

The Rockin' Eagle

The School that Rocks!

Volume 3 Issue 1

December 2014

Letters from the Editors-in-Chief

Dear Rock Hillers,

I am so excited for this year's *Rockin' Eagle*! We have interviews, art, photography, news, and reporters. The paper has been going on for three years. The last two have been amazing and I'm sure this year will be equally if not better than before!

Editor-in-Chief,
Chiara



Special points of interest:

- Rock Hill Honors Veterans!
- UCONN Players Visit F3!!
- Rockin Art!
- Meet Rockin Eagle Staff!
- Sports!
- Amazing Interviews!
- Awesome Articles!

A Veteran's Day Celebration

By Callie, grade 4

On Tuesday, November 11th there was a celebration at the Town Hall. At this celebration there were veterans, parents, the mayor, a senator and lots of town citizens. There were even Dag students playing their instruments. The songs they played were *Taps*, *The Star Spangled Banner*, and *America the Beautiful*. Many people made speeches about how thankful we should be for our veterans' service. Then, we thanked our veterans. Some ways were by setting up wreaths on the war monuments, and clapping for them. Since my poppy is a veteran he got to hold one of the flags! The Veteran's Day Celebration was a beautiful way to thank and honor our veterans.

Land of the Free Because of the Brave

By Julia and Kylie, grade 5

Veteran's Day is a time to thank all of the veterans for serving our country. Rock Hill celebrated in a great way. We stared in awe when the 5th grade strings performed for the veterans that visited our school. Then a veteran talked to us about his experiences in serving our country. Mrs. LaTorre also showed the school some of the thank you notes written by students at Rock Hill. It was a wonderful way for the school to celebrate the brave!



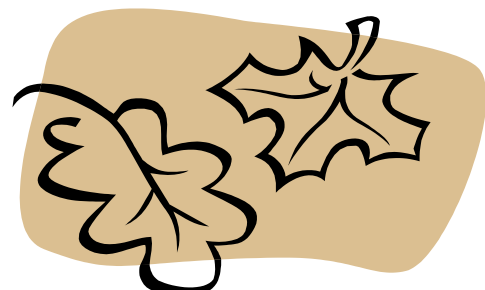
Dear Readers,

Welcome back to Rock Hill for the new school year! I hope you had a wonderful Halloween and Thanksgiving. 5th Graders, I hope that you had fun at Nature's Classroom. I had an amazing time! Between field group and the classes that I took, I had a blast! So far, the school year is going great. I am looking forward to reading the creative articles and interesting interviews, as well as looking at the colorful pictures. I know we will have a successful year!

Sincerely,
Julia
Editor-in-Chief



**A Big Thank You to Ms. Bourassa,
Ms. Adams, and Mrs. Bourassa for
decorating the hallways in honor of
Veteran's Day!**



Articles of Interest

Watch for Columns from Daniel, Gianna, and Kayce in upcoming issues of *The Rockin' Eagle!*

My Fun Trip to Hawaii

By Daniel, grade 5



I went to Hawaii a couple of weeks ago. I enjoyed the trip very much and would like to go again. Here are

the best things my family did while in Hawaii. We were on the island of Oahu for our first 5 days. There, we went to the Pearl Harbor museum and to some beaches. As we were driving down the eastern coast of Oahu, we stopped at a scenic overlook. I looked over the railing to the left and I saw what looked like a swimming hole. We went down to check it out and found a mini cave, and went inside to look at it. We went all the way through the cave until you had to kneel down to move. We didn't have our swimsuits then, but we decided we would come back. We went back two days later and had a great time swimming. The waves were big and fun to body surf on. From there we went to Sandy Beach. The waves were huge so we decided to try a different beach but had the same result. So we went back to the hotel. The next day we left for Maui, a different island. In my opinion Maui was better. On Maui we snorkeled with turtles and went to a Luau. When we were snorkeling, we were so close that you could touch the turtles. We swam over coral reefs and saw many different fish and coral. We went on a snorkel cruise to a small crescent shaped crater called Molokini. We snorkeled there too but there weren't any turtles, just fish. We went to a Luau. A Luau is a religious Hawaiian celebration. They have a food called poi which is made from taro root. It is very bitter but good with salty things. Overall, Hawaii was my favorite vacation ever and I will always remember it!

