



Rock Brook Family News - March 2015

Important Upcoming Dates

March

Mar 24 mixedbag Fundraiser Ends

April

Apr 2 Grandparent Visiting Day
9:30 - 11:00 AM

Apr 3-10 RBS Closed Spring Break

Apr 13 RBS Reconvenes - Regular Day

Apr 13 Plant Sale Pre-Order Form Due

Apr 18 PNO - Prom 5:30 - 9:30 PM

Apr 23 RBS Picture Day

Apr 28 Yearbook Orders Due

Interesting Product Information

One of our families, the Huguenins, have been researching devices that can help their child self monitor behavior (hand flapping). One resource they came across is a device, called Embrace Watch, which can monitor heart rate, temperature, sweating and motion www.empatica.com. The concept is similar to the Fitbit, a type of pedometer that was a big holiday gift this year. They are also marketing the Embrace Watch for use in detecting seizures which could be very useful for individuals with epilepsy. If you buy one device, they will donate one to someone with epilepsy. It is possible that the new Apple Smartwatch, which is coming out in April, might be able to have an app developed that would also monitor body functions for specific purposes. So this type of technology is definitely growing and its applications will continue to increase.

**PICTURE DAY IS
THURSDAY, APRIL 23**



Pictures will have a white background with a cranberry boarder.

From the Director

Mary Caterson

SAVE THE DATE!

Sunday, 6/7/15 6-9 pm

We are celebrating 40 years of service to our community. Established in 1974 by a speech pathologist with an idea, the school has continued to supports children with communication difficulties and their families. Please come and join us as we taste wine, enjoy music and delicious food, and win at an auction. Hopewell Valley Vineyards in Pennington is a beautiful setting and I hope you all can come.

TESTING - PARCC & DLM

By now you have heard a lot of talk about the mandated state computer based assessment known as the PARCC which replaced the paper/pencil New Jersey ASK. The Alternate Proficiency Assessment (APA) for students with disabilities and which you are more familiar with will be replaced by the computer based assessment known as Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM) and you may recall this from last year's IEP meeting.

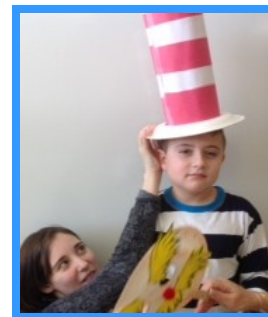
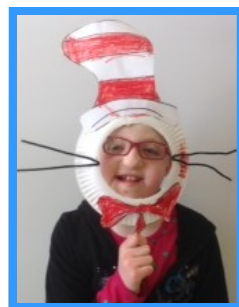
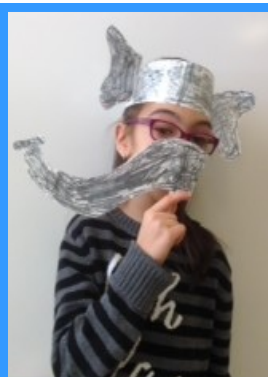
We have begun the PARCC assessment with those students who had been taking the NJASK. A few of the students will be assessed in one subject with the PARCC and the other subject with the DLM, however most will take one or the other depending if they had taken the NJASK or the APA in the past. So far students have been able to complete the initial PARCC test sessions and are prepared for the final assessment of the PARCC at the end of April and will start the DLM April 13-May 15, 2015.

If you have any questions please contact me, Cheryl Ferrigno, at 908-431-9500 or Cheryl@rock-brook.org.

GRANDPARENT VISITING DAY - 4/2/2015 - 9:30 - 11:00 AM

Grandparent Visiting Day is scheduled for Thursday, April 2, 2015. Mary Hayes & Maggie Forsyth-Deeds have planned a fantastic interactive presentation in the Technology Room. Come see how RBS students are using their augmentative devices to communicate and learn socialization skills. Students and Grandparents will be able to work together on their devices as well. It should be a great time for all.

A separate RSVP Form has been sent out.



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.

RBS School News

mixedbag designs



**ORDER FORMS ARE
DUE ON TUESDAY,
MARCH 24, 2015**

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.



Yearbook

RBS YEAR BOOK ORDERS

We will be sending order forms out after Spring Break. They will be due on April 28th. The cost will be \$35.00.



TARGET CARD

THANK YOU to those families who have signed up. In February we received a check in the amount of \$223.29 from 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.

