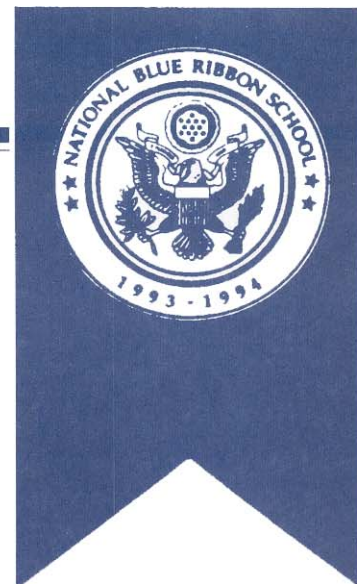


Ballwin Elementary ★★ National Blue Ribbon School

Bear Tracks



January 30, 2010

A Rainbow of Colors

Wouldn't it be terrible? Wouldn't it be sad?
If just one single color was the color that we had?
If everything was purple? Or red? Or blue? Or green?
If yellow, pink, or orange was all that could be seen?
Can you just imagine how dull world would be
If just one single color was all we got to see?

Dear Ballwin Families,

Celebrating individual differences is something that we value at Ballwin Elementary and in the Rockwood School District. Through Abilities Awareness Week and Black History Month, classrooms will celebrate differences through the four areas of our Caring Schools character education program: class meeting, buddy activity, school-wide activity, and a home-side activity.

As students learn and celebrate each others' differences, they gain much more than just programs and activities. Students begin to realize that each one of us has a unique gift that makes us special, and when you put all of us together, a climate of respect, trust, and integrity is built.

I encourage you to visit our school and walk the front entry reading each child's home-side activity sharing what makes him/her unique. It is truly incredible how our children view themselves to be unique and special. Thank you for helping your child with this activity. If you would still like your child to participate, please contact your child's teacher.

We look forward to this celebration of differences and encourage you to talk with your child about our activities. Thank you for partnering with us making Ballwin Elementary a great place to be!

Thank you to our PSO for continuing to collaborate and plan with us as we integrate service learning in our Valentine parties. For more information, please read the Parent Connection and find out ways you can support Ballwin Elementary.

Sincerely,

Julie Gay
Principal

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For more information, please visit our Web site at:

www.rockwood.k12.mo.us/ballwin

"Success Starts Here"

Ballwin Elementary School
Rockwood School District
400 Jefferson Avenue
Ballwin, MO 63021-4998
(636) 207-2533
Julie Gay, Principal

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

FEBRUARY 2010

- 3 National Counselor's Day
Kindergarten Registration, 8AM-6:30PM, Lobby
- 4 Kindergarten Registration, 7AM-3PM, Lobby
- 6 Rockwood Family Health Expo, 10AM-2PM, Wildwood Middle School
- 9 BEARS Social, 8:45AM, PSO Meeting, 9:45AM, MPR
- 10 Jump Rope For Heart Day
- 11 Valentine Parties AM Kdg, 11AM
Full-Day & PM Kdg & 1st-5th, 2-3:00PM
Rockwood Board Meeting, Crestview MS, 7PM
- 12 **Early Dismissal Day, 12:08PM**, (PM Kindergarten attends during AM, LUNCH IS SERVED.)
- 15 NO SCHOOL – Presidents' Day
- 25 Rockwood Board Meeting, Crestview MS, 7PM
- 26 Spring Picture Day by *LIFETOUCH*
End of 3rd Quarter
BEAR TRACKS
- 26-27 Rockwood Science Olympics, Rockwood Summit HS

ROCKWOOD SCHOOLS FOUNDATION MAJOR SAVER PREFERRED CARD PROGRAM

The Rockwood Schools Foundation is once again sponsoring the Major Saver Preferred Card. The Major Saver Campaign is a quick and easy campaign that involves the selling of the Major Saver Preferred Card. It is a restaurant/entertainment discount card that sells for \$10 and entitles the holder to 15 buy-one-get-one free deals at participating businesses in the Rockwood School District.

The program takes place from Feb. 16 – 23rd. Proceeds from the fundraiser will be split between the Rockwood Schools Foundation and the participating schools. Last year, the Rockwood Schools Foundation and participating schools raised more than \$23,000 from this program to help support education projects and grants for teachers in the district.

