

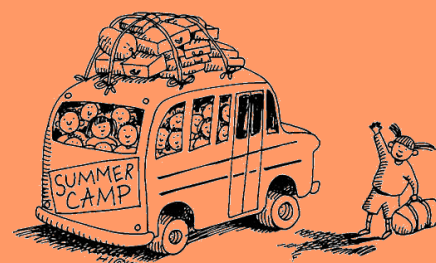



SUMMER CAMPS

Here are a few summer camp programs that RBS families have used/and or recommend. Please continue to send in recommendations. Rock Brook School does not endorse any specific program.

(RBS ESY 2018 is tentatively scheduled for July 2 - August 13, 2018.)

- **Camp Jotoni**
<http://campjotoni.org/>
51 Old Stirling Rd, Warren, NJ 07059
- **Department of Children and Families**
<http://www.nj.gov/dcf/about/divisions/ol/>, P.O. Box 729
Trenton, NJ 08625-0729
Phone: 1-855-INFO-DCF (1-855-463-6323)
- **Elks Camp Moore**
https://www.njelks.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=category&id=42&Itemid=83
Sleepaway Camp
Ramapo NJ
- **Fun Sense**
<http://www.funsensegym.com/>
4437 Route 27 / Kingston Shopping Center, Princeton, NJ 08540
- **Hamilton Y**
<http://www.hamiltonymca.org/camp/sawmill-branch>
Integrated Program
185 Sawmill Road, Hamilton, NJ 08620
- **Liberty Lake Day Camp**
<https://libertylakedaycamp.com/inclusion-program/>
1195 Florence Columbus Road, Bordentown, NJ 08505
- **Mane Stream** for horse therapy
www.manestreamnj.org
83 Old Turnpike Rd, Oldwick, NJ 08858
- **Rambling Pines**
<http://www.ramblingpines.com/>
174 Lambertville Hopewell Road, Hopewell, 08525
- **Schafer Sports Center**
<http://www.schafersports.com/>
5 Graphics Dr, Ewing Township, NJ 08628



 **Friday is Pizza Lunch at RBS.** We ask families to preorder for their child and to send in money two times a year. The **February- June Pizza Order Form is Due Wednesday January 24th.** Please **remember to send in CASH with the order form as that is how we pay for the Pizza.**

parentReach 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.** We will also update the voice message on the school's main office line, update the Rock Brook website, and contact 101.5.

Call the Hotline if You Missed a Call or Want to Replay the Latest Message:
parentReach Hotline - 1-770-406-5581 RBS Site Identifier: 6896

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 - January

Important Upcoming Dates

February 2018

- 3 PNO 5:30 - 9:30 pm
- 9 Valentine's Day Celebration - **In-School**
- 12 100 Day of School (Tentative) **Assuming NO Weather Related Closings**
- 14 Parent Conferences Early Dismissal **1:00 pm**
- 15 Parent Conferences Early Dismissal **1:00 pm** Evening Conferences
- 16 President's Day Break RBS Closed
- 19 President's Day RBS Closed

From the Director Mary Caterson

I want to thank all of you who supported our year-end campaign. \$11,640 was raised to support our Broadcasting project, which will begin soon. We also received two additional anonymous donations. One contribution of \$10,500 will be used towards the purchase of more software programs, Chrome books, auditory trainers and adapted keyboards. Another \$10,000 donation will be used for scholarship to our ESY Summer Program. Your generosity and kindness is appreciated by our staff and will be realized by our students as they acquire more skills to reach their potentials.

Mary


By Mary Caterson, Rock Brook School Director

Requirements for Restraint and Seclusion The NJ Legislature has just passed **new requirements** for all schools regarding the use of physical restraint and seclusion. Our Safety Care procedures are in line with the intent and requirements stated by this recent legislation. Information about Safety Care is provided in our parent packet and at Back to School Night.

As a school, we have found the Safety Care program and protocols to be an effective approach to providing the newest strategies to teach replacement behaviors and manage crisis situations. Katie Hardgrove and Chris Cruz are certified trainers and all staff are annually trained. An emphasis on positive behavior supports and interventions greatly helps deter the need for holds or seclusion events. While we have notified families via email or phone calls about holds or use of the break room, we will also be sending home copies of our Safety Care Reporting Forms that details what occurred. If you have any questions or concerns or would like a copy of the new legislation, please contact us.

By Katie Hardgrove, Rock Brook School Principal

Continuing Professional Development is important because it enables staff to keep their professional skills and knowledge up-to-date. Our staff participate in webinars, in person conferences, trainings, professional reading, and courses related to their discipline areas.

 I will be attending the CEC (Council for Exceptional Children) 2018 Convention and Expo in Tampa, Florida from February 7th through February 10th.

The convention brings together special educators from all over the country and features over 600 sessions. I am excited to bring back a ton of new information for our staff!

Reminder from the School Nurse.....

