



# THE RIVEREDGE SCHOOL INQUIRER

*The Official Newsletter of Riveredge Outdoor Learning Elementary School*



## DEVELOPMENTS AT THE RIVEREDGE SCHOOL

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Virtual Veterans' Day

Veterans' Day was Thursday, November 11, 2021. During our all school virtual meeting on November 12th, students watched and participated in a Veterans' Day presentation. Many ROLES families contributed photos and descriptions of family member veterans including which branch of the military their veteran(s) were or are in. When a student's veteran's slide was shared during the meeting, the family unmuted and shared their veteran's story. Towards the end of the slide presentation, some students interviewed their family veteran live during the meeting. Thank you to our ROLES staff and families for putting together this memorable presentation to honor our veterans! Thank you to all our veterans for your past and current service - we appreciate everything you do!

### What is the best way to dress for school at ROLES during the winter?

Layers are the key here! Dry warm layers underneath a waterproof outer layer such as a winter jacket and snow pants are the way to go. Other musts include a hat and mittens or gloves. Different materials retain warmth at varying degrees. Dry, wool socks and warm waterproof winter boots will keep their feet and toes warm. As always, please make sure that your child has a complete extra set of clothes at school. Items that are most frequently lent out from the ROLES spare gear include: pants, socks, boots, and mittens/gloves. Socks are yours to keep, but please wash and return other spare gear items for the next student in need.

Here is an article describing layering for winter adventures:

[The Definitive Guide to Layering for Cold-Weather Adventures](#)

**November 25 & 26:** No School for Students and Staff

**December 23:** No School for Students; Teacher Work Day

**December 24, 27-31:** No School for Students and Staff - Winter Break



**January 3:** Back to school!

**January 13:** End of Semester 1

**January 14:** No School for Students; Teacher Work Day

**Week of January 24:** Report cards emailed

### 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](mailto: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.

### 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.

### Fall Apple Celebration with Kayla Buser on November 5th

Apple Day in first grade included all types of activities that included math, reading, cooking, and crafting! Students used spiralizer peelers to peel the skin off on an apple that was used to make our homemade applesauce featured in our end-of-the-day apple tasting. The kids ate the skins from the apple, exclaiming, "I've never had these before!", which of course is untrue if they have eaten an apple before, and "It's like I'm eating apple noodles!"

While peeling apples, we read books including "Applesauce Day" and a book about John Chapman (aka Johnny Appleseed), learning what type of person Johnny Appleseed was, why he is still relevant, and discussed some of the legends that surround him. Last, Mrs. Fisk read the story about the little red house with no doors or windows but a star inside. It is revealed at the end that the house is an apple and the star can be seen if you cut through an apple horizontally instead of vertically.

Using our star-cut apples, half of the students used paint and apple halves to make apple prints. The other half of the class used paint to solve addition problems using ten frames on an apple tree. No two projects look the same!

We also created two crafts, an apple lantern and an apple man! Officer Nick joined us for part of the day and made his own apple man craft! I was nervous knowing how many pieces there were to the crafts, but the class did a great job following directions, which made for some amazing end products.



We began an apple-themed science experiment. We took small pieces of an apple and placed each one in a container. One container simply had air, one had water, one had oil, and one had vinegar. The students predicted what would happen to each apple piece if left in their respective containers over the weekend. We will check in our apples on Monday and see if any of our predictions were accurate.

Along with science, we did some graphing and apple exploration. Each student tried a bite of each different color apple (red, yellow, green) and voted for their favorite. We recorded and graphed our results. After that, each student investigated their very own apple. They observed the inside and outside of their apple, measured the height, weight, and circumference of their apple, and even counted the seeds.

Finally, we ended Apple Day with the apple tasting! The students chose from sliced apples with caramel dip, dried apple rings, homemade applesauce, apple juice, and apple cider. There were no food leftovers by the end! I was really proud to see students were open to at least trying new things, like the dried apples!

