in order to attend medical school and become a Physician in the future. After leaving Richfield Springs Central School, Dhara would like to be remembered as someone who was always kind to others and made others happy in some way!

How to Beat The Winter Blues:
By: Peyton Coones

Low temperatures, cloudy skies, and short days. Each of these are signs of the Winter season. Winter averages to be around three months of the year, and many people develop seasonal depression throughout this period of time. Instead of staying home, here are four ways on how to beat the winter blues:

Exercise: An hour of exercise a day during the winter can increase the amount of energy within your body, leaving you refreshed for the days ahead.

Spend Time Outside: Although temperatures may not be favorable, spending at least thirty minutes outside can clear your head, relieving you from any stress you have built up.

Use Artificial Lights: While sitting in the dark may seem relaxing, it is actually not healthy for you! Just thirty minutes of artificial lighting can help improve your mood, reducing your seasonal depression.

Listen To Music: Listening to music, especially upbeat tunes, can help improve your mood. Music has been found to lower stress levels in hundreds of people around the world, and can help rid your mind of it’s wintery thoughts.

Paperwork for the upcoming Senior Trip will be sent home to parents shortly. The $75 deposit for the Senior Trip will be due to Mrs. Young very soon.

Interested in writing for The Tomahawk? Meetings are after school every Wednesday!

Senior Reminders
In the next few weeks there are a couple things to keep in mind:

Paperwork for the upcoming Senior Trip will be sent home to parents shortly.

The $75 deposit for the Senior Trip will be due to Mrs. Young very soon.
A Celestial 2018
By: Gabby Hudziak

Every year, there are interesting events that grace our skies. 2018 is no different, and there are many events that will be visible within North America this year. Celestial events such as these are interesting on their own, and onlookers will be able to view these with relative ease this year from their homes.

Night skies on January 31 saw the “Super Blue Moon Eclipse”, which is very interesting to discuss despite the fact it’s already passed, as it’s a convergence of factors very rare. The second full moon of the month with the first having been on January 2. When two full moons occur within the same month, it is known as a blue moon. It was a supermoon as well, appearing much closer to Earth than usual. This was also as a total lunar eclipse, though that was only visible in areas around the Pacific Ocean.

At certain points of the year, other planets will be visible in our night sky. In late February and early March, onlookers will be able to see Saturn, Mars, and Jupiter. Later in the year, on July 15, Venus will appear in close proximity to the moon. That same month will see a similar occurrence with Mars rather than Venus. On July 27, people will be able to see Mars right near the moon, on the same night of a lunar eclipse no less.

There will be several meteor showers this year, but many won’t be visible within the United States. The Perseids will, however, grace our skies on August 12 and 13. The annual shower will produce around 60 meteors an hour, and, exciting for those with viewing pleasure, viewing conditions are predicted to be good this year. The Leonids will also occur later this year on November 18, and will be most visible just after midnight.

Class of 2018 Valedictorian and Salutatorian Are Announced

Dhara Patel, Valedictorian

Gabriella Hudziak, Salutatorian

Congratulations, Dhara and Gabby!
The 2018 Winter Olympic Games have begun in their host city, Pyeongchang, and several American athletes have had standout runs in the ceremonies first week. So far the the United States has received five gold medals, one silver medal, and two bronze medals. Here are some standout athletes from the games so far:

Snowboarder Shaun White received his third gold medal for his event, the halfpipe, with an impressive score of a 97. White did not place in 2014 during the Sochi Olympic Games and used it as fuel for Wednesday’s event.

Figure Skater Mirai Nagasu Becomes First U.S. Woman To Land Triple Axel At Olympics

By: Dhara Patel

Mirai Nagasu has become the first American woman, and third overall, to land a triple axel in the Olympics, accomplishing the rare feat in the women’s free skate at the team competition in Pyeongchang. The 24-year-old from Arcadia, California, skated first of the five women and led her routine with the triple axel 21 seconds in. The feat drew huge cheers from the crowd at the Gangneung Ice Arena. Although Canada won team skate gold, Nagasu was the star of the night, and the Americans took bronze behind the Olympic Athletes from Russia. Not only did her teammates rise in applause, but so did skaters from other nations, and not simply because she landed the triple axel so few women even attempt.

