




More News.....

This year during Language Lesson, Class 6 wrote letters to Pen Pals! They were matched with students from schools all over the country! Their states included New Jersey, Arkansas, Texas, Oregon, and Washington. This was set up through a speech blog called "Activity Tailor" that is led by another speech therapist. We got our matches in the beginning of the school year, and Class 6 had the opportunity to write back and forth with their pen pals multiple times throughout the year.

By Lisa Mantz, RN CSN, Rock Brook School Nurse

 Spring has now shifted into full gear!! Sunshine, flowers, green grasses, and for some of us...seasonal allergies. Seasonal airborne allergies are a result of outside allergens. These include grasses, flowers, weed pollens, mold spores, and trees. Typically, if you have cold-like symptoms that happen around the same time every year and last longer than seven days, you probably have seasonal allergies. These symptoms include sneezing, red/itchy/watery eyes, throat clearing, and a runny/stuffy nose. Some tips to help reduce exposure to these allergens are as follows:

- Use air-conditioning and keep windows shut in the evening
- Change your clothing after being outside
- When pollen counts are high, limit activities to indoors if possible
- Vacuum and dust indoors weekly

Although there are numerous over-the-counter allergy medications as well, it is best to discuss this first with your child's pediatrician.

CLASS 6

Dear [redacted],

Thank you for your letter! I like to build little or big houses. I like to play instruments at home. I play the Violin. I also like to walk around and I have a friend name squirrelly. Do you have a animal friend? Can't wait to hear back from you.

From,
Vincent



Dear Vincent,

I enjoyed reading your letter. It made me so happy. I like to play with Legos and build houses too. For fun I like to dance and I play the piano and the drums. I do dance competitions. I don't have a pet. I think your pet's name is cute. Did you do anything special for spring break? When do you finish school? I hope to hear from you soon!



Want to support RBS but you are unable to attend the Wine & Chocolate Celebration? Take out a Message Advertisement in the event program.

They are \$25 and 100% goes directly to benefit our RBS students.

Need help designing an advertisement? Contact Christy at Christy@rock-brook.org



The 4th Annual Rock Brook School Fundraising Celebration An Afternoon of Wine & Chocolate



On **June 3, 2018** Rock Brook School will host its 4th annual celebration, An Afternoon of Wine & Chocolate.

This event will take place at Terhune Orchards, in Princeton, NJ from 2:30 pm – 5:30 pm.

Event guests will enjoy the pairing of wine and chocolate while learning about the history of Terhune Orchards, their wine & Carol's Creative Chocolatez.

The event will also include music, light snacks and an auction.

Register online at: www.rock-brook.org

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 - May 2018

Important Upcoming Dates

May 2018

28 **RBS Closed for ALL Memorial Day**

June 2018

1 Field Day - In-school

3 Wine & Chocolate Fundraiser 2:30-5:30 pm
50/50 Drawing

7 HS Bake Sale

15 Father's Day Breakfast 9:30 - 10:30 am

15 Yankee Ticket Drawing

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**

From the Director
Mary Caterson

It was great to see everyone at Family Night. We enjoyed some visits from alumni students too! Thanks to all who participated in the RBS First Annual Cupcake War..... to be continued next year. Other year end events include our "Afternoon of Wine & Chocolate" at Terhune Orchards on June 3. Please come. Enjoy, Relax, Support RBS!

Mary

By Mary Caterson, Rock Brook School Director

The latest issue of Educational Leadership focuses on "Bolstering the Teacher Pipeline." The articles in the May issue focus on issues of recruitment, retention and resilience. Data shows that the teaching profession has grown dramatically in recent years, but annual turnover in the profession has increased. Turnover occurs among staff in high-needs schools, minority teachers and novice teachers.

Teacher prep programs are thinking more tactically about helping new teachers get through the early years in the profession. While pedagogical and classroom-management skills training are necessary, so is training in emotional resilience and stress-management strategies. Teachers need support in learning how to recharge and to take a step back, not over commit themselves and maintain boundaries. Support staff in schools need to help teachers build resilience and manage stress in addition to figuring out lesson plans. Rock Brook staff benefit from team members, supervisory support, and on some days a good sense of humor helps as well.