***HUGE shout-out to all our parent volunteers who have assisted in our classes through this month at a last minute's notice. Your help truly is appreciated and makes a difference!***

## OUR LEARNING PARTNERS

### 2021 PTO Fall Festival

The 🍁 Fall Festival 🍁 held on November 5th was a fun success for ROLES families! Everyone enjoyed viewing the trunks decorated in various themes. So much creativity, time, and effort went into these trunks! In addition, families enjoyed crafts and dancing in the barn and s'mores by the campfire by the coop. Running around the RNC grounds in the (near) dark seemed to be a huge hit amongst the young ones at this event. A huge thanks to our PTO for organizing and running this first of its kind annual event!

### 2022 ROLES Ski & Snowboard Club

January 7, 14, 21, 28: Noon - 4:00pm. The deadline for sign up is Wed, 1/5/22. More details including code, cost, and link information available in Bloomz.

### 2022 PTO Winter Festival ❄️

Save the date of Saturday, January 15th, for the first ❄️ Winter Fest ❄️ with our ROLES families. Some of the activities being planned include: ice fishing 🎣, sledding 🛷, campfire with marshmallows, craft, hike, and a chili cook off. Watch for more details in Bloomz.

## 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

**[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.

**[RNC Ski & Snowboard Club:](#)**  
Registration Deadline: December 15th. Meets on Friday evenings through January.

**[Tree and Shrub Pruning Workshop](#)**  
12/17, 9:00am-12:00pm: Adult program, registration required.

**[Night, Ski, Snowshoe, & Candlelight hike](#)**  
12/17, 4:30-8:00pm: Adult & family program; pre-registration recommended. Continues on Friday nights through January and February.

**[Christmas Bird Count:](#)** 12/18; 5:00am-5:00pm  
New and experienced birders needed to count birds within a 15 mile circle around Riveredge. Backyard feeder counters needed as well. Help for all or part of the day! Contact Mary Holleback at [mholleback@riveredge.us](mailto:mholleback@riveredge.us) or 262-416-1224 to sign up.

**[Ozaukee Washington Bird Coalition](#)**  
1/5/22; 7:00pm-8:30pm; This program takes place at Lac Lawrann Conservancy in west Bend. It is offered in person or by Zoom and is a free program that does require registration.

**[CRP Winter Senses Hike for the Village of Grafton](#)**  
1/9/22, 1:00-2:30pm; Grafton residents only at Lime Kiln Park.

**[RNC Summer Camp 2022!](#)**  
Registration opened for all members on 11/15; opens on 12/1 for everyone. Please visit the website for more info.

**Bones, Cause & Effect, and Setting by Katie Popp on November 12th:**



A few additional highlights to share from our week in Kindergarten. The children continued their observations and wonders about bones and skeletons. After examining some animal jaw bones, one of their most common wonders was, "are teeth bones?" We compared and contrasted teeth and bones, then we did some research- ask them if they remember what we found out...

Students spent some time in Hawk Woods thinking about the terms cause and effect in relation to our story Rosie's Walk. Every move Rosie took, caused the fox to be affected in a silly and unfortunate way. The kids had fun acting out the part of the fox-chasing Rosie and tripping over logs or running into trees.

To continue our thinking about positional words and story settings, students drew a map of the setting to "going on a bear hunt." They enjoyed adding in their own creativity along the way.

**Colder Weather Preparation with Walter Sams on November 11th:**



Enjoying apple cider to warm from the inside out!  
Right: candles

Handmade dolls/action figures dressed for winter weather.

Life in the yurt and on the land for 4th grade has been great this past month. We have been preparing for and learning about the transition to the colder months. In early November we had a "work party" day where we engaged in traditional European settler traditions of toy making and candle dipping. The students made their own dolls/action figures and hand dipped a candle. This tradition of preparation for "shorter" days is a great one to engage in while we are seeing the changes in our school day. Thank you to all of the families who made donations for our Fall Celebration and helped out with these tasks.

