

# RWMS Newsletter



May 2012

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Hours: Building 7am-5pm, Office 8am-4:30 pm

[lapeerschools.org/rwms](http://lapeerschools.org/rwms)

The mission of Rolland Warner Middle School is to develop critical thinkers who have the necessary skills for future success.



## FUTURE DATES

### May 16

- RW Fine Arts Night  
6:00-8:00 PM

### May 18

- 7<sup>th</sup> Grade In-house  
Field Trip

### May 22

- Next year's sixth graders  
visit Rolland-Warner

### May 24

- Spring Band Concert  
@ East Auditorium  
7:00-9:00 PM

### May 30

- 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Awards Night  
7:00 PM

### May 31

- 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Grades Awards  
in the AM
- Semi-formal/  
yearbook signing dance  
4:00-6:00 PM

### June 1

- Sunrise Kiwanis Art &  
History Festival- 8<sup>th</sup> grade  
will be attending

### June 7

- 7<sup>th</sup> Graders (75) will  
attend Amusement Park  
Math fieldtrip

### June 8

- 6<sup>th</sup> Grade go skating  
@ Polar Palace in the  
afternoon

## Fine Arts Night

On Wednesday, May 16<sup>th</sup>, Rolland-Warner Middle School will be holding a "Fine Arts Night". This is an evening of performances from band as well as displays of artwork created by art students.

Everyone is invited, so mark May 16<sup>th</sup> on your calendar and plan on attending in support of our very talented students. Band performances will begin at 6:00 PM.



## Piano Dedication

In collaboration with Fine Arts Night on May 16<sup>th</sup>, Rolland-Warner Middle School will be celebrating the refurbishment and dedication of its 1932 Hamilton baby grand piano. The instrument was generously donated by Mrs. Debbie Sprague, longtime Lapeer resident and was completely restored and refurbished to its original beauty by Mr. Robert Dare, local pipe organ and piano technician. The piano was originally owned by Debbie's grandmother; Mrs. Marie Johnson.

The piano recital will feature students from Rolland-Warner Middle School as well as two local, professional pianists. The recital will begin at 6pm and will be followed by a cake and punch reception. Students, staff and community members are invited to attend this evening of wonderful music and celebration.

## Fall 2012 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Washington DC Trip

### \* Golf Outing

The Spring golf outing will be held at Devil's Ridge Golf Course (3700 Metamora Road, Oxford) on May 12th, 2012. Arrival for the event is at 12:30pm. The shotgun start time is 2:00pm. Lunch and dinner will be served. Participants can look forward to an assortment of prizes. Cost for the event is \$320.00 for a foursome. If you are interested in assisting with the fundraiser please contact Mrs. Prill [aprill@lapeerschools.org](mailto:aprill@lapeerschools.org) or Mr. Stevens [wstevens@lapeerschools.org](mailto:wstevens@lapeerschools.org).

### \* Perennials Fundraiser

The current seventh graders going on the 2012 Washington DC trip will be selling perennials. Orders were due on April 19<sup>th</sup>. Perennial pick up has been scheduled for May 24th.

### \* Reminder

Second payment of \$144 is due on June 1<sup>st</sup>.



## DRESS CODE

With the warmer weather, students style of dress changes from the winter months. Please remember that the District's dress code is still in effect and that the Rolland-Warner Student Handbook states that clothing needs to be clean and appropriate for school. Shorts are to be neat clean and modest (fingertip length as arms extend downward). Shoes are to be worn at all times. Your assistance with appropriate dress is greatly appreciated.

## HONORS AWARDS

Rolland-Warner will hold our Eighth Grade Honor Awards Program on the evening of Wednesday, May 30<sup>th</sup> in the Rolland-Warner gymnasium.

The Sixth and Seventh Grade Awards will take place the following day, Thursday, May 31 in the morning.

Parents will be notified of their child receiving an honor by post card through the U. S. Mail.

Tentative times are:  
7<sup>th</sup> Awards – 9:45 AM  
6<sup>th</sup> Awards – 11:00 AM

## PREPARING FOR NEXT SCHOOL YEAR

The elementary visits (this year's fifth graders), to the middle schools, have been scheduled for Tuesday, May 22, 2012. Elementary buildings will visit both middle schools on this day, from 10:00-11:30.

Elementary students will have lunch at the middle school buildings as well as take a tour of the facilities, and have a chance to participate in a Q & A session about middle school from the voice of our current sixth graders.

# Rolland-Warner is supporting Rachel's Challenge!

Students at Rolland-Warner Middle School have formed service learning project groups in Mr. Sweeney's *Leave Your Mark* class. Many of these students have teamed up with Mrs. Sherman (student counselor), who is trying to jump start a Rachel's Challenge club right here at our school!

