



THE RIVEREDGE SCHOOL INQUIRER

The Official Newsletter of Riveredge Outdoor Learning Elementary School



DEVELOPMENTS AT THE RIVEREDGE SCHOOL

UPCOMING EVENTS

Enrollment for the 2022-23 School Year

Returning students to ROLES are given first preference to their seats and only have to complete the [2022-23 application](#). A completed application shows "Intent to Enroll" and is due to the ROLES office by Monday, March 21, 2022. Paper copies are available in the office and can be sent home with students by request. Returning students do NOT need to complete the online open enrollment form.

Any siblings of returning students NEW to ROLES that are applying for the 2022-23 school year must complete the DPI [online open enrollment application](#) in addition to the ROLES application, if they are not residents of the Northern Ozaukee School District. Both applications are due by **April 29, 2022**.

NEW INTERESTED FAMILIES!

Please see our ["How to Enroll" website page](#) for links to our Virtual Information Sessions. All sessions are 6:30-7:30pm.

Monday February 21st	Tuesday March 15th	Thursday April 14th
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Explore our mission and philosophy, FAQs, and information about how to apply for the 2022-23 school year!

Outdoor Gear- Water Resistant?

With warmer weather comes rain, mud, and damp grounds to explore!. Please make sure your child has a complete extra set of clothes, especially **including socks**, at school at all times. Rain pants, waterproof jackets and waterproof boots are daily necessities this time of year! Over time, some outerwear loses its ability to repel

February 25 and March 4, 11, 18: Virtual School Days

March 14-18: Conferences (Invitation/Request only) Times TBD

March 21: Returning Students Intent to Enroll 2022-23 Applications due to ROLES office

March 21-25: Spring Break - No School for Students and Staff

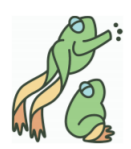
April 15: No School for Students and Staff

April 8, 22, 29: Virtual School Days

April 18-22: EARTH WEEK
APRIL 22: EARTH DAY

April 29: Last day of Online Open Enrollment for NEW students applying to ROLES

APRIL 29: ARBOR DAY



water and starts absorbing water instead. If your child is coming home soaking wet, despite wearing outerwear, make sure to send extra gear daily and/or consider replacing items if needed.

Meet Jade Cashman, 5th grade Paraprofessional

Jade is enthusiastic to see where this new path at ROLES takes her. Her teaching career spans 20 plus years, three states, and teaching experiences in nature preschool, elementary, literacy education- in professional development, and in teacher education at the undergraduate and graduate levels. When Jade isn't at Riveredge pointing out birds/raptors and wondering who's scat or track is that in the snow or mud, she is either playing Uber driver for her two daughters after school activities, walking the family dog Bandee down on the Milwaukee River (pointing out birds to the dog too), or enjoying her husband's excellent cooking (he makes legendary tacos).

LEARNING UPDATES FROM CLASSES

Week of 2/7-2/11 with 5th grade by Mr. Kempf

What an incredible week 5th grade had. students got to build their own bottle rockets after we discussed the forces necessary to launch a rocket into space. We had planned on launching them this past Wednesday but ran out of time. Our launch got rescheduled for this coming Tuesday.

While hiking along the river we found some interesting tracks that followed the trail from the Mushroom all the way around to near the Sugarbush. We think it might have been a fisher. On that same trip we thought we saw an otter only to realize it was a muskrat. Perhaps next time.

Wednesday our class had the pleasure of going ice fishing with Mr. Mullen. Unfortunately, we didn't get any bites but had fun nonetheless.

This week we also finished unit 4 in math where just about everyone showed growth and learning. With Mrs. Cashman now able to be with us every morning we've been working in small math groups that rotate during the morning math lesson to provide even more direct instruction. I think it's going great and hopefully your kids love it too.

The weather has cooperated enough that we've often taken our reading groups outside to enjoy the fresh air. Mrs Cashman has been sharing some short readings (and sometimes music) about Black Heroes throughout history as we celebrate Black History Month.



PTO Fundraisers: Watch for Seroogy Chocolates sales (yummm!)
Spring planting-flower, fruit, veggie seeds sale: <http://rolespto.fundraising.com/>
Orders should be placed online and shipment will come right to your home.

