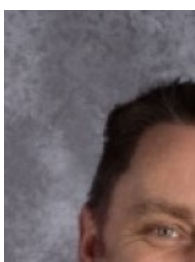




# Rockwell Elementary News



## Principal's Letter

**February 4, 2022**

### **Working as a Community to Support Those Contending with Covid / Introducing New Members of the Rockwell Team**

**Dear Rockwell Families,**

Greetings from Rockwell, and happy Friday! I hope your weekends are off to a great start. It was a fun and busy week here at the Rock that, for many, included a recognition of Lunar New Year. To all those Rockwell families who are celebrating the Year of the Tiger, “gong hei fat choy,” or may you have prosperity and good health in 4720!

Families: I have two topics to address in this week's Principal's letter. First, I want to thank you again for your partnership as we mitigate the effects of covid, and remind us to be thoughtful about how we talk about those who are contending with covid infections, especially children. We are a responsible community, and I know we're working hard to keep one another safe through social distancing, mask wearing, and vaccinations. That being said, due to the nature of omicron, there

are those who are testing positive for covid even with all these measures in place. Our main concern should be for their well-being and speedy healing, and my hope is that this is what is being relayed to our students. Children listen very carefully to words of the adults they love and trust and will often mirror back what they've heard. Thank you for being mindful of how we are discussing covid with our children, so as to build care and empathy for those who are sick.

Second, I'd like to introduce several new Rockwell team members joining us for our second semester! Please find below introductions from special education teacher Gretchen Mayo, who will be working with Ms. Chesterfield and Mrs. Owens-Kachakis, student teacher Chelsea Steen, who will be working with her mentor Ms. J in kindergarten, and Taylor Ahlin, a Rockwell alumna (!) who will be working with Mrs. Holmen. Welcome aboard to our newest Beagle staff members, and here's to a great semester ahead!

### **Gretchen Mayo, Special Services**

My name is Gretchen Mayo and I am the new half-time Resource Room teacher at Rockwell! I have been at Alcott Elementary since the beginning of the 2021-22 school year and will splitting my time between Rockwell and Alcott for the remainder of the year. I graduated from the University of Washington in 2018 with my BA in Law, Societies, and Justice, received my teaching certificate July of 2021 and am currently enrolled in City University's MEd program.

I have lived in the greater Seattle area my entire life and was born and raised in Redmond, so I actually attended LWSD schools as a student once upon a time! Outside of work, my hobbies include gardening, reading, and playing guitar!

### **Chelsea Steen, Student Teacher**

My name is Miss Chelsea Steen, I am a student teacher this year at Rockwell. I am so excited to have this opportunity to work with the fantastic staff and students here at Rockwell. A bit about myself, I grew up in Marysville and Arlington, Washington, with my parents and two brothers. I graduated from Arlington High School in 2014 and Western Governors University with my BA in Educational Studies in January of 2019. I am currently finishing my Masters in Elementary Education. Some of my favorite things to do outside of school include playing with my four dogs, working on diamond art, bowling, watching football games (Go

HAWKS), and most importantly, spending time with my family and friends. I am so grateful to be here at Rockwell, where I have this wonderful opportunity to learn from Miss Jay and her Kindergarten class.

Have a Fantastic Day 😊

Miss Chelsea Steen



**Taylor Ahlin, Student Teacher**

Hello! I'm so excited to be starting my teaching career at Norman Rockwell! I graduated from the University of Washington and have continued my education at Western Governors University getting my Masters in Elementary Education. My focus is in early elementary school, and I'm fascinated in learning new, exciting, and efficient ways to teach young students. In my free time I love getting together with my family, day trips to Bellingham with my husband and my part time job doing wedding & event hair. As a former Rockwell student (graduated here in 2004!) it has been a joy to be back.

