

May Friendly Faces



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Rock Brook Family News MAY 2016

Individualized Programs ~ Personal Success

Contributed by Mary Caterson

Important Upcoming Dates May 2016

- May 20 Family Night/Community Open House 5:30 - 9:00 pm
- May 27-30 RBS CLOSED - Memorial Day Weekend

June 2016

- June 3 Field Day - In School Activity
- June 17 Father's Day Breakfast 9:00 - 10:00 am
- June 21 Last Day of School Early Dismissal 1:30 pm
- June 22-23 Staff Development

July 2016

- July 5 ESY Begins

MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND



RBS CLOSED
May 27 - May 30th

From the Director Mary Caterson

Dear Parents,

This past month has been full of IEP Meetings and testing, Community trips, and special events such as the Plant Sale, Mother's Day Tea, Staff Appreciation Week and we look forward to Family Night on Friday. It has been a busy time for all of us! Enjoy the long Memorial Day weekend with family and friends as we look forward to summer...."Keep Calm... Summer is coming"

Mary

**JOIN RBS FOR ITS 2ND ANNUAL
FAMILY NIGHT/ COMMUNITY
OPEN HOUSE**

**FRIDAY, MAY 20, 2016
5:30 - 9:00 PM**



The Loving Push

I am reading the book, *The Loving Push* by Temple Grandin, Ph.D. and Debra Moore, Ph.D. They dedicate the book to their mothers..." who invariably provided loving pushes, some appreciated at the time, others not so much. In retrospect, we are extremely grateful."

They wrote the book because they were seeing more instances where fully verbal older children and young adults with ASD (autistic spectrum disorder) are not learning crucial basic skills for socializing and employment. We see this with students with all types of challenges not just ASD. Parents, teachers and therapists of all kinds need to recognize the danger zones and promote the skills needed for independent, satisfying adult lives after school ends.

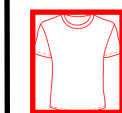
Temple Grandin describes what she sees as four area of change happening in our families, schools and the world of technology.

- Youth are overprotected and not giving enough opportunities to learn how to do things on their own.
- The educational system does not offer enough opportunities to experience hands-on classes such as art, music, cooking, theatre, sewing, woodworking, electrical repair, car repair and other careers including computer programming.
- Too many students are graduating from high school without having learned basic life skills they need as a young adult such as navigating public transportation, being on time, having good social manners, maintaining basic hygiene, seeing tasks through to their end, and being able to receive feedback appropriately.
- Excessive video game playing and addiction to computers has derailed many a kid.

Since we have started our high school program, we have become more aware of what we need to work on to help our students **utilize the skills they have to function independently and to develop the skills needed that we haven't addressed.** It is a home and school challenge. The book is full of real stories of men and women ages 18 to 57 and the details of their journey. *Get this book or borrow it from me!*

Contributed by Katie Hardgrove

SUMMER TIME!! We will still continue with our community trips and themes during the 2016 ESY program, but we are also planning some exciting intensive initiatives for the 6 weeks which will include specialty clubs targeting speech and language, executive function, social communication, and reading. Look for more details to come....



ESY T-Shirts - Attending students, staff and volunteers will receive one complimentary 2016 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 will be available to purchase. Details with sizes and cost will be sent home after Memorial Day. Also, if your child has outgrown their shirt (s) from previous years we will gladly take it back. We use them as "back-up" on trip days. Please send them into Christy Tracey.

**Please join us for the 2nd Annual
Rock Brook School Celebration
An Evening of Creative Expression**
Sunday, June 5, 2016
4:00 ~ 8:00 pm
The Lodge at Montgomery
(Donors for the Auction as of 5/19)



[Click Here for: Online Registration Page](#)