The Rockwood Schools Foundation is a nonprofit, tax-exempt public corporation operating independently under a Board of Directors that represents a cross-section of our communities who have a sincere interest in our students and their success. The mission is to raise money for innovative educational programs that make a lasting difference in the lives of Rockwood students.

Major Saver Holdings, Inc. is a Kansas City based company that specializes in fundraising for education foundations. They currently partner with more than 150 school districts throughout Missouri, Kansas, Indiana, Colorado and Texas. Last year alone, the Major Saver program raised more than \$2 million dollars for schools and education foundations. For more information, please call Mr. Mark Koenig at 314.780.4282.

Ballwin Yearbook ON SALE

Don't forget to order your 2009-10 Ballwin yearbook. All yearbook order forms and payments must be turned in to the classroom teacher no later than February 5, 2010. To insure that your child is not disappointed, please turn in orders by this date, as we will not be able to purchase additional yearbooks after the deadline.

2010-11

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

Once again it is almost time for kindergarten registration. If your child is 5 years old by July 31, 2010, he or she is eligible for enrollment in the Fall. There is no early testing or enrollment for children who are not 5 years old by July 31, 2010. Please plan to pick up an enrollment packet during these enrollment sessions:

February 3rd - 8AM-6:30PM

February 4th - 7AM-1PM

There is no tuition for half-day kindergarten. "Full Day" kindergarten is a fee-based program designed to complement rather than accelerate the half-day program. It follows the current kindergarten curriculum framework with activities designed to meet the developmental needs of the child. For more information please visit www.rockwood.k12.mo.us. The following documents are necessary to enroll your child in kindergarten.

- Original birth certificate (hospital certificates are not accepted)
- Two proofs of residency, unpaid utility bill (gas, electric/water only), purchase/rental agreement, or personal property tax receipt
- Child's immunization records
- Emergency phone numbers

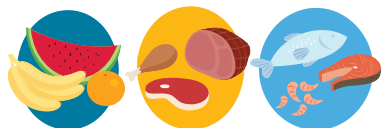
Parents who are divorced or living apart and who either share physical custody of the child or the parental rights of one of the parents has been terminated, must have one or more of the following documents to complete the enrollment process:

- Decree of Dissolution of Marriage
- Separation Agreement
- Custody Agreement (Physical custody by parent enrolling child)
- Court order termination parental rights

If the situation is such that there are no court documents AND both parents are listed on the BIRTH CERTIFICATE, the parent enrolling the child must have a notarized letter from the other parent stating that he/she is aware the child is living with the other parent AND has permission to enroll the child in the Rockwood School District. This is in accordance with the Missouri Safe Schools Act, August 26, 1996. REMINDER FOR KINDERGARTEN (and new to Missouri first grade) PARENTS: Missouri mandate of July 2008 specifies a comprehensive vision exam for kindergarten, performed by an optometrist or ophthalmologist. Contact the nurse or see Rockwood's website, www.rockwood.k12.mo.us under parent resources, new enrollment, for exam form.

ATTENDANCE LINE FOR ABSENCES

If your child will be absent, please call the attendance line by 8:30AM at 636.207.2533 Press 1. Please do not email your child's classroom teacher with absence information. There are times when a teacher may be out of the building for meetings or not able to check their email until later in the day. Please CALL THE ATTENDANCE LINE by 8:30AM with absence information.



HEALTH & WELLNESS UPDATE

Please visit the Ballwin school website at <http://www.rockwood.k12.mo.us/schools/Elementary/ballwin.htm> for policy information regarding illness and medication, as well as information on treatment and prevention of head lice, during this season of close contact, hats and coats. Children should be wearing appropriate outerwear to school, such as a coat, hat and gloves. With weather permitting all students will be able to enjoy their outside lunch recess if appropriately attired.

