



Rockbrook Express



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

February 2018
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

Planet Sub Night
Tuesday, February 6

Don & Millie's Night
Wednesday, February 21

Becoming a Love & Logic Parent

Free parenting class for district families--for details see the flyer later in this newsletter.

February 19
President's Day No School

6th Grade Strings Solo/Group Night

Feb. 27 at 6:30 p.m. in the Westside Middle School Auditorium.

Parent-Teacher Conferences

Teachers will be meeting with parents on the evenings of Tuesday March 13th and Wednesday March 14th. If you have any questions, you can contact the office at 402-390-6475.

Assessments and Support

The second semester is an especially important time for our students as they focus their efforts and attention on school. Important assessments will be administered between March 5th and April 27th. Your child's teacher will have specific dates they will communicate when students are taking assessments.

The State Accountability Tests (NSCAS) are given to students in grades 3-6. Students are expected to read on grade level, problem solve, and respond to critical thinking questions.

Families can access the Nebraska Department of Education Website at: <http://www.education.ne.gov/> to learn more about the assessments.

STRIKE UP THE BAND

Because Band-O-Rama Is Coming!!!!!!

Fifth and Sixth Grade Band students will present a district wide musical extravaganza on Tuesday, March 20th, at 7:00 p.m. Please mark your calendars and help reward your child for their hard work by making this event a priority for your entire family. Students will attend a rehearsal during the school day and will need to report to Westside High School at 6:30 p.m. A detailed letter about the days events will be e-mailed to band parents, and sent home with band students the last week of February. Questions about this event or anything else band related, please e-mail

carpenter.gail@westside66.net or freeman.michael@westside66.net

Student Council: Congratulations to our Spring 2018 Student Council Representatives. Representing our student body this spring will be Liam C., Mac R., Carter P., Claire H., Sammie B., Gabbie D., Tatiana S., Elizabeth N., Wilson M., & Ryan M. We so appreciate the leadership and commitment these students offer to our school.

It's Box Tops Contest Time!!

The Spring Contest is here! Please turn in Box Tops to your teacher. We will be collecting them now until Friday, February 16th. The winning class will receive a celebration party. Good luck and thank you for supporting Rockbrook!



Rockbrook Calendar

- Feb. 5 Bd of Ed Mtg at ABC 6:30 p.m.
- 6 Planet Sub Night
- 6 Community Club Mtg 6:00 p.m.
- 14 Valentine Parties 2:00 p.m.
- 15 1-3 Vocal Music Concert WHS - 7p.m.
- 19 President's Day - No School
- 21 Don & Millie's Night



- 27 6th gr. Strings Solo/Group Night WMS 6:30 p.m.
- Mar. 1 Read-A-Thon, Family Reading Night
- 2 Godfather Slice of the Pie Night
- 5 Bd of Ed Mtg. ABC Bldg 6:30 p.m.
- 6 Spring Pictures 9 a.m.
- 6 Community Club Meeting - 6 p.m.
- 6 Planet Sub Night

Counselor's Corner

Teaching Kindness Reduces Bullying

Instead of teaching children what NOT to do, teaching them what they CAN do is important to create change. Teaching and encouraging kindness is related to many of the following positive outcomes:

- **Happy children!** There is a natural good feeling that results when we do an act of kindness, even if it's small. Happy and compassionate children do not have a need to bully others.
- **Higher self-esteem.** The "helper's high" that comes from endorphins in our brains when we do something kind increases our sense of belonging. Children will feel like they can have a true impact on their environment.
- **More friends.** Feeling like they are accepted and liked by peers is usually very important to children of all ages. Kindness increases our connections with other people on a deeper level.
- **Improved academic success.** The feel good effects of being kind help increase children's concentration and memory, which greatly impacts learning.
- **Better mental health.** Acts of kindness increase serotonin levels, the natural brain chemical that improves mood. Have a consistently unhappy child? Encourage them to look outside themselves and be kind to someone else.

For more information about why kindness is important, check out this article: <https://www.edutopia.org/blog/teaching-kindness-essential-reduce-bullying-lisa-currie>

No Place for Hate

Once again all Westside schools are becoming No Place for Hate® schools this year. The Anti-Defamation League (ADL) conducts No Place for Hate®, a nation-wide campaign to promote our schools as a place of respect, unity and character. In order to become a No Place for Hate® school, schools need to fulfill the requirement of signing the No Place for Hate® Promise. Last week students learned the No Place for Hate® Promise, discussed it during their Class Meetings, and signed a large copy of it in the hallway.

