

April-May 2013

RGS Parent Newsletter

Field Day

The annual RGS Field Day will be held on Thursday, May 16th. In case of rain, we will reschedule for Friday, May 17th. Students in each grade will be participating in the various games and activities during their "Specials" time. Second graders are scheduled from 8:00 – 9:30. First graders will be participating from 10:15–11:45, and Kindergartners will join in the fun from 1:00-2:10. Volunteer forms will be coming home soon with students. Parent volunteers are needed to help us make the day go smoothly and insure all students are involved. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Martin at RGS.

Summer School Reading Program

We are again offering a Summer Reading Program at Rockton Grade School to help students who are struggling with reading get a "jump start" before the new school year. The program is available to students who will be entering 1st, 2nd, and 3rd grades in August. Classes meet from 8:30-10:30 Monday through Friday for two weeks, beginning July 29th and ending on August 9th. The registration fee is \$50.00. Registration forms will be sent home in April. If you are interested in taking advantage of this program for your child and do not have a registration form, please call the RGS office at (815) 624-8585 and we will send a form home with your child.

Talcott Library

We will have visitors from Talcott Library at RGS in late May. They will be sharing information with the children about their summer program. Please look for information that will be coming home with your child. This is a valuable resource for parents and children in the summer. We want to do all that we can to keep children reading!

Next School Year

With the end of the school year quickly approaching, we are beginning to plan for next year. If you know (or think) that your child(ren) won't be returning to RGS next year, please call the office at 815 624-8585 and let us know. If you know of any families with school age children who will be moving to the district, please encourage them to call the office as well. As we are making plans for classroom assignments, it is very helpful if we have an accurate count of children and know of any special needs that may need to be met.

Registration materials will be mailed to homes for all **current** Rockton School District families on June 7th and will be due in the district office by June 28th. Please watch for these registration packets and contact the district office at 815 624-7143 if you do not receive yours by June 10th. As in past years, if you do not have your registration information to the district office by the due date, you will be charged a late fee of \$25 per child. If you are unable to pay the registration fees by the June 28th deadline, please go ahead and send in the information and make plans with the district office (815-624-7143) to pay later. The most important thing for us is that we know which children will be attending school so that we can plan for teachers and services. **The Rockton School District does require each family to provide annual verification of residency for their child(ren). Information will be included in your mail-in registration packet.**

For those of you making your summer vacation plans, be sure to be back in time for the first day of school, which will be August 21st for students. The RGS office will officially open on Monday, August 5th. You can view the school calendar for all of next school year on our district website at www.rockton140.org

Jump Rope for Heart

Rockton Grade School students are once again participating in the Jump Rope for Heart program sponsored by the American Heart Association. Mr. Martin does a wonderful job of promoting this program in our physical education classes, where students learn about the dangers of heart disease and how to keep their hearts healthy. Last year our students collected \$6,891.69! Can we top that amount this year? Jump Rope for Heart is April 15th – April 19th.

Dental Exams

Just a reminder that we need to have a copy of a current dental exam in the office for each child who is currently enrolled in kindergarten or second grade. If you have not submitted this to the school nurse yet this year, please do so immediately. These exams are due by May 15th. The exam must have taken place within the past 18 months, so any dental exam dated between November 15, 2011 and May 15, 2013 will be accepted. If you do not have a current dental exam, you may meet this state of Illinois requirement by providing us with documentation that a dental appointment has been scheduled for your child. ***Before we put your child's name on a class list for next school year, at either RGS or WPES, we must have the required dental exam in the office.*** Parents of first graders please keep in mind that you will need to provide a copy of a dental exam for your child next year.

Self-Discipline

Our character trait at RGS for April is Self-Discipline. Our daily pledge is: "I will think before I act and stick to my goals." When we show self-discipline we are taking charge of our own behavior. It is important to teach children that it is okay to get angry or upset about something but we can control how to respond to those thoughts and feelings. When feeling angry or upset it is good to take a minute to calm down. Take 3 deep breaths or count to 10 before you act or say something. This gives you time to think about "doing the right thing."

Cooperation

Our character trait at RGS for May is Cooperation. This final character trait builds upon all of the traits that we have learned so far this year. Cooperation means working together to get a job done. Here are some things you can do to help your child show teamwork/cooperation: Encourage them to:

- Play the game friends/siblings want to play, even when they would rather do something else.
- Always play fair when playing games. Be a good loser.
- Invite someone who is alone or "left out" to join their group.
- Listen to what others are saying.
- Think before they act.

Over the summer while you are practicing reading and math, please continue to practice and recognize our character traits. These are lifelong skills that your child needs to help them become successful at whatever they do!

Respect, Responsibility, Caring, Honest, Acceptance, Perseverance, Self-Discipline and Cooperation

Upcoming Dates

April 16th	Project Fair
April 19th	Rockton Spirit Wear Day
April 24th	School Board meeting RGS library 6pm
May 6th-10th	Teacher Appreciation Week
May 16th	Field Day
May 22nd	School Board meeting RGS library 6pm
May 24th	Crazy Sock Day
May 27th	Memorial Day – no school
May 31st	Last day of school