



# Rockford Elementary Arts Magnet School

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Brenda Nyhus, Principal

## A NOTE FROM THE PRINCIPAL 02-11-2022



Dear Parents,

Next week is **Valentine's Day** and we often spend a little extra time showing those people we care about the most how much we love them in lots of special ways. But why limit those special ways to just one day? Mother Teresa said, "If you want to change the world, go home and love your family." I couldn't agree more! Therefore, let's make Valentine's Day last all year and let the love for our families, especially our kids, change the world. I leave you with these thoughts:

**1. Hug your kids every single day, they need it and so do you.**

**2. Spend time listening, REALLY listening, to**

your kids each day. Human connection matters!

**3. Leave little notes of encouragement or love for your kids.**

**4. Have a date night with each of your kids separately. They love to feel special!**

**5. Make cookies, do crafts, or make a fort together. Creating anything together is a special bonding experience.**

**6. Create traditions with your kids, they look forward to these and will pass them on to their own families someday.**

**7. Play with your kids. Playdough, tag, board games, the list goes on. It will make you feel like a kid again, allow you to bond with your children in a new way, and often is a great stress reducer for adults!**

**8. Never miss an opportunity to tell your kids you love them or you are proud of them. Those words go a long way in a child's life!**

You are raising amazing kids and we have wonderful families in Rockford! Happy Valentine's Day everyone...all year!



Warmly,  
Brenda Nyhus  
Principal



February I ❤️ to Read spirit days  
Feb. 15 - Wear your Readable Shirt Day  
Feb. 22 - Wear your Readable Shirt Day

## ***Drive thru drop-off and pick up lane trivia***

Question: How long does it take to get through the drive thru lane at BEGINNING of the day.

Answer: **Under two minutes.** Please use the drive thru lane to drop off your child. Please do not park your car and walk your child across the parking lot.

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## ***Put it on your calendar***

**February 21** - President's Day - NO SCHOOL

**February 28** - Deadline to order a yearbook at EARLY BIRD PRICING - \$17. Order yours today. Go to [ybpay.com](http://ybpay.com) and use code 11238122. On March 1, the cost of a yearbook increases to \$22.

**March 3** - Class of 2035 Kindergarten Round Up - look for an email in your inbox

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## ***News***

### **COVID tests available**

The Rockford Area School District was able to obtain more at-home, rapid COVID tests from the state for K-12 students. We will have these tests on hand for if/when your student develops COVID symptoms. These tests are available for your convenience. If you have already picked up a test in the past, you are still eligible for one additional test per K-12 student. We can send a test kit home with your child at your request. If your student is at home and you'd like to pick up a test, reach out to the building health office to set up a plan.

### **Annual student/registration update**

This year, Rockford Area Schools has implemented an Annual Update which can be found in the Parent Portal in Infinite Campus. Keeping this information up-to-date will help families stay connected and be informed on upcoming plans and other important announcements. This **online update will replace the emergency medical form you have received in the past.** Most of the information will auto-populate from data already entered in Infinite Campus. Required fields are marked with a red asterisk(\*) and information highlighted in yellow needs to be updated. There are also fields required by the Minnesota Department of Education such as technology access and ethnicity. Once you are logged in to your Parent Portal, we are asking all families to complete this year's update AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. Going forward, the Annual Update will take place yearly in August. If you have any questions, contact Christa Larson at [larsonchrista@rockford.k12.mn.us](mailto:larsonchrista@rockford.k12.mn.us) or (763) 477-9165.

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## ***Peek at the Week***

### **Kindergartners spread love**

Kinder-Kiddos are preparing to spread the love next week. Classrooms are developing their fine motor skills while creating decorations and crafts in their classrooms. Using scissors with different weights of paper is an important skill and helps to develop the hand muscles which also helps with their handwriting. You can help your kinder practice at home with age-appropriate scissors. Here are some ideas of things to do to work on those important fine motor cutting skills:

- Cut coupons - cutting the lines of the fine paper and turning the paper is great practice
- Cut play doh - it's fun and easy
- Draw large wavy lines, zip-zags, straight lines and more - have your kinder cut along the line to the end.

