



ROCK BROOK SCHOOL

Family Flyer

October 2025

Special Messages/Reminders

Trick-or-Treating at RBS

Despite the inclement weather, we had an amazing school-wide Trick-or-Treating experience for our students! From the creative costumes to the parents and guests who joined us to share treats, it was truly a wonderful event to be part of. We sincerely appreciate everyone's participation and enthusiasm to make the day special for our school community.



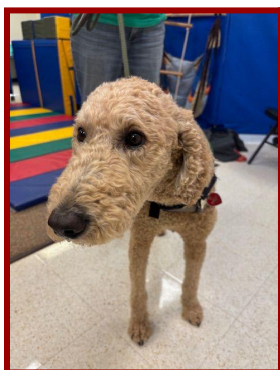
Rett Syndrome Day: Students and staff were invited to wear purple earlier in October as we brought awareness to Rett Syndrome, a rare genetic disorder.



Quiver Traveling Farm: Once again, Rock Brook School welcomed Quiver Farm. Farmer Keith joined us along with a host of animals, including chickens, rabbits, a goat, a pig, roosters, ducks, a goose, a turkey, and a cow. We had a great day!



Air Therapy Dogs Program: Our therapy dogs were back in action at RBS to visit with our students and staff. Our furry visitors included Lily and McKinly. The students enjoyed their time with the dogs, and they are always learning new and interesting things about the dogs such as their favorite food and what they like to do during the day.



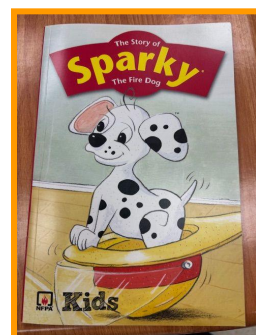
**WHO LET THE
DOGS OUT!**



Montgomery Township Fire Department No.2: Thank you to the Montgomery Township Volunteer Fire Department for visiting with our students and staff. Our students learned about fire safety, equipment used by firefighters, and had the opportunity to see inside the truck! We appreciate the firefighters' time to talk with our students and for always keeping our community safe!



Guest Reader in the House! We were thrilled to welcome Mrs. Santana to RBS as a guest reader. She shared a wonderful story with our younger students about fire safety in anticipation of our fire truck visit. In addition, Mrs. Santana generously donated extra fire safety books and posters for our classrooms to enjoy as we prepared for the visit from the fire department.



Music and Art, Janet Campbell

This month, students listened to “The Swan” from *Carnival of the Animals* by Camille Saint-Saëns, featuring Yo-Yo Ma on cello and Kathryn Stott on piano.

October’s featured piece from *Carnival of the Animals* was “The Elephant.” Students enjoyed exploring the musical motifs through tone bell play, which was enthusiastically received by both staff and students alike.

- [Yo-Yo Ma, Kathryn Scott-The Swan](#)
- [Saint-Saëns: Carnival of the Animals](#)

In art class, students explored a variety of creative projects and artists!



We began by decorating swan pictures, which are now beautifully displayed on our bulletin board. Another lesson focused on Vincent van Gogh’s *Sunflowers*, where students created their own interpretations using tempera paint sticks. The smooth texture of the art sticks was a big hit, one student shared, “*It’s relaxing.*”

Students also painted a cubism-inspired face in the style of Pablo Picasso, and enjoyed seasonal projects such as paper bag scarecrows and pumpkin paintings.

Many of our projects are free-form, with loose parameters that encourage students to explore their own style and creativity. We wrapped up October with sand paintings for Diwali and imaginative monster faces—a wonderful celebration of color, culture, and creativity!

Here are two short videos that highlight the styles of both Van Gogh and Picasso:

- [The Story of Vincent Van Gogh for Kids](#)
- [Picasso Portraits](#)

Ukulele Fun in Middle and High School!

This year, Middle School 1 has joined the High School and Post-Grad classes in learning to play the ukulele! Students are developing their musical skills using adaptive tunings, familiar songs, and simple chord combinations. Color coding plays an important role in helping everyone follow along and build confidence.

