


Rocket Newsletter

Rock Island Elementary School
A School Wide Title I School



Cormic Priester, *Principal*
Celeste Goltz, *Assistant Principal*

 @PrincipalRIE

April 2022
rockisland.browardschools.com

A Message From Our Principal

Dear Rock Families,

I hope that everyone had a wonderful experience while on Spring Break. The fourth quarter is upon us which means that our scholars are ready to show what they have learned throughout the school year. All scholars have a great deal to be proud of.

The Florida Standards Assessment (FSA) will be held on the following dates for scholars in 3rd through 5th grade:

Florida Standards Assessment of English Language Arts:

3rd Grade: April 5th & 6th

Florida Standards Assessment of Writing:

4th & 5th Grade: April 5th

Please make sure your child has a good night sleep and a hearty dinner the night before. These dates are very important for our scholars.

Your support and participation are valuable and important to our ongoing partnership. Our next School Advisory Council meeting is Tuesday, April 5th at 3:30 pm. Mrs. Alveranga, SAC Chair and Title I Coordinator, will share updates regarding Title I and SAC. Parent input during the recent School Advisory Council meetings has been very helpful in preparation for 2022-2023 school year.

Teachers will distribute report cards for the 3rd quarter on Monday, April 18th. Please review the report card with your scholar and return the report card jacket to school the next day.

Please help support our "Fill the Bins" initiative. Fill the Bins is an earth-friendly initiative for our parents to use to recycle unwanted clothing, shoes and textiles, such as accessories, handbags and linens. You may use the receptacle in the north parking lot to deposit recycle items. A donation will be given to our school each month for every pound the company collects. Help us "Fill Our Bin." Have a wonderful April!

Best Regards,
Mrs. Cormic Priester
Follow me on Twitter @PrincipalRIE

Important Dates

4/5	FSA ELA Grade 3 Session 1 Covid-19 Vaccinations 3pm-6pm
4/6	FSA ELA Grade 3 Session 2
4/11-4/14	iReady Diagnostic AP 3 Reading & Math
4/13	Fire Drill
4/14	Active Assailant Drill Early Release Day Dismissal begins at 1 pm
4/15	Holiday School Closed
4/18	Report Cards go home
4/22	Honor Roll Assembly
4/28	STEM Night@6:00 pm



In an effort to improve System Practices, Broward County School District is conducting a Parent Survey. We value your opinion and ask that you please take time to complete this survey. Please be assured that your responses to this survey will be anonymous. Your honest opinion is appreciated.

The surveys will be available online only in English, Spanish, Haitian Creole and Portuguese. Thank you for taking your time to complete the survey.

In order to complete the survey, go to:
<https://eprovesurveys.advanced.ed.org/surveys/#/action/186381/p568>



REMARKABLE READING MRS. WHITTAKER, LITERACY COACH

It is that time of year!

High Stakes Tests and all the anxiety that comes along with it. Here are a few ways to help your child conquer test anxiety.

Text anxiety is real – validate their feelings and let them know that you understand.

Make sure your child:

- *Eats a good breakfast – if they eat at school make sure they are on time.
- *Goes to bed at a reasonable time the night before.
- *Give a motivational pep talk before they leave you and enter the school grounds.
- *Avoid social media.
- *Arrive to school on time.
- *Focus on the positive and encourage positive self-talk.
- *Help them to envision success (pro athletes' prep for a game).
- *Bolster confidence.
- *Debrief after tests – ask your child how it went.

We are here to offer support to you and your child please reach out to any of us.

REMARKABLE SPECIAL PROGRAMS MS. JUIN, ESE SPECIALIST



Parents and Guardians,

Letters for Extended School Year (ESY) will be going out the week of March 28th. Please make sure to complete the letters and return them completed to school as soon as possible. ESY will take place at Westwood Heights Elementary beginning June 20th through July 28th. The program is six weeks long, Mondays through Thursdays. The start and end time will be shared once more information is received. For further information regarding ESY, please email me at norma.juin@browardschools.com.

~ Ms. Juin

Rock Island Elementary Science News



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Rock Island's mission, "...climb aboard, [and] get ready to explore", together we will build, strengthen, and empower our scholars. Reach all, teach all!

Rock Island Parent's & Rocketeer's

by Ms. Boggan, Science Coach

Scholar's in Action



April Science Focus

Kindergarten
SC.K.E.5.1

First Grade
SC.1.E.6.3

Second Grade
SC.2.E.7.1
SC.2.E.6.1

Third Grade
SC.3.E.5.2
SC.3.E.6.1

Fourth Grade
SC.4.E.6.3
SC.4.E.6.6

Fifth Grade
SC.5.P.8.2
SC.5.P.8.3
SC.5.N.1.1

As we move forward into April, our scholars are continuously growing by leaps and bounds within Science. They are exploring new science standards and using the knowledge to apply to real-world applications.

