

# NOVEMBER AT RBS



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 - November 2018

## Important Upcoming Dates

### December 2018

- 7 Student Early Dismissal 1 pm  
Staff Development
- 8 PNO ~ 5:30-9:30 pm
- 14 Regular Day (Revised)  
14 Parent Group 2:00 pm
- 24-31 RBS CLOSED for All  
Winter Break

### January 2019

- 1 RBS CLOSED for All  
Winter Break
- 2 RBS REOPENS for All  
Regular Day  
8:40 am – 3:00 pm
- 8 RBS Board Meeting 6:00pm
- 21 RBS CLOSED for All  
MLK Day

## By Mary Caterson, RBS Director

### First Ombudsman for People with Developmental Disabilities

Paul Aronson is New Jersey's first Ombudsman for people with developmental disabilities. I had to look up the definition: "An Ombudsman is an official appointed to protect and/or investigate complaints about public institutions or authorities." Mr. Aronson is a long-time advocate for the developmental disability community and personally experienced the challenges of a family member who lived many years with a severe, degenerative disability. It is hoped that in his role he can help build connections between the state, care provider, families, individuals and other public agencies.

His specific tasks are to:

1. Serving as a source of information for people with developmental disabilities
2. Coordinating with NJCDD to provide information and support on obtaining state services
3. Providing help to individuals to resolve disagreements with state agencies
4. Work with service recipients, families, and the departments to facilitate the provision of services and supports
5. Identify common concerns and make recommendations to the state
6. Assist the Division of Children's System of Care and the Division of Developmental Disabilities to create public information programs.

We look forward to Mr. Aronson's role and focus on state systems and policies that can benefit the disability community in New Jersey. He can be reached at 609-649-1734 or paul.aronsohn@treas.nj.gov.

(Fall 2018 PEOPLE & FAMILIES NJCDD)



**Look for the Annual Year End Fundraising appeal.  
Please help RBS with our campaign to raise funds for a new Rock Brook School Bus. The anticipated cost of a new bus is \$69,000. Any donation amount is welcome.**

