

## Halloween and Sibling Day at RBS



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## Rock Brook Family News - November 2016

By Katie Hardgrove, Rock Brook School Principal

### Important Upcoming Dates



#### November

Nov 23 Early Dismissal for All 1:30 pm

Nov 24-25 RBS Closed - Thanksgiving Holiday

#### December

Dec 3 PNO 5:30 - 9:30 pm

Dec 9 Early Dismissal for Students 1:30 pm  
Staff Development

Dec 23 Early Dismissal for All 1:30 pm  
Winter Break

Dec 26-30 RBS Closed - Winter Break

#### January 2017

Jan 2 RBS Closed - Winter Break

### Program Update:

Our new music teacher, Madeline Zacharkow, a.k.a Miss Maddy started on Friday, October 7<sup>th</sup> and the students and staff are enjoying her classes. She brings great energy and enthusiasm to our school on Friday's! In addition to the whole class lessons that she is instructing, she also provides small group and individual music instruction to students during our Clubs period.

Here is a great picture of Miss Maddy instructing a student on how to play the keyboard.



### Continuing Education/ Training:

Our Speech-Language Specialists attended the Annual American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) Convention November 17-19, in Philadelphia.

The convention provides them the opportunity to learn about the latest research, polish clinical skills, improve techniques, and gain new tools and resources to advance professional development.

Additionally, I had the opportunity to travel to Massachusetts for two days of advanced training in Safety-Care at the QBS training facility. Safety-Care is the program we use here to provide staff with the skills to confidently, safely, humanely, and respectfully enhance the lives of children and adolescents who sometimes exhibit challenging behaviors.

Staff members are taught to intervene professionally and therapeutically, using a safe, straightforward, effective approach designed to prevent or reverse escalation. Safety-Care appropriately balances immediate crisis intervention and longer-term safety goals.

The advanced training included additional skills and strategies such as creating safety plans, managing student behaviors on vehicles, and specific techniques for working with children in preschool through grade 8.

The staff will be trained in these techniques in the upcoming weeks.

From the Director, Mary Caterson

Happy Thanksgiving Everyone!

Gratitude is a feeling of happiness that comes from appreciation. We are thankful for so much; family, friends, our health and for each of us so much more that is so personal. Best wishes for a wonderful holiday and a huge helping of gratitude along with all that turkey and pumpkin pie!

IT IS NOT HAPPY  
PEOPLE WHO ARE  
THANKFUL. IT IS  
THANKFUL  
PEOPLE WHO ARE  
HAPPY.



## Parent Communication / Involvement / Support at RBS

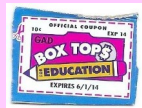
### Parent Conferences/ Progress Reports

Thank you to all the parents who attended the recent parent/team conferences. As we have been transitioning to a new IEP program, the progress reports have also changed. The reports continue to measure the students' progress towards their specific goals and objectives. We hope the classroom teams had the opportunity to review those with you and please feel free to follow-up with them if you have any additional questions.

**Scholastic Book Fair** Thank you for purchasing books from the recent Scholastic Book Fair. With the profits we were able to get the remaining Classroom Wish List Books.



### Box Tops for Education



**THANK YOU** for sending in the box tops to RBS last month. Thank you to our parent helpers who checked, sorted and counted all of those little tiny pink squares. RBS will receive a check for almost \$100 for your donations!!!



### Used Printer Ink Cartridges

Please donate your empty printer ink cartridges. The cartridges get recycled for cash and then the money is used to purchase food and gifts for the local food bank.

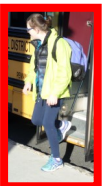
### Holiday Sale ~ 11/11/16 ~ GS Troop visits RBS



**mixedbag designs** - Thank you all for the orders for the RBS Fundraiser that we had this past month. We had lots of orders that are anticipated to arrive when we return from the Thanksgiving Holiday. With all of the sales that were sent in by our RBS Families and the online orders we anticipate to have a profit of \$1300. That is very useful for our school. **THANK YOU!!!**

### *On the Road Again .....*

*Look for the Annual 2016-2017 Fundraising appeal. We will be mailing the information out to our RBS friends and families after the Thanksgiving Holiday. Please help RBS continue to provide our students with opportunities in the community.*



### Casey's Corner - by RBS Student Casey

I'd like to tell you about a really fun place to go and take your kids on weekends. It's called Sahara Sam's Oasis. Sahara Sam's is an awesome water park!

I would suggest trying the Flow Rider. It is an exciting surfing simulator for all ages. It was my favorite! They also have thirteen other water attractions including a lazy river and obstacle course. In addition, they have an arcade and great food. It felt like paradise spending the day there! Another reason I think it is cool is that they even have a heated pool! Therefore, Sahara Sam's is a great place to go. If you are curious here is the address and phone number: Sahara Sam's Oasis, 535 North Rt 73, West Berlin, NJ 08091 856-767-7580

### Guest Feature Article - by RBS student Larry

On October 28<sup>th</sup> Rock Brook had trunk or treat. The whole school was dressed up in costumes. The students went to every car trunk and got candy. It was a fun day. The dance happened inside the lunch room. Everyone ate snacks and drank water and juice. The costumes that the students and teachers wore included The Peanuts Gang, Beanie Babies, Master-Chief, an Egg, Sonic The Hedgehog, Darth Vader and Many Other. It was a wonderful Halloween.

## Speech Corner - By Catherine, Speech Student/Class 4

### How to communicate with your child using AAC

Augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) is a means by which some of our students express their thoughts, wants, or needs to support their verbal speech. AAC refers to any mode of communication, other than verbal speech, that is used to exchange information. It ranges from basic facial expressions, gestures, and sign language to more high-tech, electronic methods, such as iPads with communication software. Frequently, a combination of the above methods is used to support both language comprehension and production. The goal of AAC is to provide students who have limited verbal speech with a means to interact with others and express their wants and needs.

Despite familiarity with the definition of AAC and your child's device, incorporating it into your child's daily life may seem like a daunting task. However, research has shown that family involvement often plays a pivotal role in a child's success in learning and using his/her AAC device. Thus, seizing opportunities for your child to use his/her AAC at home and in the community can make a big difference! One way to do this is to model use of the AAC during routine or motivating activities. Begin by getting your child's attention. Next, pair a verbal message with selected icons on the AAC. Then ask your child a question so that he/she can respond with the message modeled on the AAC. For example, if you know your child wants to go outside to play, you can target the phrase "go out." First, get his/her attention. Next, select "Go" and "Out" on his/her device and say "I want to go out." Then ask, "Do you want to go out?" so that your child has the opportunity to select "go" or "out" on the AAC. This reinforces the use of the AAC as a way to communicate in a natural environment with positive reinforcement – getting to play outside!

This method of modeling is referred to as "Aided Language Stimulation." For more tips, search "Aided Language Stimulation." You can also make an appointment with Maggie for more strategies that are individualized to your child's particular AAC system and communication needs. ([Maggie@rock-brook.org](mailto:Maggie@rock-brook.org))

### ASHA Conference, Philadelphia, PA - November 19, 2016



Mariya, Liz, Jamie (Former RBS Teacher now a Speech Graduate School Student), Mary, Maggie

RBS Speech Staff visited Jamie Rosenstein's Poster Session at the ASHA conference. Jamie taught at RBS and is in graduate school at Monmouth University to become an SLP. Her research presented in poster session was titled: "Increasing Communication & Participation Through Social Media Using AAC for Persons with ALS: A Review".

Congratulations to Jamie!