

Family Flyer

January 2025

Special Messages/Reminders

Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) Presentation

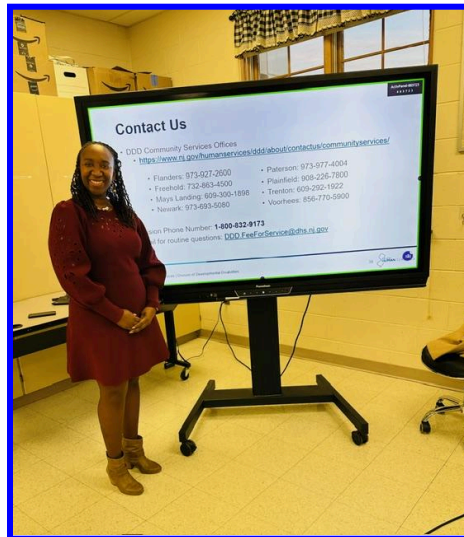
Monica Wall, Transition Coordinator, along with Jennifer Dinardi, HS/PG Supervisor invited Marie Durand-Turner, from the Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) to facilitate a presentation on the transition roadmap for moving into DDD and the Adult Service System in New Jersey. The topics that were addressed included: Applying for Medicaid, Completing the DDD Application, New Jersey Comprehensive Assessment (NJCAT), Support Agency Selection Form, and the Graduate Timeline.

Thank you to all the families who joined us for this informative session.

EMPOWERING
INDIVIDUALS

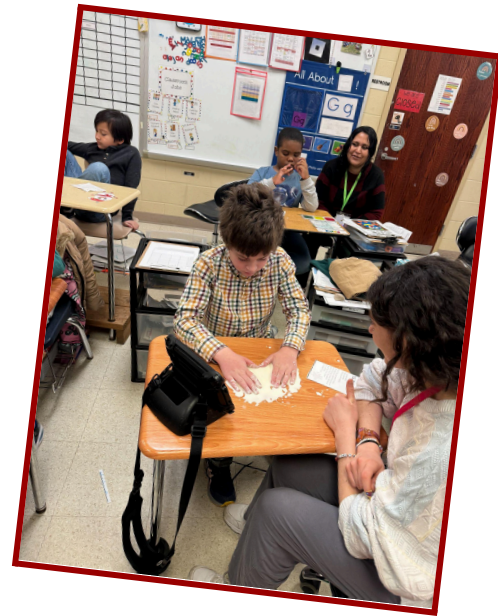
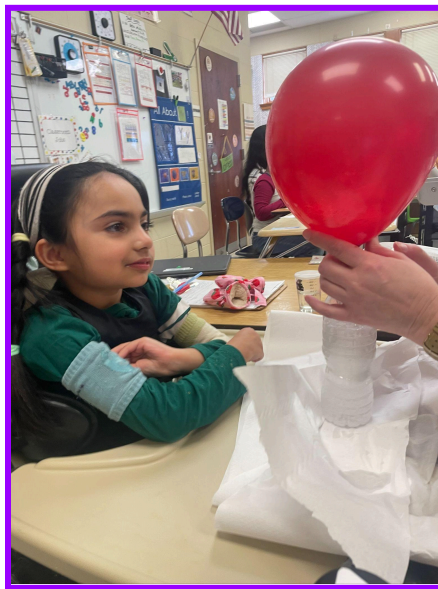
COMMUNITY
INTEGRATION

FAMILY SUPPORT



Early Childhood Center (ECC)

Throughout the month of January, ECC has been working on states of matter and have been practicing identifying solids, liquids, and gases. The students practiced sorting and experimented with combining a solid (baking soda) and liquid (vinegar) to create a gas that blows up a balloon. We also discussed how molecules for solids are more tightly packed, liquids are looser, and gasses are the loosest. With this in mind, we made a non-Newtonian fluid. To create this, we combined cornstarch and water and observed how the mixture behaves like a liquid when touched and handled slowly and how it behaves more like a solid when it is touched quicker/harder. This is because the force of being touched more quickly/with more force makes the molecules come together more densely and behave like a solid. We also had a blast playing with it!