The No Place for Hate® Promise

I promise to do my best to treat everyone fairly.

I promise to do my best to be kind to everyone—even if they are not like me.

If I see someone being hurt or bullied, I will tell a teacher.

Everyone should be able to feel safe and happy in school.

I want our school to be No Place for Hate®.

ADL's No Place for Hate® initiative enables the whole school community to tackle prejudice, bullying and conflict. Together, we can make our school No Place for Hate®.

Meghan Martin
School Counselor

Jump on the Wellness Wagon!

This month's tip: Sleep for Success

Sleep is important. Every living thing sleeps, from the smallest insect to the largest whale. Some animals spend as much as 20 hours a day sleeping! To give their bodies the chance to rest, grow, and be full of energy, kids need 10 to 11 hours of sleep each night. That time in dreamland helps their brains and bodies get ready for a new day. Adequate sleep will boost your child's energy and enthusiasm, and also helps kids learn more easily.



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

Classroom Placements

We are fortunate at Rockbrook to have a high quality, caring, and dedicated staff of educators who strive to meet the needs of every child. Our teams of teachers are insightful and qualified and put a great deal of care and effort to best fit each child's educational needs with the right teacher.

During the last quarter of the year, our staff begins the challenging task of creating the class lists for the next school year. This task involves many people and a great deal of thought, as we do our best to:

Balance

When a classroom is balanced, the students are more successful, learning is easier, and the teacher is able to meet the needs of the learners in attendance. Teams of teachers go over criteria such as male/female ratio, academic needs and talents, and special programming to ensure classrooms have diverse representation.

Build Equity

We also work to see that all classrooms resemble each other in leadership abilities, social skills, peer relationships, individual learning styles and teaching styles, and classroom dynamics (behavior, social, emotional, and personality considerations among students).

Finding the Right Match

We recognize that parents are an important part of our team and a crucial advocate for their child's success. With so many variables, granting every teacher request would not be possible and might not match with the careful planning teachers do in preparing suggested lists. In addition, children need to work in and with a variety of circumstances now and in the future, in terms of personnel, peers, and environment.

If there is a circumstance you feel we should consider, please do the following:

- Make a formal request in writing (by email is acceptable) no later than April 1, 2018• Requests should reference your child's learning style and type, not the specific teacher you wish them to have.
- If there has been a request made in a previous year that still applies, such as not placing your child with another particular student, please make sure we are aware of the necessary details again, for placement in the 2018-19 school year.

Thank you for your continued partnership in your child's education. Class assignments will be mailed individually in August, prior to the start of school.

Valentines Day Update - This year our Valentines party falls on a **Wednesday**. To allow enough time for parties we will start at **2:00pm**. During our upcoming Valentines Parties, the district has agreed to provide all students a special Valentines cookie treat. Please make sure Valentines that may be sent for student sharing either meet the requirements of our **Safer and Healthier snack list**, or include non-edible options like pencils, stickers, temporary tattoos, or just a Valentine. To help making passing out Valentines easier, we also encourage students bringing Valentines to fill out the the "From" line only.

Safer and Healthier Foods List - Birthday Treats & Valentines - This year our district has adopted a list of safer and healthier food choices that families may use in selecting snacks and treats to send with their child to share. For birthdays and other celebrations we ask that you use this list in selecting your child's treat. If students bring a treat not on the list, parents will be contacted and an alternative option made available. (Please see our special note above regarding Valentines Day)

Nebraska Robotics Expo

The Nebraska Robotics Expo (<http://neroboticsexpo.unl.edu/>) will be held on Saturday, Feb. 17 at Strategic Air Command & Aerospace Museum. This is a great way to expose students of all ages to STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Math) concepts. Westside will be registering 6 elementary teams for this event and a Loveland parent will be holding workshops on Saturdays in January so the students can work with the CEENBoTs and practice. Interested students and parents can visit the EY Blog for more information. <http://ey.westside66.org/nebraska-robotics-expo/>

Community Club

Community Club meets once a month and we would love to have you join us on Tuesday, February 6 at 6:00 p.m.

Rockbrook Community Club is made up of parents who come together to support our school. Being a part of Community Club provides a great opportunity for parents to be involved in their child's education, and to meet other parents and families.

6th Grade Gallup Strengths Presentation

There will be an informational meeting for families of 6th graders on Monday, February 12th from 6:30-7:45 at Westside Middle School. All 6th grade students and their parents are encouraged to attend. 6th graders took the Gallup Strengths Explorer earlier this year and will have a chance to learn more about the Gallup Strengths and how to use these in their lives.

