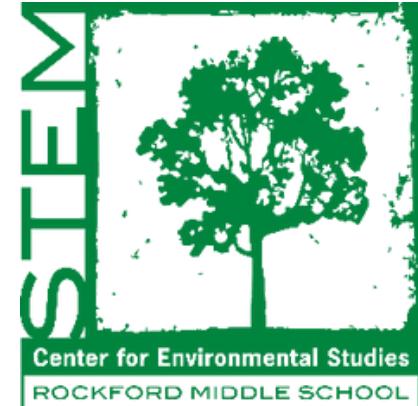


# ROCKFORD MIDDLE SCHOOL CENTER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES



## A NOTE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Bobbi A. Anderson-Hume, Ph.D.



**Lockers!** I am hearing from many of you that you are concerned about the amount of stuff your kiddo is carrying around.

I agree completely. We have been repeatedly encouraging students to leave items they don't need to carry around in their Boost classrooms. However, they are really reluctant to do so. Part of it is fear of losing stuff, part of it is just the comfort of feeling like a turtle and keeping things close, and part of it is a lack of "school skills."

It's this last one that's concerning me.



*Bobbi Hume*



# **ROCKFORD MIDDLE SCHOOL CENTER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES**

## **A NOTE FROM THE PRINCIPAL...CONTINUED**

*Bobbi A. Anderson-Hume, Ph.D.*

You all understand that we have state or national standards in Reading and Math and Science and every other subject to teach students each year of grades five through eight. We assess the knowledge and skills of these standards, in these subjects, both formally and informally on a regular basis. We all know this already. What we think less about are all of the other middle school skills that are learned in the four years that turn elementary kids into high school kids. Lockers are a part of this. Teaching 135 fifth graders how to navigate a padlock takes about 2 weeks of explanation and regular practice, “No, you go once around the first number to the second number and then directly back to the third number!”

*“Wait, what was the first number?”*

**“You didn’t hit the first number?”**



**“I don’t know, but I know I went around it twice!”**

I suggest this be one of those times in life that you just let us take it. We have a wonderfully kind and patient teacher in both the 5th and 6th grades who has volunteered to teach our children the art of locker opening. Sometimes in life we just need to take a gift for our own mental health. Remember, you still have to do the, “Did you turn your assignment in?” dance every night, so save your strength. Once we master the combination lock, we need to master a “what we carry with us and when” strategy and then we need to learn how to think about what to grab next, in advance of standing in front of an open locker with passing time ticking off and more bodies than locker space trying to get it done.

# **ROCKFORD MIDDLE SCHOOL CENTER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES**

## **A NOTE FROM THE PRINCIPAL...CONTINUED**

*Bobbi A. Anderson-Hume, Ph.D.*

Yes, all of this is to tell you we are going to start working to teach our 5th and 6th graders (who didn't get to learn lockers at all last year) the skills needed to navigate lockers and passing time. As the weather is getting colder and coats are coming out, we understand that the potential is for bags to get even bigger. I do feel it is my responsibility, however, to tell you parents of first time middle schoolers, that your kids won't wear coats, it doesn't matter if they have lockers or not. Your best bet is to negotiate a rule in which they must carry a jacket with them at all times. This way, when they get so cold as to no longer care how cool they look, at least they will have something with them. We will also be reviewing this with our seventh and eighth graders who are also about 18 months behind in various "school skills." Know that at different points throughout the year we will be isolating and practicing these organizational skills. In many ways, our students are advanced well beyond where they would be due to their educational experiences with Distance Learning and computer-based instruction. Our students can navigate, reason, advocate, communicate, explore, network, and express themselves in ways they never could before!

But, existing in a physical environment with 550 other people, where regular movement and constant organization of materials is needed needs some practice. *We will give you folks a heads up before we transition completely because most of you will see forgotten materials for a bit until our kids make the transition and it evens out. You have to admit, this has been one benefit to living life as a turtle!*

b

Bobbi A. Anderson-Hume, Ph.D.

