



November

Rockfield Reporter

Volume 5 Issue 3 November 2011

Rockfield Elementary School

Germantown, WI

Mark Your Calendar....

- 11/2—Picture Re-Take Day
- 11/2—Destination Imagination Information Night 6:30 pm
- 11/3—Parent/Teacher Conferences 4:30—8:30 pm
- 11/10—PTA Meeting 7:00 pm
Rockfield Library
- 11/18—PTA Bake Sale
- 11/18—Chili Dump
- 11/21 Market Day Pickup
- 11/23—Early Release Students dismissed at 12:20
- 11/24 & 25 NO SCHOOL
Thanksgiving Recess
- 11/28—2 hr. Late Start for students. School will begin at 10:50.
- 11/30—End of 1st Trimester



From the Principal...

Brrrrrr!!! Well, our chilly weather has made its presence known. As we gear up for another famous Wisconsin winter, please remember to make sure your kiddos have appropriate outerwear for playing outside. Recess time is so much more fun and imaginative when everyone is comfortable!

Now that we have settled into our school year, it is time to start talking about our RORY initiatives for this year. The RORY committee has decided upon the theme of “Reach Out Rockfield Youth”! Each grade level will choose a service project that allows students to connect to the local or global community and to experience the joys of sharing our gifts with others. Our emphasis will be to help others in various ways, many of which will include sharing our time, gently used clothing or goods, or creating something here at school for others. In many cases, students will be able to deliver their donation or otherwise connect personally with the recipients of our service projects. Please watch for a calendar of events and news from your child’s classroom.

November is also our main time frame for WKCE testing and parent conferences. I’d like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support of our fabulous school

community. Our excellent test scores and strong parent involvement don’t happen by accident. Teamwork between our families and staff is necessary to create the right climate and provide for student needs. We are so fortunate to possess an environment that values academics, positive character traits, and wonderful work ethic.... and it is because our families help to make it happen. Thank you!

I’d also like to give you a brief update on all of the work our staff has been doing. This year is a year of many great leaps in education. Every staff member has been pitching in by serving on important committees, including Intervention Committees for reading and math, technology, PBIS (positive behavior intervention and supports), CREATE (culturally responsive education), GLAC (Germantown literacy adoption committee), and many others! These committees are the foundation of progress in our schools. Every day, I am amazed at the commitment of our staff. I encourage you to ask staff about their work, especially at our upcoming parent conferences. You may be surprised and impressed at the direction and depth of our educational progression. Happy Fall!

Reach Out Rockfield Youth

The theme for our RORY program at Rockfield this year is community service. Each grade level has chosen a community service project in which they'd like to participate. Fourth grade has selected the "Shop with a Cop" program as our service project. "Shop with a Cop" was chosen, because it helps families in our local area of Washington County. Children selected for this program come from families facing economic hardships. These children are able to shop for their families with a uniformed officer to purchase small holiday gifts for their family members. Most gifts selected are often basic gifts of food or household supplies. Prior to shopping at Walmart, an officer will eat dinner with a child from one of the chosen families. The Washington County Sheriff's Department, which coordinates the program, relies on donations from our community to make this program possible.

Our fourth graders will be bringing in a variety of items for this program such as holiday wrapping paper and ribbon, winter hats/mittens, and monetary donations. We will be collecting items during the first two weeks of November.

The Washington County Sheriff's Department is most appreciative of our help. Officers from the department will come to Rockfield School to thank our fourth graders and accept their donations for this program. This special community service project will help to make the holiday season brighter for children in Washington County. Together, our Rockfield fourth grade students can really make a difference, one child at a time.

Rockfield School Chili Dump

- When:** Friday, November 18
- Where:** Rockfield Cafeteria
- Time:** 6:00 pm
- Dinner:** Chili (beans or no beans), chili toppings, beverage, dessert
- Cost:** \$5.00 for 6 year olds and up*
Free for 5 year olds and under



*Seconds, thirds, and fourths will be served until all the chili is gone!

We invite Rockfield families to help Ryan Staniak celebrate completion of his chemotherapy by having a Chili Dump and Art Gallery Night!!!

