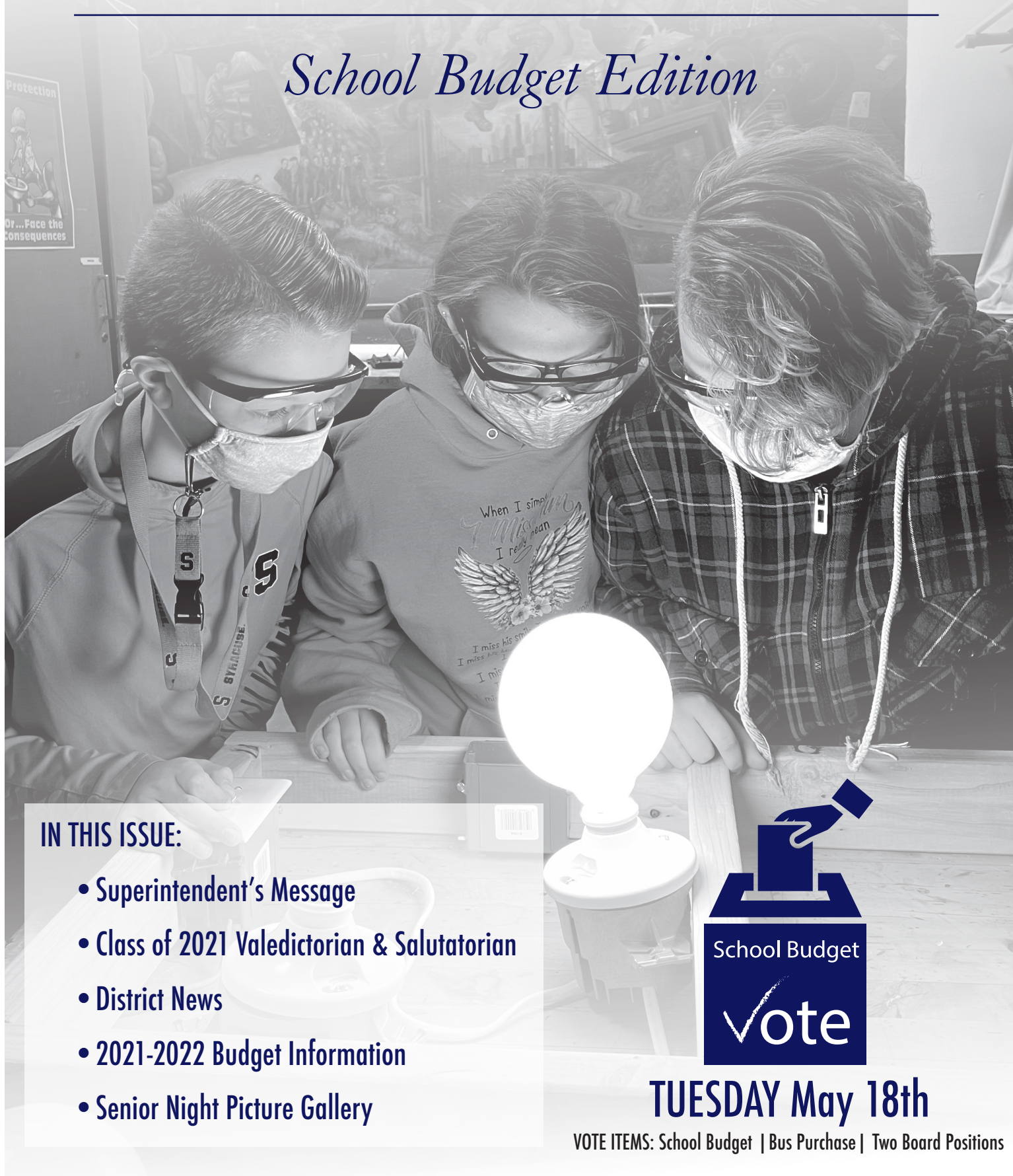


APRIL-MAY 2021

Richfield Springs Central School District

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

School Budget Edition



IN THIS ISSUE:

- Superintendent's Message
- Class of 2021 Valedictorian & Salutatorian
- District News
- 2021-2022 Budget Information
- Senior Night Picture Gallery



TUESDAY May 18th

VOTE ITEMS: School Budget | Bus Purchase | Two Board Positions

Superintendent's Message



Each spring is a time of renewal, none more so than this year, as we emerge from the last fourteen months of this global pandemic.

We have been very fortunate to keep our school open for the most part this year, with our elementary and middle school students being in session for full days, five days a week. The vast majority of schools have not been able to do this. Also, the amazing staff here has improved the effectiveness of our virtual instruction for our 9-12 students that have been attending school in our hybrid, every other day format. That being said, we are hopeful to begin the upcoming school year with everyone in attendance daily.

The school is returning to normalcy slowly. It has been wonderful to see our students return to the playing fields. We are having our Jr/Sr Prom on May 22nd, which will require all attendees to be COVID tested within 72 hours of the event. Our school play will be streamed over Memorial Day weekend. Band and color guard may be performing virtually for the Sherburne Band Pageant. And, a few field trips have been planned to enrich our students' learning experiences. A senior class trip is being planned for late June. Our culminating event, graduation will be in front of the building again this year on Friday, June 25th.

