

# the VIKING VOICE



The newsletter of  
Uthoff Valley Elementary

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www.rockwood.k12.mo.us/uthoffvalley

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Dear Families,

Can you believe it's the end of the year? It has been a wonderful journey getting to know all of you and your children. As a new principal to Rockwood and Uthoff Valley, I have felt supported and welcomed. Each person has done so much to make this school and community a home for me. My family and I cherish the friendships and support that have made this our new "home school". From the moment I interviewed at Uthoff Valley, I felt this was a "right fit" for me. My strengths as an administrator would take Uthoff Valley to the next level. This was already a great school because of the administrators, teachers, and families and I wanted to bring something here that would make it even greater. Because of the support I receive each day, I think we are heading in the right direction. Recently, we held a principal's chat after the volunteer appreciation breakfast. Many parents stayed and shared our successes and their desires for the coming year. Grand Person's Day was a big hit and we will continue it next year. Our goal is to plan it when our Equation's Team isn't competing. The movie night was at a busy time for families, so we will consider a different time of year and we are going to consider a dance for mothers/sons and daughter/fathers. We will continue to have muffins with mom, but hope to have an event for dads as well. Time has gotten away for us to plan this event for the current year. The Friday Folders have been a great addition to our communication tools for families. We continue to work out little issues, but overall this has been a great change. The parents that volunteer each week are **greatly** appreciated. A final suggestion was for a principal chat at least once a semester.

Please check out the mural on May 14<sup>th</sup> when you attend the Fun Fair. Lisa Mueller and Sonia Ennis were the two parent volunteers that have taken on this huge project. Along with the help of several other parent and teacher committee members, the 2009-2010 students and staff have a lasting art installation to commemorate their time at Uthoff Valley. There are many people to thank, but without the help of Tom Mueller, this would have been a difficult task. Everyone's support and generosity with time and materials is appreciated.

To our fifth grade students, we wish you the best as you take the big step to middle school. We are proud of the character that you have developed and the wonderful talents you will share as you take the next steps in reaching your potential as young adults. We will miss you, but look forward to hearing about all of your accomplishments.

Enjoy your summer with family and friends.

Sincerely,

## Important Dates

### May

- 14 Fun Fair—5:30-8:00
- 19 Last Day of CCL
- 25 Rock On Assembly
- 26 Field Day
- 27 AM Kdg Party-11:00-11:45
- PM Kdg Party-2:45-3:30
- Full Day Kdg Party-2:45-3:30
- First Grade Party—2:45-3:30
- Second Grade Party—2:45-3:30
- Third Grade Party—2:45-3:30
- Fourth Grade Party—2:45-3:30
- Fifth Grade Celebration—9:10-10:45
- Last Day of School—Report Cards Sent Home with Students**

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## You Rock!

**You Rock!** Blood Drive Donors: Mike Summers, Molly Larsen, Nancy VanCardo, Steve Kremer, Cathie Meuser, Kate and Chris Hahn, Lenn Clemons, Karls Blair, Diane Hurst, David Contestable, Heidi Brooks, Becky Strickland, Tom Clark, Rebecca Peterson, and Matt Bayes.

**You Rock!** A great big thank you to Mrs. Anderson, Mrs. Humphrey, Mrs. Needy and Mrs. Sandweg for all of your help setting up our All District Art Show at Wildwood Middle School. You were awesome!

**You Rock!** Staff Donors: Cathie Meuser, Rachel Schoenberger, Megan Lauck, Sara Schreder, Joel Clark, Jeanne Gilbert, Joel Clark, Dale Clemons, Jan Araniecke, Glory Freeland, Jennifer Soetaert, Tina Clark and 1<sup>st</sup> time donor Miss Christina Brown.

**You Rock!** Our MCTM Math competition participants: Ashley Perone, Joey Corey, Cameron Vogt, and Jack Dillon(4<sup>th</sup> Grade) and Sarah Peterson, Joe Yoder, Brendan Blair, and Daniel Money(5<sup>th</sup> grade). We had two Uthoff Valley students that placed: Jack Dillon placed 6<sup>th</sup> in Fourth Grade Concepts and Daniel Money placed 6<sup>th</sup> in Fifth Grade Concepts and 7<sup>th</sup> in Fifth Grade Problem Solving.

## Trivia Night Thank You

Thank you to everyone who made our Uthoff Valley Trivia Night such a successful evening. Because of your generosity, we raised over \$11,000 for our kids. So, thanks to the volunteers who worked countless hours, the parents and friends who donated items and attended the event, and the Uthoff staff who once again came through with flying colors!

