

RMS-CES ROCKET NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2024



November

November 3rd

Daylight Savings Time

November 4th

No School-Staff Development

November 5th

Election Day

November 11th

Veterans Day

November 22nd-24th

RAS Musical

November 27th-29th

Fall Break

December 5th

RMS Band Concert

Click below to view video
from Superintendent Dr.
Jeff Ridlehoover

VOTE YES



At RMS-CES, students are empowered to become innovators through engaging, authentic and developmentally appropriate opportunities, access to a strong academic foundation, and a commitment to lifelong learning.

We are a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) School with a focus on Environmental Studies.



From the Principal

Dear RMS-CES Families,

As October closes, we reflect on a vibrant and productive first quarter here at Rockford Middle School. From environmental explorations to building community within our classrooms, it's been a meaningful start to the school year. I am excited to share some highlights, celebrate achievements, and offer a glimpse into what's ahead!

October Highlights:

Environmental Learning in Action

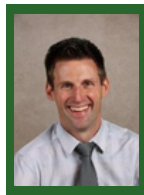
We are grateful for seasonably warm temperatures and great partnerships with the Three Rivers Park District and Deep Portage that have allowed us to get students to connect to nature and their peers in meaningful ways.

Academic Growth & Supports

You may have heard from your child's math teacher that there is support after school on Tuesday/Thursday for Math homework help in the Media Center. In addition, as we head into a brand new quarter please know that our counseling department will be working hard to connect with identified students after reviewing first quarter grades with the hope to continue building support for future success. I'm proud of the resilience and enthusiasm our students have shown as they embrace new challenges and make strides in their learning this quarter.

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From the Principa...continued

IXL for Academic Success

Our recent test scores highlight opportunities for even more students to achieve success in mastering content this year. IXL offers personalized, interactive practice aligned with MN state standards, allowing students to strengthen skills at their own pace. Our Math team is already using IXL, with other subjects potentially joining soon as we work toward continued academic growth across the school.

Looking Ahead:

As we enter November, our focus will shift toward community engagement, academic goal-setting, and continued social-emotional growth. We'll also be coming together as a school to honor our veterans with a range of Veterans Day activities, including an all-school assembly to recognize and thank those who have served.

Celebrating the Quarter's Success:

We are proud to report that over the first quarter, we've seen fantastic growth in academics, social skills, and community involvement. RMS-CES students have been setting and achieving personal goals, engaging positively with peers, and making great strides in their studies. As we move forward, we're committed to supporting every student's journey with a collaborative spirit and high expectations.

The Importance of Being on Time

Punctuality is a valuable skill, and being on time to class is essential for student success. It helps create a productive learning environment, reduces disruptions, and allows students to start each lesson on the right foot. During the first quarter, we emphasized this by celebrating students who consistently arrived to class on time. Each grade had several winners who received fun incentives like an à la carte item, a two-week front-of-the-lunch-line pass, or even a chance to jump into the foam pit! As we begin the second quarter, please encourage your child to prioritize being on time. We will continue offering a variety of positive incentives to recognize and celebrate students who limit their tardies to class. Thank you for your support in helping students develop this important habit that benefits them now and in the future.

Thank you for being an essential part of the Rockford Middle School community. We are grateful for your support and partnership as we continue to guide and inspire our young learners.

Paul Warzecha

Principal, RMS-CES

RMS-CES | COUNSELORS CORNER



CHARACTER STRONG!

These CharacterDare challenges also provide students with more opportunities to practice habits discussed in class such as:

- Conversation Starters: Ways to practice positive communication for the whole family.
- Acts of Kindness: Simple ideas to support each other at home and in the community.
- Recreation and Rest: Fun and relaxing ways to unwind and enjoy each other's company.
- Expressions of Love: A variety of invitations family members can use to give & receive love.

This school year students and staff have been participating in weekly Character Strong lessons during their Boost classes. As we move into the new year we would like to introduce you to Family CharacterDares. Each Family CharacterDare offers families the opportunity to engage in challenges designed to increase connection and conversation at home.