Singing activities include vocal warm-ups and songs that accompany ukulele practice. Students also get to share song requests, which are incorporated into lessons when appropriate. Through rhythm and tonal pattern exercises, students practice echoing, turn-taking, and listening skills.

Current songs we’re learning include:

🎵 *Somewhere Over the Rainbow*



♪ *A Million Dreams*
♪ *Count on Me*

You can explore the music using the links below:

- [Somewhere Over the Rainbow](#)
- [A Million Dreams](#)
- [Count on Me](#)

Music Fun in Our Younger Classes

Our younger students are having a wonderful time exploring music and movement this fall! They enjoy singing along to familiar favorites and participating in rhythm activities that build listening and coordination skills.

Beloved books like *Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?* and *Chicka Chicka Boom Boom* are both read and sung during class, making storytime a musical experience. Students also play a variety of rhythm instruments as they learn to recognize and repeat rhythm patterns.

Movement imitation and developing a growing song repertoire are key parts of our Specials music program, helping students build confidence, creativity, and a lifelong love of music!



Movement Class - Eliana Johnson

This fall, students are building their skills through the game of kickball! They are learning how to round the bases, when to stop and go, and how to kick and pitch the ball.

As they practice these skills, students also strengthen important areas, including coordination, core strength, posture, agility, bilateral coordination, and attention skills.

We began the unit by introducing the concepts of “Stop” and “Go.” Now, students are putting their learning into action by participating in real kickball games!

Parents can continue the fun at home by playing a version of Stop and Go (similar to *Red Light, Green Light*) using a double-sided sign. Feel free to print the visual and create your own game to play together!



Early Childhood Center (ECC):

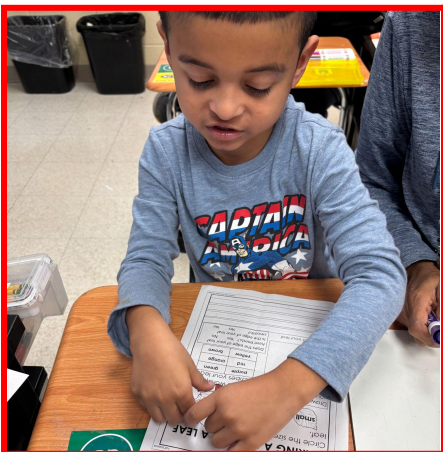
Students in ECC are excited about some new additions to the classroom: our very own monsters! Using tennis balls, plastic containers, and pom poms, students created their own personalized monsters. They also decorated special monster homes, where they can practice “feeding their monsters” to strengthen fine motor skills. This exciting craft tied in perfectly with our book of the week, *Go Away, Big Green Monster!* by Ed Emberley. Students had a blast acting out the story, identifying body parts, and using props to bring the book to life. This lesson was part of a co-treatment with our related service providers, specifically Colleen Rademaker, Speech-Language Pathologist, and Lauren Cornejo, Occupational Therapist. They both continue to support the generalization of therapeutic strategies within the classroom environment, collaborating with teachers and staff to ensure consistency between therapy sessions and classroom implementation.

Our students have been continuing their exploration of the five senses through a variety of fun and engaging activities! We conducted a popcorn taste test to learn more about the sense of taste, and later in October, we picked out colorful fall leaves to explore our senses of sight and touch.

Students have done a fantastic job matching pictures to the correct senses and applying what they’ve learned during our hands-on science experiments. It’s been wonderful to see their curiosity and enthusiasm grow as they discover the world through their five senses!

That’s not all we’ve been up to this fall! We also made Halloween cupcakes, using visual schedules and practicing taking turns with peers, and we created a festive pumpkin puffy paint craft.

We’re looking forward to more hands-on activities and fun as we celebrate this wonderful time of year!



Elementary Classroom

Our Elementary students have been hard at work this fall learning about numbers, graphing, shapes, reading, the Zones of Regulation, and the five senses.

We took our learning on the road with a fun field trip to the farm! Students explored farm animals, enjoyed a hayride, and picked their very own pumpkins. Along the way, we practiced comparing big vs. small pumpkins and discovered bumpy vs. smooth ones, too!

