



THE RIVEREDGE SCHOOL INQUIRER

The Official Newsletter of Riveredge Outdoor Learning Elementary School



DEVELOPMENTS AT THE RIVEREDGE SCHOOL

Earth Day Week: Oak Thickets

A huge shout out to the staff, students, parents, volunteers, Matt Smith, the Riveredge Nature Center Team and a whole bunch of oak seedlings for making this project a reality. This is just the beginning of our planting projects at Riveredge; students now have the skills necessary to support Matt Smith and the Riveredge team in other restoration and maintenance plant and animal projects.

Earth Week celebrations:

- 1) over 100 oak trees have been added to the Riveredge property
- 2) a couple of hundred prairie onion are now planted in the prairies surrounding the nature center
- 3) most of our students took home a piece of prairie that they can use to help grow their own
- 4) students now have the skills to effectively plant trees and other plants
- 5) students have gained a better understanding of tree anatomy/physiology and plant care strategies
- 6) students have sharpened their skills around working in teams
- 7) students have a better understanding of the mission and vision of Earth Day and how it relates to the learning and experiences that take place at Riveredge.

April All-School Virtual Friday: Earth Day

Thank you to Mrs. Otzelberger for organizing this school-wide virtual activity! Families learned about the history of Earth Day along with engaging in a variety of ways to celebrate our planet. Choices included cleaning up our environment, citizen science, creating crafts, and more.

UPCOMING EVENTS

May 18: Last Bookmobile visit to ROLES

May 21: Virtual Friday

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



Week of June 7th: Report cards sent home via email

June 25: New students' registration for 2021-22 school year due

June 28: Returning students begin online registration for 2021-22 school year

July 16: Returning students' registration for 2021-22 school year due

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!!

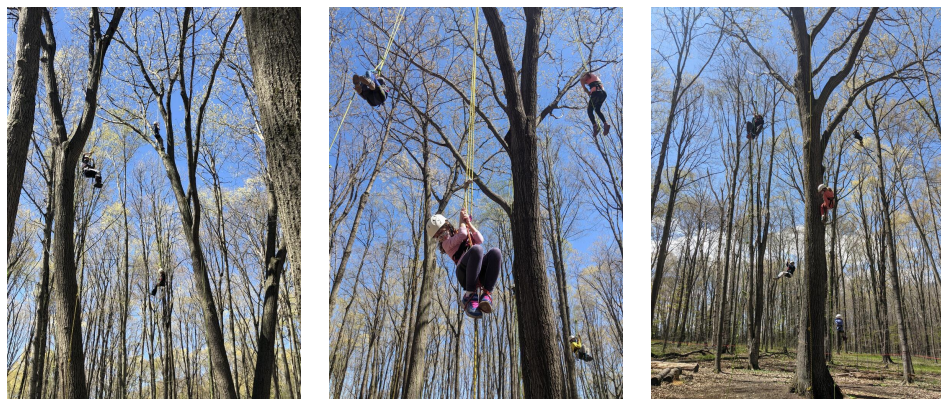
Teacher Appreciation Week

We celebrated the amazing efforts of our teacher and para team at ROLES! Our paras are always considered part of the teaching team and celebrate their work with our children. The academic success and emotional growth of our children is in the hands of these amazing educators each and every day. Although we often view education in terms of test scores and report cards, at the core it is also about relationships and experiences. Our hope is that these experiences spark a passion for learning and deep love of nature.

Our kindergarten and first grade teams have taught our students how to read, appreciate the beauty of math, modeled the importance of science and social studies, fostered a love of nature and strengthened their understanding of our place in the environment and the responsibility we have to protect it. They have also taught our students respect, empathy, cooperation, gratitude, grit, perseverance and caring, to name just a few.

Our second through fifth grade teams have strengthened our students' reading skills, led them down the path to becoming mathematicians, introduced them to the importance of social studies and our place in society and helped them to develop a land ethic. They have also taught our students skills necessary to work as a team, the importance of listening, empathy, gratitude, decision making, how to care for others and modeled many of these skills themselves.

Of equal importance, our [amazing staff](#) has accomplished these critical lessons during a pandemic. Much thanks to our teams for your hard work and dedication towards our students' education and lives!



Tree Climbing with RNC

Our 3rd grade and 4th/5th grades classes had the privileged opportunity to go tree climbing in some tall trees near the Sugarbush House. Second grade is anxiously waiting for their chance this week. The Adventure Education RNC Staff led our students in safety and instruction to climb and dangle from trees as high as 60 feet in the air! Activities such as tree climbing are considered a part of our non-traditional physical education curriculum here at ROLES.

Inspired by tree climbing experiences?

RNC offers a Tree Climbing Club and Open Climb dates for people of all ages! [Explore options here.](#)

Is your student leaving ROLES?

Please complete a "Student Withdrawal Form" and turn it into the ROLES office as soon as possible. This tells us where your student is going to school next year to assist in transferring student records. Required for all grade levels, including 5th grade. Paper copies are available in the ROLES office or email: eweiss@nosd.edu.



Donors Choose

A number of our teachers have submitted projects for funding through Donors Choose and during Teacher Appreciation Week many of those projects were funded!

May Virtual Friday Family Learning

Our Family Learning project for May will focus on Invasive species. The activity will come home this Friday and provide information for parents to take part in some restoration work with Invasive Species. The students will also be doing some Invasive Species restoration here at Riveredge with Garlic Mustard.

Oakiwear and Bento boxes

All families that were issued Oakiwear and/or bento boxes need to turn them into the ROLES office by Thursday, 6/3/21, 4:00pm. Items can be dropped off in the office with the student's name on it. They may be turned in before the last school day, 5/28, such as sent in with your student, if that works best.