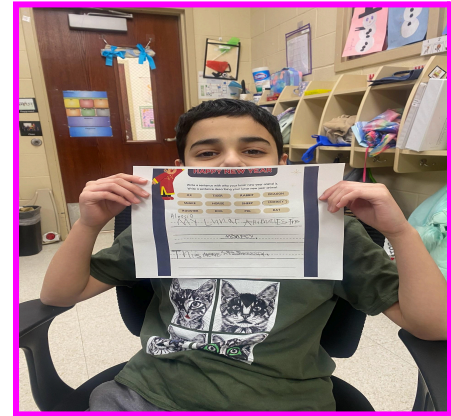
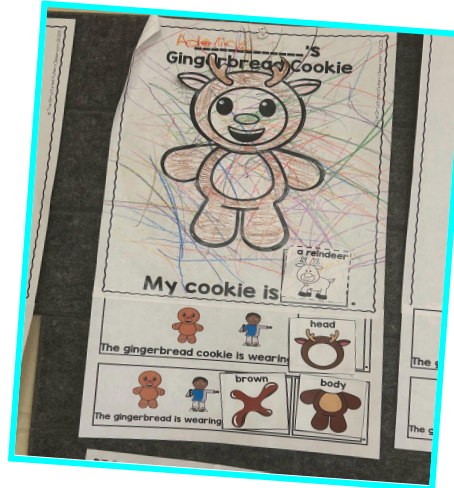
Elementary

In the elementary classroom, students have been exploring the Lunar New Year and the associated traditions celebrated in China. The students have had the opportunity to learn about the zodiac animal corresponding to their birth year, as well as the symbolic meanings of each animal.

Additionally, students have been embracing the winter season with enthusiasm! Each Friday in science, we follow a fun recipe to create themed snacks. This week, we made "snowballs" using rice cereal, marshmallows, melted butter, and powdered sugar. During this activity, we discussed the scientific concept of a chemical change, as the heat from the microwave transformed a solid stick of butter into a liquid. The students thoroughly enjoyed the hands-on experience and



they are eagerly anticipating our next cooking adventure! In our Language lesson, students engaged in a creative activity where they designed their own gingerbread figures, each adorned in various costumes. This exercise focused on enhancing their use of descriptive language and expanding their sentence structure.



A Moment from Movement Class

In our movement class, students have been working on the mobility path of jump squats with Coach Eliana. Jump squats can be isolated into several stages: engaging forward flexion, moving from a seated to a standing position, jumping, and balancing in a seated position with no chair. Working on each of these stages comes with a variety of benefits, including increased balance, circulation, coordination, mobility, and strength. Students had the opportunity to sit on different surfaces and jump up, creating a multimodal sensory experience. Students in accessibility chairs worked on sitting to standing, dynamic sitting, feeling textures of the various surfaces and or forward flexion based on individual student availability.



LET'S
GET
MOVING



Art and Music

High School and Post Grad students continue to learn more about the ukulele and recorder. This month students learned a new recorder note and a new ukulele chord. Did you know the ukulele actually originated in Portugal and then came to Hawaii in 1879? The name ukulele means “the gift that came here” according to Queen Lili’uokalani, the last Hawaiian monarch. Our composer of the month is Franz Schubert. We learned about his life and listened to his famous “Serenade.” Here are two links for an instrumental version and a vocal performance.

- [Hauser - Serenade](#)
- [Ständchen, Schubert](#)

Art projects for all the students have included winter themes, such as penguins and snowflakes.

We look forward to celebrating the Great Kindness Challenge next month. Please click on the following kindness songs below to enjoy at home:

- [Harry Styles - Treat People With Kindness](#)
- [Kind-Hearted Hand - The Great Kindness Challenge Theme Song](#)

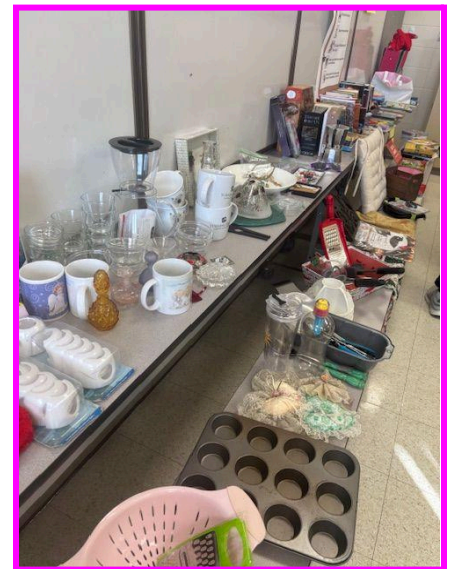


Middle School 1 and Middle School 2 Collaboration



Rummage Sale

Our postgraduate students hosted a rummage sale for the staff earlier this month which provided valuable learning experiences for our students. Students were actively involved in organizing the items, assisting with sales which allowed them to practice and develop important retail and money management skills, in addition to applying these skills in a real-world setting. We are proud of their engagement and look forward to more hands-on learning like this in the near-future