Just take a look at our pictures!

Ms. Boggan

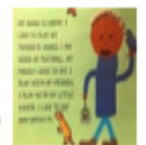


REMARKABLE CLI
MRS. ANYDINE, CLI COACH

April is National Poetry Month!

Poetry Activities that can be done at home.

1. **RHYMING HUNT**- this activity gets your children up and moving. This can be done inside the house, outdoors, and/or in the car. Ask your children to observe what's around them and allow them some time to come up with rhymes. For example, if you see a tree, allow your children to think of 3-5 words that rhyme with tree.
2. **USE SONG LYRICS**- music is one of the best ways to engage your children into any rhyming activity. A song becomes "catchy" because the lyrics flow. Have your children choose and analyze their favorite song. Ask: "Do they rhyme? What is the rhyming pattern? What makes the lyrics flow?"
3. **WRITE A POEM**- a **free verse** poem does not have to follow any rules. It just a way for your children to write their thoughts and feelings on paper. **Color poetry** is fun and engaging. This type of poem uses one specific color to convey the mood of the poet.
4. **BIO POEM**- these poems are filled with your children's emotions and personal thoughts. It allows your children to express themselves in writing. While this form of poetry does follow a specific pattern, the sentence starters of this form of poetry give students clear direction on how and what to write.
5. **ACROSTIC POEM**- writing **an acrostic poem** can range from simple to challenging depending on your directions. Your children can write about their favorite toy, game, or family member.





REMARKABLE SUPPORT MS. STEPHENSON, SCHOOL COUNSELOR

Test Taking Skills for Parents

With the Florida State Assessment just around the corner, the Rock Island family is preparing for test success!! We have been hosting test taking workshops for Grades 3-5 every other Friday for the last few weeks to give the children tips and tools to take any test well. Here are a few strategies you can use at home with your scholars to add to their test taking toolbox.

- If you are anxious about your child's test, it's ok but try to keep cool around your child, you don't want them to get anxious about their tests too.
- Encourage your child to do well but don't pressure him/her. You may stress him/her out. It is important for your child to stay relaxed for the test.
- Mark down test days on your calendar so you and your child are both aware of testing dates.
- Make sure that your child gets enough sleep on the night before the test.
- Ensure that your child eats a healthy breakfast and avoid heavy foods that may make him/her groggy and avoid high sugar foods that may make him/her hyper.
- Make sure that your child gets up early enough so that he/she will be on time to school.

~ Ms. Stephenson

"ASK BRIA" TUTORING SESSIONS
CERTIFIED TEACHERS PROVIDE ASSISTANCE WITH ONLINE SCHOOLWORK FOR STUDENTS PRE-K-12.

- ✓ MATHEMATICS
- ✓ SCIENCE
- ✓ GRAMMAR
- ✓ READING

MON THRU FRI
3:00PM-8:00PM

Microsoft Teams

ASK BRIA
BROWARD REMOTE INSTRUCTIONAL ASSISTANT

Link is located on your Canvas Page

inner EXPLORER

TUNE IN

BRIDGING HOME AND SCHOOL

Tune In is a transformative feature that allows mindful awareness to go beyond the ten-minute practice in the classroom; the audio practices can be shared with students' families.

REACHING FAMILIES
Inner Explorer's Tune In allows parents and caregivers to listen in real time to the mindfulness audio file playing in their child's classroom. When parents and caregivers become interested and engaged, Inner Explorer can help to serve as a connection bridging home and school. Parents have an opportunity to participate in the same practice their child is experiencing in the classroom.

BENEFITS

- Directly connect parent with classroom activity
- Parents benefit from a mindfulness practice
- Families can practice together
- Audio practices can help facilitate conversations and deepen the parent/child connection
- Tune In practices are available at the time the classroom is listening, or later at a more convenient time.

SETTING UP TUNE IN

- Find the Tune In tab in your account menu
- Enter Names and Email Addresses
- Parents receive email and choose to 'Opt-In'
- Teacher Presses 'Play' on audio practice
- Parents receive email with link



**SPECIALIZED PROFESSIONALS ADVANCING RESOURCES, KNOWLEDGE
AND SKILLS
(SPARKS)**



- Daily attendance is important for student success.
- Missing just 10% of school (about 18 days) can make learning to read difficult.
- Students who miss 10 days or more are 25% less likely to enroll in college.

