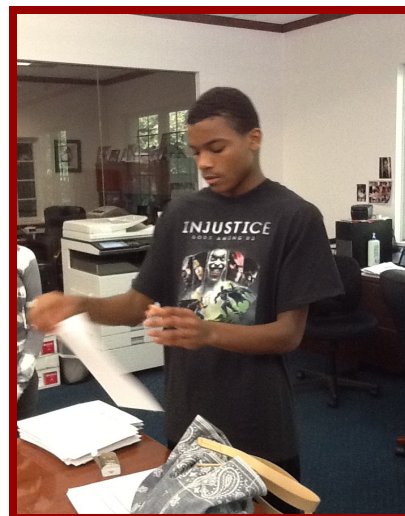
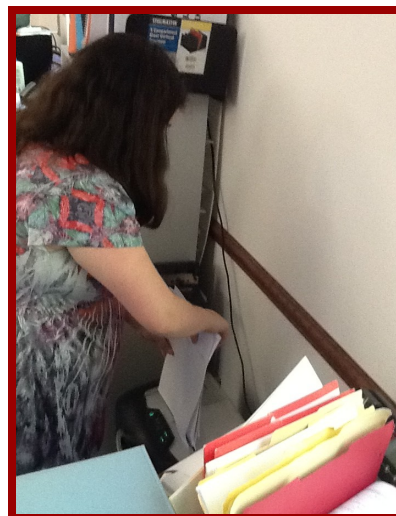
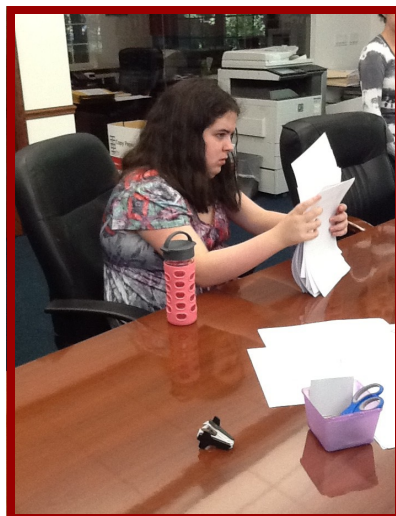




Rock Brook HS Students at Work



The Rock Brook High School program is up and running! The students are learning to navigate community resources such as the Laundromat, restaurants, and the grocery store. Each week they do laundry for the school nurse, place orders at a restaurant for staff, and buy their groceries at Shop Rite in order to make snack and lunch for themselves each day at school.

The students are also getting their first taste of having a job. We are very grateful to the owner and staff of Pediatric and Adult Rehabilitation Center in Somerset for allowing our students to work in their office doing scanning, shredding, and cleaning. We look forward to making more connections in the community!

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 Family News - OCTOBER 2014

Important Upcoming Dates

October

Oct 31 Halloween - In-School Activities
Beginning at 1:00 pm

November

Nov 1 Parent's Night Out 5:30-9:30pm

Nov 6 Sibling Visit Day 10-11 am

Nov 11 RBS Board Meeting 6:00 pm

Nov 17-19 Parent Conferences
Early Dismissal for
Students 1:30 pm

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 for STUDENTS

Dec 24-31 RBS Closed Winter Break

January

Jan 1-2 RBS Closed Winter Break

Jan 5 School Reconvenes for All

From the Director

Mary Caterson

LDANJ Conference

I just attended the Learning Disabilities Association of New Jersey Conference on October 19th at Rutgers University. The keynote speaker was Peggy McDonald, Director Office of Special Education, NJ Department of Education. Peggy highlighted the long range goals of the department. Among other items, she emphasized Results Driven Accountability (RDA). Our outcomes for our students need to be transparent, understandable with input from everyone. To me, this challenges all of us to be focused on the individual needs of our students and provide support and interventions where we can have the greatest impact. RDA wants us to take stock regularly of how we are doing and keep focused on achievable goals.

Mary

Interesting Research

Language Breakdown of ASD and SLI

John Gabriel, a cognitive neuroscience researcher at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, has a 5 year NIH grant to study the language difficulties of children with Specific Language Impairment (SLI) and Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD). Both groups of kids share difficulties with language learning and Gabriel and his colleagues are conducting functional magnetic resonance imaging on the brains of these language challenged students as well as typical peers. They hope to quantify the differences in the way children with SLI and ASH process language which would mean more focused strategies for early intervention for both groups.



