How will you show your PRIDE in Red Jacket in 2014?
Look inside for great ideas.

This is Red Jacket PRIDE!!!
Dear District Residents,

Below is an email from Senator Nozzolio asking for your views and opinions via his 2014 Constituent Questionnaire, which you can respond to at www.senatornozzolio.com. Please consider taking the time to complete Senator Nozzolio’s questionnaire (on his website), placing pertinent information in the fields he provides. We need Senator Nozzolio to understand the issues WE are facing, support our upstate schools – and specifically, Red Jacket!

“It is an honor and a privilege to represent you in the New York State Senate and your views and opinions are of the utmost importance to me. Public service is a responsibility that I take very seriously and I want you to know that being responsive to my constituents is my highest priority. That is why I have developed a questionnaire to gather the input, views and ideas of my constituents.

To share your input and ideas for improving New York State, please visit my website and complete my 2014 Constituent Questionnaire.

Your willingness to fill out the questionnaire will be deeply appreciated and it will help me focus on the issues that are most important to you and your family. Be assured that your responses and contact information will remain strictly confidential.

Your continued input on matters of interest and concern is always welcome and helps me to better serve and represent my constituents. Please do not hesitate to let me know whenever I can be of future assistance to you or your family.

With best wishes for a healthy and prosperous New Year.

Sincerely,
Mike Nozzolio”

The State’s distribution of aid to New York State schools is inequitable. There are 525 schools in the state, including all of the schools in the Wayne-Finger Lakes region, which are underfunded. The total loss to these Districts is -$5,466,236,772. The average loss per school is -$10,411,880. Compare these numbers to the impact on the 151 of wealthiest Districts. These Districts are primarily downstate and are overfunded by an average of $137,300,724. Yes, you read that correctly – the wealthiest Districts are overfunded by the state while we are underfunded!

The wealthiest 10% of New York’s school districts are almost 14.5 times wealthier than the poorest 10%. For all students in New York State to have access to an equitable educational opportunity, there needs to be a change in the distribution of State Aid.

The State’s distribution of funds to schools is going in the wrong direction, it is not equitable and there has been no formal plan made by the State to address the short-term and long-term fiscal consequences faced by Districts in our region.

With increasing expenses associated with utilities, fuel, materials, salaries, health insurance premiums, pension costs, special education programming, and unfunded mandates, our School District has responded by:

- sharing services with other Districts (Director of Food Services and transportation of students to outside programs),
- taking advantage of energy saving programs (Net Zero, Demand Response Program),
- decreasing course offerings,
- increasing class sizes,
- laying off staff at all levels,
- reducing bus runs,
- not replacing some retired staff, and
- consolidating administrative duties.

From the start of the 2010 school year through the 2013 school year, Red Jacket maintained a 0% increase on our tax base. However, this, coupled with less State Aid and increasing costs, came at a steep price. There were deep cuts made to our programs, including the loss of courses and the trimming of our staff by 24. We have continued to implement costly, new, unfunded mandates, such as the Common Core Curriculum for English Language Arts and Mathematics, with far fewer resources. We are providing support services to struggling students, also, with no additional resources. Reductions have been felt in the extra-curricular programs as well. There are fewer opportunities and our athletic program suffered the loss of modified athletics and coaching personnel. This last year, the community supported a 1.9% increase in the tax levy. By doing so, the District was thankfully able to restore technology to one full-time teacher, add one maintenance person, and restore modified athletics.
We want to remain competitive, provide excellent educational opportunities FOR THE CHILDREN OF OUR COMMUNITY, and sustain the future of our schools.

Tell our elected government officials they need to:

- get rid of the Gap Elimination Adjustment (GEA) and consider aid formulas that include a distribution that takes into account both poverty and fiscal capacity,
- avoid diverting funds for political purpose,
- create a more equitable STAR program for property owners (STAR distribution is also very similarly inequitable between upstate and downstate counties),
- stop the attack on small public schools, and
- stop unfunded mandates!

Our upstate schools rely on State Aid each year to help close the budget gap. Red Jacket School’s current State Aid is almost $1 MILLION BELOW the State Aid we received in the 2008-2009 school year!

For over one hundred years, the issue of perceived financial efficiency and savings from school consolidations has been debated in education. If you review studies to see what actually happened rather than what was predicted to happen when schools or Districts consolidated, there was a failure to produce savings in operating costs, and savings that occurred were short lasting. Despite the studies and the research findings that students who attend small schools are more likely to graduate, participate in a greater number of extra-curricular activities, have feelings of belongingness, and have better school attendance, the governor wants small schools to merge.