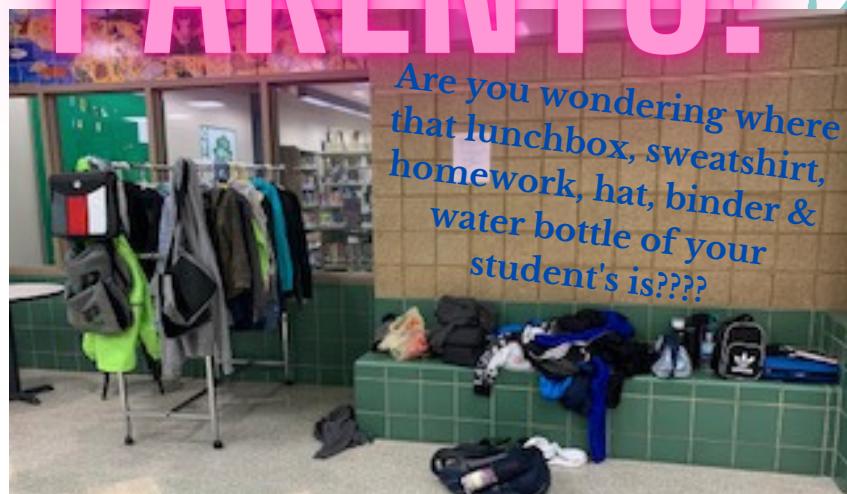
Principal

Rockford Middle School - Center for Environmental Studies

# RMS-CES PARENT/COMMUNITY NEWS



# PARENTS!



Are you wondering where  
that lunchbox, sweatshirt,  
homework, hat, binder &  
water bottle of your  
student's is????

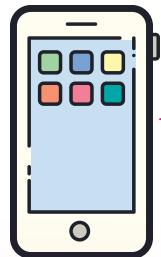
What's left at the end of October,  
will get donated or thrown away!

## Reminders & Opportunities:

### Publicity Photographs

Throughout the year, photographs and videos are taken in classrooms and at school activities. Some of these may be published in local newspapers, on the local cable station or in Rockford Area Schools' publications and websites. Parents may request that their child's photograph and identifying their name not be published in district productions or websites. The request must be made in writing and sent to the **Rockford Area Schools District Office**, at **6051 Ash Street, Rockford, MN 55373**. (This does not apply to pictures of school events taken by the news media.)

>Contact Annie  
Mickelburg in  
our District  
Office



A reminder that student cell phone use is  
ONLY permitted during lunch/recess.

PICTURE  
RETAKE  
DAY:  
DECEMBER  
9TH

# RMS-CES PARENT/COMMUNITY NEWS

**Reminders & Opportunities:**

## ANNUAL STUDENT/REGISTRATION UPDATE

This year, Rockford Area Schools has implemented an Annual Update which can be found in the Parent Portal in Infinite Campus.

Keeping this information up-to-date will help families stay connected and be informed on upcoming plans and other important announcements.



Click here

This online update will replace the emergency medical form you have received in the past. Most of the information will auto-populate from data already entered in Infinite Campus. Required fields are marked with a red asterisk(\*) and information highlighted in yellow needs to be updated. There are also fields required by the Minnesota Department of Education such as technology access and ethnicity.

Once you are logged in to your Parent Portal:

- Click More
- Followed by Online Registration, and a new window will open.
- Follow the prompts by clicking the Annual Update button to begin.

We are asking all families to complete this year's update AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

Going forward, the Annual Update will take place yearly in August.

If you have any questions, please contact Annie Mickelburg at [mickelburga@rockford.k12.mn.us](mailto:mickelburga@rockford.k12.mn.us) or (763) 477-9165.

