



# THE RIVEREDGE SCHOOL INQUIRER

*The Official Newsletter of Riveredge Outdoor Learning Elementary School*



## DEVELOPMENTS AT THE RIVEREDGE SCHOOL

### Maple Sugarin' with Riveredge Nature Center

During March many classes have or are participating in an onsite field trip with the RNC education staff in which students learn all about the process of how sap becomes the delicious maple syrup that we have with breakfast! From identifying sugar maple trees in the forest, tapping a tree to collect sap, and learning the process to make it into syrup, our students have a wealth of knowledge regarding this natural sweet treat to share with their friends and family.

### Statewide Forward Testing

Our 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade students will be participating in the statewide Forward Exams beginning the week of April 4th and extending for three weeks in April. Most of the testing will take place in the morning; please avoid scheduling appointments during these weeks if possible.

### Virtual Friday Presenters

Are you interested in presenting a Virtual Friday? If so, we have just the thing for you! Below is a Google Form that will allow you to sign up to present a Virtual Friday for the school. Maybe you have a special skill or talent you would like to share, or maybe you have a plethora of knowledge about something that you think would be fun to share with our students. If you or anyone you know is interested, please fill out the form below. You will be able to submit your topic and the ideal timeline for presenting.

-ROLES Teaching Staff <https://forms.gle/g4GUzKRSEte8Evvb6>

### Landscape, Trails, and Leave No Trace Principles

Please remember to continue practicing our Leave No Trace principles as we strive to be great stewards of the land whenever on the Riveredge Property. With spring thaw upon us, the trails and edges quickly become muddy and when we walk off trail the impact is long lasting. If our staff wants to go off trail they have to apply for permission. As a school we must always be aware of where the trails are and being off of them is never

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**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

\* Watch Bloomz for dress up days and projects during this special week at ROLES!

**APRIL 22:** EARTH DAY

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

**APRIL 29:** ARBOR DAY



**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!

allowed during the school day, evenings and weekends. Thank you for helping preserve our natural school setting!



## Ozaukee Middle School

*Debating about where to send your child for grade 6?* The Riveredge Nature Center education staff and Northern Ozaukee School District staff have begun a five year partnership working together to develop their middle school programming to incorporate nature based learning and ways to utilize outdoor spaces near the building. RNC and NOSD's partnership to integrate nature based learning into their programming is already in place this school year! Learn more about the Scientist in Residence program through Riveredge Nature Center [here](#).

[Ozaukee Middle School](#) has around 130 total students in grades 6-8 and is located in nearby Fredonia. If you are interested in having your child attend the Ozaukee Middle School or would like additional information, please contact our District's Enrollment Coordinator, Ann Baumann. David Karrels, Superintendent: [dkarrels@nosd.edu](mailto:dkarrels@nosd.edu); 262-692-2489 Ann Baumann, Data & Open Enrollment Coordinator: [abaumann@nosd.edu](mailto:abaumann@nosd.edu); 262-692-2489 ext. 294

## 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](#). 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 NOSD. Both applications are due by **April 29, 2022**.

## NEW INTERESTED FAMILIES!

Please see our ["How to Enroll" website page](#) for the link to our last Virtual Information Session this school year on [Thursday, April 14th](#), 6:30-7:30pm. Explore our mission and philosophy, FAQs, and information about how to apply for the next school year!

## LEARNING UPDATES FROM CLASSES

### Maple Sugaring in Kindergarten by Mrs. Popp:

Last week the Kindergarten class worked with the nature center to learn all about 'Maple Sugaring.' It was a lovely and informative afternoon learning about the process from step one, identifying a maple tree to the final step of enjoying syrup on a pancake and a pickle (thanks to Mr. Picklepuss).

The children especially enjoyed learning about Maple Tree bellybuttons, tasting sap from the tree, helping to drill the tap hole and being invited to lick their plates clean of syrup :)

We've been back to check on our tree, Ms. Maple, everyday since. We listen carefully for sap drops to fill our bucket. We're realizing that being able to tap Maple Trees, and turn sap into syrup, is a special part of living in Wisconsin. Many kids may not know where syrup comes from. So, we've been thinking like procedural writers and using our nature journals to share ideas about the process.

