



THE RIVEREDGE SCHOOL INQUIRER

The Official Newsletter of Riveredge Outdoor Learning Elementary School



DEVELOPMENTS AT THE RIVEREDGE SCHOOL

UPCOMING EVENTS

Shout Out to Virtual Friday Instruction!

Shout out to the teachers and the amazing Virtual Friday offerings! Not only are these lessons innovative, they support families and provide children with choices in their learning. Topics connect to the time of the year including seasons and events. Students are involved and participating in the weekly presentations as well!

School Cultural Exchange

Mr Sams's (4th) and Mr Kempf's (5th) students are currently participating in a cultural exchange with Rachel Arngnamaktiq Elementary School which is located on the boundary of the Arctic Circle in Baker Lake, Canada. They have completed some letter exchanges and after break, are hoping to do a Zoom meeting together. Temperatures at their school are often 30-51 below zero! They often talk about caribou, polar bears, wolverines, and arctic hares. They wonder about our weather and what we eat each day.

Nature-based Middle School Grant

A grant writing team made up of ROLES staff, Governance Council members, parents, and community members is working through the application process for a grant to fund a nature-based middle school on RNC grounds. The proposal involves 2022-23 as a planning year for the middle school and 2023-24 as the first year with students. A huge shout out to the grant writing team to their hard work and dedication towards this new mission! The success of the elementary school, combined with a desire to continue nature-based education at the middle school level, is driving the proposal. Mr. Mullen will be sharing a letter of support for the middle school grant as one way to show support if the grant is successful. The letter will only require parent signatures and addresses.

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

January 3: Back to school!

January 7, 21, 28: Virtual School Days

January 13: End of Semester 1

January 14: No School for Students; Teacher Work Day

Week of January 24: Report cards emailed



February 4, 18, 25: Virtual School Days

February 11: No School for Students & Staff

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.

LEARNING UPDATES FROM CLASSES

Leave No Trace with 1st Grade on December 14th

Yesterday, we had a visit from Ms. Pam, from RNC. During the visit, Ms. Pam taught us/reminded us about disposing of waste properly, one of the seven Leave No Trace principles.

To get us into the right frame of mind, Ms. Pam helped us turn on our eagle eyes to look for some items she had hidden on the side of the trail. This activity helped prime our eyes to see litter or other items that don't belong in nature.

Next, Ms. Pam had us unwrap a "gift" with our gloves/mittens on. Here at ROLES, we often eat outdoors, but as the temperature drops, sometimes we eat with gloves or mittens on to keep our hands warm. This activity helped us realize how hard it is to feel something thin, like a granola bar wrapper, in our hands when we have our hands covered. This can unintentionally lead to those wrappers trying to sneak away. Ms. Pam reminded us to keep an extra close eye on those sneaky wrappers!



"Leave No Trace" proper waste disposal with RNC

Finally, we set out for the garden for a scavenger hunt. Ms. Pam hid pieces of her garbage collection in the garden. The students then used their eagle eyes to find the garbage hidden in the garden and pick it up.

This is one of several visits that we will have with Ms. Pam regarding the Leave No Trace principles. As guests on the Riveredge land, it is important that we help to take care of it. Picking up garbage/litter on the land is one easy way to help take care of the space around us. Our students have already been finding garbage to pick up throughout the year, which shows they are helping to be great stewards of the land.

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!!



OUR LEARNING PARTNERS

PTO Newsletters

ROLES PTO:

Milwaukee Pretzel Company

The Milwaukee Pretzel fundraiser has arrived! Orders with payments are due by Tuesday, January 4th to Emily Weiss or Sarah Neumann. Pretzels will be delivered before Superbowl Sunday.

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.

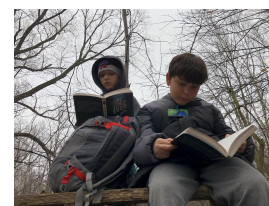
2022 PTO Winter Festival ❄️

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.

Governance Council:

[Governance Council Agendas and Meeting Minutes](#)

Friendships, Learning, Sharing, & Fun



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.

Riveredge Nature Center

RNC has AMAZING programs for all ages! Explore their [website](#) to see the opportunities! *Events listed here are family based programs.*

[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.

[Photo Club:](#) 12/28, 7:00-8:30pm: Recurring event - adult & family program; all skill levels are invited to participate.

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

[Night, Ski, Snowshoe, & Candlelight hike](#)
1/7/22, 4:30-8:00pm: Adult & family program; pre-registration recommended. Friday nights through January and February.

[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. View link for more sign-up information.

[Nature Detectives: Hunting for Habitats](#)
1/15/22, 10-11:30am; Hunt for clues animals leave behind. Registration required.

[CRP Winter Senses Hike for the Village of Fredonia](#)
1/16/22, 1-2:30pm, Fredonia residents only at Waubedonia Park. View link for more sign-up information.

[CRP Winter Senses Hike for the Village of Kewaskum](#)
1/23/22, 1-2:30pm, Kewaskum residents only at River Hill Park. View link for more sign-up information.

[Tree Climbing Adventures](#) - coming soon!
Sign up for spring tree climbing will open in mid-January.

Welcome Winter! with Kindergarten:



It has been a bit unusual to plan our Welcome Winter Event while mid December temps were in the upper 50's, but it has certainly been a pleasure to see these children practice so many skills as they work together on this event. They have been sharing crafting ideas and teaching each other, they have been using their imaginations to create, they have been developing leadership skills, speaking skills, taking on new challenges and building up self-confidence. We were able to make lovely winter decorations while at the Mushroom on the warm Wednesday. We have been practicing our fine motor skills as we decorate with evergreen branches. Part of our Welcome Winter preparations have had us thinking about the science behind winter. Why does the world start getting colder in winter?. We learned about the sun, and the shorter path it takes through the sky during winter months. Winter Solstice is the shortest day of the year. Kindergarten is focusing on how we can "bring some light" to dark winter nights.