(At Right) Daniel and his family on their visit to Hawaii.*

UCONN

By Gianna, grade 5

It was such an exciting day! Ryan Boatright and Daniel Hamilton, two amazing basketball players on the UCONN basketball team came to our classroom. They are so tall! It was fun getting to interview them. At the end our class was able to ask some of our own questions, which was good because we all wanted to learn more about them and what it was like to be on the UCONN basketball team. They told us about how they have both been playing basketball for so long and have always loved it. It was very inspiring that they followed their dream and are amazing basketball players. They both want to be in the NBA so we will cross our fingers for them! If you want to be a basketball player or anything else, you should think about someone like Ryan or Daniel. Always work hard and follow your dreams!



Nature's Classroom

By Kayce, grade 5

As a fifth grader, you get lots of special privileges...safety patrol, sitting on the bleachers at town meetings, and book night challenges. But one of my favorite things in fifth grade so far was our recent trip to Nature's Classroom. It was a tremendous learning experience that I will never forget. It also taught you survival strategies. My field group leader, Flea, was from Cheshire, CT. Leaders are from around the country. One of the activities my field group did was build a shelter in the woods. We also went on hikes. You get to take different classes there. My favorite was deer survival. It was a big game of tag in the woods. Overall, Nature's Classroom was a great experience that I loved having!



News Around the Rock

A Dunktastic Afternoon with Ryan Boatright and Daniel Hamilton!

By Manav, grade 5



What a great afternoon we had on October 20, 2014! Mrs. Hurst's class got to meet and interview two fantastic players from the Men's UConn Basketball team--Ryan Boatright and Daniel Hamilton. The class could hardly wait as we excitedly rushed back into the classroom after recess. Once we saw the basketball greats, we were filled with amazement because they were sitting at the back table. Ryan is a senior at UCONN and he plays the position of point guard on the team and is from Chicago. Daniel is a freshman from California and he plays small forward on the UCONN team. Both players enjoy being on the UCONN team because they learn a lot from the sport and they work together. What a great afternoon for Mrs. Hurst's class!

Drawing by Rachel, grade 5



Thank you to Macy, Ryan, Kayce, Andrew, and Dori for taking pictures for the paper! Great Job!

Blisters for a Good Cause

By Yasmina, grade 4

Have you ever stopped to think about what you can do for someone else? Every little act of kindness can make a huge difference! Last week my older sister, Nora came home and was exhausted. She had blisters on her hands. My sister said she spent the whole day raking leaves with her soccer team. She was helping an elderly woman who didn't have anyone else to help her. At first I thought why would she want to do that instead of having fun. Nora told me that she felt the same way in the beginning too, but then realized that helping people could be great, even if it can be hard work sometimes. The woman was so happy that they could rake her leaves because she was lonely and it was hard to do on her own. My sister said that it was the best feeling to help! She said helping people was fun and the people that you help are always grateful. That got me thinking. Why can't we help people too? We are not too young to start helping. Not only is it nice to do, it is fun. When you help with your friends, you're working as a team. There are so many ideas that you could think of to help people. You could ask your family if they need help bringing in their grocery bags because it may be hard for them to do themselves. Or you could raise money by selling something you made and then giving the money to a person who needs help. Maybe you and your family can volunteer at a nursing home. There are so many things that you could do, you just need to use your imagination!

Trail of Doom

By Callie, grade 4

Listen up *Rockin' Eagle!* The Chordas Family's Trail of Doom was back this year! It was a big success because we raised \$800.00 for the American Cancer Society.

You are probably wondering how it all began. One day my family was sitting at the table making little ghosts. Then my aunt said, "How about starting a Halloween trail?" I asked, "Where?" My aunt said, "In your backyard!" So we started listing ideas and soon we had a plan.

Our Halloween trail isn't too long, but it is very scary. After people dared to walk through the creepy trail full of cobwebs, spiders, werewolves, graveyards and many, many scary people, they either danced to the music of the DJ, ate from a variety of sweet treats or just sat by the fire sipping on hot cocoa!

We were happy so many of our family and friends were able to come and enjoy our fun and scary experience. Till next year.....Boo!