Mary

<p><b>Parent Communication / Support &amp; HS Student Features</b></p> <p><b>Parent's Night Out / PNO / 5:30 - 9:30 pm</b></p> <p>The next PNO is scheduled for : <b>December 8th</b>  <a href="#">Online link to form to RSVP</a></p> <p><b>SAVE - Halloween Necklace Sale</b></p>  <p>Last month the HS Students had a Halloween Necklace sale. They had a profit of \$167. They used this money to purchase fleece material to make blankets for the animals at SAVE Animal Shelter. Thank you for your support.</p> <p><b>Mixed Bag Fundraiser - Thank you to all of the families, staff and RBS Board members who purchased from the mixed bags fundraiser. We are excited that RBS will have profits of \$1500.00. Delivery will be the first week of December!</b></p> <p><b>HOLIDAY SALE 11/8/2018 (In school)</b></p> <p><b>Thank you</b> to several West Windsor GS troop members &amp; leaders, to RBS staff children and their friends who helped at our Annual Student Holiday Sale. There were over 400 student purchases which they had to wrap and tag! We hope that enjoy your gifts!</p> <p><b>Staff Interview of the Month ~ By HS Student Evan</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What is your name? "Miss Antonia"</li> <li>2. What class do you work in? "I work in class 7."</li> <li>3. What do you do at Rock Brook? "I am a teacher."</li> <li>4. What do you like about Rock Brook School? "I like the students."</li> <li>5. How long have you worked at Rock Brook School? "This is my fourth year."</li> <li>6. What do you like to do for fun? "I like to play with my kids."</li> <li>7. Do you have any pets? "No, I don't have any pets."</li> </ol> <p><b>HS Student Larry's News</b></p> <p>On October 26<sup>th</sup> Halloween activities took place in Rock Brook. We had a Trunk or Treat and the Halloween Dance. Some of the costumes we saw were Crayons, UNO Cards, Toy Story, Bees, Emojis, Overwatch, Naruto, Harry Potter, Fortnite, and more. It was a great day!</p>	<p><b>School Counselor Ms. G. Jessica Gosses, M.Ed., LPC</b></p> <p>On Tuesday, November 20, the ARC of New Jersey presented on the topic of college options for students with special needs at Rock Brook School. The session was full of information and parents were able to ask questions in a small group setting. This session was a part of a program called Planning for Adult Life. Overall, the feedback from the evening was positive- we will be offering another after the holidays on a different topic. The ARC offers so much information and support for families, including blogs, webinars, live events and support groups. If there are any topics you would like to see Rock Brook address, please let me know via email or phone. Please check out the ARC and their resources! See the link below for more info: <a href="https://www.arcnj.org/">https://www.arcnj.org/</a></p> <p>My goal is to offer support for parents in a variety of ways. In December I will be opening up a time slot for the parent support group. This will be a time during the day to meet with other parents and myself for support in general. I realize that everyone is super busy and accommodating everyone's schedule is difficult, so have a block of time that is available to those parents that can make it. <b>The parent support group will meet Fridays from 2:00-2:45 pm, beginning Friday, December 14.</b> The plan is to have it continue every Friday throughout the school year. Initially the goal will be to identify what you as parents would like to gain from the group, and then go from there.</p> <p>Please email me at <a href="mailto:counselor@rockbrook.org">counselor@rockbrook.org</a> if you are able to attend the initial session. I realize that some parents will not be able to attend during the school day, and for this reason I am always available by phone or email for individual support. Also, be on the lookout for additional parent programs during the evening. As always, your feedback is important, so reach out to me with questions or suggestions.</p> <p>I hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving!!</p>	<p><b>By Tracy Ramos, Speech Language Specialist, Class 6</b></p> <p>This month, it is a true honor to recognize my student Gabriella as student of the month! I have had the privilege of working with Gabriella for 3 years, and within that time, I have watched her grow academically, socially, and emotionally.</p> <p>Gabriella is a very kind and sweet friend to all. She is very caring, has a ton of love in her heart, and loves to have fun with her peers. She also cares deeply about the younger students and enjoys interacting with them.</p> <p>In Class 6, we are always working on improving our social skills with a huge emphasis on conversation. We learn about the importance of acknowledging and connecting with others by asking questions, commenting, and responding. Gabriella has not only shown significant growth in this area, but has become a role model for her classmates and peers around the school. This makes me extremely proud as her speech therapist, as this skill did not always come easily to her.</p> <p>Additionally, her participation in all lessons and her eagerness to learn has helped her grow in various subject areas. She has worked so hard and reminds me everyday why I love my job.</p> <p>Congratulations Gabriella! I'm so proud of how far you've come! Keep on smiling and keep up the good work!</p> <p><b>By Lisa Mantz, RN CSN, Rock Brook School Nurse</b></p> <p><b>A TIME FOR GIVING THANKS</b></p> <p>As this month comes to an end, the Thanksgiving holiday is a reminder of all the great things to be thankful for.</p> <p><b>Kindness:</b> Kids learn by observing, model it. Be grateful when others show you this as well.</p> <p><b>Our Community:</b> Bravo to those who touch your life directly or indirectly, friends, teachers, relatives, and neighbors.</p> <p><b>Play Time:</b> Fun and games help kids to flourish. So, turn off the computer or smart phone and make time to play with your kids.</p> <p><b>Our Children's Friends:</b> Appreciate the lessons these relationships bring including a feeling of safety outside of your family.</p> <p><b>Our Uniqueness's:</b> Our nation is a wonderful melting pot of individuals. Help your kids to respect those differences and celebrate the customs that make our country amazing!</p> <p><b>Family Meal Time:</b> Be thankful when you can eat, sit down and socialize with one another. Children are healthier when families can share a meal together at least three times a week.</p> <p><b>Sesame Street Float at the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade 2018</b></p> <p>Look at Julia's Headphones →</p> <p><a href="https://twitter.com/sesamestreet">https://twitter.com/sesamestreet</a></p>  <p>We are thrilled to have our friend Julia join us at the Thanksgiving Day Parade this year! With the help of her friend Rosita and the comfort of her noise-canceling headphones, Julia is ready for a fun and festive day in NYC! #Macy'sParade #HappyThanksgiving2018</p>
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