

Principal's Annual Report
Old Rochester Regional High School
2008-2009
Michael Devoll – Principal
J. Michael Parker – Assistant Principal

The 2008-2009 school year saw the Old Rochester Regional High School graduate it's 48th senior class. The class of 2009 will be remembered as a class of high achievement. Approximately 89% of ORR graduates continued their education at two or four-year colleges. Colleen Sinnott (Boston College) qualified for the National AP Scholar Award by earning an average grade of 4 or higher on a five-point scale on all AP Exams taken, and grades of 4 or higher on eight or more of these exams. Two other students qualified for the AP Scholar with Distinction Award by earning an average grade of at least 3.5 on all AP Exams taken, and grades of 3 or higher on five or more of these exams. These students were William Tyler Frantz (UMass Amherst) and Chelsie Nectow (Elon University). The school year will also be remembered for the transition in leadership that saw Mr. John Amaral take the reigns as Interim Principal in October and lead the school for the duration of the school year. Mr. Amaral retired following graduation and Assistant Principal Michael Devoll became the Principal.

On our athletic teams continued their excellence in the South Coast Conference. Our girls sports programs had the highest winning percentage in the entire S.C.C. and the boys had the second highest winning percentage among conference schools. Golf, Field Hockey, Girls Winter Track and Girls Tennis led the charge with undefeated seasons. Student participation in sports is also rising as sports like golf and cross-country track have grown in popularity. As has been the case in recent memory, last year was the year of the bulldog in the south coast.

It was a stellar year for our Student Council. Participating in communication training activities in September kicked off a year of much accomplishment. Among the year's activities included: preparation for Homecoming, Guitar Hero fundraising for My Sister's Keeper, coordinating Teacher Appreciation Week, and the penny drive for Pure Water for the World. Most impressive were the 42 Linus Blankets that were created and distributed to children at Mass General Hospital and Boston Children's Hospital.

The Debate team had an outstanding 2008-2009 season. Last year the team debated the following: Resolved that United States federal government shall establish a policy that substantially increases alternative energy incentives in the United States. The team's accomplishments were many. The ORR Varsity Affirmative A team had an undefeated regular season. Junior Debater, Jean Smith was the single highest ranked varsity affirmative speaker in the entire Eastern Massachusetts Debate League. The Old Rochester Regional High School combined Varsity 'A' team ranked 3rd place in the entire Eastern

Massachusetts Debate League. The three-person novice team of Nathaniel Reynolds, Kristoffer Johansen, and Jacob Beaulieu ranked as the 3rd best negative novice team

Although the ORR Math Team had a slow start at the first meet of the 2008-2009 season, the team scores steadily improved through the remaining three meets. The students finished the season with their strongest performance in meet four. ORR finished fourth in the South Coast Division and 11th in the Southeastern Massachusetts Conference Mathematics League, just missing a position in the playoff meet.

The Old Rochester Chapter of the National Honor Society was active again last year in both community service and leadership. The Adopt-A-Freshman Buddy Program began this past summer with personal letters from the National Honor Society members to their Freshman Buddies. During Freshmen Orientation and on the first day of school, the new buddies met face to face twice in the effort to ease the transition into high school and have since had several follow-up meetings. Another service project, the Thanksgiving Food Basket Project provided a Thanksgiving dinner to eight families who would otherwise not have had one. During the holiday season, NHS organized a very successful Giving Tree to aid individuals through the New Bedford Child and Family Services Holiday Hope project, to which the staff and students at ORR responded most generously. NHS students also helped move books for the Plumb Library in Rochester and many served as well as guides for a number of school and community events, such as Open House and the annual Marion Women's Club Holiday House Tour, which raises money for scholarships. NHS students also organized the annual ORR Red Cross Blood Drive held in March at the school and in the spring participated once again in the "United Way Day of Caring" through the Greater New Bedford United Way. The project this year took the students to Gifts to Give, an organization in New Bedford dedicated to soliciting donations of clothes, toys, baby furniture and organizing and distributing usable donations. Many of the NHS students have become student leaders and volunteer regulars at Gifts to Give.

Old Rochester's Environmental Club made a substantial impact last year. Students implemented the recycling of glass and plastic in the high school. Students organized fundraisers to benefit Earthfest. Members also had the privilege of attending the Bioneers by the Bay Conference. Finally, the group welcomed several guest speakers, including a green architect and a representative from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection. The group continues to make our community a better place.

The Community Service Youth Council expanded its efforts well beyond the school walls this past year. Thirteen students were recognized and presented with The President's Volunteer Service Award at the spring awards ceremony. Each student performed a minimum of 100 hours of community

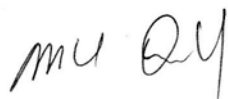
service. Students organized a "Caps for Kids" fundraiser to benefit children being treated for cancer in Boston area hospitals. The council also raised funds to purchase gift certificates that were donated to needy families within the Old Rochester community. The group also met with an autism specialist to discuss the challenges facing autistic children who attend the Project Grow program. Our students also organized a coat drive and participated in the "Share the Harvest" program.

The Old Rochester Pep Band was made up of 35 students in grades 9-12. After an extensive voting and selection process the previous spring, the band incorporated several new songs into their repertoire and "retired" some songs that had been in the play rotation for several years. New songs selected by the band included "Crazy Train", "Enter Sandman", "25 or 6 to 4", "The A-Team Theme", and "Iron Man". The band played at four of the five home games, sitting out the game against Seekonk due to inclement weather. The group looks forward to next year's season and picking out new music to include in their collection to get the crowd pumped up as they cheer on the Bulldogs.

The ORR American Field Service club had an extremely successful year as they sought opportunities to become familiar with people and customs of other cultures. The club members hosted eight students from different countries for yearlong exchanges. In June, the school reluctantly said good-bye to Omar (Egypt), Coralie (Belgium), Carlos (Columbia), Baris (Turkey), and Oauy (Thailand). The school also bid farewell to Arbou, a teacher from Thailand. A large group of ORR students participated in an intranational exchange with Goodland High School in Kansas. Club members also visited the United Nations, volunteered at the Manjiro Festival, assisted in raising money to create a library in the Dominican Republic, and hosted a welcoming breakfast for three visiting teachers from Thailand.

The faculty, staff and student body are to be commended for their achievement and service during a terrific 2008-2009 school year. Across-the-board, the Old Rochester Regional High School proved to be first-class and continued the school's history of excellence.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "mu 24" or "mu 2y", written in a cursive, stylized script.

Michael Devoll
Principal

J. Michael Parker

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Assistant Principal