



THE RIVEREDGE SCHOOL INQUIRER

The Official Newsletter of Riveredge Outdoor Learning Elementary School



DEVELOPMENTS AT THE RIVEREDGE SCHOOL

UPCOMING EVENTS

Welcome Back to School! by Cindy Raimer

The staff at ROLES has enjoyed welcoming back our community of learners and as you traverse our "hallways" you can often hear their enthusiasm before you see them due to the lush green "walls" surrounding our outdoor learning spaces. Our school's promise is to help every student feel connected to nature and community while learning through inquiry. This year, in our campus learning and our Virtual Friday programming, we have placed an emphasis on creating partnerships and collaborations with other local organizations to amplify the opportunities for all of our students.

Our collaboration with the team at Lynwood Sculpture Garden will result in an art curriculum that intersects art, nature and culture. They have been on campus a few times in the past few weeks as they begin to meet with teachers and design an interdisciplinary curriculum. I know the result of this work will be exemplary.

We have also redesigned our partnership with the Riveredge Nature Center to allow each grade level to learn about and become guardians of a particular area. Our 5K students will learn about the garden and forest through programs with RNC Naturalists, and stewardship such as seed harvesting, sprout planting and invasive species removal. Our 1st grade students will become guardians of the sky, but we will call them the "Guardians of the Galaxy", and participate in banding Monarch butterflies and birds, as well as bird-proofing windows. Our 2nd grade students will become the keepers of the forest and soil. They will learn the secrets of the soil by performing a variety of tests such as soil boring, percolation tests and soil jars. They'll travel underground to investigate the Earth from within a cave and learn stewardship through removing invasive species and tagging chipmunks. Third grade students will become guardians of the ponds and wetlands. They will lead an amphibian survey, remove reed canary grass, and explore the interactions of the pond. The focus for our 4th grade students will be to protect and share indigenous knowledge while learning about sustainable farming and harvests. They will be taught the Three Sisters concept as they are given the mission to become the guardians of the farm and sustainable farming practices. Finally, our 5th grade will be entrusted to care for the river and perform sturgeon maintenance, water quality testing, and river buckthorn removal.

September 23 & 30: Virtual Fridays

October 7, 14, 21, 28: Virtual Fridays

Week of October 17 - 21: Parent/Teacher/Student Conferences: Times TBD

October 21 & 22: RNC Trails and Treats events: Click [HERE](#) for times and registration information.

October 24: No School for Students & Staff

October 28: PTO Fall Fest; Time TBD

November 5: PTO Fall Fest; Time: Late afternoon - Evening - TBD



November 4, 11, 18: Virtual Fridays

November 23: No School for Students; Teacher Work Day

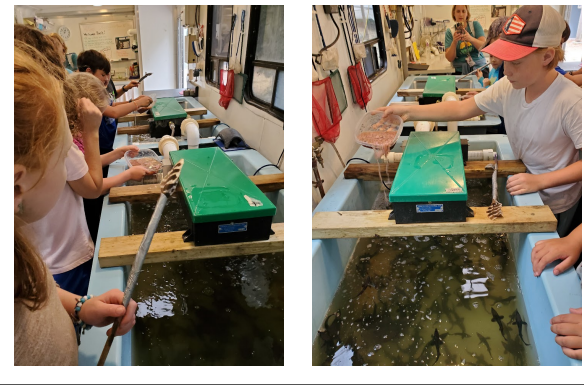
November 24 & 25: No School for Students & Staff

How do I confirm my child's absence? Submit a ["Report an Absence"](#) form as soon as possible. Late arrivals and early pickups should be recorded on this form as well.

OUR LEARNING PARTNERS

Sturgeon Fest 2022! Sunday, September 25th; 11am - 4pm. At HarborFest: 600 E. Greenfield Ave. Milwaukee, WI. Hand release a baby lake sturgeon into Lake Michigan!

Riveredge Nature Center partners with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources to raise and release sturgeon into the Milwaukee River. Our students visited the trailer at River Outpost that housed the young sturgeon for months while they acclimated to the Milwaukee River waters. Last year over 1,000 sturgeon were tagged and released at HarborFest in Milwaukee! Learn more about the sturgeon in Wisconsin and this program [here](#). Visit the Nature Center to see young sturgeon in the fish tank!



LEARNING UPDATES FROM CLASSES

Kindergarten Growth by Katie Popp on 9/16:



The kindergarten class is enjoying getting to know one another and the land of Riveredge. We discover interesting things about each other and about nature everyday while we are out exploring. Our hiking legs worked hard to get us to a few more new places out on the land this week. We enjoyed scooping our hands into the waters of Vernal Pond. The muck and the weeds were an interesting sensory experience for some students, but all chose to interact with their surroundings in a way that was comfortable to them. We had a lot of positive peer interactions, giggles and peaceful relaxing, while visiting the "swinging" hammocks at the Pines. We also spent time at the Labyrinth where many students chose to enjoy the heavy lifting work of large stick moving. We're showing progress on settling into the schedule and procedures of our day. We're doing a lot of growing and learning as a class of 18 five and six year old children. We spend a lot of time discussing how to be positive members of our Kindergarten community, how to not whine when we don't get our way, how to use our words and bodies to show kindness, and how to handle things when someone or something is not making us feel good are some of our most important conversations. All children arrive at kindergarten in different phases of their social, emotional and academic development. We really want to build up a community where all students can learn together, explore together and help each other grow!!!



