



Rockford Middle School

Center for Environmental Studies

Paul Warzecha, Principal
6051 Ash Street | Rockford, MN 55373
Phone 763-477-5831 | Fax 763-477-5832
www.rockford.k12.mn.us

November 18th, 2022

Dear RMS-CES families,

This time of year always causes me to pause and be grateful for so many things. I wanted to express my gratitude for all you do each and every day to support your child. I have appreciated getting to know so many of you and have truly enjoyed this amazing community. Here are a few notes for the week...

Cold Weather Gear: This week has brought us snow and a decent amount of it! Just a friendly reminder that we encourage students to wear a jacket daily during the winter months, both for the bus ride to school and in case we go outside in one of our four outdoor classrooms. If your child is in need of a coat please let us know.

Health and Wellness: Not unlike other schools, RMS-CES has noticed an uptick in student and staff absences this week due to illness. Because we care about our students, and truly enjoy spending time with them, we ask that we consider the following as good health and wellness practices as we head into cold and flu season

- consider washing hands-frequently throughout the day, especially between home and school.
- If your student has a fever of 100 or higher. Please keep your student home for 24 hrs, fever free without medications. If your student has had vomiting, please stay home for 24 hrs since last occurrence.
- The cold and snow involves spending less time outside and potentially less physical activity. Explore alternatives for exercise and movement (see some ideas/links under News & Notes below)

Bus Loop: Please know our new Bus loop and ADA accessible path(surrounded by newly planted prairie grass) has helped provide a new sense of safety and security for our students who ride either a bus or van. Students have done a great job at getting to their bus in a timely manner and learning new processes for the end of the day.



Have a great day!

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UPCOMING EVENTS

DATES TO CHECK OUT:

Wednesday, November 23rd, 2022-Friday, November 25th, 2022-**No School-Fall Break**

Friday, December 23rd, 2022 through January 2nd, 2023-**No School-Winter Break**

Thursday, January 12th from 3:30-7:00 pm-Winter Conferences

Monday, January 16th, 2023-No School-Staff Development Day

Friday, January 20th, 2023-End of Quarter 2

Monday, January 29th-No School-Staff Development Day

Tuesday, January 24th-Start of Quarter 3

NEWS AND NOTES



Need ideas for getting outside w/the kids this WINTER ?

Please click on the links below:

[Three Rivers Parks Event Calendar](#)

[University of Minnesota Raptor Center](#)

[Minnesota Kid Friendly Outdoor Activities](#)

[Minnesota State Parks and Trails Events Calendar](#)

[Jeffers Foundation GO CARDS](#)

Hello Rockford Families!



Every year we partner with Riverworks Food Shelf to help support our community before the holiday season. Last year we raised over \$1,000 thanks to all of the generous donations! As we plan our upcoming celebrations, we at Rockford Area Schools, are asking that you take the time to think of others who are less fortunate. Please make a donation that works for your family to help relieve the stress of others during this time. If you are able to donate, we are asking all families and staff to donate money on-line directly to Riverworks. With the financial support, they will be able to purchase the food

to fill their shelves. Please follow the directions below to donate. Any dollar amount helps! Thank you for supporting our community and partnering with Rockford Area Schools.

Happy Holidays! *This is not an ISD883 sponsored event*

Here's how to give:

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1. Go to riverworksonline.org
2. Click on the DONATE tab in the upper right hand corner
3. Click on the DONATE ONLINE tab
4. Click on the FUND drop down menu
5. Select ROCKFORD SCHOOL THANKSGIVING FUND DRIVE



Rockford Area Schools will be hosting a bi-annual World's Best Workforce meeting on Monday, November 21. This is a community informational and input session regarding district programming. If you are interested in participating, please contact Robert Danneker, Director of Teaching & Learning at dannekerr@rockford.k12.mn.us

5th Grade Deep Portage Butter Braid Fundraiser

Sales have started! Parents received a link via email to register their student for the online fundraiser. Students will receive \$6 of every sale they make.