August 2021

Forms, Calendar, Bloomz invites, and more back to school information communicated to families through email.

2021-22 Field Fridays

RNC is offering programming one Friday per month that will support ROLES Virtual Friday and provide nature enrichment. This [website page](#) contains more details.

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: full name, date, and reason for absence

ROLES PTO

A HUGE THANK YOU to the PTO for all the treats and gifts through Teacher Appreciation Week and for recognizing our administration!! We deeply appreciate your ongoing support and truly enjoy working with your children and the ROLES families every day!

PTO is assisting organizing volunteers to move our classroom supplies and furniture on Saturday, June 5th.

Governance Council

THANK YOU from the ROLES Staff for the flowers and meals for Teacher Appreciation Week. We are so grateful for your ongoing support!

2021-22 School Lottery: Our school lottery was conducted on May 6th at the River Outpost Building. Remaining open seats and waitlists were established at each grade level. Please visit our website for our [Lottery and Waitlist Results](#).

Riveredge Nature Center

Riveredge Summer Camp 2021 Opportunities
[Click here for camps for students](#) of all ages.

Frog Fest is coming up on June 5th!
With two time slots for families to explore the watery habitats for amphibian life. 10:00-12:15 and 12:15-2:30.
[Families can register here!](#)

Riveredge Bike Ride 2021
Join Riveredge Nature Center **for the 29th Annual Riveredge Bike Ride on Sunday, June 27, 2021**, celebrating the natural beauty of Ozaukee and Washington counties and the community members that support and love it.

Riveredge Excursions
Guided Family and Small Group Excursions

RNC Event Opportunities
Adults, families, cross generations, toddlers--RNC offers nature opportunities for everyone throughout the summer!

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
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. For more information, please contact: David Karrels, Superintendent at dkarrels@nosd.edu or Ann Baumann, Data & Open Enrollment Coordinator at abaumann@nosd.edu.

Kindergarten: Animal Moms by Katie Popp:



We spent the week thinking about moms and animal parents and babies. Boy were we excited when we arrived at Farm Pond this morning to spot a fuzzy baby gosling tucked under mom's wing with Dad standing nearby on the lookout! What we thought was one gosling was actually six!!! Being quiet is not usually one of our specialties in K, but we quietly and respectfully watched the new goose family.

The kiddos also noticed these heart-shaped lily pads on Bentley Pond, and wished they could give them to their mothers, but we left them for the frogs.

We added some stuffed animal babies to our afternoon explore so we could practice caring for a baby. We snuggled, fed, brushed, built shelters, transported and taught important lessons to our animal babies.



First Grade: Animal Research Projects by Kayla Buser

Over the last month, the first-grade class has been working hard on animal research projects! These projects began by students picking an animal of their choice, some of the animals chosen included; cheetahs, platypuses, komodo dragons, and red foxes. As the students paged through books and utilized online resources, they took notes regarding the appearance, habitat, food, and babies of their chosen animal. Once the notes were completed, students began to transform their notes into sentences that will be used in their final research reports. As part of the research project, students were each asked to create a shoebox diorama of their animal's habitat!



Third Grade: Cycle of Life with Amanda Otzelberger



Our class has continued to find events in nature and signs of the land changing and blooming. Baby painted turtles, a mother goose sitting on her eggs one day to goslings following her around the pond the next, our first toad, trying to identify the bird calls we hear and see (orioles this week!), different insects start to appear like dragonflies, mayflies and pollinators, food chains up close and personal-- we sat and watched a garter snake eat a frog (see photos above) AND witnessed the Farm Pond bass catch a frog (these poor frogs). Mrs. Barrett and I are constantly amazed and I am always thinking about how lucky we are to see what we do each day! So many learning experiences and teachable moments.

4th/5th Grades: Plants by Walter Sams

What an Earth Week! We had a great time planting our Oak Thicket this week. Reason #1 - Awesome parent volunteers! It was great to have some of you here this week to work with our awesome learners to plant the oaks. Thanks to all of you that made your way in to help us out. And thanks to everyone for sending your students to school prepared to work hard no matter the weather (Planting wild onions through the snowy earth was a new one for me, that's for sure).



This week there was a wildflower explosion. Last Wednesday the students partnered up and learned about a spring blooming plant. They did mini presentations and shared their learning. Though I chose all of the plants knowing we would see them within the month I had no idea how fortunate we would be. We literally saw each plant on our morning walk on Monday: Spring Beauty, BloodRoot, Mayapple, Wild Ginger, Horsetail, Jack in the Pulpit, Trillium

Second Grade: Plant Dissection with Cindy Raimer



We dissected flowers today and examined the parts under a microscope and then drew, diagrammed and labelled the parts. We enjoyed every bit of this activity...except the pollen. A few of us did not enjoy the symptoms after!

During our RNC program, we enjoyed learning about the give and take of ecosystems. We explored both the forest and prairie, swept for bugs, probed soil, and compared and contrasted the environments.

We celebrated Earth Day with the book *The Leaf Detective*, and planting prairie onions to protect our newly planted oaks from deer and being shaded out by taller prairie plants! We finished with an experiment on solar energy cooking a s'more in a solar oven. Although we didn't get a very warm s'more, we will hypothesize why next week, modify some things and possibly try again. As one student said, "I don't mind repeating an experiment if it involves s'mores!"

Your children may have told you, but I would like to officially welcome Laura Wollersheim to our classroom. Mrs. Keller's swim business has picked up (yay!) and she has requested a job share. Mrs. Wollersheim will be with our class each morning, Mrs. Keller each afternoon. We are thrilled to have such wonderful support and are excited to have Laura on the team!