We have put together a very fiscally responsible budget. Over the course of

the 2020-21 school year, we have made numerous cost saving reductions. As a result, the 2021-22 budget reflects just a .61% increase over last year's budget. The tax levy increase will be under 2%, at 1.82%. Again this year, we will bond our buses, spreading the cost over five years. We will also go another year without a \$100,000 Capital Outlay Project. For the first time, there are cost saving reductions in program and staff. We are phasing out our French courses over the next 2-3 years. Elementary Principal, Dr. René Wilson will be assuming the role of Director of Special Education, in addition to her principal duties. We are also eliminating a maintenance position. On the revenue side, we are hopeful to receive all of our State aid and Federal assistance too. We are hoping to build back stronger from the pandemic.

We have closed the books on our building project and will be receiving building aid this year. Three great things happened with this project, more work was done than we had originally planned, the project was completed significantly under budget and it had no impact on our community members' taxes.

Have a very enjoyable spring and remainder of the school year.

Together in Success,

A stylized, handwritten signature of Thomas A. Piatti in black ink.

Thomas A. Piatti
Superintendent of Schools



Richfield Springs Pre-K and Kindergarten Registration

PRE-K

If you are interested in having your child attend PRE-K in September, they must be four years old on or before December 1, 2021.

KINDERGARTEN

If you are interested in having your child attend Kindergarten in September, they must be five years old on or before December 1, 2021.

Contact Lynda Oakes at 315-858-0610 ext. 2351
or by email at loakes@richfieldcsd.org
for a registration packet.

Paperwork needs to be returned by June 30th.



Class of 2021 Valedictorian & Salutatorian



Dylan Dyn
Class of 2021 Valedictorian



Sydney Burdick
Class of 2021 Salutatorian

It is with great pleasure we announce the Richfield Springs Central School's Valedictorian, Dylan Dyn and Salutatorian, Sydney Burdick. Dylan is the son of Amy Hawkes and John Dyn. Sydney is the daughter of Carl and Susan Burdick.

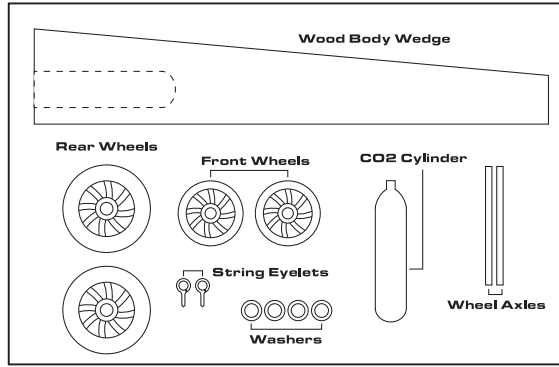
Dylan Dyn of Jordanville earned an overall high school GPA of 101.63. His initiative, persistence and focus are enviable. Dylan has participated in numerous activities including the FFA, Golf Club, Varsity Track and Varsity Soccer. His intention is to pursue a Bachelor's degree in Finance and/or the Sciences. He is considering numerous schools including Cornell, Dartmouth, Villanova, Connecticut College, RPI, Hobart, Alfred University, SUNY Geneseo or SUNY Binghamton.

Sydney Burdick of Richfield Springs earned a high school GPA of 99.76. She is an enthusiastic student who hopes to one day become a Forensic Accountant. Sydney has participated in three varsity sports, FFA, served as a class officer and color guard. Currently she has been accepted and plans to attend SUNY Albany.

We congratulate both students on their outstanding accomplishments and look forward to seeing what the future holds for them.



Dream, Design, Build, GO!



Top Left, Charles Baker releasing two race cars. Top Right, Material plans for CO2 cars. Bottom, finished car example.



Students in the DDP (Drawing and Design for Production) have been busy designing their very own CO2 cars!

The DDP class was tasked with designing a CO2 car using a software program www.whiteboxlearning.com. There the students designed the contour and shape of their car, and printed out the design plans.

The students then took their computer generated design into the wood shop, where they each cut, sanded and painted their cars. They then assembled their car wheels, axles together with their wooded body. Each car had to be finalized according to the required car specifications, in order to compete against one another in the CO2 race.

Bright Minds, Bright Futures



Dallas Miller with light demo setup.

In Mr. Barkman's 8th grade Technology class, all students have to complete the circuitry and household electricity check offs as they learn about fundamental electrical theory. For the vast majority of his students, this is fairly new material.

Upon discussion, Dallas Miller, had quite a bit of prior experience having worked with his dad on many electrical

upgrades and improvements around their home and farm. Mr. Barkman prompted him to assist other struggling groups with his free time. He was an awesome co-teacher once he was reminded to not DO their work, but help THEM do it. Mr. Miller might have found his niche and clearly has the potential to be a great electrician in the future!

Mrs. Davis's Earth Science Research Published In The IODP School of Rock 2020

Mrs. Davis & Cathy Carpenter (Norwich City School District) published their research titled: "Acidification of the Oceans at the time of KPg event and Now." In November 2020, Mrs. Davis & Cathy Carpenter were accepted to the International Ocean Discovery Program or IODP.

They participated in 10 scientific informational webinars, hosted by the International Ocean Discovery Program. From the beginning of January to the end of February they worked & developed a two week unit for Earth science (Geologic History) using the 5E Learning Cycle.

Please follow this link to learn more!
<https://bit.ly/38TQzww>



Richfield Elementary Students Send Love To Those Who Need It Most

Deanna Simpson, first grade teacher, spear-headed a Valentine's Day "Choose-Kind" initiative. Her class, together with other elementary students, made Valentines to send to Coburg Village retirement community. Altogether, 205 valentines were sent to the residents of the community.

