



Halloween at RBS ~ 10/31/14



Holiday Sale ~ 11/7/14

Thank you to the Henkel Family and their GS Troop for hosting this fabulous event. For the past several years they have arrived with a variety of gifts, wrapping paper and "elves" to wrap all of our student's purchases. The students love being able to purchase and surprise their family members with special Holiday gifts. What a fun day it was!!!

Sibling Day at RBS ~ 11/6/14



Monday Morning Music

Our fabulous student DJ will be playing music every Monday morning as we arrive at RBS. It makes for a great time to dance with friends and staff!!



Rock Brook Family News - November 2014

Important Upcoming Dates

November

Nov 26 Early Dismissal for All 1:30 pm
Nov 27-28 RBS Closed - Thanksgiving Holiday

December

Dec 6 Parent's Night Out 5:30-9:30pm
Dec 12 Early Dismissal 1:30 pm for STUDENTS
Staff Development
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
Jan 19 RBS Closed - MLK Day

Interesting Research

An article recently in the Applied Science section of the NY Times reported about a study from the journal Psychological Science that finds a person's ability to self regulate declines as the day wears on. If you are "cognitively tired" you may make poor decisions such as cheating, lying, or committing fraud. Experiments showed that taxing the part of the Brain responsible for "executive control" can impact decision making. The researchers were working with adult subjects and thinking of business models but this made me think of our students. Some have great mornings and much of our focused work is in the morning when we get the best effort and results. Other students have a slow wake up time and do better as the morning progresses and into the afternoon. Think about it!

<http://www.nytimes.com/2014/11/02/business/that-devil-on-your-shoulder-likes-to-sleep-in.html? r=0>



From the Director

Mary Caterson

As I write this I am onsite with our high school students at their office job site. They walked confidently into the office building, greeting staff and responsibly settled into their tasks. They are focused and getting the jobs done. I am impressed and proud. I thank them for their work and for representing Rock Brook well.

Violence and Vandalism Week



During the week of October 20-24th, School Counselor, Mary Hayes, organized activities for the school. Students were given the opportunity to wear special articles of clothing and make art projects to help relate to the topic of the day. We were very fortunate to have Officer Josiah (Joe) Sulouff come to RBS on Thursday, October 23. Officer Joe discussed what a bully is and what to do if you feel you are being bullied. Please spend some time talking to your child about the activities that they participated in. They really seemed to enjoy them and were able to make some good decisions on how they would handle some difficult situations. If you would like some additional information please contact Mary Hayes for assistance.

SMART LUNCH— RBS has looked into a lunch program called Smart Lunch. This service delivers lunches to schools which don't have a cafeteria. <http://www.smartlunches.com/> In order for RBS to offer this to our students and staff we would need at least 10 orders. It costs about \$6.00 for each meal. We are asking you to take a look at the website and let Christy Tracey know if this is a service that you would be interested in by 11/26. Thank you.

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

ASAH Conference - Friday, November 14

ASAH is a not-for-profit organization of private schools and agencies in New Jersey which provide highly specialized services to more than 11,000 infants, children and young adults with disabilities. Founded in 1974, ASAH now serves more than 145 schools and agencies throughout the state. Their Annual Conference was held on Friday, November 14th in Atlantic City. We were very excited that we had three Rock Brook staff members lead workshops at this event.

Mary Hayes, School Counselor presented with Elizabeth Casparian, of HiTOPS. Their workshop was on **Sexual Health for Special Needs Youth**. Information about typical sexual development and characteristics of sexually healthy adolescents and adults was shared as well as strategies and materials that best support parents and school personnel in addressing sexuality in special needs populations. This workshop addressed the need for inclusive, medically accurate and non-judgmental information about sexuality for individuals with special needs.

Liz Varall and Susan Campos, Speech Language Specialists hosted a workshop on **Participation Plans - A Model for Implementing Assistive Technology in the Classroom**. In this workshop, the document with specific examples of its usage and benefits was presented. Emphasis was placed upon the trans-disciplinary benefits of the Participation Plan, as its creation and maintenance relies heavily upon collaborative team approach of instruction.

Parent Involvement / Support at Rock Brook School



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 a 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

November is always a very special time of year. No matter how busy we are we take time to stop and be with friends and family for Thanksgiving. For our students, family is everything! At Thanksgiving time, families have the opportunity to make traditions and do fun things together that are so important for strengthening bonds between parents, children and grandchildren. We all enjoy routines and memorable events. For our students, rituals and routines become especially important!

Think about what you enjoy doing with your children at Thanksgiving and during the month of November. If you always make certain foods for the holiday, include your children in the preparation. For children who read, they can help tell you what is next in the recipe or what else needs to be purchased when shopping with you at the grocery store. For non-readers, you can make a word document shopping list or recipe with clipart images for your child to "read." Augmentative communication devices can be programmed to have the desired items listed and catch phrases such as "We need..." "Let's get..." or "Next add..." can be used before selecting a food item when shopping or making the recipe. AAC devices can be taken to the grocery store. Students learn that their device is their voice and that it can be used in all areas of their lives. It is powerful for children to be able to order what they want at a fast food restaurant all by themselves! These events build memories that they can talk about later.

Remember to take photos of special family events and family members. The whole family will enjoy sitting down together and looking at the pictures from time to time. Encourage your child to tell about what he likes to do with Grandma, Uncle Pete, or Cousin Sam. Help them to express feelings about events. "It was fun playing Uno with Pop-Pop on Saturday. I won!"

November and Thanksgiving are truly a special time of year. Thank you so much for all you do for your families. We are thankful for having the privilege of being a part of your lives and for sharing the wonder of your son and daughter with us every day at school!



TECHNOLOGY NEWS



Students in Classes 5, 6 and 7 have been exploring the world of animation through the online game "Animate" on the www.abcya.com website. The "Animate" game is a fun and engaging way for kids to plan and create animations on the web. The new version features a colorful and intuitive interface, 100 frames, grouping, arranging and over 100 images. In addition to refining mouse skills, the students were challenged with the task of randomly selecting "setting", "characters" and "plot" cards to guide their creations. The RBS students were very successful in creating some unique and exciting animations, including "Alien Invasions" and "Flights around the playground" to name a few! Your kids can continue the fun at home simply by visiting the website and searching the word "animate" in the search bar. Have fun creating!



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