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: 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](#)

ROLES PTO:

Morning Drop Off Volunteers: Thank you for all your help giving our students a safe start to the school day!

Fall Fest 2022: October 28th on the RNC grounds. Trunk or treat in the west parking lot; Scholastic Book Fair in the barn; More details coming soon!

PTO Scholastic Book Fair: 10/31-11/3 in the RNC Visitor's Center: Times TBD.

Governance Council:

[Governance Council Agendas and Meeting Minutes](#)

Where curriculum is brought to life and curiosity is fostered each and every day through time in our natural world.

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.

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

[Kayak & Canoe at Riveredge](#) Group outings & Friday Night Paddles through September at paddling sites throughout Sheboygan, Dodge, Washington, and Ozaukee counties.

[Welcome Hikes](#): 9/17: 1:00pm and 3:00pm. Recurring event.

[Kids Cooking Series](#): By the Campfire: 9/25; 5-7pm.

[Photo Club](#): 9/27: 7-8:30pm. Recurring event - adult & family program; all skill levels are invited to participate.

[Community Rivers Program Watershed Bus Tour](#): Saturday, October 1st, 9:00am-3:00pm. Registration required. Check the Community Rivers Program webpage for more information. Ages 18+.

Storm Drain Stenciling in October for CRP Villages of Newburg, Saukville, Grafton, Fredonia, and Kewaskum. Check the Community Rivers Program webpage for more information.

Kids Mindfulness Series: [Fall River Romp](#): Saturday, October 1st, 10am-12pm.

Growing Green Farm [Tours: Riveredge Permaculture Farm](#): Wednesday, 10/5, 4:30-6:30pm.

[BIG SIT!](#) Ozaukee Washington Bird Coalition at Forest Beach Migratory Preserve: 10/8, 6:00am-11:59pm.

[Fall Foliage Paddle](#) on Little Cedar Lake: 10/14, 4-6pm.

[Day for Dogs](#): 10/29, 9am-4pm. Trail fee per dog applies.

Riveredge Winter Camp

Registration is open! Seats are filling fast!
December 27th, 28th, & 29th; 9:00am - 4:00pm daily.

Summer Camp - Registration opens in November!

Handmade for the Holidays events:

[TEENS: Friday, 11/18](#), 6-9pm.

[KIDS: Saturday, 11/19](#), 12-4pm.



First Grade Monarch Caterpillars by Kayla Buser:



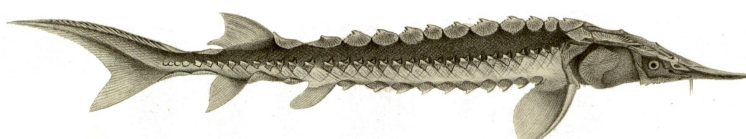
On just the second day of school, our ROLES first graders were overjoyed when young monarch caterpillars arrived in their classroom! As the class went to pick some fresh milkweed for their new hungry caterpillars, they stumbled upon a different kind of caterpillar on the milkweed. Naturally, they had to investigate what they had found. After some research, the caterpillar was identified as a milkweed tiger moth, also known as a milkweed tussock moth. Upon finding this caterpillar, first graders also learned an important lesson! Caterpillars that are fuzzy or have hairs often cause rashes and should only be observed with our eyes, good thing we learned that before touching the tussock moth caterpillar! Once the students were inside and the milkweed leaves were in our cages, the first graders added the caterpillars and observed them in small groups. As the weeks continued, our first graders became experts on the monarch life cycle, monarch ID, and monarch tagging!

DEVELOPMENTS AT THE RIVEREDGE SCHOOL

Welcome Back to School! (continued) by Cindy Raimer:

We have also teamed up with an organization based out of Milwaukee called GEARBOX Labs. The collaboration will add curriculum to help our students develop knowledge of engineering, electronics and coding with hands-on projects that tie to nature. Our 3rd grade students will have opportunities to build soil moisture sensors, our 4th graders will engineer numerous projects exploring light and sound, and our 5th grade students will get to design, build and test turbidity sensors as stewards of the Milwaukee River and the sturgeon.

I hope your students are as enthused as I am about all of the opportunities this year holds. We have been gifted a wonderful opportunity; a chance to learn in a wondrous space, with an abundance of resources and community partners that share a wealth of knowledge.