This is a lesson in altruism, and the importance of respect, and understanding in holding elderly individuals in high esteem. We believe that kids need to learn the value of serving the people who are older than them, who have made the sacrifice, and laid the ground work for the road on which they now travel. Activities such as these teach children how to be considerate, nurturing and kind. It moves from the egocentric holiday mind-frame of receiving, to the empathetic mindset of giving and caring, and it not only makes those we are helping smile, but as you can see, our kids are smiling too!



Photo includes (Left-Right): Weston Dyn, Aubrey Marriott, Presley Weingates, Mrs. Simpson, Brendan Mayer, Aaron Boepple, Connor McCartney, Jace Starr, Colt Stegen, and Lauren Ashley

What's Growin' On?

The seventh grade students have been growing tomato plants in the hydro bucket hydroponics system was started last year by the Agriculture Technology class but the COVID-19 shutdown stymied plant growth while we were shut out of the building and the system was turned off. This fall the system was restarted and daily maintenance was done by the 7th grade Introduction to Agriculture students.

With water and fertilizer properly controlled the tomato plants took off and blossomed. With no bees or wind to aid in fertilization a Q-tip was used to spread pollen from flower to flower. The 7th graders played the part of the bees! This 7th grade class learns about animal, plant and soil science as well as where their food and fiber (clothing) comes from.



Photo includes (Left-Right): Caden Cool, Kobe Lindsey, Braeden Schultz, Gabby Seamon, Issy Seamon, James Chadwell. Braeden is holding the first tomato.



Pictured are Laurie Smith from the Elementary Library and Stacey Mayne, High School Math Teacher goofing around on April Fool's Day. Mrs. Smith has put many miles on that wagon as she has picked up and delivered library books to students all school year as the elementary library remains closed to students. Students choose and order their books through the school's website. She always delivers service with a smile.

Lions and Lambs, Oh My!



March came in with a roar like a lion. Mrs. Wust's Kindergarten class hopes it will leave like a lamb. We are ready for some spring weather!

Who Says School Is "Snow Fun"?



Mr. Wadnola's class caught in the act of enjoying the snowy season during recess.

Color Guard Is In Full Swing



Samantha O'Connor and Amy Seamon



*Danica Farley, Kiara Gray-Smith, Lauren McLean,
Samantha O'Connor*



Bryson Kelly is enjoying some creative cup stacking fun in Mrs. Bobnick's class.



Callie Boss and Riley Miller, getting creative with cup stacking in Mrs. Bobnick's class.



Genevieve & Aleksandra Melko

RSCS Basketball, Boys Night



Photo includes (Left to Right): Jackson Diliberto & Family, Connor Scheffler & Family, David Leonard & Family, Brady Young & Family, Damon Thomson & Family.



RSCS Basketball, Girls Night

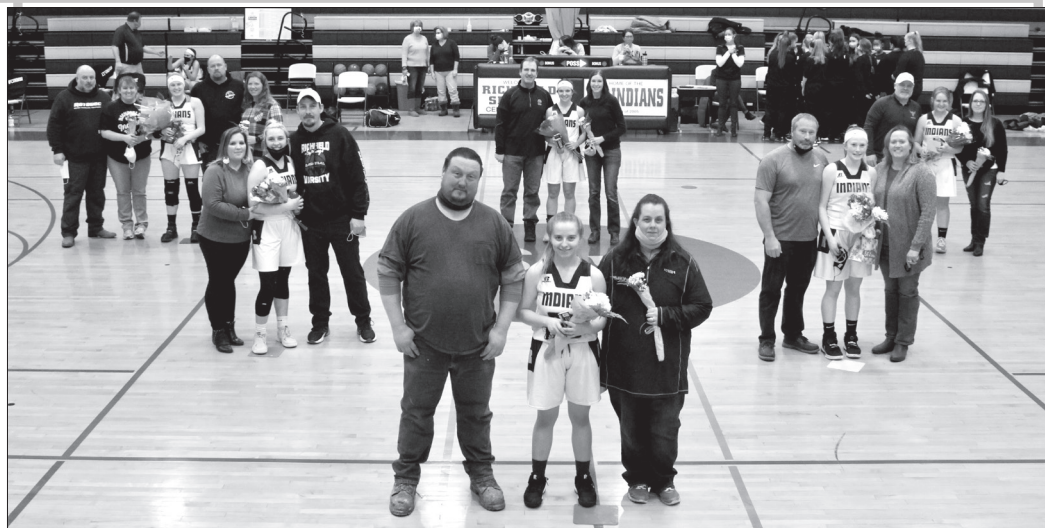
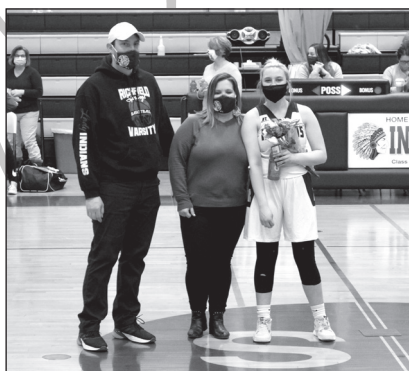
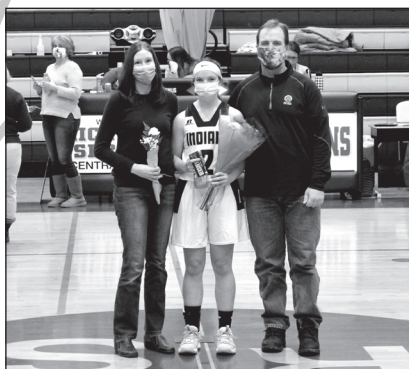


Photo includes (left to right): Amy Seamon & Family, Jaqualyn Hosford & Family, Samantha O'Connor & Family (front, center), Brooke Connolly & Family (back, center) Natalie Teachout & Family, Sydney Burdick & Family.



