MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Rocky Run Families,

Fall is finally here! Not only that, but it’s hard to believe that we have already made it through the first 9 weeks of the school year. Our students are engaging in amazing learning experiences everyday, and we are so proud of their progress thus far! As we move into the autumn months, our teachers are working tremendously hard on collaborating, analyzing student progress, and planning learning opportunities that address academic needs of the students. It’s a perfect time to be reminded of how grateful we are for a truly amazing staff who cares deeply about students and their families!

This month has a number of events happening about which we want to remind everyone. Our “Rock the Run” fundraising program is being kicked off on Wednesday, Oct. 9. Our incredibly dedicated PTO is going above and beyond to make this year’s event a success and, potentially, the most profitable one yet! Our goal is to raise $40,000 in order to complete phase 2 of our new playground project (yes, playgrounds are that expensive!). PLEASE support our cause and register your child on FunRun.com and support them in getting pledges! The culminating Fun Run will take place on Friday, Oct. 18. Students will run during their grade level “specials” time.

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

- Wed., Oct. 9 = "Rock the Run" fundraiser kick-off
- Fri., Oct. 18 = "Rock the Run" Fun Run!
- Mon., Oct. 14 = Parent-Teacher Conferences (No School for Students)
- Mon., Oct. 21 = Report cards come home!
  - Conferences & report cards are wonderful opportunities to connect with your child's teacher, celebrate student progress, and positively encourage
ANNUAL WALL OF HONOR

In an effort to support our many military families here at school, we will be creating our 14th Annual "RRES Wall of Honor" for Veteran's Day. On the walls of the lobby, we place pictures of family members who are veterans and/or are currently in the military. If you are interested in participating, please send your loved one's picture, with the completed form attached. It would also be very helpful if you would write your child's name and teacher's name on the back of the picture, in case the form and picture get separated. We will then scan your picture (return the original to you) and place it on our "RRES Wall of Honor." If you have given us a picture before, just let us know by checking the box and we can reuse that one if you would like. You may also email us the required information and attach your picture to the email; please make the subject line “Wall of Honor”. Pictures are due to us no later than October 28, 2019. If you have any further questions or concerns regarding our "Wall of Honor" please feel free to contact Mrs. Allison Kirmse. You may stop by the school office, call 286-1956, or email:

kirmsean@staffordschools.net

Click here to get the form to fill out

Fri., Oct. 25 = PTO Family Movie Night (Disney's "Hocus Pocus") No student drop-offs, please)
Thurs., Oct. 31 = 1:10 Early Release for Elementary Students

Finally, we'd like to take a minute to remind you that SCPS will soon be creating it's budget for next school year. This will include supporting competitive salaries in order to retain quality personnel AND addressing our county-wide transportation concerns. Despite our best efforts to develop a budget based upon our priorities, it's the Stafford Board of Supervisors (BOS) who affords us the funding to operate our schools. We encourage you to become active in showing your support for SCPS by attending/speaking at the BOS meetings or at least emailing our BOS representative (Mr. Gary Snellings - gsnellings@staffordcountyva.gov) and/or our School Board rep. (Mrs. Holly Hazard - hazardhh@staffordschools.net) and respectfully advocating for improved financial support. Together...we make a BIG difference!

Quote we're ponding: “Sticks in a bundle are unbreakable.” - Kenyan Proverb
See you around campus!
FOCUS NEWS

Our Focus groups are underway and we are starting with some interesting units. 3rd graders will be completing a unit on Archaeology. We will be visiting Ferry Farm to participate in their “Dig and Discover” program. 4th graders are working on building their engineering skills with a Bridge Building unit. 5th graders are building Roller Coasters as a team. The Wordmaster competition will begin this month for 3rd-5th grade students.
If you would like any further information on the Focus program please feel free to contact me at stewartcl@staffordschools.net.

READING CORNER

“The single factor most strongly associated with reading achievement—more than socioeconomic status or any instructional approach—is independent reading.”
–Stephen Krashen, The Power of Reading

Voluminous reading builds vocabulary, cognitive strategies, and word knowledge. During the school day, our teachers are committed to allow students time for self-selected independent reading. Although it looks different in each grade level, students are taught the importance of this time and how to best select that “just right” book. Children are encouraged to share what they are reading and teachers are always guiding and supporting their efforts.
Research shows that classrooms and schools with robust libraries have more successful readers. As a parent, make sure your child has access to a wide range of books across many genres, topics, themes and ability levels at home.
Look for books that are inexpensive or free! The best place to start is the public library where you can not only check out books, but also take advantage of their monthly book sales.
Happy Reading!
Bonnie Hall, Reading Specialist
Amy Antholzner, Reading Specialist

LITERARY NEWS FROM THE LIBRARY
Our fall Scholastic Book Fair was a great success! Thank you to our two outstanding volunteers, Mrs. Williams and Mrs. Davis!!! These ladies did a wonderful job helping us and the students. Also thank you to all the families that used Ewallet for students to pay at the book fair. It makes it so easy for students and cashiers. Students bought many great books and lots of fun items too. We also purchased $800.00 worth of books for the library. These books will be ready for check out very soon. We'll have another book fair in January. Start saving those pennies now.

Third, fourth, and fifth grade classes have reviewed how to log in and take Accelerated Reading quizzes online. These quizzes offer excellent practice for SOL testing. Students learn how to eliminate wrong answers, look back into passages for correct answers, and how to focus on details when reading. Students can take these quizzes at school. Approximately 85% of the books in the library have an Accelerated Reader quiz.

Fourth and fifth grade classes also had lessons on using the Destiny Discover computer program. This program allows them to search the library collection for books. It gives them information such as the reading level of the book, a short summary, and the genre of the book. Grades kindergarten, first, and second have been concentrating on books about fall. Students are showing their understanding of the books through pictures and sentences they write. All classes have checked out books one to three times. Please continue to help your student remember to return their book on their library day.

Battle of the Books for grades 2-5 has begun. Participants have until Jan. 16 to read the 6 books assigned to their grade level. The first round quiz will be on Jan. 16. The final round will be held Feb. 7. The top 6 students in each grade level will receive prizes. The top prize will be a new Kindle Fire. Please encourage your student to participate.

Every library lesson begins with a Fact of the Day. Ask your student about this fact. It’s a great way to start a conversation with them about school. It also shows them you are truly interested in their learning.

Make memories with your student by reading together or talking about what they are reading. Read! Read! Read!

“A library is not a luxury but one of the necessities of life.” Henry Ward Beecher

P.E. SPOT

Cooler weather is on the way and we are soooooooo glad. We are finishing up physical fitness tests in grades 3-5 and are starting throwing with K-2. Students jog on the track every P.E. as long as the weather cooperates.

4th & 5th grades Have been able to give Archery a try during P.E. Third grade is practicing the physical fitness tests. K-2 students have been working on the underhand slide, the underhand toss and the overhand throw.

Archery Club sign-ups will officially open on Oct. 4th. All sign-ups are done online. Archery will be on Tuesdays and Wednesday. Students have to pick ONE of those days to attend Archery. Instructors will contact parents after sign-ups have finished. It is a first come first serve basis. We only have 24 spots per day.

Open to 3rd-5th grade class, our Punt, Pass & Kick Contest will be held Monday, Oct. 28th from 4-5 pm. This is a competition to see which students can punt, pass & kick the football over the longest distance. Scores will be added together for a total score. 1st, 2nd, and 3rd
place medals will be given at each grade level for boys and girls. Parent volunteers needed. Please sign up on the school website. Thanks for your help, see you on the field!!

Sign-ups open online on Oct. 11 and close Oct. 25th.