These skills are important for developing hand grasp for independent skills such as zipping their coats and buttoning shirts.

## RTR students shine bright

The Respect, Trust and Responsibility (RTR) Superstar program promotes a culture of being kind to others, being accountable, honoring uniqueness and always doing the right thing at REAMS. Throughout the week, students who show exemplary acts or behaviors of respect, trust and responsibility are recognized as RTR Superstars and receive a special Star Student token from the school principal.

**Kindergarten** Coden Chanhchanh and Grace Ditch

**First grade** Ethan Jaworski, Ty Vainikka and Bianca Pikkarainen

**Second grade** Gavin Ritter, Charlotte Curtis and Ada Bartels

**Third grade** Tatiana O'Dell, Kendra Silva Reyes, Chase Burud and Addison White

**Fourth grade** Addison Gilbertson and Harvey Mousel



## Second graders celebrate Black History

February is Black History Month. Second grade students are learning about and honoring African American people who have made important contributions throughout history. This week, in Ms. Hedeem's class, students learned about the strength and courage of Ruby Bridges, the first African American child to desegregate an all-white elementary school. Students also learned about George Washington Carver, an agricultural scientist and inventor. He invented crop rotation and created 300 different uses for peanuts! Other important people such as Harriet Tubman, Jackie Robinson, and Rosa Parks will be discussed throughout the month.



## Third graders amp up their reading

The Read to the Final Four competition is heating up. Third grade students are #32 in the next round of the top 32 schools with the most minutes read- whew! Because of their standing third graders will win some books for their classroom. Parents, encourage your third grader to read; they will have to up their game to make the "Sweet 16" for the next round.



## School store - open for business

The school store is open and full of all your Rocket Gear. Stop by the next time you're at the High School.

[Jan and Feb School store hours.](#)

## Students capture a gold in PE

Students in Mrs. Peterson's PE class are learning about the Olympics and what the Olympics are about. Students then got to try to compete and show their best attempts at many "Olympic events" during PE class. Fourth grade students are attempting to show their skills at the Luge, Curling, Freestyle Ski Jumping, and Speed Skating.



## Third grade welcomes an Artist in Residence

Students at Rockford Elementary Arts Magnet School have a wonderfully arts-rich opportunity each school year to work with an artist in residence. Third grade students are working with **Karla Nweje**, a professional dance artist and educator, in early February. Third graders this school year will connect dance standards and experiences to several new science standards. When working with the guest artist, students use their imagination and creativity to collaborate and create movements that allow their learning to reach a whole new level. Karla will also take students through five elements of dance: body, action, space, time, and energy. These experiences help to solidify learning in the areas of science and dance, and they allow for strong arts-infused lessons in both learning areas. This type of learning is one of the focal points of a strong arts magnet school: learning academic content in and through the arts.



## Other Opportunities

### RAAA youth fastpitch softball

*Not an ISD 883 Sponsored Event*

Registration for the 2022 summer RAAA youth fastpitch softball season is now open at

<https://www.raasports.com/summer-registration> !

#### Registration Deadlines

- 8U Travel, 10U and 12U registration closes on Feb. 28
- 6U and 8U House registration closes on March 31
- All late registrations will incur a late fee added to their registration.

### 2022 RAAA Baseball Registration starts soon

*Not an ISD 883 Sponsored Event*



THE 2022 RAAA BASEBALL SEASON IS ALMOST HERE

8-14 YEAR-OLDS = REGISTRATION IS JAN 31 - MARCH 1  
5-7 YEAR-OLDS = REGISTRATION IS FEB 28 - APRIL 4

REGISTER NOW:  
[HTTPS://WWW.RAASPORTS.COM/RAAA-BASEBALL](https://www.raasports.com/raaa-baseball)

*Please contact us at [raabaseball@raasports.com](mailto:raabaseball@raasports.com) if you have questions.*

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