# RMS-CES PARENT/COMMUNITY NEWS

## Reminders & Opportunities:



Walsworth yearbooks

2020-2022 Rockford Middle School  
Switch schools

Resume order Help Saved Items 0

The screenshot shows the Walsworth yearbooks website for the 2020-2022 Rockford Middle School yearbook. At the top, there's a large green '#Yearbook' logo. Below it, the school name and years are displayed. On the left, there's a large image of the 2022 yearbook cover, which is black with the year '2022' in white. A callout bubble says 'Yearbook Snap - Submit photos for your school's yearbook!'. To the right, there's a 'Buy a Yearbook' button and a detailed product box for the 'Yearbook' priced at '\$15.00'. The product box includes the text 'Yearbook Only'. The background of the page features a grid of many student portraits.

ORDER THE 2021-2022 RMS-CES YEAR BOOK [HERE!](#)

OR USE THE QR CODE BELOW



# RMS-CES PARENT/COMMUNITY NEWS

## Reminders & Opportunities:



### Rockford Girl Scouts - "Trick or Can" Halloween Food Drive

*This is not an ISD 883 sponsored event.*

Sponsored by Rockford Girl Scouts Service Unit and hosted by Cadette Troop 14672, this food drive is an event to benefit the RiverWorks Food Shelf before the Holiday season begins.

Girl Scouts of all ages will be out on Halloween night, asking for shelf-stable boxed or canned food for donation. Some girls will be dressed in their Girl Scout uniforms, but most will simply greet you in a costume with an enthusiastic "TRICK OR CAN FOR THE FOOD SHELF!"

If you would prefer, please make a donation to RiverWorks in care of the " Girl Scout Trick or Can" event at 8230 Cedar St., Rockford on Mondays 3:30-7:30 pm or Tuesdays, 9:30-11:30 am.

*Contact Girl Scout Cadette Troop 14672 for more information. Thank you for your support and efforts in helping those in need within our community!*

# RMS-CES PARENT/COMMUNITY NEWS

## Reminders & Opportunities:



### A message from the nurse regarding COVID notification:

As we get back into the swing of things and spend more time together, there are going to be cases of COVID, especially with the Delta variant making its way through. In order to not inundate you with emails, we will not be sending a general notification letter to an entire grade level after every positive case of COVID. We will be alerting you if your child is a close contact of a positive case of COVID. Please be vigilant in monitoring your child for symptoms and keep them home if any present.



### Wright County MINNESOTA Truancy Resources

#### Wright 2 School

##### **Excused vs. Unexcused Absences**

###### **Excused Absences:**

**Family emergency**

**Illness/Medical or mental health appointments**

**(documentation may be required)**

**Religious holidays**

###### **Unexcused Absences:**

**Babysitting**

**Working**

**Needed at home**

**Child is not immunized**

**Car trouble**

**Missing the bus**

**Oversleeping**

**Weather**

**Habitual truant** means a child under the age of 17 years who is absent from attendance at school without lawful excuse for seven full school days. If the child is in elementary school for one or more class periods on seven school days. If the child is in middle school, junior high school, or high school, or the child is 17 years old and has not lawfully withdrawn from school.

Truancy and Educational Neglect Intervention Program

Please click [HERE](#) to view Truancy Brochure

# RMS-CES PARENT/COMMUNITY NEWS

Mrs. Molly Wirth



*Are you looking for an app  
to help you with your  
mental health?*

*Follow the links below for  
the Best Mental Health Apps*

[Best Mental Health Apps](#)

*of 2020:*

[Start Your Mindfulness Journey with MyLife™](#)



**School-Based Mental  
Health Services**

[https://www.nystromcounseling.com/our-  
services/school-based-mental-health-services/](https://www.nystromcounseling.com/our-services/school-based-mental-health-services/)

# RMS-CES PARENT/COMMUNITY NEWS

A message from Kevin Keller, Ed.S.  
Director of Teaching and Learning/District Assessment Coordinator

## You are Invited to Join the Curriculum Advisory Committee (CAC) Meeting on November 30th

The Curriculum Advisory Committee is a volunteer group of parents or guardians, community members, teachers, and administrators that advise the district regarding the implementation of the Minnesota Academic Standards in our schools. The purpose is to provide input, advice, and make recommendations regarding distance learning, local graduation requirements, World's Best Workforce (WBWF), Achievement and Integration (A&I) requirements, K-12 curriculum, and other relevant issues.