By Katie Hardgrove, Rock Brook School Principal

Wrapping up the Year... With about 4 weeks of school left, we are wrapping up the school year and looking forward to a fun summer program. The summer program runs from Monday, July 2nd to Monday, August 13th. The hours are the same as the school year (8:40 am to 3:00 pm) Monday to Thursday and then Friday's from 8:40 am to 1:00 pm. Themes for this year include: Summer Fun, Green Thumb, Art/Music/Theater, Sports, Technology, and Dino Week.

Typically, our students change/transition to new classrooms in the summer if appropriate. Right now, we are currently completing quite a few intakes for potential students joining RBS in the summer. With that in mind, we are carefully reviewing all the classroom placements including the staffing for ESY and anticipate some students making the transition over the summer and others waiting until September.

Notifications with the summer information including your child's teaching team will be sent home before the last day of school in June.

Also, as a reminder, we will have the **End of the Year Ceremonies** coming up on **Wednesday, June 20th** (All students receive a certificate recognizing their accomplishments for the year).


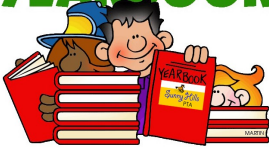

The schedule is:


~9:30- 9:50- Preschool
(followed by a celebration in their class for the Preschool graduates from 10 – 10:30)

~10- 10:20- Class 2 and Class 3

~10:30- 10:50- Class 4 and 5
(Class 4 will have a celebration in their room from 11:00 - 11:30 for their 8th grade Graduate)

~11- 11:20- Class 6 and High School
(Class 6 will have a celebration in their room from 11:30 to 12 for their 8th grade Graduate)

Parent Communication / Involvement / Support at RBS		School Counselor Ms. G. Jessica Gosses, M.Ed., LPC	
<div></div> <div><u>Mother's Day Plant Sale</u></div> <div>Thank you for your patience as the plant sale delivery did not go as smoothly as we would have liked. However once they did get here they were beautiful!!</div>		<div>Another school year comes to a close- it goes so fast! I wanted to recap and give a preview of things to come. As always, should you have any input or questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at my email- counselor@rock-brook.org, or via phone at 908-431-9500, extension 12.</div> <div>This past school year was my first full year here at Rock Brook, and it was great to work with students, family and staff after having gotten to know everyone a bit better. The beginning of the school year is always busy, with Back to School Night and everyone getting used to routines. October is month of Respect where groups focus on respect and anti- bullying. A police officer comes to visit Rock Brook and talks about safety and bullying. The kids always love seeing his gear and taking pictures with him! November brings Sibling Day - one of my favorite days where siblings can come and spend some time with me and their siblings in the classrooms! Family is so important, and Rock Brook acknowledges this in so many ways. Then of course, December brings the holiday time, and holiday break! There are so many activities and events throughout the year that it would be impossible to mention every one here!</div> <div>In May we have Grandparents' Day, another day that is a favorite for me as I coordinate this as well as Sibling Day. I always have a fabulous time meeting and spending time with the grandparents! We also soon will be celebrating another year of safety and service with our annual Safety Patrol lunch celebration. Safety Patrol is a group that helps around the school doing special jobs including putting the flag up and taking it down, cleaning up the playground, helping set up and escort visitors during events, and many other important tasks. Safety Patrol members are respectful and kind to others, and know that part of their duty is to act as a role model for the other students at Rock Brook. They do a wonderful job!</div> <div>Interspersed in between all of these special days are of course conferences, other family celebrations and field trips, professional development days, and IEP meetings. For me as the counselor, I see students individually and in groups, attend meetings, confer with outside professionals, parents, and staff as well. Every day is an adventure and I look forward to another year helping support your children in their growth academically, emotionally, and socially.</div> <div>In September I hope to get the Parent Support Group up and running. If you have any thoughts/questions on this, please contact me. At times, I hope to have outside speakers come and provide information as well. If you have any topics of interest, please reach out as I am in the planning process. Thank you for your past input- the survey results were extremely helpful, however the end of the year proved to be very hectic time to begin the group. Keep your eye out for updated information to come on this, as the time grows nearer.</div> <div>I hope you and your family enjoy summer, and see some of you at ESY!</div>	
<div><div><div>It's Time to Order Your.....</div><div>YEARBOOK!</div><div></div></div><div>The Rock Brook High School students have been working throughout the year to make a special RBS Yearbook. Using Shutterfly.com they are making a wonderful hard cover yearbook.</div><div>The cost is \$35.00, due by TUESDAY, May 29th. Order Forms were sent home but we have more if you have misplaced yours.</div></div>		HS Student Larry's News	
Rock Brook High School students are working at Dumont and Blake Financial Services once a week. They are learning new stuff like using letter openers, organizing and numerical order. We are learning a lot there. It is fun working there.			
<div><div><div>2018 ESY</div><div>July 2, 2018 - August 13, 2018</div></div><div>ESY T-Shirts ~ Attending students, staff and volunteers will receive 1 complimentary 2018 RBS Summer T-shirt to wear on trip days. If you want more than one T-shirt for your child (or yourself) they are available to purchase. PLEASE RETURN YOUR ORDER FORM BY MAY 25th.</div><div>Also, if your child has outgrown their shirt (s) from previous years we will gladly take them back. We use them as “back-up” on trip days. Please send them into Christy Tracey.</div></div>			
<div><div><div><div></div><div><u>RBS is having a 50/50!</u></div></div><div>WE WILL CONTINUE TO SELL \$10 TICKETS UNTIL OUR DRAWING ON June 3 at An Afternoon of Wine & Chocolate.</div><div><u>Winner does not need to be present.</u></div><div>Contact Christy Tracey to BUY YOUR \$10 TICKETS</div></div></div>			

