

ROCKFORD MIDDLE SCHOOL CENTER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES

DEEP PORTAGE 2023



Paul Warzecha
Principal

Rockford Middle School-Center
for Environmental Studies
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Dear RMCES Families,

This week I had the joy of watching our students respond to different activities throughout the week regarding Veterans Day. Veterans Day is important for many different reasons, but this year's theme of Veterans Day is service, which really includes both an appreciation of those men and women who have served in our military as well as an understanding that service is something that we all can give to those around us as we look for opportunities to give back to our community. The act of service almost always requires a certain degree of selflessness. Any thoughts, words, or actions that we can do to promote service throughout the remainder of the year will pay dividends in the lives of our middle school students for years to come. I would encourage you to find a time to connect with your child about the idea of service and brainstorm different ways that a person might be helpful to others such as a neighbor, peer, or organization whose cause resonates with you.

Today during the Veterans Day ceremony I listened to several different student speakers talk about what service means to them as well as highlight different aspects of Veterans Day. At our Veterans Day assembly, we showed a custom video from Florent Groberg, medal of Honor recipient who said a few words about service and Veterans Day and ended with a pledge. Florent Groberg is one of 65 living Medal of Honor recipients and we feel very fortunate for his words of inspiration.

This week marks the first week of 2nd quarter and I can truly say that we should never underestimate the power of a new beginning as an opportunity to reprioritize goals, identify and avoid distractions that get in the way of those goals, and have the courage to take small, meaningful steps towards those goals. This is a great time to remind us of three words that mean a whole awful lot at Rockford Middle ...Intention, interaction, and impact. We encourage students to take the time and truly identify what is it there intending to get out of school for the upcoming quarter, and how they will use skillful interactions to get what they want and need to work towards having a positive impact on their learning and legacy.

In addition, please review the [Middle School Cell Phone expectations](#) with your child. Please call your attention to these two things...

- Any act of taking any photo. or video is a violation of the Cell Phone expectations. At no point in time should a child's camera/video be open.
- Did you know that if your child has an Apple Phone there is a feature called '[air drop](#)' where any person can anonymously send a message to those in a close geographical area. We recommend if you have these devices that students leave this off.

I wish you all a fantastic weekend ahead!

Paul Warzecha
RMCES Principal

Change to Chill

PLEASE CLICK [HERE](#) TO VIEW MORE



RMS-CES PARENT/COMMUNITY NEWS

Reminders & Opportunities:



Every year we partner with Riverworks Food Shelf to help support our community before the holiday season. Last year we raised over \$500 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. Please follow the directions below to donate. Any dollar amount helps! Thank you for supporting our community and partnering with Rockford Area Schools.*

Happy Holidays!

**This is not an LSD883 sponsored event*



HERE'S HOW TO GIVE:

1. GO TO [RIVERWORKS ONLINE GIVING](#)
2. CLICK ON THE FUND DROP DOWN MENU.
3. SELECT ROCKFORD SCHOOL HOLIDAY FUND DRIVE.

RMS-CES PARENT/COMMUNITY NEWS

Reminders & Opportunities:



Click Here
Classroom Wish Lists



Support the Rockford Education Foundation's largest event without even attending!

Online Silent Auction

If you like a good silent auction, you do not want to miss this one!

The timing is perfect with the holidays right around the corner.

Event Website: <https://Rockford23.givesmart.com>

Auction starts on November 15th at Noon

Donate to one of these 10 Fund-A-Needs!

- #1 CNA
- #2 Welding
- #3 General Woods
- #4 College and Career
- #5 STEM Organizer Cart
- #6 Deep Portage Scholarships
- #7 Classroom Seating
- #8 Theater Program
- #9 Keyboards
- #10 Technology

Click here to see the [detailed list](#)

DONATE

> Select a fund-a-need from the [drop down](#) menu

> Donate by November 16th if possible.

Note: Donating is also available on the event website along with the auction.

