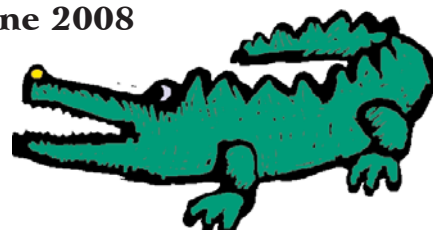




Serving students in Adams,  
York, and Cumberland Counties



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

## Day Treatment is Honored

We are proud to announce that our River Rock Day Treatment Program received the Community Based Program of the Year award for York County. We were among several programs that were nominated and chosen by the York County Juvenile Probation Office.

"In our first year of operation we have been able to provide an exceptional service to kids and families. Our program has been able to produce positive outcomes," said Mr. Bob Howard, River Rock's Chief Operations Officer. "I credit our outstanding team of staff members and the culture they have been able to develop."

Mr. Steve Cutia, Day Treatment's Campus Director was caught by complete surprise when he heard of receiving the award. "To be nominated in the first year of operation is unheard of," he said. "We have great support—the judges, York County Juvenile Probation, Children and Youth Services, Adams County Juvenile Probation, as well as the school districts. It's been an honor working with them."

River Rock Day Treatment will be honored at an awards banquet slated in November at the Juvenile Court Judges Commission.

Congratulations, Day Treatment staff!

*Make small commitments and keep them. Be a light, not a judge. Be a model, not a critic. Be part of the solution, not part of the problem. ~ Stephen R. Covey*

## Graduation Celebrations

River Rock Academy and Day Treatment held its third annual graduation celebration ceremony on Friday, June 6 at York Christian Church on Pleasant Valley Road.

Our graduates for the the 2007-08 year were:

Shiremanstown Campus: Brent Allen, Wesley Brunson, and Dale Chamberlin.

Hellam Campus: Mazie Beck, Tyrell Fenwick, Steven Hollingsworth, Evan Rineer, Kathryn Robinson, and Matthew Weber.

Spring Grove Campus: Adam Artz, Brandon Bedford, Andrew Bolton, Jason Cool, Steven Gilbert, David Hersey, Ashley Jacobs, Lorne Markle, Shawn Nolder, Karen Stahle, Michael Treider, and Nicole Walter.

Day Treatment: Sean Cramer, Justin Fulton, and Jimi L.T. Hankinson.

We were honored to have as guest speaker an American icon—the retired U.S. Marine Corps Lt. General Martin R. Steele. Lt. Steele has an extensive

military career history and is currently President and CEO of Uncommon Leadership whose mission is to build uncommon leaders of character in organizations throughout the world.

Four main points that Lt. Steele stressed to the graduates were 1.) Seize the Day. 2.) Bloom where you are planted. 3.) Subordinate yourself to the task at hand. 4.) Feed off of each other's strengths rather than attacking each other's weaknesses. He concluded by saying that life is worth living; live it now and live it large.

Mr. Steve Capoferri, CEO of River Rock gave special recognition to the following people for their support in our vision of serving youth. They received framed certificates of appreciation.

Joe Nehila, Executive Director of the First Tee of Susquehanna Valley

Dan Price, Director of Instruction, First Tee of Susquehanna Valley

Mary Smith, Supervisor of Pupil Personnel of the Red Lion School District

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Lt. General Martin R. Steele (left) with Mr. Steve Capoferri after the ceremony



Dan Price and Joe Nehila of the First Tee of Susquehanna Valley hold certificates of appreciation for their support of River Rock. Ms. Patti Shatto-Young and Mr. Bob Howard look on.



Spring Grove Campus graduate Adam Artz is all smiles as he displays his diploma after returning from the stage.

effect improve

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Joseph Hood, Superintendent of the Mechanicsburg School District and Alan Vandrew, Assistant Superintendent of the Mechanicsburg School District

Joel Dixon, Supervisor of Pupil Personnel of the Mechanicsburg School District

Gregory Bean, Chief of Police of the South Western York County Regional Police Department

Jamie Stalcup, Officer of the South Western York County Regional Police Department

Jack Greene, Officer of the South Western York County Regional Police Department

Michael Bortner, York County Juvenile Court Judge

Stephen Vajda and Susan Claytor of the York County Juvenile Probation Office

Paula Barr and Steve Voorhees of the York County Children & Youth

Barbara Krier, Senior Assistant Public Defender of the York County Public Defenders Office

Robert Tomassini of the Adams County Juvenile Probation Office

Nina Kostalas, parent of Hellam Campus graduate Kathryn Robinson, spoke to the audience of her daughter's achievement while attending River Rock. Brent Allen, graduate of the Shiremanstown Campus, spoke about the connection he made with the staff of River Rock.

