

Summer Time Fun- Here are some great pictures from our ESY Program- be sure to check out our Facebook page for even more pictures!



BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT

Rock Brook's Back to School Night is scheduled for Thursday, September 29th.

The program will run from 6:30 - 8:30 pm. This program is designed for parents to hear from the school director and principal, meet their child's teaching team, learn about what is planned for the fall and visit with other Rock Brook Parents.

Please bring in your child's [Pizza Order](#) Form and Cash if you have not done so already. Pizza Friday begins October 7.

You may also bring donations for our [clothing drive](#). Please place bags under the awning. Tax receipts are available.

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 - September 2016

Important Upcoming Dates

September

Sept 26-29 Clothing Drive
Sept 29 Back to School Night 6:30-8:30 pm
Sept 30 RBS Closed for Students
Staff Development

October

Oct 3 RBS Closed - Rosh Hashanah
Oct 7 Pizza Lunch begins
Oct 8 Parent's Night Out 5:30-9:30 pm
Oct 12 RBS Closed - Yom Kippur
Oct 18 mixedbag Sale Starts
Oct 28 Halloween - In-School Activities
Oct 31 RBS Early Dismissal -1:30 pm
Staff Development

November

Nov 4 mixedbag Sale Ends
Nov 6 Daylight Savings Ends
Nov 10 Sibling Visit Day
Nov 11 Holiday Sale - In School for Students
Nov 14-16 Parent Conferences
Nov 14-16 Early Dismissal for Students 1:30 pm
Nov 14-18 Book Fair
Nov 15 RBS Board Meeting 6:00 pm
Nov 23 Early Dismissal for All 1:30 pm
Nov 24-25 RBS Closed - Thanksgiving Holiday

Program Updates by Principal- Katie Hardgrove



Every new school year brings an opportunity for change and reflection. I am excited for the many programming initiatives that will continue for this school year. These include: some students switching classes throughout the day for individualized academics and specials experience; technology-rich programming in the classrooms enhanced by technology classes; home living skills instruction through community trips, and focus on social skills development overseen by our school counselor that are integrated into interactions in the school community. Our certified behavioral analyst, Christen Russell, is here two days a week this year supporting students, taking data and coaching staff.

We are starting this school year off with 10 High School Students! This is our **3rd year of the program**, and we have almost tripled the amount of students served since the first year. With that in mind, the High School class moved into what was classroom 7.

The Middle School Program has combined students from classroom 7, classroom 6 and a few students new to class 6. Leslye Manna, long term RBS teacher, joins Alyssa Kraus as a co-teacher for this school year. Leslye will be responsible for teaching students and supporting the Class 6 academic program in all subjects to continue to ensure the individual learning needs of the students are met.

In the 2013- 2014 school year, we were fortunate to have had a Pull-out Resource Support Teacher and we are excited to be able to offer it again for this school year. As an experienced teacher who has been at RBS for 16 years, Gail Morris brings her strong content knowledge and understanding of student's individual learning styles to this position. Gail will provide extra academic support to all students throughout the school, assist with transitioning new students including assessing them and helping them acclimate to RBS.

From the Director

Mary Caterson

Hello Everyone,

Today is the autumnal equinox meaning "equal night," the 12 hour day and night that occurs twice a year with the change of seasons. We look forward to cooler and beautiful sunny fall days. The new beginning of the season marks the new school year as we reboot our efforts to support your children's growth and development. A first for RBS this fall is that one of our student is voting in the upcoming Presidential election, a responsibility and privilege of turning 18.

Mary

Technology

Also, as we continue our commitment to offering a technology-rich program, we have recently updated the Technology Plan for the next three years. Please check it out to see the goals and objectives. Along with increasing the variety of apps and technology experiences, we also continue to have some students who require the use of Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) devices. One of our Speech-Language Specialists, Liz Varall, will be supporting the Speech Therapists with programming and maintenance needs of the devices. Liz and Maggie Deeds (Tech Coordinator) invite parents of AAC users to come in for individual **Parent Connection** meetings.

We are using a **new computer program for our IEP's**. The program is called **IEP Direct** which is part of Frontline Technologies. Most of our sending school districts use this program. This allows us to share the document with the district so that parents/guardians will receive one fluid copy of the IEP report. We will still be able to send home a draft copy prior to the scheduled meetings. More information will be sent home regarding this in the upcoming months.



