



# October

## Mark Your Calendar....

10/3—Early Release Day  
Students dismissed at 12:20

10/11—Alumni Day

10/13—PTA Meeting 7:00 p.m.

10/20—Scholastic Book Fair  
11:30-1:00 & 3:30-4:00

10/21—PTA Bake Sale

10/21—Packer Bead Friday

10/21—Scholastic Book Fair  
11:30-1:00 & 5:30-8:30

10/21—PTA Rocktober Fest  
6:00—8:00 p.m.

10/24—Scholastic Book Fair  
11:30-1:00 & 3:30-4:00

10/25—Parent/Teacher  
Conferences 4:30—8:30 p.m.

10/25—Scholastic Book Fair  
3:30-8:30 p.m.

10/27 & 28 NO SCHOOL

11/3—Parent/Teacher  
Conferences 4:30—8:30 p.m.



# Rockfield Reporter

Volume 5      Issue 2      October, 2011

Rockfield Elementary School

Germantown, WI

## From the Principal...

Happy Fall!

Now that we are happily settled in to the school year, we have begun assessment season. Assessments help us monitor student progress, as well as set appropriate goals for all of our learners. Please keep an eye out for notes home that inform families of upcoming assessments and tips. As always, should you have questions about assessments and other school processes, feel free to contact us!

While academics are our primary focus as we empower and inspire every student to success, we do so much more at school. This year, our elementary schools have embraced the PBIS framework (positive behavior interventions and supports). Here at Rockfield, we call it “The Rockfield Way.” The Rockfield Way consists of three main behavior expectations that help students to manage their behaviors and create a positive school climate. Our three expectations are: Be Safe, Be Respectful, and Be Responsible. We began using these expectations this fall and have concentrated on

creating a better functioning and happy lunch room. It has been most successful!

In January, we plan to conduct a fun “kick off” of our Rockfield Way, so we would love your feedback and support on our Behavior Matrix. Our main purposes in creating this matrix are:  
a. to create a common and positive language when communicating about behavior with our students,  
b. to reduce the amount of time spent clarifying behavior expectations, and  
c. to recognize our awesome students when they exhibit appropriate social and school behaviors! The behavior matrix is included in this newsletter, so be sure to take a sneak peek at our evolving process and watch for fun kickoff information soon!

## From the Principal... cont.

### Parent / Teacher Conferences

September passed by very quickly! October brings us to that point of the year when we conduct parent - teacher conferences. This is an excellent opportunity for you to find out about your child's academic and social development, and to set some goals for the remainder of the trimester.

Following are five tips that can help you to have a more successful parent – teacher conference.

#### **1. Plan for your conference.**

Before arriving for the conference, jot down some questions you would like to ask. Sometimes, as a conference develops, you can forget some of the questions that you wanted to ask. Also, determine what you can tell the teacher about your child. The teacher sees only one side of your child. Your perspective can help the teacher know your child better.

#### **2. Keep an open mind.**

Remember that you and the teacher are both major stakeholders in the child's education. You have both made a commitment to helping your child succeed, and you both need to acknowledge the positive things that you have done. Each party brings a unique perspective to the conference; communicate and cooperate to develop a plan that will maximize your child's potential.

#### **3. Ask to see some samples of your child's work.**

The best way to determine how your child is progressing is to see some examples of his / her work. Authentic products such as writing assignments, projects, etc. may convey far more meaning than a "grade."

#### **4. Ask for suggestions.**

If your child is progressing well, ask what you can do to maintain the positive situation. If there are areas of concern, ask what you can do to help address the problem. If you develop a plan of action, please begin at once to follow through with the plan that you and the teacher decide on.

#### **5. Clarify and summarize.**

If you are unsure of anything that has been said, just ask. Make sure that you leave the conference with a solid understanding of any plan that has been developed. Please be sure to be prompt and on time for your scheduled conference. The conference schedule is tight and teachers need to stay on time. If you find that you need more time than has been scheduled, please make arrangements with the teacher to continue the meeting at another day and time. Have a great conference!

### **From the Office. . .**

Please watch your child's take-home folder for your conference slip confirmation.

If you did not sign up for conferences at Open House, a time will be assigned.

Please contact your child's teacher if your conference time needs to be changed.

## Classroom Happenings

### Kindergarten

**Mrs. Barr and Mrs. Triechel**

Our kindergarteners are adjusting well to our day of learning and fun. We enjoy going to art, music, P.E., and computer lab. We are learning and practicing “Body Basics”, making great friends and doing an awesome job. We are quickly learning the sounds that letters make when we have our “jolly phonics” time each day. In math we have been learning how to sort things into groups. Wow, we are amazing!

### 1st Grade

**Mrs. Burger, Mrs. Kohlenberg & Ms. Ritger**

Welcome back to school! We have already been very busy here in first grade. We have been getting to know each other, learning first grade routines, and adjusting to a long day of work. The children are engaged in Daily 5 activities of Reading to Self and are working on building stamina. We have started our first science unit with the study of weather. The children have learned about wind speed and have been daily meteorologists. We are looking forward to our in school field trip called Wild About Weather with Mr. Findley on October 25th at 1:30. Please send in money if you have not done so already. In math we have been ordering numbers, talking about two parts, and tallying. We took our first math assessment on Topic 1. Please continue to read with your child on a daily basis—it is so very important. Enjoy the beginning fall colors!