During the chili dump there will be a silent auction. You will be able to view art work created by budding Rockfield Artists just for this event. Remember to bid high on your favorite piece of art!

Since the dinner is being prepared by the Rockfield Staff you will be able to experience our culinary skills. That also means one hundred percent of the proceeds from the Chili Dump and Art Gallery silent auction will be donated to MACC Fund in Ryan's name.

Ticket order forms were sent home with students the week of October 24.

Order forms are also available in the school office.

Classroom Happenings

Early Childhood

Mrs. Leffler and Mrs. Miller

The new month brings new learning to Early Childhood. We will introduce 4 new letters in Jolly Phonics, 'P', 'N', 'C/K', and E. Our next math topic will be on "Space and Shape." We will focus on positional language and three dimensional shapes. As always, stories, songs, projects, movement and hands-on activities will help us learn. We will also have a little fun with turkeys along the way. Happy Thanksgiving!

Kindergarten

Mrs. Barr and Mrs. Hagen

Our kindergarteners enjoyed a great day at the apple orchard. We all picked a bag full of apples and a pumpkin from the pumpkin patch. This month we will be starting to introduce The Daily Five as our literacy model. We will be building our reading stamina and learning three ways to read a book. Our first science unit is scheduled for this month too, so look for some exciting discoveries from our young scientists!

1st Grade

Mrs. Burger, Mrs. Kohlenberg & Ms. Ritger

First grades are hard at work this autumn. We're beginning our Magnets unit in science, and will be observing, collecting data, and writing throughout the weeks ahead. In math our focus has been time, money, and measurement. In writing we've discussed and practiced the trait organization, and had a great time writing stories with bold beginnings, mighty middles, and excellent endings. Daily 5 work continues, as new strategies like cross checking, flipping the sound, and chunking are introduced. Thanks for your support at home as we become better readers, writers, and spellers!

3rd Grade

Mrs. Guild & Mrs. Schowalter

Third graders focus on many strands of mathematics throughout the year and much of this focus is on problem solving. It is also our goal that learners know their facts accurately and efficiently. This is called computational fluency and is an area of math that is easy for parents to get involved in.

During the first trimester we hope that learners can answer 100 basic facts in both addition and subtraction with at least 90% proficiency, in 5 minutes. Our focus then in the second and third trimesters is to learn the multiplication and division facts with ease. To make this more fun and motivating, students build ice cream sundaes on paper as they learn the multiplication facts and root beer floats on paper as they progress through the division facts. In the end, when they reach the goal, a real ice cream treat is enjoyed!!

Our goal is for all learners to develop computational fluency by the end of third grade so that in fourth grade when more complex multi-step processes are taught, the facts will be automatic for your child and they can more fully focus on the process.

Below are some helpful websites, but good ol' flashcards can also do the trick. The key is to practice frequently for short chunks of time.

www.oswego.org/ocsd-web/games/Mathmagician/cathymath.html

www.multiplication.com

www.aplusmath.com

www.aaamath.com

Thanks for supporting our third graders as they develop computational fluency!



Classroom Happenings cont...

Fourth Grade

Mrs. Krohn & Mrs. Niehus

The fourth graders are gearing up to take the WKCE during the second week of this month. They will be tested in the areas of Reading, Language/Writing, Math, Science, and Social Studies. In our Wisconsin Social Studies, we're looking forward to learning about the early Native Americans that lived in our state. Our fourth grade mathematicians will be working on skills in the areas of fractions, multiplication, and elapsed time. We are wrapping up our Rocks and Minerals unit in Science. The fourth grade students were great "geologists," and identified minerals based on the "field tests" they completed on each one. We also enjoyed our trip to Halquist Stone where each student collected their own samples of rocks. As a culminating activity to this unit, some students will bring in their own rock samples to share with the class which will give the students another opportunity to identify new rocks and minerals. In addition, we'll also try "growing" our very own crystals! It's crystal clear, our fourth graders "rock!"

