



THE RIVEREDGE SCHOOL INQUIRER

The Official Newsletter of Riveredge Outdoor Learning Elementary School



DEVELOPMENTS AT THE RIVEREDGE SCHOOL

UPCOMING EVENTS

Donors Choose Projects
A MASSIVE THANK YOU to our community and the many donors who contributed to funding our teachers' Donors Choose projects! Visit [ROLES DonorsChoose page](#) to help fund special projects that our teachers want to bring into their classrooms.

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

Not a Box School Activity
 As a result of our Donors Choose projects arriving by the droves here at Riveredge, we had a huge surplus of boxes and shipping material! To one person, a box may be a cardboard storage container, however to the ROLES students, a box can be all kinds of things. Two classes paired up at a time at the Sugarbush House to build their Not a Box creations. Students enjoyed working with friends from other classes to brainstorm ideas, develop building plans, and build their cardboard creations! There were train locomotives; rocket ships; forts; castles with moats and even an alligator; etc. Our students proved that all boxes have the potential to be a Not a Box through their creativity!



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
March 3, 10, 17, 24: Virtual Fridays
March 13-17: Conferences
March 27-31: No School for Students & Staff; 🌱 Spring Break 🌱

OUR LEARNING PARTNERS

ROLES PTO - [PTO Newsletters](#)

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

❄️ **WinterFest 2022** ❄️: ROLES celebrated Winter Fest on Wednesday, 12/21. There were various activities to celebrate winter and the winter solstice, including a special spiral walk celebrating the coming of longer, lighter days. Watch for photos and more details in the next newsletter. HUGE shout-out to Brielle Pauli for organizing the event and the many volunteers who bring together our community through their contributions of time, supplies, and ideas!

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.

LEARNING UPDATES FROM CLASSES

Third Grade Update by Amanda Otzelberger:



With winter among us and our adventures, third grade is having a great time exploring what it has to offer. With any chance we get, these inquisitive third graders are observing ice formations, identifying tracks, building snow creatures and even have an epic snowball battle or two. Before Thanksgiving break, we had an egg drop, where we designed an invention that would keep our egg safe when we dropped it from the crows nest at the natural play area! The class met with their 4K buddies to help them with a book walk, where we read "Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?". We had so much fun at the Anything But a Box Day, where their imaginations ran wild!

We have been up to some awesome learning this past month. The class learned why some animals live in groups with some experiments and a group research project. We've begun our unit on traits, learning what makes us unique. Students surveyed their parents, finding out if they have certain traits, like the ability to roll their tongue or have a widow's peak. With their findings, we created models to represent our grown-ups and ourselves, and compared to the rest of the class. Lynden Sculpture Gardens has begun their project with us and we are so excited to get started! We had a book tasting, where our classroom was transformed into a cafe. We "tasted" and reviewed different genres while we sipped on tasty drinks. We've also been comparing different types of folktales, and noticing as readers what makes them different. These third grade writers have then tried to create their own fables, myths or fairy tales.

Third grade is looking forward to the rest of winter and hope it brings even more snow! We are so thankful for our community.

Forest Life in Kindergarten by Sarah Fortney:



Kindergarten has been busy learning all about Forest Life. We have gone on many hikes and made many observations about where animals live during the winter months. The kindergarteners loved finding a variety of tracks all over the land, including the ponds! We wondered and guessed what type of animal made the tracks and where they might go during the day. We also enjoyed learning what hibernation and migration is along with which animals hibernate and migrate during the winter months. We each chose an animal that we wanted to have hibernate in our classroom den until Spring.

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!

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 at ROLES: 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.



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 and for elementary children. **Registration is required** for almost all events listed.*

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

Riveredge Winter Camp [Registration here.](#)
 Dec. 27th, 28th, & 29th; 9am-4pm daily

RNC Kids Ski & Snowboard Club: Thursdays in January at 4:30pm or 6:30pm. Ages 5-17 and families. Visit RNC's [Event calendar](#) to select dates.

