

**Old Rochester Regional Junior High School**  
**2009**  
**Kevin T. Brogioli-Principal**

The Junior High opened the year with our slogan, "Operating Responsibly and Respectfully". The August professional development day consisted of a daylong workshop on Professional Learning Communities and Power Standards and Assessments by Cheryl Bromley-Jones of Teacher's 21. We are continuing this year to recognize and celebrate positive student behavior as well as teaching students what behaviors are expected of them so that they may operate responsibly and respectfully.

Several personnel changes have taken place over the past few months at the Junior High School. The following teacher and educational support personnel have retired and new staff hired:

**Curriculum and Instruction:**

We have increased the number of students receiving Title I services in English and Math. Teachers continue to work on developing interdisciplinary lessons and identifying and teaching common skills across all disciplines.

**Interscholastic Activities:**

Old Rochester Regional Junior High School offers many intramural activities. During the 2008-2009 school year, athletic teams and intramural activities included Fitness Club, soccer, cross country, basketball, table tennis, track and field, flag football and field hockey. At the end of each intramural season, an interscholastic team was chosen to participate against area schools in a shortened season.

**Building and Facilities:**

The hockey arena has been completed after many years of fundraising and construction of the arena and grounds. A dedication ceremony was held on Saturday, December 5, 2009. The arena was named for Chuck Michaud, a high school teacher assistant who was an ice hockey, football and baseball coach. A small reception was held in the cafeteria after the dedication ceremony. Special recognition goes to former junior high school teacher Rory McFee for overseeing the commencement and completion of the project.

**Community Service:**

During 2009 our students were involved in the following projects:

- Annual Thanksgiving Banquet for the tri-town senior citizens
- A charity student & faculty basketball game proceeds were donated to the Hands for Maddie Foundation.
- Candy Cane fundraiser to raise monies for the Neediest Family Fund
- "Socks Will Do" - socks were collected for the homeless
- Project Linus – fleece blankets collected to benefit children with cancer
- Pets & Paws – collected cat food for the Humane Society in Dartmouth's "Cause for Paws".

**Survival:**

Approximately 110 students went to Northfield, Massachusetts for a week of survival in the wilderness. The trip was the 37th trip to Northfield for the Junior High.

**S.C.O.P.E.:** (Selected **C**ourses **O**ffered for **P**ersonal **E**nrichment)

The remainder of our grade seven students who did not attend Survival took advantage of many educational opportunities in the South Coast. Our newly redesigned program provides students the opportunity to select from a wide variety of valuable and interesting, “hands-on activities” and educational field trips.

**Opening Day Orientation:**

Students in Grade 7 were introduced to the junior high by attending a revised day here at the junior high. The day was used to help new students transition into the Junior High School by having planned activities and programs. Team building and activities were employed to provide students the opportunity to communicate and work more effectively with other students. A cook-out was held on the junior high “back lot” for all grade seven students as an “icebreaker”. Grade 8 students met for breakfast before resuming a normal day schedule.

**School Council:**

The Old Rochester Regional Junior High School's School Council met once a month from September 2008 to May 2009. The School Council reviewed the FY 09-10 budget and received updates on the budget process. Information on MCAS was provided and parents and council members were kept abreast of latest State of Massachusetts Department of Education updates. Opportunities were provided to the council to have input on the School Improvement Plan update that will be submitted at the school committee meeting in the spring of 2010. The plan will be for the 2010-2011 school year.

**Old Rochester Regional Junior High to Senior High Transition:**

Grade 8 students were given the opportunity to tour the Senior High School and visit with teachers and staff of the high school. On February 11<sup>th</sup> Grade 8 Parents attended an ORR High School Information Night.

**Vocational School Visitation:**

In October students in Grade 8 had the opportunity to visit Upper Cape Vocational (Marion Students) and Old Colony Vocational (Mattapoisett and Rochester Students). Interested students also had the opportunity to visit Bristol Agricultural School.

**Communication:**

Our Internet based phone-messaging service called Blackboard Connect continues to be a useful instrument to communicate with parents. We inform parents when report cards are being sent home and also notify them about important announcements such as snow days and upcoming events. Our other useful tool for communication is our website ([www.olderochester.org/jhs](http://www.olderochester.org/jhs)) which is updated daily with information for parents. This includes the principal's podcast of daily announcements. Students who are absent may also obtain their daily homework assignments from our website. Additionally, parents may access student grades online 24/7 throughout the school year in Power School.

**Student Transition:**

Students in Grade 6 in Marion, Mattapoisett and Rochester were bussed to the Junior High School in June to visit the junior high and talk to teachers and students about student life and to become familiar with the layout of the building. In addition, in May we held a “Parent Information Night” especially designed for the parents of our incoming grade seven students. Guidance counselors and administrators were present and ready to answer any questions that parents might have.

## **Initiatives**

- Monthly assemblies recognizing positive behavior including a character education component.
- Identifying Power Standards and creating common assessments in Math.
- Common summer reading book. All students read Warrior's Don't Cry by Melba Pattillo Beals.
- Common grade level planning time for teachers for the creation of common assessments and curriculum guides.
- "Coffee with the Principal" was held quarterly.
- Roundtable discussions continue with grade eight students, the principal and their guidance counselor.
- The mentor program has been continued this year with volunteer faculty members working with at-risk, non-special education students.
- Teacher teams working on professional learning communities to discuss best practices and student work.

## **Student Assemblies**

- Rachel's Challenge Assembly held at the Junior High in October Of 2009.
- Bristol County Sheriff's Department, I-Safe assembly, in the fall of '09.
- Professional skateboarder Andy MacDonald spoke with students about healthy choices in the spring of '09.
- February 10<sup>th</sup> "Think First" Assembly presented by Boston Children's Hospital to prevent brain and spinal cord injury
- 3/13 Peace Corp Speakers
- Field day last week of school relating to the school-wide reading book Shipwreck at the Bottom of the World by Jennifer Armstrong.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Kevin T. Brogioli*

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