Sports – Fitness, Fun and Friends!

We recommend sports and recreational programs for our students to provide opportunities outside of school. Playing on a team, or participating in individual events such as swimming or bicycling as part of a group develop collaborative and shared goals skills and experiences. Through practice and achievements of common goals, friendships are formed. Physical activity benefits health, mental well-being and some studies also document increased attention span following physical activity breaks. Several of our RBS students and graduates are active bikers, swimmers and basketball players.

Several of our students participate in the many programs available – all kinds of Special Olympic Sports, special sports activities through various Y programs and community based Buddy Ball activities. It is not so much the athletic ability, as the motivation to participate, do something different and make new friends. Many of our Interact volunteers from Montgomery High School participate in Special Olympic activities so our RBS kids see them in different settings which helps to develop relationships.

The Special Olympics organization is also sponsoring Unified Sports teams which are made up of athletes of similar age and ability, both with and without disabilities (referred to by Special Olympics as unified partners). In New Jersey, several colleges such as Rowan, Rider, Stockton, Gloucester County, Drew and more have unified teams that function as intramural teams. Interest is growing and it is hoped that a dozen colleges will have a Unified Team in 2015.

“Friendships last after you get off the court...”



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

Parent Involvement / Support at Rock Brook School.



Fall Plant Sale

Thank You to all the families who ordered from this new fundraiser. Unfortunately many of the larger items were sold out before RBS even placed our order. Next Fall we will try to order earlier!!! We raised almost \$100 from this Sale.

HALLOWEEN AT RBS

We will be having a parade and visiting trunk or treat cars at 1pm on Friday, 10/31. This will be followed by a in school dance with treats.

PLEASE SIGN UP VIA THE EMAIL YOU RECEIVED FROM SIGNUPGENIUS.



If you have any questions please contact Christy Tracey at christy@rock-brook.org



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.



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 are no fees to set this up.

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.



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

Trick or Treat!

Halloween and Trick-or-Treating with a child with special needs
It's that time of the year again! Halloween excitement is in the air. Children get to dress up as their favorite character and collect treats with friends. For kids with special needs Halloween can present certain challenges. Here are tips for making trick-or-treating an enjoyable experience for both you and your child!

- **Kids Who Can't Speak Can Still Ask for Candy-** If your child uses augmentative communication, get the "trick or treat" message out this Halloween using high-tech (iPad, dynavox) or low-tech (cards or a sign) devices. Get creative and decorate a spooky Trick or Treat sign with your child!
- **Sensory Issues-** your child may reject a costume that is scratchy, too tight, too loose, or just doesn't feel right. Create a costume out of comfortable, familiar clothing. Your child's favorite black sweat pants and t-shirt morph into a skeleton when you add white tape "bones." A soft and loved hooded sweatshirt can be decorated as a dog, cat, bunny or devil with felt or construction paper. Your child's costume may be as simple as a hat or as complex as their imagination -- and yours -- allows.
- **Scary costumes and tons of noise are frightening-** If the noise and commotion bother, stay home and give out treats. Play a game of "guess what costume will come to the door next" to make the unexpected less scary.
- **Food Allergies-** If your child has food allergies consider bringing highly preferred items that can be substituted for the candy they chose. You may also want to give neighbors safe Halloween treats in advance to hand out to your child.
- **Practice makes perfect-** role-play, have your child practice ringing the doorbell, saying "trick-or-treat" and "thank you" after choosing a treat.
- **Read a social story for trick-or-treating:** <http://chitchatandsmalltalk.blogspot.com/2012/10/trick-or-treating-social-story.html>

TECHNOLOGY NEWS



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

elph - easy lookup to phone home

Because parents know best!



We recently received some information about a new product that you may be interested in. elph - is a silicone wristband designed for individuals with special needs. It provides an immediate, visible form of identification with instructions on the band. If a loved one is lost a good Samaritan can call the toll free number or scan the QR code on the bracelet. www.elphband.com