



THE RIVEREDGE SCHOOL INQUIRER

The Official Newsletter of Riveredge Outdoor Learning Elementary School



Developments at The Riveredge School

Maple Sugarin' with Riveredge Nature Center

During March each class has or is participating in an onsite field trip with the RNC education staff in which students learn all about the process of how sap becomes the delicious maple syrup that we have with breakfast! From identifying sugar maple trees in the forest, tapping a tree to collect sap, and learning the process to make it into syrup, our students have a wealth of knowledge regarding this natural sweet treat to share with their friends and family.



Happy Spring!

The first day of spring is Saturday, March 20th. Please watch for Bloomz posts related to family/school-wide activities. And along with the warmer weather comes rain, mud, and damp grounds to explore!. **Please make sure your child has a complete extra set of clothes, including socks, at school at all times. Rain pants, waterproof jackets and waterproof boots are daily necessities this time of year!**



Statewide Forward Testing

Our 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade students will be participating in the statewide Forward exams beginning after returning from spring break on April 5th and extending for three weeks in April. Most of the testing will take place in the morning; please avoid scheduling appointments during these weeks if possible.

March Book Madness

Upcoming Events

March 12: Spring Parent/Teacher/Student Conferences: 9:00am-12:00pm (Invitation/Request only).; No School for Students

March 18: Virtual Information Session 6:30-7:30pm (New interested families)

March 19: Spring Parent/Teacher/Student Conferences: 12:00pm-3:00pm (Invitation/Request only).; No School for Students

March 19: Returning Students - Intent to Enroll in the 2021-22 school year ROLES applications due to ROLES office

March 26: Virtual Friday

March 29-April 2: Spring Break - No School for Students or Staff

April 9: Virtual Friday

April 15-April 16: No School for Students; Professional Development for Staff

Students are in the midst of reading two books facing one another off to make it into the next bracket in March Book Madness. Thank you to our ROLES community for donating the books to participate in this reading competition! Students from around the world nominated books that are pitted against one another in duels until a champion is crowned. The older grades are reading to our younger grades online fostering community in our school.

The Archery Club is here!

Please use the link available in Bloomz to register.

Wicked Archery is offering a 4 week session April 9, April 16, April 23 and May 7. The time is either 1pm or 4 pm. The price is \$10.00 a class. Ages are 6 and up. Wicked Archery has bows for the kids to use. These are included for the \$10 lane fee. Masks are required because it's a school function. However, when shooting, masks need to come off for safety. See Bloomz post for contact information.

February All-School Virtual Friday: Owls and Other Nocturnal Animals

Thank you to Mr. Sams for organizing this school-wide virtual activity! Families enjoyed observing the Great Horned Owl webcam and learning more about these fascinating birds.

Enrollment for 2021-22 School Year

Returning students to ROLES are given first preference to their seats and only have to complete the 2021-22 application. A completed application shows "Intent to Enroll" and is due to the ROLES office by Friday, March 19, 2021. Paper copies are available in the office and can be sent home with students by request. Returning students do NOT need to complete the online open enrollment form.

Any siblings of returning students NEW to ROLES that are applying for the 2021-22 school year will have to complete the DPI online application, if they are not residents of the Northern Ozaukee School District, in addition to submitting a completed application by April 30, 2021.

April 20: Virtual Information Session 6:30-7:30pm (New interested families)

April 22: Earth Day

April 23 and April 30: Virtual Fridays

April 30: Last day to complete online Open Enrollment application and turn in ROLES application for New students to ROLES

May 6: Lottery for 2021-22 school year New applicants to ROLES

May 7, May 14, May 21: Virtual Fridays

Friday, May 28: Last Day of School: IN PERSON!



What is Bloomz?

Bloomz is the ROLES internal social media that is used for daily classroom and school updates, communications with families, events' notifications, etc. Enrolled ROLES families received invitations to join Bloomz from their classroom teachers at the beginning of the school year. This newsletter is a tiny snippet of the posts and pictures that are shared with ROLES families everyday!!

SERVING AS A LABORATORY FOR OUTDOOR LEARNING WHICH AMPLIFIES THE OUTCOMES OF PUBLIC EDUCATION, SERVING LEARNERS OF ALL ABILITIES AND NEEDS, FOSTERING A DEEP CONNECTION TO THE ENVIRONMENT, AND PREPARING STUDENTS FOR SUCCESS IN SCHOOL AND LIFE.





OUR LEARNING PARTNERS

ROLES PTO

Drop-Off Volunteers

THANK-YOU to all our morning volunteers who help students out of vehicles and guide them towards their classes!! Your valuable time in the morning allows our staff a few extra minutes to make daily preparations for a memorable school day.

Open Chair Positions

There are some open committee chair positions. Feel free to email if you are interested! We would love to have you! Email: roles.pto@gmail.com if you would like to be involved in ANY capacity! Everyone's voice matters to us and we are open to all!