If you are interested, please email or call Kevin Keller, Director of Teaching and Learning, Kellerk@Rockford.k12.mn.us or 763-477-9165 x4005, to attend the *virtual Curriculum Advisory Committee meeting on November 30th, 6:00-7:00 pm*. A meeting link will be provided to those that call, email, or fill out this form by Friday, November 26:

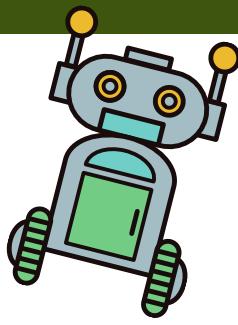
[RAS Curriculum Advisory Committee](#)

Se le invita a unirse a la reunión del Comité Asesor de Currículos (CAC)

El Comité Asesor del Plan de Estudios es un grupo voluntario de padres o tutores, miembros de la comunidad, maestros y administradores que asesoran al distrito con respecto a la implementación de los Estándares Académicos de Minnesota en nuestras escuelas. El propósito es brindar aportes, consejos y hacer recomendaciones con respecto al aprendizaje a distancia, los requisitos de graduación locales, los requisitos de Mejor fuerza laboral del mundo (WBWF), Logros e integración (A&I), currículo K-12 y otros temas relevantes. Si está interesado, envíe un correo electrónico o llame a Kevin Keller, Director de Enseñanza y Aprendizaje, Kellerk@Rockford.k12.mn.us o 763-477-9165 x4005, para asistir a la reunión virtual del Comité Asesor de Currículo el 30 de noviembre a las 6:00 -7:00 pm. Se proporcionará un enlace a la reunión para aquellos que llamen, envíen un correo electrónico o completen este formulario antes del viernes 26 de noviembre:

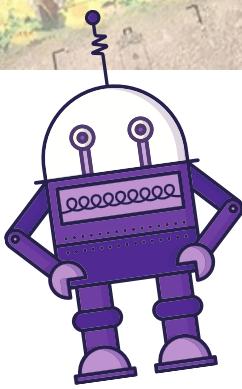
<https://forms.gle/6zH7LVyT8S9tBxqL9>

# RMS-CES CLASS NEWS



## MAKERSPACE

Makerspace students used coding skills to make their Edison robots move, make noise, spin, and respond to cues. Many students customized their robots with legos!



# RMS-CES CLASS NEWS

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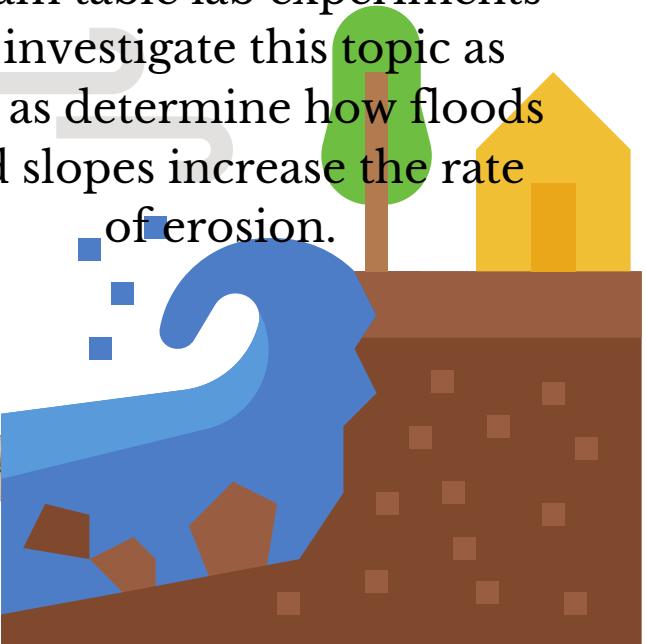
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## SCIENCE



For the past few weeks, 5th grade scientists have been learning all about the *process of weathering, erosion, and deposition!*

Students have conducted stream table lab experiments to investigate this topic as well as determine how floods and slopes increase the rate of erosion.