Third Grade Update by Amanda Otzelberger:



Third grade has had a busy BUT AWESOME start to the school year. The class has been out on the land of Riveredge every day, hiking from place to place to begin our curricular adventures, establish our procedures and routines and build our classroom community. Mrs. Barrett and Ms. O have started to plant the seeds of our upcoming units in science and social studies in our daily explorations. After deciding what science is and what scientists do, we came to the conclusion that at ROLES, we are scientists who study so many different things. We were entomologists while prairie sweeping and collecting data on insects we caught, ichthyologists in the river examining species we could find and observing sturgeon in the rearing trailer, meteorologists each day as we get ready to go outside, botanists identifying different plant species on our hikes and more. Our class has been trying out different tools of a scientist like microscopes, nature journals and field guides. The third graders have also been engineers, coming up with and building solutions to solve different problems. We are excited to continue our journey as scientists this year by taking a closer look at life cycles next!

Fifth Grade by Shaun Kempf on 9/8:

This week was filled with starting our writing process by coming up with ideas using connections to stories, items from our homework assignment and creating a story map of memories. We've begun to dig into our first math unit. Having now learned more about the kids and receiving the results of the first pre assessment our math classes are going to look a little different next week as we start small group stations rotations. It will include more direct instruction, independent work and chance for kids to work on improving skill areas needing improvement.



5th grade reading, writing, math....

Second Grade Bees on September 15th:



We had our bee program with the Riveredge nature center today and learned how very, very special and important pollinators are to us. We also learned how to identify the parts of a flower and how pollination happens. At the very end we got up close and personal with the bees and had the opportunity to see the fruits of their labor in a beautiful honeycomb.

Fourth Grade Update by Allison Servais:

In 4th grade, we have had an exciting first three weeks! Academically we have been focusing on writing about things we love or that interest us, and soon we will gradually start getting into memoirs. For reading, we have been working with 3rd grade and our Literacy Coach Mrs. Jade Cashman on how to take an active role in literacy circles. In Math we wrapped up our first Module which was a review on different strategies for multiplication and division. In Social Studies, we had a little background on the US government, and are going to start diving more into the history of Wisconsin through Wisconsin's government today which will help get us ready to visit the Capitol! The students have been doing an excellent job with community building, discussions about behaviors and expectations, and navigating computers, all of which we will continue to do as we still get started.





During the first few weeks of school, I have participated with all grade levels in getting the writing started in our writer's notebooks. I have listened to stories of racoons in minivans on a camping trip, moose sightings in Denali and uncles who give the best hugs. I've seen photos of families on grand adventures Up North in the woods camping, on the beaches of Lake Michigan and Superior searching for lake glass and drawings of dear friends who are desperately missed and now live in Germany. We learn each other in significant ways when we honor the children's stories through talk and writings/drawings. We have laughed and our hearts have ached together sharing our stories and we have been able to do this important beginning of the year work through making connections with purposefully chosen children's literature, through the items brought in their first homework bags (thank you again parents for gathering and sending!) and through a variety of beginning of the writer's notebook entries.

Writing is bringing us together, working to build respect and trust, and our community of writers is realizing that they live lives they can share and write about in their own writer's notebook, just like writers do. They are writers and they do writerly things like making connections to stories, noticing and wondering about a baby snapping turtle on the trail and then...they share about it and write or draw about it. My favorite question from the first few weeks is, "When can we go back and keep writing on a story?" I wonder what notebook entry is your writer's favorite so far and why? Ask your child!

One of our greatest learnings is that there is no one way to be a writer. We've worked through a few different ways we can get our writing started- story webs, sketches and drawings, writing down phrases rich with detail, making bullet point lists of the details of a story or simply, just getting the story started in the writer's notebook. Ask your child which style supports them best currently as a writer. Has your writer noticed a notebook entry they are most excited about? I hope they will share it with you.

We have also spent time noticing how talk supports us as a writer- how sharing stories before starting to write supports us in the getting started to write phase. We also use sharing as a process for reflecting as a writer- noticing what was hard but good for our learning, learning to notice our thinking can grow us as writers and also in hearing other writers share their thoughts, connecting as writers and being able to think, "Yeah, that was hard, but wow I feel smart now too!" I wonder what your writer will share with you about being a writer?

I am pumped to dive into our first unit of study- memoir/ personal narrative. We will continue to build our stamina for writing (extending the length of time as well as going back to a piece and continuing to write) and guiding the writers towards noticing, "What do you write about the most? What do you still want to write about more? in hopes of turning those passion projects into their first published piece- a memoir/ personal narrative. We will begin to encourage noticing what writers do that we can try in our own writing, in the hopes our young writers will borrow these structures or ways of crafting into their own memoirs/personal narratives. I can't wait to keep growing these writers and learning more of these important stories. And I hope this summary of our work together as writers supports you in talking to your writer and learning more about their work. Pumped to continue this work, Jade Cashman Director of Literacy Instruction

