



Rockfield Reporter

Volume 6 Issue 3

February 2012

Rockfield Elementary School

Germantown, WI

February

Calendar of Events

- 2/3—RORY Assembly 3:00 pm
- 2/6—10—Traveling Art Exhibit
- 2/9—Parent/Teacher Conferences 4:30—7:30 pm
- 2/14—School Store
- 2/15—5th grade fieldtrip to Milwaukee Public Museum & IMAX
- 2/16—5th Grade fieldtrip to KMS
- 2/16—PTA Meeting 7:00 pm
- 2/17—PTA Popcorn Sale
- 2/17—PTA Spaghetti Dinner
- 2/20—Winter Break/Snow Make-Up Day
- 2/22—Activity Picture Day
- 2/27—Market Day PickUp
- 2/28—School Store
- 2/28—Kindergarten Registration 9:00—3:00
- 2/29—Kindergarten Registration 9:00—3:00 & 5:00—7:00 pm

From the Principal...

Winter Greetings, Rockfield Families!

There has been some very exciting news at Rockfield this winter to warm our hearts and inspire our work: Rockfield Elementary has been nominated for a Blue Ribbon Award. This means that Rockfield is one of eight Wisconsin schools to be recognized for outstanding achievement on our state testing. The Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction makes the nominations and recipients will be invited to Washington, D.C. in September, 2012 to formally receive their recognition. It is a great honor to be nominated and recognized in this way. We are busily preparing our application which explains our instructional practices, community involvement, and traditions here at Rockfield. Congratulations to our staff, our parents, our students, and our whole community! Every person makes a difference, so this nomination is a huge pat-on-the-back to all!

As we bask in the glow of our nomination, we continue to work hard each day. On January 20th, all teaching staff attended an inservice to work with their grade-level colleagues on our reading instruction book study, culturally responsive education, common science assessments, and more. Our next inservice date, March 9th, will find us delving even deeper into our literacy practices and preparation for our new reading series. Truly, a teacher's work is never done. To that end, a parent's work is never done, so we thank you for your partnership!

Parking at Rockfield

Just a reminder:

Parking at Rockfield School is allowed in designated parking spaces only.

There is no parking allowed on the north side of the building near the dumpster. We have had complaints from Waste Management Service that they are unable to access the dumpster when cars are parked along the building.



There is adequate parking available in the parking lot.

Classroom Happenings

Early Childhood

Mrs. Leffler and Mrs. Miller

Our friends in Early Childhood will be continuing with our Jolly Phonics jingles, singing about the letters G, U, O, L and F. Our math topic is talking about size comparisons and sequencing. It's time to spruce up Virginia Highlands with some valentine decorations for our RORY service project. Our students will enjoy exchanging valentines on February 14 (don't forget to send in your mailbox) as well as a "Day of Fun in the Snow" some time that week. We are collecting milk caps for some learning center activities so please send them in as often as you can. Don't forget to send in your BoxTops for our PTA challenge!

Kindergarten

Mrs. Barr and Mrs. Hagen

Kindergarten learners will be busy during the month of February! We are excited to begin our next science unit of inquiry, Wood and Paper. Kindergarten scientists will be making observations and asking questions. Our math lessons are currently focused on part-part-total relationships. Next, we will be exploring, naming, and describing two-dimensional shapes. Kindergarteners are continuing to build reading and writing stamina during The Daily Five. Readers are choosing their own "Good-Fit" books and learning how to do their Word Work independently, too!

1st Grade

Mrs. Burger, Mrs. Kohlenberg & Ms. Ritger

First graders have been working hard this month! We have been studying shapes, weight, and capacity in math. Soon we will dive deeper into addition and subtraction concepts. Daily 5 continues to be a favorite part of the day for many students, and we are becoming quite the readers! In science, students are learning how to take care of their bodies through exercise and healthy eating. For writer's workshop, we have been working on persuasive paragraphs. Students are learning how to convince someone else about their opinion. Finally, coming up in February is our grade-level service project. We will be making fleece tie blankets through Project Linus to donate to children in need. See the section in this newsletter for more details.

2nd Grade

Ms. Mislav and Mrs. Pitrof

The second grade is continuing to make great progress in all academic areas and social interactions as well. Mrs. Pitrof's class has been piloting some new reading materials for the last few weeks and are excited about the new comprehension strategies being learning. Mrs. Pitrof's friends have liked the new materials so much that they have even shared some of them with Ms. Mislav's class to try out. These new and exciting materials have come with new ideas for writing as well. We have been working on personal narratives as well as persuasive writing! As mathematicians we have been working tirelessly at adding and subtracting double digit numbers, with regrouping! We are looking forward to finally meeting our 8th grade buddies at KMS this February! They have many exciting activities planned for us to get to know each other!

