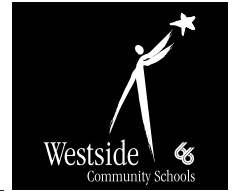




# Rockbrook Express



**Rockbrook Elementary School Newsletter**  
2514 South 108th St. Omaha, NE 68144 (402) 390-6475 Info Line: (402) 390-3399

December 2016  
www.westside66.org

## Mission

The mission of Rockbrook Elementary School, a diverse community of learners, is to foster learning by providing a quality educational experience within a secure and challenging environment.

## School Improvement Goal

At Rockbrook we will increase student engagement and achievement through Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports for social, emotional, behavioral, and academic needs.

## News Briefs

### Lost and Found

Please stop and check for lost jackets, lunch boxes, etc. The box and hangers are now on the left side of the fish tank.

### Hy-Vee Receipts

Time is running short, be sure to get your receipts turned in as soon as possible.

### Parents:

Please remember to call the school office anytime your child is going to be late or absent.

### School Phone Numbers

Office/Attendance  
402-390-6475

Pre-School/Club 66  
402-390-8208

## Student Council Ticket Tuesday

Help Student Council raise money for Adopt a Family. Starting in December, Student Council will be selling tickets to raffle off 3 themed baskets. 1 ticket is \$.50 or 3 for \$1.00. The drawing will be held December 12th.

### Elementary Strings Concert

Rockbrook strings students will be performing a concert. The 5th Grade strings will be performing "A Day in the Life of a Strings Students" at 7pm Monday December 18th at Westside Highschool. 6th Grade strings will be performing "A Tour of Winter" at 7pm Tuesday December 19th at Westside Highschool.

### Instrumental Concert

Band and Strings will perform a day time concert Tuesday December 5th at 2:35pm



## Smith's Class is the Box Top Winner!

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Fall Box Tops Collection. Congratulations goes to Mrs. Smith's classroom for collecting the most Box Tops and earning a Celebration Party. Thank you again for supporting Rockbrook!

## 3rd - 6th Grade MAP Growth Testing

During the month of December students in 3rd through 6th grade will again take the MAP Growth assessments in Reading and Math. This assessment provides us a regular check of students overall skills to help teachers in instructional decision making and readiness for state assessments this spring. Your child's teacher will be communicating testing times and dates and we ask for your support in having students be at school, well rested, well fed, and ready to do their best.

## Rockbrook Calendar

- Dec. 5 All School Instrumental Concert, 2:35pm
- 5 Planet Sub Night
- 5 Family Coding Night, 5:00pm
- 12 Jones Brother's Dining Out Night
- 19 Elementary Strings Concert
- 20 Don & Millie's Night
- 25 Winter Break



- Jan. 2 Planet Sub Night
- 8 School Resumes
- 15 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day - No School
- 16 Community Club, 6:00pm
- 17 Don & Millie's Night
- 19 Family Movie Night, 6:30pm
- 25 4-6 Vocal Music Concert at WMS, 7pm



# Counselor's Corner

*"Whoever gossips to you will gossip about you" (Spanish Proverb).*

Relational aggression is a discreet way for one person to emotionally hurt another person, and it can start as early as elementary school. Relational aggression includes gossip and rumors, exclusion, the silent treatment, harassment, and cyber-bullying. It is a form of bullying and is most often done between groups of girls. Girls who choose this form of bullying often use their words as weapons to inflict emotional pain. According to the National Association of School Psychologists, parents can help their victimized children in many ways.

- Encourage friendships with others outside of school based on mutual interests rather than social status. (dance, sports, etc.)
- Empathize with your child by listening to her, rather than saying, "You'll get over it." Keep the conversation going, so she knows she can go to you when she needs help.
- Promote journal writing with your child to help her express her feelings in a safe way. Documenting positive events as well as the negative ones can help her to focus on the good things in her life.
- If your child is willing to let you intervene, talk to her teacher or counselor about the problems she is encountering at school.

Meghan Martin  
School Counselor



The poster features the Rockbrook Bulldogs logo in the top left corner. The main text reads "Planet Sub Night" in large, bold letters, followed by "Tuesday, Dec 5th, 2017 from 3:30pm to 8:00pm". Below this is a photo of two students, a girl and a boy, giving thumbs up. A speech bubble next to them says "Be sure to try 'The Bulldog,' a custom Rockbrook student creation!". To the left of the photo is a list of sandwich ingredients: "The Bulldog Sandwich by Wilson & Grant: Turkey, Bacon, Salami, Pepperoni, Lettuce, Pepper, Swiss, Cheddar, Mayo". At the bottom, a bold statement says "15% OF YOUR PURCHASE OF ANY ORDER THIS NIGHT WILL BE DONATED BACK TO THE SCHOOL WHEN YOU MENTION ROCKBROOK."