### 2nd Grade

**Ms. Mislant and Mrs. Pitrof**

We are off to a great start in second grade! We have so much exciting information to share it's hard to know where to begin! We are learning about the life cycle of butterflies in science. We received our own caterpillars in the middle of September and we have been spending the last few weeks observing their growth and change. In reading we have been reviewing the Daily 5, and we have been working hard on building our stamina. Our reading and writing skills are growing stronger everyday! We are working hard to learn and doing our best to show “The Rockfield Way” in all that we do! We are looking forward to the opportunities for fun and learning that will be coming our way this fall!

### 3rd Grade

**Mrs. Guild & Mrs. Schowalter**

The third graders in both classes have been working hard! One change from second to third grade is the use of the reading log or reading record. Each classroom sets a minimum reading goal for monthly minutes read. It is expected that students read at least five days a week. Research supports that if students make reading a habit and read consistently outside of school they will have a greater likelihood of finding success later in life. Students who reach or exceed the monthly goal will be recognized! Please encourage your child to keep their chart inside the binder and to ask for a parent to initial it after each reading session. We congratulate our third graders for getting off to a super start as readers this year!!

## Classroom Happenings cont...

### Fourth Grade

#### **Mrs. Krohn & Mrs. Niehus**

The fourth grade classes are off to a good start! We have become geologists in Science with our Rocks and Minerals Unit. They have learned the three types of rocks: igneous, sedimentary, and metamorphic. The students have had hands on experience with rock samples and have been working on identifying which type of rock they are. In the coming week, they will be looking at samples of minerals. Everyone is enjoying the unit. In Social Studies, they have been actively using their mapping skills of identifying the continents and oceans of the world by creating a map from memory. They also have been using both latitude and longitude coordinates to find locations on a map. They will be working on studying the history of Wisconsin as well. We are working on our writing and reading skills with the introduction of the Daily 5. Students are working on building their stamina in "reading to self". They are all very hard workers and are excited about learning new concepts.

### 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.

### Fifth Grade

#### **Mr. Hagen & Mrs. Tarantino**

Fifth grade is off to a great start! Both classes have introduced The Daily 5 during reading instruction. The Daily 5 is a series of literacy tasks that students complete daily while the teacher meets with small groups or confers with individuals. Using the structure of The Daily 5, along with data from MAP testing, we will be able to provide meaningful and individualized instruction to all students. We are excited to be incorporating these new tools into reading instruction and look forward to an overall great year with our new 5<sup>th</sup> graders!

### Alumni Day

Fifth grade students at Rockfield Elementary are gearing up to learn about the many career paths available to future graduates! On Tuesday, October 11<sup>th</sup>, students and staff will participate in "alumni day," during which participants in the school community will wear apparel that represents the education history of their family. The apparel choices will be conversation starters for families and for the entire classroom. All levels of educational representation can create ideas for discussion. For example, a student may choose to wear a t-shirt from their family's elementary school out-of-state, which represents their life path before moving to Wisconsin for a parent's career change.

The idea evolved to encourage students to learn about the choices their families have made and the choices they will make as they prepare for their future career, as well as to promote continuing education in all forms. Students are also currently participating in a careers unit taught by school counselor, Jennifer Nettesheim.

## Art

The primary grades will be learning about line, shape and color this month.

**Kindergarten** has been discussing how lines and shapes make up the pictures we see. Students have used lines and shapes to draw portraits and landscapes. Next we will look at primary and secondary colors. **First grade** has also been talking about line and shape. We are studying abstract artist Wassily Kandinsky, who combined the rhythm and movement of music with painting. Next we will talk about Henri Matisse and his collages. **Second grade** has been combining lines and shapes into patterns to create wild and crazy animal drawings. Next students will be using leaves to create a collage about the fall season.

Mrs. Chueng

### Guidance

#### **Mrs. Nettesheim**

Each classroom is working hard this month learning about empathy and friendship skills. All of this will lead to learning how to solve problems and prevent bullying. 5<sup>th</sup> Grade is working hard on preparing to write their learner resumes – ask your 5<sup>th</sup> grade students about what they are doing in Guidance!

Peer Mediators will be trained during the month of October and will start Peace Patrol on the playground during lunch recess. Please encourage your children to seek out the Peer Mediators if they are having a conflict on the playground!

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.

