



December

Rockfield Reporter

Volume 6 Issue 3 December 2011

Rockfield Elementary School

Germantown, WI

Mark Your Calendar....

- 12/8—PTA Meeting at Bub's
- 12/8—PTA Holiday Shop
- 12/9—PTA Holiday Shop
- 12/9—Report Cards sent home
- 12/16—PTA Bake Sale
- 12/22—Early Release—students dismissed at 12:20 pm—no lunch is served
- 12/23/11—1/1/12—Christmas Break
- 1/2/12—Staff Inservice—No school for students
- 1/2/12—PTA Market Day Pick Up
- 1/3/12—School Resumes



From the Principal...

Happy Winter!

Rockfield School has been so very busy so far this school year. We are happy to be finished with many of our fall assessments with students, yet mindful of the many tasks yet to accomplish this year. Staff continue to work on improving our many programs and services.

Thank you for your participation in our school community! As your child's greatest teacher, we appreciate your partnership in empowering and inspiring every student to success. One way for families to partner with us is to encourage your child to exhibit "The Rockfield Way." You may hear about our current all-school celebration, planned for the time when all of our students have contributed to earning 1500 "Paws." Students earn paws when they are "caught" following the Rockfield Way of being safe, respectful, and responsible here at school. As classes collect enough paws, puzzle pieces will be removed from the bulletin board in the lobby. When all pieces have been removed, we will be able to enjoy an all-school celebration of our wonderful citizenship.

Report cards will be coming home between December 9 and 11. The reports will look a little differently, since this is our first time using Skyward to create report cards. As such, you will notice that the comments are a little shorter (fewer characters available) and that there are more skill categories that report out on how your child is doing. If you have questions, feel free to chat with your child's teacher or myself.

Just a quick safety reminder: when dropping off or picking up your child from school, please heed the double lines in our lot. To keep all of our students safe, the front row of parking is marked to separate it from the buses and the hidden areas that all vehicles create. If you use the front row, please remember to back out of your spot instead of driving forward into the bus area. This area is also close to our playground. Thank you!

From everyone at Rockfield School, we wish you and your family a safe and happy Holiday Season!

Classroom Happenings

Early Childhood

Mrs. Leffler and Mrs. Miller

Early Childhood has a busy, yet fun December ahead. We will be working on the letter h and e's short vowel sound. Winter holidays will also be discussed including Hanukkah, Kwanza, and Christmas. We will end our month with a trip to Virginia Highlands to sing Christmas carols and an Early Childhood Christmas party.

Happy Holidays!

Kindergarten

Mrs. Barr and Mrs. Hagen

December is another busy month for our kindergarteners. In reading we are continuing to work on Daily 5. Thus far, the students are doing a great job working on reading to self, reading to others, and journaling. In the area of writing we are continuing to write a sentence or two on a topic that we know about or is interesting to us. In math, we are learning the numbers one through nine and the correct formation for them. This month kindergarten will also be completing their service project. On December 7th, kindergarten is visiting the Germantown Senior Center to spread some holiday joy! Enjoy your holidays!

1st Grade

Mrs. Burger, Mrs. Kohlenberg & Ms. Ritger

As we sing in our December song, *oh let's root root root for winter, it's such a great time of year!* First grades are excited to be welcoming in the new season with a warm and wonderful breakfast celebration, science lessons focused on snow, and lots of literature to expand our imaginations at this wonderful time of the year. We'll be gearing up for our service project in the new year, looking forward to snowy fun outdoors, and working hard in class practicing reading and writing skills and strategies. Warm wishes to our Rockfield families for a warm, wonderful, healthy wintertime!

2nd Grade

Ms. Mislav and Mrs. Pitrof

Second Grade continues to be busy, busy, busy! We are continuing to become better readers and writers each day by practicing during The Daily Five! Our individual reading goals are being met all the time during our student/teacher conference times! During writer's workshop we have continued to practice working on the entire writing process, while learning the 6+1 traits that writers use to improve their work. Every student has published at least one story already this school year! We continue to improve as mathematicians as well! We are learning to work with numbers up to 1,000 and continuing to practice our knowledge of place value to order numbers! Finally, we have continued to work hard each and every day to follow The Rockfield Way and are excited to work together to earn Rockfield Paws for a school wide celebration!

