



## Winter Bulletin Boards & Holiday Crafts at RBS



Class 3



Preschool  
"If you take a Mouse to the Movies"



Class 6 got trapped  
in ornaments!!!



Class 2



Art Class with Mr. Chris

## Rock Brook Family News - December 2017

### Important Upcoming Dates

#### December 2017

25-29 **RBS Closed for ALL Winter Break**

#### January 2018

1 **RBS Closed for ALL Winter Break**

2 **Return to School for ALL**

9 RBS Board Meeting 6pm

15 **RBS Closed for ALL MLK Day**

### From the Director Mary Caterson

"Wishing you peace, love and joy this holiday season and throughout the year."

Mary



### By Mary Caterson, Rock Brook School Director

The NJ Department of Education conducts regular fiscal and program reviews of all schools. This past summer we were notified it was our turn for a monitoring visit. We decided to get right on the schedule. We wanted to know that if there were any recommendations for us, we could implement them early in the school year...and the other reason was to just get it over with....

Three representatives were here observing in the classes and interviewing staff. A major focus was on the IEP goals, how they were being carried out, data collection and assessments for determining growth and when to modify goals. Certification credentials and criminal history clearances were reviewed. They looked at other school policies and procedures as well.

Preparing for the monitoring was a good exercise for us. We have a great staff who are caring professionals and that was obvious to the monitors. They loved the collaborative atmosphere, staff expertise and commitment. There were no findings of noncompliance or recommendations. Therefore, that was fantastic and highly unusual! It was a great pat on the back for us all. The kids were told that the visitors were there to observe the teachers and they were focused and engaged... it was a total group effort at school this past week. **Bravo Everyone!**

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

Season's Greetings This time of year can be very stressful and anxiety provoking even for the most level headed of us. Parties, school performances, gift exchanges, dinners, visitors, shopping, etc... Not only does this make us more emotional, but it also lowers our natural immunity to ward off sickness. Here are some tips to help keep us balanced and healthy.

- Drink plenty of water to keep hydrated.
- Wash hands frequently and use lotion to moisturize.
- Use chapstick to prevent chapped and cracked lips.
- Make sure to get a good night's sleep.
- Spend time with your family and keep communication open.
- "Just say no", do not feel obligated to attend every party you are invited to.
- Be sure to eat your fruits and vegetables.
- And always kiss your child good night.

With all the hustle and bustle, please make sure to take good care of yourself.

### By Katie Hardgrove, Rock Brook School Principal





News to share.... We said Goodbye and Good Luck to Christen Russell, MS, BCBA this past week. Christen has been providing behavioral consultative services for us for the past year and a half. She has recently been hired as a Vice President for an agency supporting their behavioral services. Since Christen was contracted through Building Behavior Solutions, LLC, the co-founder, Maribeth Epstein, MAT, BCBA will continue as our primary consultant - with her co-founder, Tara Klein, M.S., Ed., BCBA filling in as needed. Maribeth will continue 2 days a week (mostly Monday and Wednesday's) from 9 am to 2 pm. We are confident that Maribeth will continue to provide our students and staff with the support and resources they need to be successful. Any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Have a Happy Holiday and a Wonderful New Year!!