**EROSION**  
 **PROCESS OF WEATHERING**  
**DEPOSITION**

# RMS-CES CLASS NEWS

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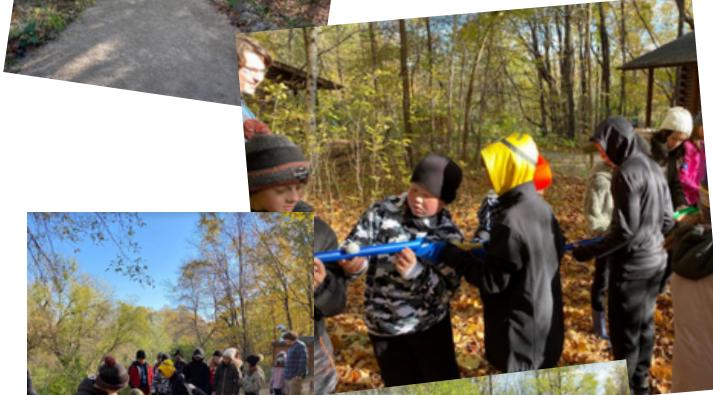
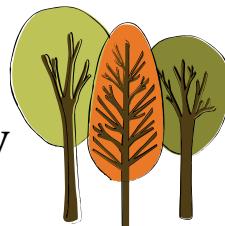
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## SCIENCE

Students have been learning about how humans interact with erosion, both increasing the rate and decreasing the rate.



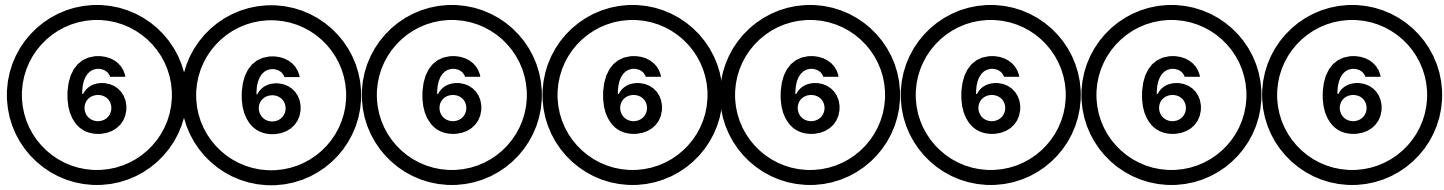
The battle farmers have to keep their topsoil from being eroded away has also been a topic of interest for these 5th graders! Recently, we have turned to ways erosion happens quickly such as landslides, volcanoes, and earthquake events.

Next week, 5th graders will have a quiz on Wednesday to showcase their new knowledge!

During this month 5th graders headed out to Baker Park for their first field experience of the year! It was a beautiful fall day in which students worked together to complete team building challenges in groups with the Baker Park staff. Then, students learned all about predator and prey and participated in an activity in which they embodied an animal and had to collect resources to survive. Lastly, they had the opportunity to see skulls and furs of various Minnesota Mammals! It was a great day had by all.