There were plenty of hugs, tears and farewells as we bid our seniors good bye with blessings as they move into the next phase of their lives.



Ms. Nina Kostalas



Mr. Steve Cutia (right) with Day Treatment graduates on stage

Graduates line up in lobby before the ceremony begins



## Meet the Staff—Mr. Paul Grier

Coming to work and expecting to meet a different challenge every day is what Mr. Paul Grier enjoys most about his role as a Behavior Counselor at River Rock Day Treatment. He especially enjoys the staff he works with and the closeness they share on a daily basis.

Paul's career began working in the juvenile justice field at Bowling Brook Prep School where he moved up through the ranks to eventually become an Admissions Representative.

One of Paul's interests in life is golf, playing whenever he can. He has one son, a stepson, and a fiancé whom he is planning to marry in May of 2009.

Paul lives his life by treating people the way he wants to be treated and it is evident in how he interacts with students and staff. Paul said that one of the proudest moments of his life was when his college coach once said, "If I ever

have a son, I want him to be just like you."

We are proud to have Mr. Grier as a staff member at River Rock Day Treatment.

Mr. Paul Grier, left and with students, right



## Community Open House

On Thursday evening, May 29th the Shiremanstown Campus held a community open house to celebrate our first successful year. It gave the community an opportunity to tour our facility and meet the staff.

The weather cooperated and was perfect for ice cream and soft pretzels which were served in the parking lot.

River Rock Academy would like to thank Mechanicsburg School District, Shiremanstown Borough and local residents for their support throughout the year.

Staff and guests enjoy the evening on RRA grounds



## No Generation Gap

Below is an excerpt from a letter from Regency Manor Nursing Home sent to our students in the Hellam Campus who volunteered service hours this past year.

*"I would like to take this opportunity to THANK YOU for taking the time to visit with our residents. Those with no family...are thankful when young people have taken the time to visit with them. Even though you are from different generations, like you, they want to feel appreciated. It takes a special young person to want to interact with the elderly and we appreciate that you are one of the special ones. You have brightened the day of so many of our residents. We look forward to seeing many of you next year."*

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 March, April, and May. 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 Rita's Italian Ice gift card for March, and York Revolution baseball tickets for April, and a Nintendo DS Game System for May. March's winners were Jon Leonard, Rachel Lewis, Don Stokes and Brian Quigley. April's winners were Matthew Weber, Nicole Walter, Zach Bledsoe, and Alex Biscuit. May's winners were Kathryn Robinson, Preston White, Benet Kuster, and Wes Brunson.

Congratulations everyone! It has been a great year for all.

### March

Avaritt, Erica  
Avila, Johnathan  
Barrett, Dylan  
Bennett, James  
Brunson, Wes  
Chikezie, Kingsley  
Diller, Brian  
Duffy, Brandon  
Feight, Kayla  
Fenwick, Tyrell  
Finchman, Justin  
Gebhart, Michael  
Gilbert, Steven  
Hersey, Dave  
Hollingsworth, Steven  
Hufnagle, Eric  
Keener, Dalton  
King, Matthew  
King, Noelle  
Lauth, Steven  
Lehr, Tyler  
Leonard, Jonathan  
Lewis, Rachel  
Lubawski, Pennie  
McMillion, Aaron  
Miles, Owen  
Mills, Ashley  
Moreno, Ricky  
Nevin, Williams  
Overton, Chad  
Parr, Alex  
Penn, Josh  
Piatkowski, Brianna  
Quigley, Brian  
Rausch, Henry  
Reid, Jason  
Stokes, Dontavious

Stout, Nathan  
Sutherland, Nathan  
Testerman, Tyler  
Warner, Brian  
White, Brooks  
Wiley, Zachary  
Wineholt, Sierra  
Wise, Zachary  
Wood, Lanae

### April

Augustyniak, Shayne  
Balleth, Al-Leith  
Beatty, Jordan  
Biscuit, Alex  
Bledsoe, Zach  
Chikezie, Kingsley  
Dale, Gage  
Esrright, Richard  
Fenwick, Tyrell  
Gebhart, Michael  
Gohn, Krista  
Goucker, Brandon  
Hersey, Dave  
Hocker, Austin  
Hoover, Ben  
Hufnagle, Eric  
Jimenez, Javier  
Keener, Dalton  
King, Matthew  
Lauth, Steven  
Lawrence, Daimon  
Melvin, Michael  
Miles, Owen  
Mills, Ashley  
Moreno, Ricky  
Morningstar, Rachel  
Nevin, Williams  
Penn, Josh

