

## Family Flyer

February 2025

### Special Messages/Reminders

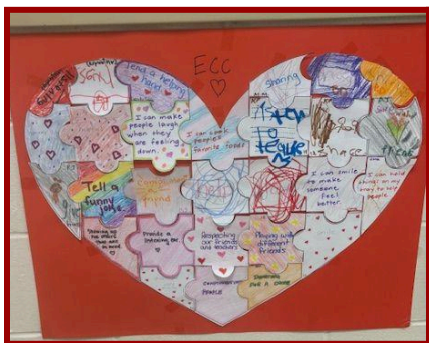
#### Sports Jersey Day

Our students and staff showed their school spirit by wearing their favorite sports jersey and team gear! Eagles fans were all over the building with a few Giants fans sprinkled in the mix. We had a blast!



#### Valentine's Day & 100th Day of School Celebrations

We celebrated the 100th Day of School and Valentine's Day during the week of 2/10. There were many activities for the students to participate in throughout the week.



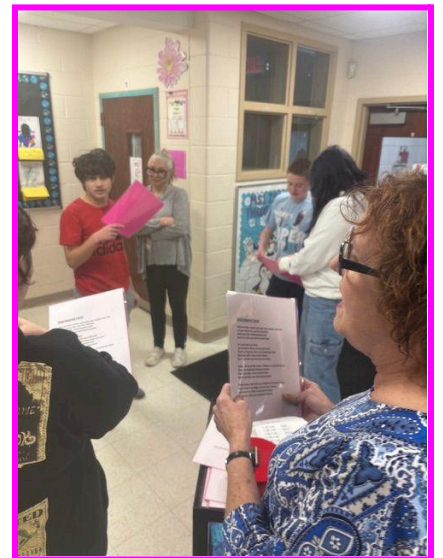
## Great Kindness Challenge

Students had opportunities to learn about, witness, and practice kindness. We shared many experiences together as a school and in our classrooms, such as making cards and pictures for others and recognizing acts of kindness in our celebration of the Great Kindness Challenge.



## Middle School 1

Our class had a busy month filled with exciting activities! They celebrated The Great Kindness Challenge and teamed up with Ms. Janet Campbell to sing kindness songs to students and staff throughout the building. Around Valentine's Day, we also took part in Rose O'Gram, selling and delivering roses to staff. Additionally, students visited the culinary room to make hummus and tacos, where they learned how to season meat and crush garbanzo beans. They picked up valuable cooking skills along the way, and the students absolutely loved the meal they created!



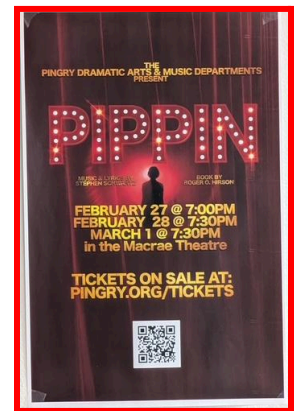
## Middle School 2

February was a month full of celebrations and learning! Alongside our ongoing study of animals, we celebrated birthdays—including one for a classmate and the birthdays of Presidents Washington and Lincoln. We also recognized Valentine’s Day, Kindness Day, Black History Month, and Dental Health Month with fun activities and discussions. To top it all off, we enjoyed a mini Super Bowl party with nachos and cheese! There was so much to do and learn in the shortest month of the year!



## Pingry School Field Trip for HS & PG

Our high school and postgraduate classes took a fantastic field trip to the Pingry School, where they enjoyed a performance of *Pippin*! The student performers were incredibly talented, and our students loved the show. After the performance, our students had the opportunity to meet the cast and have lunch with them. It was a wonderful experience, and we look forward to visiting again!



## Music/Art

This month, students in our high school and post graduate classes learned about composer Felix Mendelssohn ([Introduction to the Composer](#)). One of his most famous pieces was “The Wedding March” from “A Midsummer’s Night’s Dream.”

- [Felix Mendelssohn - Wedding March](#)

In honor of Black History Month, students have been listening to some famous singers.

- Ella Fitzgerald and Louis Armstrong, [Dream a Little Dream of Me](#)

- Louis Armstrong, [What a Wonderful World](#)

In celebration of the Great Kindness Challenge all students learned a special song, specifically [Kind-Hearted Hand](#). We made kindness notes in art and also valentine suncatchers. Each class painted puzzle pieces red, white and pink to create a heart shaped classroom decoration.

