



# CHARLES S. RUSHE MIDDLE SCHOOL

## Home of the Ravens

David Salerno, Principal

Ronald Michalak, Assistant Principal

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May/June 2011

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Jennifer Hull, Assistant Principal

Dear Raven Families:

As we approach the end of another successful school year at Charles S. Rushe Middle School, I want to thank all who make our school a great place to teach, learn, grow and have fun. I am especially thankful to our teachers and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students for the students' performance on the FCAT Writes exams - 98% of our students met or exceeded the federal government's criteria for writing proficiency and 82% met or exceeded the state's criteria for writing proficiency. This is an increase of 4% compared to the scores in 2010! There are many exciting events taking place in May that will help round out the school year. The following is a list of events that may interest you:

- May 13 and 14 - Drama Production: Phobia Factory, 6:00 P.M.
- May 16 – Athletic Awards Ceremony, 6:00 P.M.
- May 17 – Chorus and Jazz Band Concert, 6:00 P.M.
- May 19 – Spring Concert, 6:00 P.M.
- May 20 – All Pro Dad's Breakfast, 7:30 A.M.
- May 24 – 6<sup>th</sup> Grade End of the Year Awards Ceremony, 6:00 P.M.
- May 25 – 7<sup>th</sup> Grade End of the Year Awards Ceremony, 6:00 P.M.
- May 25 – Powder Puff Football Game, 6:00 P.M. @ SLHS Stadium
- May 26 – School Advisory Council Meeting, 4:00 P.M.
- May 26 – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade End of the Year Awards Ceremony, 6:00 P.M.
- May 31 – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Dance
- June 01 - Last Day of School for Students

Please see our website for other important dates and activities planned for the end of the year. The May/June edition of this newsletter will be the last for the 2010-11 school year. I wish all of our students and their families a very enjoyable summer and our 8<sup>th</sup> grade students the very best as they enter high school in the fall.

Sincerely,

David Salerno, Principal

### May's Students of the Month

Congratulations to the following Students of the Month for May:

**Kelly Blaker, Caden Corrao, Michael Dunleavy, Alvin Guo, Cassidy Kallenborn, Parmiss Khosravi, Brittany Martinetto-Papas, Sierra Melvin, Logan Morrell, Branden Scrivener, Aisha Stone, Ryan Verscharen, Lauren Wilford and Nicole Stoneley.**

### Middle School Promotion Requirements

According to the State of Florida rules, middle school students must successfully complete Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies each year (6<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup>) to be promoted to high school. Students must complete a course with a grade of "D" or higher. In addition, one semester course, which includes Career and Education Planning, must be completed by the end of the 8<sup>th</sup> grade year. This course includes using the online student planning and an

advising system known as ePep, which results in the completion of a personalized academic and career plan. Any 8<sup>th</sup> grade student failing to meet these requirements must be retained in middle school unless the required courses are recovered.

### Project Turnaround Student

Congratulations to **Stevie West** for being named this year's Project Turnaround Student of the Year for Rushe Middle School. She was recognized at the Project Turnaround Banquet on May 5.

### Bullying Prevention Poster Contest

Rushe Middle School was honored to have **Libbi Ponce** represent us in the Bullying Prevention Poster Contest at District for the 2011 school year. Thank you, Libbi.

### Tropicana Speech Competition

On Tuesday, May 3, Rushe held its annual Tropicana Speech Competition. Students from the following sixth grade teams competed: Ohana, Navigator, Extreme, and G-Team. **Izzy Brown** and **Madison Riggle** will go on to the District competition, which will be held on May 19, 2011 at the District offices, to compete against other sixth grade winners from Pasco County Middle Schools.

Seventh and eighth grade students from the G-Team and the Transformers also competed. **Trevor Lloyd** and **Aria Hansen** went to the District competition to compete against other seventh and eighth grade winners on May 10, 2011. **Trevor Lloyd** placed first in the District.

