

THE RIVEREDGE SCHOOL INQUIRER

The Official Newsletter of The Riveredge School



Nature Journaling near the Vernal Pond

October Updates

by Jessica Tipkemper

Time has flown since the first day of school. Everyone here at The Riveredge School has been learning a lot! As we move into our second month of school, here are some important details and updates:

Pick Up and Drop Off

From our family survey, we learned that the majority prefers to drop off/pick up students in front of the trailhead in the East Parking Lot (the method currently used for drop off only). Due to safety concerns shared by the sheriff's department, we are unable to change the pick up procedures in the afternoon. Here are a few suggestions to make for a smoother process:

- If you pick up/drop off **3+ students**, please *park your vehicle on the same side of the parking lot as the trailhead*.
- If you have **other children in the car with you, mobility issues or other special needs**, please *park on the north side of the East Parking Lot*.
- If you have other **special circumstances**, please *speak to Shelly Schnitzer* so that we can try to make arrangements.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

NO SCHOOL: RECORDS DAY

11/01

VISION SCREENING

11/05

CONFERENCES

11/19 - 20

THANKSGIVING BREAK

11/27 - 29



K/1 class releasing monarchs



A joyful potato harvest

Measures of Academic Progress

by Shelly Schnitzer

During the month of November, students will participate in an adaptive assessment called Measures of Academic Progress. Each student receives a unique set of test questions based on their performance during the assessment. As the student answers the questions correctly, questions become more challenging. If the student answers questions incorrectly, the questions become less challenging.

The goal of the assessment is to find the point at which students answer about half of the questions correctly. The findings of this assessment inform teachers as to what each student is ready to learn.

Preparing your student(s) at home will help them be successful:

- Make sure your child gets an ample amount of sleep the night before the test.
- Provide a nutritious and filling breakfast: avoid high sugar cereals which can make the student unfocused.
- Make sure your child is on time for school.
- Help your child keep testing in perspective.
- This is just one snapshot of your child's learning. Your student will be learning and growing throughout the year and is more than just a test score!

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Clothing

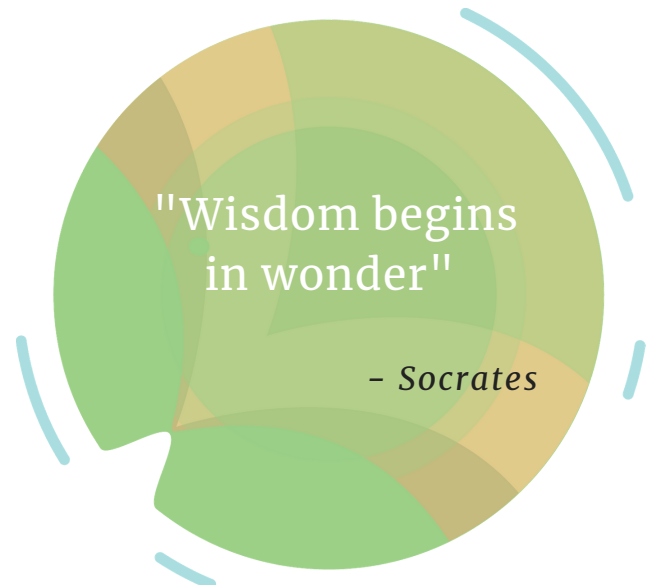
As the weather changes, please be sure to send your child(ren) with many layering options to keep warm and dry. Be sure to label all clothing with a permanent marker on or near the tags.

Food & Water

Please check your child(ren)'s food/water supply each night to get a sense of what is being eaten at school. Some students are running out of food during the day. Water bottles need to be cleaned regularly to prevent illness.

Early/Late Arrivals & Departures

Please contact Shelly Schnitzer and your child's teacher ASAP if you have a planned early or late arrival/departure so that we can plan accordingly. Ms. Schnitzer will direct you to your child's class' location.