## 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.

## OUR LEARNING PARTNERS

### [PTO Newsletters](#)

## ROLES PTO:

### Spring Fundraisers

The Serogy Chocolates will be arriving in April. Find a ROLES family member to purchase some delicious chocolate bars and support our PTO!

Spring planting-flower, fruit, veggie seeds sale: <http://rolespto.fpfundraising.com/> Orders should be placed online and shipment will come right to your home:).

[Maple Sugarin' Shindig](#): Saturday, March 19th, 10-11:45am or 12:15-2:00pm.

### [Outdoor Pancake Breakfast](#):

Saturday, April 2nd, 7:30-8:30am still has openings. Waitlist available.

## LEARNING UPDATES FROM CLASSES

### Maple Sugaring in Kindergarten





**Riveredge Nature Center:**

**RNC has AMAZING programs for all ages!**

Explore their [website](#) to see the opportunities! *Most events listed here are family based programs. Registration is required for almost all events listed.*

**[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.

**[Welcome Hike](#)**: 3/26, 4/16: 1:00pm and 3:00pm.

**[Photo Club](#)**: 3/29, 7:00-8:30pm: Recurring event - adult & family program; all skill levels are invited to participate.

**[Ozaukee Bird Coalition: 4/6](#)**; 7-8:30pm. Snowy owls and red-shouldered hawks.

**[Spring Egg Hunt!](#)** Saturday, April 9th: 9:30, 11:30, or 1:30pm. Designed for ages 0-10 years old.

**[Nature Detectives: Fooled by Nature](#)**: April 16th, 10-11:30am, ages 4-11.

**[Ozaukee Bird Coalition: 4/19](#)**, 6:30-8:30pm. Woodcock Wander.

**[League of Women Voters: Earth Day Celebration](#)**: Saturday, April 30th, 11-1:30pm. Adults and children.

**[Playing Naturally Initiative: Play Party & Book Launch](#)**: Saturday, May 7th., 10-11:30pm. Ages 3-8.

**[Mother's Day Wildflower Walk](#)**: May 8th, 1-2:30pm. Ages 10+.

**[Frothy Forage](#)**: 5/21, Premier outdoor craft beer, wine, and cider festival. Ages 21+.



**Governance Council:**

**[Governance Council Agendas and Meeting Minutes](#)**

On behalf of the ROLES Governance Council, we hope all the students, families, and staff have a great spring break. Whether you are staying home or traveling, we hope the time together brings rest, memories and time outside. We look forward to seeing you back after break! Please note that our next Governance Council Meeting will be Thursday, March 31st. We are looking at moving to in-person Governance Council meetings beginning in April, so please stay tuned for more information. Due to not having the technology available, we will be unable to live stream the meetings once we go in-person. After reviewing other school district's public comment protocols, we will be making a few minor changes moving forward. Public comment will be restricted to one public comment per person and each person will be given a timed 3-minutes to talk. Thank you for understanding and helping our meetings to be as productive and efficient as possible. As always, with any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to reach out. Amy Levash, President

**History in 2nd Grade by Mrs. Raimer:**



We are walking through history in 2nd Grade! We have built an interactive timeline as we travel through history to explore each event through storytelling. We began with a 84 foot long timeline as a visual representation of North America and that the Native Americans were here for 8,000 years before the Europeans arrived 330 years ago. Then we made our own timelines that will focus on the history of the United States since the Europeans arrived and explore the cause and effects of each important event. We sipped tea as we learned about the Boston Tea Party earlier in the week, and yesterday we chose to become Patriots and fight for Independence from Britain in the American Revolution! Our "You Choose" book sent us on a 12 mile march towards Philadelphia, which was a long 1.2 mile hike for us along the river to the Outpost for our class. We hid behind the stone walls at the Mushroom/Fort Mifflin as the entire British Navy lobbed more than 10,000 cannonballs at us. Defeated, we headed to Valley Forge and made our own shelter.

Although the class survived the British cannonballs, we perished in the harsh winter elements from Influenza. We will continue our walk through history next week as we head west seeking adventure and prosperity.