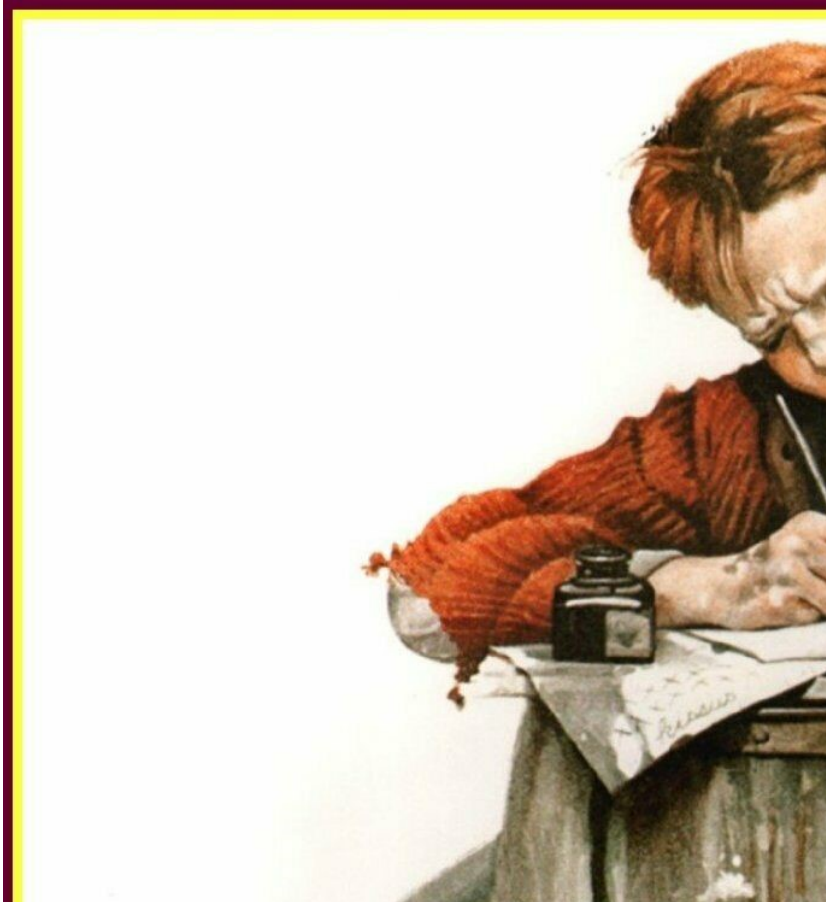


Thank you, everyone, and have a great weekend. As always, please feel free to reach out to me if you have any question. I can be reached via email ([miclark@lwsd.org](mailto:miclark@lwsd.org)) or telephone (425-936-2670).

Kind Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael Clark'.

Michael Clark  
Principal



"Love Letters," Norman Rockwell (Saturday Evening Post: January 17, 1920)

**New Semester --- New reminders from the office**

**Contact Mrs. Hatch directly for:**

- **Attendance** (late arrival, early dismissal, vacation) – if you are emailing the teacher, CC Mrs. Hatch; **use the hotline 425-936-2671**
- **New Address?** Partner with Mrs. Hatch *before* the moving van arrives! We want to arrange a smooth transition into your new school.
- LWSD places students by their most current address with proof of residency. [LWSD change of residency policy](#)
- **If you have moved, please notify Mrs. Hatch ASAP**

[StHatch@lwsd.org](mailto:StHatch@lwsd.org)

New  
Address!



**Rockwell**



**Updates**

PurposeFULL  
People

### **February Character Trait of the Month: Empathy**

Empathy is defined as “the ability to understand and connect to the feelings of another.” Simply put, it is feeling how someone else is feeling. Empathy is a crucial skill for being in community with others and a powerful skill to develop in personal and professional relationships. This month, we are focusing on a few key pieces of Empathy: knowing how we feel (and having language to describe those feelings!), understanding what others are feeling, and listening to others well so that we can connect in more meaningful ways!

**Rockwell Running Club Returns!!!**



### **Announcing the start of the Rockwell Running Club!**

Who? All Rockwell students in kindergarten through 5th grade, who would like to come out and walk, jog and/or run during lunch recesses!

When? Tuesdays and Thursdays during lunch recesses, starting March 1st!

Where? We will meet at the flag poles on the soccer field! Students will walk, jog and/or run a marked path around the sand soccer field.

#### **Attention Parents!**

We need your help to kick off this popular program! Volunteers are needed to help set up, monitor, and assist students with punch cards on laps being completed, and to award prizes to students who reach running milestones. Please sign up on Sign Up Genius here...

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090D4CAEAE2DA4FB6-rockwell8>.