The two groups are selling the following items; duct tape flower pens (in various colors and patterns) for \$2 and yellow silicone bracelets that say "BULLYING STOPS HERE" for \$1. All the proceeds from these fundraisers will be donated to help start the Rachel's Challenge Club at Rolland-Warner.



## Water Testing

Rolland-Warner students from Anne Prill's, Wyatt Steven's and Mike Wiltse's 8th Grade Science Research classes teamed up with the Flint River Watershed Coalition last week to get students testing the Flint River and its tributaries. Students conducted practice tests at Ligon Outdoor Center prior to the actual testing which took place on April 18th at Farmer's Creek.

**Here is what Rolland-Warner eighth grader Keegan Lieberman said about his experience:**

*I feel that this experience was an important change from the regular routine. Our groups were able to do quantitative tests for oxygen, nitrogen, and phosphorous, as well as other tests Ph levels, temperature, and fecal coliform. All of the test could have been done independently, but doing multiple tests in groups teaches group work and important communication skills that will be used later in life. The data our groups collect makes a difference in the management of our local watershed, making our tests both fun and important.*

*Once we arrived at the water we were given a brief orientation and got straight to work. My partner and I were to test*

*the water for nitrates, a simple yet time consuming test, consisting of nothing more than mixing 2.5 ml of sample water to an equal volume of a mixed acid solution, followed by adding a 0.1mg scoop of a nitrate reducing agent. After waiting 10 minutes it was time to compare the color of the solution to the color of the chart for our results. On both test the results showed a nitrate content of 1.1 parts per million, a low result but a good one. The total duration of the nitrate test was just over 20 minutes for both tests, leaving enough time to clean up, share results and enjoy the time by the water while other groups finishing their tests and were doing the same thing.*

*When we compared the results of our test with the other groups that tested for nitrates we found that we all had the same content of 1.1 ppm. Nitrates exist naturally in soil and are usually found in very low concentrations and rarely in high concentrations, but natural sources of nitrates are of no cause for concern when it comes down to aquatic life. Ammonia nitrate and similar compounds are added heavily to fertilizer to increase their effectiveness, good for farmers and gardeners but bad for fish. When rain falls and gardens get watered some of the nutrients get carried away and eventually these will reach the water, this process is known as "eutrophication". It results in an over growth of algae, preventing sun from reaching into the water and making it hard for oxygen to enter the water, causing many fish to suffocate. High nitrate levels in drinking water can also effect people! High nitrate levels can result in a condition known as blue baby syndrome, were a baby is born blue due to a lack of oxygen in the blood stream. Why is there a lack of oxygen in the blood stream? Nitrates prevent red blood cells from absorbing and carrying oxygen. The good news is the local water levels are very low, meaning so long as we are cautious when, where, and how much fertilizer we use, there will be no problems anytime soon.*





## LEADERSHIP TRAINING

On May first through fourth, Student Council members went to Leelanau Outdoor Center to participate in leadership and team building activities. The students had a wonderful time and learned many life skills. From this training, students gained leadership skills that they will be able to use with the student body for the upcoming school year.

## DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD WINNER

On Wednesday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>, Rolland-Warner custodian Dave Peasley was honored with LCS's Distinguished Service Award. This award is bestowed upon support and/or administrative staff for exemplary job skills, high personal qualities and dedicated service to the District. Please congratulate Mr. Peasley for winning this honor. Rolland-Warner is proud to have him as our first award winner!

## 7<sup>th</sup> GRADE IN-HOUSE FIELD TRIP EXPERIENCE

The 7th grade will be welcoming Dr. Stephen Uche from Ann Arbor here at R-W on Friday, May 18th.

He is from a small village in Nigeria, Africa and will present a cultural diversity program with music, instruments, dance, food, customs, traditions, etc. (Africa is part of the current 7th grade curriculum.)

We are excited to have this experience brought to our school!

# Nature in Action – It's Not About the Bees

For the Bee Club members of our Outdoor Club, our education continues with our most recent observation. While on a routine check of the school's hives, 8<sup>th</sup> grader Mason Adamski, noticed a swarm of honey bees in the thorn bushes approximately 25 feet behind our hives. A swarm of honey bees is when the queen decides to leave the hive and takes thousands of bees with her. This was not good news for us. How successful would your business be if 50% of your employees were about to quit?

After a consensus that we were indeed looking at a swarm, a decision needed to be made and that decision did not need much deliberation. An action plan was developed. Several students conferred with Mr. Wiltse, Mr. Peasley and Mrs. Mullins as to the specifics. The plan was to clear away the thorns while working among thousands of bees flying around and to cut the main branch the bees were on. Next, we carefully move this branch above a new hive super and then shook the bee swarm into the box. Our success isn't measured by the hours or even by the day. Mother Nature works at her own pace; however, we will keep a watchful eye on our living science lab behind Rolland-Warner.