3rd Grade

Mrs. Guild & Mrs. Schowalter

December is here, and the cold weather and snow are here, too. Please remember to send your child with appropriate winter attire. We do go outside for two recesses each day. We are only inside if the temperature or wind chill is below 0°. A good idea is for children to keep extra mittens and socks in their backpack, that way if they need a dry pair for the second recess they have it.

Our Holiday Party this year will be **December 22nd**. For our gift exchange, we will be exchanging books instead of toys. The boys will be exchanging with boys, and the girls with girls. Please have your child bring a wrapped book, marked TO: A GIRL or TO: A BOY and FROM: *sign name*. Also, please have the gift to school by Dec. 20th. Thank you!!

Classroom Happenings cont...

Fourth Grade

Mrs. Krohn & Mrs. Niehus

Now that we have finished the Wisconsin Knowledge and Concepts Exam (WKCE) our schedule has returned to normal. We are continuing our journey of Wisconsin history by studying Native American tribes of Wisconsin. We are reading stories and poems that reflect Native American cultures. To add to our study we are having two presentations on local Native American tribes. Both Mr. and Mrs. Stroik are coming to share their artifacts and information. As well as someone from the Washington County Historical Society will be bringing in things. These presentations help the students understand and enhance their learning opportunity. In Science we are just finishing our first Health unit on the respiratory system and continue onto the circulatory system. Our classes have also completed our Rockfield service project of donations for the Washington County Shop with a Cop program. Thank you to all who have donated the items. Deputy Woerner and Deputy Niehus came to talk more about the program and accept our donations. They were very happy to see all of the wonderful donations. The students were able to stuff the goody bags each child will be receiving. The whole group did a wonderful job of being elves on an assembly line. We have great workers especially at the busy holiday season.



Fifth Grade

Mr. Hagen & Mrs. Tarantino

In Social Studies students will continue to learn how trade between Africa, Asia, and Europe led to the explorers that traveled the world. They are excited to find out who the pioneers of sea travel were and what led explorers to first travel to the “New World”. This exciting time in history will lead us to North America’s first settlements and eventually the 13 colonies!

Fifth grade students were also busy in the month of November creating bracelets, zipper pulls, and duct tape flower pens to be sold at the chili dump. These items were created during their free time, like recess or at home, and raised over \$100 for charity. Students should be proud for contributing to such a great cause!

The Cold Weather is Coming

Now that the weather is turning colder, it is important that students come to school **prepared** for cold weather. Appropriate boots, coats, gloves, and hats are a must! Labeling the items with your child’s name is also a good idea.

All students will go out for recess during the winter months, unless the temperature and/or wind chill are zero or below, so please make sure that your child is dressed properly.

No child is excused from outdoor activities unless a **doctor’s** excuse is provided.

It is assumed that if your child is healthy enough to attend school, then he/she is also healthy enough to participate in all normal school activities (including recess).

A child who doesn’t have boots and snow pants is **not** allowed in the snow and must remain on the asphalt area of the playground.



Art

Note to all students and families:

In the Art room, we encourage creativity and have opportunities to try out fun supplies... but in doing so, we often times get a bit messy. PLEASE be sure that your child has an Art smock at school to protect his/her clothing. Also, it may be helpful to remind your child NOT to wear his/her favorite clothes on "Art Day" do to the chance that they may get dirty.



Thank you so much,

Mrs. Miller & Mrs. Cheung

In Art, our fifth grade students are just beginning to learn about the world famous artist, Pablo Picasso. We've already learned a lot about what a creative person he was, as well as looked at what a wide variety of styles he developed and used in his many pieces of work. During December, fifth graders will go high-tech in Art by creating Picasso style images using the computers! We will also each "piece together" a cubist styled portrait of ourselves in the classroom using a variety of materials.

Also in Art, fourth grade students are deeply involved in their American Gothic spoofs! What is American Gothic? Ask your fourth grader! They will be able to tell you many interesting facts about the famous painting, its artist (Grant Wood) and something special about the figures in the painting.

And our third graders.... third grade students will be creating *Wild Things* during the month of December. After reading *Where the Wild Things Are*, each child will formulate his/her own wild thing using a variety of line, colors and detail.