During our Welcome Winter celebration, parents hiked out to meet the class at The Labyrinth and had the opportunity to roast marshmallows over the fire, make smores and enjoy exploring together in nature on a winter afternoon. Upon returning to the Main Yard, the kindergartners performed in their "Variety Show". To conclude the day, families warmed up with a cup of hot chocolate while decorating a Winter Solstice Lantern. There were discussions about spreading joy and cheer and "letting their light shine" throughout the cold, dark winter season.

WE ARE GROWING MINDS WITH NATURE!

December in 4th grade with Walter Sams



December in 4th grade with Walter Sams

This December has been a busy one for fourth grade. Our outside explorations have continued despite the dropping temperatures. December is great for easing into the cold temperatures because sometimes we're gifted an amazingly warm day, and sometimes we have several inches of snow. The snow hasn't quite hit us yet this year, but the temperatures have been a wild ride.

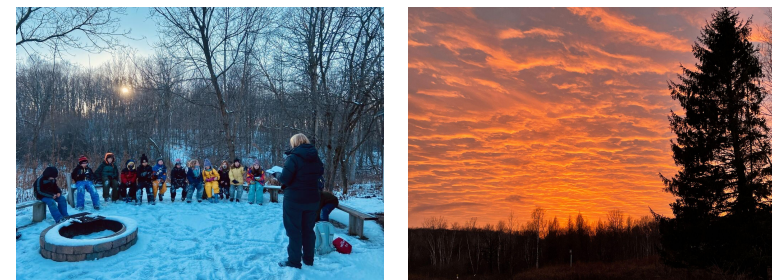
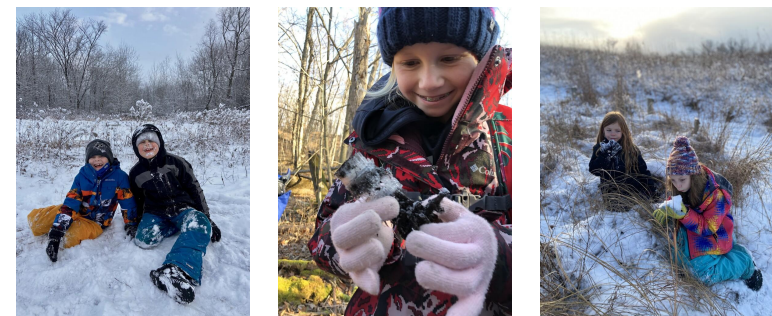
Fourth grade started our unit on Light this month, which is a great topic to be studying as the Solstice hit us this week and we begin the glacial climb back toward longer days and shorter nights.

Nature Journaling by Amanda Otzelberger

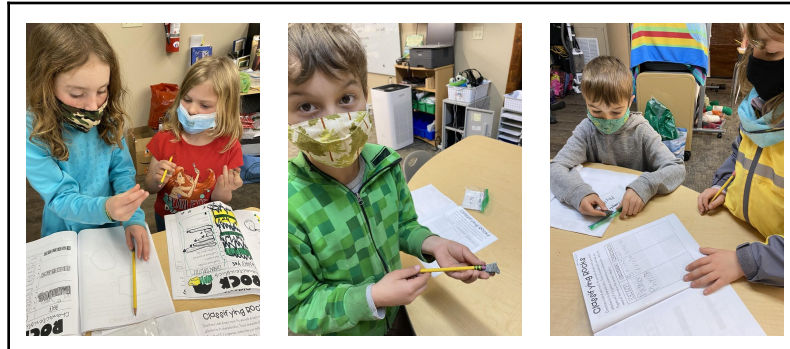


Third grade has been working hard on our nature journaling and created some pretty neat pages! We've made entries in different places, weathers and times of the year, prompts and focuses. To connect it with our science standards, the students have been journaling different plants and animals around the land of RNC with different adaptations, like the spiky thorns on brambles and new growth on tree seedlings and the organisms that are able to live in frozen Farm Pond through the winter months. We also took a close look and journaled different animal skulls to compare their adaptations and traits those animals have. The class is working to implement sharing our nature journaling pages with each other and begin giving feedback. Looking forward to seeing these journalists grow!

Exploring, Adventuring, Learning, & Nature



Geology Exploration by Cindy Raimer



The 2nd grade geologists are learning how to identify mystery minerals! We completed 7 tests, including testing cleavage (smashing it with a hammer), using the Mohs Hardness Scale, checking our mineral's reactivity to acid, making a streak of powder, and checking luster, color and texture. We analyzed our data and used the process of elimination to narrow down our possibilities and determine the composition of our mystery mineral! These geologists won't rest though until they learn how to classify rocks as well!

Adventurous Day by Shaun Kempf on December 15th:

What an adventurous day in 5th grade! While we were doing our read aloud, we heard a murder of crows making quite the ruckus. So, we just had to pause our reading and go on a hike to see if we could figure out what they were making so much noise over. We trekked high and low, but were unable to figure out what they were cawing about. We did, however, see deer and turkeys. So, it was totally worthwhile.

Later, the kids practiced collecting and analyzing data from a science experiment by playing rock-paper-scissors a lot. We have been trying to determine if there is a way to increase our chances of winning a game of rock-paper-scissors. We've been discussing the scientific process and practicing the skills necessary to complete successful experiments. I have a hidden motive to review and practice the scientific method. More will be revealed after our winter break.

Finally, the kids finished up their holiday lights art project that we've been working on this week. They've been doing a great job at following directions and I think that their holiday lights all turned out amazing! They were hung in our yurt, and were sent home before break.

