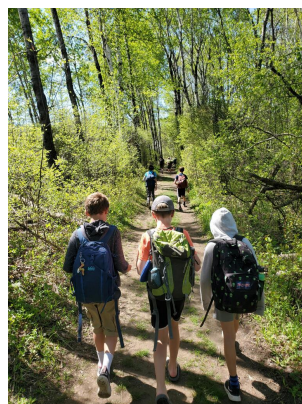




THE RIVEREDGE SCHOOL INQUIRER

The Official Newsletter of Riveredge Outdoor Learning Elementary School



DEVELOPMENTS AT THE RIVEREDGE SCHOOL

Earth Day Week: Oak Thickets

With the assistance and guidance of the RNC staff, ROLES staff, and volunteers, students planted over 100 oak trees in oak thickets around the Riveredge Nature Center grounds. Students gained skills to effectively plant trees and gained a better understanding of tree anatomy/physiology and plant care strategies. Students continue to grow in the mission and vision of Earth Day and how it relates to their learning experiences here at Riveredge.

Tree Climbing with RNC

Our 2nd through 5th grade classes had the privileged opportunity to go tree climbing in some tall trees near the Sugarbush House. The Adventure Education RNC Staff led our students in safety and instruction to climb and dangle from trees as high as 60 feet in the air! Activities such as tree climbing are considered a part of our non-traditional physical education curriculum here at ROLES.

Inspired by tree climbing experiences?

RNC offers a Tree Climbing Club and Open Climb dates for people of all ages! [Explore options here.](#)

Milwaukee County Historical Society - Hands On History Presentations

Our 2nd to 5th grade classes were treated to Hands-On History presentations from the Milwaukee County Historical Society. Second grade experienced Journeys to WI, a program about immigration. Third grade listened to the program Gathering at the Water, telling them about the importance of waterways to communities and their development. 4th graders will enjoy a presentation about the First People of WI, and 5th Grade will experience The Jobs that Built WI.

UPCOMING EVENTS

June 1: Last Day of School!

Week of June 13th: Report cards sent home via email.

June 24: New students' registration for 2022-23 school year due

July 1: Returning students begin online registration for 2022-23 school year

July 31: Returning students' registration for 2022-23 school year due



August: Monitor email for Back to School forms, dates, and information

August TBD: Welcome Back Night

Sept. 1: First day of school!

Sept. 2: IN PERSON school day

Sept. 5: No School for Students or Staff

Sept. 9, 16, 23, 30: Virtual School Days

DEVELOPMENTS AT THE RIVEREDGE SCHOOL

Fish Fest!

On Sunday, May 22nd, the ROLES community gathered at Riveredge Nature Center to celebrate Fish Fest. Despite not catching a fish, families enjoyed fishing in Farm Pond and roasting marshmallows at the campfire outside the Coop. The gathering concluded with a special surprise honorary slide presentation for Mr. Mike Mullen to thank him for his years of leadership at ROLES.

Thank you Mr. Mullen - Enjoy your retirement! Wow!

I thought Fish Fest would be another cool opportunity to share my love of fishing with our students. Little did I realize what your kind hearts had in store later in the day. The video, gift card, painting, tree, plant, sign, student cards and all of you being there speaks volumes about this community and the people in it. I'm glad I combed my hair and changed my socks before arriving!

When I first started, I would often mention the "magic" that was present in this school without being able to define it. Even after decades in the education business I couldn't seem to articulate what made this school different even though I spent most of my waking hours on the property. One day it dawned on me that when you bring together a community of people who understand the value of an outdoor education and the experiences it can provide for children, the only way to describe it is.... magical. I truly had not seen the forest for the trees.

Thank you for your friendship, advice and support. The last few years of my career in education have been the most meaningful because of you, your children and this place. I consider myself fortunate to have played a role in the development of this school and take pride in sharing our accomplishments with others. As I watch the video for a second time I'm reminded of the amazing opportunities that we provide for the students each day. These memories are the gifts you have given me, that will last a lifetime.