Attendance Tips:

- Have a scheduled bedtime
- Set an alarm to wake up in the morning (school starts at 8:30)
- Be prepared (have clothes and supplies ready the night before)
- Absences may be reported on the school's website at browardschools.com/rockisland or by calling the attendance line at 754-322-8302
- Contact your school social worker and request assistance, if needed

Congratulations to those students who had perfect attendance during 2nd and 3rd quarters! The names of students who had perfect attendance for the entire month of December, January and February are displayed on our attendance bulletin board.

**Your School Social Worker,
Ms. Campbell**

2021 – 2022 Yearly Meeting Dates

April 5, 2022 (SAC Meeting)

May 3, 2022 (SAC Meeting)

2021-2022 Promotion Criteria

As we approach the fourth quarter of the 2021-2022 school year, teachers continue to analyze and assess student performance. **Report cards will be issued on April 18th.** Should your scholar's report card show "not meeting promotion criteria at this time", please contact your child's teacher to schedule a conference.

Broward County Schools Student Progression Plan (Policy 6000.1) outlines the criteria for student Promotion and Retention. The purpose of the Student Progression Plan is to establish the standards for quality instruction, delineate the criteria for promotion, provide equal educational opportunities to all students and ensure all students are college and career ready upon graduation. Below is a brief listing of the Student Progression Plan by grade level.

The complete policy may be accessed at

http://www.broward.k12.fl.us/sbbcpolicies/docs/Policy%206000_1-Student_Progression_Plan_2019-2020.pdf

Grade Level	Promotion Criteria
Kindergarten	<p>Scores Instructional Reading Level B or greater on the Benchmark Assessment System (BAS).</p> <p>(Alternative 2) Scores 70% or greater on the Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Florida Journeys Common Core 2014 Benchmark Test.</p> <p>(Alternative 3) Recognizes 48 of 52 Letter Names AND Distinguishes 20 of 26 Letter Sounds AND Understands 15 of 21 Concepts of Print</p>
First Grade	<p>Scores 55% or greater on the Primary End of Year Reading Test that aligns with the Language Arts Florida Standards.</p> <p>(Alternative 2) Scores Instructional Reading Level I or greater on the Benchmark Assessment System (BAS).</p> <p>(Alternative 3) Scores 70% or greater on the Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Florida Journeys Common Core 2014 Benchmark Test.</p>
Second Grade	<p>Scores 65% or greater on the Primary End of Year Reading Test that aligns with the Language Arts Florida Standards.</p> <p>(Alternative 2) Scores Instructional Reading Level M or greater on the Benchmark Assessment System (BAS).</p> <p>(Alternative 3) Scores 70% or greater on the Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Florida Journeys Common Core 2014 Benchmark Test.</p>
Third Grade	<p>Scores Level 2 or greater on the Florida Standards Assessment (FSA) for English Language Arts.</p> <p>(Alternative 2) Scores acceptable level of performance on a state-approved achievement test in reading comprehension.</p> <p>(Alternative 3) Scores acceptable level of performance on the state-approved English Language Arts portfolio assessment.</p>
Fourth Grade	<p>READING: Scores Level 2 or greater on the Florida Standards Assessment (FSA) for English Language Arts.</p> <p>MATH: Scores Level 2 or greater on the Florida Standards Assessment (FSA) for Mathematics.</p> <p>(Alternative 2) READING: Scores Instructional Reading Level S or greater on the Benchmark Assessment System (BAS).</p> <p>MATH: Scores 60% or greater on the Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Florida Go Math! Mathematics Florida Standards End of Year Test.</p>
Fifth Grade	<p>READING: Scores Level 2 or greater on the Florida Standards Assessment (FSA) for English Language Arts.</p> <p>MATH: Scores Level 2 or greater on the Florida Standards Assessment (FSA) for Mathematics.</p> <p>(Alternative 2) READING: Scores Instructional Reading Level V or greater on the Benchmark Assessment System (BAS).</p> <p>MATH: Scores 60% or greater on the Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Florida Go Math! Florida Standards End-of-Year Test.</p>



Rock Island is a recognized Silver Positive Behavior Intervention Support (PBIS) school. PBIS is a set of strategies based in behavioral and biomedical science that enhances student quality of life and reduces problem behaviors. National research shows that full implementation of this framework leads to improved student outcomes. By establishing this framework, we are developing skills, making changes to the school environment, acknowledging appropriate behavior, and using data to identify supports for our students. We committed to ensuring positive and equitable outcomes for all scholars, which contributes to reducing out of school suspension rates.



Rock Island uses Class Dojo to encourage important skills, like working hard and participating. We also use it as a secondary communication tool as we can instantly share messages, updates and photos from each class. It is the easiest way for you to see how your child is doing at school and get in touch with your child's teacher.



We continue to emphasize our core values daily through morning meetings, play works, and in many other facets throughout the building. Our Core Values are shown below. Please reinforce them at home as well. These values permeate the building and encourage character and integrity.