

Rock Brook Family News

January 13, 2020

Our Executive Director, Glenn Famous

Welcome to 2020!

The holidays now feel like a distant memory as we are back into the full swing of our daily school activities and learning at Rock Brook. Students and staff returned rested, ready and energized on January 2nd and, as usual, great things are happening in all classrooms!



Beyond the growth and learning taking place in the classrooms, I am happy to report that we recently crossed the \$10,000 mark in donations for our "All for One and One for All" Chromebook fundraising initiative. In just a few short weeks we are more than halfway toward purchasing enough Chromebooks and protective cases for all of our students. Thank you for your generosity!

If you have not yet had a chance to donate or have not yet had the opportunity to ask your place of employment about a possible match, please do so today. If you no longer have the mailing we sent out as part of the year-end appeal, please go to our website and look for the red "Donate" button on the right hand side of our webpage header.

As always, THANK YOU for all of your support!

Our Principal, Katie Hardgrove

NEWS FROM KATIE

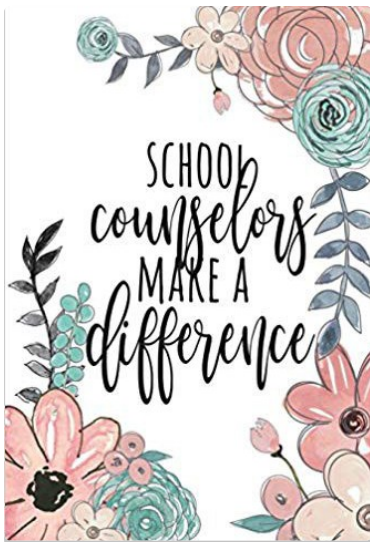
A new year is bringing some exciting programmatic changes at RBS! We welcomed two additional teaching assistants to our school and four students since September with more students on the horizon. I am also excited for all the students to have the ability to have their own Chromebooks soon for use during their daily instruction.



With the addition of the Chromebooks, we have continued our mission of providing technology-rich programming for your children. Our goal is to continue to infuse technology into the classroom curriculum, further enhancing overall learning. Students traditionally went to the Tech room for instruction, but now the instruction will take place in their classrooms. This dynamic approach also ensures transfer and carryover of skills. Maggie Deeds will continue overseeing the technology literacy program by guiding the teachers and students in their use of various software, applications, platforms and digital subscriptions.

The former technology room will now be called a Student Resource Center (SRC) where students can use the space to work in a quieter location for academics as well as for earning or break times. We are in the process of moving the existing laptops into the lunch room so students can also have access to computers for recreation and leisure after lunch.

I am excited for the remainder of the school year and in continuing to move our classes forward to ensure we are providing instructional technology opportunities for your child that are in alignment with the expectations for 21st century classrooms!



Our School Counselor, Jessica Gosses

NEWS FROM MISS G.

As the school counselor, I am always looking for new ways to best support both students and parents/families. You may recall a survey going out in the past about a parent support group. While many seemed interested initially, it was challenging to find a day/time that worked for those interested enough to get it started. I continue to support individually through phone calls and emails, and welcome communication always!

That being said, this coming winter and spring will bring some opportunities to connect with other parents and learn valuable information. I would like to have your feedback- As a parent at Rock Brook School, what topics would be helpful to have information sessions on? What areas would you like to be able to learn about or discuss with other parents?

Please feel free to email me at Jessica.gosses@rock-brook.org with ideas and suggestions. Also, be on the lookout for a presentation from the ARC of Somerset on Accessing Services and Natural Supports at Rock Brook School in the next couple of months. Rock Brook has collaborated with the ARC to provide information in the past and it has been very helpful. See the following link for information on the ARC of New Jersey.

<https://www.arcnj.org/>

Happy New Year!!!

National Winter Sports TBI Awareness Month

Our School Nurse, Nurse Lisa

January is National Winter Sports TBI Awareness Month

Wintertime, along with the holidays, can be a lot of fun to engage in outdoor activities. Skiing, sledding, tubing, ice hockey, and ice skating are just a few of the many enjoyable seasonal sports. However, like the other sports we participate in throughout the year, it is important to be mindful of the potential risks associated with them. This month is focused on winter sports traumatic brain injury awareness.

Traumatic brain injury (TBI) occurs when a bump, hit, or other injury to the head results in damage to the brain. According to the U.S. National Institutes of Health "Symptoms of a TBI may not appear until days or weeks following the injury. A concussion is the mildest type. It can cause a headache or neck pain, nausea, ringing in the ears, dizziness, and tiredness. People with a moderate or severe TBI may have those, plus other symptoms."