In both music and art classes we are creating community, a safe place to develop social skills and self-expression. Some students are able to request specific songs and others enjoy the teachers' picks. We use visual aids to choose instruments.

And lastly, we use books like "Max Found Two Sticks" and "Satchmo's Blues" to highlight musical themes and create rhythmic rhyming and/or reading opportunities. Please see a couple of our classroom favorites below;

- [Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?](#)
- [She Sells Sea Shells](#)

## **Movement Class**

The next unit in movement will focus on scarf juggling! As students progress, they will develop improved coordination, cross-lateral movement, and bilateral coordination. Juggling offers a wide range of benefits, and research has shown that "magnocellular-based visual-motor interventions," including juggling, can be effective in supporting individuals with dyslexia. In fact, NASA has even used juggling to help astronauts overcome temporary dyslexia caused by extended space travel. Scarves are an excellent starting point for learning because their slower movement through the air allows students more time to motor plan effectively. Please refer to the attached articles for more information!

- [The effect of magnocellular-based visual-motor intervention](#)
- [Nasa dyslexia exercises 'could help millions'](#)



## Dance

Click the link below to watch *The Rooster Dance*! This fun and energetic dance, led by Mr. David and Ms. Carissa during dance class, is a student favorite. It's a great activity for the whole family to join in on—enjoy!

- [Click Here - The Rooster Dance](#)



## ARC of New Jersey Family Presentation

Please join us on Wednesday, March 12, 2025, at 5:30 PM at Rock Brook School for an informative presentation by The ARC of New Jersey. The ARC is dedicated to advocating for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, offering valuable resources, support, and education to help families navigate services, legal rights, and long-term planning.

This session will focus on the importance of applying for SSI (Social Security Income) and Medicaid, including the application process and key benefits.

You'll also have the opportunity to meet Rock Brook's Transition Coordinator, Ms. Monica Wall and learn more about the support available for students and families.

Kindly RSVP to Ms. Jennifer Dinardi (High School/Post Grad Supervisor) at [jennifer.dinardi@rock-brook.org](mailto:jennifer.dinardi@rock-brook.org).

*\*\*Please note: We are working on a virtual option as well.\*\**

## Special Needs Resource Fair

The Alliance of Private Special Education Schools of North Jersey is offering a Special Needs Resource Fair & Family Fun Day on March 22, 2025. Click the link below for more information and to register for this free event.

- [Event & Ticket Information](#)



**The Alliance**  
of Private Special Education  
Schools of North Jersey



## **Cold and Flu Season**

As we continue 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, excessive sneezing/cold symptoms will also be excluded for at least 24 hours, must have improvement of symptoms WITHOUT medication.

A doctor's note with alternative diagnosis and clearance for school is the best way to keep our school safe and diagnose between a common cold, RSV, Flu, and COVID-19.

Should your child be exhibiting symptoms, you are encouraged to contact the school nurse ([nurse@rock-brook.org](mailto:nurse@rock-brook.org)).



## **Student Absences and Early Pick Up**

As a reminder, in the event your child is going to be absent, please call Tammy Quick in the main office by 9:00 am at 908-431-9500, ext.110. 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 main office and/or nurse. For students with a serious illness, accident, or hospitalization, medical clearance to return to school is required.

Should you be picking your child up early from school on a particular day, please notify the main office so we are aware of your child’s early dismissal from school.

Thank you for your attention to our procedures as the safety of our students continues to be a top priority.

**Buses/Vans:** Transportation is an extension of the school day, and the same student behavior standards that apply in the classroom apply on the bus and at the bus stop. Student behavioral expectations remain in effect while students are on the bus to ensure the safety of all passengers. Riders are expected to respect the driver’s authority, remain in their seats, keep their hands, feet, and objects to themselves, keep the aisles clear, and generally behave in a way that contributes to a safe, pleasant trip to and from school. A driver may report a student’s misconduct to the principal, and in serious situations, bus privileges may be taken away. Students may get on or off the school bus only at his/her assigned bus stop. As a note, bus evacuation drills will be conducted during the course of the year.

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



March 2025		
3/3-3/6	Monday - Thursday	Read Across America Week
3/4	Tuesday	Celebrate Read Across America - Dr. Seuss’s Birthday Wear Red and White and/or Crazy Hat
3/7	Friday	Therapy Dogs, 9:00 -10:00 am
3/12	Wednesday	ARC of New Jersey Family Presentation
3/14	Friday	School Closed for Students / PD for Staff
3/17	Monday	Celebrate St. Patrick’s Day - Wear Green
3/21	Friday	World Down Syndrome Day

