

Communicator January 2019

Message from Mr. Turner

Kindergarten 2019-2020

If you have a child that will be 5 on or before August 1, 2019, the teachers will be hosting a **Kindergarten Parent Orientation on February 7, 2019, from 4:00 p.m.-4:30 p.m.** in the cafeteria. Registration packets will be available in the office beginning February 8, 2019. At the time parents pick up the registration packets, a time/day (April 4th or 5th) will be provided to return with the completed paperwork. Lastly, please mark your calendar with the following dates:

- Kindergarten Baseline Screening will take place on August 20, 2019, and August 21, 2019, between 8:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. A time and day will be given during registration in April.
- Kindergarten rosters will be developed after screening in August. Kindergarten class lists will be posted after 12:30 p.m. on August 22, 2019, on the west doors of the building.
- Kindergarten Open House will be August 22, 2019, from 5:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m. in your child's classroom.
- Half of the kindergarten students will attend school on August 29th and the other half August 30th. All kindergarten students will be in attendance on September 3, 2019.

Please contact Mr. Turner at 330-325-7971 or turner@roversk12.org if you have any questions.

Message from Mrs. Ray, School Counselor

2018 Holiday Season

I want to say thank you to all who helped in any way with the holiday help for our families this year! Through our school giving tree, we were able to provide gifts for 12 families which amounted to 34 children total! Through this tree various staff members, families, community members and The Rootstown United Methodist Church provided much joy and happiness to these families! Our school thanks you so much for your continued help and support.

The Ravenna Police Association gave 12 children the opportunity to Shop with a Cop. Our community churches provided Thanksgiving Baskets to ten families for the holiday. Lastly, NEOMed sponsored four families that allowed them to participate in the Breakfast with Santa experience. As always, thank you to all who were involved and helped with ensuring that many families in our building were able to have a wonderful holiday season!

National School Counseling Week

Every year during the first full week of February our school recognizes National School Counseling Week (February 4 - February 8, 2019). During this week, I work to provide education, reminders, and clarification as to the role of the school counselor, as well as my work in our elementary building.

In our building, I work to provide monthly guidance lessons on topics that include kindness, anti-bullying, self-esteem, growth mindset, career awareness, conflict-resolution, and so on. Group counseling is provided on a regular basis to include skill building in the areas of social skills, anger and worry management, and adjusting to changing family structures. I provide individual counseling to help student manage emotions, problem-solve, and build friendships. I consult with parents, teachers, and outside agencies to provide wrap-around support for students to help them meet their social, emotional, and academic potential. If there is any way that I can support your child, please contact me!

AT&T Classroom

By Alexis Gearhart, 4th grade

During the month of January, I was fortunate enough to take two of my classes to the AT&T classroom located on Kent State's Campus. The AT&T classroom is filled with new technology, which allows the students to each have their own device to work with for the duration we are there. This allows me to integrate more digital learning into their daily lessons. This has been an ongoing partnership that Rootstown has had with Kent State, and it is something very beneficial and exciting for both the students and myself to experience. During the three weeks, the kids got hands-on experience with many tools, websites, apps, and gadgets that they do not normally get to work with at school. My classes used 3D printing to create Native American artifacts, created a Google Maps Tour of Ohio's Native American tribes, used computer coding to make digital math games, programmed robots, along with countless other innovative activities. The students really benefit from getting practice with some of these new technologies, as many of these things will be commonly used in their future careers. I am extremely grateful to Rootstown and Kent State for allowing our students to have such amazing opportunities!

Project Based Learning

By Angie Stackpole, 2nd grade

This year, I have been working to incorporate more Project Based Learning (PBL) into my classroom. PBL is an instructional approach that allows students to work on real life problems with cross-curricular standards woven in. These projects deepen problem solving skills, are student-led and elicit student inquiry. In October, a group of students asked if we could get our own class pet. After a lengthy discussion, the students realized that they would need to ask Mr. Turner for permission. They emailed Mr. Turner requesting his permission and he responded with several questions. This led the class to form and work in committees, researching answers to his many questions. For example:

- Budget: How will we raise the money to purchase and care for this pet?
- Is there an animal that can be around those with allergies?
- How will it survive over weekends and long breaks?

After a great deal of research, the class determined a fish would be the best pet. They invited Mr. Turner in to listen to a presentation which answered all of his questions through a class-created, Google Slides presentation. Mr. Turner was impressed with their enthusiasm and hard work and gave the class approval to get a fish! After more research and speaking with experts on how to raise funds, they came up with the idea to have a chocolate sale to cover the cost of the materials and maintenance of a fish. They decided they wanted to make and sell chocolate covered pretzels. The class then contacted, through letters, Hartville Chocolate Factory and Walmart asking for donations to make these items. Hartville Chocolate Factory, Brimfield Walmart and Ravenna Walmart were very kind and generous and donated all of the needed materials. The class got to work acting as "producers" and made over 500 chocolate covered pretzels which were sold to both their families and Rootstown Elementary staff. They reached their budget goal for all the materials needed to get a goldfish. This was a highly engaging project that allowed students to collaborate and problem solve while working on

several of the New Learning Standards. I am looking forward to the next PBL project we will be completing in late winter, early spring of this school year.

Fifth Grade Club Inventor - Wheel of Invention

By Sarah West, 2nd grade

This year's fifth graders will be given an exciting opportunity to participate in a new club, Club Inventor. This program is a parent paid after school STEM club. Through a partnership with the National Inventors Hall of Fame, students will participate in five 90 minute after school sessions following the "Wheel of Invention" curriculum created by the Inventors Hall of Fame. Sessions will take place beginning February 20 and continue until spring break. In Wheel of Invention, students will use creative thinking and design engineering to solve challenges around personal gear, gadgets and living spaces. They will also gather useful information about how nature helps animals and insects survive and apply their inspiration to their own inventions. The program is designed to support students in creative problem-solving and exploration. This is the first year for the program at Rootstown, but the hope is for it to be continued in years to come, possibly in other grade levels.



Lowe's Toolbox for Education Grant

By Sarah West, 2nd grade

This semester I received a \$4,600 grant through Lowe's Toolbox for Education. My classroom will be receiving Chromebooks, a cart to hold and charge the Chromebooks, and 12 Makey Makey devices. Throughout the year my students have been working on coding and the design process. Research shows that students who have a STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) education are more likely to develop a lifelong love of learning and be more creative thinkers, even when working in non-STEM focused jobs. These are important traits for children to develop at a young age and continue to use as they get older. Second grade is the perfect age to begin STEM learning because students at this age are naturally curious and love hands-on learning. They are excited about using technology to develop new ideas and further their thinking. After being taught how to use basic coding through sites such as Code Monkey and Code.org throughout the first half of the year, my students are now going to be introduced to how to program using tools such as Scratch Jr. and Blockly. These basic programming sites will be used in conjunction with the Makey Makeys so students can see what commands the codes they write are able to produce. Programming is an important skill for students to know because it develops problem-solving skills and many 21st century jobs require some knowledge of different programming languages. We are excited for our new technology and are very appreciative to Lowe's for their grant!