Guidelines for Recess and PE Outdoors

Temperature - (including wind chill/heat index)

Below 20 - Stay Inside

20-95 Degrees- Outside Normal Time

96 and Above- Stay Inside

With the cold weather, of course children improperly clothed should not be allowed out and with the warm weather running should be limited and water/shade available. These guidelines are not the same as MSHSAA for after-school outdoor activities; they are the recommendations of the RSD consulting physician Gerald Lowther, MD, with input from district administrators. (Rev. 6-08)

STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAYS

Early Dismissal Days

Please mark your calendars for the upcoming staff development days. It is very important to inform your child's teacher of any transportation changes on these days. School Dismissed at 12:08PM – PM Kindergarten attends from 8:23 AM to 12:08PM, LUNCH IS SERVED. For more calendar information please visit www.rockwood.k12.mo.us

September 15 _____

October 13 _____

November 5 _____

December 8 _____

January 15 _____

February 12 _____

March 2 _____

April 1 _____

May 4 _____

ROCKWOOD'S HEALTHY FAMILY EXPO PROMOTES GOOD HEALTH

The Rockwood School District presents the Healthy Family Expo Saturday, February 6 at Wildwood MS from 10AM – 2PM. This free district wide Expo offers families an opportunity to participate in health screenings, demonstrations and interactive fitness activities suitable for all ages. The Expo is based on a national initiative "Coordinated School Health Program" created by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), featuring all eight school health components that collectively work towards health promotion, centered on students

For more information about Rockwood's Healthy Family Expo, contact Mark Sissom at 636-938-2333.

NOTES FROM THE NURSE

ATTENTION ALL 5TH GRADE PARENTS - A physical examination is required of all students entering sixth grade. It is recommended that you begin to schedule appointments now for the exam. Physical examinations are to be done by a licensed physician. Once the physical is completed, please return it to the Ballwin nurse.

The state of Missouri has enacted new immunization requirements that go into effect for the 2010-2011 school year. Please take this information with you when you visit your physician for your child's next check up. Effective beginning the 2010-2011 school year the following **new** requirements will be implemented:

Tdap (tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis) vaccine will be required for all incoming eighth (8th) grade students if the child has completed the recommended childhood DTaP/DTP vaccination series and has not received a Td booster within the past two (2) years.

For children enrolled in grades nine (9) through twelve (12) who have not received a single dose of Td, it is highly recommended they receive a single dose of Tdap as their catch-up booster instead of Td or receive one dose of Tdap two years after the last Td dose.

Your child's complete immunization record on file with the school district may be accessed via the parent portal of Infinite Campus by clicking on the health icon.

If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Debra Shabel, R.N., at 636-207-2533, EXT. 229 or email shabeldebra@rockwood.k12.mo.us.

If your child is still in need of the H1N1 vaccine and/or booster, it is available free, on a walk-in basis at:

South County Health Center

4580 S. Lindbergh Blvd.

Sunset Hills, MO 63127

314 842 1300

and

North Central Community Health Center

4000 Jennings Station Rd.

Pine Lawn, MO 63121

314 679 7800

CHARACTER EDUCATION

The Character Education word for the month of February is **HONESTY**. Honesty is defined as being truthful, fair, and trustworthy. **HONESTY** is also an expectation with the Positive Behavior Support program for the classroom and playground areas. Staff members at school will target the word **HONESTY** and teach lessons directed at getting a positive behavior outcome. Please take time at home to stress the importance for your child to be **HONEST** at school.



ACCELERATION & DIFFERENTIATION IN FIFTH GRADE

By giving students choices, all fifth graders have an opportunity to research, create, and explore beyond the given curricular objectives in each subject area.

In language arts, fifth graders practice and apply a focus skill, vocabulary, and reading strategy for each story read. There are grammar practices, related spelling words, and writing assignments integrated with the stories. Students also read and discuss short selections of various ability levels during the week, practicing the vocabulary and writing skills at their level. They read selections from multiple genres, including fiction and non-fiction pieces. Students on all levels are offered the opportunity to explore and be challenged. Fifth graders are frequently given choices of writing and research topics, both personal and curricular related. They use peer and teacher conferencing to revise and improve their writing. Small and large group instruction on sentence and paragraph writing, grammar, parts of speech, expository and narrative writing is included as needed. All students are encouraged to develop pieces of writing to the fullest extent of their ability.

The Everyday Math curriculum teaches students new concepts, as well as providing review and practice on previously taught skills. At 5th grade, students focus on long division, fractions, decimals, and problem solving, in addition to working higher level problems using multiplication, place value, geometry, and measurement. Each student is accelerated at his/her level.

In Science and Social Studies, all fifth graders are exposed to new and challenging information. Work is often integrated with reading and language assignments to enhance the meaning for students. Differentiated projects, research, and papers on current events, exploration, American history, science process, life, physical, and earth science are used to meet individual needs and allow for acceleration.