Event Website: <https://Rockford23.givesmart.com>

RMS-CES PARENT/COMMUNITY NEWS

Reminders & Opportunities:

SCHOOL STORE HOURS



School Store November 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
				Store Hours: 5:00pm-8:00pm HS Band Dinner & Concert		
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
					Store Hours: 5:30pm-7:30pm District Musical Bye Bye Birdie	Store Hours: 5:30pm-7:30pm District Musical Bye Bye Birdie
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Store Hours: 12:30pm-2:30pm District Musical Bye Bye Birdie						
26	27	28	29	30		
		Store Hours: 5:30pm-8:30pm JV/V Girls Basketball		Store Hours: 5:30pm-8:30pm JV/V Girls Basketball		

Dates and times subject to change based on event changes. Any changes will be updated and posted on our social media platforms.

RMS-CES PARENT/COMMUNITY NEWS

Reminders & Opportunities:



Attention: Governor Walz signed a bill into law to provide breakfast and lunch at no charge to students at participating schools, beginning in the fall for the 2023-24 school year.

APPLICATION FOR EDUCATION BENEFITS:

If you haven't already done so, please take a moment to fill out this [FORM](#). Our school also receives state funding for technology based on qualifying families! For more information or a Spanish version, click [HERE](#).

FOOD SERVICE REMINDER:

Please check your parent portal for notifications (letters) regarding current food service balances.

Please note, per our School Board approved [School Meals Policy](#), Low Account Balance and Negative Account Balance email reminders will continue to be sent.

Since Rockford Area Schools are not receiving additional meal funding at this time, it remains the parent(s)' or guardian's responsibility to ensure adequate funds are available in the meal account.

ATTENTION
PLEASE!



It is very important to ensure the school district has current household and contact information for all students. Please be sure to log in to your Parent Portal account to complete the Annual Update. The online update will replace the emergency forms you have received in the past. Keeping household information updated will help families stay connected and be informed of upcoming events, and it will ensure you receive information regarding any important announcements.

To complete the annual update, please do the following:

- 1) Log in to your Parent Portal Account
- 2) Select "More."
- 3) Select "Online Registration"
- 4) Select "23-24 School Year Annual Update for Existing Students"

The information that is in our system will auto-populate for parents to review or update. Please be sure to submit your annual update as soon as possible. If you have any questions, please contact Christa Larson at larsonchrista@rockford.k12.mn.us or 763-477-9165.

ATTENTION
PLEASE!

RMS-CES MEDIA CENTER

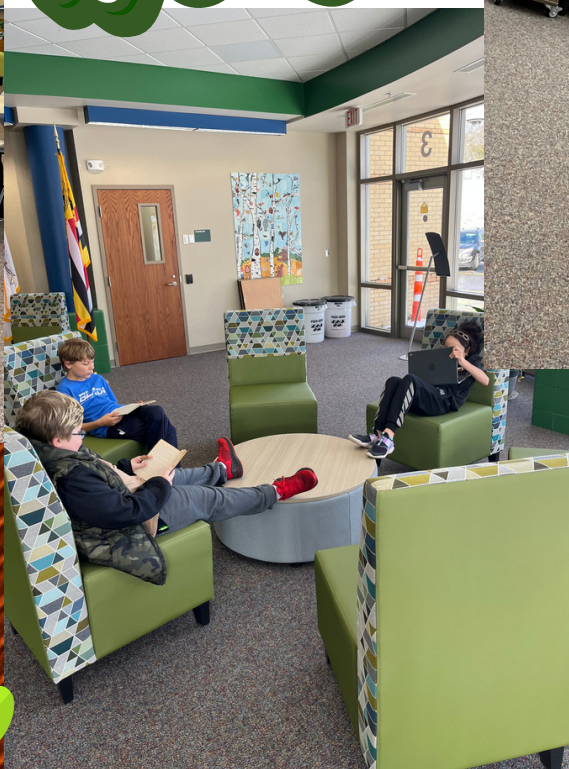
AWESOME



A huge thank you to
the Rockford
Education Foundation
for helping to make
this a reality!



