



THE RIVEREDGE SCHOOL INQUIRER

The Official Newsletter of Riveredge Outdoor Learning Elementary School



DEVELOPMENTS AT THE RIVEREDGE SCHOOL

UPCOMING EVENTS

All into Fall!

Most of September and October have been mild temperatures, making for excellent outdoor learning! Layers and a change of clothes are a daily necessity here at Riveredge. Students learn about how to properly dress for the weather through their personal experiences and direct instruction from our staff. It is a useful real life skill the students learn and practice!

Tick Checks

Although the temperatures are dropping, please continue to thoroughly check for ticks on a daily basis. Some ticks carry the bacterium that causes Lyme Disease. Signs and symptoms of Lyme disease can vary from individual to individual, however, it is helpful in diagnosis and treatment if there is knowledge of a tick bite, the location of the bite, and when the tick was discovered. If you or your student have a tick bite followed by some symptoms, please see your doctor. Lyme disease is usually treated successfully with antibiotics. Tick bites and Lyme disease are more common among people who spend a lot of time outdoors in nature, making our ROLES families and students likely to have first hand knowledge and experiences.

Here are a few resources:
[CDC - Lyme Disease](#)
[Mayo Clinic - Lyme Disease](#)
[Lyme Disease Association, Inc.](#)

October 29: No School for Students; Teacher Work Day

November 3 and November 4:
 Parent/Teacher/Student Conferences
 4:00-7:30pm

- November 5:** Virtual Friday
- November 5:** PTO Fall Fest, 6-8pm
- November 17:** National Take a Hike Day
- November 24:** No School for Students; Teacher Work Day
- November 25 & 26:** No School for Students and Staff



- December 23:** No School for Students; Teacher Work Day
- December 24:** No School for Students and Staff
- December 27-31:** No School for Students and Staff - Winter Break

Lost & Found

Did you know that there are two Lost & Finds at Riveredge? Our school's Lost & Found is located across from the kindergarten and first grade classrooms in the main building. The nature center's Lost & Found is in the kitchen. Any nature center volunteer or employee can bring it out into the main lobby/octagon to be looked through. Items from RNC programs, visitors, and our school's families end up in both areas, so please check them both for lost items.

THE RIVEREDGE SCHOOL - OUR LEARNING PARTNERS

2021 PTO Fall Festival - Attention ROLES Families!

Let's celebrate the change in season together with our first ever Riveredge PTO organized 🍁 Fall Festival 🍁 to be held **November 5th from 6:00-8:00pm**. We have been busy planning some fun activities and need family involvement to make this event a success! Please use the Signup Genius link to reserve your parking spot for Trunk or Treat and consider a volunteer opportunity. It can be found in Bloomz.

The highlight of our Fall Festival will be a Trunk or Treat! 🚗 Decorate the trunk of your car with a theme of your choosing and supply treats for the kids. Pinterest is full of inspiration! Everyone will have a chance to vote for 1st & 2nd place trunks with the most votes will win a PRIZE! 🏆 If you do not want to decorate your trunk we encourage you to bring a bucket of goodies for "Treat Street" (Please consider a nut free option).

Gear Donation and Sale: 🧥

Our Winter Used Gear Donation and Sale is THIS WEEK - Oct. 26 to Nov. 2! At pickup we will be collecting gently used boots, coats, snow bottoms and gloves (NO RIPS, STAINS, IN GREAT WORKING and CLEAN CONDITION). If you donate you will receive a ticket 🎟️ to claim one FREE item at the sale on Nov. 3rd and Nov. 5th. If you don't have any gear to donate, don't worry you can purchase gear for \$5.00 an item. Any money earned will be used to support teachers and our awesome community.



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.

PTO October 2021 Newsletter

LEARNING UPDATES FROM CLASSES

Fourth Grade Nature Journaling by Walter Sams:



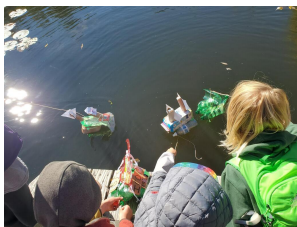
Our nature journals have been filling up with wonderful pictures, facts and observations. A few times a week we take some solo time to sit along a trail and observe the world around us. After we have come back from our observations and creative journaling we participate in a nature journal gallery where students can put their work on display and share praise and feedback with one another. It's been very rewarding to watch the growth of not only the work the students are producing but the quality of their feedback and comments. It's really a special experience and I look forward to sharing some of these pages with you during conferences!

LEARNING UPDATES FROM CLASSES

Fifth Grade Boat Building by Shaun Kempf:

September 29th: 5th grade had an absolutely amazing day and I hope your kids are talking about it. In the morning we played a game against Mr. Sams' 4th graders. Unfortunately, we didn't come out on top, but the game was a lot of fun. Maybe next time we'll win. Then in the afternoon we harvested some cattail (just like Sam from My Side of the Mountain, our current read aloud) to cook up and try tomorrow. We ended the day building our own explorer boats out of plastic bottles. We will put them to the test tomorrow morning.

September 30th: The kids got to test out the boats that they had made yesterday. No one had their boat sink. We have some impressive engineers in our classroom!