# RMS-CES CLASS NEWS



## SCIENCE

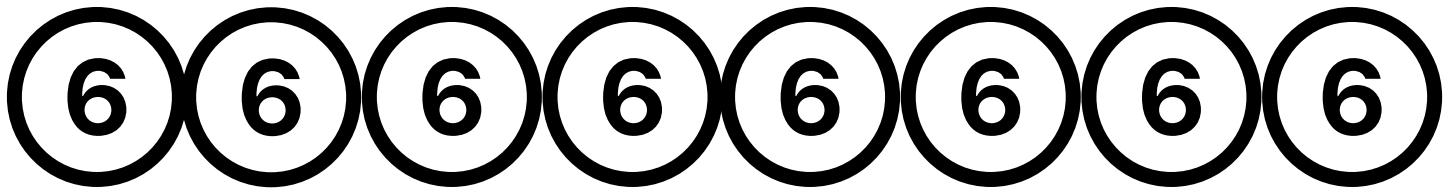
Lots has been happening the last few weeks in 6th grade science. Students have continued to trek outside for five minutes of phenology observations twice a week and have seen some significant changes in leaf color and location recently. We have also witnessed a change in insect behavior, from voracious eating of the dried fruit by our yellowjackets to a large decrease in the number of insects as the cold weather has moved in. We even flushed out a pheasant in the rain garden right at the entrance on Ash Street!

Inside, students wrapped up our unit on climate change right before MEA break and will receive their assessment results as soon as all students have completed theirs. Things are looking good so far! This week, we received our new science books and started looking into what causes wind. Students completed a lab on Thursday that demonstrated the power of air pressure and got us thinking about what wind really is.

We also had a great time outside together as a grade level with our first outdoor Baker Park experience of the year. For one half of the day, students focused on learning prehistoric skills of firemaking, hunting, and played games that encourage teamwork. The second half of the day, students took a deep dive into looking at the lives and customs of the voyageurs involved in the fur trade occurring in Minnesota in the 1700 and 1800's. Students practiced making fire with flint and steel, learned how to throw hatchets, played games the voyageurs did at their rendezvous, cooked stickbread over an open fire, and simulated trading furs for goods at a trading post.

It was a beautiful day and the students had a great time!