In The Spotlight

My Grandmother Inspires Me Because...

By Rayan, grade 4



Smart, hardworking, caring, and beautiful...these are words that come to mind when I think about my grandmother. My grandmother's the unforgettable member of our family because of her dedication to her community, her hard work to raise five children in a country where she barely spoke any English, the help she provides my mom by taking care of us when my mom has to travel for work, and her support and dedication in helping the less fortunate who really need help. Ever since I was a baby, my grandmother has been my inspiration. But what has inspired me the most is when she had told me a story about what she did to help the poor people back in her country.

My grandmother's father lived on a farm all his life. After she was married, my grandmother would often go back to visit him and her great uncles. She explained to me that there were a lot of people who were very poor who lived near my great grandfather. They often would come to his house and ask for food and water. My grandmother would see little kids who were less fortunate and she told me how she felt very sad for them because they too came and knocked on his door and asked for water. I asked my grandmother, how come these people and children, who came to see my great grandfather, did not have any water in their house? She explained to me that it was because they lived on a farm and were very poor with no assistance, money, or food, or clothes. They had to travel by foot for several miles to get water from a well and carry the heavy containers all the way back home on their backs. This was very difficult where they lived because often times the temperature would reach over 100 degrees and many would faint.

They used the water for cooking, washing clothes, brushing their teeth and many other things. My grandmother knew my great grandfather was unable to walk this far every day so she bought him a motorcycle with her own savings so he was able to get water much quicker. She also said that my great grandfather was well known by everyone in the community because he would always share his water and all his food with everyone who needed help. My grandmother worked odd jobs to raise her own family but somehow she managed to save enough money to go back to my great grandfather's farm and build a well for everyone to use. She explained that they worked on this well for months and she continued to send money until it was complete. This helped several people within the community to no longer travel long distances by foot to get water. When people saw the well, they cried and thanked my grandmother so much. She was able to help not only by building a well, but also by providing hope and inspiration for those who were very sad about their situation.

The people were so grateful to my great grandmother that they often named their children after her because they always wanted to be reminded of what a great person she was. My grandmother has taught me so much throughout my life and sharing this story with everyone hopefully will help you to know what kind of a person she is. She is a multi-talented woman with determination and believes if you set your mind to your goal there isn't anything that you can't achieve. She always tells me there isn't anything that you can't do if you work hard for it. I look at my grandmother's story of how this well helped many people and I see it as a hero's story because I don't think many people could do what my grandmother did. I thank her and tell her every day how much I appreciate and love her.

In The Spotlight

Talking with Mrs. LaTorre

By Allison, Dori, Emilia, and Isabella, grade 4

Why have you always liked the Red Sox? *That's a good question. I don't know why, I just always have from the time that I was a small girl. Even though my father liked the Yankees, my mom liked the Red Sox, so maybe that had something to do with it. For as long as I can remember, I have always rooted for them.*

What was your expression when they won the World Series last year? *Of course I was very happy. It was a very exciting time. It was nice for my boys to be able to see them win the World Series because prior to that they were really too young. We were very excited! It was also very unexpected so, so it made it even better!*

Who is your favorite Red Sox player on the team? *Dustin Pedroia because he is a very hard worker. He's scrappy, and he perseveres. I don't know how much you know about him but he's small but has such a strong work ethic. For me, that is really important. It's a good way to be a role model for kids. Even though you may not be expected because of your differences, you can still go on to do great things as long as you work hard and enjoy what you are doing.*

If you had to change the name of the Red Sox, what would it be? *I wouldn't change it. It's a part of their history and who they are so I wouldn't want to change it.*

If you had to change one player from the Red Sox to the Yankees who would it be? *I couldn't do it...as far as I'm concerned if you are a Red Sox, you need to be loyal to the Red Sox. I feel that's just where they should be. I wouldn't trade anyone.*

Is baseball your favorite sport? *I would say I like baseball a lot but I also like to watch football.*



In The Spotlight

Meet Mrs. Mather

By Breanna, Kaitlyn, and Emilie, grade 3

What do you like about being a teacher? *I love to help students achieve their full potential and work very hard to achieve their goals.*

