



## RBS Friends



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## Rock Brook Family News - June 2018

### Important Upcoming Dates

#### June 2018

20 Last Day of School for Students/End of Year Ceremonies

21-22 Staff Development

#### July 2018

2 ESY Begins

4 RBS Closed for ALL Independence Day

6 Early Dismissal 1:00pm



**July 2, 2018 - August 13, 2018**

### From the Director Mary Caterson

"Summertime and the livin' is easy.." We look forward to the summer when we all relax and the intensity and demands of life diminish. School is over this week, and the kids have been enjoying the beautiful sunny days and more time outside. We will take a break and be back in program on July 2<sup>nd</sup>. Have a wonderful, fun summer everyone!

*Mary*

**By Mary Caterson, Rock Brook School Director**

I am a member of the Montgomery Rocky Hill Rotary Club and represent Rock Brook at the weekly meetings. Rotary is an international service organization with the following guiding principles called the 4 Way Test: Is it the Truth? Is it Fair to all concerned? Will it build Goodwill and Better Friendships and Will it be Beneficial to all? These are the criteria for projects for clubs locally and around the world. The Rotary magazine I receive describes all kinds of projects that Rotary members do within the United States and internationally. It is inspiring to read and learn about how "Service above Self" takes place throughout the world.

Therefore, it was with real interest that I learned about Mary Elizabeth McCullough's experience as a Rotary Youth Exchange student in Ecuador at a home for adults and children with disabilities. She observed the isolation of individuals who had trouble speaking. Seven years later with a degree in biomedical engineering, Mary is now CEO and founder of ProjectVive, a social enterprise company that has developed a low-cost device call the Voz Box. The project launches in the US and Ecuador this year. It is for individuals with low motor control and works with an application called CoughDrop AAC. They do have a website and a Vox blog. They are dedicated to low cost applications to help folks have a voice. Check it out and thanks Rotary for Youth Exchange Programs!

**By Katie Hardgrove, Rock Brook School Principal**

**Wednesday, June 20, 2018  
LAST DAY for STUDENTS**

#### Year End Ceremonies

**9:30 - 9:50 Preschool ~ 10:00 - 10:20 Class 2 & Class 3**

**10:30 - 10:50 Class 4 & Class 5 ~ 11:00 - 11:20 Class 6 & HS**

**2018 Fishing Trip ~ Mr. Jerry is organizing a Fishing Trip- Monday, June 25th (Rain Date: Tuesday, June 26th)**

RBS Students and a parent/guardian would join Mr. Jerry on the Norma-K III for a 2 pm Fishing Trip. The Norma-K III is docked at Kens Landing, 30 Broadway in Point Pleasant, NJ. You meet at the dock between 1:15 - 1:30 pm. The trip is scheduled from 2:00 - 6:30 pm  
All students require a chaperone.

**The NEW 2018 Rates. (Just for RBS students, families & guests.)**  
\$27 for ALL Children ~ \$42 for ALL Adult ~ Includes Rods & Reels

**Please let Christy Tracey know if you plan to attend.  
christy@rock-brook.org**

**Parent Communication /  
Involvement / Support at RBS**



**THANK YOU**

On June 3, 2018 Rock Brook School hosted its 4<sup>th</sup> annual celebration, An Afternoon of Wine & Chocolate at Terhune Orchards, in Princeton, NJ. It was a blustery June day but fortunately we were able to move our event into one of their barns. Thank you to all of our friends, families and donors who made this event a success. With over \$12,000 in profit from our celebration RBS will be able to use the money for expenses not covered by tuition dollars. For those who attended they were able to taste delicious gourmet chocolates that were paired with Terhune's wines. We had great donations were auctioned off as well. Attendees also got to enjoy the music of Relapse, parents of an RBS student as well as take home a "Brookie" a brownie/cookie combination. A new favorite treat for Rock Brook Fans!

**2018 ESY Shirts**

July 2, 2018 - August 13, 2018

ESY T-Shirts - Attending students, staff and volunteers will receive 1 complimentary 2018 RBS Summer T-shirt to wear on trip days. Please make sure that you put your child's initials in their shirt as they all look the same. Shirts will be given out once ESY begins. If you ordered extras they will be given out in July too.