# RMS-CES CLASS NEWS



## SCIENCE



**Science  
Class**

**voyager  
games**

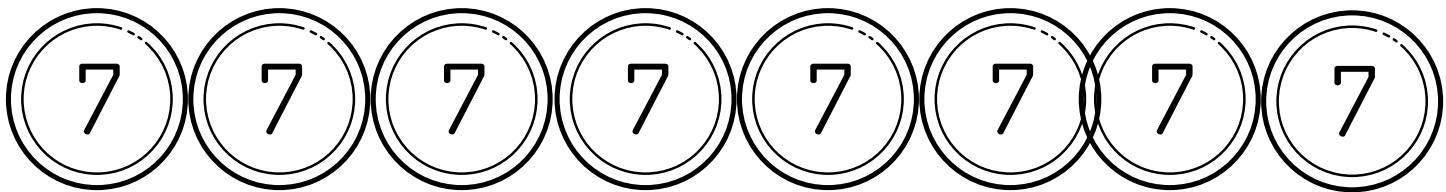


**Prehistoric Skills**

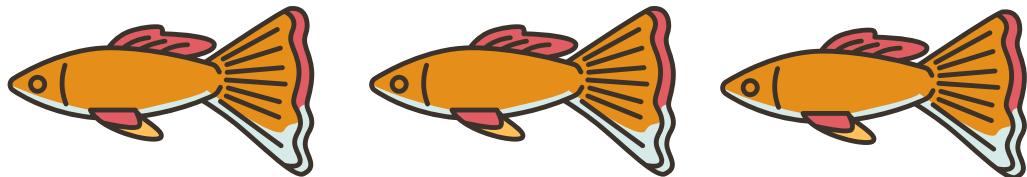
**Outside  
with  
Phenology**

**Hatchet Throwing**

# RMS-CES CLASS NEWS

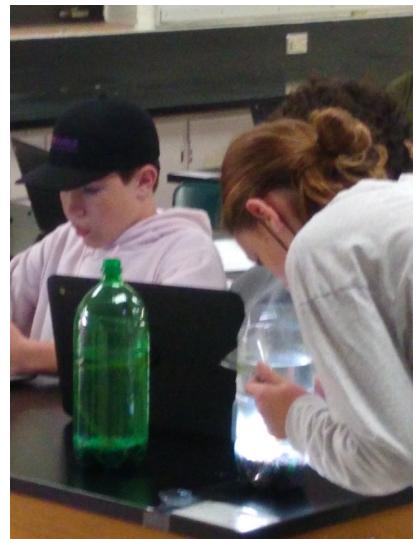


## SCIENCE



7th Grade science is exploring Ecosystems through the lense of Bottle Biology.

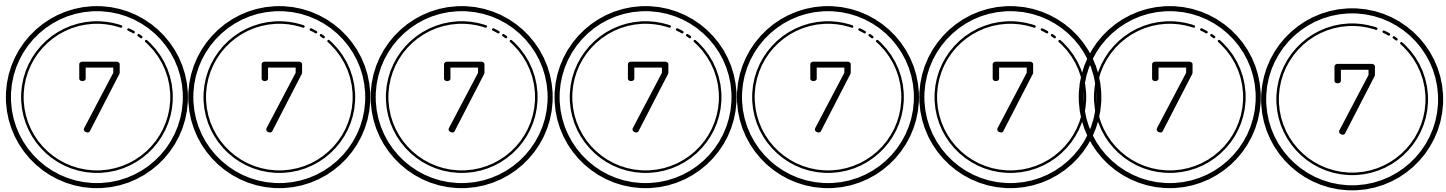
We make daily observations to watch the fish's responses to different objects.



We record their responses to different objects for 2 weeks. The data will be graphed and shared with the class. It had always been fun to learn about guppies and this year red minnows and fancy guppies join bottle biology.

Another fun event was "Guess the weight of the pumpkin.". We had five 12-25 pound pumpkins from Grandpa Sarsland's Farm went home with the top guessers. Happy Halloween Rockford!!!

# RMS-CES CLASS NEWS



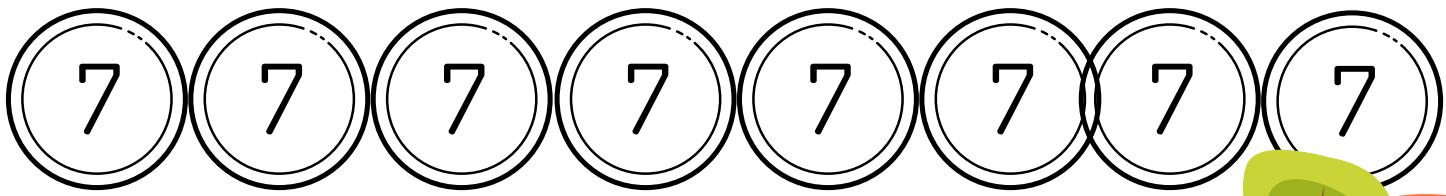
## YMCA CAMP IHDUHAPI



7th grade students recently enjoyed a beautiful fall day at Camp Ihduhapi. One of the day's activities was completing a high ropes challenge course, and students cheered each other on as they climbed one of the tallest free standing climbing structures in the area. The second part of the day, students participated in a predator prey activity, and they encouraged each other to find the resources hidden in the woods and capture their prey in a game of tag. We were lucky to enjoy warm weather and colorful leaves on our trip, and the day was enjoyable and memorable.