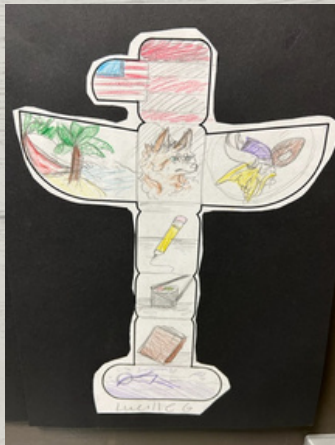
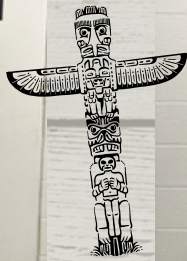
Wow!





Fifth grade Social Studies students recently learned about the First Americans. They studied groups of the Pacific Northwest, the Great Basin, the Eastern Woodlands, the Southwest and the Plains. Students learned how the Pacific Northwest created totem poles that represented their way of life.

Fifth graders created their own totem poles doing the same.



RMS-CES GRADE LEVEL NEWS

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Honoring Veterans

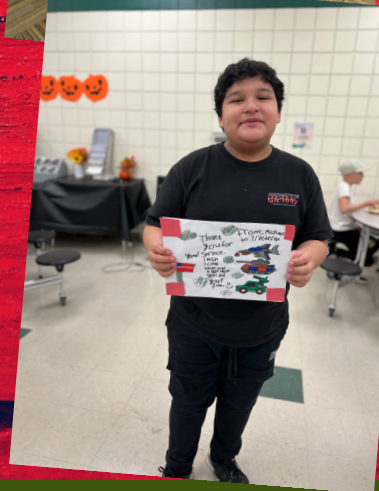
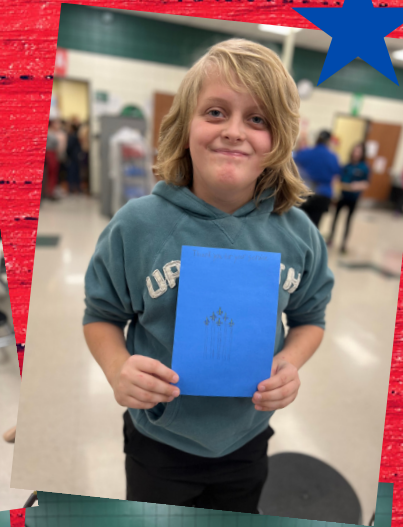
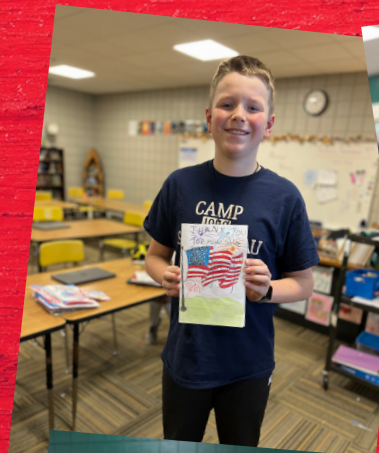


ESSAY CONTEST WINNERS

6th Grader Douglas Stark
8th Grader-Kiera Brooks
7th Grader-Landon Lorenz

★ Thank you to our Ms. Bauer & our 8th Grade Band students for playing The Star Spangled Banner ★

★
Our deepest gratitude to the Delano Lions Color Guard for joining RMS-CES with a flag ceremony to kick off of Veterans Day assembly



RMS-CES GRADE LEVEL NEWS

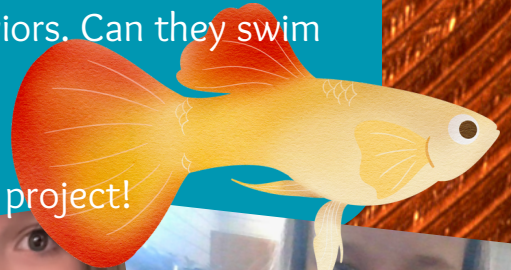


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In Ms. Sarsland's 7th Grade science classes, the inquiry process revolves around guppies and ecosystems. What a fun way to see photosynthesis and respiration in action.