## Jump on the Wellness Wagon!

### This month's tip...Healthy Beverages

Water is a great choice to serve kids at snack time. Water satisfies thirst without adding calories or sugar, and it keeps kids hydrated. Calorie-free flavored water, sparkling water, and club soda are healthy options. They do not contain the sugars, calories, or caffeine of sodas. Serve them alone or try making "healthy sodas" by mixing them with equal amounts of 100% fruit juice.

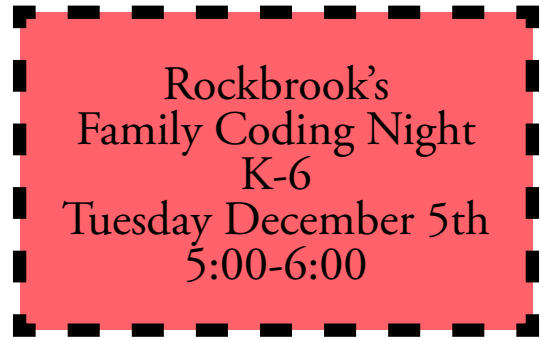


**Notice of Nondiscrimination** - Westside Community Schools does not discriminate on the basis of sex, sexual orientation, race, color, national origin, religion, disability, age, marital, parental or pregnancy status, military/veteran status or any other category protected by law in its programs and activities or in admission or access to, or treatment in, hiring and employment. Retaliation is prohibited. The following persons coordinate our compliance and can assist with questions or filing a concern or report:

- For students, parents or others: Coordinator of Student Services/Title IX Coordinator – ABC Building, 909 So. 76th St. Omaha NE 68114 (402) 390-2100 or via e-mail: [titleixcoordinator@westside66.net](mailto:titleixcoordinator@westside66.net)

- For staff members or applicants: Ass't Superintendent for Human Resources/Lead Title IX Coordinator – ABC Building, 909 So. 76th St. Omaha, NE 68114 (402) 390-2100 or via e-mail: [titleixcoordinatorHR@westside66.net](mailto:titleixcoordinatorHR@westside66.net)

# Two Chances for Coding



## Cold Weather Policy

There are always questions from parents about when our students go outside in the cold weather. Our policy is the same for recess, safety patrol, and parking lot patrol —when the wind chill is 10 degrees or below, we stay inside, otherwise we go out. So please dress warmly on these cold wintry days!

### Winter Wear & Snow Gear

To ensure that students can both enjoy the snow and keep warm and dry once they come inside, we wanted to remind you of a few expectations for students wishing to play in the snow.

- Students need to wear proper coats, gloves, and hats. When temperatures are above zero we will typically be going outside.
- If students wish to walk in deep snow, they will be expected to wear snow boots.
- For very deep snow or if students wish to roll and play in the snow, students will need snow pants to ensure they stay warm and dry.
- If students wish to build with snow they must have gloves or mittens.
- When recess equipment is slick or wet, access may be restricted to promote student safety.

We appreciate your support in going over these expectations with your child. Teachers will do so as well so that students may have a fun and safe time during winter recess.

## Rockbrook Geography Bee

The Bee will take place on Wednesday, December 6th at 10:30 am in the music room. Family members are welcome to attend, but should not arrive earlier than 10:25 am. **Congratulations** to the following students that qualified for the Geography Bee... Sigmund A. , Kiera G., Jack B., Eli P., Brandon M., Ethan P., Tommy H., Spencer F., Sloane L., Yve E., Townsend H., Maxwell M., Nick H., and Julianna B.

## Medication at School

For your child's safety and for the safety of others, all medication, **even cough drops**, must be kept locked in the health office, and it must be in the original package. All medication, including cough drops, needs to be accompanied by a medication form signed by the parent or guardian, and prescription medication forms must be signed by the doctor. Whenever possible medication should be administered at home.



