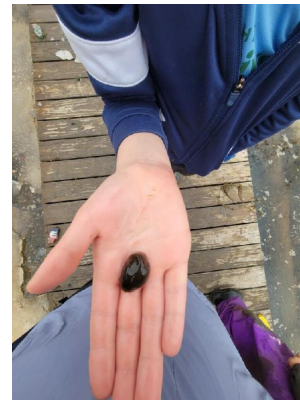
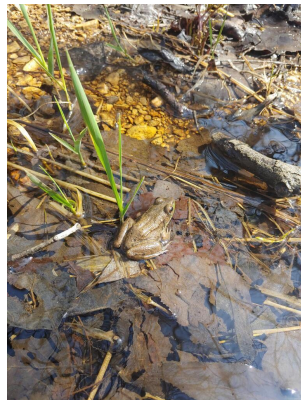




THE RIVEREDGE SCHOOL INQUIRER

The Official Newsletter of Riveredge Outdoor Learning Elementary School



DEVELOPMENTS AT THE RIVEREDGE SCHOOL

Signs of Spring!

The first day of spring was Saturday, March 20th. Students have found signs of spring all around the nature center's grounds! Here are a few of the observations noted by our 4th/5th grade class recently:

- Dead hawk in the labyrinth
 - More frogs than you could dream of (we have particularly heard a lot of wood frogs and spring peepers)
 - Weather! We got to see an approaching lightning storm (safely, of course)
 - Many swarming insects like ants in the prairie
- Come and explore the RNC grounds with your children to enjoy the variety of habitats for plants and animals reawakening!

Earth Day Week Project: Oak Thickets

When you attend a nature based school, Earth Day becomes Earth Week if not Earth Year! This year we are planning a rather large habitat restoration project with Riveredge Nature Center. Each class will be creating their own oak thicket in the land between Riveredge Nature Center and the Yurt Village. During the week of April 19th each class will spend a portion of each school day planting a number of oak trees in a tight space to help insure their survival from a number of animals that love to browse them. Oak thickets are amazing due to the number of insects and animals that they attract. For example, oak trees attract over 250 insect species. They are also the favorite food of many animals which is why they are dwindling on the Riveredge. We will create observation poles for each thicket so that we can document growth and changes over time. These thickets will provide great spaces for hands on science exploration once established.

Where curriculum is brought to life and curiosity is fostered each and every day through time in our natural world.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

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

April 19-22: Earth Day Week: Students planting oak thickets throughout RNC

Earth Day Week Dress Up Days:

Mon, 4/19: Flannel or Plaid

Tues, 4/20: Camouflage

Wed, 4/21: School spirit wear or Animal

Thurs, 4/22: Green

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

April 30: Arbor Day

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!



March All-School Virtual Friday: Spring

Thank you to Mrs. Buser for organizing this school-wide virtual activity! Families learned about the Vernal Equinox and some conducted an “eggsperiment” to debunk a spring myth. Students participated in a variety of crafts and activities to learn how spring is celebrated around the world including places such as India, Japan, Cambodia, and Australia.

Staff Professional Development with Riveredge Nature Center Educators

When you educate children at a nature based school some of your professional development focuses on elevating your understanding of the amazing natural resources at Riveredge. In April, the Riveredge educators presented topics and activities around aquatic insect collection and identification, spring plants, water resources and landforms to name just a few.



(Left and Above: ROLES Staff at Vernal Pond in April)



(Right: ROLES Students at Vernal Pond in March)

Virtual Fridays

The Governance Council approved the continuation of Virtual Fridays for the 21-22 school year. Virtual Fridays were determined to be the best option at this time to provide the teachers with the valuable prep time they need each week to create our unique curriculum. DPI was consulted and it was determined that our students currently exceed the state requirements for academic hours with Virtual Fridays. NOSD has provided their approval to support the format, as well as almost 3/4th's of our families indicated through survey data. We will continue to create additional academic and nature based opportunities for our students on Virtual Fridays including the monthly family learning opportunities created by our staff continuing into next school year.

Additional Family Care Options for 2021-22

We are currently working with the Teaching and Learning Committee, YMCA, and RNC to explore before and after school day care programming possibilities for families on Virtual Fridays next school year. After more specific numbers to determine the demand for the options is gathered through the current survey posted in Bloomz for our returning families, more information will follow.

If you are a new family interested in applying for enrollment during the 2021-22 school year, please click [HERE](#) for more information.