This was an awesome outdoors week. We saw a mink near the wetland earlier in the week, a muskrat at Bentley Pond this morning, a very frigid wood frog this morning, and had a few other encounters (the woodpecker interrupting our read-aloud constantly was a treat).

**Building Communities by Amanda Otzelberger on November 15th:**



In math, we are continuing to find new strategies to count groups and multiply. We've looked at stamp collections, a pet store, the windows of Watertown to help Wally the Window Washer (he has superhero window washing abilities) and mailboxes to help his wife Wanda. Students have learned strategies around arrays, skip counting, repeated addition, drawing pictures, ratio tables and doubling. We've also taken the time to point out groups found in nature.

Reading groups continue to work on comprehension and literacy skills together while reading fiction and nonfiction texts. We are savoring our short lived hammock time but will have to begin playing it by ear! We have been reading memory stories about experiences from people from different communities, and began a new read aloud chapter book *The One and Only Ivan* by Katherine Applegate. We are excited about this book because we have enough copies for all of the students to read along with us during the read-aloud, which will be really special!

We have been working hard on our personal narratives, adding different elements like exciting beginnings, dialogue, and specific and descriptive word choice. Our class will add a few more elements this week and then begin the editing and publishing process!

Third grade built our own community in the coop this past week to wrap our social studies unit up. A pair of students collaborated to make sure our community's needs were met- we had landscapers, shelters, stores and recreation, a school, hospital, and more. This activity is a fond memory I had in third grade that I'm glad I get to experience with my own third graders! We did a few experiments surrounding animal groups that gave us more context to why penguins huddle together and why fish swim in a group. The class will begin to look at traits and adaptations of organisms and why they look or behave the way they do.

**Water Filters photos:**



If you are a new family interested in applying for enrollment at ROLES, please click [HERE](#) for more information. Applications for the 2022-23 school year will be accepted 2/1/22 through 4/30/22.

**Popsicle Cooler Experiment by Cindy Raimer on November 5th:**



We completed Operation Save the Popsicle! After testing a variety of materials for their properties as an insulator, students designed and built their own coolers using styrofoam, cardboard, bubble wrap, or other materials. We raised our thermostat and set our control popsicle out with no cooler. After 70 minutes our control popsicle had turned to mostly liquid. A quick measurement using a graduated cylinder revealed 20 ml had melted. Then the students opened their coolers to see how their popsicle fared! Some popsicles were still frozen solid, some slightly slushy but had no liquid, and others fared equal to our control without a cooler. We enjoyed eating the fruit (popsicle) of our labor! Then we went about placing our design in order of greatest to least amt. of milliliters of liquid melted on our popsicles. We compared which coolers functioned the best and commonalities between them. We brainstormed what modifications we would make to our designs.

This fun project based learning opportunity had students using multiple forms of measurement and tools (inches/rulers, milliliters/graduated cylinders, temperature/degrees, etc), telling and recording time on digital and analog clocks, ordering numbers, comparing different properties of matter, analyzing data, and drawing and building 3D geometric shapes.

**Water Filters by Shaun Kempf on Nov. 17th:**

What an amazing day in 5th grade. Not only did we discuss Crazy Horse's attack on Fort Phil Kearny, but also did a little bit of re-enactment too. Don't worry, no one was actually hurt during the "battle". Tomorrow we'll continue our discussion of how the Native Americans fought back against the encroaching American's by examining the Battle of Little Bighorn. Then, after Thanksgiving break, we'll talk about assimilation, local Native American tribes and where Native Americans are today.

However, I believe the best part of today was when we headed to Farm pond and the kids were able to explore and experiment making their own water filters. I gave them only a paper cup and coffee filter. The kids did a great job creating cleaner water using these simple objects and even some items from nature. This activity fits in perfectly with our discussion of the water cycle, specifically looking at ground water and why it is important to keep our water clean.

These kids are doing great and I can't wait to see what else they are going to do this year.