Cell PHONE

Away for the Day Website <https://www.awayfortheday.org>

AASA Article: A Mind Shift Over Cellphones in Schools
<https://www.aasa.org/resources/resource/mindshift-over-cellphones-schools>

Book Study: The Anxious Generation: How the Great Rewiring of Childhood Is Causing an Epidemic of Mental Illness by Jonathan Haidt

United States Surgeon General Dr. Vivek Murthy released a new Surgeon General's Advisory on Social Media and Youth Mental Health - [PDF](#)



Guided Imagery

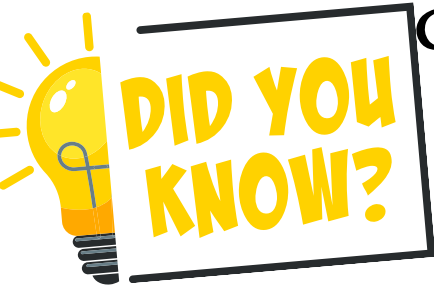
Guided imagery can have many health-related physical and emotional benefits. The steps that follow can help you teach teens to use their imaginations to actually change how they are feeling and what they are focused on.

www.changetochill.org



Please click [HERE](#) to read more about Chronic Absentism

Since COVID, chronic absenteeism has increased substantially. Up to 30% of Minnesota students are considered chronically absent. The criteria for being considered chronically absent is missing 10% or more of school days. When students are absent from school they miss critical instruction time and are at the greatest risk of falling behind. Please review the link below to learn more.



School-Based Therapy

NYSTROM
& ASSOCIATES



Mrs. McKayla Kent

As the school-based therapist at RMS, I am available to work with students before, during, and after school hours on Tuesdays and Wednesdays with the understanding that I do not request sessions with students during their core classes. Sessions last from 45-60 minutes and, unless needs require otherwise, are held weekly.

On occasion, sessions involving parents and students are required as part of the therapeutic process to ensure that the family dynamics that may contribute to student behaviors are addressed as well. I also am available as a resource for staff to provide any training or input for interventions or needs as they come throughout the year.

My HOURS

Monday-
Thursday 7:30-
5:30pm



RMS-CES | PARENT-COMMUNITY

News



YEARBOOK

ORDER YOUR
STUDENTS 2024-2025
HERE

Walsworth yearbooks



The Minnesota Department of Revenue offers families valuable tax benefits on the 2024 income tax returns. Minnesota offers several credits that ease the financial burden for families, renters, homeowners, and working individuals

Please click [HERE](#) to view the Child Tax Credit Benefits

Please click [HERE](#) to view the K-12 Education Subtraction and Credit

<https://www.revenue.state.mn.us/>

RMS-CES | PARENT-COMMUNITY

News



Irving Berlin's

White Christmas

Rockford's Fall Musical

November 22 and 23 @ 7pm
November 24 @ 2pm

Tickets Sold at the Door
All Seats \$7



Support Prom 2025!



The junior parents have many activities underway to fund Prom 2025

You can help by:

- ****NEW**** Order a fresh-baked pumpkin, apple, blueberry, or cherry pie (made by our local GreenRock Deli and Cafe) in time for Thanksgiving: <https://forms.gle/bCgdSHympejQ2Aqc8> . Orders due by Nov. 22.
- Supporting 50/50 drawings at sporting events
- Purchasing cookies sold at sporting events

Please consider supporting us this year. Thank you!

Need any Rockford Spirit Wear?!

check this out



School Store November 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4 Store Hours: 5:30pm-7:30pm Winter Sports Meeting	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21 Store Hours: 5:30pm-8:30pm JV/V Girls Basketball	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

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

RMS-CES | POINTS OF PRIDE

Rockford Education Foundation



Passport to Travel Fall Event - Tickets On Sale Now!

Get ready for an unforgettable evening at our annual Rockford Education Foundation Fall Event on Friday, November 22nd themed "Passport to Travel!" Tickets are on sale now through November 15th. Join us for a fun-filled night aimed at raising essential funds for our students, teachers, and schools. Come for entertainment, auctions, and an opportunity to make a lasting impact. It's an event you won't want to miss!



