



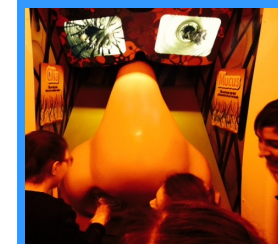
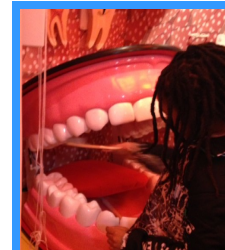
## Rock Brook Family News - April 2015

April was

# Autism Awareness Month

RBS participated in many activities this month.

April 1 – Bubbles 4 Autism, April 2 – World Autism Awareness Day - “Light it up Blue”, April 11 – Educator Appreciation Week Kickoff, April 14 - Trip to Centra State Medical Center, April 17 - Earth Day Movie Outing, April 18 – Parents Night Out, April 21 – Volunteer Shop-Rite Grocery Bagging



### Important Upcoming Dates

#### April

Apr 28 Yearbook Orders Due

#### May

May 6 Early Dismissal - 1:30 pm  
Staff Development

May 6 Sip & Shop J. McLaughlin 3-8:00 pm

May 7&8 Plant Sale

May 8 Mother's Day Tea 1:00-2:00 pm

May 9 LAST PNO - 5:30 - 9:30 pm

May 12 RBS Board Meeting 6:00pm

May 13 Securing an Appropriate IEP 7-9:00 pm

May 15 Arts Council Reception 4:00 - 6:00 pm

May 16 Spring Prom - Dutch Neck Presbyterian Church - 7:00 - 10:00 pm

May 25 RBS Closed - Memorial Day

May 27-28 NJ ASK Grades 4 & 8

May 29 Family Night/Community Open House & Clothing Drive 6:30-9:00 pm



### May is Better Speech and Hearing Month

This annual event provides opportunities to raise awareness about communication disorders and to promote treatment that can improve the quality of life for those who experience problems with speaking, understanding or hearing. We know about this because we work on it every day at RBS. There are other aspects

to consider for all of us such as **prevention of problems** such as **hearing loss**. The four main ways to damage your hearing are the following: **Music** (concerts, gigs, parties, discos, mp3, iPod); **Workplace** (machines, drills, lawnmowers); **Motor Racing** (Car racing, bike racing, drag racing), and **Guns** (hunting shooting, military). Once your hair cells in your inner ear are damaged, they are gone. So think about it.. and use ear plugs...ear muffs...whatever ...[www.earplugstore.com](http://www.earplugstore.com)

**To Celebrate Better Hearing and Speech Month, Rock Brook School will be participating in many fundraising and awareness activities**

### Wednesday, May 6 – Sip & Shop Fundraiser at J. McLaughlin

From 3:00 – 8:00 pm, J. McLaughlin, 17 Witherspoon Street, Princeton, will be holding a Sip & Shop event fundraiser. 15% of sales during the Sip & Shop will be donated to Rock Brook School. Just in time for Mother's Day, pick up that last minute gift or just stop in for some light refreshments and to say hello.

### Saturday, May 9- Parent's Night Out

Join us for our Monthly Parent's Night Out from 5:30 -9:30 pm. Open to the public, parents enjoy an evening out while their children have fun in a structured safe environment. Siblings welcome.

### Wednesday, May 13 - Securing an Appropriate IEP

Join Hillary Freeman, Esq. of Freeman Law Offices, LLC for a presentation. Held at RBS from 7:00 - 9:00 pm.

### Friday, May 15- June 5 – Art Display

The Arts Council of Princeton, 102 Witherspoon Street, Princeton, will display students' artwork from Rock Brook School May 15-June 5 in the Solley Lobby. To kick off the show, RBS will hold an opening reception on Friday, May 15, 4-6 pm. Stop by for some refreshments and to admire our students beautiful art.

### Saturday, May 16– Prom

This special Prom themed evening will be held at the Dutch Neck Presbyterian Church in West Windsor from 7- 10 pm. Open to the public. Siblings welcome.

### Friday, May 29–Family Night/Community Open House & Clothing Drive

**Free** and open to the public, 6:30-9:00 pm, stop by Rock Brook School, 109 Orchard Road, Skillman for light refreshments and fun. Meet the students, staff and families of Rock Brook. Evening will include arts & crafts, Zumba, Kona Ice, DJ, light refreshments and a Bounce House. At 7:00 pm, Montgomery Township Deputy Mayor, Ed Trzaska will read a proclamation celebrating Rock Brook's 40 years of educating children with special needs. Rock Brook will also be holding a clothing drive fundraiser. Bring your gently worn clothes, shoes, linens and apparel and help raise money for our school.

### From the Director

Mary Catterson

### FAMILY NIGHT IS DIFFERENT THIS YEAR.....

Family Night is scheduled for Friday, May 29<sup>th</sup> starting at 6:30 pm. It is going to be different this year. We are adding a Community Open House & Clothing Drive to the evening to celebrate 40 years of educating children with special needs.