We would like to thank Tracey Suits and Anna Condoleon, our Media Specialists, for setting up the competition. We would like to thank our judges, Dave Estabrook, Jim McKinney, and Janet Carrangelo, who had the tough job of selecting the students who would go on to District.

Dawn Gilliland had a busy job keeping score and we'd also like to thank her. We appreciate all the teachers' efforts getting the students ready for public speaking and for coaching them. We wish our student winners good luck at the District competitions on May 19!

### Science News



Mrs. Stewart's M.A.D. (Making Amazing Discoveries) Scientists have been awarded with their 3rd Splash Grant from the Southwest Florida Water Management District

(SWFWMD). In the past 3 years we have received over \$9500 dollars to purchase lab materials to increase our knowledge about water education and to build two gardens on campus. One garden is an organic garden, and the other is a hydroponic system with 31 self watering Hydrostacker units. We have grown and harvested tons of vegetables so far this year. Students have been enjoying eating turnips, lettuce, and even spinach!

The Pasco Education Foundation has awarded us with another Creative Teaching Grant which we used to start our traditional garden and to purchase environmental testing kits to see how our gardens impact our environment. Pasco County's Recycling Coordinator donated a compost bin which we have been filling with scraps that our cafeteria has been collecting for us. We will use the compost on our organic garden. We would like to thank everyone for their generous support of our M.A.D. Scientists!

### Math Contest

Congratulations to our Rushe Math Teams who competed against 17 other middle schools and charter schools.

The 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Team for the fourth consecutive year of our school's existence, came in 1st place in the District. The team members were: **Nick Calvo, Patrick Herbert, Joseph Caba** and **Keegan Powers** -alternate. **Patrick Herbert** placed First in the individual 6th grade advanced math contest.

7th Grade Advanced Math Team were: **Yamil Marzan, Meera Navadia, Jamie Sturgess** and **McKenna Smith**- alternate.

Our Algebra I Team came in First Place. The team members were: **Calvin Crino, Emily Luo, Christopher Shrewsbury** and **Jeffrey Gu** -alternate. **Calvin Crino** came in Second Place in the individual Algebra I contest while **Emily Luo** and **Christopher Shrewsbury** came in tied for 3rd Place in the individual Algebra I contest. Special thanks to Ms. Payne and Ms. Grogan, our coaches.

### Technology Olympics

Rushe's Technology students went to Crews Lake Middle on Thursday, May 5 and competed in the Technology Olympics. They received three 1st place awards: **Derek Defelice**- Custom CO2; **Madison McKenna**- House Design and Build - **Jared Norton**-Catapult.

3 second place: **Genelle Pallasigui**- Custom CO2 Large Block; **Daniel Till**- CO2 Custom; **Sara Rios** and **Christopher Khalil**-Catapult.

4 third place: **Herwick Pressior**- CO2 Race; **Daniel Till**- CO2 Custom; **Hannah Fredericks**- Rocket Large Custom; **Tyler Siedlecki**-Right Flyer Airplane.

**Genelle Pallasigui** also received a trophy for the People's Choice Award which was voted on by all the participants and Audience members.

### Note from School Nurse

PLEASE NOTE: Students entering 7th grade next August will need to bring in an updated shot record showing they have received a TDAP booster. They will not be able to receive their schedule if they have not received this booster.

Students with injuries who cannot use the stairs: A physician's note is needed in order for a student to use the elevator.

### Guidance News/Awards

Once again we are at the end of another school year and will be presenting End-of-the-Year awards to our students. Sixth graders will be recognized Tuesday, May 24, 2011, seventh graders will be recognized Wednesday, May 25, 2011, and eighth graders will be recognized on Thursday, May 26, 2011. The program will start at 6:00 p.m. each evening. Students receiving an award on one of these evenings will receive an invitation to attend with their parents, guardians, and/or other family members. This is a special time to acknowledge the accomplishments of our students for school year 2010-2011.

District School Board  
of Pasco County  
Heather Fiorentino, Superintendent  
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