## Rolland-Warner's Melissa Pruitt is off to DC!

In the realm of literature, an *extravaganza* is a work that is marked by extreme freedom of structure and style – a work you can have a little fun with. Ironically, it was this word, the antithesis of what spelling bees are all about, that earned Marissa Pruitt, an eighth grader at Rolland-Warner Middle School, a chance to compete in the 2012 Scripps National Spelling Bee in Washington D.C.

Pruitt hadn't expected to win the Lapeer County Spelling Bee, held at North Branch High School on March 28. She had put in the hard work to compete in her school's bee, but didn't expect to make it beyond that.

"I was nervous at first because I was first up ... but after that I wasn't nervous," she said.

When she encountered her final word, the one that officially punched her ticket to the nation's capital, she was relieved. She had seen it, studied it and didn't waste any time spelling it.



"I was really surprised it was that easy," she said. "I thought (the final word) would be harder."

## 2012 Scripps National Spelling Bee Schedule

- ✓ **Preliminaries**  
May 30, 8am – 5:30pm  
Live on ESPN3.com
- ✓ **Semifinals**  
May 31, 10am – 1pm  
Live on ESPN2
- ✓ **Championship Finals**  
May 31, 8pm – 10pm  
Live on ESPN



### TIGER BASEBALL

The Rolland-Warner Outdoor Club and LINKS teamed up for a Detroit Tigers field trip. On Wednesday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> the Detroit Tigers hosted "Weather Day" where middle school children learned "how weather affects and influences the game of baseball. It included experiments, trivia, weather history, interactive games and more.

Approximately 120 students attended with 60 parent chaperones. This is the first year of the event and we are hoping to make it an annual event for our clubs!

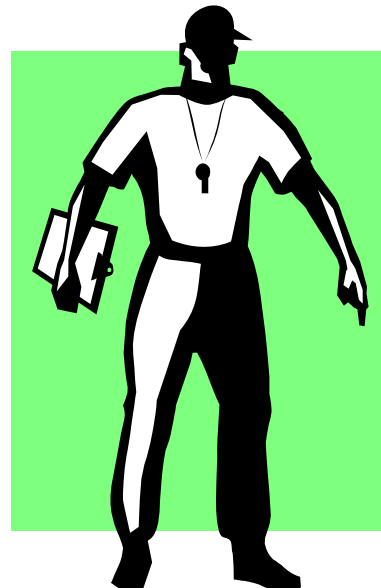
Students who were a part of the LINKS or Outdoor Club were given the opportunity to go on the trip. If your son or daughter was not able to go, be sure to encourage them to join the either the LINKS or Outdoor Club so they won't miss out next year!

## Sports Physicals - June 6

Sports physicals will be provided on Wednesday, June 6<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 PM at the McLaren-Lapeer's outpatient physical therapy clinic (1057 Suncrest Drive).

This physical will be good for the upcoming fall sport seasons. The cost remains \$20.

Forms are available online at the LCS website or you can pick one up in the Rolland-Warner office.



## Athletic Schedules

### 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Track schedule

Day/Date	Meet Start Time	Opponent	Location
Mon 5/7	4:30	Davison MS (away)	Davison MS track
Thu 5/10	4:30	Brandon MS (home)	East HS track
Mon 5/14	4:30	Armstrong MS (away)	Kearsley HS track
Thu 5/17	4:30	Swartz Creek MS (home)	East HS track
Mon 5/21	4:30	Carman-Ainsworth MS (home)	East HS track
Thu 5/24	4:45	Grand Blanc West MS (away)	GB West track
Tue 5/29	4:30	Zemmer	Rescheduled event @ West

### 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Softball

Day/Date	Game Start Time	Opponent	Location
Tue 5/8	4:15	Davison	RW
Tue 5/15	4:15	Flushing	RW
Fri 5/18	4:30	Grand Blanc West MS	Grand Blanc West
Tue 5/22	4:30	Carter MS	Clio-Carter MS
Thu 5/24	4:30	Zemmer	RW (double-header)

### 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Softball

Day/Date	Game Start Time	Opponent	Location
Wed 5/9	4:30	Holly MS	Holly MS
Fri 5/11	4:15	Grand Blanc East MS	RW
Wed 5/16	4:15	Linden MS	RW
Fri 5/18	4:15	Clio-Carter MS	RW
Wed 5/23	4:15	Holly MS	RW
Thu 5/24	4:30	Zemmer MS	Zemmer