May 6, 13, 20, 27: Virtual School Days

May 12: 2022-23 Lottery for New Applicants to ROLES; Optional Viewing 9:00-11:30am

May 30: No School for Students and Staff

June 1: Last Day of School!

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.

OUR LEARNING PARTNERS

PTO Newsletters

ROLES PTO:

2022 ROLES Archery Club

February 18, 25, and March 4. There are still openings available on these dates!. More details including sign up, cost, and contact information available in Bloomz.

2022 PTO Winter Festival ❄️

Save the date of Saturday, March 5th, for the first ❄️ Winter Fest ❄️ with our ROLES families. Some of the activities being planned include: ice fishing 🎣, sledding 🛷, campfire with marshmallows, craft, and a hike. Watch for more details in Bloomz.

Governance Council:

[Governance Council Agendas and Meeting Minutes](#)

HUGE SHOUT OUT to our ROLES Parents, Volunteers, and Subs!!

Our community has been amazing at supporting our staff and students every morning during drop off. **Thank you** for helping in our classrooms and adapting to last minute scheduling changes - we appreciate your flexibility!!

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! *Events listed here are family based programs.*

Tree Climbing Adventures - Open Tree Climbs; Tree Climbing Club; Private Group Climb; Sign up for spring tree climbing open dates and find more information here.

Photo Club: 2/22, 7:00-8:30pm: Recurring event - adult & family program; all skill levels are invited to participate.

Night, Ski, Snowshoe, & Candlelight hike
 2/25, 4:30-8:00pm: Adult & family program; pre-registration recommended.

Maple Sugarin' Season is here!
Tapping 101 for Amateurs: 2/26; 9:30-11:00am: Registration required.
Family Tapping: 2/26; 1:00-2:30pm; Registration required.
Maple Syrup Supper: 3/4/22; 5:30-8:00pm; Members event.
Scout & Youth Day: 3/12 & 3/13; Registration required.
Maple Sugarin' Festival: More details to come.
Outdoor Pancake Breakfast: Early April. More details to come.

Welcome Hike: 3/26, 4/16: 1:00pm and 3:00pm; Pre-registration required.

Ozaukee Bird Coalition: 3/2; Tune In: Birding by Ear, Zoom meeting; all skill levels welcome.
 Additional Ozaukee Bird Coalition: 4/6; 4/19

Frothy Forage: 5/21, Premier outdoor craft beer, wine, and cider festival. Ages 21+; Registration required.

Winter in 3rd Grade by Ms. Otzelberger



We have been busy in the third grade! Winter has been a fun and jam packed season for us. The weather has been interesting and kept us cooped up at times but has definitely kept our interest and let us explore in different ways. We have been able to do some explorations and art projects around ice and snow, and also get out to enjoy the sunshine when possible and go on longer hikes. Despite the science experiment our class did around the icicles they've been eating and what we saw they were made of, they were not

Life Skills in Kindergarten by Mrs. Popp:



I believe that February arrived, giving the students a bit of a false impression about what it has to offer :) They were all thinking of spring, sunshine and warm temps. We'll see I guess... but everyone was reminded that February is still a month in the season of winter ❄️

The warm air temps and bright sunshine melting the already minimal amount of snow that we had, prompted us to do a spur of the moment cross country ski lesson.

Aside from fitness and gross motor skills being put to the test, there were lessons being learned in perseverance and compassion. Lots of falling! But lots of getting back up again!! I'm so proud of the kids for their good efforts.

After being inspired by the book Snowballs, we also took advantage of the weather conditions that led to just right "packing snow." We used teamwork and creativity to build snow people and a large snow structure. We even had a class snowball fight. I believe the leadership, intrinsic motivation and communication skills that are practiced in these situations are so valuable to these young learners.

WE ARE GROWING MINDS WITH NATURE!

Winter in 3rd Grade (continued)

deterred at all and no icicles are safe! We have built snow creatures, played on frozen ponds, gone cross country skiing and sledged quite a bit when the conditions were right as well. Our class even got to try ice fishing with Mr. Mullen, which for many was not their first time and they enjoyed sharing their experiences and expertise. Unfortunately, we didn't catch anything but a few students claimed they had some nibbles! Although we are excited about the sunshine and fun to come with warm weather, we will miss the snow and ice.