[Butter Braid Link](#)

Sale Dates: October 28- November 21

Delivery Date to RMS-CES: December 8

Any questions, please contact Mrs. Russell at russellb@rockford.k12.mn.us

FOOD SERVICE REMINDER:

Please check your parent portal for notifications (letters) regarding current food service balances.



Registration for WINTER activities is now open for Rockford Area Schools students in grades 7-12!

Please [click here](#) to register your student for an activity. Reminder: Families are invited to join us for the Winter Sports meeting on Monday, November 7th at 6pm in the RHS Auditorium.

For information on participation requirements of winter activities offered at RAS, please go to the [Activities Registration](#) page of the district website.

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EVERY MEAL SIGN UP

This is a completely FREE program for the district and families of the district. Anyone has the opportunity to receive a bag of nonperishable food every week that is delivered to your child's school and can be picked up by the student or delivered to the class depending on the age or what is preferred.

Click on the following link for the English version: <https://forms.gle/Q6SSZrJi5VHnPRhHA>

Click on the following link for the Spanish version: <https://forms.gle/AggGauqyGoLw5jrs7>

If you have any further questions about the Every Meal program in general, the website is listed below
<https://www.everymeal.org/>



RAS FALL MUSICAL "The Wizard of Oz"

RMS-CES RAS Fall Musical "The Wizard of Oz"

Come see the show November 18th, 19th or 20th

WORK WITH KIDS IN THE COMMUNITY YOU LOVE!



PREFERRED GRADE FLEXIBILITY!



JOIN OUR TEAM



CHOOSE WHAT DAYS YOU WORK!

- Age requirement: 18
- Must have a HS degree, Teachers on call will provide additional needed training!
- Paid Weekly!
- Please go to www.teachersoncall.com

JOSTENS SCHOOL PICTURES



[VIEW AND ORDER PHOTOS HERE](#)

FREE & REDUCED LUNCH FORMS:

If you haven't already done so, please take a moment to fill out this [FORM](#). Students who qualify may be eligible for **Pandemic-Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT)** to purchase food for days they are not in the school building. Our school also receives state funding for technology based on qualifying families! For more information or a Spanish version, click [HERE](#).

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LOST & FOUND

Please have your child look for any items they may be missing!

TIP: Please label your student's lunch box, water bottle, hoodie, hat, etc....

MENTAL HEALTH-Exercise & Mental Health

Please click [HERE](#) (English) [HERE](#) (Spanish) for our monthly newsletter from the School Based team at Nystrom & Associates.

YEARBOOK'S FOR SALE



The 2022-2023 yearbooks are on SALE now!

Please click [HERE](#) to order!

Cost is \$20

RMS-CES ATTENDANCE LINE



Please use our [ATTENDANCE LINE at 763-477-7525](#) to call your child in absent.



Please click [HERE](#) for information about our 2022-2023 Meal Rates Return for Nutritious School Meal.

INFINITE CAMPUS ANNUAL UPDATE:



Be sure to complete your Annual Update!

It is very important to ensure the school district has current household and contact information for all students. Before school starts, be sure to log in to your Parent Portal account to complete the Annual Update. This online update will replace the emergency forms you have received in the past. Keeping household information updated will help families stay connected and be informed of upcoming events, and will ensure you receive information regarding any important announcements.

To complete the annual update, log in to your Parent Portal Account and select "More". From there, select "Online Registration", then select "22-23 School Year Annual Update for Existing Students". The

information that is in our system will auto-populate for parents to review or update. Please be sure to submit your annual update as soon as possible.

If you have any questions, please contact Christa Larson at larsonchrista@rockford.k12.mn.us or 763-477-9165.

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ROCKFORD EDUCATION FOUNDATION



RMS-CES WISH LISTS

Please click [HERE](#) to view the RMS-CES WISH LISTS...

Donations can be dropped off at the school's front desk with the teacher's name attached or sent to class with your child. Thanks for your support!