Puelzt, Nicholas  
Queene, Alex  
Quigley, Brian  
Rauba, Ronald  
Rausch, Henry  
Rineholt, Aaron  
Sellers, Shane  
Smith, Robert  
Stokes, Dontavious  
Stout, Nathan  
Thomas, Travis  
Walter, Nicole  
Warner, Brian  
Weber, Matthew  
White, Brandon  
White, Gabby  
White, Preston  
Wiley, Zachary  
Wine, Darryl

### May

Alexx, Biscuit  
Anstead, Ricky  
Atchison, Jeremy  
Avila, Jonathon  
Balleth, Al-Leith  
Bennett, James  
Bledsoe, Zach  
Brenner, Joe  
Brunson, Wes  
Chamberlin, Dale  
Chikezie, Kingsley  
Diller, Brian  
Duffy, Brandon  
Fanzo, Jeremiah  
Finchman, Justin  
Frey, Tyrone  
Gebhart, Mike  
Gilbert, Steve

Glessner, Tyler  
Gromling, Cody  
Hankinson, Jimi  
Himes, Seth  
Hoover, Ben  
Hufnagle, Eric  
Kelly, Tyrell  
Kissel, Kody  
Kuster, Benet  
Lake, Jessica  
Lambert, Joe  
Landis, Billy  
Lawrence, Daimon  
Leonard, Jonathan  
Lewis, Rachel  
Loper, Dylan  
Lubawski, Pennie  
Markle, Lorne  
McMillion, Aaron  
Michael, Kaufman  
Miles, Owen  
Mills, Ashley  
Moreno, Ricky  
Nevin, William  
Peters, Brook  
Puelzt, Nicholas  
Raffensberger, Cody  
Rausch, Henry  
Rineholt, Aaron  
Robinson, Kathryn  
Ross, David  
Sellers, Shane  
Stout, Nate  
Thomas, Travis  
Warner, Brian  
White, Preston  
Winder, DeAndre  
Wise, Zach

## Staff Perfect Attendance

On June 3rd River Rock Academy celebrated our staff who had perfect attendance for the 2007-08 school year at the What If Cafe in Hershey. These staff members were honored: Patrick Craig, Steve Cutia, John Dechert, Kellie Gallagher, Brian Link, Karl Munscher, Austin Myers, Ryan Wall, and Travis Wildasin.

River Rock thanks all of you and your families for your commitment and dedication. Congratulations to everyone!



## 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](http://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.

June 2008

### The Joys of Volunteering

Interning and volunteering are familiar words at River Rock and this past year we have been fortunate to have both an intern from Elizabethtown College and a volunteer from York College.

Kaitlin Kasper started interning at River Rock Shiremanstown Campus last August and continued until May. She worked in the classroom with Ms. Carron Mabin who is the Social Skills and Life Skills teacher. Kaitlin enjoyed working with the students individually and co-facilitated in group settings, along with helping out with classroom activities.

“What I enjoyed most about interning at River Rock was that not every day was the same. There were always new challenges and I was able to work with Ms. Mabin to implement new ideas in the classroom. And the staff at the Shiremanstown Campus was great and a joy to work with,” Kaitlin said of her experience working at River Rock.

She recently graduated from Elizabethtown College with a degree in Social Work. After traveling abroad this summer, she is moving to Arizona to start her career. “I am so thankful for everyone's support and guidance at River Rock and I feel confident in starting my career in an Alternative Education setting.”

Megan Winter's first experience with alternative education was last fall when she observed Mr. Roberts' Life skills classes at the Hellam Campus. Megan has worked one on one with our students twice a week ever since with the Hooked On Phonics program. Megan is a 2007 Spring Grove High School graduate who just finished her freshman year at York College. She is majoring in elementary special education.

“It was an awesome experience. The students were very cooperative and willing to learn. I enjoyed helping them improve their reading and phonics,” Megan said of her experience. Megan is looking forward to her sophomore year

at York College after taking some summer classes. We hope we see her again helping out at one of our campuses.

We appreciate both of these young women and their hard work and commitment to River Rock. Best wishes to you!



York College volunteer Megan Winter with student Cody Gromling



Elizabethtown intern Kaitlin Kasper (above center) and with student and Ms. Mabin (above right)



### Thanks!

It's that time again! Excitement is running high as everyone scrambles to put the finishing touches on the school year. Very soon we will be scattering in different directions for the summer.

As the school year closes I want to send out a sincere thank you to everyone who made this a successful year. The students, parents, school districts, River Rock staff and supporters have put lots of time and effort into making this another positive year.

Thank you for everything. Stay safe this summer and God bless you! *Mr. Steve Capoferri*



### Looking Ahead

August 28	First day of school
September 1	School closed
September 12	Early dismissal
October 17	Early dismissal



Spring Grove students got a first hand look at an Army National Guard Humvee in May.