

NEWSLETTER

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At Ease with Principal Schillinger

By Gillian Cook

Rutland High School started off the school year with a new leader, Principal Greg Schillinger. Most students quickly warmed up to the news since we already knew him well as our Associate Principal.

Schillinger is a Pennsylvania native, growing up in a small town outside Philadelphia. After high school, he attended The Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. Upon graduation, he worked as a teacher in Spanish Harlem, New York City. He said, "Where I grew up, it was a totally suburban area; I had never lived in a city, so that was cool." Three years later, he applied for positions on the East Coast and Woodstock High School offered him a spot as an English teacher. From teacher to Assistant Principal to Principal, Schillinger spent several years in Woodstock before being hired as an administrator for our high school in 2014.

Principal Schillinger says the most rewarding part of working as an administrator, as opposed to being a teacher, is that "you get to know more kids." On the other side of the coin, he says, "The hardest part of being an administrator is the more time you have to put into administration, the more time you spend dealing with things that have less and less to do with direct contact with students; for example, the budget." While he is not a fan of the paperwork that comes with the job, he realizes it is all part of ensuring all students are learning every day.

When asked what gives him the greatest feeling of accomplishment, Schillinger replied, "When the student that graduated five years ago comes back and says, 'I'm doing well and I'm doing well because of this program, or this school, or this teacher.' These are my greatest accomplishments." He is an administrator who clearly enjoys young people.

There is more to Principal Schillinger's life than being an administrator. He and his wife Maureen have four children. In his free time, he loves to travel throughout the United States and hike to local places like the Ice Beds at White Rocks and Giorgetti. Schillinger also likes to work on his house on weekends.

Principal Schillinger's life experiences have shaped him into the accomplished and knowledgeable man that he is today. We know he will draw from those experiences to help him lead our school. We are fortunate to have him as the new Rutland High School Principal.



**Principal Schillinger
Rutland High School**

The Poet Within

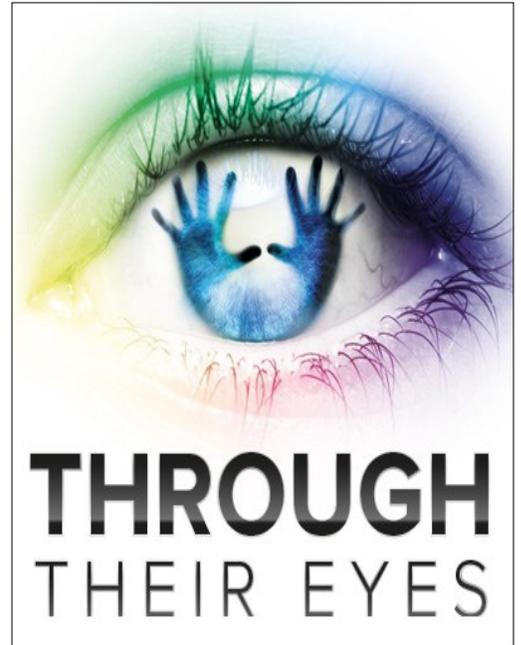
By Dan Eiland

We are excited to share more of the amazing award-winning poems written by the Grove Street Campus students who participated in “Through Their Eyes,” a poetry competition sponsored by Young Writers. Enjoy!

The Fishing Pole That Could

By Anthony Keefe

I was once made from a stick and string
but as the years went on I was rebuilt to many different designs.
But now in present time
I've been made to match different sizes, weight classes, freshwater to saltwater.
That just shows how much I've changed over the period of time



My Future or Yours

By Devin Reed

Ever since you were just a year old, you were always taught to think big and bold.
And after a few years you finally decided on what you wanted and took hold.
Now your family went overbold, manifold and forced their future for you to uphold.
You looked right at ‘em and thought that was selfish and stone cold.
And once again you looked right at ‘em and said the following sentence you foretold.
I won’t be controlled, much less take on a future that I can’t remold.
And that was how it was told, so many years ago just before my story took it’s final fold.

Depression

By Haley Young

Hi, it’s me again. It’s been a while, hasn’t it? I know you’re not happy to see me—you never are -, but Anxiety has burnt themselves out, and we both agreed that we would never leave you alone. You want to be left alone? But you’re crying about not having people to talk to and be friends with. Then why don’t you go make some friends? Anxiety told you that it would never work out? Don’t you remember what I told you, though? It doesn’t matter what others think, nothing matters. Then why does it matter what I say? It matters because we’re the same person. Anxiety is us, too. You should know that by now. C’mon, you should be used to us—well, you—by now, right? We’ve always known each other. Well... if you won’t respond to me anymore, why Don’t you go grab some snacks from the kitchen; you can even eat them here. Try making friends sometime; it could do you some good. Don’t call me a hypocrite; you’re only insulting yourself here.