Speech Corner by Miss Tracy, Class 6	
<div><div><div><i>Incorporating Language Building & Social Skills into Family Time</i></div><div>The opportunity to help your child expand his/her language and social skills reaches far beyond the walls of Rock Brook. Eliciting language from your child is something you can do right in your own home and you can have fun doing it during activities you are already doing with your child. For example, playtime, game night, cooking together, and eating meals together are full of opportunities to incorporate language into family time. The following are examples of ways you can encourage and model language and social skills to improve your child's overall communication:</div><div>Facing their communication partner/Attending: Ensure your child is facing and attending to the person they are communicating/playing with.</div><div>Gaining attention – Encourage your child to properly gain attention by being an appropriate distance away from their communication partner (not too close, not too far), calling a person's name, using an appropriate volume, etc.</div><div>Turn taking – Encourage your child to state “Your turn” to their communication partner when they have completed their turn/ “Here you go” when passing a game piece, etc.</div><div>Manners – Encourage manners in various situations: “Can I have a fork please?” during mealtime/ “Thank you,” when someone hands them something/ “You're welcome” in response to “Thank you”/ “Excuse me” when gaining attention or if someone is in their way, etc.</div><div>Responding/Commenting/Social exchanges: Encourage responding to instructions or comments in place of ignoring/staying silent: “Okay,” “Sure,” “No problem,” etc./ “Here you go” when passing a napkin, dish, utensil, etc. to someone at the table during mealtime/ “Yes?” when someone calls their name, etc.</div><div>Giving compliments/Being a good sport – Encourage positive language such as “Good game,” “Thanks for playing with me,” or “That was fun!”</div><div>Negotiating/Compromising – Encourage respectful language to replace anger or frustration: “Can I have one more minute please?” (if they want to keep playing a game or playing on their iPad when they are called for dinner)/ “If we play your game today, can we play my game tomorrow?”, etc.</div><div>* Many of these skills can be applied to children that are verbal or nonverbal and can be modified or simplified for your child's skill level and mode of communication. Even if you just encourage one of these skill areas, that is progress and you are helping to build your child's communication skills!</div></div></div>	
Better Hearing and Speech Month, by Maggie Forsyth-Deeds	
<div><div><div></div><div>Do you know that 1-10 trillion microorganisms live in your mouth? Oral hygiene is very important to avoid serious diseases. This is something to think about for our students. Many of our students have sensory issues and do not tolerate tooth brushing. It is important for all of us to try making tooth-brushing work for our students, for not only appearance and oral health, but also overall health. Our Speech Language Pathologists (SLPs) are working on these goals here at Rock Brook in cooperation with the Occupational Therapy department. For Better Hearing and Speech Month we are sending home toothbrushes for every student. Please feel free to contact your classroom SLP if you need any help with how best to facilitate your child/children in brushing their teeth. Oral health decreases bacteria and supports your children's overall health.</div></div></div>	