



# THE RIVEREDGE SCHOOL INQUIRER

*The Official Newsletter of Riveredge Outdoor Learning Elementary School*



## DEVELOPMENTS AT THE RIVEREDGE SCHOOL

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Reading Buddies

To continue to build communities within our community, this school year many classes are pairing with one another or other Riveredge groups to read together! Sometimes older students will read stories to younger students, and sometimes younger students read and describe stories to older students. Reading buddies meetings are a highlight of the week for our students, staff, and Riveredge groups!

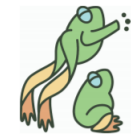
**December 2, 9, 16:** Virtual Fridays

**December 22:** No School for Students; Teacher Work Day

**December 23, 26-30:** No School for Students & Staff; ❄️ Winter Break ❄️

### Governance Council Update by Amy Levash

The Governance Council is focusing this year on learning and growing as a governance council. We are also going to be doing work around performance measures and budget reports. On behalf of the Governance Council we want to wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving! We are so very thankful for all of our staff, students and families at ROLES and we are grateful that each of you are part of our great school community! We are excited to see everything that your students are learning and exploring this year.



**January 2:** Back to School!

**January 6, 13, 27:** Virtual Fridays

**January 20:** No School for Students; Teacher Work Day

**February 3, 10, 17, 24:** Virtual Fridays

**February 20:** No School for Students & Staff

## 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! 🙌

❄️ **WinterFest 2022** ❄️: Join us for Winter Fest on **Wednesday, 12/21 from 1-4pm!** There will be various activities to celebrate winter and the winter solstice. We will gather in the barn at 3:00pm to celebrate the coming of longer, lighter days with a spiral walk. Look for signups to donate supplies and volunteer for the day of the event!

### 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. All late arrivals and early pickups meet in the office. Please sign in on the clipboard in front of the office desk. Thank you for your assistance!

## LEARNING UPDATES FROM CLASSES

### Second Grade Update by Nikki Blawat:



(left & above): Building insulators to keep popsicles cool. (right): Favorite color letters.



**HUGE Shout-out to our classroom volunteers and substitutes!!!** Thank you for helping our students in their classes as they learn and grow in nature! Please make sure to sign in the office when volunteering or subbing.

### Bus Drivers Needed!

Due to the shortage of bus drivers throughout the state, scheduling of field trips outside of Riveredge has become very tricky! If you are licensed to drive a school bus and/or are interested in becoming licensed to drive our ROLES students on field trip(s) this spring, please contact us!

### 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. Information about applying for the 2023-24 school year will be posted on this website page in mid to late January and will include Information Sessions to learn more about our school.

Second grade has had so much fun learning about the three states of matter in science. We got to do so many fun activities and projects throughout this unit. Our favorite project was being able to design and make our own popsicle coolers. We tested different materials and ranked them from the best insulator, to the worst insulator. After testing the materials we designed a prototype and then built and tested our final coolers. Our next unit will be Geology, and we will learn all about soil science, rocks and minerals, and plate tectonics.

In writing we are getting into our next unit, opinion/persuasive writing. We started the unit out by reading "The Day the Crayons Quit," and then wrote a letter to our favorite color crayons, telling them our opinion as to why they are our favorite. We moved from opinion into persuasive writing by reading the story "Can I Have a Stegosaurus, Mom? Can I? Please!?" After reading the story, we wrote a persuasive letter to Mrs. Raimer telling her why we should get a dragon as a class pet. We can't wait to see what great things our second grade authors write in this unit.

### Communities with Amanda Otzelberger:



Third grade has been building our community in many ways this fall!

The class actually learned about communities in social studies: the different kinds and the physical, human and cultural characteristics of them. The third graders then created a community together in the Mushroom. They were each paired with a team that was in charge of a certain part of the community to make sure it had all its needs met. We had students building parts of our community to make sure we had shelter, education, food, government, healthcare and more. Our class had discussions about how we changed the original landscape to build our community and how humans can decrease their impact on the land. We also learned map skills and created maps of the community we built!

We've also been building our classroom and school community with morning meetings with the rest of Yurtville (4th and 5th grade) and meeting with our 4K reading buddies. We can't believe it's already almost December!



**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.*

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

[Photo Club: 11/29; 7-8:30pm.](#) Recurring event - adult & family program; all skill levels are invited to participate.

**Yule Log Dinner and Hunt: [Friday, 12/2; 5:30-8:30pm](#) and [Saturday, 12/3, 5:30-8:30pm](#).** Member Exclusive - Riveredge homemade stew, lantern hunt for Yule Log, campfire....

