

High school students gain experience through 'Teens Teaching Children'

By Charlene DeCrease and Nicholas Juncaj

Roseville High School

Elementary students across the Roseville school district are being visited by "buddies" from Roseville High School.

One of the many classes offered to students attending RHS is Childcare, or, as the students refer to it, "Teens Teaching Children" (TTC). This class entails many things, including patience and the ability to work with young children.

These students work one-on-one in small groups with their selected elementary students. They reinforce reading strategies, math facts, writing and organization skills.

Every Monday and Friday, RHS students learn techniques to help their elementary "buddies." In this program, students are taught unique and fun ways to help the elementary students learn. Students are taught that when reading with a younger student, dragging one's finger across the line in a book allows them to read more fluently. Math games are also taught which gives adding and subtracting a new fun twist. Writing with an RHS student is also important to the elementary students. This gives them reassurance they are doing things correctly.

During the day, elementary students sit in one class with one teacher which rarely gives them the opportunity to get

one-on-one attention. By far, the most important thing RHS students give the elementary children is someone else to be there. With TTC, they are given someone to talk to or even look up to.

"High school students learn a lot from elementary students they work with. They learn that they have more ability than they give themselves credit for," vocational childcare teacher Suzanne Dzieciolowski said.

On Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, RHS students are bused to an elementary school. The class visits Huron Park, Steenland, Kment and Fountain Elementaries. At each school, students work with different grades and all different learning abilities. Depending

on the elementary students' aptitude, the type of activities and techniques differ. Reading aloud is one of the biggest tasks with the high school students can assist with. By encouraging elementary students to read aloud, it allows their older "buddies" to correct or help with any mispronunciations or words the young children find difficult.

In addition, students play counting games with objects like crayons, coloring books and apples to help children get a hands-on experience with math.

"The high school students have mostly worked with math. About five or six students have helped my students to better understand the concepts they

would not have otherwise. It is a very big help to not only myself but my students as well," Fountain Elementary fifth grade teacher Donovan Stec said.

Some students are able to assist with the special needs classes. Not every student in the childcare class is given the privilege of working with one of these children. It requires acceptance, tolerance and the ability to give the students any extra attention or help they may need. Students who show interest in working with special needs students are put through interviews to be sure they can truly handle the responsibilities.

"I feel that when I work with my special class that they feel like they have something to be

excited about during the week, a different atmosphere that they can have fun and learn new things with a teen to look up to," junior Samantha Ngem said.

Not only do the childcare students help one-on-one with the elementary, but also help teachers make copies, design bulletin boards, or help with any extra things they need done.

"I love working with them. It is fun to see their skill levels and how they interact with the other students in their grade and me," senior Bryan Schweigl said.

TTC has a place for everyone, from assisting children, to helping elementary teachers, to finding out if education is a possible career to pursue.



Photo courtesy of Nicholas Juncaj

Elementary students are visited weekly by high school "buddies," such as senior Mariah Williams and junior Sarah Sahlaney, to further their learning experience.

Hospitality Management serves up unique opportunities

By Jamie Boelstler and Julie MacLean

Roseville High School

For teacher John Grommons and para-professional Sue Ferguson, their job is a piece of cake. They instruct Roseville High School (RHS) students in a culinary arts class at Roseville Middle School (RMS).

Known as Hospitality Management, the class gives students the experience of running a restaurant. The students create different meals along with a day today menu which they prepare and serve to the public and RMS staff.

In addition to the preparation of meals, they also study accounting and menu pricing.

Food processing is also a segment in the students' curriculum. Students study how to handle and prepare food, food-borne illness prevention and how to keep a kitchen clean. A look at the organized and sterile environment of the kitchen and one can tell a lot of hard work and dedication goes into the team work that keeps the class running smoothly.

Teachers, as well as the public, are welcome to attend the student-run restaurant called The LB Room. A menu is presented upon seating,



Photo courtesy of Julie MacLean

Senior Kierre Blunt sautés onions to learn cooking techniques as part of the hospitality management program.

which is abundant, featuring an assortment of meals including their famous french fries, Hanis, burgers, salads, and more. Each day, they also offer a special soup.

