



Rockford Middle School

Center for Environmental Studies

Paul Warzecha, Principal
6051 Ash Street | Rockford, MN 55373
Phone 763-477-5831 | Fax 763-477-5832
www.rockford.k12.mn.us

December 16th, 2022

Dear RMS-CES Families,

I want to express gratitude for all your help and support during our two two hour late starts this week. I know changes in routine can be hard on students and parents, but we appreciate your support in order to keep everybody safe with the weather we experienced this week. With the latest batch of snow, I'm pleased to report that I saw the vast majority of students wearing coats and cold winter gear appropriate for the winter season, which is a major win for middle school!

As daylight hours shrink and it gets colder outside there tends to be more use screens than typical. Please know that as a school we are maintaining our expectations that cell phone devices should be off and away during any classroom experience, but can be used before and after school, and during lunch and passing time as long as there are no photos or videos taken. Some parents may choose to limit access to certain apps from 7:50 to 2:45 to remove any possible distraction for their students.

As we have started this school year, our message to students around Chromebook use is that the Chromebook is a tool for learning, however, we understand that there have been many temptations and distractions that have often pulled some of our students away from its intended purpose, which is learning. Throughout the fall we have been working diligently on solutions to help limit the distraction. What I have heard from many teachers is that games are oftentimes the most distracting to some of our students and therefore the decision has been made to filter games from the student Chromebook experience. We believe this limit will block most games on the Chromebook both in and out of school. However, there will be a process to allow for any games that are a part of the learning experience that is approved by staff. The heart of this decision is to help students focus on learning and become responsible decision makers. Please know this change will go into effect early next week. If there are Chromebook related concerns that you have related to this change, please be sure to reach out to me.

I also wanted to make you aware that our student council has decided to have December 19th through the 22nd as student dress up days. Please click [HERE](#) to view dress up days for Winter Week. We will start on Monday with Cozy Sock Day!

Have a great day!

Paul Warzecha, Principal

FYI: Proactive Resources that might be helpful

[Electronic Cigarettes Factsheet \(November 2022\) – updated by Association for Nonsmokers – MN \(ANSR\)](#)

[Cannabis Talking Points \(2022\) – developed by Smart Approaches to Marijuana MN \(SAMMN\)](#)

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UPCOMING EVENTS

DATES TO CHECK OUT:

Monday, December 19th-Thursday, December 22nd-WINTER WEEK (Dress Up Days)

Friday, December 23rd-Monday, January 2nd-Winter Break-No School

Thursday, January 12th-Parent Teacher Conferences 3:30-7

Friday, January 20th, 2023-End of Quarter 2

Monday, January 29th-No School-Staff Development Day

Tuesday, January 24th-Start of Quarter 3

ROCKFORD EDUCATION FOUNDATION



RMS-CES WISH LISTS

Please click [HERE](#) to view the RMS-CES WISH LISTS...

Donations can be dropped off at the school's front desk with the teacher's name attached or sent to class with your child. Thanks for your support!

RMS-CES - MEDIA CENTER RENOVATION

Please click [HERE](#) for information on a **FUND-A NEEDS**

***These are not ISD883 sponsored events**

NEWS AND NOTES

Hello Rockford Families!



Every year we partner with Riverworks Food Shelf to help support our community before the holiday season. Last year we raised over \$1,000 thanks to all of the generous donations! As we plan our upcoming celebrations, we at Rockford Area Schools, are asking that you take the time to think of others who are less fortunate. Please make a donation that works for your family to help relieve the stress of others during this time. If you are able to donate, we are asking all families and staff to donate money on-line directly to Riverworks. With the financial support, they will be able to purchase the food to fill their shelves.

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Please follow the directions below to donate. Any dollar amount helps! Thank you for supporting our community and partnering with Rockford Area Schools.

Here's how to give:

1. Go to riverworksonline.org
2. Click on the DONATE tab in the upper right hand corner
3. Click on the DONATE ONLINE tab
4. Click on the FUND drop down menu
5. Select ROCKFORD SCHOOL THANKSGIVING FUND DRIVE

This is not an ISD883 sponsored event



With snow and cold season upon us and in the event of school cancellation due to inclement weather, please be reminded that Rockford Area Schools will use e-learning days to support student learning during school cancellations.

Please find information, expectations, and an FAQ regarding our use of e-learning days under the "Resources" tab on the district's [website](#). A direct link to our e-learning days webpage is [here](#).



#1: SUBSTITUTE OPPORTUNITIES AT ROCKFORD

Age requirement: 18

Must have a HS degree, Teachers on call will provide additional needed training!

Paid Weekly!

For more information, click [HERE](#) or call Teachers On Call/Email

800-713-4439/<http://www.teachersoncall.com> more information

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#2: CLICK [HERE](#) FOR INFO ON OFFICE SUB APPLICATION

EVERY MEAL SIGN UP

This is a completely FREE program for the district and families of the district. Anyone has the opportunity to receive a bag of nonperishable food every week that is delivered to your child's school and can be picked up by the student or delivered to the class depending on the age or what is preferred.