**Rockets! in 5th grade - photos:**





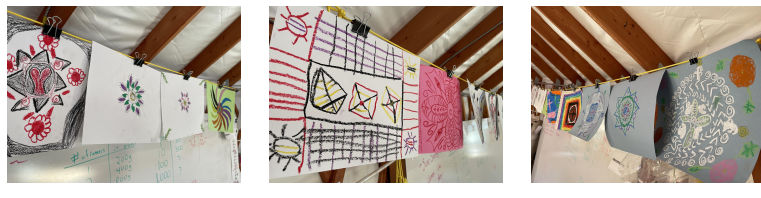
**Wax Museum in 3rd Grade by Ms. Otzelberger**



(Left to Right): Jane Goodall, Amelia Earhart, Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln

Third grade has been hard at work on their informational writing pieces, creating biographies of influential people in history and science. Students picked someone they were interested in and became an expert on them by reading and researching in books and online. They spent many class periods taking notes on their person's life and accomplishments, and then transferred those notes into their biography drafts. Each third grader then created a speech with the most important information about their influential person, and practiced it many times. Finally, we were ready to open our wax museum where students WERE the exhibits! Each third grade student embodied their hero with costumes and props, and we were joined by family members and the second and fourth grade classes. The third graders should be so proud of themselves for all the hard work they put into this project and for pulling off such an awesome wax museum! Thanks to everyone who came to help us celebrate all their hard work.

**"Identity" in 4th Grade by Mr. Sams**



This winter the fourth graders have been up to all sorts of fun. I'd like to share one unit of study we embarked on. In our literacy unit on "Identity" we read a book called "Rickshaw Girl" in which a young lady in Bangladesh caused an unfortunate accident while trying to help her family. She wrecked the rickshaw her father uses to taxi people around, which is the main income source for her family. The story is awesome, and if you want the details please ask your child about it.

We took the opportunity to practice a little bit of design and art by learning about Ragnoli and Alpanas designs which play an important role in the story. Check out the photos to see some of the student creations. We got the chance to hear some regional music as well. Many students enjoyed the sometimes repetitive process of creating and practicing these designs and you may see them popping up on notebooks for the rest of the year.

In addition to this, we have also LOVED the warming temperatures. Being able to comfortably return to most lessons being outdoors has been a boon to our class. Thanks for coming along for the ride!

**Rockets! with 5th grade by Mr. Kempf on 3/1:**

The weather was finally nice enough, temperature wise and no wind, to allow us to launch our rockets. Although the launcher that I built didn't work exactly like I had hoped, it did launch the rockets that the kids built. They really enjoyed seeing how high their rockets flew (and I really enjoyed that it was warm enough that I didn't freeze when I got wet).

The best part of nicer weather is the chance to stay outside and do more school work outside. Yesterday and today we hiked out to the River Outpost for lunch, recess and guided reading. While running around we found otter tracks through what snow was left. So, today we placed our game camera in hopes of capturing an image of this playful animal.

All last month the kids got to hear about African American heroes and this month they are beginning to explore women in history who've had a great impact on the world. They are also starting to explore poetry, which we'll be reading and writing about more later this month. It's been a great week and it was only Tuesday.

**WE ARE GROWING MINDS WITH NATURE!**

**100th Day in 1st Grade by Mrs. Buser on 3/8:**

Today was our 100th day of in-person learning! Our activities were fun, but also worked on valuable skills like math, making predictions using clues, creating equations, and fine motor skills.

Here is a list of some of the activities from today. Ask your child about these activities and which was their favorite!

- 100s greeting during Morning Meeting
- 100s version of would you rather
- Roll to 100
- Mystery Bag guesses
- Flip a coin 100 times and record the results
- 100 equations that equal 100
- Create your own 100s counting by 10s puzzle
- Color by Code
- 100 bead necklace
- 100 days headband ( we wanted 100 stickers, but quickly realized 100 stickers didn't fit...now we know for next year!)

I have to admit, I wasn't sure if the class would really be able to come up with 100 different equations to equal 100, but they did, and they did it well! Their wonderful minds never cease to amaze me!

