



THE RIVEREDGE SCHOOL INQUIRER

The Official Newsletter of Riveredge Outdoor Learning Elementary School



DEVELOPMENTS AT THE RIVEREDGE SCHOOL

UPCOMING EVENTS

Welcome Back to School!
 ROLES is embarking on its third year as a public charter school and so excited to grow and develop together as learners, educators, families, and community members! There seems to be an increase in carpooling which has made pickup and drop off quicker, safer, and conserves valuable natural resources. Mr. Mullen observed well planned math lessons, students engaged in reading, Responsive Classroom meetings, nature journaling, community building and teacher strategies for getting to know the students during our first week of school. The teachers are doing an amazing job communicating with all of their parents/guardians through Bloomz and sharing the activities and learning of the day.

- October 1:** Virtual Friday
- October 8:** No School for Students & Staff
- October 15 and 22:** Virtual Fridays
- October 29:** No School for Students; Teacher Work Day

November 3 and November 4:
 Parent/Teacher/Student Conferences
 AFTER SCHOOL - Times: TBD

Virtual Fridays
 The ROLES teaching team has worked hard to develop a new format of our virtual, individual, and exploratory instruction on Virtual Fridays. Fridays begin with an ALL school virtual meeting at 8:30am led by our teachers on a weekly topic. This allows for families with multiple ROLES students to log in at one time for the all school meeting, instead of individual class meetings. Students are assigned "Must Do(s)" and Optional assignments/activities that complement the weekly topic and are due on the following Monday. Families schedule their students' work time to what works best for the family's schedule throughout Friday and the weekend.

- November 5:** Virtual Friday
- November 5:** PTO Fall Fest;
 Time: Late afternoon - Evening - TBD



Attendance is taken at the virtual all school meeting by the classroom teachers. In addition, completed classwork turned in on Monday counts towards positive Virtual Friday attendance. The ROLES team is excited to continue to evolve in providing this unique educational opportunity as it fits into our school's mission, vision, and values!

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.

WE ARE GROWING MINDS WITH NATURE!

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2021 Return the Sturgeon

Riveredge Nature Center partners with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources to raise and release sturgeon into the Milwaukee River. Our students visited the trailer at River Outpost that housed the young sturgeon for months while they acclimated to the Milwaukee River waters. On September 19th, over 1,000 sturgeon were tagged and released at HarborFest in Milwaukee! Learn more about the sturgeon in Wisconsin and this program [here](#). Visit the Nature Center to see the new young sturgeon in the tank!



RNC Farmers Market on Wednesdays

The Riveredge Farm will be providing a Farmers Market every Wednesday at Pickup. When the school banner is up, the market is taking place! It will be set up in the grassy area next to the garden. The market will occur this fall until the produce runs out. We hope to get the students involved over time around the harvest this fall. Pick up your kids and pick up some organic produce for dinner!

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!!



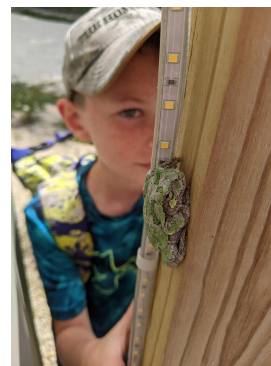
LEARNING UPDATES FROM CLASSES

Fifth Grade Exploring by Shaun Kempf on September 15th:

Today was all about solving problems and exploring. We started the day with an escape prairie based on the book Frindle we read aloud. They had to solve puzzles using vocabulary from the book, remembering the plot and knowing their characters.

Later they did a bug scavenger hunt as we are beginning our exploration of bugs and their life cycle.

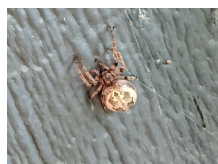
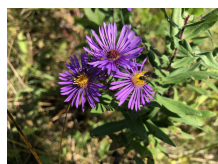
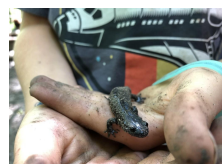
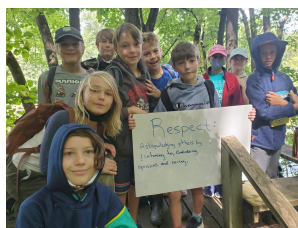
Near the end of the day each student became an early explorer and introduced themselves to others. It was a great day!



