Community Clothing Drive

RBS Family Night - 5/29/15

Local Rodeo 6/6/15

A Celebration of 40 Years!!
6/7/15

Guests at a Concert 6/4/15

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

www.rock-brook.org * Telephone: 908-431-9500 * Fax: 908-431-9503 * info@rock-brook.org

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

Rock Brook Family News - June 2015

Important Upcoming Dates

June

June 12	Father's Day Breakfast & Car Wash 9:00 - 10:00 am	
June 17	Last Day of School Early Dismissal 1:30 pm	
June 18-19	Staff Development	
June 22	Mr. Jerry's Fishing Trip	
June 23	Rain date - Mr. Jerry's Fishing Trip	

· ·

July

July 6	ESY Begins - Regular Day	

August

Aug 14	ESY Ends- Early - Dismissal 1:30 pm	

From the Director
Mary Caterson

"What good is the warmth of summer, without the cold of winter to give it sweetness."
(John Steinbeck)

The school year is just about over... Best wishes to our students and families who are moving on and don't forget to come back to visit! Sweet summer is on its way and we hope that you all have a great one with lots of fun things to do and relaxing times as well. We look forward to the RBS Extended School Year Program with interesting theme weeks, field trips and activities. The pool is reserved and the ice cream truck scheduled, so let the summer fun begin!

YEAR END INFORMATION

LAST DAY OF SCHOOL Wednesday, JUNE 17, 2015

Year End Ceremonies

10:00 am - Classes 2, 3, 4, & 5

10:45 am - Classes 6,7 & HS

EARLY DISMISSAL 1:30 pm

Mr. Jerry's Fishing Trip – Monday, June 22nd

Once again Mr. Jerry is planning a Fishing Trip. This trip is coordinated by Mr. Jerry, but it is not a school trip. Students and a parent or guardian would meet Mr. Jerry on the Norma-K III in Point Pleasant for the day trip. The boat leaves at 2pm and returns around 6:30 pm. You pay at the dock.
Children Under 12 - $25, Adults - $45, Seniors - $40

The planned date is Monday 6/22 with a rain date of Tuesday 6/23.

Please rsvp to Christy Tracey : Christy@rock-brook.org

Extend School Year - ESY

Dates: Monday, July 6 - Friday, August 14

Week 1 - Game Week ~ Week 2 - LEGO/Robotics Week

Week 3 - Food & Cooking Week ~ Week 4 - Sports Week

Week 5 - Magic Week ~ Week 6 - Art & Music Week

Monday - Thursday * 8:30 am - 2:30 pm

Fridays * 8:30 am - 1:30 pm

Please remember that all students and staff will receive a RBS ESY T-Shirt to wear on school trips. They all look the same so please write your child's name inside on the label. We also recommend that you label all clothing, towels and swim accessories to assist the staff on swim days. Thank you!!

We are looking forward to a great summer!!!

Technology Update

The students at Rock Brook have been very busy in Technology this past school year. They have taken part in various digital learning activities, such as exploring "QR" codes, investigating new applications on the iPads and creating their own digital movies on the laptops.

The school took part in the Hour of Code initiative. Additionally, certain classes have continued on with the "Code" curriculum, moving through the exercises on a weekly basis.

We are also taking part in a case study exercise about the computer program "Biteslide". Four of our classes created Biteslide presentations for their Family Night projects. As a part of the case study, we are sharing our insights about the program with the creators…a great way to further explore and access all that digital learning offers our students.

Goals for the 2015 – 2016 school year will continue to target:

- Inquiring with Technologies—Information gathering and literacy
- Experimenting with Technologies—Predicting outcomes
- Designing with Technologies—Creative knowledge construction
- Communicating with Technologies—Meaningful discourse
- Community Building and Collaborating with Technologies—Social interactions and identity building
- Writing with Technologies—Constructing meaningful prose

The aforementioned goals will be addressed with a variety of new and exciting technology lessons and activities, including, but not limited to: word processing skills activities/projects, keyboarding exercises, programming exercises, technology safety lessons as well as learning how to use technology for leisure and enjoyment. Rock Brook values the ideals of Digital Learning and views it as one of the most powerful ways to provide and ensure differentiated instruction to the various learning abilities of our students.
Here a nice explanation of what Digital Learning really means:

Digital Learning is "learning facilitated by technology that gives students some element of control over time, place, path and/or pace."[1]

Time: Learning is no longer restricted to the school day or the school year. The Internet and a proliferation of Internet access devices have given students the ability to learn anytime.