Are you approved yet as an LWSD (Lake Washington School District) volunteer? See link below in Quick Links to get volunteer approval. Thanks!

Questions? Please email Christine Cottom, [ccottom@lwsd.org](mailto:ccottom@lwsd.org)

Christine Cottom  
Norman Rockwell Elementary  
Physical Education Specialist



## **Hello from the Rockwell Equity team and Happy Lunar New Year!**

The Lunar New Year is a time of new beginnings, and wishes for good fortune, prosperity, long life and abundance in the coming year. It started on February 1st this year.

Did you know over 2 billion people celebrate the Lunar New Year? That is  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the world's population! The countries that have a public holiday to celebrate it are: China, Indonesia, The Philippines, Vietnam, South Korea, Malaysia, North Korea, Taiwan, Singapore, and Brunei.

The date for the New Year follows the lunar calendar and so it changes each year. The 2022 is a year of the Tiger. In the Chinese zodiac tigers traditionally symbolize strength, bravery and wisdom.

Red is a traditional color you will see as it represents luck and many other positive things like happiness, beauty, vitality, good luck, success, and good fortune.

Children receive red envelopes with money inside from relatives called 'hong bao' in Mandarin. The red envelopes are usually shiny and have a gold label. The money in the envelope is always an even number amount and cannot be divided evenly by the number 4. Now, people even exchange virtual red envelopes. Families and friends get together, cook and share special foods, wear new clothes, decorate houses with symbols of luck and prosperity.

Learn about some more interesting facts here:

22 Facts about Chinese New Year You Should Know

<https://www.chinahighlights.com/travelguide/festivals/new-year-facts.htm>

Look up your Chinese zodiac sign with your birth year here:



<https://www.chinahighlights.com/travelguide/chinese-zodiac/chinese-zodiac-calculator.htm>

Learn more about the New Year legends and traditions here:

Chinese New Year 2022 | What is the Chinese New Year? | How to Celebrate it? & Story of Nian

[https://youtu.be/WOoW\\_04x9ho](https://youtu.be/WOoW_04x9ho)

To learn more about how to prepare and celebrate watch:

How to Celebrate Chinese New Year 2022 - Day by Day Guide

<https://youtu.be/bdKgXF7nQCM>

### **SBA Testing in Spring**

Smarter Balanced Assessment: Lake Washington SBA testing window is April 11th -June 3 for Grades 3-5. Our goal with SBA is to assess student learning growth.

Family vacations are special times, but we ask that you please consult the school calendar when making your vacation plans.

Student achievement and classroom attendance are positively related. We cannot duplicate what happens in the classroom by only making up written work.

### **Virtual Coffee with the Principal**

You are cordially invited to our next virtual "Coffee with Mr. Clark" on Friday, February 11, at 9:00 AM via Teams. All families are welcome, and the topic for our coffee will be an overview of our plans for the second semester of the 2021-2022 school year. To join the meeting, please click on the link below at 9:00 AM on the 14th:

[Link to Coffee with Mr. Clark at 9:00 AM on 2/11/22](#)

Take care, and I look forward to seeing you for remote pastries and good conversation on the 11th!

-Mr. Clark



## **LWSD Updates**

### **Have you voted yet?**

Lake Washington School District has three measures on the February 8 ballot to support excellence for every student.

You should have received your ballot in the mail. After filling it out, you can put it back in the mail – no stamp needed – or drop it off in a King County Election drop box. Ballots must be dropped off or postmarked by 8 p.m. on Tuesday, February 8.

Want to learn more about Propositions 1-3 and how they support our students through continued funding for staff, programs, technology, as well as helping us ensure all students have room to learn in safe and healthy school buildings? Visit <https://www.lwsd.org/education-levies>.

**Did you know that the state school tax for education is decreasing?** The King County Assessor confirmed that the state schools tax rate for property owners in King

County is being reduced by approximately 25-27 cents per 1,000 of assessed valuation. The state school funds go to the state and is used for education funding for all districts across Washington state. Our local LWSD tax rate collects funding that stays in our school district.

### **Have additional questions?**

Join us for a Town Hall Q&A session on the levies:

- Tuesday, January 25 from 12:00-1:00 p.m.
- Thursday, January 27 from 7:00-8:00 p.m.