**REMINDER: DUE TO DECEMBER BEING BUSY, COMMUNITY CLUB WILL NOT MEET. PLEASE MARK CALENDAR'S FOR JANUARY 16TH.**

# **PBIS - Positive Behavior Intervention Supports**

The mission of Rockbrook School, a diverse community of learners, is to foster learning by providing a quality educational experience within a secure and challenging environment.

At Rockbrook we're proud of the high quality educational experience that each of our students receives. Teachers work hard to plan, prepare, and meet each learner's needs. Key to doing so is the ability to provide that secure and challenging environment. Security and safety is more than just our facility though, it's also the community that classrooms create where students know it's safe to take risks in their learning, make mistakes, and learn from them. PBIS is a key part of developing that community.

As we mentioned in prior months the implementation of PBIS is not a new thing for Rockbrook, but a refresh and an update. Our district's work with Gallup on the hope, engagement, and well-being of students and staff recognizes this as well. When we feel good about coming to school and work, we are more productive, we learn more, and we accomplish more.

Starting the day with a welcoming greeting is just one way that we can all continue to nurture that positive environment. A simple "good morning (name)" helps both teachers and students to know that they are recognized, appreciated, and welcomed to school each day. Paired with a smile and, when appropriate, a handshake or high five, helps us to feel connected to those around us. Encouraging your child to initiate a greeting with their teachers and peers, or when received to return the greeting, is also a great way to promote positive social interactions they will use throughout their life.

Last month we also shared a bit about our school-wide behavior recognition tool, our Power Paws. These tokens are used by teachers to recognize when students make safe, respectful, and responsible choices in our school, and earn them the chance to be drawn for all-school drawings as well as our all-school celebrations each time we collect 12,500 Paws. In addition, our classrooms set goals for the number of Power Paws received, and earn rewards when those goals are met. These might include extra recess, pajama days, or a variety of other activities the students have selected and indicated are valuable to them. We encourage parents to recognize and talk with their child(ren) when they come home indicating their class has earned such an opportunity, and to reinforce the positive behaviors that are occurring, and recognize the child's contribution to the class's efforts.

As we head into the winter break we know this is \*a time to place an even greater focus on positive supports. The holidays are a time of great excitement, but can also be a time when routines change and stress can rise. Thank you for supporting your child and our school's continuing efforts to promote positive behaviors and a quality educational experience.

Sincerely,  
Mr. Higginbotham, Principal

## **Wanted: Experts from our Community!**

Rockbrook Elementary is seeking adults for our exciting enrichment cluster program. If your child was at Rockbrook last spring you already know the exciting opportunity of our student enrichment clusters. For our new families we are excited to share this experience with

your family. For six weeks beginning in February, students will have the opportunity to explore a topic of interest in depth. Students will work together with like-minded students and an adult who will guide them. Enrichment clusters provide interest-based extensions to our curriculum and a real-life connection to our learning standards.

We are looking for adults that would be willing to help with our clusters and share an area of interest and/or expertise. This could be for the full six weeks as a cluster group leader, or for just a session or two as a guest speaker. The classes will run from 2:39-3:15 on February 2, 9, 16, 23, March 2, and 4. Students will have a variety of classes to choose from. Once they choose their class, they will remain with the same group of students and will study the same topic, for the entire six weeks.

If leading a class or being a guest speaker is not of interest, we also welcome any help you can offer. Extra hands go a long way as our students explore topics more freely.

# Rockbrook Family Movie Night

## !!VOTE!!

The Rockbrook Community Club is excited to host the return of Family Movie Night, January 19th at 6:30. To select the movie the most families want to see, we're asking for your input. The following are available through our movie licensing service and we need your vote:

The Lego Ninjago Movie



Despicable Me 3



The Emoji Movie



Place your vote to help decide our feature flick for January! Turn in your vote at the office.



Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade: \_\_\_\_\_ Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

I vote for: (Pick 1) ✓

The Lego Ninjago Movie	Despicable Me 3	The Emoji Movie

(Turn in your vote at the office - All votes due by December 15th)

# You're Invited to Rockbrook's K-6



Featuring Hour of Code puzzles from Code.org®

Tuesday, December 5, 5:00-6:00

Start learning coding with your kids!

A fun, FREE evening event

For K-6 kids and parents Together!

---

## Family Code Night Sign Up Form

Please write the names of children and parents planning to attend. Then tear off and return to school. Please email Mr. Carlson at [carlson.dustin@westside66.net](mailto:carlson.dustin@westside66.net) with any questions or if you would like to help families answer coding questions during the event.

Names: