

Family Flyer

April 2025

Reminders/Special Messages

- **Teacher and Staff Appreciation Week - 5/5 - 5/9**
- **Family Night/50th Birthday Party of RBS, Wednesday, May 14**
 - Please RSVP by Friday, May 9
 - [Click here to RSVP](#)



- **Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM)** Testing window remains open through 5/19- (Grades 3-8, and 11)
- **Field Day, 5/29** - Parent Volunteers Welcome - We look forward to our upcoming Field Day. Like last year, we are seeking parent volunteers to participate in this fun day to help facilitate games for the students.

Should you be interested in joining us on this action-packed day, please RSVP by sending an email to Thomas Connolly, Principal by Friday 5/9. (thomas.connolly@rock-brook.org)

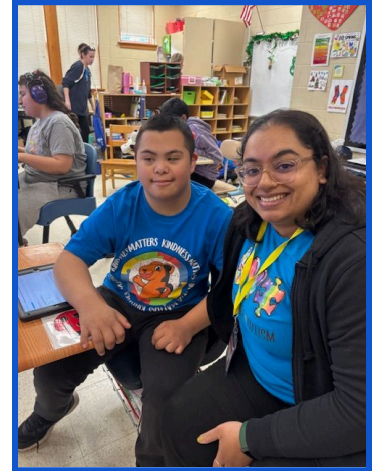


- **End-of-Year Celebration, Wednesday, 6/11**
 - Pre-K, ECC, Elementary, and Middle School Classes
 - RSVP to follow
- **Graduation & End of Year Celebration, Thursday 6/12**
 - High School & Post Graduate
 - RSVP to follow



Autism Awareness Day, 4/2

It is all about embracing differences, supporting acceptance, and celebrating the unique strengths of the autism community while working together to create a more inclusive society.



Rock Brook is in the News!

- Partnership with Montgomery Police and Montgomery Special Education PTA
Re: Blue Envelope Program
- Click the link, as we are featured in the Montgomery News
 - [Montgomery News Article](#)

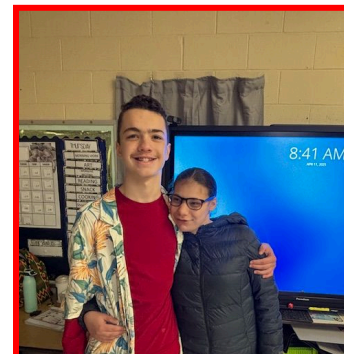


Take Your Child to Work Day

We had many young guests participate this year. Thank you to all of our youth associates for joining us for all of the activities and fun. We hope to see you next year!



Vacation Gear at RBS



Rock Brook Connections Across the Globe

Over spring break, Leslye Manna, our Teacher Coach, had the incredible opportunity to travel to Italy. While exploring the charming streets of beautiful Sorrento, she suddenly recognized a couple of familiar faces. She did a double-take... and to her surprise, it was Tavishi and Trijal, two of our amazing middle school students!

What a coincidence! Not only was Leslye discovering a new corner of the world, but so were two of our Rock Brook students, creating a truly memorable international moment.

Just another reminder that the Rock Brook spirit reaches far and wide!

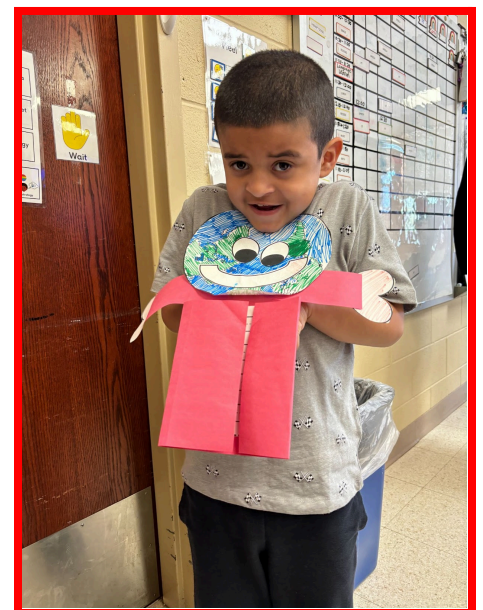


Early Childhood Center (ECC)

Happy Spring from ECC! With the changing of the season and the arrival of warmer weather, our students have been busy exploring the differences between winter and spring, with a special focus on the amazing transformations that spring brings.

In celebration of Earth Day, the class had the perfect opportunity to reflect on all the incredible things the Earth provides us. This exploration has launched the students into an exciting science journey into photosynthesis, where students are learning how plants and animals support one another's needs—and just how important plants are for the air we breathe!