ROCKWOOD EARLY CHILDHOOD

The early childhood classroom at Ballwin Elementary has openings for the 2010-11 school year. Registration begins at the end of January. If interested call Ms. Pat Farney-Bockmann at 636.207-2600.

The Rockwood **Parents As Teachers** is for you if you have a child less than 36 months of age, then you qualify to participate in this **FREE** program. A certified parent educator visits you in your home, bringing fun activities and developmental information. We also offer workshops and yearly screenings – all focused on getting your child off to the best start in learning! For more info, call 636.207.2600 ext. 221 or 636.861.7772 ext. 321.

COME JOIN ADVENTURE CLUB

Adventure Club is accepting applications for in K-6th grade for Fall 2010. You may pick up an application at Vandover Early Childhood Center or visit www.rockwood.k12.mo.us and click on Hot Links and Adventure Club to apply online or print out a paper application to be mailed to the Vandover office. All applications will be dated and timed upon submittal. As in previous years, current families and new Kdg families will be given priority for the first 30 days of enrollment.

Kindergarten Adventure Club applications for next year will be available at Kdg registration on February 3rd & 4th. Kindergarten Adventure Club is a half day program that offers enrichment activities. Adventure Club offers quality care, dedicated space at your child's elementary school, reasonable cost, flexible schedule, 1:12 staff ratio for Kindergarten, 1:16 staff ratio for before and after, activity based curriculum, and fees qualify for childcare tax credit and flex spending plans. For more information, please call 636-861-7768.



2009-10 BALLWIN SPELLING BEE

Ballwin Elementary held its 16th annual St. Louis Post Dispatch Spelling Bee on Wednesday, January 20, 2010. Congratulations to all the 4th and 5th grade students who participated in their classroom spelling bees. Many thanks also to Ms. Isom and Ms. Marchetto for their expert assistance in making our spelling bee a true success.

The 2010 Ballwin Spelling Bee winner is Michael Wu a 4th grade student from Ms. Knight's classroom and runner-up is Kate Throm a 5th grade student from Mrs. Kirk's classroom. Our finalists this year were: Amy Stimmel, Michael Wu, Dominik Kosican, Alyssa Werner, Alex Disansa, Kate Throm, Vishal Shah and Brandon Ingli.

Michael will proceed to Maryville University on Saturday, March 6, 2010 for a regional written semi-final bee. The Ballwin Bears wish Michael good luck in his upcoming competition.

Mrs. Patricia Sainato
Spelling Bee Coordinator

District News

February 2010

\$55 Million, No-Tax Increase Bond Issue on April 6 Ballot



Safety
Maintenance
Additions for classrooms
Renovations
Technology

The Rockwood School Board voted unanimously to place a \$55 million, no-tax increase, bond issue on the April 6 ballot. The decision follows months of review and a final recommendation from the 50-member citizens' committee that studied the needs of each Rockwood school.

Named Proposition 5, the referendum would not require an increase to the district's present tax rate. A four-sevenths (57.14 percent) majority is necessary for passage.

When is the election?

Tuesday, April 6, 2010. Polls are open 6 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Where can I vote?

Just prior to the election date, each registered voter will receive a postcard from the Election Office designating the polling place for the voter. In addition, you can find your polling place at www.stlouisco.com/scripts/elections.

Who may vote?

Any Rockwood resident who is a registered voter may vote in this election. Anyone needing to register to vote or to update voter registration information may do so at:

any Rockwood school,
any St. Louis County library,
any City Hall, or online at
www.stlouisco.com/elections/VOTER_REG_APP.pdf

March 1 is the deadline for processing registrations and reinstatements to be eligible to vote on April 6. Call the St. Louis County Board of Elections at (314) 615-1800 for more information.

Where can I find Prop 5 information?

Visit the Rockwood Web site - or your school Web site - and click the Prop 5 link for more information about the referendum and voting:www.rockwood.k12.mo.us.

EXPO Time in Rockwood

Healthy Family Expo

This free district-wide Expo offers families the chance to participate in health screenings, demonstrations and interactive fitness for all ages.

Date: Saturday, Feb. 6
Time: 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
The Expo will be held at Wildwood Middle School at 17401 Manchester Rd. in Wildwood. For more information, call **(636) 938-2333**.



Summer Academy Expo 2010

What will your children be doing this summer? Plan your child's summer activities at the Rockwood Summer Expo. More than 60 exhibitors will show parents and students the opportunities available during summer, including Drivers Education.