Purchase your tickets today at www.rockford24.givesmart.com and prepare for a fantastic evening at Rush Creek Golf Course. Your attendance and support help us continue funding meaningful educational experiences for all students in the Rockford Area School District.

Can't Attend? You Can Still Make a Difference!

If you're unable to join us at the event, you can still be part of the excitement by registering to bid on incredible auction items or by donating directly to one of our three fund-a-needs:

- REAMS Arts Experiences – Supporting artist in residency, field trips, visiting artists, and an All-School Song to foster creativity and expression in our youngest learners.
- RMS-CES Environmental Experiences – Funding unique indoor and outdoor learning opportunities, such as Trout in the Classroom, biomes, and a hammock classroom for mental well-being.
- RHS Find Your Way Career Exploration – Creating and enhancing career pathway programs including construction, education and nursing, and funding an IB collaboration center.

Your contributions, whether through bidding or donating, will have a direct impact on our students' educational journey.

September Mini-Grants Awarded - Supporting Our Staff and Students!

Thanks to the incredible generosity of our donors, the Rockford Education Foundation awarded over \$5,000 in 12 mini-grants to Rockford Area staff members in early October. These grants will make a difference in classrooms across the district, enabling innovative projects and educational opportunities for our students.

Stay connected and follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/rockfordeducationfoundation to see all the mini-grants awarded and learn more about the projects we're supporting.

Thank you for your continued support in helping us inspire, enhance, and maximize the potential of every student in the Rockford Area School District. We look forward to seeing you at the Passport to Travel event!



RMS-CES | PARENT-COMMUNITY

Staff Spotlight



Jamie Madson

Curriculum Integration
Specialist
Deep Portage Coordinator

I am in my 29th year teaching at Rockford Middle School-Center for Environmental Studies. I graduated from the University of Minnesota, Duluth in 1995 with a Bachelor of Applied Science. I am licensed in Elementary Education K-6 and Keyboarding and Computer Applications K-8. Over the years, I have been a classroom teacher, technology coordinator and technology specialist. During the 2024-25 school year, I will be teaching Environmental Studies, along with coordinating the Rockford Middle School-Center for Environmental Studies STEM program.

Favorite Things:



Playing Pickleball

Listening to Records

Snowshoeing

Fall (season)

Restoring Prairies



This year is my 7th year at Rockford Middle School! I graduated in 2017 from the University of Minnesota Duluth, where I got two bachelor's degrees: one in Teaching Communication Arts & Literature, and another in English Literature with a Medieval Literature focus. I am licensed to teach English Language Arts to grades 5-12, and I love to teach all things reading and writing. I currently teach writing to 5th and 6th graders, as well as working with emerging readers as the ADSIS Reading Interventionist here at the middle school. One of my favorite things about teaching is getting to see students make progress in so many ways, both academically and as people. It is so fun to watch them grow up from 5th to 8th grade!

Favorite Things:



Read

Crochet

Crossword Puzzles

Hang out with my dog & cat



Amber Beattie

Writing & ADSIS Teacher



Holly Biorn

EXCEL Gifted & Talented
Coordinator & Teacher

When I was a kid, I dreamed of being a teacher...I was the youngest of 3 and got bossed around a lot and I too wanted to boss others around...I mean share my gifts and talents with others. I used to get my teachers' used plan books and other consumables to bring home for the summer and "teach" my stuffed animals and friends. When the time came to go to college and choose a major, I never wavered from my childhood dream to be a teacher. This career is not an easy one, but I still feel like I am, "livin' the dream," most days. I'm naturally curious about the world and am a life-long learner who loves learning and working with children! I've been teaching at Rockford Area Schools for twenty-seven years and previously lived in the community for eighteen! I graduated from St. Cloud State University in 1996 with a Bachelor's of Science degree. I am licensed to teach K - 6th grade. In 2002 I received my Master's Degree in Technology Integration from St. Thomas University, and also received both the Level 1 & 2 Google Certifications. Having proudly been with the Rockford School District since 1998, I have had the opportunity to teach at both REAMS and RMS-CES 4th through 6th grade and our EXCEL Gifted and Talented program, which services Kindergarten through 8th grades. As our district's EXCEL Gifted and Talented Coordinator and Teacher, it is my joy to provide programming and champion this exceptional population to ensure that all students get an extraordinary education.