Westside Early Childhood Centers - ADVENTURE IS OUT THERE:

Where will your summer adventure be? Find yours with Camp Westside Early Childhood Centers. Mark your calendars now to sign your School-Age child up for an explorative and adventurous summer! Our Summer program runs May 30- August 9, 2018. Registration begins March 5, 2018. No minimum weeks required and flexible scheduling. Email weccsummer@westsideecc.org for more information and questions!

6th Grade Celebration Meeting

For those 6th Grade parents interested in helping with the 6th Grade graduation celebration activities, we will have a brief meeting following the next Community Club meeting, at 7 pm on Tuesday Feb. 6th. No worries if you cannot attend and would still like to help, contact

Lisa Rezac (lrezac@kbbldservices.com) or Janet Parsonage (djparsonage@cox.net).



If Your Child's Lunch Account is Negative, You Will Receive an E-mail from Mosaic. Please Check Your Junk Mail.

Early Childhood and Club66 Service Learning Project:

Westside Early Childhood Centers will be discussing with the children the concept of poverty and homelessness. They will try to promote empathy and sensitivity for those who live differently. An important part of this is to help children think about what they could do to make situations better for those whose lives may not include the basic necessities. Each of the Westside Early Childhood Centers will be collecting different items for donation to The Open Door Mission. Our center is responsible for collecting shampoo and conditioner. We would love for you to please consider making a donation and making your child a part of this process. We will be collecting items through February 7th. Thank You for your support and we encourage you to have family discussions about this important topic. We are very excited about our Partnership with The Open Door Mission.

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.

State law allows school districts to give transfer priority to families living within the District prior to placing Open Enrollment students 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 Open 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.

Those with questions can call the Westside Welcome Center at 402-343-2603.

Requirements for Early Admission to Kindergarten

In accordance with Nebraska Statute 79-214, the Westside Community Schools allows for admission of children 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 402-390-2108.

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 Open or 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.

Westside Middle School Orientation Nights

Parents and students are invited to join us for an evening of introductions, food, and community building to welcome the next 6th grade class to Westside Middle School. We are asking specific schools to attend on their assigned night. Our goal is to create an intimate and comfortable environment for your student's first experience as a middle school student. If you cannot make your assigned night, please feel free to attend one of the other nights.

March 22
Swanson
Sunset
Westgate
Paddock

March 26
Prairie
Rockbrook
Hillside

March 29
Westbrook
Loveland
Oakdale

Schedule

4:50-5:50 Pizza Truck will be serving food for purchase. Parents and students can sit inside to eat.
6:00 Welcome address in the WMS PAC for students and parents
6:30 Breakout Session #1
6:50 Breakout Session #2
7:10 Breakout Session #3
7:30 Conclude

Breakouts Session Descriptions

We are providing multiple, 15-minute, breakout sessions so parents can personalize their learning about WMS. Parents and students are asked to select 3 sessions to attend.

Athletics/Clubs/Activities/Involvement: During this session, staff will discuss the different opportunities in which students can be involved at WMS.

Advisory/SPARK: During this session, staff will discuss the structure, philosophy, and best practices of a quality advisory program.

Building Strengths in Your Student - If you were unable attend the Gallup Strengths parent night, this is another opportunity to learn more about how to help your child name, claim, and aim their talents as identified by the Gallup Strengths Explorer Inventory.

Grading - Learn from teachers about grading at Westside Middle School and how to begin to prepare your student for the shift from Standards Based Reporting to grading at the secondary level.

Registration 101 - School counselors will demonstrate how to register your student and be available to answer questions regarding the online registration process. Additional information on how co-teaching works into the schedule.

Assisted Learning Special Education - If your student is in Assisted Learning Special Education, you can meet with staff to discuss Co-teaching, talk about electives and see potential schedules

Functional/Life Skills Special Education - If your students is in Life Skills Special Education, you can meet with staff to understand how your student's day will look at Westside Middle School.

Booths:

Community Club - Order WMS Gear and find out how to become involved as a parent of a WMS student

Powerschool - Find out information about Powerschool Access, Registration trouble-shooting, and update your information at this booth

Student and Family Services - Learn more about our partnership with Children's Hospital, free and reduced lunches, and more.

Technology Information - Parents can stop at the technology booth learn more about laptops, insurance, and procedures for distribution.