



RBS is a Hopewell Harvest Fair Grant Recipient!!

We are very honored to receive a grant from the Hopewell Harvest Fair to purchase the No, Go, Tell Child Abuse Prevention and Education Program for RBS. It has been shown that children who receive Health/Sexual Education, particular those with special needs, are far less likely to be victims of sexual abuse. This program will be used this winter during our Health/Sexual Education classes and on an individual basis. The program will assist in educating our students about their own bodies, and give them skills to protect themselves against potential sexual abuse and harm.

Thank you Hopewell Harvest Fair!



Elise DeMeo, Chairperson, Grants Committee, Mary Hayes, RBS School Counselor, Julie Sansone, Co-Chairperson, Planning Committee



Students and Staff from Classes 4 & 5 Field Trip Day

Students Delivered Santa Mail & Toys for Tots Donations, went Bowling and had a Pizza Lunch. What a great time they all had.

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

Rock Brook Family News - December 2014

Important Upcoming Dates

Dec

Dec 24-31 RBS Closed - Winter Break for All

January

Jan 1-2 RBS Closed - Winter Break for All

Jan 5 School Reconvenes for All - Full Day

Jan 10 Parent's Night Out 5:30-9:30pm

Jan 13 RBS Board Meeting 6:00 pm

Jan 19 RBS Closed - MLK Day

February

Feb 6 In-School Valentine's Day Dance & Activities

Feb 7 Parent's Night Out 5:30-9:30pm

Feb 9-12 Book Fair

Feb 10-12 Parent Conferences & Early Dismissal 1:30 pm

Feb 13-16 RBS Closed - Presidents Day Break

From the Director

Mary Caterson



Just want to wish everyone a Happy Holiday and New Year.

Thanks, Mary



Interesting Research

Classroom Management Plans

Teaching staff that have positive relationships with their students had 31% fewer discipline problems over the course of a school year than teachers who did not have positive relationships with their students (Marzano & Marzano, 2003). Research also consistently demonstrates that students show a clear preference for strong teacher guidance over permissive classroom environments (Wubbles & Brekelman, 2005).

At RBS, the teaching staff establishes expectations for behavior through classroom rules and by routinely communicating these learning goals. They are goals for learning and school tasks as well as expectations for how we treat other people in our classroom and school community. Our students look towards the adults to calmly and consistently respond to all kinds of student needs to promote a positive classroom environment. As our students mature, they become more responsible for monitoring their own behavior and develop skills to reflect on how it affects others.

There are three tiers of Classroom Management. The first is **Preventative Classroom Management** techniques and these include: High Student Engagement, Established Routines and Procedures, Organized Classroom, Clear Communications, and Positive Staff-Student Rapport. The second tier is **First-Line Interventions** which include: Changes to Instruction, Positive Reinforcement Systems or Home-School Communications. The last tier is **Intensive Individualized Interventions** which can include; Self-Monitoring Strategies, Functional Behavior Assessment, Social Skills Instruction or Support Groups.

These different tiers and variety of strategies within each tier daily support our students and develop their classroom but more importantly skills that they will need as adults in their work, play and home communities.

RBS 2014-2015 YEAR BOOK

Rock Brook HS students will be working throughout the year to make a special RBS Yearbook. Using Shutterfly.com they will make a 60 page hard cover book. (Same style as last year) It was a huge success last year and we anticipate the same quality this school year!! The cost for the book will be around \$35. We will send out order forms in the Spring of 2015 but wanted to let you know the approximate cost now.

The Nutcracker came to RBS. We were very fortunate to have 7 girls from the Hamilton Ballet Theatre come to school to give us all a mini version of their recent Nutcracker performance. Speech Language Specialist Maggie Forsyth-Deeds' daughter is part of this very elite group. The girls put on a beautiful show and we are grateful they were able to come to the school.

RBS School News

parentReach

Just as a reminder, we have the **parentReach Emergency Notification Alert System** that will notify you with a phone call when we have a delayed opening or are closed due to inclement weather. On the caller ID it will say Rock Brook. You need to answer and say hello to hear the message. We will also put an updated voice message on the school's main office line and update the Rock Brook website. Miss the call?

parentReach Hotline - Call the Hotline if You Missed a Call or Want to Replay the Latest Message:

1-770-406-5581

RBS Site Identifier: 6896

Smart Lunches at RBS

We did get enough interest to start this great lunch program. We will send details in January with an anticipated start date of February 2015. All students and staff will be welcome to participate, even if you weren't interested before.

Year End Annual Appeal

In the next few days you will be receiving a note regarding our Year End Annual Appeal. This year we have a canopy bench appeal which we hope you'll participate in.

Rock Brook School is a nonprofit 501c3 organization and donations are tax deductible in accordance with the IRS guidelines.



Box Tops for Education

RBS earns 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

Collection sheets are listed on the left side. You can use any one - it doesn't have to be the current season or theme.

Used Printer Ink Cartridges



Donate your used Printer Ink Cartridges. Class 7 recycles them for cash. The money is then used during the Winter Holidays to purchase food and gifts for local food banks and other groups with Holiday Wish Lists.



Target

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.

Electronic Donations

Rock Brook School is looking for donations of working electronic toys and learning devices, for all ages, including brands such as Leap Frog, Fisher Price, Disney, Hasbro and VTech. We are also in need of any Apple products in good condition, such as iPods and iPads, which will be used to set up reading and listening centers.

Please contact Christy Tracey at Rock Brook with any questions. christy@rock-brook.org

Speech Department News



Holiday Help



The holidays are approaching, and few activities are as meaningful to children as holiday traditions. Embedding your child's speech and language goals in enjoyable, real-life tasks is a wonderful way to make the work they are doing in therapy as meaningful as possible. And research has shown that, the more meaningful the activity, the more likely your child's speech and language is to grow from the experience!

Here are some ideas for how to make the most of these meaningful holiday traditions:

- Target sequencing and following directions by having kids help prepare holiday meals
- Target categorization by having children sort holiday gifts
- Target spatial concepts while decorating the house (e.g., put the gifts **under** the tree; put the candle **on** the menorah, etc.)
- Embed articulation targets in fun holiday activities (e.g., target "L" sounds while "Lighting candel**L**s" on the menorah; target consonant clusters while "trimming the tree")
- Reinforce parts of speech (nouns/verbs/adjectives) throughout vacation (e.g., "Look at the pretty, white, cold snow"; "Eat the yummy Christmas cookies").

TECHNOLOGY NEWS

RBS Hour of Code



During the month of December the Rock Brook School joined one of the largest learning events in history: The "**Hour of Code**", during Computer Science Education Week (Dec. 8-14). Last year, 15 million students tried computer science in one week. This year, RBS students joined in an effort to reach 100 million students worldwide!

Our "Hour of Code" is a statement that Rock Brook is ready to teach these foundational 21st century skills. The students enjoyed taking part in the initiative as they learned how to create codes by playing games based on various cartoons, including the "Angry Birds" and the movie Frozen. It was wonderful and exciting to watch the students learn how to make decisions in using digital tools and begin to write lines of code. This allowed them to run and watch the outcomes. I plan to continue bringing computer programming activities to your students. The students will continue to explore the "Hour of Code" as well as additional related programming games. You can check out <http://hourofcode.com/us> for details and specifics to learn more.

Miss Maggie



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