

## Family Flyer

March 2024

### Special Messages/Reminders



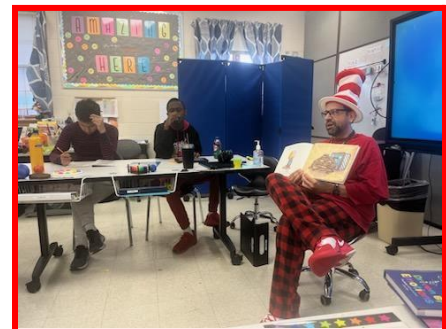
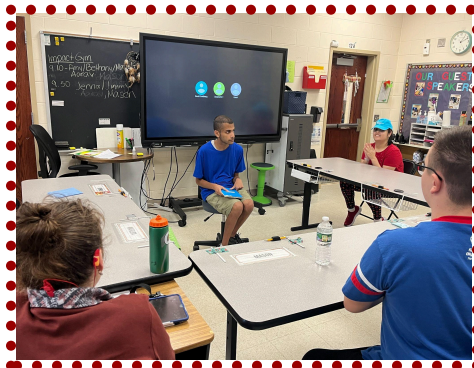
**Rock Brook is in the News!** Click on the link to read the article featured in the TAPinto Bridgewater

- [Partnership: Rock Brook School and The Pingry School](#)

### Read Across America

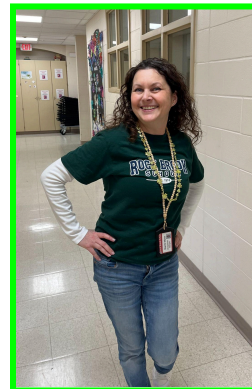
Read Across America is a time to celebrate reading and we know there is much value, importance, and fun when reading wherever that may be. To celebrate this special day, we had many guest readers join our classes to share a special book with our students. Guest readers included students, staff, parents, grandparents. We appreciated having all of our guest readers participate in this celebration with us. In addition to our guest readers, students and staff were invited to wear red and white and/or a crazy hat to school. We had a great day!

As Dr. Seuss said, “The more that you read, the more things you will know, the more that you learn, the more places you will go!”



## St. Patrick's Day

RBS students wore their green gear as we celebrated St. Patrick's Day on March 14. Everyone looked great!



## World Down Syndrome Day

RBS *Rocked Their Socks* to celebrate World Down Syndrome Day!



## Montgomery Township Emergency Medical Services (EMS)

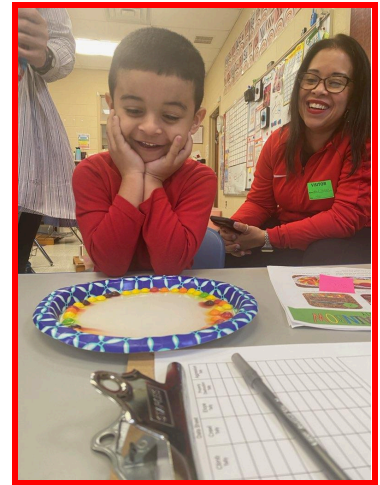
Our students and staff enjoyed a visit from our local EMS last week. Our students learned about how the first responders care for patients and the equipment used. In addition, the students had an opportunity to see inside the truck! We thank our incredible first responders, specifically **Bob Maslanka, Noemi Gerschel, Ellen Robbins, Neeta O'Mara** and **Nia Melvin** for their time with us and for all that you do for our community.





### **Early Childhood Center (ECC) - Maddy Zacharkow, Teacher**

ECC is excited for spring! We have been learning about weather patterns in spring, the changes the spring season brings, and we have been able to get outside more frequently with the more mild weather! During science we have been able to explore different colors. We mixed paints, we mixed food coloring in a play doh experiment we completed with Class 4, and we got to see what happens when we arrange skittles on the perimeter of a plate and add warm water; it was magic!! We had so much fun with parent readers these past few weeks and we are having fun thinking about the fun possibilities the warming weather will bring!



### **Class 3 - Katie Ziegler, Teacher**

Class 3 celebrated Down Syndrome Awareness Day on March 21! Students learned what Down Syndrome is, what characteristics they have, and how they can be included in everyday activities. We read a story called “Hannah’s Down Syndrome Superpowers” by Lori Leigh Yarborough. The book listed fun facts about children who have Down Syndrome including physical features, chromosome makeup, sensory processing, how they communicate, and the MANY superpowers they have!

We all dressed up in mismatching socks, wore blue and yellow and enjoyed some delicious cake as well!!

***Down Syndrome doesn't mean I'm down. It means I help people who are feeling down. My smiles are contagious. My laugh is medicine for the heart. My hugs are heavenly. My heart itself is PURE GOLD  
~unknown***



## Class 4 - Lani Brown, Teacher

In our class, we sing daily during our morning meeting, specifically our March and spring songs. In addition, we talk about what changes we will see and feel in this new season. We celebrated St. Patrick's Day by completing some fun crafts together.

Throughout the month of March, we have been learning about our new season during science lessons and during our weekly language lesson through the use of games, such as bingo. We are practicing turn taking, answering wh-questions, and expanding our language as we work on answering in complete sentences. We look forward to the activities we will take part in during the spring, like flying kites!