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

Welcome Sarah Fortney to the ROLES Education Team!

Hello, my name is Sarah Fortney, the newest member of the ROLES team. As the 4th grade paraprofessional, I look forward to supporting the growth of the students and creating a positive learning environment. I have experience in elementary and special education. I am passionate about the mission of ROLES and love being a part of bringing it to life each day. My two children attend ROLES, in first and third grade. As a family we enjoy going on adventures or just staying home for game night.



ROLES PTO

Scholastic Book Fair & Fall Gear Sale: Thank you to Sarah Neumann for organizing these fundraisers and PTO Volunteers for assisting at the Book Fair.

Morning Drop Off Volunteers: Thank you for all your help giving our students a safe start to the school day!

Fall Fest 2021: November 5th on the RNC grounds: More details coming soon!

Square One Art: Current PTO fundraiser organized by Greta Malek

Governance Council

Welcome Back ROLES! On behalf of the Governance Council, we are excited for a great 2021-2022 School Year! The G.C. is currently looking for anyone who would like to serve on and/or Chair a Social Media Committee. We look forward to more opportunities to work with parents. The G.C. is happy to announce their newest member on the team: Cate Tinker. Thank you Cate for volunteering your time and we are glad to have you on board with us! Please note the G.C. is reviewing the current Covid Protocols for the school year and looking into adding more details and clarifications. Please follow the recommendations given to you and keep your child home if they are sick. We are all in this together and hoping for a healthy school year!

Riveredge Nature Center
RNC has AMAZING programs for all ages!
Explore their [website](#) to see the opportunities!

[Riveredge Family Nature Club](#)
Pond Adventures & Welcome Back Celebration!
September 29th, 4:00pm-7:00pm

[Kids Cooking Series:](#)
Campfire Cooking
October 2nd, 10:00am-1:00pm

[Wild Animals Finders:](#)
Catch & Release Fishing
October 16th, 10:00am-11:30am

Trails and Treats events:
October 22nd and October 23rd
Click [HERE](#) for times and registration information.

Riveredge Winter Camp
Registration is open!
December 27th, 9:00am - December 29th, 4:00pm

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 Kelley Janowski at 262-692-2401 ext. 202 for more information.

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

Kindergarten Artwork, Counting in the Garden, and Parachute Play by Katie Popp on September 15th:



Now that our Kindergarten class has a good general feel for the routines and flow of our day, we've been working on building our community. We've read stories, discussed rules and collaborated in activities like a whole class painting and parachute play. We want these young learners to realize that we are all members of a community- learning, exploring and working together everyday. And Kindergarten feels better when everyone listens and works together ♥

Today we met our math counting objectives in the garden picking tomatoes. Then we got to sample a few tasty and healthy treats.

First Grade Monarch Caterpillars & Math by Kayla Buser on September 9th:



Morning meeting and catching flying insects, including butterflies!

I haven't updated you about our caterpillars much, so let's start there! When everyone visited us on Welcome Back Night, we had about 20 caterpillars. We are now down to 13...we are thinking some of the larger ones ate a few of the smaller ones. 😊 However, the remaining ones are getting bigger each day. Today the kiddos even got to hold one of the caterpillars! Along with our caterpillars came discussions and representations of a monarch life cycle. Ask your child to show you our visuals/models and have them tell you the steps!

Let's take a little time to talk about math too! We have added 2 new math tools to explore; polydrons and geoboards. The most exciting part of math this week, at least in my opinion, was the twin pops! As I mentioned last week, our math lessons were centered around twin pops to support counting by 2s.

To wrap it up, we also began our first writing unit this week, used sweep nets to capture and observe insects, climbed trees, and continued to learn through play and exploration!

Third Grade STEM project by Amanda Otzelberger on September 8th:



Third grade finished up our STEM project today. These kids are builders and love to work together to accomplish a goal. The students:

1. Created a hypothesis on where the most creatures will be caught
 2. Designed a tool to help them catch insects in the prairie and built them keeping in mind the insect's safety
 3. Tested their tools
 4. Remodified their design based on their findings
3. Retested! We caught many insects using their tools today (including an awesome praying mantis). It was so cool to see this practical experiment with the scientific process come out of their inquiry, and I loved watching the kids naturally wonder how to make their design better and think about what worked and what didn't.