Feeling fortunate, Mike



Paddling Day

All grade levels participated in Paddling Day at Leonard J. Yahr County Park in West Bend. Grades kindergarten through 2nd grade were in canoes with 1-2 adults paddling around the lake. Grades 3 through 5 tried their hands at kayaking! This was another unique opportunity provided through the RNC Adventure Staff to our students. For some students, the bus rides to and from the park were an additional highlight to the day since many of them had never ridden a school bus before!

A HUGE shout out to all ROLES students for their behavior on the school bus!! At the end of the day, the bus driver reported this was by far the best group of students she has ever driven....and she has driven a lot of groups! She was impressed how some students were politely shushing others to listen to directions. WAY TO GO Riveredge kids!!

REFERENCES / RESOURCES

Please see our [2022-23 School Calendar](#) to plan appointments and vacations. Virtual School Days are student attendance days. Participation is required for positive attendance. * There are some differences between NOSD's school calendar and our school calendar - make sure to reference "The Riveredge School" calendar for days off school throughout the school year.

Enrollment for the 2022-23 School Year

Our [2022-23 Lottery and Waitlist results](#) are posted on our website. Please see our ["How to Enroll" website page](#) for more information regarding applying to attend ROLES in the 2022-23 school year.

OUR LEARNING PARTNERS

PTO Newsletters

Education Appreciation Week

Huge shout-outs and thank-yous from the ROLES staff to our PTO, Governance Council, and families for their generous and thoughtful gifts throughout the week. We truly appreciate your contributions to our school!

Governance Council:

[Governance Council Agendas and Meeting Minutes](#)

On behalf of the Governance Council, we want to thank everyone for a great 2021-2022 school year. We appreciate all of you! Thank you to our amazing staff who makes it possible to have the kids learning in a unique school environment. Lastly, thank you again to Mike Mullen for his leadership and service to ROLES throughout the years. Thank you for helping us to grow. Congratulations and enjoy your retirement! We hope everyone has a restful and fun summer! We will see you back for the 2022-2023 School Year. The Governance Council will be in communication with all staff and families once an official decision and offer has been made for our next school administrator.

Is your student leaving ROLES?

Please complete a ["Student Withdrawal Form"](#) and turn it into the ROLES office as soon as possible. This tells us where your student is going to school next year to assist in transferring student records. Required for all grade levels, including 5th grade. Paper copies are available in the ROLES office or email: eweiss@nosd.edu.

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 tree climbing open dates and find more information here.

Contact Alina at aprah@riveredge.us or call (262)416-1364 to schedule **Youth & Scout Programs** and **Birthday Celebrations** here at Riveredge!

FROG FEST! Saturday, June 4th, 12-3pm. Search for frogs, tadpoles, turtles, salamanders, & other creatures in the wetland habitats. Ages 2-12. Muck boots recommended. All buckets, nets, etc. provided by RNC.

tubing the Milwaukee River [Saukville](#) on 6/10; [Milwaukee River](#) on 6/20; [Milwaukee River](#) on 6/27

Family Geocaching Saturday, June 11th, 10am-12pm. Geocaching on [7/29](#)

Kayak & Canoe at Riveredge Group outings & Friday Night Paddles through September at paddling sites throughout Sheboygan, Dodge, Washington, and Ozaukee counties. See RNC's event calendar for opportunities throughout the summer!

Welcome Hikes: 6/18: 1:00pm and 3:00pm. Recurring event

Kids Campfire Cooking: 6/25; 10am-12pm.

Riveredge Ride Sunday, June 26th. Five route options from 8-56 miles! All ages welcome.

Photo Club: 6/28, 7:00-8:30pm: Recurring event - adult & family program; all skill levels are invited to participate.

Family Fishing: [Saukville](#) on 7/7; [Fredonia](#) on 7/12; [Grafton](#) on 7/21; [Heron Pond](#) on 7/23;

Campfire & Storytelling Friday, July 8th, 7-8:30pm.

Tree Talks: [Nature Poetry Workshop](#) 7/30; 1-2pm.