Place: Learning is no longer restricted within the walls of a classroom. The Internet and a proliferation of Internet access devices have given students the ability to learn anywhere and everywhere.

Path: Learning is no longer restricted to the pedagogy used by the teacher. Interactive and adaptive software allows students to learn in their own style, making learning personal and engaging. New learning technologies provide real-time data that gives teachers the information they need to adjust instruction to meet the unique needs of each student.

Pace: Learning is no longer restricted to the pace of an entire classroom of students. Interactive and adaptive software allows students to learn at their own pace, spending more or less time on lessons or subjects to achieve the same level of learning.

Digital learning is more than just providing students with a laptop. Digital learning requires a combination of technology, digital content and instruction.

Technology: Technology is the mechanism that delivers content. It facilitates how students receive content. It includes Internet access and hardware, which can be any Internet access device – from a desktop to a laptop to an iPad to a Smartphone. Technology is the tool, not the instruction.

Digital Content: Digital content is the high quality academic material which is delivered through technology. It is *what* students learn. It ranges from new engaging, interactive and adaptive software to classic literature to video lectures to games. It isn't simply a PDF of text or a PowerPoint presentation.

Instruction: Educators are essential to digital learning. Technology may change the role of the teacher but it will never eliminate the need for a teacher. With digital learning, teachers will be able to provide the personalized guidance and assistance to ensure students learn and stay on track – throughout the year and year after year – to graduate from high school. Teachers may be the guide on the side, not the sage on the stage.

[1] Definition from Digital Learning Now! and the Florida Virtual School. Taken from: http://gosa.georgia.gov/

Speech Department News

AAC Boot Camp for Communication Partners

I CAN communicate, here's how to help me!

Don't do this…	Do this…
Don't expect me to know how to communicate without **SHOWING ME HOW TO FIRST!**	**Do** give MODELS for communication behavior. **SHOW** me what to do BEFORE asking me to do it.
DON'T speak a lot forgetting to let me talk.	**PRESUME MY COMPETENCE. I can do it!**
DON'T prompt me every second. I need time to form my response.	**WAIT** 10-20 seconds prior to re-prompting me. (Count in your head!)
DON'T teach me ONLY to request or communicate my wants & needs. I have a lot of other things to say.	**Do** follow a prompt hierarchy, only going as far as I need. (Begin with a physical model moving towards gestural, & then verbal prompts). Tell me what you heard, then model what I can add.
DON'T take away my device if I'm not cooperating. **That's MY VOICE!**	**Teach** me different language functions: to direct actions, comment, reject, request, ask for help, & more. Besides wants & needs, I need to share my thoughts, worries, & joys. I need to be included in social interactions, make friends, & become literate!
DON'T put words into my system that I won't use again.	**GIVE** me CORE words including verbs, descriptors, & function words…NOT ONLY NOUNS!
DON'T always stop me from "babbling" or exploring my device by pushing buttons.	**DO** give me time to explore my device. I need time to learn!
DON'T keep moving my symbols. I need them to remain in the same spot so I can develop a motor plan.	**PROVIDE** aided language input. POINT to key symbols while talking to me!
DON'T use different symbols/pictures for the same words across page-sets. I **DEPEND** on my symbols/pictures for each word to stay the same throughout my system so I can identify the words.	**DO** give my Speech-Language Therapist the vocabulary to program. Only **ONE** person should be adding words into my system so there is consistancy!
DON'T leave my system in my cubby, on your desk, or in my backpack.	**MAKE SURE** my system is available at ALL TIMES. Keep it close to me so I can easily access it.
DON'T immediately expect me to talk in sentences.	**DO** ASK open-ended questions. **ASK** my Speech-Language Therapist to add words into my system & ask for help with facilitating its use.

Modified from Lauren Enders, MA, CCC-SLP with content by Lauren Enders, Pat Mervine, Melissa Skocypec, & Cathie Van Alstine – January 2014

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