MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Rocky Run Families,

And just like that...we’re over a quarter of the way through our school year! I want to thank EVERYONE (teachers AND parents) for meeting during our parent-teacher conference day on Oct. 14th. Home-School partnership is one of (if not THE) most important factor in a child’s success. We absolutely VALUE our relationships with our Rocky Run families, and we want NOTHING MORE than to team up WITH you to make a difference for children.

With that in mind, we offer a tip: Now that the first quarter report cards have come home, we encourage CELEBRATING the “Work Habits” section for cards - esp. the “Displays Effort” section. Let’s cheer on our children for doing their best!!!

A special THANK YOU for our incredible PTO, teachers, and parent volunteers who helped make this year’s “Rock the Run” Fun Run a success!! The energy and engagement was high, and the students had a BLAST supporting our school’s goal of the playground project! Our next step is to assist our students in collecting the pledges. Every single dollar that is collected counts!

Below are a few important upcoming events happening in the next few weeks:

- Tues., Nov. 5 = Election Day! (No School for Students)
- Fri., Nov. 8 = Veterans Day Assembly @ 2:30 p.m.
- Mon., Nov. 11 = Veterans Day! (No School)
- Tues., Nov. 19 = Fall Picture RETAKES
- Wed., Nov. 20 = RRES Spirit Night @ Freddy’s!
- Thurs., Nov. 21 = Fall/Winter Chorus Concert @ 7:00 p.m.
- W/Th/F (Nov. 22, 23, & 24) = No School - Happy Thanksgiving Break!
Finally, and especially with the Holiday season right around the corner, we here at Rocky Run acknowledge that there are many children and families in our own school community who go hungry everyday. As such, please be on the lookout for TWO opportunities to help us serve others to meet such needs:

1. RRES is starting a **Snack Pantry** for children who regularly go without a snack during the day. We are asking our parent community and our staff to provide donations (from a select list) for this pantry. A blue half-sheet w/ more information was sent home this week. Thank you for your consideration!

2. We will soon be collecting canned goods and non-perishable food items for the American Legion in support of their efforts to feed many families this Holiday season.

*Quote we’re ponding: “The best angle from which to approach any problem is the ‘try-angle’.”*
- *Unknown*

See you around campus!

Nick Roman
DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS...DON'T FORGET TO FALL BACK 1 HOUR ON NOVEMBER 3RD!!!

### Important November Dates
- 11/5/19 – No School - Election Day
- 11/8/19 – Veterans Day Assembly @2:30
- 11/11/19 – No School Veteran’s Day
- 11/19/19 – Fall Picture Retake/ Make-up Day
- 11/20/19 – Spirit Night at Freddy’s from 5-8
- 11/27/19 to 11/29/19 - Thanksgiving Break

### Important December Dates
- 12/20/19 – Early Release @ 1:10PM (All Grades)
- 12/23/19 - 1/3/20 – Winter Break

### Important January Dates
- 1/6/20 – No School Professional Day
- 1/7/20 - 1st day back from Winter Break

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### THE P.E. SPOT

We have been enjoying the great fall weather as we have been getting some fresh air on our way around the track!

K-2nd grade students have been working on the underhand slide, the underhand toss, the overhand throw and have been doing a few activities that help us practice those skills. We are now start to practice some soccer skills.

3rd -5th grade students have been working on footballs skills like passing, punting and kicking. Unfortunately, our Punt, Pass & Kick contest had to be cancelled due to low numbers at sign-ups. :0( Maybe next year, we will try again. We have had fun working our skills doing the Endzone game, and Race Football.

Archery is off to a great start with students learning the names of the parts of the bow and arrow and the eleven steps to Archery Success. We hope to test our skills in a few tournaments this year. Our final tournament will be on March 14, 2019, at Meadow Event Park.
FOCUS ON EXCELLENCE - NEWS FOR NOVEMBER

The first Wordmasters challenge of the 2019-2020 school year will be held on Tuesday, November 26th. All students who are participating in the challenge have been given their words and should be practicing them every night.

3rd graders just wrapped up a unit on Archaeology and will go to Ferry Farm and participate in the Dig and Discover program. Our next unit will be on NURTZ. Students will learn to use deductive reasoning skills to decode the NURTZ alphabet. 4th graders are wrapping up our Building Bridges unit and will be working on a unit called Quotation Quizlers. Students have to use their reasoning skills to decipher quotes said by famous Americans. They will then create their own for classmates to discover. 5th graders will be wrapping up a unit on Roller Coasters and starting a writing unit on Memoirs.

In order to participate in the Focus program your child must go through an evaluation process. The program is designed for students who are significantly (2+ years) exceeding grade levels expectations. A referral can be made from September to February 1st. If you would like more information on the program and how it works please feel free to contact me at stewartcl@staffordschools.net.

BAND TOGETHER TO FIGHT HUNGER

Marching Band Students across Stafford County are once again Banding Together to Fight Hunger in our community. On Monday, November 4th at 7pm, our own talented musicians from Brooke Point, Colonial Forge, Mountain View, North Stafford, and Stafford High Schools will "BAND Together to Fight Hunger" through a showcase of instrumental talent. Please join us with your non-perishable food or monetary donation at MVHS on Nov. 4th at 7 PM and help us reach our goal of providing 45,000 meals for our community. If you’re interested in being a business partner with this event or would like more information please contact: BandTogetherStafford@gmail.com
NURTURING SCIENCE MINDED CHILDREN

Inaugural STEM Club for 18 fourth and fifth graders is a success thanks to the efforts of Mr. Brumfield and the coordination of Mrs. Kelish, Science Lead, and Second Grade Teacher and Mrs. Brumfield, Fourth-Grade Teacher.