Classroom Happenings cont...

3rd Grade

Mrs. Guild & Mrs. Schowalter

Our third grade classrooms remain filled with fun and learning! We encourage learners to use the ixl.com Website for consistent math practice whenever your learner has extra time. Using the math fact sheets that come home will also help your child know which facts need practicing so great gains can be realized with computational fluency. There are some math fact links on the computer lab wiki that can be helpful.

Our reading record minimum goal for February is 400 minutes. We continue to build independence as readers in our classroom by encouraging urgency and stamina. Your child will start completing a reading response letter once a week related to their Daily Five independent reading. This will assist with comprehension and with writing.

Persuasive writers are emerging in our classrooms as we gear up for a district assessment on this genre of writing in February. Using facts to support our opinions is important and a challenge. We will continue to practice this.

Chemistry is our science focus. Peering into Yesteryear with a study of Native Americans is our theme in social studies.

Students will enjoy exchanging valentines on Tuesday, February 14th. A class list can be found on our Websites so that students ensure they bring a valentine for each classmate. Thank you, families, for your continued involvement and support of your wonderful third grader!

Fourth Grade

Mrs. Krohn & Mrs. Niehus

Both fourth grade classes have been on a journey in math. We have figured out how to add and subtract fractions with unlike denominators. We are now moving on to relating multiplication and division. So all of the hard work we've done so far studying our fact cards is going to pay off. In Social Studies, we have continued our study of the Northeast states, and soon we will travel to the states in the region of the South. For Wisconsin History, we continue to learn how Wisconsin was made a state by studying how Wisconsin was first founded. Did you know that the French claimed Wisconsin? In February, we will be reading the story, Ruby Bridges. This is a wonderful story to help the students understand segregation in the South during 1950-60's. Fourth grade students know how important it is to follow "The Rockfield Way" and have accomplished a lot.

Fifth Grade

Mr. Hagen & Mrs. Tarantino

Donations for the fifth grade service project came in throughout the month of January. We were pleasantly surprised by the generosity of the Rockfield community. We know that a lot is asked from our families and we want to thank everyone who donated. The service project ended with a short Sock Hop for classrooms who donated at least 30 items. Students had a blast dancing in the gym with their socks and some good music.

Coming up in February, fifth grade students will start the DARE program with Deputy Niehus of the Washington County Sheriff's Department. Students will also attend a music presentation at Kennedy Middle School to help them decide which music class they intend to take the following year. Their options are band, chorus, or general music. A field trip to the Milwaukee Public Museum also worked its way into the month. Students will be attending a description of the night sky in the IMAX theater followed by the show *Black Holes*. After the show students will tour the museum.



Music



Mrs. Grosse

First and second grade students have been working hard on their concert music! The 1st & 2nd grade combined concert is on Thursday, March 1 at 6:15pm in the Rockfield Elementary School Gym. The theme of the concert is “Music” to celebrate the month of March as “Music In Our Schools Month.” The students should arrive at 6:00pm and report to their classrooms. All students should dress nicely for the concert, as this is a special event. We want to look and sound our very best! All 1st & 2nd grade students should be in attendance at the concert, as it is an important part of the music curriculum. If your student will not be at the concert for any reason, please let your child’s music teacher know ASAP so she can plan accordingly. Also, please contact Mrs. Grosse with any other questions or concerns (253-3472; jgrosse@germantown.k12.wi.us).



Ms. Lousier

3rd Grade

Rockfield 3rd graders have begun preparation for our concert, *This is America!* This concert includes a variety of patriotic songs, both new and familiar, as well as fun facts and information about the United States of America.

Our concert will take place in the Rockfield Gym on Thursday, March 1st at 7:15 p.m. Students should report to the music room by 7:00 p.m. Prior to the 3rd grade performance, Rockfield 1st and 2nd graders will be wrapping up their performance, *Music In Our School*. We appreciate your flexibility, patience and understanding in advance while navigating our school and parking lot! Students should wear nice, patriotic clothes (i.e. red, white and blue t-shirts, sweaters, nice pants/jeans, dresses/skirts, etc.).

I am looking for parent volunteers to help out in the music room prior to the concert. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact me at Rockfield (253-3472/alousier@germantown.k12.wi.us). As always, please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns you may have.

4th Grade

Rockfield 4th graders have completed their performance for the school year. They were excellent musicians and RORY students at our recorder concert in January. I am so proud of their hard work, dedication and musicianship! What a pleasure it has been to work with them. We will continue working through *Recorder Karate* throughout February, in hopes of earning the rest of our belts.

Ask your student to play their favorite concert song for you on the recorder!

