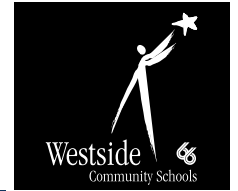




Rockbrook Express



Rockbrook Elementary School Newsletter
2514 South 108th St. Omaha, NE 68144 (402) 390-6475 Info Line: (402) 390-3399 www.westside66.org

January 2018

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.

Remember - Monday January 15th is Martin Luther King, Jr. Day - No School

2018 at Rockbrook

It was an exciting first week back at school and fun see the students and hear about the many things children did over their winter break. We hope that the new year finds you and your family well and ready for a great second half of our school year.

During January there are several great opportunities for students, parents, and families. Our first Community Club Meeting will be Tuesday the 16th, and if you haven't yet joined us for one of these, we hope you'll do so. Community Club is our Parent Teacher Organization and is open to all parents of Rockbrook students. On January 19th will be our Family Movie Night, featuring Despicable Me 3. Check out our flier for more information on this event. Then, on the 25th we're excited to present our 4-6 Vocal Music Concert at Westside Middle School at 7:00pm.

News Briefs

Report Cards

Student report cards are going to be distributed through mail this quarter.



Family Movie Night

Friday January 19th

6:30pm

Despicable Me 3

Finally, Rockbrook teachers are getting ready for our upcoming Enrichment Clusters during February and March. For new students and families, enrichment clusters are a six week opportunity for students to explore a topic of personal interest with similarly interested students and adults. Be sure to read our feature article on Enrichment Clusters and consider if you might be able to share your own interests or expertise with our students. We are yet looking for volunteers for this experience.

Happy 2018!

Sincerely,

Mr. Higginbotham, Principal



Thursday January 25th, the 4th, 5th, and 6th grades will perform a vocal music program at Westside Middle School at 7:00 pm

School Phone Numbers

Office/Attendance
402-390-6475

Pre-School/Club 66
402-390-8208

Rockbrook Calendar

- Jan. 15 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day - No School
- 16 Community Club Meeting - 6:00 pm
- 17 Don & Millie's Dining Out Night
- 19 Family Movie Night - 6:30 pm
- 25 4-6 Vocal Music Concert at Westside Middle School - 7:00 pm



- Feb. 6 Planet Sub Dining Out for Education
- 6 Community Club Meeting - 6:00 pm
- 12 Raising Cane's Night
- 14 Valentine's Day Parties - 2:39 pm
- 15 1-3 Vocal Music Concert at WMS - 7:00 pm
- 19 Presidents' Day - No School

Student Council

To find out more about Student Council for the spring semester, attend the MANDATORY meeting Tuesday, January 16th at 8:10 am in Mrs. Rice's room. You must be at the meeting to receive the Letter of Intent. Any questions you may have will be answered at that time.

Hope to see you there!

Mrs. Davenport and Mrs. Rice

PBIS - Positive Behavior Intervention Supports

Each month we have featured new information about our school and district implementation of PBIS, or Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports. At the core of the the PBIS philosophy is the first word in it, Positive. Research proves that the best way to shape behavior and to make a successful school culture is through positive reinforcement. In prior articles we told you about our Power Paws, Golden Paws, and celebrations of positive choices. This month we'd like to share a bit about some of the ways that adults at school are actively involved in promoting good behaviors.

Systematic Supervision is a process used by our teachers and assistants during recess, lunch, and less structured times. Whereas past practices might have encouraged teachers to stay posted in a certain spot and observe the playground, Systematic Supervision encourages staff to be moving throughout the space, interacting with kids, and developing the positive relationships that maintain a safe and pleasant school culture. Teachers work to recognize positive choices being made by students and reward them, while still keeping a close eye on any undesirable behaviors and interrupting them before they become a bigger problem.