Dinner will not be served. There will be a variety of activities and refreshments.

6:30 – 7:00 pm  
Refreshments, Zumba, Bounce House

7:00 – 7:15 pm  
Words from our friends, including Montgomery Township Deputy Mayor Ed Trzaska

7:15 – 8:00 pm  
Classroom Presentations for Families  
Arts & Crafts for Community

8:00 – 9:00 pm  
DJ and Dancing

Please put it on your calendar. We will be asking for RSVPs soon!

Rock Brook School \* 109 Orchard Road \* Skillman, NJ 08558

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Rock Brook is live on facebook!!! Check it out and make sure you like our page.

## RBS School News

mixedbag designs



The orders have been shipped to RBS. As soon as they arrive we will send them home!!!

THANK YOU!!!

### Year End Annual Appeal

Thank **YOU** to all the RBS Families and Friends who have sent in contributions to our canopy bench appeal. We are excited to add these new benches to our Canopy walkway. Rock Brook School is a nonprofit 501c3 organization and donations are tax deductible in accordance with the IRS guidelines. Please continue to send in donations to this great addition.



### TARGET CARD

If you have a Target charge card you can register it to have 1 % of your charges made at Target donated to Rock Brook. Go to the Target Red Card site and find the Benefits Tab. Then enroll in the Take Charge of Education program and select Rock Brook as the recipient. There is no fee to set this up.



Donate your used Printer Ink Cartridges.

Class 7 recycles them for cash. The money is then used to purchase food for local food pantries.

# Yearbook

RBS YEAR BOOK ORDERS

ORDER FORMS ARE DUE ON TUESDAY, APRIL 28th.

The cost is \$35.00.

**Box Tops for Education** - We continue to earn cash for our school with these little pink rectangles. If your child wants to tape or glue them on to a collection sheet at home please check out:

[www.boxtops4education.com/learn/flyers.aspx](http://www.boxtops4education.com/learn/flyers.aspx)

### MOTHER'S DAY

#### Plant Sale -

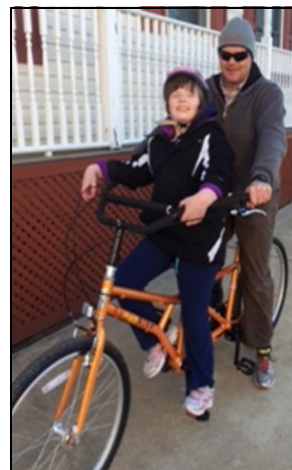
Thank you for your pre-orders!! We have over 400 plants being delivered on Wednesday, May 6th. If you can volunteer to help us sort please let Christy Tracey know. Pre-orders will be available to be picked up on May 7 & 8th. Staff, Students, Bus Drivers and Friends will be able to purchase small flowers and hanging baskets for their loved ones on those days.

#### Mother's Day Tea -

This in-school event will take place on Friday, May 8th between 1:00 - 2:00 pm. Details will be sent home soon.

### BUDDY BIKE WINNER

You may remember the great opportunity to win a Buddy Bike that was emailed to you back in February. One of our RBS students was a LUCKY Raffle winner of a Buddy Bike during that contest. Here are pictures of Bethany enjoying her new bike.



## Speech Department News

### April 2015 Newsletter

### My child gets "Speech"... What does that actually mean?

Speech Language Specialists work on "goals" which are based on the type of communication difficulties your child has. A communication disorder may be evident in one or more of the following areas.

#### Brief Overview

"Speech" encompasses articulation of sounds, fluency, and/or voice.

**Articulation-** production of speech sounds. Difficulties may be in sound substitutions, omissions, additions or distortions.

**Fluency-** flow of speaking. Difficulties may be in rate, rhythm, repetitions of sounds, syllables, words, or phrases.

**Voice-** vocal production. Difficulties may be in vocal quality, pitch, loudness, resonance, and/or duration.

"Language" encompasses an individual's comprehension of spoken (listening and speaking), written (reading and writing) and/or other symbol system (American Sign Language). Language is often classified as expressive (speaking and writing) or receptive (listening and reading). There are five language domains that fall under three areas.

#### Form of language

**Phonology-** the sound system of a language and the rules that govern it.

**Morphology-** the rule system of "morphemes" (*minimal units* of language with meaning). For example, add the morpheme -s to the word "cat" and it changes the meaning of the word (cats).

**Syntax-** the rules that govern *how* words are *combined* to make sentences.

#### Content of language

**Semantics-** word and sentence *meaning*.

#### Function of language

**Pragmatics-** *using* language functionally and socially appropriate.

"Central Auditory Processing" encompasses deficits in a person's ability to process information without having a hearing impairment. (See March 2015 newsletter for more specifics)

Please contact Christy Tracey at Rock Brook with any questions. [christy@rock-brook.org](mailto:christy@rock-brook.org)



Rock Brook now has a Twitter Account. You may follow us at: @RockBrookNJ