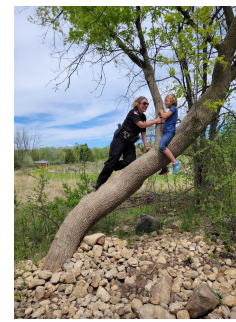
Parent/Grandparent **Trek: River Rambling** 8/5; 1-3pm.

Starry Night Hike & Craft Sat., Aug. 12th; 6:30-8:30pm.

Family Orienteering Saturday, August 27th; 10am-12pm



Lunch with Ozaukee County Sheriff's Department on 5/17 in 1st grade by Kayla Buser:



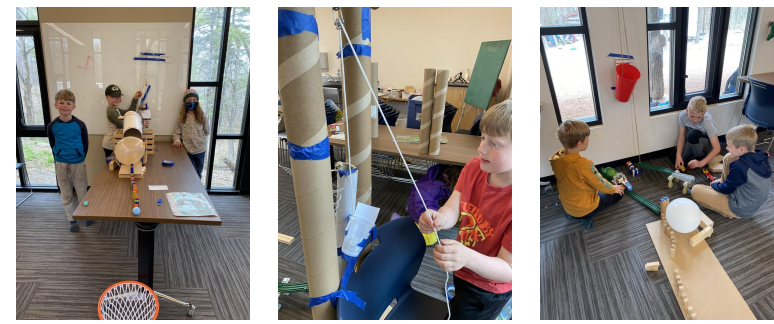
Earlier this week, our class worked through the spring math and literacy MAP tests. This is a chance for the students to show how much growth they have made over the year. The students worked hard and took their time. I could see the determination in their eyes to really do their best as they worked to show Mrs. Fisk and I how much they learned and grew academically this year. I'm anxious but excited to see the results in the upcoming days. These scores will be shared with you along with report cards at the end of the school year, so keep an eye out for them.

On Monday, we opened up our woolly bear hibernation station to see if our woolly bears made it. Unfortunately, we found 3 that didn't make it. However, there was one little fuzzy caterpillar that did make it through the winter. We placed the caterpillar in a cool place where it wouldn't easily be spotted by predators. I appreciate Ms. Pam and her support in finding out how to keep woolly bears over winter. Hopefully our woolly bear friend lives a long and happy life!

On Tuesday, we had some really cool visitors for lunch and recess! Members from the Ozaukee County Sheriff's Office, including Sheriff Johnson and Undersheriff Knowles, and American Legion members joined us for lunch. These wonderful humans spent time chatting with the kids over lunch about school and whatever else the kids brought up. After lunch they joined in for recess! They played catch, blew bubbles, searched for frogs and fish around the pond, and even climbed trees! This lunch is a great way to build our community relationships and helps to build positive interactions with law enforcement. My class has had lunch with the Ozaukee County Sheriff's Office every year since ROLES started. It is always one of my favorite things we do each year. The kids and law enforcement officers all have giant smiles on their faces and really enjoy the company of one another. We appreciate everyone who joined us!



Rube Goldberg Machine in 2nd grade by Cindy Raimer in April-May:



The theme of 2nd grade in April and May was "Interconnectedness." We used inquiry to learn about food chains and webs, trophic cascades and keystone species. After some research, we worked as teams to present our knowledge of the interconnectedness of our world in a unique way. Since we also studied simple machines, we did a team based project creating Rube Goldberg machines. The students labeled each simple machine in their chain reaction. They also labeled and demonstrated the food chain of a specific ecosystem with their reaction! This project based learning gave us the opportunity to work on more than science. I saw many students communicating with their groups to build consensus, and other students learning how to build consensus, which is why we do team based learning. We saw students using a growth mindset to overcome challenges in design or implementation, and creativity, wild imaginations, and whoops of PURE JOY when their machine worked! Mrs. W and I are so proud of the teamwork and collaboration our class used and the amazing Rube Goldberg Machines they created!