Our class is in the midst of our measuring and fractions unit, and we're having fun using balances and measuring cups with classroom and nature objects. We are taking notes for our wax museum which will be coming up next month! We're in the middle of the read aloud Wonder, which has sparked some pretty great conversations about point of view and empathy. Our current science unit is around habitat change and sustainability, which makes for some awesome hands on projects and reflection on our global footprints!

Fire Safety in 1st Grade by Mrs. Buser



Our Leave No Trace lesson started with a "spot what's wrong" game. Students had to look at the area around our fire pit and determine what was wrong. Everyone quickly identified the straw that was right next to our fire pit and could catch on fire if we didn't move it. The students moved the straw out the way so we could get our fire going.

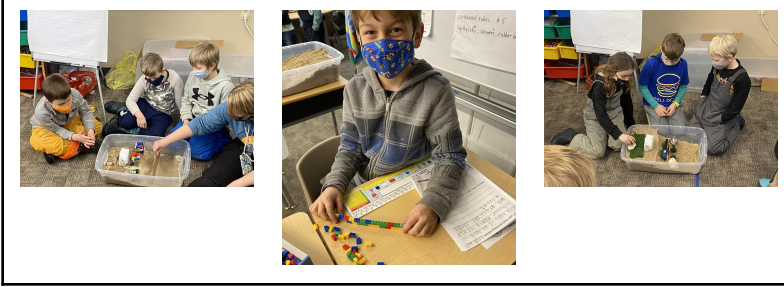
Next, Ms. Pam reminded us that we should only use sticks or twigs that we find on the ground. We don't want to be pulling or breaking any pieces off of living trees. Ms. Pam was fortunate enough to find quite a few sticks and twigs that were already on the ground and were able to be used for our fire.

Then, we were ready to get the fire started! We discussed how it's important to let an adult be the one to light the fire. Students brainstormed some ways we could start a fire including a lighter or match. We also talked about how to make sure you don't get too close, but how you could be a safe distance away and still feel the heat. One of our important tips was to walk on the outside of a ring of people if you need to talk to someone, rather than trying to jump over the fire or walk on the inside of the ring of people.

To end our lesson, Ms. Pam asked us about food over the fire. Many of our students eagerly shared that they love to have marshmallows over the fire! Unfortunately, neither we nor Ms. Pam had time to roast marshmallows over our fire, so Ms. Pam came up with a plan. She used the oven to roast a whole bunch of marshmallows at once that would still give us the ooey-goey texture we love! The marshmallows were gone so fast I couldn't even snap a picture of anyone with their marshmallow!



Erosion in 2nd Grade by Mrs. Raimer



We are digging in and really enjoying our project based learning assignment on erosion. The kids are in the middle of measuring area and perimeter to purchase needed supplies to build their design. They then are doing addition on a number line to figure the cost of their supplies. We have groups purchasing supplies and constructing living sea walls, retention walls with nature bridges built in for wildlife, rock walls, grass, trees, erosion blankets, underwater vegetation to slow the force of the waves, and concrete chimneys. During this project they are applying so many skills: communicating and compromising with a group, measurement, perimeter, area, double and triple digit addition and subtraction on a number line, counting by 2's, 5's and 10's, place value to 1000, and counting coins.

Ice Fishing in 4th Grade by Mr. Sams

On February 8th we got an opportunity to try our hands at ice fishing. Mr Mullen spent just over an hour with us on the ice. Even though we didn't catch any, several of our students had bites and everyone got to experience something new that day. We spent some time talking about the importance of healthy aquatic spaces and actions we can take to minimize our impacts.

Big shout out to Mr. Baalke for coming in to help supervise and educate in the ice!

In the coming weeks we are looking forward to the approach of spring, maple sugaring, and all the growth that March has to offer!



SERVING AS A LABORATORY FOR OUTDOOR LEARNING WHICH AMPLIFIES THE OUTCOMES OF PUBLIC EDUCATION, SERVING LEARNERS OF ALL ABILITIES AND NEEDS, FOSTERING A DEEP CONNECTION TO THE ENVIRONMENT, AND PREPARING STUDENTS FOR SUCCESS IN SCHOOL AND LIFE.