



ROCK BROOK SCHOOL

Family Flyer

December 2024

Special Messages/Reminders

Season's Greetings

On behalf of Rock Brook School, wishing you and your family a very happy holiday season. Thank you for your ongoing support in your child's education. It means so much to us.



Holiday-Grams: Our Middle School 1 class delivered Singing Holiday-Grams to Rock Brook staff and students on December 16. This event was a huge success and the students had a wonderful time singing and shaking their jingle bells. More than \$100.00 was raised for Kind-Heart Rescue, a local bunny rescue which is located in Pennington.



Many thanks to Janet Campbell, our teaching team, and students for participating in this incredible opportunity.

Mayor of Montgomery Township Visits Rock Brook School

We were happy to welcome Mayor Neena Singh to RBS to tour our building, visit classrooms, and learn more about our school and program. Mayor Singh was able to meet many of our students and staff during her visit and is looking forward to continuing our partnership as we move forward.



Art and Music

December has been full of wonderful holiday songs and crafts. We've been playing "Name That Tune" with holiday favorites. It's great to see how few notes some of the students need to hear before correctly guessing the song title. We've also been enjoying cooperative movement with parachute (with "snowballs,") colorful ribbon wands and scarfs to various dances from the Nutcracker Ballet and, of course, favorites like "Rockin Around the Christmas Tree" and "Feliz Navidad."



HS/PG are making a special pinecone craft holiday tree. Painted wooden discs and decorated seashell ornaments will also be coming home along with our swirly painted round ornaments that we enjoyed so much making last year. We're learning how to make a cursive capital letter for our first name. Basic calligraphy.

Our HS/PG Instrumental Music classes include both recorder and ukulele. HS2 will be singing "Jingle Bells" with their ukuleles as they entertain members of the administration.

Some of the benefits of playing ukulele include:

- Provides opportunity for group participation
- Improves eye-hand coordination
- Promotes self-esteem and confidence
- Develops fine motor skills and coordination
- Builds communication skills and social connections

All the music classes enjoy playing the keyboard, bucket drumming on Tuesdays and reading/singing stories such as "Charlie Parker Played BeBop" and "Max Found Two Sticks." I have a bucket of books that can be read or sung rhythmically. HS/PG have been reading about Duke Ellington and Louis Armstrong.



As we look ahead to the New Year I plan to bring back our study of Camille Saint-Saens' "Carnival of the Animal." Using puppets, pictures, poems and color-coded keyboard music, the students will have a variety of ways to experience these wonderful compositions.

Please click the links below for your enjoyment at home:

- “The Waltz of the Flowers” from the Nutcracker Ballet
 - [Click Here](#)
- “Charlie Parker Played BeBop”
 - [Click Here](#)
- “Jingle Bell Rock”
 - [Click Here](#)



Dance Class

Please click on the link below to view a very popular dance performed by our students and facilitated by Mr. David. Enjoy!

→ [The Baking Dance!](#)



Adaptive Programs and Activities - Princeton Recreation

The Princeton Recreation Department offers a variety of year-round recreational, instructional, and athletic programs, as well as community events and trips, for all ages, abilities, and interests. Please click on the link below to check out some wonderful adaptive programs and activities, such as yoga, sports clinics, and music in our local community.

- [Kids Adaptive Yoga - Winter Sessions](#)
- [Adaptive Sports Clinics - Amazing Athletes](#)
- [Music Therapy - Kids & Teens/Adults](#)



PRINCETON
RECREATION

As a note, RBS is sharing this information as we feel you and your child may enjoy these opportunities. We are not sponsoring these events and will not receive any monetary benefit from enrolling your child in these programs.

NJ Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) Presentation

Please join us on Thursday, January 23 as we introduce Rock Brook School's Transition Coordinator, Ms. Monica Wall, and Ms. Marie Durand-Turner from the NJ Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD).

- Marie Durand-Turner will be presenting to our families here at Rock Brook School on Thursday, January 23, 2025.

- Target Audience: Parents and Caregivers of Students in Middle School, High School and Post Graduate classes
- Date: Thursday, January 23
- Time: 5:30 PM
- Location: Rock Brook School (we are working on creating a virtual option)



- Key Topics to be Addressed: Applying for Medicaid, Completing the DDD Application, New Jersey Comprehensive Assessment (NJCAT), Support Agency Selection Form, Graduate Timeline
- Other Information: Marie will provide forms for parents in both English and Spanish
- Please RSVP to Jennifer Dinardi, RBS HS/PG Supervisor at: jennifer.dinardi@rock-brook.org

High School 1

High School 1 students have been practicing their written communication skills and exploring opportunities for civic participation during the holiday season by learning about ways they can help the local community. The students are incorporating their writing skills and sending homemade holiday greeting cards to the Montgomery Senior Center. Service projects allow the students to contribute to meaningful causes and participate in hands-on activities that teach important life skills, such as teamwork, responsibility, and problem-solving. The HS 1 students are also excited to use their writing skills to write letters to their pen pals in the Cranbury School District. The students are encouraged to share their experiences, ask questions, and learn about others' lives, and build friendships. Together, service projects and pen pal exchanges have been helping HS 1 grow emotionally and socially, preparing them for future interactions and instilling a sense of belonging within their community.





