



# THE RIVEREDGE SCHOOL INQUIRER

*The Official Newsletter of Riveredge Outdoor Learning Elementary School*



## DEVELOPMENTS AT THE RIVEREDGE SCHOOL      UPCOMING EVENTS

### Enrollment for the 2023-24 School Year

Returning students to ROLES are given first preference to their seats and only have to complete the [2023-24 application](#). A completed application shows "Intent to Enroll" and is due to the ROLES office by Thursday, March 23, 2023. Paper copies are available in the office and can be sent home with students by request. 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 2023-24 school year must complete the DPI [online open enrollment application](#) in addition to the ROLES application, if they are not residents of the Northern Ozaukee School District. Both applications are due by **April 28, 2023**.

### NEW INTERESTED FAMILIES!

Please see our ["How to Enroll" website page](#) for links to our Virtual Information Sessions. All sessions are 6:00-7:00 pm.

<a href="#">Thursday, March 9th</a>	<a href="#">Wednesday, March 22nd</a>	<a href="#">Thursday, April 11th</a>
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Explore our mission and philosophy, FAQs, and information about how to apply for the 2023-24 school year!

### Outdoor Gear- Water Resistant?

With warmer weather comes rain, mud, and damp grounds to explore! Please make sure your child has a complete extra set of clothes, especially **including socks**, at school at all times. Rain pants, waterproof jackets and waterproof boots are daily necessities this time of year! Over time, some outerwear loses its ability to repel water and starts absorbing water instead. If your child is coming home soaking wet, despite wearing outerwear, make sure to send extra gear daily and/or consider replacing items if needed.

### March 3, 10, 17, 24: Virtual Fridays

**March 13-17:** Conferences

**March 23:** Returning Students Intent to Enroll 2023-24 Applications due to ROLES office

**March 27-31:** No School for Students & Staff; Spring Break 🌱



**April 7:** No School for Students & Staff

**April 14, 21, 28:** Virtual Fridays

**April 17-21:** EARTH WEEK  
**APRIL 22: EARTH DAY**

**April 28:** Last day of Online Open Enrollment for NEW students applying to ROLES

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

**May 11:** [2023-24 Lottery](#) for New Applicants to ROLES; Optional Viewing 9:00-11:30 am

**May 29:** No School for Students and Staff

**May 31:** Last Day of School!

## LEARNING UPDATES FROM CLASSES

### Third Grade Update by Amanda Otzelberger:



Winter is always jam-packed at ROLES, and this winter has been no different! There is so much to do, see and soak up during this fleeting season (although sometimes it doesn't feel that way). Being at Riveredge helps you really appreciate the beauty of winter. Our class has gone cross-country skiing where we had lots of falling, but lots of getting up again which helps build perseverance and other great skills, sledding at recess and creating some ice sun catchers. Eating s'mores as an earned reward never hurts either :-)

Third grade has been busy learning about the adaptations organisms have to help them survive in their habitat, and there's no better time to do it than during these cold months! During a program with RNC, the educators taught all about how animals and plants adapt to living in winter, as we hiked through deer trails and found TELS (tracks, eating, living and scat) or evidence of animals there. Third graders have also pretended they were birds as they tried to "eat" different items with different shaped "beaks", camouflaged butterflies and challenged their classmates to find them, nature journaled skulls to investigate how their body features help them survive, and tried to do simple everyday tasks with their thumbs taped to their hands, taking away our adaptation of opposable thumbs. We were able to teach our 4K buddies all about adaptations, as we read books together, did an experiment about blubber and how bird feathers keep birds warm. Our third grade artists also finished our projects with Lynden Sculpture Gardens, which were sculptures of an organism of their choice that had adapted to living in a different habitat. We had panthers living underwater with scales and fins, a turtle living in the rainforest with wings to help it navigate all the trees, and much more. They were very proud of their hard work and thankful they could show them off to their grown-ups during our exposition in the Octagon!

We can't wait for warmer weather and the adventures it will bring, but are holding on tight to winter and the snow we love to play in! No matter what the weather, this class is always bringing the sunshine and we always have the best time exploring together.

### Community in Kindergarten by Sarah Fortney on 1/23:



**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.

### 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!

### 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.

**Future Location of ROLES - Updates:** Please see our ["Future Location of ROLES - Updates" website page](#) for updates from the Governance Council regarding the future location of our school after June 2024.

### Community in Kindergarten:

Our Community Life unit is well on its way. We have been reading about how animals work together. Recently, we spent the morning at Fort Bentley developing our own community activity. We had a grocery store and breakfast place (where I ordered the best breakfast burrito and stack of pancakes...YUM!) A group made a campground where there was a structure and a fire pit to cook food and stay warm. We also made a space for other animals to live and get cozy. Our Kindergartners had such big imaginations and we all learned so much from each other. And most importantly, we all worked together! We have also been observing an ant farm and studying how they work together in their community. We have been recording our observations in our nature journals.

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

**Ozaukee Washington Land Trust, 2/23/23:**  
Please view the [OWLT Statement](#) from Tom Stolp, Executive Director, regarding building a relationship between our Outdoor Learning School and Ozaukee Washington Land Trust in the quest for our future location. Our organizations share common missions in land conservation. Highlights include “Land Protection Tools: Purchase for Nature Preserves” and “Conservation Easements and Preserve Stewardship Expertise and Future Stewardship Facilities”.