1. If your child is out sick 3 or more days, they will need a Doctors Note to return to school.

2. Please keep your child home if:

Vomiting
Diarrhea
Temperature 100.4 F



Children may return to school when they are symptom free for 24 hours without the use of medication.

Thank you for your cooperation for keeping our school as healthy as we can.



Parent Communication /
Involvement / Support at RBS

Parent/Team Conferences/Early Dismissal 2/14 & 2/15

Conferences are scheduled for 30 minute time slots. This is your mid-year opportunity to meet and discuss progress with the teaching teams. You will be receiving your child's progress report prior to your scheduled conference. As with the previous November conference, this conference will be an overview of your child's total performance and progress. The teams will not go through each one of the rated objectives on the report. If there is a specific area you would like to talk about please let the team know prior to the conference to make sure concerns and questions are addressed within your allotted conference time.

SignUpGenius will be used to schedule your appts. Please remember RBS will have Early Dismissal at 1:00 pm on these 2 days, 2/14 & 2/15.

RBS will then be CLOSED for ALL on 2/16 & 2/19 for Presidents' Day Break.

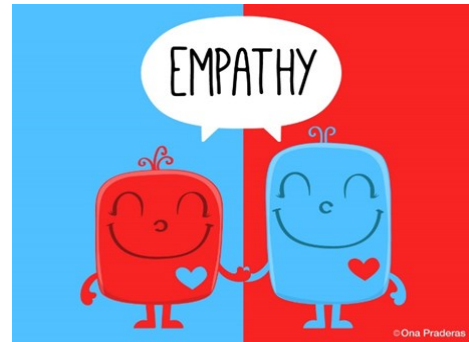
PNO - Our next Parent's Night Out for the 2017-2018 School Year is Saturday, February 3, 2018.

Sign Up: Paper copy was sent home.
Or on the online copy of the newsletter you can click here for [Sign Up Form](#)

Safety Patrol with their Thank You sign.



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



This winter Safety Patrol ran a fundraiser to help victims of Hurricane Irma. We sold popcorn from Popcorn for the People, an organization that provides jobs for individuals with autism. As a group, safety patrol discussed how we were helping others by selling the popcorn. We are continuing to learn about what empathy is and how helping others can make us feel good and happy. Empathy can be hard to explain in words; however it is an important skill for children to learn.

What exactly is it?

Empathy is the ability to understand and experience the feelings of others, and to respond in helpful ways. Children who are empathic will be better prepared to cope with conflict and difficult social situations. For some children empathy comes more naturally than for others. Research has shown that on average this is a skill that is not really fully emerging until about age 8-9 in a typical child. However, it is never too early or too late to help your child learn and practice empathy.

There are many ways to do this. Of course, modeling empathy is important, as is verbalizing what you are doing and why. Also describing how it makes you and others feel is important. If you break it down, there is a lot involved! Remembering to help your child identify emotions in self and others is key in order to be able to show empathy.

(More suggestions for helping to develop empathy will be continued in the February Rock Brook Family News.)



Speech Corner by Lisa Gagliastro, HS Room
Speech and Language in the Community

Finding time outside of school to practice speech and language can be challenging, but luckily many goals can be targeted throughout a child's day. Here are some simple and effective strategies to help your child work on their speech and language on the go!

Read information. Look at signs and labels (store hours, aisle signs, nutritional facts) with your child and help them identify key information. When buying food, help your child look for a specific brand or flavor. At a restaurant, help your child locate his or her favorite meal on the menu.

Point out what you see and describe your senses, shapes, and colors. Continue to provide language models. Remember that children continue to develop with each and every bit of language exposure.

Teach new vocabulary about the environment. Reach out to your child's SLS to help create themed communication boards or vocabulary folders to match where you will go. It is a great time to learn vocabulary about food, weather, people, places, etc.

Find reasons to communicate. Encourage your child to communicate when the situation arises (ordering their own food, asking for help).

When grocery shopping, talk about what to buy, how many things you will need, and what you will make. Talk about sizes, shapes and weight. Encourage your child to show you what they want to buy.

At a restaurant, discuss different types of food and drink. Have a conversation while you are waiting for your food. Describe some things you might see at a restaurant (exit sign, bathroom sign, menu). Describe your surroundings: is it loud? Cold? Is the food delicious or yucky?

Ask wh- questions about their activities. Where did you go? What did you do? Who did you see?

Keep it simple. We don't want to overwhelm or make a task too challenging. In the community, we want to encourage language in the most natural way possible.

HS Student Larry's News written during OT with Miss Dorrie

Many of our students work with our Occupational Therapists according to their own needs & IEP requirements. Larry had been using the OT computer to prepare stories for the monthly newsletter. This month he hand wrote his "School News". He has been working very hard on his penmanship so it was important so show this to all of our readers. His School News is:

"As you all know Rock Brook was closed on Jan 4th & 5th for a snow day. It was cold & icy. Here is the upcoming weather forecast. We will have sunny days with chilly temperatures coming. Hopefully it will not be as cold as last week."