**Nurturing Science Minded Children**

Any Century learning is happening at Rocky Run Elementary! The teachers from kindergarten to fifth grade are embracing STEM or STEAM instructional methods and planning or integrating project-based learning (PBL) tasks throughout the curriculum. Why? What are the benefits?
When children experience STEM or STEaM projects, they use thinking structures, such as creativity, innovation, problem-solving, critical thought, collaboration, and communication. The students practice and experiment using plans they develop. They hypothesize, test out designs or investigations, research the phenomena or engineering, rebuild, and then retest. Finally, the students realize learning or finding solutions take time, effort, and commitment.

Today's kids are digital learners. Our responsibility as practitioners is to teach them to use digital platforms and media efficiently and, more importantly, safely. At Rocky Run, staff members create opportunities that encourage students to stretch their fantastic elastic brains. Our goal is to design a place where thinking can be seen and heard.

What can parents do beyond the classroom wall?
The answer is simple, under your guidance and direction, provide opportunities for your children to learn how to use digital media and stretch their fantastic elastic brains. Here are several websites that support our vision of STEaM or Project-based Learning thinking and collaboration at Rocky Run.

https://www.learner.org/jnorth/
This site encourages stewardship for the natural world.

https://www.pbslearningmedia.org/collection/dragonflytv/
This website offers a variety of activities and more importantly, videos of real scientists who explain their field of study.

http://www.scigirlsconnect.org
This site focuses on Citizen scientists. It's intended for parent and child.

This website is to check out what happens in space!

https://www.curiositymachine.org/challenges/
The website has a plethora of ideas for STEM activities.

Additional Digital Websites:

This website's goal is to spread the importance of handwashing.


COUNSELING CORNER

It is hard to believe we have finished the first quarter of the school year already! Students at Rocky Run seem to be settling into their routines nicely however, your child will continue to need your support. Some ways to do that are to be sure they are in school each day, unless they are sick; stay in contact with your child's teacher if you have questions or concerns; check your child's backpack for information from school; check their agenda and homework nightly; and discuss appropriate behavior at school.

RED RIBBON WEEK

Thank you to all students and staff who participated in Red Ribbon Week! Students in each grade signed a pledge promising to make safe, healthy, and kind choices and wore
STUDENT OF THE MONTH FOR AUGUST

August = Patience

Kindergarten Winners
Lily Brown
Mayukha Desharaju
Crimora Fingerholtz
Cora Taussig
Ione Vazquez

First Grade Winners
Jeremiah Boone
Cristian Castro
Kayden Davis
Graysen Flynn
Deon Willis
Aniyah Wynn

Second Grade Winners
Cori Alexander
McKenzye Cepeda
Hannah Diaczyszyn

CLASSROOM GUIDANCE:
Lessons in October focused on responsibility (listening and not interrupting) and conflict resolution using problem solving. We will be incorporating Kelso's Choices again this year to give students strategies to resolve conflicts on their own. In 4th and 5th grades the focus will become verbal vs. non-verbal strategies listed in the wheel, but without the frog character.

Lessons in November will continue to focus on conflict resolution including how to handle small problems such as rumors, teasing, and friendship concerns. The word of the month – HONESTY- will also be included in lessons at all grade levels.

We are so excited to work with you and your child/children! Please let us know how we can help either by email or phone 540-286-1956.

Allison Adams adamsan@staffordschools.net
Daphne Hill hilldm@staffordschools.net
Third Grade Winners
Mallory Hillbert
Yusuf Sooﬁ
Haylee Steinmetz
Carter Stewart
Adam Talcott
Haydyn Ulrich

Fourth Grade Winners
Jemima Agble
Keira Ceniceros
Ali Goins
Isiah Hibbert
Jalayah Reid
Milana Wagner

Fifth Grade Winners
Nathan Dono
Jaeden Brandon
Abigail Gueterich
Paige Jones
Paola Santiago
Jordan Vokes

STUDENT OF THE MONTH FOR SEPTEMBER
September=Fairness

Kindergarten Winners
Ayden Buchanan
Avery Hodges
Mackenzie Street
Gabriella Tshibasu
Ze’vier Wilson

First Grade Winners
Charlotte Goodwin
Austin Himsey
Gavin Jackson
Kaia Lancaster
Jaxon Schoolﬁeld
We are very excited about a reading incentive program and a word knowledge contest happening in our school!

**Redskins Read**
The Redskins Read program encourages 3rd and 4th grade students to read one book a month, from now until April. Each student received a “Redskins Playbook” where they complete activities based on the book of their choice. The playbooks are judged and a winning class is chosen, along with a 3rd and 4th grade MVP (most valuable playbook) for putting extra effort into their work. All winners are rewarded with nice prizes all courtesy of The Redskins. Our school also has a chance to win a visit from Redskins players as well a free tickets to the games for select students. So ask your child what book they chose for the month and if they are working hard in their Redskins Playbook!

**Spelling Bee**

**Second Grade Winners**
AJ Barbour
Victor Bui
Caitlyn Draudt
Emmanuella Johnson
Amani Spires
Nathan Taussig

**Third Grade Winners**
Anisah Ahmed
Zahed Akrami
Desiraye Guevara
Zaida Knott

**Fourth Grade Winners**
Hailey Barrett
Christopher Bouie
Alma Calderon
Makayla Pringle
Austen Walling
Camden Wright

**Fifth Grade Winners**
Lila Adams
Luis Avaldez
Aidan Gionet
Tiana King-McKay
David Pleitez
Jake Wagner
Rocky Run will be competing in our Stafford County Spelling Bee. Third, fourth and fifth graders are all competing to see who is the best speller! The classroom competition has already started, with teachers quizzing the students on 20 spelling words. We will be picking the top 10 spellers to compete in a formal school spelling bee. The top 2 winners from RRES will go on to compete at the county level.