**HS Student Larry's News**

Hey Rock Brookers, in 1 more week it's going to be summer! We are almost wrapping up the school year. We are kicking off the last day with a graduation ceremony. We will miss those who will go to a different school!

**Our RBS 50/50 was a huge success!**

We sold 120 \$10 tickets so the lucky winner, an RBS parent, received \$600. She graciously donated her winnings back to Rock Brook School. We are very fortunate to have received this donation. THANK YOU!!!

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



**Play is Powerful**

Play is the language of children. Developmentally it is typically an integral component of a child's life. It is essential to physical and motor development, intellectual development, emotional growth and of course social growth. With the rising use of technology, many forms of play are quickly being replaced by screen time. As parents you can try and create more of a balance in this regard by encouraging play whether solitary or with siblings or other family members. For those children that imaginary play or spontaneous play is more challenging, they may need more support, guidance and modeling.

Play is also important in counseling, as it is typically a less stressful, less direct way of communicating thoughts and feelings for children. Games are an obvious way to integrate play into the home or at school and counseling, but there are many other tools as well. You may be surprised how many children, both male and female, gravitate toward dolls, puppets, and dollhouses in my office. The reason being they can identify with the people and characters, and often spontaneously begin to act out things that may be affecting their thoughts or feelings. And this is all through play!

Play therapy is another topic entirely, but the main focus here is to highlight the importance of play. Perhaps this summer buy a new toy and introduce it at home, or a game. Maybe sit down on the floor and play with your child before they get on their IPad if that is something that feels right. There are so many small ways to add play to the daily routine and this can be SO beneficial in a myriad of ways as mentioned above.

As always, please feel free to reach out to me if you would like any ideas for toys, games or any other recommendations I can help with. Most of all, have fun playing with your child!

**Speech Corner by Chrissy Sulouff, SLP**



**Keep Reading Alive this Summer**

With the lazy days of summer approaching, it is fair to say that everyone deserves a break. However, summer is a wonderful opportunity to help our children maintain the skills that they learned during the academic year and to expand their imaginations with reading!

Reading and/or listening to stories, is one way to keep students' minds engaged, build vocabulary, ignite the imagination, and help everyone to put down the technology! Here are some tips to help build literacy into your summer routine:

- Mark your calendar- make reading a priority by setting aside time within your week to unplug and read individually or as a family.
- Books on tape- audiobooks- listen to books in your car, on your kitchen CD player, while eating a meal- then discuss story events/elements (e.g., characters), make connections, etc.
- Multisensory learning- interacting with the text aids in comprehension. Have your child circle key facts or underline information; add as many visual, kinesthetic, auditory components as you can- make it a multisensory experience! Ask questions, story retell, or discuss new vocabulary words. If your child is just beginning their reading journey- start at the sound level- trace bumpy letters while making the corresponding sound/s, or just have them listen to you read to them.
- Join a summer reading club at your local library.
- Set goals- one book a week, one poem a week, one chapter a week... whatever works! Setting a 'Summer Reading Challenge' with an ending reward may help a reluctant reader stay focused.
- Tie reading into summer activities- bring an animal book on the ride to the zoo, read a book about vehicles on a family road trip, etc.
- Sneak reading into their daily lives... read instructions for games, signs, food labels, menus, maps, brochures (perfect for summer trips).
- If technology is a true motivator, check out your local library's electronic digital collections to take out books electronically to be viewed wherever you are.

*You can find magic wherever you look. Sit back and relax, all you need is a book.*  
*Dr. Seuss*

**Happy reading!**

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

Once again, another school year has ended. I wish everyone a safe, healthy, and happy summer. Here are a few tips from the school nurse:

- ◆ Make outdoor play safe—wear helmets when riding bikes, scooters, and skateboards
- ◆ If sensitive to mold or pollens check the weather channel and limit outdoor activities if needed
- ◆ Keep hydrated and drink plenty of water
- ◆ Stinging insects are back, if stung remove the stinger using a scraping motion. Use a cold compress after washing area with soap and water. If difficulty breathing, fainting, or severe swelling call 911
- ◆ Ticks are out- use tweezers or fingers to grab closest to the head, where attached and pull. If rash or fever call your pediatrician
- ◆ Swimming pools are open- go over water and sun safety every day.
- ◆ Remember to apply sunscreen as necessary

*Enjoy your summer, have fun, and stay active!*