What is your favorite subject to teach? *My favorite is math.*

Do you have a favorite game to teach your class? *I like to teach them a states and capitals game.*

Do you have a favorite book? *Tuck Everlasting*

What is one of your favorite times being a teacher? *One would be when I get to take my students to Nature's Classroom.*



Meet Ms. Adams

By Breanna, Kaitlyn, and Emilie, grade 3

What college did you go to? *I went to Quinnipiac University*

Are you from Wallingford, CT? *I am not. I am from New York.*

How long have you wanted to be a teacher and why? *I have wanted to be a teacher since I was in the 8th grade because I had a teacher that really inspired me to want to help others.*

Do you have a favorite teacher growing up? *Yes, my Italian teacher. I had her from 6th grade until 11th grade.*

Do you have a favorite book to read to students? *I think my favorite book to read to students would be My Father's Dragon.*



Sports

My Soccer Season

By Isabella, grade 4

The soccer season for me was a busy one! But can you blame me? It gets kind of crazy when you are on two teams! One of them is a developmental travel team. We call ourselves the Wallingford Wolves. We won almost every single game. We also played in a tournament and didn't win but we had to play in a different division. One of the games was played in the rain! The other team is an in-house team called the Red Devils. Our record was a pattern of win, loss, win, loss throughout the season. I hope that you liked learning about my soccer season!

The Judge's Cup

By Dori, grade 4

Hi, my name is Dori, and I'm a 4th grader. I am also a level 5 competitive gymnast at American Gymnastics. This year at my second meet for this season, I placed 1st in the all-around! I got a teddy bear because it was a teddy bear meet called the Judge's Cup. It was at Jonathan Law in Milford. My team also took home the 1st place trophy! I am excited to see what the rest of the season will bring!



Powder Puff Football

By Mitchell, grade 5

Powder Puff originated in Wallingford and now is played in many other towns. Powder Puff has been going on for 43 years in Wallingford. Powder Puff is when senior high school girls have the option to play flag football. The senior boys have the option to cheerlead for the girls. Every year the big game is on the day before Thanksgiving. The two high schools of Wallingford (Lyman Hall and Sheehan) play flag football during this event. This year Sheehan beat Lyman Hall with a score of 34-22.

Go Choate!

By Emilia, grade 4

"Are we there yet?" I asked. My dad and I were on the way to watch Choate play Noble and Greenough in Massachusetts for the New England Prep School Soccer Championships. Unbeaten in the regular season, Choate was the number one seed in the tournament. Nobles and Greenough was the second seed. The two teams faced each other last year too, for the championship. That game ended in a tie. Now, sitting in the very cold weather, I couldn't wait for the game to start! As the seconds ticked down in the first half, the score was 0-0. Finally halftime was over and the second half began. With minutes left in the game, it happened... the most horrible thing! The other team scored on a corner kick. There was so much chaos in the box right before the ball went in the goal. I saw an inadvertent handball that wasn't called...UGH! Now with hardly any time left, Nobles and Greenough was up 1-0. Choate DID NOT give up! They fought until the very end. They almost scored at the very end of the game on a header that BARELY missed. Even though they lost, it was a great game. I'm very proud of the team. They are #1 to me!



Choate Football Goes Undefeated!

Drawing by Nathaniel, grade 4

In The Spotlight

A Musical Talent—Mr. Vece!

By Vivian and Cassie, grade 4

Why did you choose to be an instrument teacher at Rock Hill? *I chose to be an instrument teacher at Rock Hill because one of my very favorite things to do in my spare time, or even when I'm working, is to play a lot of different instruments. To be able to teach the ten different instruments offered at Rock Hill is a whole lot of fun! It is a good challenge for me, to be able to master all of the techniques for all of them.*

Are you in any bands? *Yes, indeed! I am in two different bands. One is an Irish band called the Jolly Beggars and the other is a reggae group called Elm City Sound.*

If you had to choose, what would be your favorite instrument? *If I had to choose, it would be the Irish Penny Whistle, which I play in my Irish band.*

Where did you go to college? *I went to the University of Hartford, Hartt School of Music for my both my undergraduate and graduate degrees.*

What's your favorite instrument to teach? *My favorite to teach is the trumpet because that was the instrument that I learned to play in fourth grade.*