How could this be? Doesn’t this fly in the face with government officials supporting the opening of hundreds of small charter schools that are run by private entities and paid for with public funds? This fall in Rochester, four more charter schools (two high schools, a middle school and an elementary school) will open with an emphasis on small class sizes. In New York City alone, there are twelve administrators of charter schools making over $212,000 per year with the highest salaries at $475,000 and $499,000. These salaries are well beyond what the majority of administrators in public schools receive, whether the District is large or small. If larger is better, then why are funds being diverted away from public schools to open small charter school across the state and nation? The research supporting small schools is broad and deep, maybe that’s why?

You simply cannot match the opportunities our small school, with such a supportive community, has to offer OUR children. Larger schools attempt to emulate the small school experience by creating “houses” or “teams” within their large buildings and classes. Our Red Jacket Team is exceptional, dedicated, caring, and accessible. Our students and their parents receive more individual attention, and, without a doubt, we get results, whether it’s in athletics, the arts, or within our academic programs. More of our students are able to participate in extra-curricular activities and athletics than students in larger school settings. We are a competitive, proud, small public school that uniquely provides a personal, private school type of experience. It doesn’t get better than that!

Tell Senator Nozzolio and other ELECTED government leaders the facts, the research, how you feel about YOUR school. If Senator Nozzolio really wants to be responsive to his constituents and this is his highest priority, request that he aggressively advocate for an equitable STAR program for property owners and more equitable funding to support our upstate schools, specifically, to Red Jacket Schools!

Please consider sharing these issues with Senator Nozzolio at www.senatornozzolio.com and asking him to support our upstate public schools.

Sincerely,

Charlene Harvey
Superintendent of Schools
Meet our new teachers....

**Teresa Alba – MS/HS Spanish Teacher** – Teresa comes to us from Spry Middle School in the Spencerport CSD. She is originally from the Dominican Republic where she studied medicine. Teresa has her degree from Nazareth College. She will be working with both middle and high school students this year.

**Gabrielle Auckland – 9th grade Algebra Teacher** – Gabrielle comes to us from North Rose Wolcott. She has degrees from Niagara University and Central Washington University. She will have the honor of preparing RJ students for the first common core assessment in Algebra.

**Richard Bott – 9th grade Global History Teacher** – Rich comes to us from Bishop Kearney HS. He has degrees from Middle State University and Nazareth College. Rich will be working with all freshman this year to prepare them for the first half of the Global History Regents exam at the end of their sophomore year.

**Jennifer Genega – 7th grade Science Teacher** – Jennifer comes to us from New Roots Charter School in Ithaca where she taught Living Environment. She has her Biology degree from Rutgers University. Jen will teach both science and health this year.

**Brendan Harrington – 8th grade Social Studies Teacher** – Brendan comes to us from Asheville, North Carolina. He has degrees from Roberts Wesleyan and Washington & Lee University. Brendan will be working with the 8th grade team to prepare our students for their transition to the high school.

**Stephanie Riddle – 10th grade English Teacher** – Stephanie comes to us from a number of long-term substitute positions in New York, as well as positions in Indiana and Wisconsin. She is a tutor for Literacy Volunteers of Ontario-Yates. Stephanie will be working with all of our sophomores as they prepare to take the new common core Regents next year.

**Katie Roeland – Elementary Vocal Music** – Katie comes to us from the Phelps-Clifton Springs Central School District. She has degrees from Fredonia and Ithaca. Katie will be teaching general music for our kindergarten through sixth grade students, along with chorus for our fourth and fifth graders.
JOIN P.T.S.A. Today!!!

P.T.S.A. Annual Membership Form

Name:_____________________________________________________________

Address:____________________________________________________________

Phone:_____________________________________________________________

Grade(s) of Child(ren):__________________________________________________

Please return to the school office: $5.00 per family (cash or check payable to: RJPTSA)

_____ Parent  _____ Staff

_____ Teacher  _____ Other

PLEASE SELECT ONE:

_____ Active P.T.S.A. Board Member - I am interested in sitting on the P.T.S.A. Board

_____ Active Member - I am interested in volunteering:

Feel free to call me at:______________________________________________

E-Mail me at:______________________________________________________

_____ Inactive Member - Just the membership for now.

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Red Jacket middle school students performed, “Once on This Island, Jr.” on November 22nd and 23rd to a full house of adoring fans. Forty students in grades 6-8 performed in this Caribbean adaption of Hans Christian Anderson’s classic fairy tale, “The Little Mermaid”. The story follows a young peasant girl, Ti Moune (Tamsyn Kuehnert) who longs to be with the wealthy Daniel Beaux-homme (Christian VanGorder). Her journey is aided by the four gods, Asaka (MyKenzie Burnett), Agwe (Mark Thomas), Erzulie (Sophie Matties), and Papa Ge (Michael Thomas). The students did a phenomenal job!