Favorite Things:



Sleeping in & lazy mornings
with a book

Hiking, yoga, zumba, swimming
Traveling



RMS-CES | PARENT-COMMUNITY

6th Grade

FIELD TRIP



On Tuesday, RMS 6th graders travelled back in time to learn about the people of Minnesota's past. They spent half of their day learning about prehistoric survival skills of fire-making by way of friction using bow drills and hunting techniques using atlatls. Students also played games involving teamwork, strategy, and coordination. The second half of the day, students dove into the world of the French Voyageurs and the Minnesota fur trade. Students learned about trading for supplies, games voyageurs would play during their times of rest at the rendezvouses, and spent time building community cooking around a campfire. The beautiful weather and glowing maple forests provided the perfect setting for a wonderful day of outdoor learning.



RMS-CES | PARENT-COMMUNITY

6th Grade

FIELD TRIP



RMS-CES| PARENT-COMMUNITY

8th Grade

FIELD TRIP



A chilly morning gave way to a beautiful day to be outside exploring the Three Rivers Parks. At Crow Hassan Park reserve, students hiked past rivers, forests, and prairies to investigate plant diversity that occurs within each unique ecosystem. They also tested their mapping skills as they studied and created maps of the surrounding open space.



At Baker Outdoor Learning Center, students learned the basics of shooting a bow, elements of safety and styles of equipment. Students then opportunity to shoot compound bows at our archery range. Rumor has it Ms. Miller was awarded the eagle eye award for her archery prowess. Finally, at Campfire Cooking students worked together to mix and prepare, and eat potatoes and popcorn that was cooked over the campfire.



RMS-CES| PARENT-COMMUNITY

8th Grade

FIELD TRIP



It was a great day to be outside! 8th Graders will have one more opportunity to participate in a Baker experience this winter on an optional cross country skiing trip.



