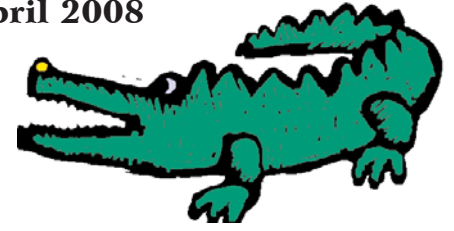


Serving students in Adams,
York, and Cumberland Counties



A newsletter for the students, families and friends of River Rock

River Rock Revs up for the Revolution

The students in our River Rock Academies and Day Treatment Program are gearing up for the possibility of winning York Revolution baseball tickets for having perfect attendance in April and May.

Mr. Karl Munscher of the Hellam Campus took students to tour the Sovereign Bank Stadium in downtown York where the Revolution will soon be starting their second season. They toured the fully completed stadium with Mr. John Gibson, Corporate Sales Manager. He gave them an inside look at the locker rooms, the club box offices, media suites, and administrative offices. The students also got a look behind the historic style manual scoreboard based on the Red Sox's Fenway Park scoreboard.

River Rock is looking forward to a great baseball season!



Student Jessica Lake stands behind the historic style manual scoreboard.



Our students standing on the right field bleachers.

Mr. John Gibson (in red) talks to our students in the media suite behind home plate.



Learning About Life with Golf Through The First Tee

Honesty. Integrity. Sportsmanship. Respect. Confidence. Responsibility. Perseverance. Courtesy. Judgment. These are the nine core values that are taught through The First Tee Life Skills Experience which our River Rock students have been participating in since last October.

The First Tee of Susquehanna Valley, under the direction of the Executive Director Joseph Nehila, is providing River Rock students education, training, mentoring and guidance through the game of golf. The World Golf Foundation created The First Tee in November of 1997 as a way to bring golf to youngsters who otherwise would not be exposed to the game and its positive values.

Judge Michael Bortner was instrumental in getting The First Tee program started in York County. His first encounter with the program was a vendor table in 2006 at a juvenile court conference. An avid golfer himself, he was interested in how The First Tee

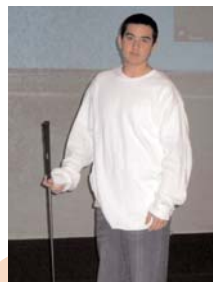
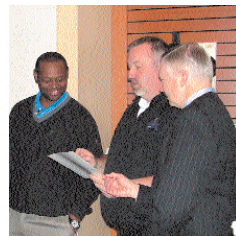
Life Skills Experience used the game of golf to teach at-risk kids important life lessons.



Judge Bortner arranged a meeting with the York County Juvenile Probation Office, York City Mayor John Brenner, York County Children and Youth and several other judges. The program was started in the spring of 2007 and to this date York City School District, Logos Academy and River Rock Academy have participated. It has been well received and is growing as word spreads.

The program starts with four weeks of golf instruction at the York YMCA or, if weather permits, at a local golf course. Students then spend two weeks at Dick's Sporting Goods playing on the Full Swing Golf Simulator. The Golf Simulator represents a championship golf course and utilizes a software program which cap-

Continued on page 2



Back row: Will Carter, Mr. Paul Grier, Judge Bortner, Sean Cramer, Tyler Lehr
Front row: Matt Wixom, Shane Dorsey, Mr. Bob Howard, Mr. Joe Nehila

Continued from page 1

tures the ball flight data and simulates that flight projection on the screen. After our students tee up, they use a full swing to drive the ball into a 10' by 12' padded screen in front of them. The computer system simulates the realistic flight projection onto the screen and the students can see the flight of the ball and watch where it ends up—in the water, in sand or on the green.

“After spending time learning basic golf skills, coming to Dick's Sporting Goods to use the golf simulator is a treat for our kids,” said Judge Bortner.

“The First Tee program is a great way to teach at-risk kids valuable life lessons by promoting things like honesty because they have to keep their own score. It also forces them to slow down and learn to be patient with each other,” he said.

“The purpose of the program is not to make championship golfers of our students but to make them proficient at golf while learning life skills,” said Mr. Nehila.

The criteria for River Rock Students to participate are appropriate behavior and attendance. The First Tee only allows one missed session. If a student misses two sessions he/she is dismissed from The First Tee program.