Click on the following link for the English version: <https://forms.gle/Q6SSZrJi5VHnPRhHA>

Click on the following link for the Spanish version: <https://forms.gle/AggGauqyGoLw5jrs7>

If you have any further questions about the Every Meal program in general, the website is listed below

<https://www.everymeal.org/>

FREE & REDUCED LUNCH FORMS:

If you haven't already done so, please take a moment to fill out this [FORM](#). Students who qualify may be eligible for **Pandemic-Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT)** to purchase food for days they are not in the school building. Our school also receives state funding for technology based on qualifying families! For more information or a Spanish version, click [HERE](#).

LOST & FOUND

Please have your child look for any items they may be missing!

TIP: Please label your student's lunch box, water bottle, hoodie, hat, etc....

MENTAL HEALTH-ADHD

Please click [HERE](#) (English) [HERE](#) (Spanish) for our monthly newsletter from the School Based team at Nystrom & Associates.

RMS-CES ATTENDANCE LINE

Please use our [ATTENDANCE LINE](#) at 763-477-7525 to call your child in absent.



Please click [HERE](#) for information about our 2022-2023 Meal Rates Return for Nutritious School Meal.

ENVIRONMENTAL CORNER



December 21st is the longest night of the year in the Northern Hemisphere. In 2022, the sun will set at 4:34 pm on December 21st and sunrise occurs at 7:49 am on the 22nd. On the bright side, it is not even New Years yet and we can consider this the turning point. We're officially heading back toward spring after this! While we tend to celebrate rebirth in the spring, it really begins at this time of year.

In the Twin Cities we love to celebrate with night hikes, Tomte and stargazing. Sign your family up for one of these fun events:

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CELEBRATE WINTER SOLSTICE 2022 IN THE TWIN CITIES

CLASSROOM HIGHLIGHTS

8TH GRADE SOCIAL STUDIES-MR. RILEY

Lately in 8th grade Social Studies, students became realtors by creating brochures or presentations convincing people to move to Australia. They began with studying why the population of Australia was few and far between, and why people lived where they did. They then did research on the resources and activities available where people settle.

WELCOME to TOWNSVILLE



PHYSICAL FEATURES ABOUT TOWNSVILLE

- Rivers
- fresh water wetlands
- Hills
- mountains by the coast
- Great barrier reef
- By the pacific ocean
- Beaches
- Swamps

CLIMATE & VEGETATION ZONES

Townsville, Australia is in the Humid Subtropical climate zone, with a lot of rain and hot summers & cool winters.

It is in the Tropical Grassland vegetation zone, which means there are various kinds of tropical grasses & trees that are adapted to wet and dry climates.

- The current population on June 30th 2020 was 196,800.
- Endangered and rare species live here.
- Made the first ever Segway tour.


The students discovered that due to the harsh climate, venomous wildlife, and limited infrastructure far outside the cities, there were few locations they could consider settling. This didn't stop them from selling the land, and for fun, imagining a

possible house in the region!

Physical Features

Some Physical Features are...

- Tweed River
- Advancetown Lake
- Coral Sea
- Wave Break Island
- Moondarewa Bay




The rivers, sea, and lakes can be used for fishing, boating, and transporting goods. The islands can be used for tourists, and the beaches and bays can be used for swimming.

Fun facts


- Sydney Has More Than 100 Beaches. ...
- One Of The Tallest Steel Arch Bridges In The World.
- Sydney Is The First Major City To See The New Year.
- There are roughly 1,488 schools in Sydney, Around 950 are public schools, while the rest are made up of independent and international schools.
- There are 10 Casinos in sydney

Climate

The climate zones surrounding sydney are Marine West Coast, Mediterranean, & Humid Subtropical which are great to live in because they have Quite warm summers, cool winters and it rains all year round. Many people love it in sydney!



So you want to live in Sydney Australia?



By: Livi, Lucy, And Brooke

THE ECONOMY

The economy in Australia is mostly livestock based, but also trade and manufacturing, mining, and natural gas to name are just some of the main contributors to the economy.

The economy is also ran by kangaroos obviously

HISTORY

This land is full of rich history! Visit our historic emu war battlefields! Even though we lost the war with the emus it is still a very historic area in which we are selling for the LOW LOW PRICE OF \$6,000 DOLLARS!!!

The Emu war took place in 1932 when Australia was overrun by emus who were eating all of Australia's crops which were making the economy bad, so the Australians declared war on the emus and lost.

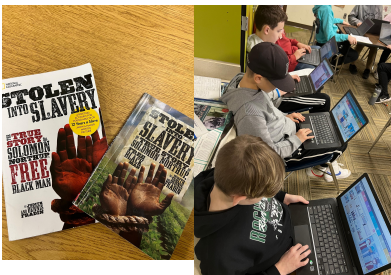
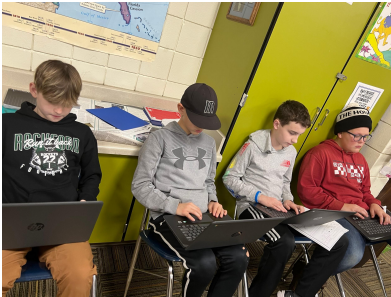


MOVE HERE PLEASE!!!!