5th Grade

Rockfield 5th graders have been working on their composition skills. Students worked with a partner to produce a composition using basic rhythms and boomwhackers. Students were asked to alternate pitches and perform their creation for the class. We have now transferred these pieces to the staff, in order to review our staff reading and notating skills. Throughout February, students will be working in more advanced ensemble settings with voices and instruments. This will help strengthen their basic and advanced skills in order to prepare them for sixth grade band, choir or general music.

Ask your child to tell you about Ferde Grofé’s “Grand Canyon Suite.”

Art

Mrs. Cheung & Mrs. Miller

Once again we have the amazing opportunity to have a traveling art exhibit come to our school!

Last year all students were able to see life size works of famous artist Vincent Van Gogh. This year we will be learning all about Spanish artist Pablo Picasso! Students have been busy creating paintings and drawings showing Picasso's famous Cubism. During the week of February 6-10th an exhibit featuring Picasso's paintings will be on display in the art hallway. Student work will also be up on display after the traveling exhibit to showcase not only cubism, but other styles of painting and drawing that made Picasso a world famous artist.



Guidance Mrs. Nettesheim

The Germantown School District School Counseling Program is adding a new component to the services offered to students. In addition to regular guidance and counseling activities, we will be conducting parent-student-counselor conferences to focus on each student's educational and career development, talents, interests, and plans for his/her future. These conferences will be called G-Talks, and will take place in 5th grade and at specific grade levels in middle and high school. These conferences will occur during February and March.

5th Grade parents: Please look for a reminder slip in your child's take home materials regarding the date/time you signed up for your G-Talk. I am looking forward to meeting with you and your child!

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

RORY

February RORY Project:

First Grade is proud to announce that we will be working with:

Project Linus

For our grade-level service project. Children will work together to create cozy fleece tie-blankets that will be donated to children in need. The blankets are distributed by local nonprofit and government agencies and help provide security, warmth, and comfort to children who have been traumatized, are seriously ill, or are in need of care.

This is not a designated school-wide service project, but if you are interested in contributing fleece fabric (in 2 yard segments), contact the office for details.



Library Mrs. Duenk

Kindergarten students have been having fun with the alphabet. I have shared some unique alphabet books we have in our library and we sang some new alphabet songs.

First and Second graders have been learning how the fiction section is organized (ABC order by the author's last name). After using the SMART Board to practice putting books back on the shelf in the correct order, I took the second grade class to a website I found for more practice. To access "Order in the Library" please begin by going to your school's main website home page. Then look for the library page (Amy Belle Library, County Line Library, MacArthur Library, and Rockfield Library) and click on that tab located on the left side of the screen. This is a site I created for the library. Now look for "Online Resources" also located on the left side of the screen and click on it. A slybaloo page will appear and you will see a green "order in the library" button on the left-hand side. I believe it is located in the third row. Let the fun begin!

*This site requires flash and will not work on an iPad.

Third and Fourth graders are learning about the reference section in the library. We have explored the books located in this section and will also be taking a look at online reference resources.

This and That. . . .

Kindergarten Registration

Kindergarten Registration for the 2012-2013 school year will be February 28 (9:00—3:00) & 29 (9:00—3:00 & 5:00—7:00).

Registration packets will be mailed shortly. If you do not receive a registration packet by February 10th, please call the school office so one can be mailed to you..

When you came to register, please plan to bring along your child's birth certificate, immunizations and two proofs residency. Proof of residency includes a lease, utility bill, mortgage, or bank statement.

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.

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.

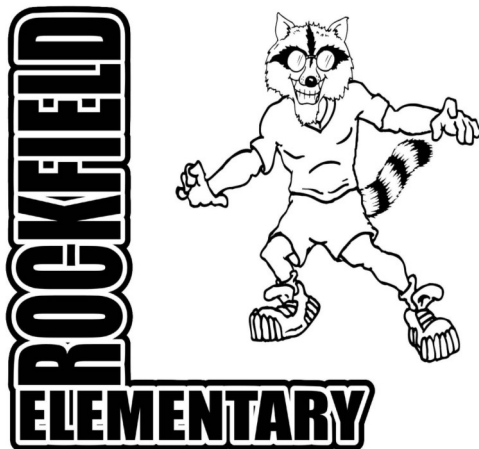
Thank You!

Jodi Thomann-Medication Aide

Outdoor Recess

Please remember to send your student with appropriate clothing for recess. Snowpants and boots are required for them to play in the snow.

All students go outside for recess unless there is a doctor's excuse stating that they should remain inside.



Rockfield Elementary School
Germantown, WI

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Reach Out Rockfield Youth!!

We're on the Web!

www.germantownschoools.org/rockfield