“Before First Tee, my only experience with golf was miniature golf,” said Jess Lake, one of the students. “I was pretty bad at first but I'm getting better. It's a lot of fun.”

For more information about the Susquehanna Valley Chapter, you can log onto www.thefirstteesvpa.org.

Graduation

All of our campuses will participate in a graduation ceremony to honor our seniors on June 6 at 2:00 PM. The ceremony will be held at York Christian Church, 2901 Pleasant Valley Road, behind the York Galleria Mall. There will be more information coming.

Meet the Staff—Ms. Carron Mabin

Ms. Carron Mabin is the Life Skills and Social Skills teacher at our Shiremanstown Campus. One of her favorite things about working at River Rock Academy is playing fun games with her students such as Smaugs Jewels (Mr. Walton taught her that one), Silent Ball, and building challenge activities with Legos, straws, and marshmallows.

Carron is married 13 years. She met her husband at college where they became great friends before dating. He is the true love of her life. She considers herself blessed to have a happy, healthy and ridiculously silly family.

Along with her husband and two young children, Carron enjoys camping in a 29 foot camper in the local state parks (especially Pinchot & Cowans Gap). She said the camper has all the comforts of home such as a/c, heat, and a bathroom so it's not real camping, but they enjoy it just as well.

Carron facilitated weekly groups for adolescents for eight years before teaching at River Rock. Prior to that, she worked as a Victim Advocate for the PA Department of Corrections.

Carron's mantra these days is “Speak with kindness.” “I say it often—to myself and others,” Carron said. “Many times I find that students don't even realize when they are being inconsiderate or unkind to others and reminding them helps make everyone's day a little better. My favorite thing is when I catch them reminding me or each other.”

River Rock is pleased to have Carron on our staff at Shiremanstown.



Ms. Carron Mabin

ASVAB Testing

Ms. Angie Duarte, a Career Planner with the Department of Defense, came to speak to our Shiremanstown Campus in February. She encouraged the students to take the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) test to find out their vocational strengths and enhance or develop their career plans. The ASVAB is a timed multi-aptitude test, which is given at over 14,000 schools and Military Entrance Processing Stations nationwide. It is developed and maintained by the Department of Defense.

Ms. Duarte returned to administer the test on March 6 and held a workshop the following day. About 25 students took advantage of her visit and signed up to take the test and workshop.



Ms. Duarte in the above photos administering the ASVAB tests

The River Rock Gator is written, compiled, edited, and designed by Barbara Rodgers in the interest of RRA students, parents and Adams, Cumberland and York County School Districts.

RRA Administrators
Steve Capoferri—CEO
Patti Shatto-Young—CBO
Bob Howard—V.P. of Operations

Spring Grove Campus

River Rock Academy

PH: 717-225-1430
Fax: 717-225-0965

Day Treatment
PH: 717-225-1430
Fax: 717-225-0965

Shiremanstown
Campus

River Rock
Academy

PH: 717-763-1405
Fax: 717-763-1642

Perfect Attendance

The students listed below had perfect attendance for January and February. They were rewarded with a River Rock snack gift card.

Students who had perfect monthly attendance, with no time spent in the Resource Room, were entered into a drawing to win four movie passes for January, and a Borders Bookstore gift certificate for February. January's winners were James Bennett, Sean Cramer, Michael Gebhart, and Lanae Wood. February's winners were Noelle King, Ashley Mills, and Darshan Santiago.

Keep up the great work everyone!

January

Baker, Chris
Balleth, Al-Leith
Bennett, James
Brooks, Garrett
Cramer, Sean
Dale, Gage
Duffy, Brandon
Ford, Ben
Gebhart, Michael
Hollingsworth, Steven
Hoover, Ben
Kelly, Tyrell
King, Matthew
Lake, Jessica
Landis, William
Lehr, Tyler
Mills, Ashley
Moser, Jeffery
Nevin, William
Peters, Brooks
Rausch, Henry
Robinson, Kathryn
Rubenstein, Jordan
Rutherford, Stephanie
Sellers, Shane
Stout, Nathan
Sutherland, Nathan
Wiley, Zachary
Wineholt, Sierra
Wood, Lanae