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<div></div> <div></div> <div>Parent Communication / Involvement / Support at RBS</div>	<div></div> <div></div> <div>School Counselor Ms. G. Jessica Gosses, M.Ed., LPC</div>
<div></div> <div></div> <div> <p><b><u>RBS CLOSED for All</u></b></p> <p>Monday, December 25, 2017 - Monday, January 1, 2018</p> <p><b><u>RBS RECONVENES for All</u></b></p> <p>Tuesday, January 2, 2018</p> <p>Regular Full Day 8:40 am - 3:00 pm</p> </div>	<div></div> <div></div> <div> <p>With the holiday break soon approaching, there will be time for family, fun and rest! This time is a great opportunity to reinforce social skills while with family and friends over the break. Some skills to think about are taking turns, listening, giving and receiving compliments, greeting others, and using appropriate personal space. There are countless others of course and SO many ways to apply and practice these skills. As parents, you model social behaviors 24/7, and teach and reinforce them more than you realize! See below for some ideas to try over the holiday break.</p> </div>
<div> <div>  </div> <div> <p><b>SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIRS</b></p> <p>Thank you to all of the families that purchased books from the scholastic book fair. With the profits we were able to get <b>the remainder</b> of the wish list books that our teachers and staff wanted. We also ordered two book shelves for the Preschool Room with the “Scholastic Dollars” we earned. It was quite a successful fair!!</p> </div> </div>	<div></div> <div></div> <div> <p>Point out social skills while playing and interacting with your child (Prompt them to communicate whose turn it is next, practice waiting their turn, only touch their playing piece etc.). Remember to verbalize things that we take for granted as knowing - and have fun!</p> </div>
<div> <div>  </div> <div> <p><b><u>Look for the Annual 2017-2018 Fundraising appeal. Please help RBS with our campaign to include Broadcasting Technology into the curriculum. Any donation amount is welcome.</u></b></p> </div> </div>	<div></div> <div></div> <div> <p>When dining out, encourage your child to place their order independently or with some assistance, to make eye contact and look at the server, etc.</p> </div>
<div></div> <div></div> <div> <p><b><u>parentReach</u></b> Just as a reminder, we have the <b>parentReach Emergency Notification Alert System</b> 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. <b><u>You need to answer and say hello to hear the message.</u></b> We will also put an updated voice message on the school’s main office line and update the Rock Brook website.</p> </div>	<div></div> <div></div> <div> <p>Break down the steps of social events for your child beforehand so they know what to expect. For example, when going to the movies - First we will wait on line. Next, we will buy our ticket for the movie. Then we will walk together to find our seat, etc.</p> </div>
<div></div> <div></div> <div> <p>Call the Hotline if You Missed a Call or Want to Replay the Latest Message: parentReach Hotline - 1-770-406-5581 <b><u>RBS Site Identifier: 6896</u></b></p> </div>	<div></div> <div></div> <div> <p>Use social stories! These pictures and words that clearly demonstrate what to expect in a given situation. The visual nature of this is helpful. It also reduces anxiety about the unexpected since your child will know what to expect.</p> </div>
<div> <div>  </div> <div> <p><b>Holiday Sale</b> Last month we had many Girl Scouts come to RBS on November 10th to help at our Holiday Sale. We are so thankful for all of the shopping that they do prior to coming. They brought hundreds of gifts. Then once they got here they assisted our students with shopping for their families, carefully wrapped &amp; labeled each gift and finally bagged the gifts for each student. It is such a fun tradition here at RBS.</p> </div> </div>	<div></div> <div></div> <div> <p>There are countless other ways to encourage and practice social skills with your child over the holiday break. In January, I would love to share some of the ways you did this with your child in our newsletter. Please feel free to email me at <a href="mailto:igosses@live.com">igosses@live.com</a> to share. You never know when something you share will be helpful for another parent.</p> <p>Have a restful and fun holiday break. See you in 2018!!!</p> </div>
<div></div> <div></div> <div> <p><b>PNO</b> - Our next Parent’s Night Out for the 2017-2018 School Year is Saturday, February 3, 2018. Paper copy will be sent in January Click for online <a href="#">Sign Up Form</a></p> </div>	<div> <div>  </div> <div> <p>The profits from the Safety Patrol’s Popcorn Fundraiser will be sent to victims of Hurricane Irma. <b>Thank you for your Support!!</b></p> </div> </div>

Speech Corner by Susan Campos, MA, CCC-SLS

The beauty of having worked at Rock Brook School as a Speech-Language Pathologist for now almost 20 years, is coming to see the world through our students' eyes, joys and victories! Each day brings its new challenges and even small accomplishments can be huge. During the holiday season, we see how much family and traditions mean to the students. They have a wonder and an innocence that is especially endearing. Traditions are embraced because ritual and sameness are comforting and calming. "This is what WE do for the holidays!" Having pictures of these yearly events and decorations, brings students a lot of happiness, especially when they can share them with friends and family. It is a time to reinforce connectedness and appreciation of the unique joys of others. When someone tells about something they do or like, students are encouraged to look at the speaker and comment, "That's nice!" or "Cool!" or "That's really great!" Being able to appreciate others and say nice things, helps with social interactions. We also teach students to say "Thank you" when someone says something nice as well. It is great to see students learn to engage with others and be successful with friends and family. The students are very special. They bring a lot of happiness to their teachers and friends. Thank you for sharing your children with us. Happy Holidays!

## Shoes and Clothing

Here are a few sites that you might find helpful for finding clothes and shoes for your child. We also know that Nordstrom's will allow you to purchase shoes in different sizes to accommodate braces at no additional charge. If you have any other brands or sights you like please let us know.

<https://www.zappos.com/adaptive>

<https://billyfootwear.com/>

<http://usa.tommy.com/en/tommy-adaptive>

<https://www.target.com/c/adaptive-clothing/-/N-ksyrz>

<https://www.independencedayclothing.com/shop>

## Class Three's OT group with Miss Rita.

They made marshmallow snowflakes using one large, lots of mini marshmallows & toothpicks. Then they got to eat them with hot chocolate or hot apple cider.

yum.

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

On Tuesday November 21 the High School went to Somerset Diner for brunch. It was a Thanksgiving Celebration. We ordered things like fries, pancakes, burgers, waffles, & eggs. It was fun, great & good. I can't wait to go back.