RSCS Traditions Continue



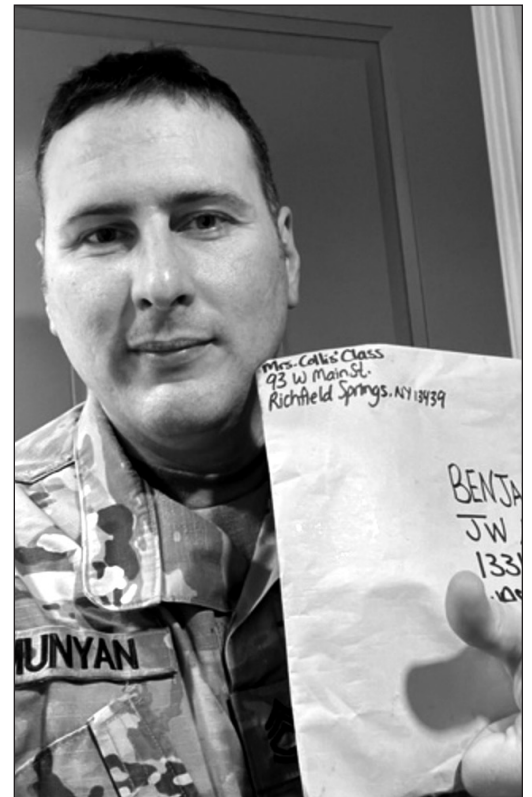
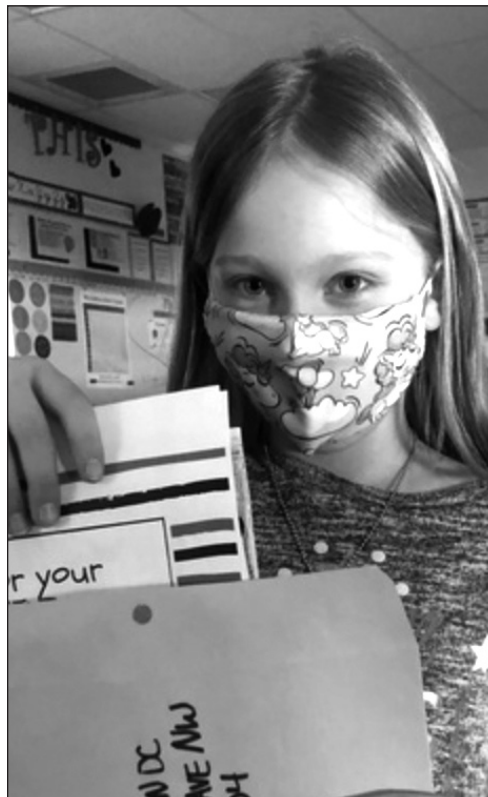
Pictured here (Left-right): Laken Dyn, Dylan Dyn, Anna Hawkes, Kalen Barnhart, Robbie Kovatchitch. Pictured right: Carson Seamon on the 2nd day it was offered (b/c of our hybrid schedule, we offered it 2 days to allow all students the opportunity to participate).

Finally, mother nature provided us with a winter that allowed us to reignite our "snowmobile to school" tradition. Several years ago, RSCS worked together with the Canadarago Snow-Toppers to begin what has been a very looked forward to event. All riders met at the trail near Dump Road where they were

escorted by the snowmobile club to school grounds. We had 18 sleds ride in that year. The front lawn was covered and WKTV even came! Since then, our snowfall totals have not cooperated, allowing for only a couple of ride in days. We're hopeful for mother nature's continued support in future years.

A Valentine's Day THANK YOU, To Our Service Men And Women

Mrs. Collis' Third Grade students wanted to thank the many service men and women who were protecting our country in Washington D.C. this past month. The students made Valentine cards showing their gratitude for one very special service man. Shown in the image here, Brigid Munyan is holding that very special package full of cards and treats that was sent to her father.



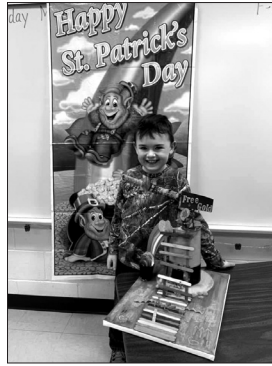
Mrs. Simpson's First Grade Class Displays Their Custom Leprechaun Traps