RMS-CES - MEDIA CENTER RENOVATION

Please click [HERE](#) for information on a **FUND-A NEEDS**

***These are not ISD883 sponsored events**

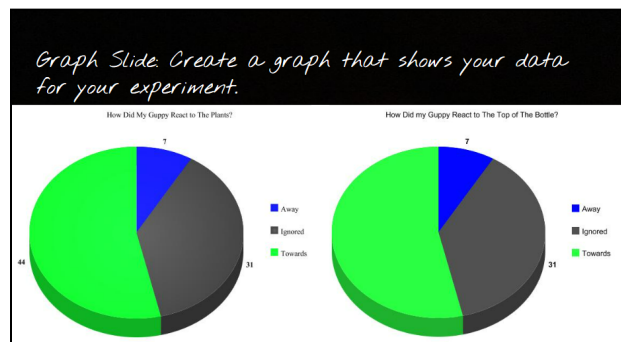
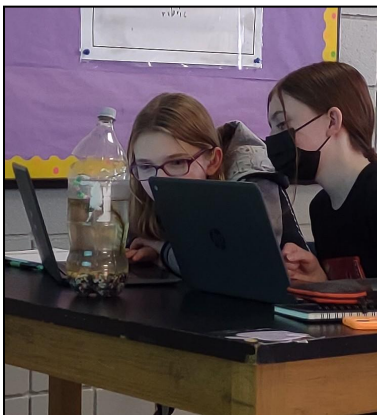
CLASSROOM HIGHLIGHTS

7TH GRADE SCIENCE-MS. SARSLAND

Hello from Bottle Biology in Ms. Sarsland's classroom. After two weeks and several babies, these little guppies swam through hoops, responded to mirrors and music; plus much, much more!

This week, we get to review the findings that students have collected from their Bottle Biology ecosystems. After making graphs, several surprises are surfacing as initial data is being processed. It's wonderful to see students discuss and analyze their lab results. Last week, watching guppies leaving to find new homes was fun, hearing them talk about their new tanks and experiences was also delightful.

Being a STEM school and Center for Environmental Studies, this project allowed for students to experience both. I couldn't be prouder of these students and look forward to upcoming stories about these special little fish! 🐟



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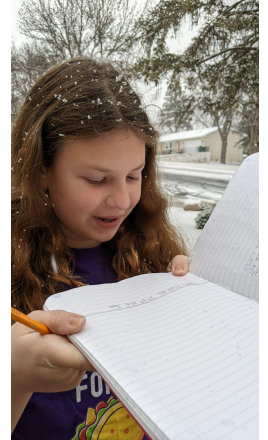
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6TH GRADE SCIENCE-MS. WERTH

With a snowy start to the week, 6th grade scientists headed outside to observe the structure and properties of the freshly fallen snow. As the snow changed throughout the day, different classes had different opportunities to make visual observations of the snow, as well as test different things, like the stickiness and slipperiness of the snow, the taste of the snow, and the crunchiness and loudness of the snow underfoot.

After heading back inside, students continued learning about Minnesota's glacial past and how this affected our current-day landscape. After completing their assessment on Thursday, 6th graders revisited the science of snow on Friday and learned about how and why snowflakes can form different shapes. They also practiced making their own 6-pointed snowflakes, just like science prescribes.



5TH GRADE SCIENCE-HANNAH OLIVERIUS

In science, we have started to explore how energy flows through ecosystems. Students have learned all about food chains and food webs as models that demonstrate the flow of energy. We have been practicing lots of vocabulary such as biotic, abiotic, producer, consumer, and decomposer. Students are working on building their own food chains and food webs on Google Slides.

This week we also planted our corn seeds! In a few short weeks, students will use their corn plants to run a controlled experiment. Students will be determining what plants need in order to survive using their corn plants they have grown!



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8TH GRADE SCIENCE-MS. BUDDE

This week in eighth grade science, students have been learning about atoms and elements! We started out the week

reviewing physical and chemical properties of matter. On Tuesday, we explored the structure of the atom itself, and learned about the three subatomic particles that make up atoms: protons, neutrons, and electrons. Students used their creativity and some modeling clay to turn their 2D note model into a more realistic 3D model of the atom. We have rounded out our week by investigating the periodic table.

Small groups are researching patterns in the physical and chemical properties of different groups of elements, and we will present our findings next week Monday and Tuesday!

