

Rockfield Reporter

Volume 6 Issue 3 December 2012

Rockfield Elementary School

Germantown, WI

January

Calendar of Events

- 1/2—Staff Inservice day—no school for students
- 1/2—Market Day Pick Up
- 1/3—School Resumes
- 1/10—School Store
- 1/12— PTA Meeting 7:00 p.m.
- 1/20—Staff Inservice Day—no school for students
- 1/24—School Store
- 1/25—Fourth Grade Concert 6:30 pm @ Rockfield School
- 1/27—PTA Popcorn Sale
- 1/30 Market Day Pick Up

From the Principal...

What great things are happening in Germantown schools during teacher work and in-service days?

During our late starts and in-service time, school staff are required to engage in many learning events, curriculum development, and other district strategic plan initiatives. Every minute of that time is focused on student achievement. High impact professional learning has three essential characteristics. (1) a focus on student learning, (2) rigorous measurement of adult decisions, and (3) a focus on people and practices, not programs. If we expect teachers and school leaders to improve professional practices and decision making, then we need to give them different knowledge and skills than they have received in the past. During the 2011-2012 school year, the Rockfield community has focused this common learning time in the following areas:

- Positive Behavior Intervention and Support (PBIS)- This is an important effort to have common student expectations as well as actively teaching those to our students. Please visit our school website for additional information.
- Common Core State Standards- The state of Wisconsin adopted these “national standards” in June 2010. Germantown continues to spend time aligning our curriculum and resources to meet the rigor found in these standards. We are going to be prepared for the new state assessment system targeted to begin in 2014.
- CREATE- Staff is beginning to look at more current research aligned to diversity and culturally responsive practices in the classroom.
- The Germantown School District is in the process of adopting new reading materials aligned to current research and the Common Core State Standards. The staff is busy familiarizing themselves to a balanced literacy approach in reading and writing instruction.
- Response to Intervention (RtI)- As we continue to strive to meet our district’s mission of “empowering and inspiring every student to success”, the staff is working at implementing instructional strategies to help meet every student needs.
- Assessment for Learning-With the implementation of the MAP assessment and other screening tools, teachers are spending time analyzing the data to make more informed instructional decisions.

Professional learning is about undertaking the challenge of professional work with a deep meaning and lifelong impact. The journey is not easy, but the rewards of increasing student achievement and social development are incomparable! I invite you to ask your child’s teacher what they are learning!

Happy New Year!



Classroom Happenings

Early Childhood

Mrs. Leffler and Mrs. Miller

Happy New Year! It's hard to believe 2012 is among us. As the new year approaches, so does new learning in Early Childhood. We will resume Jolly Phonics and talk about the letters R, M and D. We will wrap up our math topic of sorting and introduce the next topic of Comparing and Ordering. As the month continues, we will learn about what Wisconsin winter means for all living things.

Kindergarten

Mrs. Barr and Mrs. Hagen

December was a very busy month in our kindergarten classes. We went to the Germantown Senior Citizen's Center for our RORY service project. We sang songs, made a darling santa craft with our new friends and had a sing a long. It was a great morning and we received many compliments on our great behavior. Mrs. Ford, our fabulous music teacher did a fantastic job putting it altogether! We finished up our Fabric science unit and will begin experimenting with our next unit, Wood and Paper towards the end of January. Happy New Year to all our kindergarten families!

1st Grade

Mrs. Burger, Mrs. Kohlenberg & Ms. Ritger

Welcome back from the holiday vacation! We are settling back into the routine with our social studies units of Artic animals and Martin Luther King. In math children will learn about multiples of 10, place value, shapes, and capacity. Children will continue to work on writing a complete story with a beginning, middle, and end. They will also continue to edit and revise their stories. Daily Five is going well and as we meet with children in a group and individually we are noticing much progress. Happy January!

2nd Grade

Ms. Mislav and Mrs. Pitrof

The second grade superstars continue to work hard on their reading and writing goals during writer's workshop and the Daily Five. In science we are learning about germs and how to prevent spreading them. Winter is the perfect time of year to be reviewing good hygiene habits including the proper ways to wash our hands, cough, and sneeze. Do you use the Dracula cough? When you cough or sneeze into your elbow instead of your hand, you are doing the "Dracula." In math we have been working a lot with place value, and numbers in the 100's. After winter break, we will begin adding and subtracting 2-digit numbers! Finally, we are very excited to have assisted in earning the whole school PAW reward of hot chocolate and apple cider. We look forward to working towards the next incentive!



3rd Grade

Mrs. Guild & Mrs. Schowalter

Our learners are excited about delving into a new unit that was started in December called Chemical Tests. Students are using critical thinking skills to determine the identities of five unknown solids. By conducting various experiments, students observe, analyze, and hypothesize. Understanding physical and chemical properties is our focus.

Lab partner teams will eventually use their data to predict, based on experiments, what the five powders actually are. Learners will realize that chemicals are all around us. Motivation is high in our third grade classrooms as our science detectives unlock the mysteries of these unknown chemicals. We will be working on this unit until mid-February.

Classroom Happenings cont...