Babies and live birth has added to the excitement. Students have chosen observations and tests to collect data regarding guppy behaviors. Can they swim through a hoop?

It's always great to see the engagement with this project!



RMS-CES GRADE LEVEL NEWS

Students in **7th grade social studies** brought the judicial process to life last week with a mock trial. Throughout the first quarter students learned the inner workings of our democracy, *three branches of government, and the rights of citizens that are protected by the Constitution*. All of this was put on full display with the case of Goldilocks v. Three Bears. The big question was: did Goldilocks break the law when she entered the home of the three bears or was she just an innocent girl seeking shelter from the storm? Each student had a role in the trial such as: juror, bailiff, judge, witness, attorney for the prosecution, and attorney for the defence. On both sides witnesses prepared by studying their sworn affidavits and working with their attorney on potential questions. Attorneys prepared opening and closing statements and questions for their direct and cross examinations. The degree of professionalism and dedication to creating an authentic trial was nothing short of amazing. All of us were kept on the edge of our seats until the verdict was read!

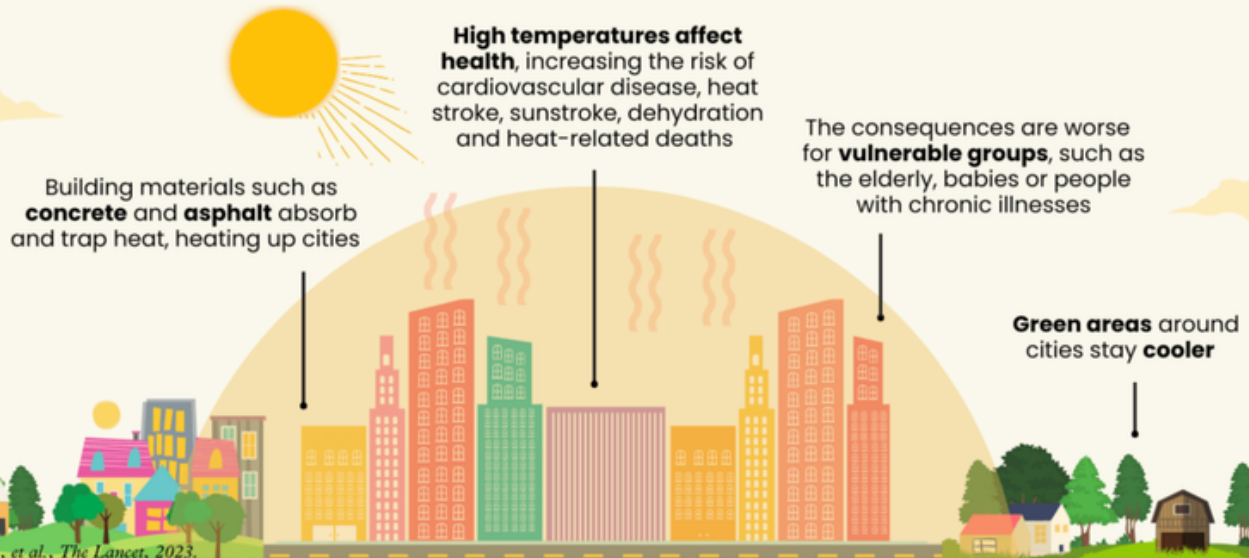


RMS-CES GRADE LEVEL NEWS

The urban heat island effect

ISGlobal

Refers to the **increase in temperature** in **urban environments** compared to surrounding areas.



Ms. Budde's 8th grade science class has been developing their ability to analyze and interpret data and information! We explored data sets, informational texts, and infographics collected by NASA to identify and explain the causes of Urban Heat Islands, as well as a few consequences. All students worked very hard and made progress toward becoming independent on this skill. We ended our week by summarizing our findings and enjoying some fun, competitive review for our Unit 2 Assessment next week!