High School 2 (HS2)

This month HS2 enjoyed practicing functional life skills: sorting coins and money skills. HS2 is learning how much money is needed to purchase items and using words such as *more* or *less*. HS2 has been practicing setting a table; preparing napkins with utensils; and cooking many new functional recipes every Tuesday. The functional recipes students are able to create independently at home, with parents, and/or siblings.

**GREAT
JOB!**

HS2 class enjoys trips to ShopRite, where they gather items needed for weekly cooking and their lunches. Some of the skills include, but are not limited to, making their grocery list, totaling their grocery list purchase, practice with collecting groceries, navigating the grocery cart, loading the conveyor belt, bagging items, carrying bags, and unloading the groceries into their correct location (i.e., cabinet or refrigerator). Students have made scrambled eggs, french toast, angel white cake with chocolate frosting for our friendsgiving and chocolate chip cookies for *The Coffee Experience*. Functional math skills are utilized working the Coffee Experience preparing, delivery, and using money skills with our customers throughout RockBrook School.

Post Graduate Students Our students hosted a bake sale and hot dog sale which was a huge success! We raised over \$350, which allowed us to purchase holiday gifts for the Early Childhood Classroom (ECC) and Elementary Classroom. This week we went shopping at 5 Below which allowed our students to work on budgeting skills and gift giving. Additionally, our class completed career surveys, which revealed that several students have an interest in crafting. As a result, we went shopping at JoAnn Fabrics this week to buy blanket making kits for each student to complete.



Post Grad is collecting for our winter Rummage Sale (to be held in January). Please see our flyer below if you would like to make a donation



GETTING READY TO CLEAN OUT YOUR CLOSETS?

Homegoods
Small Kitchen Tools
Knick-Knacks
Books
Dishes
Spring Holiday Decor
Glassware
Costume Jewelry

PLEASE DONATE GENTLY USED HOUSEHOLD ITEMS TO THE POST GRAD RUMMAGE SALE
DATE TBD

Deliver your donations to the PG classroom by January 10, 2025.
NO clothing, blankets, toys or furniture at this time.

An illustration of a woman in a blue suit and glasses, pointing with a stick. The background is light green with various household items and tools drawn in white outlines.

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

Daily Schedule:

- Regular Day: 8:30 am – 3:00 pm (Staff supervision begins at 8:25)
- Early Dismissal: 8:30 am - 12:30 pm (Staff supervision begins at 8:25)
- Delayed Opening: 10:30 am - 3:00 pm (Staff supervision begins at 10:25)

Emergency Contact Information: In the event parents/guardians are unreachable, emergency contacts will be responsible for the student. Emergency contacts must be available during school hours and able to pick up the student if necessary.

Progress Reports (Trimesters): Progress reports are issued three times a year for all students. In addition, progress reports are provided at the conclusion of our ESY program. Parents are encouraged to contact their child's teacher and/or therapist should they have any questions. In addition, progress reports are also provided at the conclusion of our ESY program.

As a note, our next scheduled release of progress reports will be on February 5.

Food Allergies: We are a nut safe school, but not a nut free school. The Health Office will need advanced notice before food is brought into your child's classroom. The teacher or the Health Office will notify the parents of an allergy student that an event is happening. This will allow said parent to send in a substitute food, if necessary. If your child has an allergy to any food, even minor allergy, please notify the Health Office via email: nurse@rock-brook.org or call the school immediately.

Message from the School Nurse: As a reminder, students who are experiencing cold and flu symptoms with a fever, need to be fever-free for at least 24 hours, without fever reducing medication before returning to school. In addition, any intestinal issues need to also be resolved without medication for 24 hours. Should your child be exhibiting symptoms, you are encouraged to contact the school nurse (nurse@rock-brook.org).



Recess/School Safety

Students should have a jacket/coat, hat, gloves, etc. as we will continue to go outside for recess even when the weather is cold. In addition, safety drills will continue through the winter season and students need to be prepared to exit the building as directed.

Security Drills: All schools in New Jersey are required to conduct two emergency drills (one fire drill and one security drill) each month. This month we conducted a **fire**

drill and a **non-fire evacuation drill**. Students followed all our safety procedures as prescribed.

RBS Facebook Page: Please like, follow and share today!
→ [RBS Facebook](#)



January 2025		
1/1	Wednesday	School Closed for Students and Staff - New Year's Day
1/2	Thursday	School Reopens for Students and Staff
1/17	Friday	School Closed for Students Tentative Emergency Closing Make-Up Day
1/20	Monday	School Closed for Students and Staff - MLK Jr. Day

