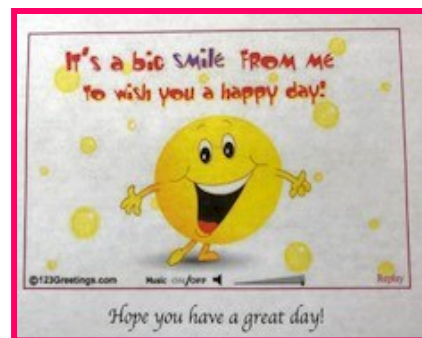




## Pictures from the Week of Respect & School Violence & Vandalism Awareness Week 2017



Spread kindness  
to one person a day.



Stuffed Animal



Favorite Blanket

### Staff and Random Act of Kindness.....

School Counselor Ms. G coordinated an activity for staff this month as well. Participants were given a name and all you needed to do is perform two acts of kindness for that person in a two week span. A note, a flower, a smile..... it is amazing to see what a small gesture can do to brighten up someone's day.



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 2017

### Important Upcoming Dates

#### OCTOBER 2017

27 RBS Halloween Celebration 1-2:30 pm

31 Halloween

#### November 2017

3 mixedbag Sale ENDS

5 Daylight Savings Time Ends

9 Sibling Day 10-11 am

10 Holiday Sale - In School

13-17 Book Fair

14 RBS Board Meeting 6 pm

16 **Early Dismissal 2 pm \***  
Parent Conferences  
Evening Parent Conf.

17 **Early Dismissal 2 pm \***  
Parent Conferences

22 **Early Dismissal 2 pm \***

23-24 **RBS Closed for ALL**  
Thanksgiving Break

### From the Director Mary Caterson

At least eight of the individuals out of the 58 people who died in Las Vegas were educators. It was the deadliest mass shooting in modern U.S. history. I can't imagine coming into work and having to explain to the kids that one of their teachers was shot dead at a *music festival*... Education Week honored them on the [Teacher's Teaching Now blog](#) and we do as well.

Jennifer Parks, Kindergarten  
Sandy Casey, Special Education  
Kelsey Meadows, Substitute  
Lisa Muniz, Discipline Secretary  
Susan Smith, Office Manager  
Bill Wolfe, Coach  
Tara Roe, Teacher Assistant  
Jessica Klymchuk, Teacher Assistant

Mary

### By Mary Caterson, Rock Brook School Director

Many thanks to Ira Fingles, from Hinkle, Fingles, Prior & Fischer, who came to RBS last Thursday night. He spoke to us about special education law and specifically about the recent Supreme Court ruling regarding the SCOTUS Endrew F. case. Ira reminded us that the **goal of education for all children is to be able to generalize skills in the home and community.** The areas that all students are preparing for are to be **good citizens**; be **employed**; pursue **further education** and achieve **independent living.** For kids with IEPs the discussion is about the concepts of "appropriate" and "progress". In the past, an IEP was appropriate if it "sets out an education program that is reasonably calculated to enable the child to receive educational benefits". Many Federal Circuit Courts have ruled that these benefits only have to be "something more than trivial or de minimis" benefits. The Circuit Court for New Jersey and Pennsylvania have ruled that a student is entitled to a "meaningful" educational benefit, which is a higher standard than "something more than trivial." The Supreme Court's ruling rejects the "some benefit" concept and ruled that a program must "be reasonably calculated to enable a child to make progress in light of the child's circumstances." It challenges all of us to continue to assess a student's skill level and ability, and to continue to expect our students to be good citizens, be employed, seek further education, and live independently.

### By Katie Hardgrove, Rock Brook School Principal

To continue providing high quality programming for your students, our staff participate in continuing education courses and professional development. As a school, we have a Professional Development Plan (PDP) and each staff member also creates their own. Staff are also observed throughout the school year.

During our recent staff development day, topics included dyslexia and other reading disabilities and the use of multisensory approaches to provide direct instruction. We also reviewed assessments, data, and how we document evidence of learning. We also spent time reviewing state required topics such as alcohol, tobacco, and other drug prevention and intervention, policies on student conduct, and procedures for early detection of abused or neglected children. Last, we also discussed the reporting requirements for the Electronic Violence and Vandalism Reporting System (EVVRS).

We look forward to more professional development in the upcoming school year!

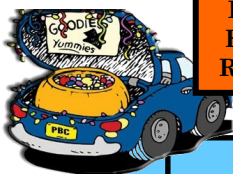
### By Lisa Mantz, RN, CSN Rock Brook School Nurse

**"It's the Flu"** ...Probably the last words anyone wants to hear this time of year. So what is the flu? Influenza (flu) is a serious disease caused by a virus. It is spread from person to person through respiratory droplets such as coughing, talking, sneezing, or touching others with contaminated hands or contaminated objects. The virus does not discriminate and even healthy children are at risk. These viruses can live up to 2 hours on objects like doorknobs, computer mouse, steering wheel, etc... Proactive steps to take include receiving the Influenza vaccine. The CDC recommends that all children aged 6 months and older get the vaccine, as well as adults. Other preventative actions are: *frequent and good hand washing; keeping hands from touching eyes, nose, and mouth; cover mouth and nose when sneezing or coughing; no utensil or water bottle sharing.* And as always, please keep children home when they are sick. Stay healthy for a safe and fun November!!