In essence one form of Systematic Supervision used in many classrooms is what's known as a good behavior game. Good behavior games engage students in a fun activity used to target specific behaviors the teacher wishes to see more of, including quick, motivating reward opportunities. An example might be an activity like behavior basketball in which a teacher identifies a target skill then gives students token pieces of paper each time they see it. At the end of an instructional time, the teacher might then allow students to crumple the paper and shoot for a basket. Not only are students rewarded with a quick break, but they might also earn a bonus prize for making a shot into the wastebasket. Games like this keep students focused on positive choices and break up the monotony of reviewing rules and expectations.

Finally, we know it's important to start each day with a positive message. Each Monday, students start with a special drawing from our Power Paw bins. Drawn students get to come to the office for a special prize. Each Friday, we start the day with music to get us pumped up. Throughout the week, our older students help us to review expectations and skills. It's yet another way that we teach and support positive choices and a positive school for all of our young bulldogs.

Morning Drop Off

With the cold weather having arrived, we wanted to remind you of times regarding morning drop off. Students should be dropped off no earlier than 8:15 a.m. When temperatures are 10° F and warmer, student will be expected to wait outside until 8:30. If wind chill temperatures are below 10°, students will be brought in and there will not be safety patrol on duty. If you need to drop your child off before this time, we encourage you to contact our Club 66 program at (402) 390-8208 for information regarding affordable child care options.



Lunch Money

We are now sending emails to notify you of a negative balance on your child's lunch account. Please check your junk mail, the email comes from [Mosaic](#). Once a week an email is sent to you if your child is negative. Please be vigilant about their accounts. There are many options to pay, you can send money to school or go to [Myschoolbucks.com](#) and set up an account. If you have any questions, please feel free to talk to Ms. Veldhuis.

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.

Counselor's Corner

Great Kindness Challenge

During the week of January 22-26, our school will recognize Bully Awareness by participating in the "Great Kindness Challenge."

The "Great Kindness Challenge" is one week dedicated to creating a culture of kindness at schools nationwide. Our school is proudly participating in this proactive, positive bullying prevention initiative as part of our Bully Awareness efforts this year. All students will receive a Great Kindness Challenge checklist with 50 kind deeds. Please encourage your child to complete the checklist at school and show the world that KINDNESS MATTERS!

greatkindnesschallenge.org

Meghan Martin
School Counselor

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 dismissal —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 10° 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 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.

Mr. Carlson Receives National Board Certification

Kindergarten teacher, Mr. Carlson, has received National Board Certification in Early Childhood Education. National Board Certification is one of the most respected certifications in education and is earned through a multi-year process of demonstrating evidence of positive impact on student learning. National Board Certified Teachers (NBCT) also participate in learning communities, are reflective thinkers, and continually learn. For more information on National Board Certification, visit <http://www.nbpts.org/>.

Mrs. Rice Receives Cornhusker Motor Club Education Grant

Shortly before the winter break, Mrs. Rice's 3rd grade was recognized when their teacher received a grant for \$500. The Cornhusker Motor Club Foundation, a non-profit organization funded largely by AAA and its members, selects schools to support through this annual grant. This year, the foundation awarded 35 grants to support creative and innovative education initiatives. Rockbrook is definitely proud of Mrs. Rice and her recognition for this award that will help to support positive practices in her classroom.

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

- 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



Snow Days

Nebraska winters can get pretty tough at times. When snow accumulates and the bitter wind blows, Westside Community Schools share with parents a concern for the safety of their children. Here are a few guidelines that should help us in working together to assure the safety of students, no matter how bad the weather.

- If bad weather forces the closing of school, you will receive an automated phone message from the District the night before or the morning of the closing. Information will also be posted on the District's Facebook page (Westside Community Schools - District 66), on Twitter (@Westside66), and on the District's homepage (www.westside66.org). We will also ask local radio and television stations to make the announcement. Certified and designated staff should report to buildings unless notified otherwise.
- If schools are open during inclement weather, parents should decide whether or not their children will attend school.
- When extreme weather conditions develop during school hours, it is our policy not to dismiss students. Many children do not have adult supervision at home during the day and are safer at school.
- Parents may pick their children up during the school day if they feel it is necessary.
- Because of transportation requirements, there may be times when other school districts close while District 66 schools remain open.
- School personnel will remain in the buildings as long as children are present.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION

KEEP THIS CARD FOR EASY REFERENCE.