RMS-CES | POINTS OF PRIDE

5th

LA w/ Ms. Mateyka

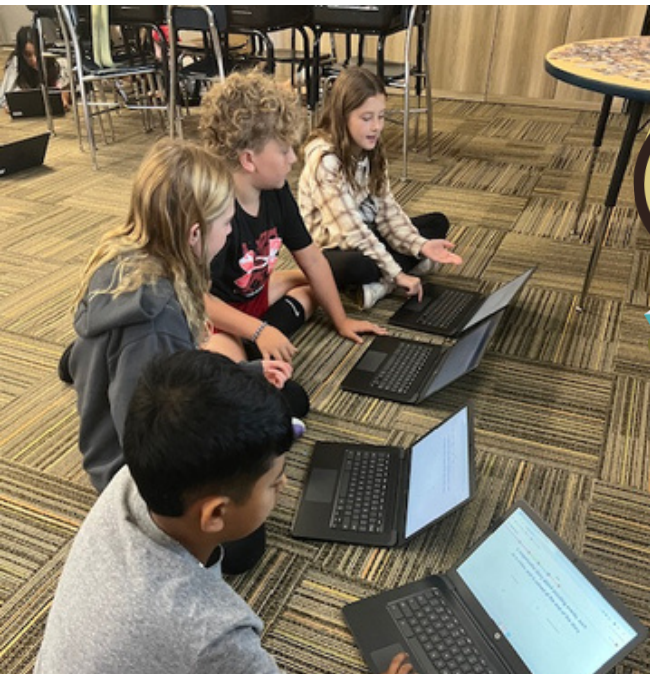
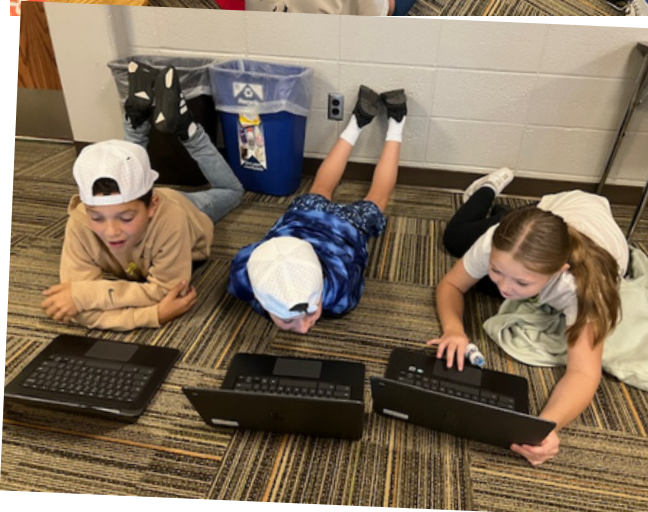
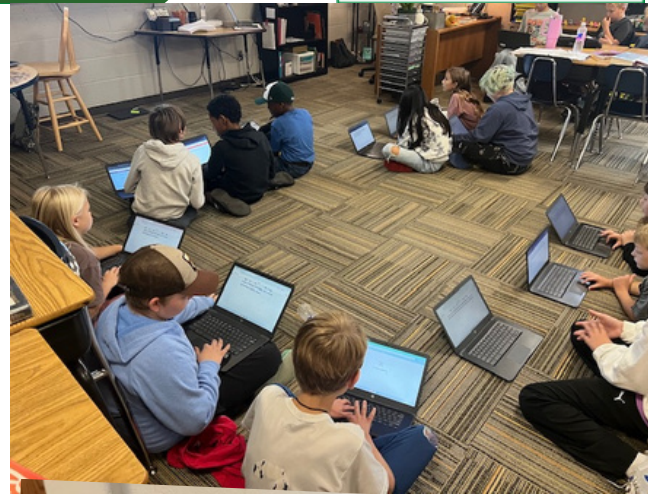


Fifth grade Language Arts students have been busy reading, studying genres, presenting book talks, more reading, studying for their vocabulary quiz and still more reading!

Students began their "Magic 40" and have been reading from a variety of genres. After completing a book, they record their book title and other information on their reading lists as well as their genre tally sheet.

Fifth graders have already taken their first genre quiz and are now getting ready to take their first vocabulary quiz. Students have reviewed with activities such as "Quizlet" and "Active Match."

Each month, students will present a monthly book talk to the class. Fifth graders work on their public speaking skills and are able to offer book recommendations to their peers. Book talks have already included some fantasy, informational, biographies, historical fiction and realistic fiction genres. The variety presented has been wonderful for students to see! Some students have taken their book talk and created it as a digital piece.

