



Rockford Elementary Arts Magnet School

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Brenda Nyhus, Principal

A NOTE FROM THE PRINCIPAL 04-29-2022



Dear Parents,

MCA testing is complete at REAMS, except for a few make up tests. Thanks again to all of you who encouraged your child, helped them have a great breakfast on their testing days, and get a good night's sleep the day before testing. I am proud of our students and how hard they worked and focused on these state assessments.

We are excited to bring Grandparent's Day back this year! The pandemic certainly put a halt on many of our events that bring people together in our building so it has been a couple of years since we hosted this special event. This is an occasion for our second grade students and they are looking forward to sharing their talents and lunch with their Grandparents next Friday.

We have a little over 20 school days left in this year. It is coming to a close quickly and is a very busy time in the life of an educator. As I always say, we currently have a foot in both camps (ending this year and planning for next year). It has been a very busy year. I am truly humbled by the people that surround me each day.

Have a fantastic weekend!

Warmly,
Brenda Nyhus
Principal



Put it on your calendar

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|---------------------------|---|
| May 4 | Battle of the Books - third and fourth grade |
| May 6 | Second grade Grandparents Day |
| May 9-11 and 16-18 | Fourth Grade Artist in Residence |
| May 17 | Arts and Academics and one evening only Book Fair (REAMS)
"The Works" visits 3rd grade science |
| May 20 | Spelling Bee |
| May 27 | Kindergarten field trip to Mn Zoo
Second grade field trip to Lake Rebecca park Reserve |
| May 31 | Fourth grade Track and Field |

Peek at the Week

Buzzing about a spelling bee; 1st - 4th grade

REAMS is pleased to share that they are holding a Spelling Bee in late May for 1st-4th grade students. This is a wonderful opportunity for students who enjoy spelling to develop and highlight their spelling abilities!

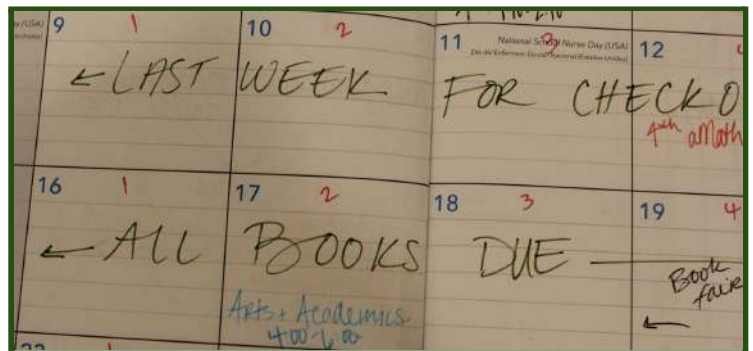
The Spelling Bee will feature spelling words from the Scripps 2022 National Spelling Bee list and will occur in two rounds. During the first round, students participated in a written Spelling Bee in their classrooms during the week of April 18 - 22. During the event, teachers read words from the Scripps list and students were asked to spell the word on paper. Students were not given a list of words in advance to study. Based on the results, approximately 20-25 students from across each grade level will be selected to participate in the second round of the Spelling Bee.

The second and final round of the Spelling Bee will be held in the RHS Auditorium, on Friday, May 20 for grades 1st through 4th (competing against their individual grade levels). During this round, an announcer will read a word from the Scripps spelling list and use the word in a sentence. The student will be asked to spell the word aloud. Pencils and paper will be provided for students to use. This is a great opportunity for students to begin developing their speaking skills. An invitation to attend the final round of the Spelling Bee will be sent to parents and guardians of students who will be participating.

Please feel free to contact Holly Biorn at Biornh@rockford.k12.mn.us with any questions.

Calling all library books

As you tackle your spring cleaning this weekend, keep an eye out for REAMS library books. All library books are due the week of May 16.



Farm week in Kindergarten has arrived

Farm Week is HERE! For the next two weeks, kinders will be busy working on their very first research project about farm animals. Each student picked a farm animal of their choice to study. Non-fiction books were read in class and favorite facts were shared. Then, the students wrote books and created posters, flip books and other projects to share their favorite facts about the animal. In addition to the work completed at school, each student will also make a 3D model of the animal at home. Thanks in advance to all the kinder-parents for your hard work at home on this. All projects will be on display in the media center for parents to check them out at Arts & Academics Night.



On Farm Day Friday, May 6 the FFA students from the middle school and high school will help the elementary students engage in hands-on activities based on different parts of farming

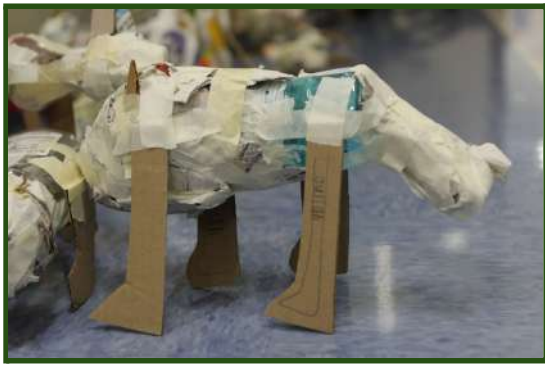
life and work.