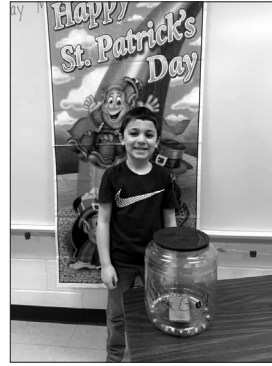
Brendan Mayer



Presley Weingates



Jace Starr



Connor McCartney



Aubrey Marriot



Aaron Beopple



Colt Stegen



Lauren Ashley



Weston Dyn



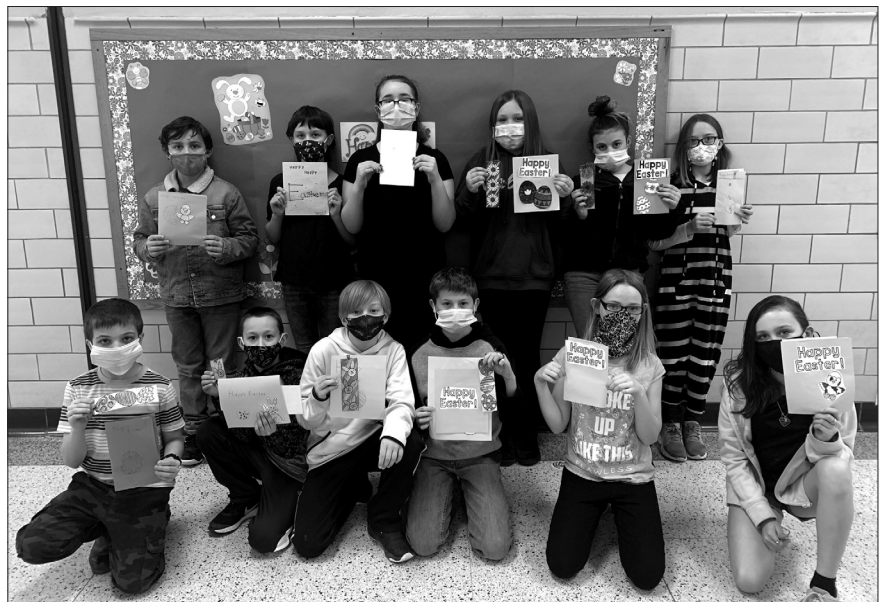
Kindness Is COOL

When 1st Grade Teacher, Mrs. Simpson, invited students to join her, in bringing some holiday cheer to nursing home residents, our 5th graders were happy to participate.

This project started with making Valentine's for our unknown friends. Our 5th graders used so much creativity in making cards that were so sweet. One resident wrote a personal thank you to a 5th grader stating she was a retired teacher and was truly "touched by the kindness and thoughtfulness of a youngster".

With Mrs. Simpson's help, we kept the kindness rolling with the creation of Easter bookmarks for our nursing home friends. Some of our 5th graders consider these older friends "pen pals" and can't wait to reach out to them again next month.

Thank you to Mrs. Simpson for getting us started! Our 5th graders believe that showing this kindness is one of the coolest things they've ever done!



Pictured here (Bottom Row L to R): Samuel Cornell, Sullivan Mayer, Kaydin Stegen, Max Goodrich, Lacey Clements, Maleena Brown. (Back Row L to R): Kyle Rapp, Jemma Berberick, Brooke Anderson, Alaina Hunt, Payton McCord, Serenity Simonds

RSCS Soccer Seniors



Pictured here (Left-right): Cole Bobnick, Thomas O'Connor, Jake patterson, Dylan Dyn, Damon Thomson, Jackson Diliberto, Connor Scheffler, Brady Young, Christian Adreev, (absent: Darren Panko and Aleksai Zaikoff).



Pictured here (Left-right): Natalie Teachout, Jaqualyn Hosford, Caitlynn Miller, Amy Seamon, Hannah Oldick, Samantha O'Connor and Izabella Allen.

RSCS Soccer Boys & Girls Teams



Pictured here (Rear left-right): Clay Bobnick, Austin Bowman, Cole Bobnick, Thomas O'Connor, Jake Patterson, Dylan Dyn, Damon Thomson, Jordan Diliberto, Devin Hallenbeck-Heap, Coach Brant. (Front left-right): Damon Boss, Jackson Diliberto, Connor Scheffler, Brady Young, Christian Adreov and Carson Seamon (absent: Darren Panko and Aleksai Zaikoff)



Pictured here (Rear left-right): Coach Hoose, Ellie Garnsey, Rylie Chenel, Anna Hawkes, Laken Dyn, Kalen Barnhart, Maggie Worobey, Molly Bobnick, Edie Garnsey, Lauren Johnson. (Front left-right) Caitlynn Miller, Jaqualyn Hosford, Hannah Oldick, Samantha O'Connor, Izabella Allen, Natalie Teachout and Amy Seamon. (Missing are Bella Tremain and Vicky Graml)

Mrs. Wust's Kindergarten Class Get Into The St. Patrick's Day Spirit



Pictured here (Left-right): Mrs. Wust's classroom is decorated to welcome many a Leprechaun, Ella Mead is busy making her holiday crafts, Jackson Weaver is putting the final touches on his holiday necklace, and Abbeygail Schultz is displaying her holiday necklace.

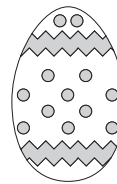
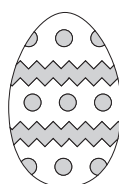
Mrs. Simpson's Class Is Collecting And Sending Easter Cards To The Elderly

Many students at Richfield Springs Elementary worked hard the past couple weeks to make Easter Cards for the residents at Colburg Village Independent Living in Rexford NY. In February, Deanna Simpson, 1st grade teacher reached out to her grandma's residence to coordinate delivery of 227 Valentine's from our students. The residents loved it so much. One lady, messaged a student back, whom she received her valentine from. Another lady, sent a thank you addressed to everyone stating how much she appreciated her valentine and that it "made her heart pitter-patter."