Our class will also be diving into the life cycle of plants, planting seeds of our own, and observing their growth over



time. In addition, students will explore how pollination plays a crucial role in the development of fruits and vegetables.

We're looking forward to all the hands-on learning and discovery this season has to offer. Spring has truly brought a new level of excitement and wonder to our ECC classroom!

Elementary Classroom

This month, students and staff celebrated Autism Awareness Month by having a wonderful guest reader, Ana, the sister of our amazing Speech Language Pathologist, Michaela Fibraio. To welcome our visitor, the students made a colorful poster filled with things Ana loves, creating a personal and cozy environment. The classroom had a YouTube fireplace crackling on the Promethean Board to make the room feel extra warm and inviting!

Ana read the class a beautiful story about how headphones can help people feel more comfortable and supported. The students loved it and listened so attentively!

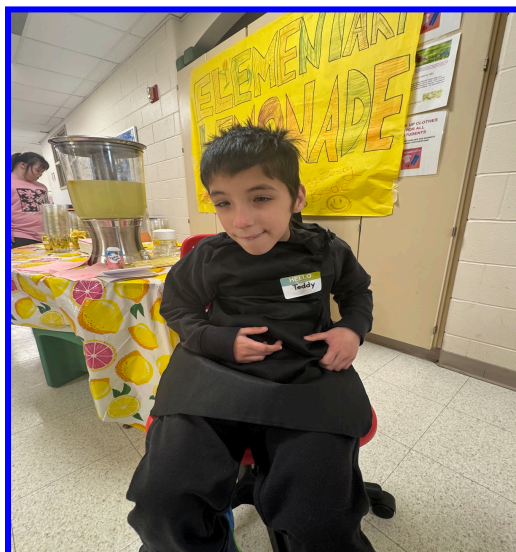
After the story time, the students and staff shifted into a fun and festive Easter activity. Each student got to paint their own egg canvas while we played a game called, "*I'm Going on an Easter Picnic*" — adding foods to our picnic basket that began with each letter of the alphabet. It was such a joyful and creative day filled with learning, laughter, and lots of Easter spirit!



In addition, our incredible Elementary students held their very first school fundraiser — a Lemonade Stand for the school community! The kids worked hard mixing large batches of refreshing lemonade and pink lemonade. They also helped create colorful flyers to advertise the event and put together eco-friendly cups with reusable straws for all our thirsty customers.

To add a fun, personal touch, the students wrote cheerful puns on each cup like, "*Stay Zesty, Bestie!*" It brought lots of smiles and laughter!

Thanks to their hard work and enthusiasm, the class raised over \$160 to go towards an exciting spring/summer field trip. It was an incredible day of learning, teamwork, and success — we are so proud of them!



Movement Class:

In movement, students are participating in a unit that is focusing on *balance*! As students progress, they will benefit from increased coordination, increased core strength, improved posture, and bilateral coordination. Balancing has been shown to come with a variety of benefits. Many studies show that increased balance can influence decreased anxiety, increased focus and increased strength. Studies specific to autism have shown that posture can be significantly improved through training balance skills. We have started this unit by balancing pool noodles on our hands and have now moved on to balancing folders on top of the pool noodles while traversing varying terrain. For students who cannot access the alternative terrains, we have focused on grasping and accessing the same textures with our hands. Please reference the attached articles for further information.



- [Balance Performance in Autism](#)
- [The effects of balance training intervention on postural control of children with autism spectrum disorder: Role of sensory information](#)
- [The effect of circus activity training on postural control of 5–6-year-old children](#)

Music and Art Family

April brought Springtime energy to music and art classes. High School and Post Grad classes finished reading “Ella Fitzgerald.” Students enjoyed listening to a few of Ella’s most famous songs:

“A Tisket a Tasket” :

- [Click Here](#)

“How High the Moon”

- [Click Here](#)



Recorder and Ukulele classes are progressing nicely. Students are ready to try a new method for Ukulele, which will offer more opportunities for success in playing specific chords along with some familiar songs like the “Hello Song,” “Goodbye Song,”

“Kookaburra,” “Make New Friends,” and an arrangement of “Somewhere Over the Rainbow.” The students have greatly improved their ability to hold the ukulele and strum rhythmically.

In art, students completed some Spring projects. Using dot paints, students decorated Peep outlines. A few classes studied Vincent Van Gogh’s “A Starry Night” painting and, using tempera paint markers, created their own “Starry Night” paintings. Students are in the process of creating decorations for our 50th Birthday Celebration, which is scheduled for Wednesday, May 14.

We continue to use a variety of rhythm instruments and explore rhythm patterns and various styles of music.

As a note, students are already practicing songs for our Graduation Celebration, in particular, “Working on my Independence,” written by Rock Brook’s own Jenie Vargas.