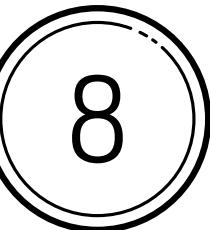
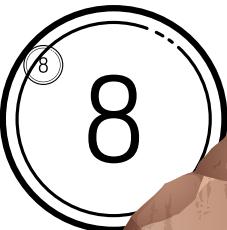
# RMS-CES CLASS NEWS



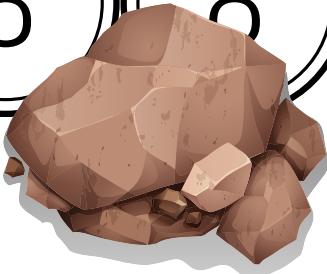
## YMCA CAMP IHDUHAPI continued



# RMS-CES CLASS NEWS



## SCIENCE



In the last couple of weeks in 8th grade science, we have been really "digging in" to geology, and how much it rocks! Some of the material has been pretty hard to get through, but using our resources, we've broken new ground in our learning.

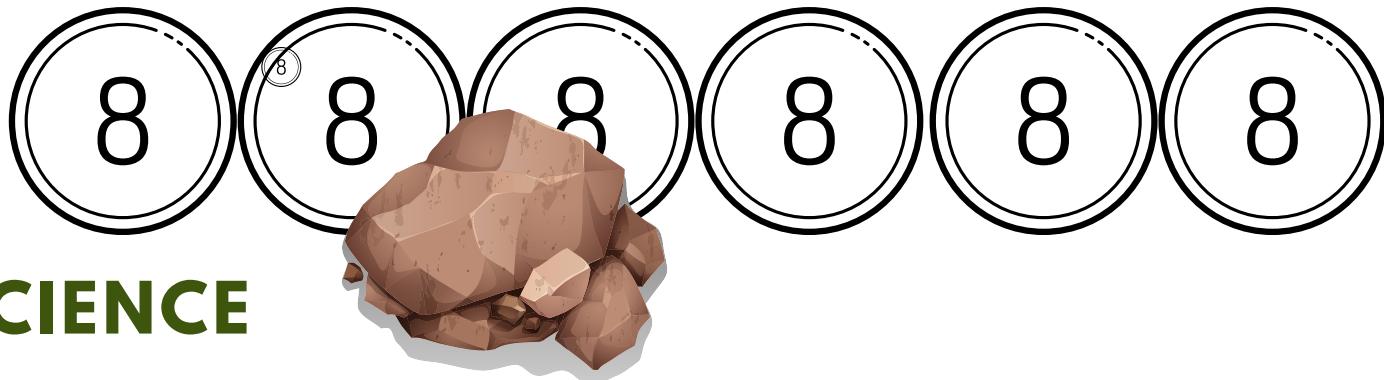
Students researched 3 types of mining operations (**surface, ocean, and space**), which then led them to deciding where Mr. Weddel invests his real money.



## GEOLOGY



# RMS-CES CLASS NEWS



## SCIENCE

Then, we did a callback to the rock cycle, and students created geology-themed restaurant menus.



EST. 2021

### ASHLEY'S SWEET TREATS

ROCKFORD, MINNESOTA

**Sirialed Strawberries**  
Perfectly ripe strawberries with a delightful amount of chocolate, drizzled over top to make beautiful chocolate stripes. \$7.99 (box of 6)

**Hoi Fudge Brownies**  
A perfect chocolate delicacy, with gooey fudge swirled over top. Hot as lava, these fudgy creations will make you crave chocolate for days. \$7.99 (for 2 brownies)

**Melamorphic Milky Way**  
Our take on the Milky Way bar, containing a lovely layer of chocolate nougat (heated to perfection) and a layer of chocolate. \$4.99 (1 bar)

**Sedimentary Strawberry Shortcake**  
A deconstructed version of strawberry shortcake, containing a lovely, crumbly texture and strawberry syrup with fresh strawberries. \$6.99 (1 deconstructed dessert)

**Geode Cake Pops**  
Decadent vanilla cake pops with an incredible surprise on the inside: crystals! These are the perfect sweet treat for rock hounds out there!



Most recently, we've been examining real fossils (some are hundreds of millions of years old!) as we learn to interpret Earth's geologic time scale.