Happy Autumn! The Art room is off to a great start! Our 5<sup>th</sup> grade students are taking a close look at how to create the illusion of space and depth in a drawing by focusing on perspective. They have been busy finding out how to use a horizon line, vanishing point and parallel lines to make things look like they are coming towards you, or going further away. 5<sup>th</sup> graders are in just the beginning steps of a perspective lettering project that will become “monumental” when placed in imaginary landscapes later next month. Students in 4<sup>th</sup> grade have been learning a lot about the various parts of a landscape. Foreground, middle ground and background are terms they have been becoming more familiar with. Each student came up with a simplified landscape... and then drew it with glue! Blended color was added to the “gluey landscapes” using Art Stix. What fun! Our 3<sup>rd</sup> graders are taking a closer look at... themselves. We started off with comparing portraits with distorted proportion verses those with correct proportion. Next, each student created a step-by-step drawing of his/herself with lots and lots of details, and with correct proportion, of course. Now we are onto adding color with crayons and colored pencils to bring the portraits to life. It is neat to see how each person sees his/herself!

Mrs. Miller

### Physical Education

Mrs. Walters



Fall is a great time to be out of doors and Rockfield's physical education classes will be doing just that. Kindergarten, first and second grades will continue to work on locomotor skills and eye-foot coordination. They will be involved in many low organized games that have cardiovascular value. All three grade levels have been relearning the expectations and procedures in phy. ed. class.

Third and fourth grades will be finishing their soccer unit and fifth grade is being introduced to speedball. All three grades will then be involved in a short football unit. Cardiovascular activities are incorporated into most classes.

Please remind your child to have proper phy. ed. shoes on the three days a week they have class. If allergies or asthma is a concern a note or call would be helpful. As always call or e-mail with any concerns or thoughts.

Bonny Walters (Mrs. Fassbender's sub)

## Music

### Ms. Lousier

Miss Lousier works with Ms. Ritger's first grade class, as well as grades three through five. In 1<sup>st</sup> grade, we have been working on classroom procedures and reviewing kindergarten concepts. We have also begun learning about piano and forte (soft and loud). Ask your 1<sup>st</sup> grader to sing "Grizzly Bear."

In 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade, we have been creating our own classroom rules and procedures in addition to strengthening our rhythm reading and notating skills. 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> graders are reviewing quarter, eighth and half note rhythms, rests and basic terms. Each grade is working on a composition that they will perform on instruments for the class. 5<sup>th</sup> graders are also reviewing rhythms, while incorporating sixteenth notes into the repertoire. The 5<sup>th</sup> grade students are also composing in groups and will be performing for the class on instruments as well.

### 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](mailto:alousier@germantown.k12.wi.us)).

### 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](mailto:jgrosse@germantown.k12.wi.us)).

### Mrs. Grosse

Mrs. Grosse (formerly Ms. Vissers) works with Mrs. Burger's & Mrs. Kohlenberg's first grade classes and the second grade classes. In 1<sup>st</sup> grade, we have been working on becoming familiar with the music room procedures, reviewing and practicing the steady beat on our bodies and classroom instruments, and working on using our best singing voices. Ask your 1<sup>st</sup> grade student to sing "Happy Heart."

In 2<sup>nd</sup> grade, we have also been working on becoming familiar with the music room procedures, practicing our steady beat with games and classroom instruments, using our very best singing voice on every song, and reviewing our rhythms from first grade. Ask your 2<sup>nd</sup> grade student to sing "Button You Must Wander."



### Music Concert Dates for the 2011-2012 School Year:

- **4<sup>th</sup> Grade Recorder Concert with Miss Lousier:** Wednesday, December 7, 2011 at 7:00 in the Rockfield Gym
- **1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade combined Concert with Ms. Grosse & Miss Lousier:** Thursday, March 1, 2012 at 6:15 p.m. in the Rockfield Gym
- **3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Concert with Miss Lousier:** Wednesday, March 1, 2012 at 7:30 p.m. in the Rockfield Gym
- **5<sup>th</sup> Grade Concert:** Germantown Schools Celebrate Singing, all-district vocal concert on Thursday, March 29<sup>th</sup>, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. at Kennedy Middle School

## Odds and Ends....

### Oldest & Only Handouts

Starting this month, many handouts being sent home with your child will only be sent home with your oldest or only child here at Rockfield.

This will help conserve costs as well as a few trees.

### Scholastic Book Fair

Please shop our Scholastic Book Fair during RocktoberFest and Teacher Conferences.

In addition to promoting reading for your child, Rockfield School gets 50% of the sales in educational materials.



**Rockfield Elementary School**  
Germantown, WI

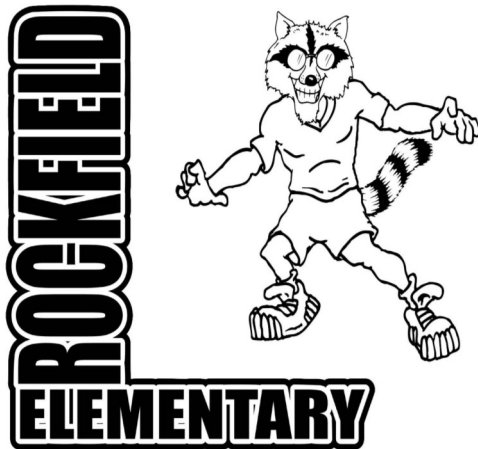
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Reach Out Rockfield Youth!!



We're on the Web!

[www.germantownschoools.org/rockfield](http://www.germantownschoools.org/rockfield)