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

**Maple Sugarin’ Season is here!** Visit RNC’s [Event calendar](#) to select dates.  
**Maple Syrup Supper:** 3/3/23 & 3/4/23; 5:30-8:30pm; Members event.  
**Scout & Youth Day:** 3/12 & 3/13; Registration required.  
**Maple Sugarin’ Festival:** 3/18/23; 12pm-4pm; Pre-registration recommended, but not required..  
**Outdoor Pancake Breakfast:** April 1 & 2; 9:00am; 10:30am; 12:00pm. Pre-registration required.

**Exploring Our Watery Worlds:** 3/22; 3:00pm-6:30pm; ages 3+; free program  
**Welcome Hikes:** 3/25; 1:00pm and 3:00pm  
**OWBC Raptors in Urban Environments:** April 5; 7-8:30pm  
**Spring Egg Hunt:** April 8th; 10:00am; 11:15am; 12:45pm  
Hookology: **Casting & Mending on the Milwaukee River:** May 7; 1pm-4pm

**Tree Climbing:** Open climbs and group opportunities throughout the spring, summer, and fall!

**Riveredge Summer Camps** - Camps for ages 3 to teens. Riveredge summer camps fill quickly!

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

**Great Chicken Rescue in 4th grade by Allison Servais:**



What happens when your class accidentally throws a rubber chicken onto the center of a semi-frozen pond? You get creative! After watching The Sandlot and seeing how the kids in the movie had to rescue a ball from THE BEAST, a student went home, constructed a “plow” and connected it to an RC car he had built. He also added a rope to the back in case the car got stuck or fell through the ice - that way he could get it back. He was ready to rescue the rubber chicken (Mr. Squawkers). Of course, when sending a car on the ice, you need a driver, so “Bob Peanut-Free” (a person made of cardboard) was attached to the top of the car ready for the rescue!

After recess the following day, a crew team - led by the student who created the contraption- was quickly assembled and ready for their mission. Attempts to save Mr. Squawkers were unsuccessfully made, and students quickly realized more needed to be done. The Crew Leader made adjustments after every attempt. For example one time, the car kept slipping on the ice, so he tried a different path, but that still didn’t work. Students tried adding tape to the wheels for traction, and sticks to the car for weight, but Mrs. Servais realized some students were pulling back on the rope too early and that is why it kept getting stuck. FINALLY after several attempts, success was had! Mr. Squawkers was saved! “It was probably the best school day of my life,” said the Crew Leader!



**National Parks in 2nd grade with Nikki Blawat:**



The second graders wrote letters to national parks across the country asking park rangers about the various landforms, rocks, and minerals that can be found within the parks. We got a response from each park we wrote to, and we're slowly working our way through all of the mail. The letters from the park rangers have allowed us to learn so much more about the world around us. With the information in their responses, we have been able to compare and contrast landforms, rocks and minerals, and animals that are found in different parts of the country. What a great way to end our Rocks and Minerals unit!



**Fifth Grade Update by Shaun Kempf:**

This month the kids grabbed random objects and then as small groups worked on grouping their objects. We then took time to talk about how and why scientists classify things. This all leads into our study of the different states of matter and some great experiments.

We also spent time this month exploring our winter ecology. To help us learn how animals might survive during the winter months, the students worked in teams to build shelters for their "baby mammals" (plastic bottles with hot water in them). Their goal was to build a natural shelter that would help keep their babies warm. This nature based connection related to our states of matter unit as we explored how different materials have different properties, such as the ability to insulate or conduct heat.



**Winter Birds on 2/28 with Kayla Buser:**



Our 1st graders turned into young ornithologists! This year, first graders are stewards of the sky. This means that we have programs that focus on being "Guardians of the Sky". Our Winter Birds program was such a blast!

Our program began by teaching about what qualities make a bird a bird. We talked about how birds have beaks, feathers, bones, and wings. We also talked about how birds make nests, lay eggs, and are warm-blooded. We then got to hear a few examples of different bird calls, like the chickadee-dee-dee!

Then each student got a pair of binoculars! We learned how binoculars are a tool that can be extremely helpful when it comes to observing birds, as it can be hard to close enough to see them in great detail. We practiced zooming in and focusing on small things around our area, like signs before heading out to search for birds.

As our groups walked the trails, we heard and saw several birds! Using our binoculars we tried our best to closely observe the birds that were enjoying the beautifully warm weather today. Between walking the trails and observing bird feeders around RNC, we were able to spot many types of birds. Students saw mourning doves, juncos, sparrows, and even a red-tailed hawk!

Developing young ornithologists...what a great way to spend an afternoon!

**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! Huge shout-out to all our *families, volunteers, students and incredible staff for their flexibility during our alternative drop-off* on days with bad weather. 🙌

🌱 **Spring Equinox 2023** 🌱: ROLES will celebrate the Spring Equinox on Monday, March 20th in the afternoon. More details coming soon!

The [PTO February Newsletter](#) has sign ups for the Friday activities organized by our amazing parents and PTO members!

🏹 **Archery Club** 🏹: Fridays through March at Wicked Archery in Richfield.

🧗 **Rock Climbing Club** 🧗: Fridays in April at Adventure Rock in Milwaukee.