Fifth Grade

Mr. Hagen & Mrs. Tarantino

Fifth graders continue to make progress as we dive deeper into the school year. Students celebrated Alumni Day where they were able to share the history of education within their families. They have also begun their Learner Resumes in Guidance to help them reflect on their future careers. These discussions have been very meaningful to our students!

Both fifth grade classrooms continue to explore new instruction and development in reading education. Thanks to our reading specialist, Mrs. Cross, we have successfully implemented two successful reading models, The Daily Five, and Cafe. Both models will push our students to succeed in their literacy skills while supporting both struggling readers as well as our high functioning readers.

Lastly, Fifth grade students are just completing their Magnets and Motors Unit in Science. We had a great deal of fun building electromagnets, dismantling motors, and producing energy with generators. Our science labs promote authentic science discovery in a way that keeps learning fun everyday! Nice work fifth graders!

Destination Imagination Family Information Night

Destination Imagination (DI) is an extraordinary after-school activity and team tournament that invites students from all over the world to solve mind-bending Challenges. DI is designed to teach three essential skills: creativity, teamwork and problem solving.

Come and see what DI is all about!!!

We will be holding an informational meeting in early November!



Who: All Students K-5th grade
 What: DI info night! Bring the kids, there will be fun hands-on challenges!
 When: Wednesday, November 2nd 6:30-7:30pm
 Where: Rockfield Library

Questions? Contact Sarah Mislav @ 262-253-3472, or smislav@germantown.k12.wi.us

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

Fifth grade students have been finishing up their Perspective Name Designs in the Art room by blending various colors and adding shadowing onto their letters. During the month of November, fifth graders will finish these brilliant designs by adding a landscape to the background using a great deal of detail and craftsmanship. Our fourth graders have just finished printmaking! The subject of the prints... beautiful autumn leaves. Now that the printing process is complete, they are onto coloring, shading and painting on & around their printed leaves. What fun! Our third grade students completed clay slab leaves last week, and now are moving on to glazing them with speckled colors. During the month of November, they will also complete their magnificent Shadow Portraits!

Mrs. Miller

Guidance

Mrs. Nettesheim

We have spent a lot of time discussing empathy during our classroom guidance lessons so far. This was to lay the foundation for bullying prevention: if we can empathize with other people and understand their feelings, it is less likely that we will bully them. Now we are ready to discuss behavior. The students will be labeling acceptable and unacceptable behavior and learning how to help each other out, so no one is feeling bullied.

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. Walters



WHAT'S UP IN PHY. ED.?

November will be fun in Rockfield's gym. The kindergartners, first and second grades will continue to work on low organized games and will also do ball handling activities.

Rope jumping will be introduced to kindergartners and first graders. They will periodically, throughout the year, have the opportunity to develop these skills.

The third, fourth and fifth grades will be involved in rhythms units. They will be playing some games, and as always, most lessons will include some cardiovascular activities.

Rockfield will be welcoming Mrs. Fassbender to the staff on Monday November 28th. She is looking forward to getting to know all the students and their parents.

Bonny Walters (Mrs. Fassbender's sub)

Music

Ms. Lousier

In 1st grade, we have been have been working on reviewing basic rhythms, including ta and ti-ti (quarter and eighth notes), as well as preparing to label the pitches mi, so and la. Ask your first grader to sing “Pumpkin, Pumpkin,” and show you their scary jack-o-lantern faces! Students have also learned the musical story of *Peter and the Wolf* by composer Sergei Prokofiev. Ask your child to show you their coloring sheet as they tell you the story of *Peter and the Wolf*!

In 3rd grade, we have been learning about melodic direction with the song “Rocky Mountain.” In addition, we have begun our rainstick unit. Students are reading the story, Rainstick, A Fable, and will soon be creating their very own rainsticks! Please begin looking around your households for empty paper towel tubes. Ask your third grader to share the history of the rainstick!

In 4th grade, students have been preparing for recorders. Following our rhythm composition project, students reviewed and strengthened their staff-reading skills. Students are preparing to take their staff quiz in order to proceed to our recorder unit. As you read in the October newsletter, 4th grade students were going to have a recorder concert on December 7th, 2011. However, due to a delay in receiving materials and instruments, **we have decided to move the concert date to January 25th, 2012.** I apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused to your family schedule, but look forward to taking more time to work on concert preparations with your children!