Mrs. Simpson's grandma, 96, mentions weekly how much she and everyone loved the valentines! With such an overwhelming response, we decided to do it again for Easter. This time, we have 275 cards to be delivered. 5th grade made beautiful bookmarks as gifts inside their cards. Mrs. Simpson's class made 149 cards. In addition to the beautiful hand made cards, from our students, our kindergarteners made pins, magnets, and bookmarks. We are thrilled to spread cheer and put smiles on the seniors faces during a time when it's difficult for them to have visitors and see their loved ones!



Pictured here (Left-right, Clockwise): Weston D., Connor M., Colt S., Ms. Kane, Aubrey M., Presley W., Aaron B., Mrs. Simpson, Jace S., Brendan M., and Lauren A.



Proposed 2021-2022 Budget

Proposition One – Basic Budget

Resolved, that the Board of Education is hereby authorized to expend the sum of **\$12,688,485** as General Fund Appropriation budget for the 2021/2022 school year and to levy the necessary tax.

This represents a **.61%** budget increase and tax levy increase of **1.82%**.

Proposition Two – Bus Purchase

Resolved that the Board of Education of the Richfield Springs Central School District is hereby authorized to undertake the acquisition of two (2) large school buses at an estimated maximum cost of \$117,750 each, all at an estimated maximum aggregate cost of \$235,500, less trade-in value, if any, and that such costs, or so much thereof as may be necessary, shall be raised by the levy of a tax to be collected in annual installments; and, in anticipation of such tax, debt obligations of the school district as may be necessary not to exceed \$235,500 shall be issued, or the school district may enter into an installment purchase contract if the board of education determines that it is in the best interest of the school district to finance the purchase in that method. At such meetings taxes to be levied by installments will be proposed for authorized indebtedness providing for payment of the acquisition of school buses at an estimated aggregate maximum cost of not to exceed \$235,500. Such taxes shall be levied upon all the taxable property of the District, shall be levied in annual installments and shall be of such amounts and levied in such years as may be determined by the Board of Education. The District Clerk or the Clerk’s designee is hereby directed to add the above to the notice of the annual meeting of the School District. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

Included in the Proposed 2021–2022 Budget

- Special Education & Title I services
- BOCES programs including Occupational Ed., Special Ed., staff development, etc.
- Programs for at-risk and advanced students
- Adult Education courses & programs
- Purchase of two buses

Voter Qualifications

All voters must have all of the following qualifications:

1. Be a citizen of the United States.
2. Be at least 18 years of age.
3. Be a resident of the school district for at least 30 days preceding the meeting.
(Owning a home in the district does not make the owner a resident; home must be permanent residence.)
4. Not otherwise prohibited from voting (ex. mentally incompetent or convicted felon).

Absentee Ballots

And further notice is hereby given, that applications for absentee ballots will be obtainable during school business hours from the District Clerk beginning Monday April 26, 2021; completed applications must be received by the District Clerk at least seven (7) days before the election if the ballot is to be mailed to the voter; or the day before the election if the ballot is to be delivered personally to the voter. Completed absentee ballots must be received by the District Clerk no later than 5:00 p.m., prevailing time, on Tuesday, May 18, 2021.

PLEASE TAKE THE TIME TO VOTE ON TUESDAY, MAY 18, 2021
• BASIC BUDGET • BUS PURCHASE • TWO BOARD SEATS

BOARD VACANCIES: The following vacancies are to be filled on the Board of Education: (2) 3-year terms (Last incumbents) Scot Mondore & Nancy Duevel

Administration

The administrative budget includes those expenses directly related to the functioning of the Board of Education, District Clerk, Superintendent's Office, Business Office, BOCES Administrative charges, and Supervision. The administrative budget is increasing by 2.57%, and makes up 13.30% of the budget.

DESCRIPTION	Adopted Budget 2020-21	Proposed Budget 2021-22	\$ Change	% Change
Board of Education	\$31,257	\$31,940	\$683	2.19%
Central Administration	\$210,029	\$216,406	\$6,377	3.04%
Finance	\$267,793	\$222,338	-\$45,455	-16.97%
Staff	\$77,169	\$71,526	-\$5,643	-7.31%
Special Items	\$318,373	\$335,781	\$17,408	5.47%
Supervision and Training	\$336,342	\$340,552	\$4,210	1.25%
Employee Benefits	\$403,729	\$468,410	\$64,681	16.02%
TOTAL ADMIN	\$1,644,692	\$1,686,953	\$42,261	2.57%

Program

The program budget includes those expenses directly related to the teaching of students. Those include teachers, assistants, aides, and other professional salaries, BOCES charges, supplies textbooks, special education costs, health, guidance, co-curricular activities, and athletics. This area also includes transportation expenses directly related to the functioning of the bus garage and the operation of the bus fleet. The program area shows an increase of 1.66%. Program accounts for 74.40% of the budget.

