



Rock Brook Family News - May 2015

Important Upcoming Dates

May

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

June

June 5 Field Day
June 7 Celebration of 40 Years!! 6:00-9:00 pm Hopewell Valley Vineyards
June 9 Board Meeting 6:00 pm
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 Raindate - Mr. Jerry's Fishing Trip

YEAR END INFORMATION

Katie Hardgrove, M. Ed, Rock Brook School Principal

As our year is winding down, we are busy completing end of the year IEP's and progress reports. If you did not have a spring IEP meeting, you will still receive an end of the year progress report. You are invited to schedule a meeting and/or phone conference with your child's teaching team to review the year and their progress.

Additionally, we are excited about our upcoming ESY program which runs from 7/6/15 to 8/14/15. Theme weeks this year include; Game week, LEGO/Robotics Week, Food/Cooking week, Sports Week, Magic Week, and Art/Music week. Activities will include swimming, field trips to Moo Hope ice cream in New Hope, Bounce U, bowling, and our 4th annual Talent Show. Some students will transition to new classrooms for the summer and families will be notified by June 12th.

Please feel free to contact me directly with any questions.

Everything is Unexpected...

The April 2015 American Speech and Hearing (ASAH) Leader Journal reported on studies in cognitive science and neuroscience at MIT. Researchers used a computational model to investigate aspects of autism. The model grouped the various traits of autism as a difficulty in "predictive impairment."

Unpredictability is very strongly associated with anxiety and when individuals experience anxiety, they use strategies to cope such as self-stimulating behaviors (self-talk, hand flapping, etc.) When predictable routines change or unfamiliar figures replace familiar one, anxiety surfaces and tantrums can result. This can explain the insistence on things being the same, sensory hypersensitivities, the perspective-taking (theory of mind)

At Rock Brook School we find many of our students (autistic or not) have difficulties with unexpected events or changes. We try to prepare them for new experiences through verbal rehearsals, social stories, and video experiences. We also teach coping mechanism and strategies for when students are challenged by the unpredictable during the school day. And still there are times that no one can anticipate what will be a difficult moment and so we try to help them out, prompt some solutions, and wait as the student works things out. If you would like more information about this research you can find them at: <http://leader.pubs.asha.org/article.aspx?articleid=2234622&resultClick=3>

Family Night is Friday, May 29th (Dinner will not be served.)

6:30 – 7:00 pm ~ Refreshments, Zumba, Bounce House
7:00 – 7:15 pm ~ Words from our friends, including Mayor Ed Trzaska
7:15 – 8:00 pm ~ Classroom Presentations & Arts & Crafts
8:00 – 9:00 pm ~ DJ and Dancing

RBS is hosting a clothing drive from May 29th - June 10th. Please bring a bag of new or gently used clothing, shoes, Linens or apparel to donate.

May was Better Speech and Hearing Month

RBS participated in many activities this month.

May 6 - Sip & Shop at J. McLaughlin ~ May 8 - Plant Sale ~ May 8 - Mother's Day Tea ~ May 9 - PNO ~
May 12 - Volunteer Shop-Rite Grocery Bagging ~ May 13 - Securing an Appropriate IEP ~
May 14 - June 5 Art Display at The Arts Council of Princeton ~
May 15 - Art Reception at The Arts Council of Princeton ~ May 16 - Prom ~
May 29 - Family Night/Community Open House & Clothing Drive



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

From the Director

Mary Caterson

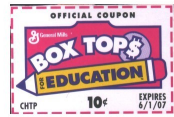
Dear All,

As another school year comes to a close, we reflect and are so proud of our students and their achievements from carrying out Safety Patrol duties independently and responsibly to learning computer programming through Bieslide. I asked students what they learned this year: "be a better friend," "read more," "use my I Pad for talking," and of course..."I don't know!"

We learned that we need to continue to plan and program individually for each student as we promote their personal successes.

Please join us on Sunday, June 7th at the Hopewell Vineyards as we celebrate 40 years of specialized consideration and caring, individualized instruction and therapy, and many personal achievements

RBS School News



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



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.

FATHER'S DAY BREAKFAST & CAR WASH

Friday June 12th ~ 9:00 am - 10:00 am

All Fathers and Male Caregivers of
RBS Students

Come join RBS in Celebration of Father's Day!



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

Details to follow

Plant Sale ~ Thank You



The RBS Plant Sale took place on May 7th and May 8th. Thank you to everyone who ordered, set-up, purchased, and participated in this annual event. **RBS had profits over \$600.** This fund-raising money is very valuable for RBS. We use it to supplement services that are not covered by tuition dollars.



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. You pay at the dock.

The planned date is Monday 6/22 with a rain date of Tuesday, 6/23. **We will send out details in June.**

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

Speech Department News

May is Better Hearing and Speech Month!



BHSM brings communication disorders to the forefront and provides the perfect opportunity to raise awareness of these impairments. Development of communication skills, including speech, language, and hearing, is vital to child development. Now is the time to recommit to healthy communication habits! But what ARE "healthy communication habits?"

- Adequate **hearing** status is important for acquisition of speech sounds and language skills. Without being able to properly hear the words spoken around them, children can experience difficulty with the accuracy and precision of speech sound production. Comprehension and production of language depends on a person's ability to hear and interpret what they hear. Regular hearing screenings may help detect hearing difficulties early on!
- Effective **speech** production, such as articulation, fluency, and voice, is necessary for the production of intelligible speech. When speech is unclear, too rapid, or produced at an inappropriate volume, it can be difficult for listeners to understand and communication breakdowns may occur.
- Strong **language** skills are the key to effective communication. Individuals with poor hearing or speech skills are often mistaken for having poor language skills as well. A total communication approach, using signed speech, augmentative communication, and verbal skills, can help these individuals access rich language! As Rosemary Crossely said: Not being able to speak is not the same as not having anything to say!

Join in celebrating communication during Better Hearing and Speech Month! For more information, visit the American Speech-language and Hearing Association (ASHA) website at www.ASHA.org/BHSM

ESY T-Shirts



Attending students, staff and volunteers will receive one complimentary 2015 RBS Summer T-shirt to wear on trip days. If you want more than one RBS Summer T-shirt for your child (or yourself) they are available to purchase. The cost is \$10. A form was sent home with sizes and details. Orders are due 6/3. Please contact Christy Tracey at christy@rock-brook.org.



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