

RBS DIGITAL DISTANCE LEARNING

DIGITAL CHALK TALK NO. 5

FROM THE RBS LEADERSHIP TEAM

April 11, 2020

Dear Rock Brook Families,

As we take a short break from our DDLP activities, we are hopeful that you find time to catch your breath, relax and simply enjoy spending time together as a family next week. We know that all of you have been significantly challenged as you work remotely and run a “school” from your home. With spring break now upon us, and a month long experience learning via our DDLP, we thought it was a good time to hear directly from parents.

While we are still hopeful that parents will complete our DDLP Survey (click here to take the survey: [RBS DDLP Family Survey](#)), we are also offering an opportunity for you to ask DDLP related questions and share your experiences with the RBS Leadership Team during one of two live Google Meet Parent Forum sessions next week.

DDLP Parent Forums: Tuesday, April 14, 12 p.m. and Thursday, April 16, 6 p.m.

While it’s not necessary to attend both forums, you will be invited to both sessions via your child’s Google Classroom account. Please be on the lookout for an email invitation entitled, ***DDLP Parent Forum***, from our Tech Coordinator, Maggie Deeds. We look forward to seeing you during one of these two opportunities.

Regardless of whether you are celebrating Passover, Easter or just the welcoming of spring, we thought the following letter featured in the *LA Times* this week, offers some perspective during this unusual time: [Coronavirus ... a lesson and a gift this Easter and Passover](#)

Enjoy the break!

Glenn, Katie, Cheryl and Maggie

SPRING BREAK REMINDERS:

Bonus Music:

One of the most popular activities at RBS is the weekly Bonus Music Class offered by Miss Maddy. We thank Miss Maddy who has offered to provide two sessions of Bonus Music (9:30 and 2:30) every day next week! These sessions are optional, but we're pretty sure if you remind your children about the opportunity they will be eager to join in!

RBS Spring Break Support:

Our Team will be available to answer questions or provide support throughout Spring Break.

Please email any of us if needed:

Executive Director ~ Glenn.Famous@rock-brook.org

Principal ~ Katie.Hardgrove@rock-brook.org

Curriculum Supervisor ~ Cheryl.Ferrigno@rock-brook.org

Technology and Therapeutic Services Coordinator ~ Maggie.Deeds@rock-brook.org

School Counselor ~ Jessica.Gosses@rock-brook.org

School Nurse ~ Lisa.Mantz@rock-brook.org

Previously Shared Free Online Resources:

- [Storyline Online](#): Stream videos featuring celebrated actors reading children's books alongside creatively produced illustrations.
- [Books to Enjoy: We Are One World](#): Collection of read-alouds, drawing activities, and writing activities.
- [Scholastic Learn at Home](#): Includes four separate learning experiences, each built around a thrilling, meaningful story or video.
- [Storytime from Space](#): Watch astronauts on the Space Station read children's books and perform science demonstrations.
- [Education.com](#): Word Study, Math, Reading and Writing worksheets, lesson plans, and interactive games. You can sign up for a free account. Preschool through 5th.
- [National Geographic for Kids](#)
- [MysteryScience.com](#) has compiled its best science lessons for anyone to use.
- [Discovery Place](#) Stay at Home Science Experiments
- **Virtual Field Trips:**
 - Zoo webcams
 - [San Diego Zoo](#)
 - [Smithsonian's National Zoo](#)
 - [Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Gardens](#)
 - [Reid Park Zoo Lion Cam](#)
 - Aquarium webcams
 - [National Aquarium](#)
 - [Georgia Aquarium](#)
 - [Monterey Bay Aquarium](#)
 - [Museum virtual tours](#)
- [Wonderopolis](#): A question of the day blog that provides answers to frequently asked student questions. Includes texts with a read-to-me function and a paired video.
- [STEM Maker Station Activity Packet](#): three weeks of activities by Brooke Brown using materials from around the home.
- [Mo Willems](#) - Lunch doodles everyday at 1:00pm.
- [Fun Family resources /activities](#)

- NJMOM.com

COUNSELOR'S CORNER...

Dear Rock Brook Family,

I wanted to let you know how fabulous everyone is doing at acclimating to learning from home. Of course there may have been some bumps along the way, but together we have figured things out and are making learning accessible to students and keeping things as consistent for them as possible. Communication is key and you have been doing great with it so please keep it up. Questions, ideas, comments- all are welcome as we continue to navigate through these times together.

Spring Break is upon us. This will undoubtedly be a different one than any other year. In speaking with your children, normalizing this can help. Letting them know that Spring Break will be different this year and that feeling disappointed about that is ok will go a long way with kids. Then work together to make a plan for family fun- whatever that may be for your family. These are tons of resources on this online, but here is one I like due to its simplicity:

<https://monikaboch.com/101-things-todo-with-kids-at-home/>

Another fun idea would be to have each family member come up with ideas and then put them in a jar and pull one out each day or when you want something different to do. A break from screen time is also a help- although easier said than done due to limitations going places outdoors. Sleep in, maybe take time to cook a meal together, create a craft together, do some stretches together. The key is to take a break from our routine, and be with those people that mean the most to us. Here is a link to daily calendar that I absolutely love for kids and families. The Caring Connections Calendar features activities that strengthen relationships by practicing kindness, being grateful and spending quality time with those we love. What could be better than that?

<https://consciousdiscipline.s3.amazonaws.com/Free-Resources/Printable-Posters-Tools-Activities/FREE-Printable-Caring-Connections-Calendar.pdf>

Some things about Spring Break may feel different, but spending time with our loved ones will always be what it is really about. This may mean video chatting with family members that are far away or having "virtual play dates". If you have any ideas that you are excited about and would like to share with the rest of our students and/or parents, please feel free to share in the RBS Kindness Challenge Google Classroom. I hope you make the best of your time off and can recharge a bit. Be well.

Jessica Gosses, M.Ed, LPC

School Counselor

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