DESCRIPTION	Adopted Budget 2020-21	Proposed Budget 2021-22	\$ Change	% Change
In-service Training	\$9,000	\$14,433	\$5,433	60.37%
Teaching Regular School	\$3,182,368	\$3,181,014	-\$1,354	-0.04%
Special Apportionment Programs	\$1,684,875	\$1,595,340	-\$89,535	-5.31%
Special Schools	\$6,250	\$6,250	\$0	0.00%
Instructional Media	\$599,769	\$599,769	\$0	0.00%
Pupil Personnel Services	\$375,963	\$403,041	\$27,078	7.20%
Pupil Transportation	\$580,500	\$580,500	\$0	0.00%
Community Service	\$55,000	\$55,000	\$0	0.00%
Employee Benefits	\$2,782,539	\$2,995,340	\$212,801	7.65%
Interfund Transfer to Lunch	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$0	0.00%
TOTAL PROGRAM	\$9,286,264	\$9,440,687	\$154,423	1.66%

Capital

The capital budget includes Operations and Maintenance expenses including salaries, fringe benefits, utilities, and supplies directly related to the cleaning and maintenance of the District's building and grounds. This portion of the budget also includes principal & interest costs related to previous capital improvement projects. The District receives 82.1% building aid from NYS for this. Borrowing for Buses over five years is reimbursed by NYS at 77.3% including interest over five years. The capital budget is decreasing by 7.14%, constituting 13.30% of total budget.

DESCRIPTION	Adopted Budget 2020-21	Proposed Budget 2021-22	\$ Change	% Change
Operation & Maintenance of Plant	\$780,149	\$780,149	\$0	0.00%
Purchase of Buses	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Refund of Property Taxes	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$0	0.00%
Employee Benefits	\$261,480	\$193,496	-\$67,984	-26.00%
Bonds	\$629,181	\$577,200	-\$51,981	-8.26%
Transfer to Capital Fund	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.00%
TOTAL CAPITAL	\$1,680,810	\$1,560,845	-\$119,965	-7.14%

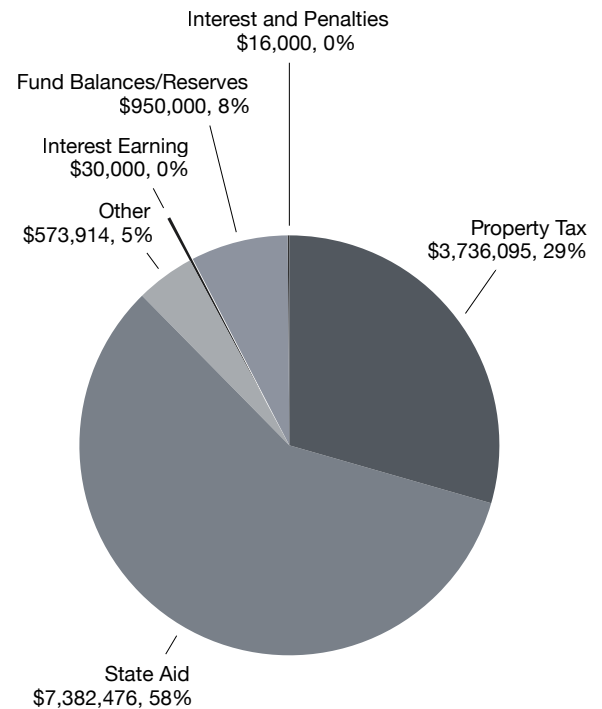
Proposed 2021-2022 Budget Overview

General Fund Appropriations by Components

Type	Amount	% of Total
Administrative	\$1,686,953	13.30
Program	\$9,440,687	74.40
Capital	\$1,560,845	12.30
Total	\$12,688,485	100%

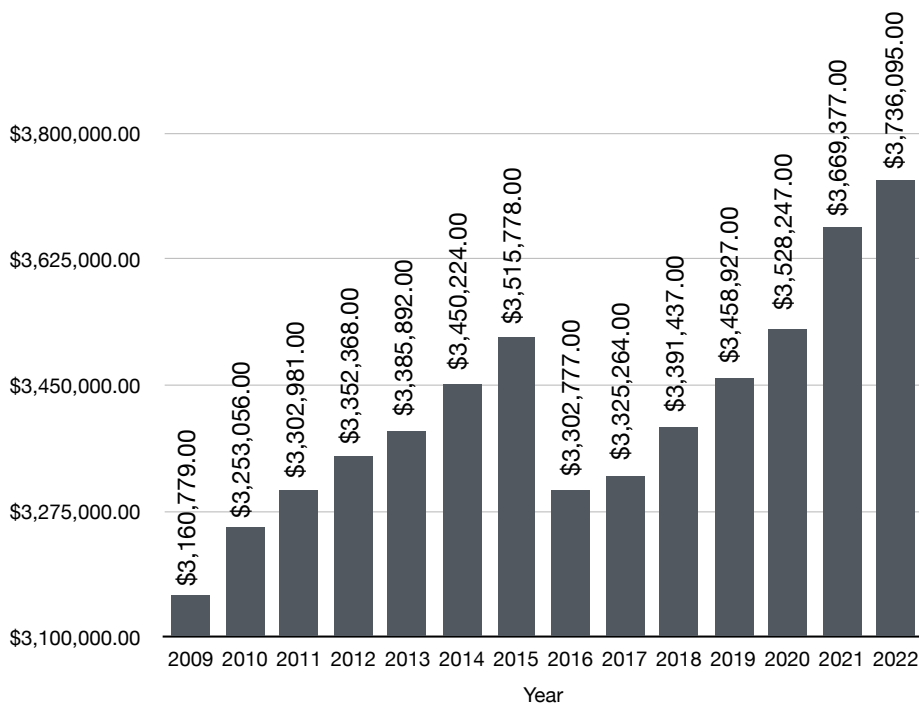
General Fund Revenues

Source	2020-2021 Current	2021-2022 Proposed
Property Tax	\$3,669,377	\$3,736,095
State Aid	\$7,330,597	\$7,382,476
Other	\$650,792	\$573,914
Interest Earning	\$45,000	\$30,000
Fund Balance/Reserves	\$900,000	\$950,000
Interest and Penalties	\$16,000	\$16,000
Total	\$12,611,766	\$12,688,485
Tax on True Rate	10.8458	9.9200
Contingent Cap	\$12,611,766 1	\$76,719



Budget School Property Tax Levy History

History of Property Tax at Richfield Springs CSD



Increase	1.82%
Increase	\$66,718
(Below Tax Cap)	

2021-2022 Proposed Budget Q&A

Q: What is the increase in the local property tax levy?