**Yule Log Hunt: [Sunday, 12/4, 4:00-5:30pm](#).** Member Exclusive - Lantern hunt for Yule Log, campfire....

**Kids' Cooking Series: [Gifts from the Kitchen:](#)** 12/14, 5:00-8:00pm; ages 8-12 years

**Riveredge Winter Camp**

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

[RNC Kids Ski & Snowboard Club:](#) Thursdays in January at 4:30pm or 6:30pm. Ages 5-17 and families.

[Hook-ology for Kids: Why not fly knot?:](#) 1/21, 1-3pm. Ages 8-14 years. Reel and fly fishing activities.

**[Riveredge Summer Camps](#)** - Registration opens in November! Camps for ages 3 to teens. Riveredge summer camps fill quickly!



**Fourth Grade Update by Allison Servais:**

In Science, 4th graders are starting to learn about rocks and minerals. We kicked this off with creating pet rocks that are going to help us gather information along the way! We also connected our first lessons to math as students measured the length, width, and height of their new pets, along with finding the mass. They were able to calculate the area, and record detailed observations. (Along with their new pets interests and hobbies 😊)

Our young scientists will use their pet to make connections as we gather evidence through stations, nature walks, experiments, etc. And since we have pet rocks, one of our wonderful 4th graders suggested that we make pet rocks for our 4K reading buddies. (She even provided the rocks the next day!) My heart gets so happy every time I see my 4th grade friends with their 4k buddies, as their compassionate and kind personalities shine through the entire time!



**OUR LEARNING PARTNERS**

**Upcoming RNC Community River Programs:**

CRP Winter Senses Hike in Grafton  
Sunday, January 15th from 10-11:30am at Lime Kiln Park, Grafton. Registration through Grafton Parks & Recreation Department Activity Guide

CRP Winter Senses Hike in Kewaskum  
Sunday, January 29th from 10-11:30am at Lower River Hill Park, Kewaskum. Registration through Riveredge Events Calendar

CRP Winter Senses Hike in Fredonia  
Sunday, January 29th from 1:00-2:30pm at Waubedonia Park, Fredonia. Registration through Riveredge Events Calendar

**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.*

**Light and Sound with Kayla Buser:**



(above) Navigating with sound only.  
(left & right) Shadows & shapes.

For science, we have continued our light and sound unit. Yesterday, we experienced what happens when a light source is removed. Students were blindfolded to simulate taking away a light source, in this case the sun. They were then asked to navigate through an obstacle course. The kids even made Mrs. S and I give it a shot. We all agreed it was hard! Then we tried again, but this time we had a partner who was able to use sound to communicate with us and help navigate us through the course. Finally, we got to go through "normally" which definitely proved to be the easiest.

We discussed how important having a light source can be, but also how helpful communicating with sound can be! Today, we discussed how when something solid, like a human or a building, stands in front of a light source it creates a shadow! Using the sun as our light source, we created shadow art! Students used their body to create a shape or outline with their shadow and a partner traced it. We then worked using colors to add details. We had lots of fun creating owls, birds, fish, and more!

**Spider Hunt on October 20th by Shaun Kempf:**

What a great way to end our week: spider hunting. As part of science this week we were exploring the spooky spider. Today we went out to find some live spiders and drew them in our nature journals. The kids were able to get a closer look at their spiders through our digital microscopes allowing them to add greater details to their drawings. Hopefully, we'll be able to identify some of them next week and learn more about those specific spiders as well as the parts of a spider. Later we'll explore how spiders make their webs and the different ways that different spiders use their webbing.



**Kindergarten Update by Sarah Fortney:**



Kindergarten read a book called Pumpkin Jack and we have been nature journaling and observing a pumpkin decomposing. We were able to see and feel our pumpkin when it was whole and uncut. Then we cut a square in the side of the pumpkin to see what was inside. So many observations and questions came from seeing what was inside. Then we placed the pumpkin in a sealed container and we observed changes week after week.

We spent some nature journaling time to draw what we saw and think about things that we might wonder or notice about the process. We are excited to see as the decomposing continues, if we will be able to grow more pumpkins from our decomposing one. This project is ongoing so we will keep you posted if we are successful.

**DEVELOPMENTS AT THE RIVEREDGE SCHOOL**

**Opportunities to Support The Riveredge School**

It's no secret that there are often gaps between state and local public-school funding and ROLES's unique program is not immune. The new Annual Fund Campaign is intended to benefit every teacher and every student every day by bridging the gap and covering additional operating expenses that range from professional development, supplies, curriculum, field trips, and so much more. This week we have an outstanding opportunity! *We need your help to take advantage of not one, but two generous offers that will match all donations ROLES can raise this next week.*

*Thank you in advance for your participation as donors and school outreach ambassadors. Gifts of all sizes make a difference. Your generosity allows us to offer students a unique educational experience and to strengthen programs that grow with our students.*

Here is the link describing the financial giving opportunities in November and December:

[The Riveredge School Giving Tuesday & Double Impact Campaign](#)