Explorer boats by 5th graders



WE ARE GROWING MINDS WITH NATURE!

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!!

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

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

Riveredge Day for Dogs
October 30th: Only day during the year that dogs are invited with their families to hike the trails at Riveredge.

Riveredge Member Welcome Hike
10/30, 11/13: Interested in learning more about Riveredge? Take a free tour with an RNC representative. Pre-registration is required.

NJC Bird Club - IBAs: Advancing Bird Conservation in WI
November 2nd, 7:00-8:30pm: Free adult virtual program.

Wild Animal Finders: Owl Observations
November 13th, 10:00am-11:30am. Learn more about these predators that hunt at night!

Handmade For the Holidays: Teens Only Edition
November 19th, 6:00-9:00pm. Create crafts & one of a kind gifts.

Handmade For the Holidays
November 20th, 12:00pm-4:00pm. Create crafts & one of a kind gifts. Suggested for ages: 2-11 years.

Photo Club:
11/30, 7:00-8:30pm: Recurring event - adult & family program; all skill levels are invited to participate.

Kids Cooking Series: Season Sweets
12/1, 5:00-8:00pm: For ages 8-12. Registration required.

Yule Log Dinner
12/3, 12/4, 5:30-8:20pm: Riveredge members only. Registration required. Celebrate the winter solstice with dinner and entertainment at Riveredge!

Yule Log Hunt
12/5, 6:00-8:00pm: Riveredge members only. Registration required. Celebrate the winter solstice with a hunt for the Yule Log!

Winter Identification and Management of Native and Invasive Woody Species
12/10, 9:00am-3:30pm: Adult program, registration required.

Holiday Bough Trimming with the Friends of the Domes
12/10, 4:00-6:00pm: Adult program, registration required.

Months, Seasons, & Nursery Rhymes by Katie Popp on October 5th and 12th:



The month has changed from September to October and the changes that come with a new season are around us, so kindergarten has taken some time to think about the "circle of the year " and how our Earth moves around the sun. We hiked out to "the grass wheel" to welcome October, dance with our colorful fabrics and sing our months of the year song. We went around and around the circle, just like the Earth going around the sun :)

On our hike back from Heron Pond we stopped to read some more nursery rhymes. Then we used the hill and a pail to act out Jack and Jill. I think the kids liked tumbling :)

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

First Grade Woolly Bear Discoveries by Kayla Buser:



Woolly bears hibernation station

After raising and releasing monarchs, first grade has found interest in a similar creature...woolly bear caterpillars! With the help of Ms. Pam from Riveredge Nature Center, the first graders have created a "hibernation station" where the woolly bears will spend their winter. The ultimate goal is to house these caterpillars over the winter and see them complete their life cycle in spring. This would include their cocoon stage and ultimately their transformation into a moth. This will lead to some great comparisons between butterflies and moths.

Governance Council Agendas and Meeting Minutes

Third Grade Life Cycles program by Amanda Otzelberger:



Grade 3 had a great time at our Looking at Life Cycles program. These inquisitive students dipped in Farm Pond to look for different animals in stages of their life cycles and took a scavenger hunt through Mayapple Woods to see what other evidence of life cycles we could find. Then we practiced identifying and classifying our discoveries into groups and comparing them based on their characteristics.

We will begin our Unit 2 in math on Monday where we'll take a look at groups of items and multiplication. For this first week, you can support their learning by asking them what types of groups we looked at and how we created equations from them.

Our Animal Groups unit will look at why animals form groups. Expect your child to be able to explain or argue that some animals form groups that help members survive. We will do an end of unit project where they'll research an animal that lives in a group and create a presentation on it.

The class has had some important conversations around being an Ambassador for ROLES and how we treat others this week, one with an appearance from Mr. Mullen. The kids are becoming very familiar with one of my favorite words- empathy!

Thank you for continuing to support your child's reading and writing by encouraging your child to read after school and practice their spelling words! And a big thank you to families who have donated supplies for math and our fruit pizzas. :')



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

Second Grade Weaving, Writing, & Engineering by Cindy Raimer on October 1st:



What a great two days we have had! We started a weaving art project and ALL the kids are loving it! They begged me to finish them today, but we will be back at our looms on Monday! They are doing great at following the pattern and reversing it as they come back the other direction!

We also worked on "Show, Not Tell" writing today. It was a lesson in using imagery in our writing. After the first lesson I reminded the kids that learning something new is hard, but we appreciate progress over perfection and I was looking for BRAVE 2nd graders to "jump in" and to give it a try. They jumped, swan-dived, and back flipped right into the deep end of the "pool", and every single one of those kids swam! They were so brave at trying to apply a new skill in their writing. Mrs. W and I are very proud of them! We think they are indefatigable just like the biologist Charles Henry Turner!

We also started designing our hurricane proof houses using a lily pad as inspiration. They brainstormed ideas such as making our house buoyant so it could float as the floodwaters rise, tethering or anchoring it to the ground like a lily pad is rooted, and putting it on stilts. I encouraged them to use "wild imaginations" as they implemented their blueprints and designs.



OUR LEARNING PARTNERS

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.