Riveredge Nature Center

Maple Sugarin' Season!

Visit the Riveredge Nature Center website at <https://www.riveredgenaturecenter.org/> to explore a wide variety of events and opportunities this spring.

Northern Ozaukee School District

Free Meals through NOSD:

The Northern Ozaukee School District is participating in a nationwide USDA program that provides meals at no cost. Please contact Jackie Evraets at 262-692-2489 ext. 410 for more information.

Northern Ozaukee Middle School

Debating about where to send your child for grade 6? Currently, the RNC education staff and NOSD staff are working together to develop their middle school programming to incorporate nature-based learning and ways to utilize outdoor natural areas on their school grounds. RNC and NOSD's partnership to integrate nature-based learning into their curriculum will benefit middle school students as soon as the 2021-22 school year! NOMS has around 130 total students in grades 6-8. If you are interested in learning more about NOMS, please contact either David Karrels, Superintendent or Ann Baumann, Data & Open Enrollment Coordinator.

David Karrels, Superintendent:

dkarrels@nosd.edu;
262-692-2489 ext. 402

Ann Baumann, Data & Open Enrollment Coordinator:

abaumann@nosd.edu;
262-692-2489 ext. 294

LEARNING UPDATES FROM CLASSES

Kindergarten by Katie Popp (Feb & March)



Kindergartners are becoming confident writers who work hard and put many good ideas down on paper. We're beginning to reflect on being sentence mechanics who can review and fix up our sentences to make them even better.

Widdeling sticks with peelers. This was an interesting handwork for the children leading to great concentration, patience and perseverance.



Melty snow is great at making us and our gear soaking wet :(but it also is great for snow sculpting and painting :). We created a beautiful "snow sculpture museum" at the labyrinth today!

First grade by Kayla Buser 2/25:

One of the newest additions to our class has been the reading of chapter books during snack time. So far we have read *Lions at Lunchtime* by Mary Pope Osborne and Junie B. Jones and a *Little Monkey Business* by Barbara Park.

This week we started a longer chapter book, *The Secret Zoo* by Bryan Chick. We have quite a bit more to read, but we are excited to find out what happens next. Ask your child about this book or the other two we have read, I'm sure they'd be happy to tell you about them!



LEARNING UPDATES FROM CLASSES

Second grade by Cindy Raimer 2/22 & 3/2:

Today's introduction lesson into simple machines was a teamwork challenge. Each team was tasked with getting a snowball with the largest circumference (new vocab word) on top of a picnic table! I threw some boards on the ground and left all the planning and decision making up to them. They quickly realized that a ramp (we learned the word incline plane after completion) was the answer!

Fun with levers today! We did a science experiment where we moved the fulcrum on our lever to test the amount of effort (quarters) it took to lift a load of marbles. We had the fulcrum in the middle, then near the load of marbles, then far away from our load.



Fourth & Fifth grades by Walter Sams:

The 4th and 5th graders spent their time in February staying warm and active. Here is a photo of the students literally finding heat in the woodchip/snow pile near the drop off parking lot. We were keeping an eye on this spot because we'd noticed it steaming one day. With a thermometer we often measured temperatures over 120 degrees! Even in the middle of winter decomposition was heating up the pile!



Third grade by Amanda Otzelberger 2/25:

Our class has been learning about communities- what they are made up of and their physical and human characteristics. We created our own Riveredge community where each team was in charge of making sure a need of our community was met- for example, a community needs education so a team built a school and library, we need healthcare so a team built a hospital and dentist office, etc. Chewbacca was the mayor of our community (he was found in my lego bin). It was so fun to watch them all work separately and together on this project and use the land to make it really special.



We have spotted some very neat signs of animals as well-- one being an owl pellet! We spent part of this afternoon asking questions we wondered and researching about owls, their pellets and adaptations and looking at the pellet under a microscope. We plan to dissect it next week!

Third grade also had some meaningful and important conversations around Black History Month and inclusion. We are making great progress in our informational report research and will move on to our first drafts shortly! More to come on the final product plan soon.

How do I report my child's absence?

Contact the ROLES office as soon as possible using any of these methods:
Email: eweiss@nosd.edu
Phone: 262-416-1171
Bloomz message to: Emily Weiss
Include your child's full name, date of absence, and reason for absence.

Did You Know?

March 3rd is World Wildlife Day. The purpose of World Wildlife Day is to celebrate and raise awareness of the world's wild animals and plants. According to **CITES SECRETARIAT**, this year's theme is: "Forests and Livelihoods: Sustaining People and Planet", as a way to highlight the central role of forests, forest species and ecosystems services in sustaining the livelihoods of hundreds of millions of people globally, and particularly of Indigenous and local communities with historic ties to forested and forest-adjacent areas." Learn more about World Wildlife Day at this website: <https://www.wildlifeday.org/>.