Nagasu’s career hit several roadblocks since she finished fourth at the 2010 Olympics, including when she was bumped from the U.S. team for Sochi in favor of Ashley Wagner by a federation committee. “I don’t know if you could tell -- it was more something I could feel -- but to nail it the way I did, even out of the corner of my eye, I could see my teammates standing out of excitement,” Nagasu said. “And at that moment I wanted to stop the music and get off, but I still had my whole program ahead of me, and to complete the performance to the best of my ability is really exciting.” The judges rewarded her with a season-best score of 137.53, which helped the U.S. defend the bronze medal it won in Sochi. Nagasu pumped her fists immediately after her music was done and skated over to her teammates, whose cheers during the program could be heard above the music and helped Nagasu through it.

Local Olympic luge star, Erin Hamlin, competed in her event Tuesday. Unfortunately Erin did not receive a medal, but the overwhelming support from her hometown Remsen and all of upstate-New York has made this an amazing journey for her. She became the first female to carry the U.S. flag during the opening ceremony in over ten years. Hamlin has stated this would be her final Olympics.
**Athletes of the Week**

**Keith Widger**
Favorite sport: Basketball  
Favorite subject: Science  
Favorite Ice Cream: Mint Chocolate Chip  
Future Plans: Go to college and hopefully be able to play sports.

How long have you been in basketball? Nine years

What will you miss the most from this season? The team

What is your fondest memory? Filling the stat sheet

What advice do you have for future basketball players? Play and enjoy every game because for some people it’s their last season and you’ll never get to play with them again, especially when you have fun as a team. Also, have fun in high school because it goes by fast.

**Brady Young**
Favorite sport: Basketball  
Favorite subject: Global  
Favorite Ice Cream: Cookies and Cream  
Future Plans: Sports broadcasting

How long have you been in basketball? Since 3rd grade

What will you miss the most from this season? Playing with my teammates.

What is your fondest memory? Our comeback win at Brookfield when Keith hit the buzzer beater.

What advice do you have for future basketball players? Work hard and you will succeed.

**Savage Advice**  
By: Alexis Fahey

**Question:** I’m in 9th grade and I really want to go to prom but I’m worried that I won’t get asked, what do I do?

**Advice:** You will have your chance to go to prom! If you get asked to go then that’s great but if you don’t, then that’s okay too. By the time you get in 11th and 12th grade you will be able to go, don’t feel like you have to rush everything in high school, everything happens when it’s supposed to.

**Question:** I just failed my math test, what do I do?

**Advice:** Ask your teacher if it is possible for you to retake or correct the exam--you should take advantage of that opportunity, if available. If this is not possible then just be sure to study and work harder before your next exam so you can be sure to get a better grade to boost your average in the class. Also, don’t stress too much about quizzes and tests, always be sure to just do your best.

**Question:** My best friend is dating my brother and I don’t like it, what do I do?

**Advice:** Voice your discomfort with the situation to both your friend and your brother and things may change. If this does not change anything, maybe you should consider that the happiness of those that you love is sometimes more valuable than your own happiness. Just see where life takes their relationship.

Need advice?  
Email 18afahey@richfieldcsd.org
Do you like Valentine’s Day? Why or why not?

Patrick Twomey: “While in a relationship no because it’s expensive. While not in a relationship yes because I can buy cheap candy the day after.”

Rae Smith: “Heck yeah, I love chocolates.”

20hsheldrick: “No, I think it’s a waste of time, people say they love you, with flowers that die and chocolate that makes you fat.....IT IS TERRIBLE, A WASTE OF MONEY”

Maura Buck: “Yes and no. Chocolate and annoying sappy couples.”

22kgraysmith: “Yeah, I get to buy myself chocolate and flowers ‘cause independence”