WESTSIDE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS AND TELEPHONE NUMBERS



EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION	390-8207
EARLY CHILDHOOD SPECIAL EDUCATION	390-6472
UNDERWOOD HILLS EARLY LEARNING CENTER.....	390-8218
HILLSIDE ELEMENTARY	390-6450
LOVELAND ELEMENTARY	390-6455
OAKDALE ELEMENTARY	390-6460
PADDOCK ROAD ELEMENTARY	390-6465
PRAIRIE LANE ELEMENTARY	390-6470
ROCKBROOK ELEMENTARY	390-6475
SUNSET HILLS ELEMENTARY.....	390-6480
SWANSON ELEMENTARY	390-6485
WESTBROOK ELEMENTARY	390-6490
WESTGATE ELEMENTARY.....	390-6495
WESTSIDE MIDDLE SCHOOL	390-6464
WESTSIDE HIGH SCHOOL.....	343-2600
WHS WEST CAMPUS	390-8214
ABC BUILDING.....	390-2100



www.westside66.org

Please run in January and February newsletters.

Student In-District Transfer Requests for the 2018-19 School Year

If you are a District resident who would like your K-5 child(ren) to attend an elementary school other than the school that serves your attendance area for next school year, you must submit a completed In-District Transfer (IDT) Request form to the Office of Student Services for review.

The District gives priority to families living within the District *prior to* placing Option Enrollment applicants who reside outside the District. We must receive a Student In-District Transfer Request form no later than **4:00 p.m. on March 15, 2018**, for your request to be considered prior to our placement of Option Enrollment students.

IDT forms are available at the ABC Building and on the District website. An IDT request form must be completed for any child starting kindergarten next year who has one or more siblings currently attending a school outside their home attendance area. Transfers are approved or denied based on available space and other resources. If you have questions about the in-district transfer process, please call 402-343-2603.

Kindergarten Enrollment for District Residents: January 8-February 15

Do you live in the District and have a child who will be ready for Kindergarten this fall? Do you know of other Westside residents with children who will be ready to start school in August?

Kindergarten enrollment for 2018-19 begins January 8, 2018. Parents of eligible students should **go to westside66.org** to begin the enrollment process as early as possible.

Students entering kindergarten for 2018-19 must be five years old by July 31, 2018. Parents may opt to hold their children out of kindergarten for an additional year. However, Nebraska state law mandates that a child who reaches six years of age prior to January 1 of the then-current school year must be enrolled in school.

If you have questions, you may call the Westside Welcome Center at 402-343-2603.

Please run in January, February, and March newsletters.

Requirements for Early Admission to Kindergarten

In accordance with Nebraska Statute 79-214, the Westside Community Schools allows for admission of children residing in the District as early entrance kindergarteners through a locally designed testing program. Children of District residents who wish to be tested for early entrance must turn five between August 1 and October 15, 2018. For further information regarding early entrance to kindergarten, please call 402-390-3303.

Kindergarten Enrollment for Non-District Residents

If you live outside the District and have a child eligible for kindergarten who has a sibling currently attending a Westside elementary school through the Option Enrollment program, you must submit an Option Enrollment Application. **Option Enrollment Applications must be received by Westside's Office of Student Services no later than 4:00 p.m. on March 15, 2018.** The application form is available at the ABC Building (909 S. 76th Street) and at westside66.org.

Under Option Enrollment statutes, first priority for admission is given to siblings who seek to attend in the District where an older sibling is already enrolled, provided an Option Enrollment form is submitted by March 15 *and* provided that there is space available in a requested building and grade level.