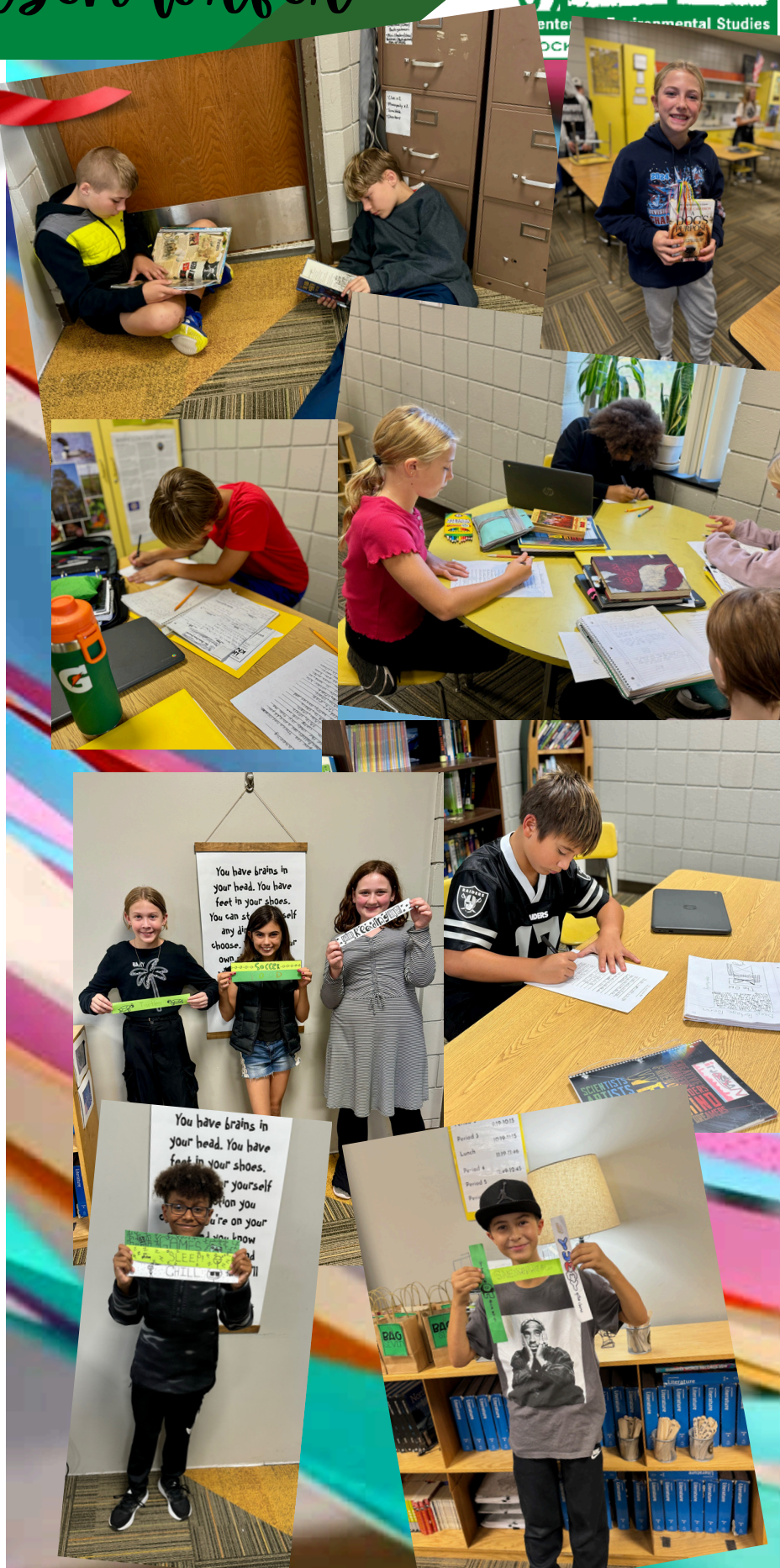


RMS-CES | POINTS OF PRIDE

LA w/ Ms. Korzendorfer



Sixth graders started the school year “linking in” with their classmates. They found that they had more in common with each other than they originally thought. Individual reading goals were set for the school year. As students read books and meet their goals, they will add ribbons to their bookmarks. Sixth graders wrote a Six Room poem reflecting on their time at Deep Portage. They followed the five steps of the writing process and are in the midst of step five - publishing/final draft/sharing your work. Poems are posted in the sixth grade hallway. They will visit and give feedback in the week to come.



Earlier this fall, LA8 students studied the Oglala Lakota culture, which also helped us gain a better perspective on how Native Americans value Nature. The teenage writers who contributed to the book, *Walking on Earth & Touching the Sky*, attend the Red Cloud Indian School on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota and have written about their relationships with Unci Maka, Grandmother Earth. Since our School Forest provides a perfect backdrop, we headed up the hill and worked through a “Poetry in the Forest” activity. Rotating through different stations, students read and analyzed a selection of poems from the book. From there, they let their inner poet shine as they wrote a Haiku based on their observations in Nature.

Students moved on to meeting the “master of the macabre”, Edgar Allan Poe. They completed a Jigsaw Activity based on a biography and gained insight into his writing. Currently, we are studying his short story, “The Tell-Tale Heart”, and are analyzing his use of Dramatic Irony, Mood, Tone, and his three Suspense Techniques. After all, we are in the “spooky season” of October!

Edgar Allan Poe's THE TELL-TALE HEART