Date: Sunday, February 14
Time: 11 a.m.-3 p.m.
The Expo will be held at Marquette High School located at 2351 Clarkson Road in Chesterfield. Call **636-938-2362** for more information.

Board of Education Candidates

Five Rockwood citizens will be vying for two seats on the Rockwood Board of Education for the April 6 election.

The three-year terms of Stephen C. Banton and Janet Strate expire in April 2010. Board candidates, in order of filing as their names will appear on the ballot, are:

Janet Strate
Linda D. Francois, M.Ed.
Stephen (Steve) Banton
Tina M. Stinnett
Vincent R. Shorter

Read more about the candidates on the Rockwood Web site at www.rockwood.k12.mo.us.



Bear Bits

JANUARY 2010



Dear Ballwin Families,

Special thanks to the following individuals and groups:

- Eileen Graessle for coordinating the DARE graduation for 5th graders;
- Amy Jones and the FEATS (Families Enthusiastically Appreciating Teachers & Staff) team for assembling the December cookie buffet, and all of the families providing treats;
- Teachers and staff who

continue to support students in their learning and growth...and for their *additional* time and effort to assist students pursuing the "Dream Catcher" scholarship promoted by Rockwood Schools Foundation;

- Jacque Alt and Tracy Meyer for cafeteria volunteer coordination;
- Parents/guardians who volunteer in the classroom, the library, the cafe and on field trips;
- Parents and grandparents who helped with the Kindergarten Water Works

program on January 15th;

- Anna Speaker and the Spirit Wear team for coordinating and distributing orders;
- Pat and Sarah McDermott for providing greater Free Money options for Ballwin;
- Miss Amy Knight for assisting PSO with website postings and transition to the new site;
- Mr. Dave Mathys for securing a grant from *AeroGrow Growing Kids* to use an indoor garden to teach nutrition and life sci-

ence; and

- Mary Pat McCandless, Mrs. Edge Caffray and the Trivia Team for the January 29th Ballwin Trivia Night!

Please join us for the next PSO meeting **Tues., Feb. 9 at 9:45am** following the 8:45am Bear Social.

Thank you for your support of our children and our school!

Maiya Ingram, PSO President

Fifth Grade Fun Day

Mark your calendars today for the 5th grade Fun Day: May 25th, 2010.

We need many volunteers! Please consider spending a fun day with your fifth grader and

volunteer to help us make this a memorable day with your child!

Please email us to volunteer ballwin5th-grade@yahoo.com

Don't forget your camera!

The Yearbook Committee needs your pictures!

The yearbook committee would like to ask for your help in gathering photos for our yearbook. We want to do a good job of representing every classroom at Ballwin Elementary, so the more photos we have to work with, the better. :) We need photos of basically anything and everything that goes on at school: candid classroom shots (regular class, gym, lunch,) class parties, field trips, spe-

cial events like track meets or science fairs, etc.

Digital photos can be burned onto disks or e-mailed to us (subject line "yearbook".) Disks and/or prints can be dropped off in the PSO mailbox in the office. It would be helpful if you could turn the pictures in as soon as you get them. If you have any questions, please contact us, and THANK YOU!

Stacy Dugan-Wilcox
(gary@dugan-wilcox.com)
Becky Ingli
(twnsx2@earthlink.net)

Valentine Parties



Thursday, February 11th
AM Kindergarten 10-11a.m.
All other classes 2-3 p.m.

All parents are welcome to attend. If you would like to help in any way with this "parent sponsored" party, please call Amanda Ozer-sky 636.527.9339 or email to amanda.ozersky@gmail.com.

If you will be joining us, please remember:

- * No front lot parking *
- * Sign in when you arrive *
- * Classroom parties do not accommodate siblings *

Thank you for your understanding. Hope to see you at the party!

WINTER



WONDERLAND

Boxtops

Pillsbury is giving away 50,000 boxtops to 2 lucky schools! To enter to win, visit www.boxtops4education.com/pillsburyboxtops. The contest runs from Jan. 4 - Feb. 28.

Thanks!



Thanks to all the parents, teachers & friends of Ballwin Elementary who participated in our Trivia Night and Silent Auction. It was a wonderful evening of fun, fellowship and fundraising! Start studying for next year!
Mary-Pat McCandless,
chair