"Wisdom begins in wonder"

- Socrates



Preparing to bake potatoes with Ms. G



K/1 Students enjoy their freshly cooked treats!

Happenings in class"rooms"

Schoolwide:

K/1: Kindergarten and 1st grade students have been exploring cooking over campfires each week. This month we roasted s'mores, string cheese, and marshmallow-covered strawberries. We also cooked applesauce over the fire together!

2nd grade: The second grade class has enjoyed exploring all that the Riveredge farm had to offer this month - from getting a tour to harvesting potatoes, our time at the farm was fun for all! We've been working on developing our goal setting and reflecting skills by setting short-term goals for our school habits. Tree Climbing, puddle jumping, and cooking potatoes over the fire have been the highlights of our month!

3/4: Third and fourth grade students enjoyed multiple visits to the farm as well as cooking the potatoes that they harvested over the fire! Tree climbing was a favorite event as well. Students have been building their endurance as readers and writers. We feel like we are finally getting into a routine!

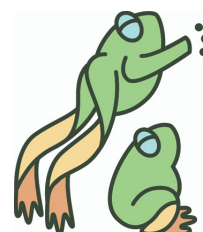
"WHAT DID YOU DO AT SCHOOL TODAY?"

by Shelly Schnitzer

This is the age old question that we all heard as kids, and now ask your own child(ren) when they come home after school each day. This may be enough to get the chatter started. However, sometimes it can be difficult to get details from your child after a long day.

Here are some conversation starters that may open dialogue and give you insights to your student's learning experiences:

- What was the best part of today?
- Who did you play with at recess today?
- When were you happiest today?
- What is one thing you learned today?
- What was the funniest thing that happened today?
- What was your biggest challenge today?
- Who made you smile today?
- What did they do?
- How did you help someone today?



Loving the Land

October Faces & Places

by Ashley Gauger

One of the most unique things about our school is the rare and important partnership we have with Riveredge Nature Center. We simply could not exist without the hard work and dedication of years of Riveredge naturalists to return farmland to the thriving, biodiverse sanctuary that it is today. Unlike most schools - whose facilities are their own - we are guests here, working closely with this special host to make an innovative dream come true.

When school began, students dedicated time to learning how to respect and care for the trail and the natural spaces where we do so much of our learning. Staying on the trail, limiting removal of natural items, leaving most found creatures be, resisting the urge to pull and pick plants, and staying within boundaries to reduce impact in our play spaces are all ways we can care for the land. As the weeks progressed we've become more acquainted with this place, we look on certain trails and spaces with comforting familiarity. This comfort is great - it opens us up to adventure, responsible risk taking, and wonder. However, comfort can also cause that care and awareness we have for our surroundings to slip away. It is vital to remember that we are not the only people using this land, it serves many purposes and has many communities relying on it.

These words from the Riveredge Nature Center Land Management Department inspire us to keep stewardship in the conversation with our students, year-round: "The Riveredge wildlife sanctuary is the cornerstone of Riveredge's education, research, and land stewardship programming. . . . Prized by educators, naturalists, and biologists for its exceptional biotic diversity, Riveredge is a regional resource for scientific research, hosting more than 40 studies, projects, inventories, monitoring programs, surveys, and other types of scientific investigations. It is habitat for endangered and threatened species such as the swamp metalmark butterfly, forked aster, goldenseal and the red-shouldered hawk. Also, Riveredge adds to the vitality of the community by providing ongoing recreational opportunities for adults, families, and children, as well as opportunities for citizen scientists to conduct ongoing scientific research."

It is of the utmost importance that we continue to care for our school. Not only to preserve the positive relationship we have with the Nature Center community, but to preserve the decades long efforts that thousands of people have put into this space to make it what it is. A place where we can establish a connection to and affection for the environment around us. A place where we can be inspired by the wonders of the natural world found just outside our backdoor.



3/4 students enjoyed some wet days



Everyone got a little wet and muddy!