Trailblazer Island Exploration on May 19th with 5th grade by Shaun Kempf:



Learning & growing adventures in nature

Spring Sights & Sounds in 4th grade with Walter Sams:



May has been a fabulous month for fourth grade. We've witnessed a ton of spring wildflowers, emerging reptiles and amphibians, and especially warmer temperatures. As the wild spaces show more and more signs of awakening the fourth graders have been able to journal more, spend more lesson time outdoors and be comfortable learning from the land.

Kayaking was definitely a highlight of our time. Personally, seeing the fourth graders glide relatively effortlessly (especially the first timers) across the pond sent me into a lot of feelings. They've grown so much and in so many ways! Our entire class should be proud of all the things we've completed this year.

I hope you enjoy some of the photos of our nature finds and outdoor activities from this last month!



Trailblazer Island Exploration continued: Today, we got to do some river exploration at Trailblazer Island. We took time to explore the flow rate of the water on both sides of the island, first by walking against the current and then floating a stick and timing how long it took to go 20 yards. We thought about and discussed why the water on one side of the island flowed faster than the water on the other side. We even took a moment to pick up a few pieces of trash that we had found while exploring the river.

There are and have been so many opportunities for the 5th grade class to explore, grow and learn. It has been amazing to watch each student change throughout the year. Each student, in their own right, has made progress academically and socially. I will, without a doubt, miss this group.

Special Sounds...Drum Circle! In Kindergarten with Katie Popp on 5/12:



Special sounds have been in the air at Riveredge- mating toads and drum beats :)

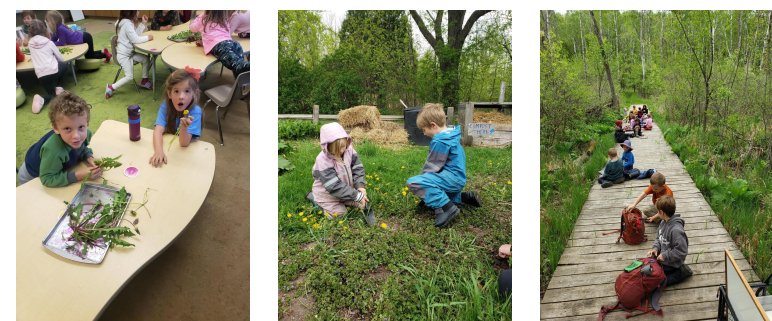
The American toads have been louder than I've ever heard in my life, and Farm Pond is full of toad eggs.

Ms. Angie Mack had fun songs, interesting beats and marvelous musical skills to share with us. It was so kind of her to donate her time and talent, and thanks to Mrs. Shamakov for helping to set this up. It was VERY hot and sunny, but Ms. Angie kept on leading us with songs and smiles ☀️ She mentioned a virtual drum circle she's hosting tomorrow, see the link below if interested...

<https://www.ozaukeetalentregistration.com/products/ozauke-e-talent-sponsored-community-pop-up-drum-circle>

We cooled off after drumming with a special treat from Mr. Mullen- freezie pops!

As the days begin to feel more and more like summer, we're trying our best to continue working hard on our kindergarten jobs. We're also taking time to reflect on how we've grown since we first started Kindergarten!



Wind Turbines, Roller Coasters, & More in 3rd grade by Amanda Otzelberger:

The third graders have been busy creating this spring! We built wind turbines with Mr. Barrett, who taught us about wind energy. This related to so many of our science concepts this year- forces in motion, human impact and sustainability and weather. We designed our own blades, tested them out in the wind and saw what worked best!

Our class built marble roller coasters to learn about forces in motion- unbalanced vs balanced forces, gravity and friction. Students were challenged to include two hills and a loop in their coaster, and did a great job working in groups to collaborate, test and modify together.

We have also been making some awesome art projects, including a nature suncatcher for our moms on Mother's Day and a phenology wheel to show off all of the flora and fauna we've nature journaled and that can be found around Wisconsin throughout the year.

Exciting projects we'll make before the end of the school year are weather tools we'll use to be meteorologists and nature poetry on the trail! We have been soaking up the beautiful weather with some amazing finds on the land and can't believe this school year is almost over.



WE ARE GROWING MINDS WITH NATURE!