Do you have a favorite song? *That's a tricky question because I like many different songs. I will tell you one of them is Color My World by Chicago, but I have lots of favorites.*

Do you have a favorite band or artist? *I must think for a minute...my favorite currently because it changes all of the time is Chet Baker, who was a jazz trumpet player.*



In The Spotlight

Meet Mrs. Schmidt

Interview by Zunera, grade 3

Why did you choose this job? *I chose this job because my aunt had a lot of difficulty learning and didn't like school...people teased her...so I decided to become a teacher.*

How long have you been a mentor for student teachers? *Fifteen years*

What do most students like about you? *My wonderful sense of humor!*

What do you like most about this school? *I like the kids the most and I love how everyone is free to be themselves and to do the best they can...and I love everyone that I work with.*

What's your favorite thing to do in your free time? *I love gardening. I love animals. I have lots of animals...not so many at my home right now, but I usually do. Right now I have two dogs, Angus and Gizmo, a guinea pig named Piggy, a rabbit named Hazel, and fish. They have names too, but you don't want me to name all 22 of them.*

What are some of the activities that you volunteer for? *I volunteer at Benhaven for kids with autism. I also volunteer at the Park n' Rec for some adaptive classes.*

You teach 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade. Do you have a favorite grade to teach? *I don't really have a favorite grade. I like them all.*



Meet Mrs. McCormick

Interview by Brynlin and Kaitlyn, grade 3

What is your favorite color? *My favorite color is lime green.*

What is your favorite pet? *Well we have three pets at our house. We have two cats, Tweak and Penny, and a fish named Lollipop. I think that I like Lollipop the best.*

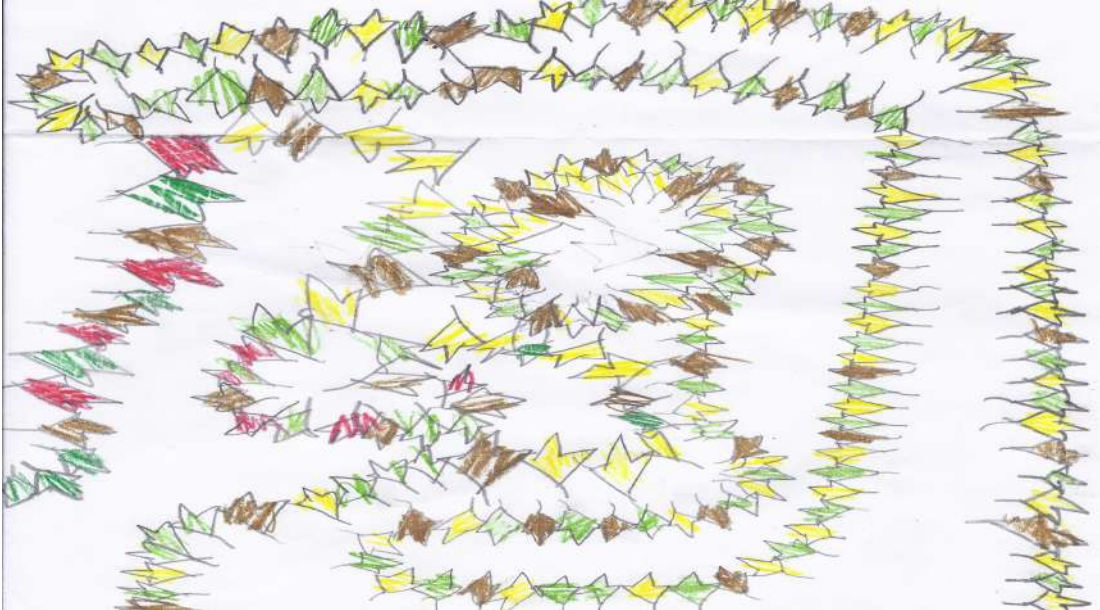
What is your favorite book? *I have a lot of favorite books. One of my favorites is Because of Mr. Terupt because of the relationships and the sense of community that he creates in his 5th grade classroom. Another favorite is Strega Nona.*