Red Jacket Cross Country Team Recognized for Excelling in Academics

Every year, the New York State Public High School Athletic Association acknowledges athletic teams with excellent ACADEMIC averages. The requirements vary depending on the size of the teams. For Cross Country, the requirement is for the team’s top seven members (who have the highest academic averages) have an average GPA that is equal to or greater than 90.000 for the first term (10-week average).

This year, for the first time at RJ, BOTH the boys team and the girls team have been recognized for achieving academic excellence. The Boys Team GPA was 94.27 and the Girls Team GPA was 93.40.

Top 7 Boys:  
Walter Schaertl  
Nathan Sawyer  
Dan Clark  
Bryce Spadafora  
Beau Herendeen  
Nate Baley  
Jacob Maslyn  

Top 7 Girls:  
Shealyn Doody  
Taylor Strub  
Eden-Lyn Thomas  
Maggie Dorgan  
Sam Carter  
Pinar Saz  
Daria Sparks
There have been at least 24 school shootings since the tragic shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut, where 26 lost their lives in 2012. Although the vast majority of shootings occur in larger school districts, the Manchester-Shortsville Central school District is committed to school safety as our top priority! Our Emergency Response Team continues to work closely with the Ontario County Sheriff’s Department to keep our staff up to date with training, learn about the latest safety information, and conduct drills - often using real life scenarios. Information is also shared with our students and they participate fully in all our drills.

With guidance from Sargent Frasca of the Ontario County Sheriff’s Department, our Emergency Response Team reviewed the recently completed report from the State’s Attorney for the Judicial District of Danbury regarding the shootings at Sandy Hook Elementary School to understand more about what we can do to improve our response protocols as well as learn more about the shooter’s profile and motives. While there was not a conclusive motive established, the report indicated that the shooter had significant mental health issues, which is not at all surprising. According to the report, the shooter struggled to live a normal life and struggled to interact with others. These are students who clearly do not have a feeling of belonging, are not engaged in school activities, and did not recognize or receive the help needed to deal with those issues socially - common traits among other shooters studied. The heroic staff at Sandy Hook Elementary School followed the school’s emergency lock-down protocols. If staff had not acted as quickly as they did, there is no doubt that more would have lost their lives on that tragic day.

At Red Jacket, our counselors and administrators work closely with families to coordinate services in and outside of school. Thankfully, our schools are small enough to allow us to know our students well and maintain positive partnerships with parents. Our staff and students also know exactly what to do in the event of a lock-down should a threat occur to our school community. Our protocols have been tested, improved, and challenged further to encompass a multitude of scenarios. The Ontario County Sheriff’s Department has continued to work closely with us to ensure the latest safety procedures are used from the simplest practices, such as sign-in/sign-out procedures to what to do if a threat occurs. The State Police and Ontario County Sheriff’s Department also have copies of our site and emergency plans.

So, what is a lock-down? On November 11, 2013, the Manchester-Shortsville Central School District conducted a District-wide lock-down/lock-out drill. The drill was coordinated in collaboration with Deputy Fitzgerald, from the Ontario County Sheriff’s Department, and one of their search dogs. A lock-down is a procedure used when there is an immediate and imminent threat to the school building population. School staff and students are secured in rooms where they follow established safety procedures until the situation has been curtailed. A lock-out prevents anyone from entering the building during an emergency situation. This allows the school to secure students and staff in place and remove any innocent bystanders from immediate danger. It is most commonly used when there is an intruder in the building or on the premises. An intruder or unauthorized person is someone without a visitor’s pass who refuses to report to the main office and sign in.

Our drills are planned by our Emergency Response Committee, made up of faculty members, administrators, and Wayne Finger Lakes BOCES staff, in cooperation with the Ontario County Sheriff’s Office. Throughout the school year, we conduct practice drills such as the lock-down. Some of the drills may include responding to such things as intruders, hostile persons, bomb threats, fire, or severe weather. It is important that we practice a variety of scenarios so that faculty, students, and parents know exactly how to respond.