Picture: Students learned about sheep and how we use their wool for clothing. Students were able to touch and smell real wool practicing carding the wool.

Second grade Artist in Residence

Second grade welcomed their visual art and theater artist in residence, Julie Boada, earlier this week. Students are learning through visual arts standards, theater standards, reading standards, as well as Minnesota American Indian social studies standards. Each class learns a Native American story, then creates puppet and mask characters to bring the stories to life. Second grade students will perform three Ojibwe plays at Grandparent's Day next Friday, May 6 using the masks and puppets that they create throughout the week.

Julie is an Anishinabe/Ojibwe artist, storyteller, puppeteer, and arts educator with over thirty years of experience. She is passionate about work that inspires young artists, builds community, and fosters cultural pride.



Second grade and parrots

2nd Graders in Ms. Hedeem's classroom had a special visitor this week. An African Grey Parrot by the name of Frank came to say "hello"! Students had fun observing Frank and learning all about raising a parrot in captivity. Frank did a lot of whistling and a little talking. Learning about Frank, as well as working on animal research reports, have gotten the kids ready and excited for our upcoming field trip to the Minnesota Zoo :)



Fourth Grade focuses on poetry

Students are focusing on poetry writing in Mrs. Snyder's Creative Writing classes. Students are currently working on writing a "color poem." After picking their favorite color, students are using similes and metaphors to describe how their color makes them feel, how their color might smell or sound, and memories or thoughts that are conjured by their color. Finally, students are using their knowledge of color theory from their visual arts classes to create a piece of art that will be used to publish the final copy of their poem.

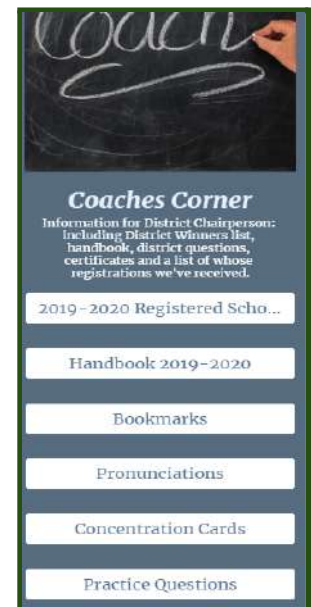


Battle of the Books practice questions available

Attention third and fourth grade Battle of the Books participants!

The Battle of the Books is May 4! If you would like to test your book knowledge, visit AKASL Battle of the Books for access to practice questions. Scroll down to the Coaches Corner to find Practice Questions. Download the "3/4Practice" questions using password Patience#2022 writing process: dealing with writer's block, drawing on personal experience, using the five senses; show, don't tell, and the use of conflict.

Battle Begins on May 4



Other Opportunities

Free weekend food program

Not an ISD883 sponsored event

Every Meal is a nonprofit organization with a mission to fight child hunger through our community and school partnerships. Every Meal strives to make a difference in the lives of children by focusing specifically on food gaps- the times when children aren't at school to access meal programs. Every Meal supports families with programming over the weekends, summers, and extended school breaks. Providing children with wholesome food is the focus of Every Meal.



Every Meal is free for all families!

- No qualifications required for enrollment

- Every Meal does not collect information from families; privacy is protected
- Families may enroll in the program at any time throughout the school year
- School staff discreetly deliver the food bags to students weekly

For more information or if you want to sign up to receive a free bag of food every week, please contact your child's school counselor!

Become a Girl Scout

Not an ISD883 sponsored event

Friendship, adventure, and making a difference—it all starts here.

Whether they're sleeping under the stars, creating the most colorful work of art, or teaming up with their new friends to build a robot, Girl Scouts grow into their strongest, kindest, most resilient selves. Watch your child make a difference in the world—and in themselves.

Join Girl Scouts today at GirlScoutsRV.org/Join! Join now for a discounted rate and a free welcome gift! For just \$35, your child will receive:

- Discounted Extended Year Membership, valid April 2022 through September 2023 (\$50 value). Offer valid April 1, 2022 through July 31, 2022. Financial assistance is available.
- Exclusive access to a virtual national Girl Scout event on May 19. Registration closes May 13.
- A welcome kit that includes a Girl Scout memory book and your child's first patch! While supplies last.

New troop leaders (and their accompanying Girl Scout) can join for FREE! Explore troops in your community and register at GirlScoutsRV.org/Join or scan the QR code on a mobile device to learn more. All girls in Kindergarten through grade 12 (Fall +2022) can join Girl Scouts.