## Music - Janet Campbell, Art Teacher & Music Specialist

Throughout the month, our high school and post grads have been studying Amy Beach, the first American Woman Composer, and listening to her “Gaelic Symphony.” The students have watched an informative video and were provided the opportunity to answer questions about her life and her compositions.



Our high school and post grad students continue to work on their recorder skills. Songs added in this month were “Eye of the Tiger” and “Claire de la Lune.”

We’re also learning how to write a C major scale and draw a treble clef. Other music notations include whole notes, half notes, quarter notes, and eighth notes. Drawing line and space notes are repeated weekly.

The other classes continue to participate in rhythm instrument play, instrument identification and songs like “Edelweiss,” “Three Little Birds” and “Mamma Mia.” With an emphasis on language skills and choice making, more students are actively participating in the program. Students are given opportunities to strum the ukulele, play the resonator bells, keyboard and the steel drums. These options bring much enjoyment and active participation.



## Special Education Art Contest

RBS students participated in the annual ASAH Art contest with all artwork submitted to the 2024 Tri-State Disability Art Show. The theme this year was ***Diverse Learners, Big Dreams***. Over 400 pieces of artwork were entered from across the state to be judged for prizes. Janet Campbell, Art Teacher and Music Specialist, selected and submitted many creative pieces to enter into the art show. All student artwork submitted will be displayed at an upcoming evening reception and daytime gallery at The Y.A.L.E. School in Cherry Hill at the end of April. Although our students didn't win the top prizes, the following students were Honorable Mentions.

- Anish Seshan
- Anna Liakopoulos
- Carly Kaplan
- Christian Gambel
- Johnny Brown
- Oihan Ferrera
- Olivia Heft
- Shaylan Sansone



We are all very proud of our students for a job well done!

**Dress Code:** Students are encouraged to wear clothing that is comfortable and appropriate for school. For the safety of our students at school, clothing should not drag on the floor and flip flops should not be worn. All shoes should have a closed toe. Students may not wear items of clothing that may disrupt the school day, for example, shirts displaying inappropriate or suggestive language, alcohol, or pro-drug messages.



Sneakers are required to participate in physical education and dance. Shoes/clothing should not have flashing lights, etc. since this could be a distraction to the learning process.

**Security Drills:** All schools in New Jersey are required to conduct two emergency drills (one fire drill and one security drill) each month. Security drills could be any one of the following types of drills: active shooter, bomb threat evacuation, non-fire evacuation, lockdown, or shelter in place. Schools are also required to notify parents following each monthly "security" drill.



This month students participated in a fire drill, as well as a non-fire evacuation drill. Our students continue to follow all the necessary procedures when we are conducting our emergency drills.

**Student Health:** It is school policy that the Rock Brook School Nurse share appropriate health information with the school staff and professionals who are designated as having “legitimate health interest” within the school, as well as other individuals who provide direct school health and education services to students.

- a. **Administration of Medication in School:** If it is necessary for a student to take medication during school hours, only the School Nurse or an RN will administer the medication in compliance with the following rules:
- i. For all of the prescription and non-prescription medications (a) a written and signed Medication form from the prescribing physician stating the medication, dosage, time and the purpose of the medication. (b) The drug must be labeled and be in the original bottle or package from the pharmacy. (c) Parents must sign next to the prescribing physician’s signature. (The Medication form can be requested from the Health Office).
  - ii. All prescription and non-prescription medication must be in their original labeled bottle and/or original packaging then placed in a sealed envelope or bag. The medication must be given to the school nurse by the parent or given to the bus driver to forward to the school nurse. Students may not have medication with them in school or be responsible for transporting it to school. Empty medication bottles will be sent home with the student in his/her school back-pack in a combination bag. If your bus driver will not accept the medication, please call the health office to discuss alternative plans.
  - iii. All medicines are stored in a locked cabinet, and are administered by the School Nurse, or other RN in the Health Office.





## **Parent Webinar**

Please see the webinar below hosted by:

- *Hosted by: Hinkle, Prior & Fischer, P.C. Attorneys at Law  
2651 Main Street  
Lawrenceville, New Jersey 08648*



### **Topic: Maximizing Supports Through the Transition Years of Age 14 - 21**

**Virtual Parent Seminar Date:** 4/10/2024

**Time:** 6:30pm-8:00pm

**Presenter:** Jared Oberweis, Esq.

➤ **Summary: Maximizing Supports Through the Transition Years Age 14 to 21**

As educational entitlements- and the funding that goes with them - come to an end, many young adults continue to need services and support. In this workshop, participants will learn strategies to preserve special education services through age 21; services and entitlements for young adults through DDD and DVRS. Attendees will learn about issues such as guardianship and other legal strategies that provide varying levels of support and protection.

- **Audience:** Class 4, Middle School, High School, and PG Families
- This event is free of charge, but registration is required by clicking the link below.
- [Registration Link, 4/10/24](#)

**RBS Facebook Page** Please like, follow and share today!

→ [RBS Facebook](#)



**Spring Break:** School Closed for Students and Staff, 4/1 - 4/5. School resumes on Monday, 4/8. Wishing you a wonderful break with your family and friends!