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!!

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.

Enrollment for 2021-22 School Year

Thank you to all families for notifying the ROLES office of their plans for next school year. 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 in addition to submitting a completed application by April 30, 2021.

Fifth Grade in 2021-22

We are excited to have our first stand alone 5th grade classroom next year. So far, it looks to be a smaller group and will hopefully grow into a full 18 student class by 2022-23. We are starting the process of seeking a certified, caring, nature based educator for this position. This class will have opportunities for long term science exploration and service learning experiences.

How do I confirm 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.

ROLES PTO

STAFF APPRECIATION: Thank you to all of our wonderful staff! Staff appreciation is coming up, so stay on the lookout for info on how we can show our staff some love. Please reach out to Chrissy Knoske if you have any ideas or want to help out! (Email: alaskaborn@icloud.com).

Governance Council

We are looking to start a marketing committee and are hoping to find a few parents and/or community members who would be interested in helping to kick start it. If this is something that would be of interest to you, please contact Amy Levash (amylevash@gmail.com).

Riveredge Nature Center

Riveredge Celebrates Earth Day 2021
[Click here for events happening throughout the week!](#)

26th Annual Milwaukee Riverkeeper Spring Cleanup
 Saturday, April 24th
 70+ Locations

Arbor Day - Trees to RNC Members
 RNC partners with [Argosy Foundation](#) and the Living Lands and Waters [Million Trees Project](#) to give away **free trees to Riveredge Members!**

Mother's Day Wildflower Walk
 Sunday, May 9th: 1:00pm-2:30pm

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 spaces near the building. RNC and NOSD's partnership to integrate nature based learning into their programming 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

Kindergarten Bloomz posts by Katie Popp



Paper Bridge construction. The kids needed to change the shape of their paper to try and make a sturdy bridge that would hold all of their cubes.



Nature journal tree observations, and some good discussion around why the trees that surround us everyday are so useful and amazing.



Informational Book authors share time! Authors sat in the chairs to share their special books, listeners sat on the ground to enjoy their friends' hard work.



Finding a favorite tree at the labyrinth to use an easel and do some creating.

First Grade discovered a red-tailed hawk near the labyrinth!



Third Grade Wax Museum with Amanda Otzelberger



(Above: Leonardo da Vinci and Amelia Earhart)



(Right: Usain Bolt and Jackie Robinson)

Families, other classes, and staff learned about influential heroes through history at our Wax Museum! Third grade worked hard researching, taking notes and turning them into informational writing pieces. For our museum, students WERE the exhibits dressed as their heroes, including props, they researched and taught us about their lives like a museum exhibit. They presented interesting facts and offered “ask a question” options to visitors as well! Thank you to family members and the 1st, 2nd and 4/5 classes for joining us!

4th/5th Grades by Walter Sams

We have had a great time witnessing the reawakening in 4th and 5th grade this month. Frogs in the pond, discovering swabbing insects, listening to birds, and witnessing blooming plants are a few of the invigorating things we've been in and around. All of these things were great for calming our minds and bodies to prepare for the forward exam in early April.



First Grade Bloomz post by Kayla Buser on April 6th

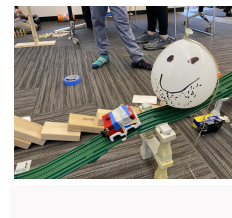
What great weather we have been given to start our first week back after break! We have enjoyed spending much of our time outdoors. We've hiked, played, explored, and spotted several creatures telling us that spring has officially arrived. Today, our class found a very small snake, frogs, snapping turtles, and geese keeping their eggs warm!

We have started working with word problems this week, which is another first grade standard. Word problems are great for building math skills, but they are also great for building reading and comprehension skills as well! We are looking at all types of problems involving addition and subtraction. As we continue to build our understanding of these types of problems, we will also continue to use multiple strategies to help us think flexibly!

**Mrs. Fisk even held the snake, even though she is not much of a snake fan. Way to be brave, Mrs. Fisk!



Second Grade Rube Gold Machines with Cindy Raimer



Our 2nd grade students were busy for the past month learning, building and doing experiments with the six simple machines and how they make work easier! They built water screws, tested levers, lifted their own weight with pulleys, moved enormous snowballs with inclined planes and experimented with using wedges and wheels. As a culminating assessment, they were tasked in a team to design and build Rube Goldberg machines using all six simple machines.