Night Ski, Snowshoe, & Candlelight Hikes: Fridays in January and February; 4:30-8:00pm. All ages welcome; Snowshoe rental available. Visit RNC's [Event calendar](#) to select dates.

Family Nature Club: Sledding at Hawthorne Hills: 1/10; 4:30-6pm. Free offering to our community designed for kids ages 6-12 and their families. Recommended for families with children between ages 6 and 12 years old.

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

Snowforts and Stories with Bookworm Gardens: 1/21; 3-5pm. Ages 12 & under.

Growing Green Farm Tours: Lone Duck Farm: 1/25; 5:30-6:30pm. All ages welcome.

Kids Cooking Series: Made with Love: 2/15; 5-8pm. Ages 8-12 years.

Family Tapping: 2/25; 1-2:30pm. Ages 5-17 years.

Riveredge Summer Camps - Registration opens in November! Camps for ages 3 to teens. Riveredge summer camps fill quickly!

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.

Fourth Grade Update by Allison Servais:

Fourth grade worked hard on a winter art project. We learned about watercolor, following directions while still adding our own "flair" and personality into our art. The kids very much enjoyed it and I was so impressed with how well they turned out!

We also continued to have fun reading and crafting with our 4k buddies, team building and celebrating the transition of darkness into light! I hope everyone has a wonderful holiday, and wraps up 2022 with the new beginnings of 2023!



OUR LEARNING PARTNERS

Upcoming RNC Community River Programs:

CRP Winter Senses Hike in Grafton
 Sunday, January 15th from 10:00-11:30 at Lime Kiln Park
 Registration available on Community Rivers Program webpage

CRP Winter Senses Hike in Kewaskum
 Sunday, January 29th from 10:00-11:30 at River Hill Park
 Registration available on Community Rivers Program webpage

CRP Winter Senses Hike in Fredonia
 Sunday, January 29th from 1:00-2:30 at Waubedonia Park
 Registration available on Community Rivers Program webpage

Space and Art on 12/12 with Kayla Buser:



Today our class met with Ms. Claudia and Mr. Jeremy from Lynden Sculpture Garden! This was our introductory meeting before we begin our first art project with them. Our next science unit is space and our art project will be making felted beads that resemble the planets, including an imaginary planet that each child creates. These beads will become necklaces. Today we looked at different necklaces from different eras. We noticed what the necklaces were made out of and used that information to determine where the necklaces may have been made or what was important to the person who made the necklaces. Ms. Claudia brought some felt for us to feel as we discussed where felt comes from. Finally, each student began thinking about their imaginary planet!



Second Grade Update by Nikki Blawat:

Second grade has enjoyed meeting up with kindergarten every other week for reading buddies. The second graders are always looking forward to the next time they will get to read with their buddy.

In science, we spent a couple weeks learning about different landforms, as well as different types of maps. The class had fun venturing out to the Mushroom, and were challenged with the task to write directions leading us back to the classroom using the cardinal directions. Each student was given a compass, and learned how to read it to tell what direction they were walking in. After winter break we will dive into our rocks and minerals unit.



Excelling on IXL with Shaun Kempf:



Fifth grade won the Yurtville IXL challenge of having the highest average per student answering questions on IXL. They were rewarded with a pizza party and the top three students from 3rd, 4th and 5th also enjoyed some s'mores. We are planning on having another challenge after the new year.

Aside from working hard in math, 5th graders have started a new writing unit in which they are learning research skills as they learn about the explorer of their choice. They'll use their research to write an informative non-fiction piece about that explorer.

In connection to their exploration of explorers, the students have started to work with our partners from Lynden on an art project in which they will be creating a planet out of clay from an alien planet. They kids have already collected a number of different plant textures from around Riveredge in their Nature Journals. They've also started to brainstorm ideas for their very own planet where their plants will live. I can't wait to see what these amazing kids come up with!