Tomorrow we combine together all of the data collected and assess what we've found out so far! We are going to have a change of plans on the water fun-- I plan on moving this to next week when we begin life cycles, so we can try to find evidence of them in the water! It has been awesome to have the kids ready for anything with water gear with the rain and most of them wanting to catch frogs at recess.

Fourth Grade Update by Walter Sams on September 14th:

In math we've been exploring factors and factor pairs and learning about the differences between prime and composite numbers.

In reading we are wrapping up our initial reading ability assessments to set up instructional groups and have begun our first class read aloud, a 4th grade favorite: Louis Sachar's Holes.

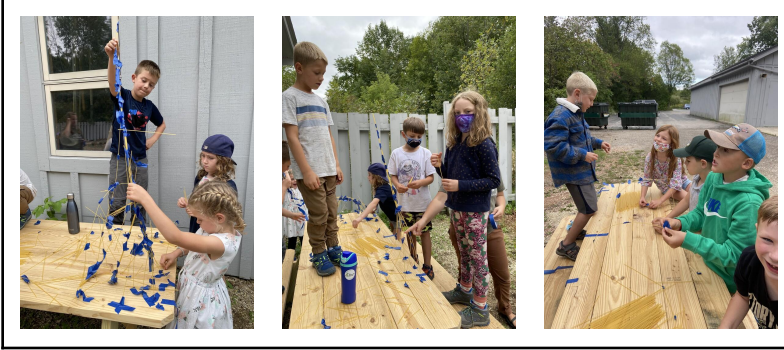
For science this week we have been learning about plant morphology and we will soon be starting our first all class inquiry regarding plants.

We are also beginning a geography unit later this week. Expect students to gain knowledge about maps, globes, and compass use.

The students have continued to work on their nature journaling stamina, and are creating some neat pages.

It's a happening time, the weather has been interesting and here are a few photos to highlight our last week or so.

Second Grade Structural Challenges by Cindy Raimer on September 14th:



We had a wonderful day trying to be architects and work as a team! Our challenge was to build the tallest tower of spaghetti noodles that we could that could support the weight of a marshmallow. All while communicating and working within a group. Tough task! Even though many groups had lofty dreams of skyscrapers and suffered structural collapses, we all smiled and enjoyed the challenge. We shared what was frustrating and what modifications we might make in our designs if we did it again. We talked about the growth mindset and used ours during this challenge! We also read the book Wild Ideas and learned how architects can often be inspired by nature.

Check out this fun TED talk about which subgroup consistently performs the best in this challenge!

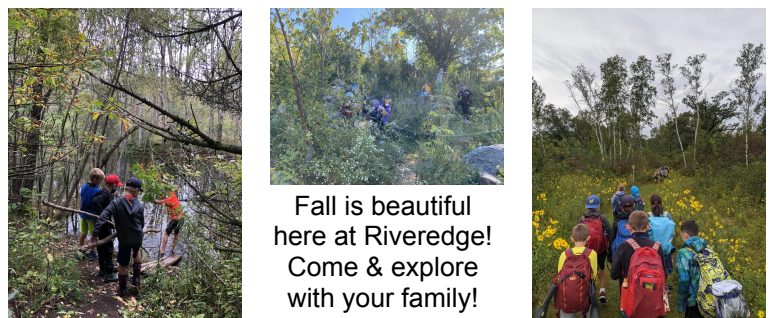
https://www.ted.com/talks/tom_wujec_build_a_tower_build_a_team?utm_campaign=tedsread&utm_medium=referral&utm_source=tedcomshare

We welcomed Mrs. Schleef to our room. She is in the process of getting her teachers license and will be joining our class each Tuesday to get some experience with 2nd grade! Your children or family may know her from her work at the 4K program at Riveredge.

Fourth Grade Pictures:



Nature School Pictures:



Fall is beautiful here at Riveredge! Come & explore with your family!