Campus Chatter - Teacher Edition

What is one thing you look forward to doing when this pandemic is over?

I look forward to seeing my mother, visiting my children and grandchildren, and opening Silver Towers Camp.

-Carolyn Ravenna

I look forward to traveling and gathering.

-Conrad Tuerk

I look forward to playing sports with my friends, competing with other teams, and socializing in groups.

-TJ Moran

I'm looking forward to being able to travel without constantly worrying about the health and safety of my family.

- Laurie Bullock

I'm looking forward to meeting up with my out-of-state friends. It's been over a year since we've gotten together.

- Mike Ellis

I am so looking forward to getting together with my whole family without having to worry about the virus.

- Sherry Greeno

A True Hero

By Hailey Young

During a regular school year, Nurse Justine Franko, along with the other school nurses, is responsible for the health, safety, and emergency needs of all Rutland High School students and staff. The list of responsibilities would fill this entire page; however, just to mention a few of their duties, they manage student and staff medical needs, carry out hearing and vision screenings, administer prescribed medications, develop care plans for students with chronic conditions, and consult with administration and staff regarding student care. As we all know, a student's health is related to his or her ability to learn, making the school nurse irreplaceable.



Nurse Justine Franko

Now add COVID-19 into the mix. Suddenly, Franko goes from school nurse to a COVID watcher. As a member of the team that developed the Rutland Public Schools Reopening Plan, she checked buildings for proper preparations for school openings and to this day, continues to make adjustments as the plan evolves. Her casual business attire became scrubs, a mask and a face shield. She is now on call 24/7, working weekends. Even the way she interacts with staff and students has changed. She explained, "Distance between people has changed physically and socially; physically farther, emotionally closer." When asked what she has been hearing from other school nurses, she replied, "I am too busy to talk with other nurses; however I work closely with my co-workers."

Nurse Franko believes the Reopening Plan has worked. Her concern is people not following protocol when outside of school. She feels some staff, parents and students handle being quarantined better than others. Her biggest worry is people passing away from the virus. To ensure the safety of our schools as the pandemic continues, her biggest piece of advice is to treat everyone as if they have COVID.

Realizing she needs to take care of her own mental health outside of work, Franko takes time to restore and paint old furniture. This keeps her life in balance.

One thing that hasn't changed during this pandemic is Nurse Franko's positive attitude. When this pandemic is over, Franko looks forward to gathering with close friends and family. What does a win look like for her? Nurse Franko states, "To have everyone vaccinated."

Important**Dates:****Fourth Quarter Starts:**

April 19, 2021

Memorial Day:

May 31, 2021

Underclassmen Awards:

June 9, 2021

Senior Awards:

June 16, 2021

Graduation:

June 17, 2021

Birthdays



May

Johnathan Desautels—May 16

Laurie Bullock—May 17th

Anthony Keefe—May 22nd

Mea Sullivan—May 24th

July

Morgan Washburn—July 9th

Carolyn Ravenna—July 19th

Trent Duprey—July 21st

Maylee Lambert—July 28th

June

Destiny Eddy—June 7th

Hailey Young—June 9th

In Our Own Words: Thoughts on Remote Learning

In Need of the School Environment

By Ciera Sharp

Using computers and being remote is honestly very scary for me. I can't learn without being in a school environment surrounded by people who know the things I am learning. I would love to go back to mostly paper and pencil work; I feel like I actually learn more that way. I wasn't very happy to find out that all schools were going remote last March; however, I made it through as best as I possibly could. I feel very fortunate to be able to attend school now and not be at home everyday learning online.

Irreplaceable Loss of Time

By Dan Eiland

I am grateful for Grove Street Campus and our in-person learning. We attend school every day and it helps me learn tremendously. Some students were not so lucky and didn't do well with remote learning; they failed classes, lost credits, and lost ground in school. Some students thought the pandemic meant they could give up and stop trying. This cost them something more valuable than money, which is time. You can never get back lost time so appreciate the moment and put in the hard work. It will pay off later in life.

Teach Us How to Learn Remotely

By Morgan Washburn

It can be challenging for some students to get work done when we have remote learning days. When I am home, there are a lot of distractions, making it difficult to focus. At the start of the pandemic, it was difficult for everyone; online learning was such a new concept. Most high school students had never heard of Google Meet or Zoom. When we were forced to learn this new technology, it was challenging for us. Now, a year later, we are still learning remotely and there continue to be problems. I believe that when you are online at home, there should be a space with minimal distractions so you can focus on your studies. I also recommend that at the beginning of the school year, each school system offer a class where parents and students can learn how to properly use this technology. Consequently, parents can better help when their children are experiencing difficulties.

To Our Readers

We welcome your thoughts! Do you have an opinion you would like to share? If you wish to submit an article for the next edition of our newsletter, please email your thoughts to Carolyn Ravenna at Carolyn.ravenna@rcpsvt.org