Through this hands-on experience, students used all their senses — feeling the warm sun, touching the different textures of animals, and hearing the tractor rumble as it pulled us along. It was a wonderful way to connect our classroom learning to the world around us!



The OT Corner: October Sensory Edition: Theme of the Month: Fall Sensory Adventure

This time of year brings cozy scents, crunchy leaves, and lots of opportunities for sensory play. Let's combine calming sensory exploration with fun movement to help stay regulated and focused.

Try these at home:

Make a Fall Sensory Box:

- Take a bin and fill it with things like crunchy leaves, dry beans, rice, or shredded paper.
- Add cozy scents like cinnamon sticks, cloves, star anise, or nutmeg.
- Hide small Fall or Thanksgiving-themed items like tiny pumpkins, twigs, pinecones, acorns, or beads, and have your child search for them. You can also click the link below for more sensory play suggestions.
 - [Sensory Play Ideas](#)

Outdoor mindfulness:

- What is mindfulness: a state of present-moment awareness involving paying attention to your thoughts, feelings, and bodily sensations
- *Blow bubbles*: A strategy for focusing on deep breathing, blowing bubbles is an interactive and fun way to practice mindfulness.
- *Watch wildlife*: Spend time watching wildlife in your backyard, a local park, or on a hike. Once you spot something, spend time actually watching the behavior of the animal.
- *Stack rocks*. Find some different-sized rocks. Stack them and try to see how high your rock tower can go. This activity works on mindfulness and balance.
- *Go on an outdoor scavenger hunt*
- *Paint and hide rocks*
 - [Mindful Walking - Goldilocks Yoga](#)
 - [Outdoor Mindful Walk Activities](#)

Fall Fun Exercise Ideas:

- Take advantage of the last few weeks of warmth and visit your local parks and playgrounds
- Fall animal walk ideas:
 - *Squirrel Scramble*: Mimic squirrels gathering nuts. Run quickly for short bursts, then stop and "bury" a pretend nut by patting the ground.
 - *Bear Lumber*: Move slowly and heavily, like a bear preparing for hibernation. Take big, stomping steps with your arms swinging loosely.
 - *Bat Hang*: Find a low branch or playground bar and hang upside down for a few seconds, then "fly" forward by moving your hands along the bar.
 - *Frog Hop*: Squat down and hop forward, just like a frog



Message from Lynne Traina, School Nurse

- ★ As we move into the cold & flu season, please be diligent to keep our school safe and stay home when feeling ill!
- ★ Handwashing is super helpful in keeping everyone healthy through this season!
- ★ Reminder of our illness policy
 - Fever > 100.4F will be sent home & must be fever-free without medications for 24 hours before returning to school
 - Diarrhea and vomiting will also be excluded until no symptoms and tolerating meals well for 24 hours.
 - For strep throat, the student may return 24 hours after starting treatment.
 - If diagnosed with Conjunctivitis (Pink Eye), a medical note will be required before returning to school.
- ★ If you would like your student to have Tylenol or Ibuprofen at school for pain or fever, please submit a medical order from their doctor.



As always, please contact our health office by emailing lynne.traina@rock-brook.org and/or nurse@rock-brook.org with any questions.

Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony: All-Access Playground: Our staff and families had the opportunity to join Mayor Neena Singh and the Montgomery community for the ribbon-cutting ceremony celebrating the new inclusive playground at the Montgomery Municipal Center.

This beautiful new space offers a safe, welcoming, and engaging place for children of all ages and abilities to play and connect.





Have you checked out our RBS Facebook page? Be sure to like, follow, and share to stay up to date on all the amazing things happening at RBS!

- [RBS Facebook](#)



Parent Conferences, Thursday, 11/13

Our parent conferences are quickly approaching and will take place on Thursday, November 13. As a reminder, students will have an early dismissal at 12:30 p.m. on our conference day.

On this day, both afternoon and evening appointments will be available. Your child's teacher will be in contact with you regarding conference sign-ups.