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

Parent Communication/ Involvement / Support at RBS

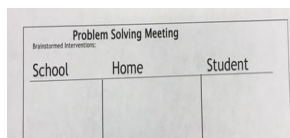
New Parent Communication Model

This year we will be utilizing a Problem Solving Model by Margaret Searle.

The purpose of the Problem solving process is to improve the effectiveness of staff and parents meeting the needs of the students and to establish a safe and welcoming environment for everyone to work together solving problems.

STEPS:

- ♦ The teaching team or parent will call/ email to schedule a meeting
- ♦ Before the meeting, everyone will identify the “problem”/ concern and bring to the meeting ideas for action
- ♦ At the meeting, the focus will be on brainstorming interventions that can occur in school, home, and by the student (if applicable)
- ♦ After the meeting, everyone receives copies of minutes and interventions are started
- ♦ Follow-up meetings will be scheduled to revise interventions/ discuss updates



Parent Connections



Parent Connection meetings will be offered again this year! As always, please feel free to request a meeting to discuss your child’s technology needs. Additionally, Ms. Maggie and Miss Liz will be inviting parents of AAC users for individualized chat times regarding your child’s device usage.



A BIG THANK YOU to all of our RBS families. We are thrilled to have the generous school supply donations that you all sent in.

Please contact Christy Tracey at RBS regarding the Rock Brook Family News.

christy@rock-brook.org



Box Tops for Education

Michele Mammone and Kay Adamson have volunteered to chair the Box Tops program again this school year.

RBS earns cash for our school with the 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

Used Printer Ink Cartridges

Class 6 has taken over the Used Printer Ink Cartridges program. 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 local food banks and other groups with Holiday Wish Lists.



PNO

Our 1st Parent’s Night Out for the 2016-2017 School Year is Saturday, October 8th. Please note that PNO is scheduled for the following 4 months: **October, December, February, and April.** Plan ahead - they are always a lot of fun!!

“Fundraising through Clothing & Shoe Drive”

Where: Rock Brook School
Drop items off outside in front of the school under the awning.

Dates: Sept 26-29, 2016

Communities coming together..... Cleaning out your closets, attics, garages and basements? Give your unwanted items a second chance to be used again. Please help support Rock Brook School by bringing bags of clothing, shoes, linens, stuffed animals & accessories.

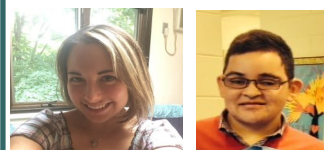
<http://clothingshoedrive.com/>

Program Updates by Principal– Katie Hardgrove (con’t)



Please join us in welcoming some new members to our already amazing staff!

Katie Mathew & Tracy Hutzel (SLS)



Elizabeth Reihl (OT) & Zachary Mortman (TA)

I continue to be thankful for the experienced and dedicated staff who do a phenomenal job here to provide your child with a high quality program!

Guest Feature Article by RBS student Larry

On June 16th we said goodbye to Miss Jenny because she moved to California. Miss Jenny taught music. (Miss Jenny moved to California because her boyfriend got a job there.) It was sad.

Technology Plan for 2016– 2019



Our technology vision: We embrace technology as an essential teaching and learning tool that enables our students to realize their ability to become self –directed learners. We believe that in providing our teachers access to various technological tools, they become stronger facilitators, thereby more effectively meeting the needs of the 21st Century Learning approach. We will ensure students and staff have continual access to a vast array of resources that encourage collaboration, project-based learning, application of critical thinking/creativity, communication and exploration skills.

Plan of Action for Infusing Technology:

- * providing students with daily access to multiple technology options throughout the school day
- * facilitate student’s development of a personalized learning experience with technology
- * Continue providing staff with professional learning/ development activities involving technology
- * Embracing digital assessments
- * Continue to update the school’s social media outlets, including the website, Facebook, Twitter, school blog, etc. to allow families to easily access information relevant to their child’s education.

Intensive Specialty Clubs from Summer 2016

Over the Summer at Rock Brook School, in addition to continuing with the academics and therapies, the students also participated in recreational community trips and themed based activities. New this past summer were intensive specialty clubs. The students remained in the same clubs for the entire six weeks with the same staff members. The clubs included Social Thinking Club, STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics), AAC Club, Conversation Club, Reading Club, and Social Skills Club.