In the event of a real emergency situation, our students and staff understand the procedures they must follow to keep them safe. It is also important for parents to understand that, should it be necessary to conduct a lock-down and/or lock-out in the future, they should not come to the school to pick their child up during the event. If there was a threat in the building, students would be locked within the classrooms, the police would be pursuing the intruder; and for safety reasons, the police department would prohibit further entrance into the school. Parents would be given instructions and as much information as we could share; however, in every emergency situation, our primary mission, first and foremost, is to keep everyone safe.

Sergeant Frasca  Deputy Fitzgerald
Out-of District
Transportation Requests
Due April 1, 2014
for 2014-2015 School Year

Manchester-Shortsville Central School District parents who will have children attending non-public schools outside of the district in 2014-2015 must file a request for transportation by April 1, 2014.

Please note that even if a child already attends a non-public school and receives transportation, the request must be filed again for 2014-2015.

The following form should be completed and sent to the Assistant Superintendent, Manchester-Shortsville Central School District, 1506 Route 21, Shortsville, NY 14548.

Name of Student: ____________________________
Address: __________________________________
City: ________________________________
Grade Level: ____________________________
Date of Birth: ____________________________
Name of School: ____________________________
School Address: ____________________________
Parent/Guardian: ____________________________
Home Telephone: ____________________________

Return form to:
Kristine Guerri, Assistant Superintendent
Manchester-Shortsville Central School District
1506 Route 21
Shortsville, NY 14548

MS Principal Search

We will begin our search for a new MS Principal during the month of March. We’d like to thank Ralph Undercoffler for his hard work this year as our interim. We have grown with his guidance and experience, and look forward to continuing in that direction with a new leader in July.

Interviews will take place during the month of April. Four candidates will be invited to present to the community on Monday, May 5th, at “Meet the Candidate Night.” Our goal will be for the Board of Education to act on a recommendation at their May 14th meeting. The new MS Principal will start on July 1st.

Relay for Life

The Relay For Life of Midlakes/Red Jacket will kick off its annual “walk around the clock” to fight cancer at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, February 5th, at Ashton Place. Everyone is invited to attend and learn more about this important community event. Fighting cancer is a group effort, whether it involves teams of scientists looking for more effective treatments or groups of friends wearing crazy hats and walking laps to support such research. The theme for this year is “There’s No Place Like Hope.” The Midlakes/Red Jacket Relay for Life Committee is eager to provide the community with information about the May 31st Relay for Life and to welcome new team members at the Kick Off. Please consider joining us!

For additional information contact:
Brandon Swain | Specialist, Relay For Life
Eastern Division | American Cancer Society, Inc.
1120 S Goodman St
Rochester, NY 14620
Phone: 607.220.6271
Brandon Swain <brandon.swain@cancer.org>
Holiday Food Basket & Angel Tree Program

This year, the Red Jacket Faculty and Staff Community Service Committee and the High School National Honor Society sponsored a District-wide food drive to help provide members of our community with dinner baskets for the holidays. November was designated as the month to donate. Each grade was given an item to donate:

- Kindergarten: Pudding Mixes
- Second Grade: Boxes of Potato Mixes
- Fourth Grade: Canned Cranberries or Applesauce
- Sixth Grade: Canned Peas
- Eighth Grade: Canned Pie Fillings
- Tenth Grade: Canned Gravy or Gravy Mixes
- Twelfth Grade: Cans/Containers of Juice or Hot Chocolate Mixes

- First Grade: Jell-O Mixes
- Third Grade: Boxed Stuffing Mixes
- Fifth Grade: Canned Corn
- Seventh Grade: Cake Mixes
- Ninth Grade: Canned Green Beans
- Eleventh Grade: Boxed Roll or Bread Mixes

Staff contributed to Dress Down Friday’s and participated in monthly RJFA/CSEA sponsored luncheons. That money was used to purchase turkeys, milk, butter, and other perishable food items. Wegmans donated a gift card to assist us with purchases. Special thanks to the following students who helped with Thanksgiving – Andrew Ogrodowski, Thomas Elliott, Matt Colotti, and McKenna Bacon.

In early December, tags were hung on “Angel” trees in the high school and elementary school offices with gift wishes for staff to purchase gifts for the nine local families who benefited from this outpouring of generosity.