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



Used Printer Ink Cartridges

Donate your used Printer Ink Cartridges. Class 7 recycles them for cash. The money is then used to purchase food for local food pantries.

Mother's Day Plant Sale - PRE-ORDER Form

Pre-Order forms for the Mother's Day Plant sale will be coming home soon.

Turnaround will be short this year with forms being due MONDAY, APRIL, 13th. This is the day we return from Spring Break.

Please share the form with friends and family as well. Pre-orders will be delivered on Wednesday, May 6th. The sale for our students will be held on Thursday, May 7th and Friday, May 8th.



SUNDAY, April 26, 2015 the 9th Annual Run Ramble & Raffle will take place in Skillman Park. This is about 10 minutes from RBS. There is a 5K event and a 1 mile Walk/Ramble. We are having a Rock Brook Team for the Walk/Ramble and we are looking for as many participants as possible. Go to www.RunWithRotary.org to register with the Rock Brook School Team. The fee is \$15.00. It should be fun!

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

Speech Department News

Central Auditory Processing Disorder

Central Auditory Processing Disorder (CAPD), also known as Auditory Processing Disorder (APD) is a learning difference where people have difficulty with listening to and processing spoken language. A person's hearing may be fine, but they have difficulty making sense of what they hear. The brain mis-interprets what is heard; therefore a child's response may seem off target or not what their communication partner expected it to be. The term CAPD or APD refers to how the Central Nervous System processes auditory information. APD is not a result of a higher-order cognitive, language, or related disorder. For example, children diagnosed with autism may have receptive language difficulties due a higher order global disorder, rather than due to a central nervous system processing disorder. Those diagnosed with Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder may have trouble with comprehending and recalling verbalizations. This may be due to difficulty remaining focused and attending, rather than to a neural processing disorder.

CAPD may be suspected by a Speech/Language Specialist, but is diagnosed by a series of tests that are administered by an audiologist, no earlier than the age of 7. An audiologist will first determine if a child's hearing acuity is within normal limits. The audiologist will evaluate a person's ability to understand and recall speech in quiet as compared to the presence of background noise, and how each ear performs when it receives these messages. The ability to decode or understand sounds, combine sounds, listen for a pattern, and determine where a sound is coming from, is assessed.

If a diagnosis of CAPD is made, a Speech/Language Specialist will be helpful in not only providing therapy but also by affording in-class support to the teaching team. A whole class or personal FM system is often beneficial. FM systems allow the child to hear a teacher's voice more clearly and loudly while making background noises less problematic. Rock Brook School uses both personal and whole-class FM systems when appropriate. Strategies that can be employed both in the classroom and at home include the following:

- Have the child sit in the front row or close to the source of the sound
- Reduce background noises when possible. For example turn off the TV or computer when giving directions to your child.
- Always get a child's attention, "eyes on me" when speaking.
- Use visual aides to assist in understanding such as tangible items, gestures, pictures, or printed words.
- Speak slowly and in short phrases rather than using long complicated sentences.
- Have your child repeat the directions you have given. Keep them short and one-step, at least initially. For children that can read, write the directions on paper or use their iPad to record directions in pictures/words.
- Repeat and re-phrase information if the message is mis-understood.
- Teach your child to be a self-advocate!

Please speak to your child's SLS if you have any questions or concerns about this topic!

TECHNOLOGY NEWS

The students have been learning about the importance of calling 911 in the event of an emergency. The lessons have focused on the various types of technology that are available and can be used during an emergency. For example, we have been exploring the differences among wall phones (with cords), cordless phones, and cell phones, etc. Lessons have also reviewed the following concepts: why people call 911, what an emergency is, reasons to call 911, questions the 911 dispatcher will ask, calling 911 by mistake, and more!

At home, please review the types of phones that would be available to your child in the event of an emergency. For example, if your home has a cordless phone, does your child know how to turn the phone on before dialing 911? Or if your home only has a cell phone, does your child know how to turn the phone on and move beyond a pass code? Additionally, if your home has a wall phone, does your child know where it is located? With so many different options in phones today, it is easy to forget what we have in our homes and if everyone knows how to use the phone/s correctly.

For our students with augmentative/alternative communication devices, beyond teaching the concepts of calling 911, we will be investigating the ways their devices can be used to gain access to 911, when appropriate. For students who are verbal but find it difficult to talk on a phone even dialing 911 is an emergency alert action.



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