Mrs. Miller

Guidance

Mrs. Nettesheim

The "DeBug System" is a problem solving technique to help kids deal with other students who are "bugging" them. The steps in the DeBug System are: 1. Ignore, 2. Move Away, 3. Talk Friendly, 4. Talk Firmly, and 5. Get Adult Help. These steps are a great way to encourage kids to try dealing with situations themselves before seeking adult help – this helps them hone their problem solving skills.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns regarding problems that might be affecting your student's learning. Mrs. Nettesheim is at Rockfield on Mondays and Tuesdays.

Physical Education

Mrs. Fassbender

During the month of December in physical education our focus is on fitness. The students will be learning yoga, Pilates, cardiovascular endurance and muscular strength through a variety of games and activities.

I would like to thank the staff, students, and parents for welcoming me to Rockfield School. I'm looking forward to getting to know the students and their families. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or feel free to stop by and introduce yourself.

Music

Mrs. Grosse

In first grade, (Mrs. Burger & Mrs. Kohlenberg classes), we have learned ta and ti-ti rhythms. We are practicing reading the actual music notes and making rhythm connections to speech pieces we learned earlier in the year. We have also been playing our classroom instruments by reading iconic notation to play different instruments at different times.

In second grade, we have learned a new ta-a rhythm and continue to practice ta, ti-ti, and rest. We have worked on these rhythms through movement and playing instruments. Ask your second grader to sing “In the Barnyard” and show you the movements.



Ms. Lousier

As first trimester comes to a close, Rockfield students have been very busy making music with Miss Lousier. Our November composer of the month was Randy Newman, and students were able to research and share information about his life and accomplishments with the class. Our upcoming December composer of the month will be Zoltán Kodály.

In Miss Ritger’s class, we have been reviewing steady beat through movement and with instruments, as well as labeling ta (quarter note) and ti ti (eight note) rhythms. Students are also strengthening their singing voices with songs such as “Bounce High, Bounce Low,” “Come Two By Two,” and “Dkikole Danwa.” Ask your child to sing “Dkikole Danwa.”

In third grade, students have been continuing to strengthen their rhythm reading and notating skills through dictation activities. They have also recently begun learning about famous Hungarian composer, Franz Liszt. Franz Liszt was a pianist and wrote many famous songs, such as “Hungarian Rhapsody” and “Liebestraum.” Ask your student to share something they learned about Franz Liszt.

In fourth grade recorders are in full swing. I am sure you’ve heard your children playing these lovely instruments and home, as they are just so excited to get their hands on them! We have begun our Recorder Karate unit and students had the opportunity to test for and earn their white, yellow and orange belts. We are continually adding songs to our repertoire in preparation for our concert on January 25th, 2012. Ask your child to play “It’s Raining” for you on their recorder.

In fifth grade, students have been learning about the different elements and the history of opera. Students have learned about and performed the operas “The Barber of Seville,” “Carmen,” and “The Magic Flute” in class. In addition to several listening activities, students have also been writing and performing their own unique operas. They have been hard at work and are very creative! I cannot wait to see the finished products! Ask your fifth grader to share the story of “The Magic Flute” with you!

As always, if you have any concerns, questions or would like to visit the music room, please do not hesitate to contact Miss Lousier at Rockfield on Monday or Wednesday at (262) 253-3472, or by email at:

alousier@germantown.k12.wi.us.

Library

Mrs. Duenk

Librarian for the Day!

It was a big day for Collin Welke on Tuesday, November 29th as he took on the role of the school librarian for the day. When Collin arrived Mrs. Duenk showed him how to check books back into the library and how they are sorted on the library cart to be put back on the shelves. After the Early Childhood class finished their story, Collin was able to check books out to the students using the scanner. Collin spent the rest of his afternoon time with the two kindergarten classes reading two dinosaur books to each class and then helping them determine if the books were fiction or nonfiction. With Mrs. Duenk's assistance, he showed the kindergarten students how to check the call numbers to see if they are checking out fiction or nonfiction books from the library. The students enjoyed Mr. Welke's enthusiasm as he read *Saturday Night at the Dinosaur Stomp!* Mrs. Duenk also showed Collin the iPad cart and how to sync and add new apps to the iPads. Before Collin came for his big day, he had researched a new app called "Coin Math." After Collin demonstrated how the app worked Mrs. Duenk also added it to the iPads.