Brooks, Garrett
Duffy, Brandon
Fanzo, Jereiah
Gaeckler, Joey
Hersey, Dave
Hollingsworth, Steven
Hoover, Ben
Jones, Daequahn
King, Matthew
King, Noelle
Kissel, Kody
Lake, Jessica
Lehr, Tyler
Leonard, Jonathan
Lubawski, Pennie
Marion, Courtney
McCray, Michael
Mills, Ashley
Moreno, Ricky
Nevin, Williams
Penn, Josh
Peters, Brooks
Puelzt, Nicholas
Rausch, Henry
Robinson, Kathryn
Santiago, Darshan
Sellers, Shane
Shaffer, Steven
Stokes, Dontavious
Stout, Nathan
Sutherland, Nathan
Warner, Brian
Warner, Katarina
Weber, Matthew
Wiley, Zachary
Wilt, Sarah

February

Allen, Brent
Balleth, Al-Leith
Beatty, Jordan
Bennett, James

Operation Generations

The month of March saw the beginning of a special relationship between the local senior population and our River Rock students. The Hellam Campus students, under the direction of Mr. Karl Munscher, began a series of visits to the Regency Manor Personal Care Home, an assisted living facility located on Lincoln Highway East in York.

The two generations came together for a few hours of games, activities and conversation for their first visit. The students left the facility encouraged in knowing that they lifted someone's spirits simply by their presence. The senior residents were encouraged by the student's desire to be there and share their time with them.

Operation Generations is planning more visits and special events such as a spring cook-out.



Sharelly Maldonado and Kim Bixler with resident Sandy Butts



Britnee Cone with resident Alberta Watters

Survivors, Inc. Visitor

Ms. Dawn Edwards of Survivors, Inc. of Adams County, visited our Spring Grove Campus in February to make students aware of dating violence, a very serious and growing crime in our society.

"On average, one of every three high school students are, or have been, involved in an abusive relationship. The program focuses on recognizing the warning signs in relationships that may become abusive and to make choices that will enable them to avoid or terminate the relationship," said Ms. Edwards to our attentive students.

Ms. Edwards was a great resource to our students, giving them information for themselves or friends.



Ms. Dawn Edwards speaking to our students

How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment to improve the world.

~Anne Frank



River Rock Academy Hellam Campus

268 W. Beaver St.
Suite 109B
Hellam, PA 17406

PH: 717-751-5975
Fax: 717-751-0355

Visit our web site:
www.riverrockacademy.net

Three basic behavioral norms that are the foundation of River Rock Academy are:

- No student has the right to hurt, intimidate, or ridicule another student.
- Education and the classroom are sacred.
- Our school is sacred and we will always protect its property and belongings.

April 2008

The Dangers of Prescription Drug Abuse

“Prescription drugs are good, when used as prescribed. They promote healing and good health. It’s when you take them for other purposes that they become the same as taking illegal drugs,” said Mr. Phillip Bauer while speaking to our Hellam Campus students in February.

Mr. Bauer knows firsthand the dangers of prescription drugs. His son Mark died four years ago of a prescription drug overdose—one week before he was to graduate from high school. Mr. Bauer’s mission is now to inform others, especially kids at risk and their parents of the dangers and warning signs of this national trend.

The abuse of illegal drugs has actually seen a decline in our nation over the past several years—a 25% reduction. However the abuse of prescription drugs has seen an alarming 80% increase. There are more deaths yearly due to abuse of prescription drugs than abuse of heroin and cocaine combined. Mr. Bauer also stressed that over-the-counter (OTC) drugs when taken to get high are just as dangerous as illegal drugs.

Mr. Bauer is involved with Drug-Free America and has even been on Capitol Hill campaigning his cause. “We [he and his family] know how we’ve been affected by this, so that’s why I’m here today. We don’t want to see it happen again.”



Mr. Phillip Bauer speaks to our students about the dangers of prescription drugs. His son’s framed photo is sitting on the desk.

Hooked on Phonics

River Rock Academy is exploring the benefits of a reading program called *Hooked on Phonics* to help our students with their reading skills.

Megan Winter, a volunteer from York College has been spending time on a weekly basis to tutor our students. *Hooked on Phonics* is a computer based reading tutorial that uses a proven learn-practice-play approach to improve reading skills. It provides bite-sized pieces of new information in every lesson so our students are able to master the new concept and achieve success every time.



York College volunteer Megan Winter working with students

Looking Ahead

April 11	Early dismissal
May 2	Early dismissal
May 26	School closed
June 6	Early dismissal & Graduation
June 10	Last day of school for Hellam, Spring Grove and Day Treatment Campuses
June 12	Last day of school for Shiremanstown Campus