Unable to attend? Submit your questions using our Let's Talk page: [Let's Talk! 2022 Levies - Lake Washington School District \(lwsd.org\)](#).



## THE PERFECT JOB for PARENTS!

### Nutrition Services at LWSD is Hiring PT and FT Staff



#### 2, 3, 4, & 5 HOUR SHIFTS AVAILABLE

Eastlake High School  
Juanita High School  
Lake Washington High School  
STEM High School  
Inglewood Middle School  
Kamiakin Middle School  
Timberline Middle School  
Mann Elementary School  
Mead Elementary School

#### FULL - TIME SHIFTS

Hiring all experience levels. Typical shift is 6 am - 2:30pm.

#### APPLY ONLINE!

[Sodexo Jobs at Lake Washington School District](#)



Melissa Allen at Sodexo at LWSD  
970.591.3801 [melissa.allen@sodexo.com](mailto:melissa.allen@sodexo.com)

- **NO NIGHTS & WEEKENDS:** Working for Nutrition Services is the perfect job for parents, retirees, and anyone who loves working around children. Hiring all positions, including 2-3 & 5-hour lunch shifts.
- **HOLIDAYS and SUMMERS OFF:** Your work schedule will follow the LWSD school calendar. You no longer need to worry about childcare during scheduled school leap days & breaks.
- **NO EXPERIENCE NEEDED:** Must be over 18 years old and have a willingness to learn.
- **RECOMMENDED COVID-19 SAFETY PROTOCOLS IN PLACE AND WORKING.** All staff wear disposable masks, be fully Covid-19 vaccinated, and follow LWSD Safety Plan.

Sodexo is an EEO/AA/Minority/Female/Disability/Veteran employer.

## Kindergarten Registration

It will soon be time to begin Kindergarten registration for the 2022-23 school year. The initial registration period for children who will be five years old on or before **August 31, 2022** will begin on February 24, 2022. Registration for all K-12 LWSD students is [online](#). All necessary documents can be accessed on the LWSD website and completed documents can be uploaded securely. Parents

who are unable to upload documents may send them by U.S. mail or drop them off at their neighborhood school. **Important: While K-12 student registration will continue throughout the school year and summer, parents are highly encouraged to register students as soon as possible. Registering early helps LWSD to ensure that class sizes are balanced and adequate staff are hired in time for the new school year.**



## Snapshots of Rockwell Learning

Thank you to our Third grade Beagles for providing our office artwork for the month of February!





Many members of our school community celebrate Lunar New Year, which took place earlier this week on February 1st. Our kinders learned more about the Year of the Tiger through making illustrated calendars and sharing clothes and traditions from their families.



Happy Birthday to our namesake, Norman Rockwell! Norman was born on February 3, 1894, 128 years ago. Thank you, Norman, for a lifetime of beautiful artwork. To learn more about our school's namesake, please click here: <https://www.nrm.org/about/about-2/about-norman-rockwell/>.



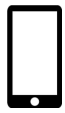
**Upcoming Events**

**Calendar**

- February 7      Welcome Back Students & Families from the Online Academy!
- February 11      [February Coffee with the Principal \(Teams\): 9:00 AM](#)
- February 17, 18, 21      **Mid-Winter Break**

## Student's Rights and Responsibilities

Families: here is a link to our district Student Rights and Responsibilities page: <https://www.lwsd.org/programs-and-services/student-services/student-rights-and-responsibilities>. Please [let Mr. Clark know](#) if you have any questions. Thank you!



## Quick Links

**For information on Free Wi-Fi for families, follow this link:**

[LWSD Free Internet webpage](#)

Resources for LWSD Families & Staff During School Closure

- [Free Meals for Students](#)
- [Technology Support for Students & Families](#)  
Email for Students: [ftaccess@lwsd.org](mailto:ftaccess@lwsd.org) or  
Email Address for Parents: [parentquestions@lwsd.org](mailto:parentquestions@lwsd.org)
- [Educational Resources](#)
- [Child Care Resources](#)



## Contact Info

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(425-885-5528) Fax  
<https://rockwell.lwsd.org/>  
<https://normanrockwellpta.org/home>





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Lake Washington School District | 16250 NE 74th St | Redmond, WA 98052

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