Computer Lab

Mrs. Prestin

Tech Tidbits

For students from EC to Fifth

Now that the school year is well underway, I thought this would be a good time to send out a couple of helpful Tech reminders for use at home. Hopefully by now most everyone has the Germantown School District marked as a favorite on their internet browser. If not the address is as follows:

www.germantownschools.org

On the "Rockfield" school tab, not only will you find current and up-to-date information regarding our school, you will also find links to many other important sites for our students. On the left side of the page is a menu list. If you locate the "Rockfield Computer Lab WIKI" and give it a click, this link will take you to our Rockfield School WIKI site which is loaded with dozens of active links to websites that our students are now or will be using in the future, here at school during the entire day.

If your students have come home and talked about their Glogster projects, a poster making website. They will be able to work on their assigned projects at home simply by clicking into the WIKI and then going to the "Glogster" link which will take them directly to Glogster. Their logins are the same as in school, with a few exceptions (those students were talked to directly). Here, they can work on assigned projects or create their own. (School appropriate please.)

Please check out these wonderful links which offer a host of accessible programs for your students to enjoy and learn from.

This and That. . .

Rockfield School Chili Dump

A HUGE Thank You to everyone that supported the Chili Dump!!

Thanks to your support over \$1200.00 was raised to be donated to the MACC Fund in honor of Ryan Staniak.

Pictures from the Chili Dump will be posted on the Rockfield School website in the near future.



Mandatory Kindergarten Law

In an effort to keep our parents up to date on new laws and regulations that surround our schools, we want to give you an update on a new Assembly Bill that will require all students to complete kindergarten.

Beginning in the 2011-2012 school year, Wisconsin law now requires a child to complete 5-year-old kindergarten as a prerequisite to being admitted to first grade in a public school, including a charter school. The bill also requires a child who is enrolled in 5-year-old kindergarten in a public or private school to regularly attend kindergarten during the school year.

This will apply to all students entering school in Germantown. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact our District Office for details.

District-wide Mailing

Please watch for a district-wide school perception survey in your postal mail in the New Year. We would love your participation in this survey intended for all residents of the Germantown School District.

Attendance

In compliance with State Statute 118.16 regarding attendance, student attendance will be reported only in full days. Should you have specific questions about attendance, please contact the school office.

Homework Requests

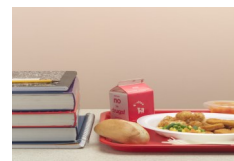
If your child is absent and you would like to request homework, please call the office by 10:00 a.m.

If requests are made after this time, it is possible that homework will not be ready for your child.

Late Arrivals

If your child will be late to school and would like a hot lunch, please call the office by 9:00 a.m. If you do not call the office by 9:00 a.m., please plan to provide a cold lunch for your child.

Lunches are tallied first thing in the morning and then a count is sent to the high school where the food is prepared. The lunches are then delivered to Rockfield. If we do not know your child would like lunch, our counts will be off and there will not be enough food for all of our students.



Odds and Ends....

Accidents Happen!

We try to keep clothes of all sizes on hand to quickly help the child in need and to possibly spare the parent from having to make a trip into school (sometimes causing them to have to leave work).

We have run out of both boy and girl underwear and pants.

We are in need of gently used or grown out of: Kindergarten, First and Second grade sizes.

Thank You!

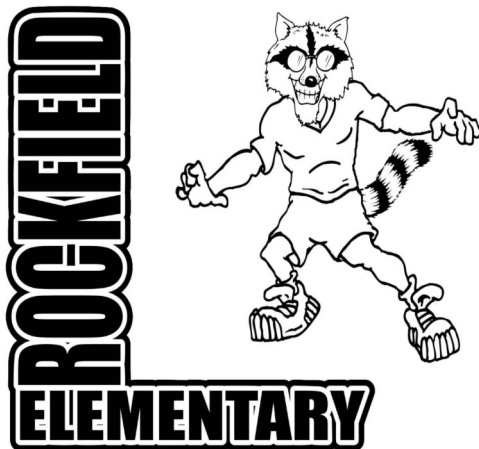
Jodi Thomann-Medication Aide

Lost and Found

Our lost and found area seems to be growing by the day.

Please stop by to check to see if anything belongs to your family.

All items remaining at the end of the day on December 22 will be donated to charity.



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Germantown, WI

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Reach Out Rockfield Youth!!

We're on the Web!

www.germantownschoools.org/rockfield