THIS IS A FANTASTIC PLACE TO LIVE TRUST ME PLEASE!!! JUST BUY THIS PLACE!!!



7TH GRADE SOCIAL STUDIES-MS. KAUFMAN

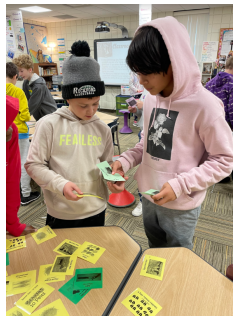
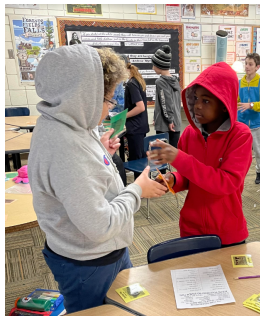
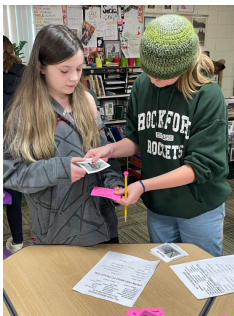


This snowy week in Social Studies we finished our first read aloud of the year, *Stolen into Slavery: the True Story of Solomon Northup Free Black Man*. Students were surprised to learn that thousands of people of color went from a life of freedom to being kidnapped into slavery. Using their chapter summary notes and the Pixton app, students created a graphic novel summary of Solomon's 12 years going from freedom- to slavery- and back to freedom. Ask your student about Solomon's journey and what they learned.

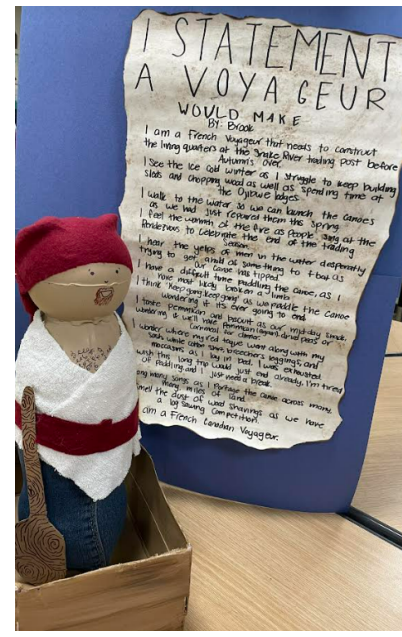


6TH GRADE SOCIAL STUDIES-MS. WILTS

Social Studies: As part of our study of the fur trade, 6th grade students simulated the fur trade by taking on the role of a Native American tribe or a fur trade company. The Native American tribes were given cards that represented beaver pelts, berries, wild rice and other items they had to trade. The fur trade companies had cards representing trade goods such as glass beads, guns, blankets, and fishing nets. Each group was given a list of items they had to get by trading the items they had with the other groups. Trading continued until one of the groups successfully traded for all the items they needed on their list.



We finished our study of the fur trade this week. Students completed a project to show their understanding of the interaction between the American Indians and the European Americans. Project choices included: a facts poster, fur trade business cards, a wanted poster, a newspaper article, a journal, a bottle figure or dressing up like a person from the fur trade. It was fun to see all the amazing finished projects.



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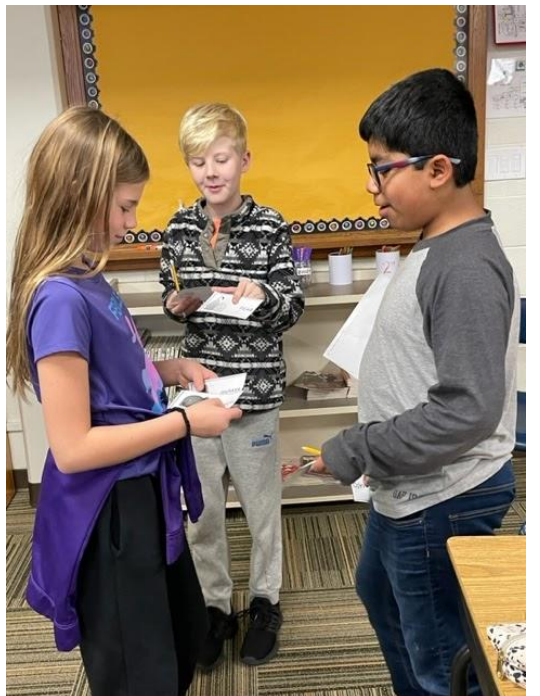
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5TH GRADE SOCIAL STUDIES-MS. MILLER

5th Graders participated in a Columbian Exchange Simulation this week during our Age of Exploration Unit! Students learned about all of the foods, technology, and culture that were traded between Europe and the New World during exploration, and even learned about the dangers of diseases brought over from Europe. 5th graders were able to exchange goods, invent meals with their new foods and ingredients, and work together to collect goods from the other world.



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