Students get to gain the experience of making unique meals, such as jambalaya, and participating in holidays by preparing special meals such as French doughnut-like baked goods for Mardi Gras. Hospitality management also caters for different clubs and organizations frequently.

Hospitality Management is made up of 11th and 12th grade RHS students. It is a two-hour block that not only includes working to create meals in the kitchen, but also book work and criteria. The work includes different math

for figuring food pricing and accounting.

This course also teaches students team work and cooperation. Each Monday and Tuesday, the restaurant is closed due to students working hard on their math skills. Wednesday through Friday, the LB Room is open from 10:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. Hospitality management normally has two to three buffet days a month, during which the restaurant is also closed.

Grommons and Ferguson are two highly respected staff members to whom the students really look up. Grommons has been teaching Hospitality Management since 2005 and has not stopped darting around the kitchen since.

"Mr. Grommons has the most amazing tolerance level in the world," junior Codey Bevan said.

Ferguson is the teacher assistant for Hospitality Management. She has been working at RMS since January of 1993. Ferguson is a great addition to the classroom. Her fun spirit gives a positive environment in which for students to work. The class itself is more about teamwork than one might imagine. Having such great leaders makes this class run more smoothly as a unit.

Students divide their work into different areas of the restaurant. The front is where students seat and serve their guests. The pantry is where salads are prepared, and the bake shop is where baked goods are made. The hotline is where food is fried, cooked, grilled, boiled or sautéed. As students advance, they move from the cash register and waiting on customers to using the deep-fryer and grilling.

"My first year I stuck to a station, now I'm on the hotline," senior Kierre Blunt said.

Hospitality Management is an important vocational class offered in Roseville Community Schools. It serves opportunities for Roseville's students, and for the cravings of the city's citizens.

Roseville students run school store, learn real-life skills

By Eric Frontera

Roseville High School

Skip past the vending machines, the cafeteria lunch line, and the school salad bars, and one is bound to run into Roseville High School's student-run store, The Panther Den. RHS students bustle in and out of during all four lunches to pick up their favorite snacks and drinks.

The Panther Den is run by the RHS marketing class, a select group of dedicated and responsible seniors. The students' teacher is Jeff Verkeyn, but most consider him to be the store manager. Under Verkeyn's leadership, the students run almost every aspect of the store: the products to be sold, keeping stock of inventory, the store's interior design and even the music and lighting that is played to keep the store an appealing environment to teenagers.

"The students have 99 percent say in the store operations; I'm mostly here to oversee everything," Verkeyn said.

With the students having such a huge role in running the store, the class is strictly kept on task. The first day of school is a quick training session on the register, and then the students are expected to learn the store business quickly in the coming weeks.

When the students finally learn the ins-and-outs of the store, the students go beyond the store aspect of the marketing business as they dive into the design and advertising side. This past winter, the students were put up to a "Winter Clothing Challenge." Students were put into groups and were required to come up with winter clothing gear and market their designs. Some students came up with RHS themed scarves; others chose fashionable pullover fleeces. The group that earned the highest percent profit won a lunch paid for by Verkeyn.

During this competition, students even teamed up with the media productions class to make commercials, and the Webdesign class made Web pages advertising the students' products. The project turned out to be such a success that the

class is currently working on a similar event for this spring that will incorporate a fashion show.

With the students constantly galvanized to be dedicated and efficient in The Panther Den, the store rakes in relatively impressive profits. However, the store neither hoards, nor wastes, their profits.

Thousands are donated to various school clubs and athletics. The students also choose different charitable organizations to donate the profits. In addition, The Panther Den is especially proud to donate \$6,000 a year to the Roseville Scholarship Fund, which in turn helps send RHS graduates to college.

"It feels great to work really hard and see the money we make go to worthy causes," senior Melanie Trudeau said.

The marketing students love being enrolled in the class. They see it as an opportunity to learn skills that they are going to need as they become adults in an ever-changing workforce.

Verkeyn's feelings are mutual.

"It's an outstanding group of kids. We are able to apply what they [the students] learn to the real world, and they're great workers with a lot of great futures," he said.

"It's not all fun and games," senior Ashley Edwards said. "We work very hard and the class is opening a lot of doors for the future."



Photo courtesy of Nicholas Juncaj

Marketing student senior Tara Rupard stocks shelves in the RHS Panther Den.

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