Special Education Art Contest

RBS students participated in the annual ASAH Art contest and this year’s theme was “Planting the Seed of Education.” Hundreds of 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. Although our students didn’t win the top prizes, the following students were Honorable Mentions.

- Aidan Zsenak
- Alexandra Eilender
- Brandon Wittkop
- Giovanni Lescano
- Meleyshka Vega
- Olivia Heft



We are all very proud of our students for their creativity, time, and effort. Well done!



Rock Brook School is not sponsoring the events listed below and will not receive any benefit from your participation.

We are sharing this information because it may be of interest to you and your family, and that you might enjoy the opportunity should you choose to attend.

New York Metro Disability Expo – May 2-4

The New York Metro Disability Expo is happening May 2-4, at the New Jersey Convention & Expo Center! This event is free, but registration is required.



This event offers a fantastic opportunity to explore cutting-edge disability products, technology, and resources. It's a great chance to learn, engage, and discover new innovations to support our community. Here's what you can look forward to:

- Accessible Climbing Wall – Test your skills and conquer the wall!
- Adaptive Sports – Experience hands-on adaptive sports activities.
- Dance Workshops – Learn new moves and have fun.
- Informative Workshops – Attend sessions packed with valuable knowledge.
- And so much more!

Event Hours:

- Friday, May 2: 11:00 AM – 5:00 PM
- Saturday, May 3: 11:00 AM – 5:00 PM
- Sunday, May 4: 11:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Click the link below to learn more and to register:

- [**Abilities Expo Information & Registration**](#)

Spring Carnival for Children with Special Needs – May 17

This year's Spring Carnival for Children with Special Needs will be held on Saturday, May 17, from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM. Rain or shine, the carnival promises a fantastic time for children ages 4 to 12, with activities such as:

- Bounce houses
- Art projects
- Face painting
- Balloon twisters
- Pony rides
- The signature treasure hunt, and much more!



The Governor and First Lady host the event alongside the Drumthwacket Foundation. It is a wonderful way to celebrate the joys of spring in a welcoming and inclusive environment.


DDD Transition Thursday's Webinar Series

The Office of Transition to Adult Life is excited to invite you to their Transition Thursday's Webinar Series—a valuable resource for individuals and families preparing to transition from the school system to adult services through the Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD).

- Topic: Transition to Adult Services & Intake Process
- Date: 2nd Thursday of each month
- Time: 6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

During this session, you will learn:

- Transition Preparation: Key steps as you or your loved one prepares to shift from school-based services to DDD support.
 - Eligibility Criteria: Understand the requirements for DDD eligibility.
 - Intake Process: Get guidance on the application, required documents, and the NJCAT assessment.
- Interactive Q&A: Ask your questions and get real-time answers from our team.

 Register at the links below:

- May 8, 2025 [Transition to Adult Services & Intake Process](#)
- June 12, 2025 [Transition to Adult Services & Intake Process](#)

Whether you're just beginning the transition journey or are actively navigating the intake process, this webinar offers the clarity and support you need. Don't forget to join the [Transition Listserv](#) to stay updated on upcoming events and resources.

TOPS SOCCER



TOPSoccer (The Outreach Program for Soccer) is a community based program for young athletes with disabilities.

The program is designed to bring the opportunity of learning and playing soccer to any boy or girl with disabilities.

The emphasis of this program is on development, training, and meaningful participation rather than on competition.

DETAILS



Scan to register



- ✓ Open to High Bridge residents and non-residents
- ✓ Free program available to children ages 4+
- ✓ Nine week fall season starting 9/6/25
- ✓ Saturdays from 9-9:40am at Union Forge Park
- ✓ Registration open!

Volunteer buddies are paired with players, and together they participate in stretching and ball work, fun games, and skill development. All activities are led by coaches.

Coaches, volunteers and buddies are needed!

Questions?
highbridgeTOPS@gmail.com

Visit and follow
www.hbyouthsoccer.org @HBYS Soccer



Security Drills: In April, students participated in both a fire drill and a bomb threat drill. We are pleased to share that our students continue to follow all necessary procedures with care and cooperation during these emergency drills. Their calm, attentive behavior reflects the ongoing efforts of our staff to ensure that safety protocols are well understood and practiced throughout the school community.

As a reminder, all schools in New Jersey are required to conduct two emergency drills each month—one fire drill and one security drill. Security drills may include scenarios such as active shooter, bomb threat evacuation, non-fire evacuation, lockdown, or shelter-in-place. In accordance with state regulations, schools must also notify families following each monthly security drill.

Thank you for your continued support in helping us maintain a safe and prepared school environment

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

→ [RBS Facebook](#)