A: 1.82%, this is below the tax cap.

Q: Does the STAR Program still exist?

A: Yes, the School Tax Relief Program, which is known as STAR provides a partial exemption from school taxes. All New Yorkers who own and live in their home and earn less than \$500,000 are eligible for a basic STAR credit, \$250,000 for a basic STAR exemption on their primary residence. Exemption amounts are shown below. The Equalization rate, set by the State, and assessments set by township, will affect the exemption value. Enhanced STAR provides a larger exemption on the primary residence for people over 65 years of age and who earn less than \$88,050. The STAR exemption requires an initial application through the local assessor. If you or spouse recently turned 65. or (if your income fell below \$88,050 due to changing circumstances, please apply for the Enhanced STAR.

Richfield Springs CSD STAR maximums 2021-22

Municipal Name	Basic	Enhanced
Town of Columbia	\$306	\$684
Town of Exeter	\$299	\$659
Town of Otsego	\$306	\$697
Town of Richfield	\$319	\$664
Town of Springfield	\$318	\$664
Town of Warren	\$296	\$659

Q: How are your dollars spent?

A: By state law the budget is divided into three categories:

- Program: 75 % – This category includes expenses for the instruction and transportation of students.
- Capital: 12 % – This category includes capital improvement and operations and maintenance costs.
- Administration: 13 % – This category includes costs for administration, supervision, and legal services.

Q: How is education at Richfield Springs Central School funded?

A: State aid covers approximately 60% of our expenses. Property taxes cover an additional 29% (with STAR paying 4% and local property owners paying 25%) and other sources cover the remaining 11 %.

Q: How much State Aid will we receive next year?

A: Based on the current estimates we are expected to receive approximately \$7,382,476 in State Aid. However, at the time of this printing, state aid figures are not finalized.

Q: What is the difference between the State Aid we received last year versus the State aid we will be receiving this year?

A: The District anticipates receiving \$51,879 more aid for the 2021-2022 school year. General aid is anticipated to remain flat, while building aid increased slightly due to receiving a full year vs a half year of aid in 20-21.

Q: What does this mean in terms of local tax levy?

A: The Board of Education establishes the final tax levy each August, prior to the printing of our tax bills. Based on the anticipated State Aid, the tax levy increase for 2021-2022 is 1.82%.

Q: How do our school taxes on true value compare to other school districts?

A: Richfield Springs CSD continues to enjoy one of the lowest if not the lowest tax on true rate in the Herkimer County BOCES region.

Q: What has been done to reduce the budget to its present level and limit the taxes?

A: The Board of Education at Richfield Springs CSD works hard to balance the needs of the students and the taxpayers' ability to pay. We have put together a budget that is fiscally responsible and that sustains our educational programs. The district continues to be efficient with the following efforts: making the treasurer position 0.4 FTE with no benefits, the maintenance supervisor at 0.6 FTE BOCES aidable, payroll in-house stipend, maximizing grant funds, and stabilizing health care costs (up only 5.0%) through our well-managed consortium &

through meaningful contribution rates for our active employees. We will continue to pursue savings in 2021-2022.

Q: What happens if the budget is voted down?

A: If the proposed budget is voted down the Board of Education has three choices.

1. They can adopt a contingency budget.
2. Put the same budget before the voters for a second vote in June.
3. Revise the defeated budget and put the revised budget up for another vote in June.

Q: What is a contingency Budget?

A: A contingent budget is a budget that includes the minimum funds necessary to operate and to maintain school and educational programs, preserve the property of the district, and to assure the health and safety of the students and staff. Ordinary contingent expenditures are determined by the Board of Education and are subject to certain regulations.

Q: What would the District have to do to develop a contingency budget?

A: The current NYS laws include a new calculated tax levy cap for each school district. Richfield Springs' calculated cap for next year is 2.41%, while our proposed tax levy is 1.82%. If a contingency budget happens, then the tax levy increase would be 0.00%. Certain items would need to be "cut" from the budget, according to State law. This reduction could hurt various educational and extra curricular programs like the summer program, sports programs, and class offerings.

Q: Why do we replace buses every year?

A: The District has had a replacement program in place for over 30 years. Currently, our transportation aid from NYS is 77.3%. We receive the aid the following year for five years, including interest. This allows for lower repair and maintenance costs and improved safety for the students. We plan on borrowing with voters' approval to purchase two full-sized gasoline buses. By trading in older buses earlier, the district receives a higher trade-in value too.

Celebrating One Hundred Days of School

Mrs. Wust's Kindergarten class celebrated the one hundred days of school in fun, unique ways. Students used their imaginations and dressed up as their future one hundred year old selves (Pictured top right and bottom right. Students painted works of art, that celebrate the number one hundred. Students took the numbers "1, 0 and 0" and arranged them to be an object or other creative ways (pictured bottom left). Students also created circular portraits that contain 100 dots (Pictured bottom center). All in all, the one hundredth day of school will be remembered for years to come!



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