On Saturday, December 21st, many volunteers, including students, parents, staff, and retired staff, came together to assemble gifts and meals for our nine families. Special thanks to the following students; McKenna Bacon, Jacob Maslyn, Corrina Capron, Carlye Capron, Kelsey Sweeney, Elijah Moore, and Lindsey Anderson. Deliveries were made to the families in a great showing of Red Jacket PRIDE!

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RED JACKET HIGH SCHOOL PROUDLY PRESENTS

“Dirty Rotten Scoundrels”

March 21 and 22 at 7:00 pm
and
March 23 at 2:00 pm
HS Auditorium
School Logos?

At our Regular November Board of Education meeting, one item of discussion involved our school logo. Over the years, our logo has undergone some changes. As a result of the concerns that were raised over the changes, the Board of Education agreed to allow our students, faculty, and community members to vote for an RJ Logo and a pictorial logo during the May 20th Budget Vote.

One of our talented art teachers, Mrs. Sargent, has offered to work with her students to research the logos of the past and present and create an RJ and a pictorial logo that will be voted on by her students. The student-created logos (one RJ and one pictorial) with the most votes will then be submitted with the other school logos of the past and present to be voted on at the May 20th Budget Vote.

The two logos (one RJ and one pictorial) with the most votes will be submitted to the Board of Education with a recommendation from Superintendent Harvey to adopt as our “Official” Red Jacket School Logos during the Regular June Board of Education meeting.

Sample logos:

We hope to see you at the May 20th vote!

Elementary M.S.T. Night

Family engagement continues to be a goal at Red Jacket Elementary School. Last year was the first year of the Math, Science, and Technology Night. Rebecca Ikewood, Erika Bastian, and Nicole Lofton are the organizers of Red Jacket Elementary School’s M.S.T. Night! It was such a success last year that it will return again this year! It will be held on March 20th from 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.

Some of the wonderful FUN learning opportunities include the following:
* A variety of math games including a card and dice game that children can take the directions home and play.
* Different science experiments including how to make the best airplane using different types of paper.
* Students will be able to make SLIME and take it home!
* 40 iPads will be set up for students to explore Math apps
* A mini-robot will be available for students to run through a track
* A math measuring activity where students make their own trail mix
* Lots of more FUN and exciting Math, Science, and Technology opportunities!

This year, there will also be door prizes for families that attend! This event would not be possible without the hard work and dedication of these teacher leaders and the volunteerism of our faculty and staff. We hope you will come join us in the FUN!
SPECTATOR RISK

Spectators and adults are deemed to assume normal risk with the attendance, participation and viewing of school events.

Parents and guardians of students assume all normal risks while their child attends and participates in school programs.

TOP of the Trades

Congratulations to:

Nathan Cooley - Conservation for October

Skyler Hoffman - Auto Body and Austin Fuller - Auto Body for November

for being awarded the Finger Lakes Vocational Center's Top of the Trades Award.

Census Information Needed

We would like to ask your help in maintaining our census. If you are a new family to our district that has a pre-schooler or if you are a family that has a new addition to your family since June 2009, please complete the form below and return to: Red Jacket Central School, c/o Barb Hansen, 1506 Route 21, Shortsville, NY 14548.

Thank you for your assistance.

Father's Name: ____________________________
Mother's Name: ____________________________
Street Address: ____________________________
City: ____________________________
Phone #: ____________________________
Child's Full Name: ____________________________
Male or Female: _____ Date of Birth: ___________

Family Matters Night

Family Matters Night
Saturday, February 8, 2014
6:00 - 8:00 p.m.
ES Building
Loads of fun and activities will be available for kids of all ages.

Presented by the
Red Jacket PTSA
**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**FEB 1**  
MS/HS All County

**FEB 8**  
PTSA Family Matters, 6-8 pm, Elementary Caf

**FEB 17**  
President’s Week Recess through February 21st

**FEB 24**  
Students return from President’s Week Recess

**FEB 6**  
Music in Our Schools Concert, 7 pm, Auditorium

**FEB 8**  
SAT Exam

**FEB 21**  
K-12 Early Release  
HS-10:50 MS-11:00  
ES-11:10

**FEB 22**  
HS Musical, 7 pm - HS Auditorium

**FEB 23**  
HS Musical, 2 pm - HS Auditorium

**FEB 1**  
3-8 ELA Testing Begins

**FEB 30**  
30 Week Marking Period Ends