Fourth Grade

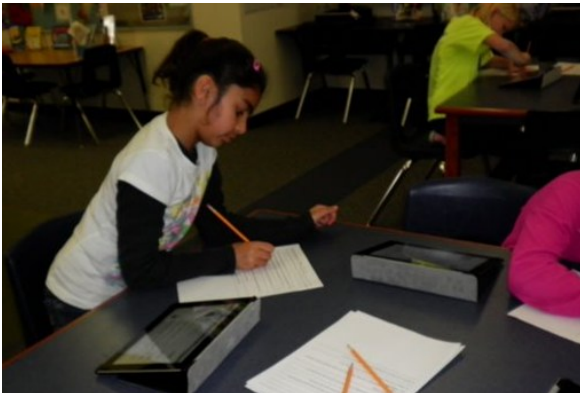
Mrs. Krohn & Mrs. Niehus

Our fourth graders are beginning the year learning about Wisconsin's early explorers, missionaries, and settlers. We continue to also focus on the region of the Northeast. Our Junior Achievement parent volunteers are doing a super job enhancing our study of the regions of the United States! In Science, we'll be wrapping up our units on the Circulatory and Excretory Systems which also includes learning how we can keep our body systems healthy. Then we're looking forward to our upcoming Einstein Unit on Motion and Design later this month. Learning how to add and subtract fractions with unlike denominators is keeping our fourth grade mathematicians busy. Another topic we'll be focusing on is linking multiplication and division. In Language, we're starting a new unit on persuasive writing. The students' acrostic winter poems are hanging on huge paper snowflakes in the fourth grade hallway. Hope you get a chance to see our "Winter Wonderland!"

Library Mrs. Duenk

Thank You PTA!

Our iPads now have covers! Funding for covers and some apps for classroom use was provided by Rockfield PTA. Mrs. Duenk, the Library Media Specialist has been using the iPads in the library with fourth and third grade. After winter break, first and second grades will begin using iPads in the library to learn how to find books during library checkout.



Fifth Grade

Mr. Hagen & Mrs. Tarantino

Welcome back Fifth Graders! January will be a busy month for us. Fifth grade students will be leading a school-wide donation drive as part of the Service Learning Rory Project. The donations will support the Milwaukee Rescue Mission, an organization that provides food, shelter, clothing, and schooling for less fortunate people.

The winter months can be a difficult time of year for many people who are homeless. The Milwaukee Rescue Mission has stressed that there is a great need for socks of all sizes and personal care items such as baby wipes, soap, toothpaste, and much more. In the month of January we will be asking Rockfield families to help support our cause and donate as many socks and personal care items as possible. Fifth Graders will also be hosting a number of fun classroom events to support our sock drive. Further information on this donation drive will go home at the beginning of January.



Art

Mrs. Cheung

Hello again Rockfield students! I'm glad to be back! For those of you who haven't heard, I had another boy on October 12th. His name is Ryan. Big brother Owen is excited to help out with his new little brother!

A big thank you to Judy Braggs, the wonderful teacher who filled in for me! The kids created some beautiful projects in my absence. These projects will be coming home soon after break.

In January we will be starting some units with color and texture in the primary grades k-2.



Music

Mrs. Grosse

We have been enjoying many seasonal songs in the music room to work on our singing skills! First grade students (Mrs. Burger & Mrs. Kohlenberg classes) continue to practice ta and ti-ti rhythms. We have also been working on our music listening skills with the "Surprise Symphony" by Mr. Haydn. Second grade students have been learning about the life and music of the composer Ludwig van Beethoven.



Guidance Mrs. Nettesheim

We will be ringing in the New Year by discussing problem solving in guidance. The most important thing to do before problem solving is to calm down. You can do this by taking deep breaths, counting backwards from 10, self-talk, and other ways. Once you have calmed down, you can start solving the problem: 1. What is the problem? 2. What are some solutions? 3. For each solution, ask yourself: Is it safe? Is it fair? How will people feel? Will it work? 4. Choose a solution and use it. 5. Is it working? If not, what can I do now? These steps should help everyone solve problems for themselves.

Fifth Grade G-Talks will be starting in February. If you have not signed up, please do so as soon as possible! Confirmation letters will be sent home during January with the date/time of your G-Talk.

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.

Mrs. Miller

During the month of January, our fifth graders will continue to create "distorted" portraits in the style of Pablo Picasso in the Art room. After faces have been "pieced together" each student will use a variety of materials to make his/her portrait colorful and fun! Our fourth graders will be putting the finishing touches on their *American Gothic* masterpieces, as we review additional paintings done by the great American artist, Grant Wood. Third graders begin the month off with finishing up their *Wild Thing* drawings based on the story *Where the Wild Things Are*. The month will end by adding "wild" color to our creatures.

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

This and That. . .

Music Concert Dates for the 2011-2012

School Year:

- **4th Grade Recorder Concert with Miss Lousier:** Wednesday, January 25, 2012 at 7:00 in the Rockfield Gym
- **1st & 2nd Grade combined Concert with Ms. Grosse & Miss Lousier:** Thursday, March 1, 2012 at 6:15 p.m. in the Rockfield Gym
- **3rd Grade Concert with Miss Lousier:** Wednesday, March 1, 2012 at 7:30 p.m. in the Rockfield Gym

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.

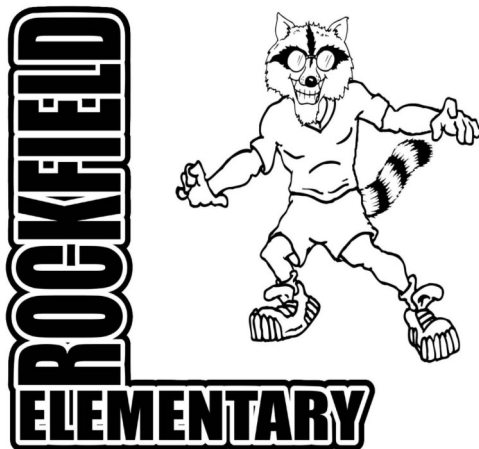
Thank You!

Jodi Thomann-Medication Aide

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.



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Germantown, WI

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Reach Out Rockfield Youth!!

We're on the Web!

www.germantownschoools.org/rockfield