Alstede Farms	Sports Collectibles	McCarter Theatre	Seasons 52	Wegmans	Rangers Hockey
Brick Farms Tavern	GNC	Moe's SW Grill	Somerset Patriots	QVC	Bounce U
Bark N Bubbles	Hampton Inn	Peters Valley	Target	Winberries	Hair Plus WW
Clydz	iPlay	Princeton Center for Yoga	Stop & Shop	Pinot's Palate	Bobs Furniture
Confectionaly Yours	Jenkinson's	Dusal's	Supercuts	Bertucci's	Salt Creek Grille
Princeton University Dept. of Athletics	David Bradley Chocolatier	Rebarber Family Chiropractic	Butterfly Facial	Trans-Siberian Orchestra	Andy Schmitt Photography
Tastee Sub Shop	Kelsey Theatre	RVCC Planetarium	NJ Nero Feedback	Jumping Jungle	Dr. Dawn Forbes
Tigers Tale	Von Thun Farms	Flyers Hockey	JerZJump	The Max	Garden State Discovery Museum
Thirty-one bags	Stef Curry BB Youth XL Jersey	Odel Beckham Jr. FB Adult L Jersey	Liberty Science Center		

Guest Feature Article by RBS student Larry

On April 14th we had Grandparents Day. A lot of Grandparents came to Rock Brook School. Class 6 made Kahoot! Other classes did other activities. The grandparents enjoyed their loved ones. It was a fun day.

**Father's Day Breakfast & Car Wash
June 17, 2016**



**All Fathers and Male Caregivers
invited from 9 - 10 am for a car wash
& breakfast Celebration.
Details in June.**

Mother's Day Plant Sale

Thank you to parent volunteers Lisa H., Cecilia R. & Darlene A. for helping us sort the hundreds of plants pre-ordered. Thank you to Darius and Dominick from the HS Class for arranging the plants for the kids sale. We do have a few plants left which we will have for sale on Friday at the evening Community Open House.

SAVE THE DATE

Mr. Jerry's Fishing Trip - Monday, June 27nd



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 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 6/27 with a rain date of Tuesday, 6/28. **We will send out details in June.**



June 21, 2016 LAST DAY of School ~ EARLY DISMISSAL ~ 1:30 pm

We will be having Year End Ceremonies on the 21st in the morning. Parents and Families are welcome to attend. (Times are being determined.)



Hello RBS Families!

During May, the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) celebrates Better Hearing & Speech Month. Better Hearing & Speech Month provides an opportunity to raise awareness about communication disorders.

Given that, I want to take this opportunity to remind you of the important roles that verbal communication and personal interaction—free from technology distractions—play in children's academic and social development.

Kids today are using devices for hours every day—time that once was reserved for talking and reading, interactive and imaginative play, outdoor experiences, and other activities. Yet, the primary way young children develop their speech and language abilities is through verbal exchange—talking and reading with parents. This is a precursor for their own reading abilities and overall academic success. Children also learn from hands-on experiences. Educational apps can play a part, but they are in no way a replacement for what is learned through person-to-person communication. As we head into the summer months, when children no doubt will have more time to use devices, consider carving out some device-free time each day. You may be surprised by how little they (and you) miss it!

Another pressing issue related to technology use is hearing damage. Unfortunately, there has been a significant spike in hearing loss in young people in recent years. This coincides with the rise in popularity of mp3 players, tablets, and other devices. Please encourage your kids to keep the volume on their devices to half level and to take listening breaks. Hearing loss due to unsafe listening habits can be prevented, but once it occurs, it is irreversible. Teach (and model yourself) these good habits early!

For more information regarding Better Hearing & Speech Month, please visit www.asha.org/bhsm/.



Montgomery Rodeo ~ June 11, 2016 ~ 11:00 am

The Montgomery Rodeo is located at Daube Farm, 262 Sunset Road, Skillman, NJ 08558. They are once again inviting Rock Brook Students and their families to their Special Needs Rodeo Performance on Saturday, June

11th at 11:00 am. Admission to this event is free but you must get an invitation. Please email specialneedsrodeo@montgomeryrodeo.com to receive yours!!! To learn more about this event visit their website: <http://montgomeryrodeo.com/special-needs-rodeo.html>



THANKS.... For a GREAT Staff Appreciation Week

May 2nd to May 6th was the RBS Staff Appreciation Week. We received so many fantastic things from our students and their families. The snacks, fruits, drinks & treats were abounding, the flowers bright & cheery, the notes were heart warming and the pictures were spectacular. We are fortunate for your support in and out of the classroom.