Here are a few tips in helping to prevent a TBI while having fun outdoors:

- "Wear a properly fitted helmet that is appropriate for the activity. Helmets can go a long way toward preventing or reducing the severity of a TBI."
- "Set a no hits to the head or other dangerous play rule for hockey and other contact sports."
- "Take lessons. If you are going skating, skiing, or snowboarding, basic lessons will help you learn how to fall more safely and less often."

BlueCross BlueShield of Western New York

Enjoy getting out this Season and stay safe.



Featured class of the month is Class 6

Class 6 had a FANTASTIC week before our winter break! We spent the week reading *The Polar Express* and exploring different story elements. Our students worked hard to answer comprehension questions, identify characteristics, and define vocabulary (ask your student what a "conductor" is). We used our comparing skills to make connections and recognize differences between the book and movie clips.

To reward our hard work, we were able to dress in our pajamas, make hot chocolate, and have fun making a "human" *Polar Express* train! Our friends had a fantastic time kicking off the start of winter break!

If you would like to try making our delicious hot chocolate at home, put the following ingredients into a crock pot and warm until melted together!

- 1.5 cups heavy cream
- 1 can (14 oz) of sweetened condensed milk
- 2 cups milk chocolate chips
- 6 cups milk
- 1 teaspoon vanilla

YUM!



The Girl's Beanbag, by RBS HS student author Jenna

This story is about a young girl who chills in a beanbag.

The young girl is lazy as usual, laying on the beanbag. Her cat comes along and the cat sits to cuddle. All of a sudden the beanbag changed colors from brown to sunrise-like colors. Her mother gives her a laptop and she starts to Skype on it. She calls Michael Jackson and he starts singing "Thriller," then moonwalks for no reason. She talked to him about the time he had a video game about him. He has a chimpanzee named Bubbles, who is chilling on the beach. Now the beanbag changes color again, this time to blue and gets even fluffier. She uses her telekinesis powers to get a glass of water. She drinks the water and nothing happens. The beanbag turns into a cat and runs off with the other cat. The girl says "Whatever" and chills on the couch.

The End



OT session with HS student Evan

During OT session with Ms. Robin, Evan asked a question to staff about Winter. The question is what activities do you like to do in winter.

Here are the responses:

1. Evan: I like to ski, ice skate and play outside
2. Robin: likes to ice skate, hike and drink hot chocolate
3. Brian: enjoys basketball, exercise and to drink hot chocolate
4. Reckv: I hate winter



5. Amanda: Likes to exercise
6. Laurie: enjoys drinking hot chocolate
7. Teddy: Likes to play outside
8. Pyle: Thinks it is fun to play in the snow
9. Miss G: Likes to hike
10. Miss Lisa the Nurse likes to sit outside by the fire drinking hot chocolate
11. Mr. Famous enjoys hiking and drinking hot chocolate
12. And lastly Miss Christy the secretary likes to walk outside

When we looked at the responses drinking hot chocolate is a fan favorite. Thank you for your responses and have a wonderful winter.

Rock Brook School 2020 Cook Book - Submission Date EXTENDED to January 17, 2020

All students and staff are encourage to submit entries that will be used to create at Rock Brook School Cook Book. The HS students will be compiling the submissions into a book which will be available for sale in the Spring.

Please submit the following to Becky Mercurio via Google Doc or email a PDF titled with your first and last. becky.mercurio@rock-brook.org

PLEASE SUBMIT #1-4 by Friday, 12/20/19 and #5 by Friday, 1/10/20

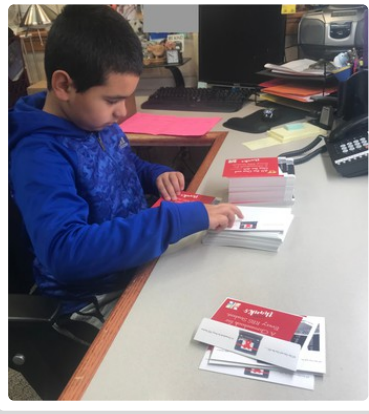
1. Name
2. Classroom
3. 1 or 2 sentences about the recipe
(ie: "I remember making this every New Year with my Grandma Rose")
4. Recipe
5. Photo of yourself making the recipe



Rock Brook Cookbook.pdf

[Download](#)
50.6 KB





Recent links that you may be interested in.

<https://www.trentondaily.com/trenton-ice-cream-parlor-once-a-thirteen-year-olds-sweet-dream-now-a-reality/>

<https://www.bluebears.org/>



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📍 109 Orchard Road, Skillman, N...

☎ 908-431-9500

✉ christy.tracey@rock-brook.org

🌐 rock-brook.org