Progress Reports (Trimesters): Progress reports are scheduled to be sent home on or before 2/5. As a note, progress reports are issued three times a year. In addition, a progress report is also provided at the conclusion of our ESY program.

Conferences, 2/6 & 2/7 - We are looking forward to your participation in our conference days. Our staff is eager to meet to discuss your child's progress, provide suggestions/recommendations, and answer any questions you may have.

Conferences will be held either in-person or virtually and are scheduled on Thursday, 2/6 and Friday, 2/7. Afternoon appointments are available on both days, with evening conferences on 2/6. As a reminder, students will have an early dismissal at 12:30 pm during our conference days.

★ Please note, information regarding conference sign ups will be sent to you by your child's teacher.

Absences and Early Pick Up:

- **Student Absences:** In the event your child is going to be absent, please call Tammy Quick, Program Secretary, in the main office by 9:00 am.
 - 908-431-9500, ext.110.
 - tammy.quick@rock-brook.org

Our automated system is available 24 hours a day for your convenience and please be sure to call the school each day your child is absent. In addition to contacting the main office, you may contact the teacher as well.

Upon your child's return to school from illness, please provide a note to the homeroom teacher which will be delivered to the nurse. For students with a serious illness, accident, or hospitalization, medical clearance to return to school is required. If contact is not provided by the parent regarding a student absence, the school will make contact with the parent.

- **Student Early Pick Up:** Should you be picking your child up early from school on a particular day, please notify the main office 908-431-9500 and your child's teacher so we are aware of your child's early dismissal from school.

Birthday Celebrations: Parents are most welcome to send in a craft or activity to celebrate their child's birthday. In addition, should a parent want to send in birthday food treats for the students within the class, such as cupcakes, brownies, etc., prior approval is required from the school nurse. The teacher(s) will alert parents to allergy concerns and will provide approved classroom snack/food lists. Please note, prior to any food being sent in from home, the ingredients must be pre-approved by the school nurse at least one week in advance of the event. It is advised for parents to send the ingredients directly to the classroom teacher who will be able to facilitate the contact with the school nurse in order for the food to be reviewed. Once the food has been reviewed by the school nurse, the teacher will contact the parent to confirm the approval or not. Generally, classroom celebrations will be held toward the end of the day and limited to 30 minutes, unless otherwise approved by the school principal.

Early Dismissals and Emergency Closings: When we must close school or delay the opening time due to inclement weather or an emergency condition, you and your bus company will receive notification from our automated system as early as possible. We will also post this information on our website <https://www.rock-brook.org>.

Please be sure to contact Tammy Quick, Program Secretary, should you have any questions.

Security Drills: All schools in New Jersey are required to conduct two emergency drills (one fire drill and one security drill) each month. Security drills could be any one of the following types of drills: Active Shooter, Bomb Threat Evacuation, Non-fire Evacuation, Lockdown, or Shelter-in-Place. Schools are also required to notify parents following each monthly security drill. In January, we conducted a **Fire Drill** and a **Lockdown Drill**.

Message from the School Nurse: 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).



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February 2025		
2/4	Tuesday	RBS Board Meeting
2/6	Thursday	12:30 Dismissal for Students Afternoon and Evening Conferences
2/7	Friday	12:30 Dismissal for Students Afternoon Conferences AIR Therapy Dogs - ECC, Elementary, MS1, MS2 Sports Jersey Day!
2/10, 2/11, 2/13	Monday, Tuesday, Thursday	The Great Kindness Challenge - Information to follow
2/12	Wednesday	100th Day of School Dogtopia Therapy Dog - HS & PG
2/14 & 2/17	Friday & Monday	School Closed for Students and Staff / President's Day Break 2/14 - Tentative Emergency Closing Make-Up Day