In 5th grade, students have been learning about the elements of opera through famous French composer, Georges Bizet and his opera *Carmen*. Students are currently studying the composer and the elements of opera. Following Bizet, students will work in groups to write and perform their own mini-operas for the class.

Mrs. Grosse

In 1st grade, (Mrs. Burger & Mrs. Kohlenberg classes) we have been working on using our best singing voices and practicing the steady beat with instruments. We have also been talking about how music has long and short sounds, and we will soon be learning ta and ti-ti rhythms. Ask your 1st grade student to sing “A Tisket, A Tasket.”

In 2nd grade, we have been working on reading and performing ta, ti-ti and rest rhythms. We have also been talking about sound effects. We listened and did movements to a “Haunted House” story with a lot of different sound effects. Ask your 2nd grader to perform “I Like the Colors of the Fall.”

Music Conferences with Mrs. Grosse:

Mrs. Grosse will be available for fall parent conferences at Rockfield Elementary on Thursday, November 3 from 4:30 to 6:00 in the music room. I can always be reached by phone (at Rockfield 262-253-3472 on Thursday and Friday afternoons, at Amy Belle 262-253-3470 any other time during the week) or by e-mail (jgrosse@germantown.k12.wi.us).



Music Conferences with Miss Lousier:

Miss Lousier will be available for fall parent conferences at Rockfield Elementary on Thursday, November 3 from 4:30 to 6:00 in the music room. I can always be reached by phone (at Rockfield 262-253-3472 on Monday and Wednesdays, at MacArthur 262-253-3468 any other time during the week) or by e-mail (alousier@germantown.k12.wi.us).

Library

Mrs. Duenk

We have iPads in the Library!

Rockfield is the first building to have a class set of iPad2s. The purchase was made by Mrs. Duenk our elementary librarian. Although the iPads are housed in the library, they are available for teachers to use with their students as a class or small group. Mrs. Duenk will be using them in the library when she teaches students to use Destiny, our library's catalog. Younger students may have an easier time searching the catalog using the touch screen rather than a computer keyboard and mouse. Since they have internet access, she also plans to use them for teaching about website evaluation, creating citations when working on research projects, and reading ebooks.

Mrs. Duenk also made a movie using the iPad to give second graders a tour of the nonfiction section! Skoob made a star appearance in the movie.

To help us along, the PTA granted funds to purchase covers as well as vouchers for educational apps. Some free apps have already been added to the iPads and many teachers are finding them useful for math and spelling practice. Mrs. Duenk is hoping to make some future book app purchases.

-pictures are from Mr. Hagen's 5th grade class exploring the new iPads



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

Picture Re-Take Day

Picture re-take day is scheduled for Wednesday, November 2.

If you wish to have your child's photo re-taken, please send their first picture packet to school with them that day.



Rockfield Elementary School
Germantown, WI

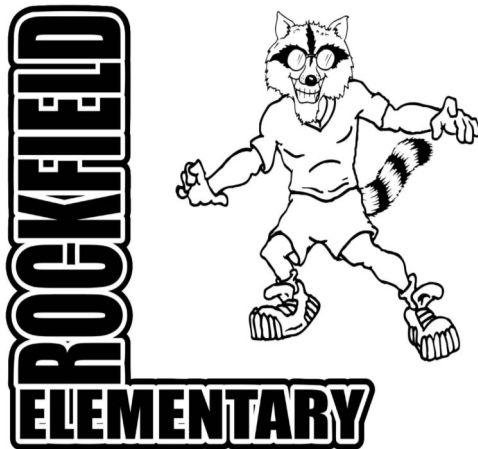
N132 W18473 Rockfield Road
Germantown, WI 53022

Phone: 262.253.3472

262.628.1181

Fax: 262.253.3497

Reach Out Rockfield Youth!!



We're on the Web!

www.germantownschoools.org/rockfield