Why did you want to be a teacher? *I wanted to be a teacher because I really like helping kids. When I was younger I worked at a camp during the summer and really liked it. Also, when I was in high school I was in a club called Future Teachers, and volunteered in a first grade classroom at MYB, which is why I wanted to be a teacher.*

What's your favorite part of being a teacher? *My favorite part of being a teacher is when a student sits down and says they don't understand something. Then all of sudden, they have that moment when they get it...that's my favorite part. I call it the light bulb moment.*



Creativity



Drawing by Valerie, grade 5



Drawing by Rachel, grade 5



Drawing by Allison, grade 4

Creativity At Work

Fashion Alert

By Sofia, grade 3

Here are some fashion trends that I have noticed:

- Leggings are so cool!
- It's fall and to go with your outfit, I recommend a cute scarf and a comfy coat in your favorite color.
- What about a new fringe purse?
- Need new glasses? What about wide glasses with almost no frame? Add a little color on the sides of them and get a cute case to match!
- Have you heard? Emeralds make great jewelry!

What Is Your Favorite Thing About Being a Third Grader?

By Chiara, grade 5

Chiara asked 3rd Grade Rockin' Eagle Staff what they enjoyed most about being a third grader. Here's what they said:

Sofia - *My teacher, Mrs. Chappell*

Zunera - *How we can have recess with our whole pod*

Breanna - *The way that the pods are set up*

Emilie - *I like my teacher, Mrs. Jarrin and writing*

Kaitlyn - *I like math and my teacher, Mrs. Jarrin*

Brynlin - *My teacher Mrs. Jarrin, and spending time with my friends*

We're Thankful For:

-List Compiled by Chiara, grade 5

Isabella—*my family*

Dori—*my family, food, shelter, friends, and of course, gymnastics*

Emilia—*my family, my dog Crosby, and my warm house*

Vivian—*the newspaper club*

Sofia—*my home*

Cassie—*my family*

Zunera—*my friends and my family*

Brynlin—*my family*

Emilie—*my family*

Breanna—*my dog*

Kaitlyn—*my family*

Kayce—*my supportive family*

Allison—*my cozy home*

Nathaniel—*family, friends, and shelter*

Yasmina—*family, friends, and shelter*

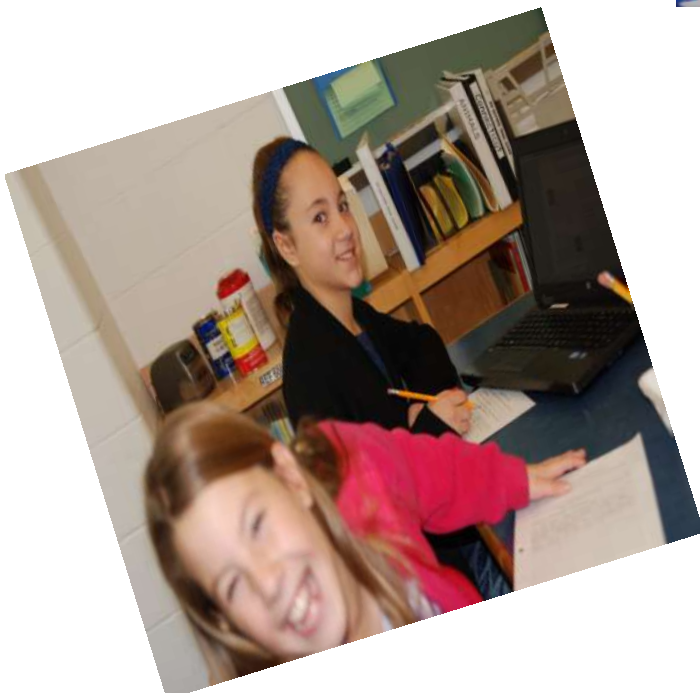
Julia—*a loving family, a house, and food on my table*

Kylie—*being able to come to school and food on my table*

Callie—*food, a loving family, food on my table, and clothes to wear*

On behalf of the Rockin' Eagle Staff, we would like to wish everyone a wonderful holiday season!

Club Members At Work



Meet This Year's *Rockin' Eagle Staff*

*(*Staff missing pictures will be in next issue*)*



Third Grade Staff





Fourth Grade Staff





Fifth Grade Staff