### 2017-2018 RBS School Hours

Regular Day	8:40 am - 3:00 pm
Early Dismissal	8:40 am - * 2:00 pm (1 hour earlier)
Delayed Opening	9:40 am - 3:00 pm (1 hour later)



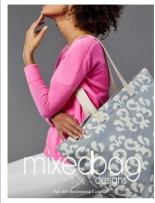


Friday, 10/27  
Halloween at  
RBS 1-2:30 pm

Parent Communication /  
Involvement / Support at RBS

**mixedbag Fundraiser**  
**10/17/17 -11/3/17**

**mixedbag designs** is a great fundraiser RBS started a few years ago. The company offers bags, lunch boxes, scarves, and gift items. Again this year they have a separate kitchen catalog. Start thinking “Holiday Gifts”. **All orders are due back to RBS by November 3rd. Checks get made out to: Rock Brook School** so you can take multiple payments from friends and family members. **We have samples - check them out on the 27th.**



**SIBLING DAY - 11/9/2017 - 10-11 am**

RBS siblings (ages 5 and older) are invited to join us at RBS for a discussion & activity with school counselor Jessica Gosses. Afterwards they can spend time in their siblings classroom. RSVP/Sign Up Form coming home soon.

**HOLIDAY SALE 11/10/17 (In school)**

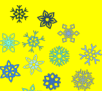
**This event has been going on for over 10 years!** A local GS Troop visits RBS with pre-purchased gifts. Our students “Buy” gifts for their family and friends based on the pre-order sheet that you complete. It is so much fun watching the students carefully select from the tables full of gifts. Then the Girl Scouts wrap and tag the gifts to allow for Holiday Surprises!!

**Make sure you complete the Pre-Order Form and return it with cash - \$1 per gift by October 27th.**

**Scholastic Book Fair November 13-17, 2017**



We will be hosting our Scholastic Wild West Book Fair in November. It’s a perfect time to pick up some books to read with your children. Our book fair will be open during school hours and parent conferences. We can accept cash, checks and credit cards. Prior to the sale your child will receive a flyer from Scholastic with a sampling of what may be available during the sale. Once the sale begins we can have them make wish lists in school. You can then send in money for specific books or allow your child to pick on their own.



**Just as a reminder, we have the parentReach Emergency Notification Alert System that will notify you with a phone call when we have a delayed opening or are closed due to inclement weather. On the caller ID it will say Rock Brook. You need to answer and say hello to hear the message.**

**School Counselor Ms. G.**  
**Jessica Gosses, M.Ed., LPC**



With respect being a focus during the month of October at Rock Brook, students have been learning about what respect is, what it looks like, and why it is important. In individual and small group sessions, the focus has been and continues to be on different ways we can show respect. Talking about respect at home, modeling respect, as well as positively reinforcing respectful behaviors in your child will help to demonstrate how important respect is at home as well as school. We have talked about respect by breaking it down into 3 basic categories:

- **Self-respect**-respecting my body, eating healthy, exercising, using good hygiene habits
- **Respect others**- be nice to classmates, teachers, other adults and kids at home and at school- listening to others, not interrupting, following school and classroom rules, using appropriate manners
- **Respecting the planet** - throwing trash out, recycling, obeying the law

Respect will always be an important aspect of character to be reinforced, but in recognition of the Week of Respect, National Stamp Out Bullying Day, and School Violence and Vandalism Awareness Week, Rock Brook continued to focus more on this important concept throughout October. As a school we joined together by creating a school wide bulletin board entitled, “Rock Brook Soars With Respect”. We wore blue to show our commitment against bullying, and visited with Officer Tom from Montgomery Police Department who talked to us about staying safe and being respectful.

**We look forward to seeing you during our**  
**Fall Parent Conference time, November 16 & 17**

On-going communication between school and home helps us all as we promote skills for school requirements, home demands and community activities. These conferences are meant to be a two-way conversation; for you to learn from us and also for us to learn from you. Our mutual insight into a student’s strength and needs, learning styles and out of school learning opportunities and experiences can help us understand the children and improve our instructional and therapeutic approaches. See you soon!

**Speech Corner by Sarah Weiss**



Hi Rock Brook School community! My name is Sarah Weiss and I am finishing up my masters in speech-language pathology at Kean University. I am here to complete my externship under the supervision of the wonderful Tracy Hutzell, M.S., CCC-SLP. The support and collaboration I’ve experienced with the various professionals here has been so positive, but I am sure you already know about the special feel of this environment.

I have learned so much while spending my day with the students in class 6. There are endless opportunities to support language! The most important concept I’ve learned is “speech sessions” never really stop. I could be on the playground helping to facilitate social exchanges for a hilarious knock-knock joke, or integrating during science to aid students with the language to talk about the rock cycle. These students are the greatest source of inspiration and motivation. My favorite experience thus far has been working with the awesome students who utilize AAC devices. Everyone deserves a voice, and everyone deserves to be heard.



**AFTERSCHOOL ROBOTICS ...** We are fortunate to have Teertha, a local HS student, who is offering an afterschool Robotics class for our students ages 10 yrs and up. Here he is with our students and another HS volunteer. They are having so much fun!!!



**Student Larry, with the assistance of OT Miss Dorrie**



On Wednesday, September 27<sup>th</sup>, the High School went to Somerset Wood to work on job training. We shredded paper and used the computer to enter purchase orders. We also typed letters. It was a fun time and we are learning a lot.



Rock Brook School Safety Patrol will be running a **Popcorn Fundraiser in November.** A portion of Rock Brook’s proceeds will go to help hurricane Irma victims as well as a portion that will do to Let’s Work for Good (who employ individuals with autism). Check out the website below to learn more about this delicious treat.



**Popcorn for the People**