The Uthoff Valley Trivia Night Committee  
Becky Sebelski, Jennifer Spencer, Liz Fendler, Lorelee Mondl, Margo McIlroy, Nina See, and Susan Boden

## Nurse's Corner

As we prepare for the summer there are several items to be considered that may require parental attention.

If your student(s) has any type of medication at school, a parent or an adult designated by the parent must make plans to come to school to retrieve the medication. Per district medication policy, no medication will be sent home with a student or through the mail. Any medication not picked up by 4:00 p.m. on May 28, 2009, will be disposed of according to DEA regulations.

Students going into the sixth grade will need to have an up-to-date physical on file. A physician may recommend immunizations for your child's protection.

## Last Day of School

Thursday, May 27<sup>th</sup>, is the last day of school for all students. This will be a full day of attendance for students in full day kindergarten and grades one through five. Buses will run their regular schedules on this day. AM and PM Kindergarten buses will also run according to their regular schedule.

## Fun Fair Volunteers Needed

We are looking for volunteers to help out with the Uthoff Valley Fun Fair. The Fun Fair will be held on Friday, May 14<sup>th</sup> from 5:30pm - 8:30pm and will feature circus acts, carnival games, face painting and refreshments and should be lots of fun for all!

There are volunteer opportunities for event set-up, ticket pick-up, managing the games, face painting, ushers for the circus acts and/or movie, passing out meals and event clean-up.

Please contact Kelly Loretta at [kobl@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kobl@sbcglobal.net) if you are interested in volunteering.

## Registration for 2010-2011

As families with children of elementary school age move into the Uthoff Valley Elementary School area, please ask them to register their children as soon as possible by calling the school office at 636-305-2717. It is important to enroll students as soon as possible as this effects class lists and staffing.

## Book Fair Thank You

Thanks to all of you, we raised over \$4,500 this year at our Book Fairs. Our volunteers make a difference along with our Uthoff Valley Staff. We also want to thank all of the Grandparents who supported our fair this year as well.

The Uthoff Valley Book Fair Committee,  
Becky Glandt, Gayle Wagner, Deb Humphrey, and Lorelee Mondl

## Field Day

Field Day is scheduled for May 26<sup>th</sup>. Grades 1 and 2 will participate from 9:30-11:00 am. Grade 3-5 will participate from 2:00-3:30 p.m. Kindergarten a.m. 11:00-11:30 a.m. and Kindergarten p.m. 1:15-1:45 p.m. Please be sure to do the following:

- Apply sunscreen
- Hats are optional
- Wear comfortable clothing (weather appropriate clothing)
- Wear gym shoes (no sandals or Crocks)
- Bring a water bottle clearly labeled with student's first and last name
- Bring your positive attitude and SMILES for a fun day
- No rain date for this event

## School news moves online!

The information in the Viking Voice is moving online August 2010. To help keep parents in the communication loop, our monthly school newsletter is being replaced with the home page of the school Web site.

With the re-organization of our school Web site, parents can receive school news every day by logging on to the Uthoff Valley Web site at [www.rockwood.k12.mo.us/uthoffvalley](http://www.rockwood.k12.mo.us/uthoffvalley)

Instead of a once-a-month newsletter, parents can find the latest information online at their convenience: events, school announcements and news from the principal and more.

To remind parents of school news items, our principal will send out an email reminder each Friday. This reminder will provide links to our school calendar and announcement pages, as well as important news our parents need to know. Parents will be able to do the following:

- ✦ Print off the school calendar
- ✦ Link to the most recent school announcements
- ✦ Access curriculum and department updates

Find out what's going in with the PTO

If your family does not have a way to access the Internet and receive email messages, please let us know. Call 636-305-2717 and we'll make sure you receive printed copies of these messages via your child's weekly take-home folder.

Uthoff Valley understands that one of the keys to ensuring the best educational experience possible for your child and family is great communication. Remember all the ways we work to keep parents updated on what your child is doing and what's happening at school.

### **Electronic**

**Teacher Web sites:** To help build upon learning, teachers share important information about what's going on in the classroom.

**Rockwood Web site:** Learn about district-wide programs and resources for students, parents, community and staff.

**AlertNow Messages: Phone or Email:** Parents will receive important information - such as emergency notifications, school closings due to inclement weather, and other school news.

### **Resources:**

**Take-Home Folders:** Each child at our school has a folder, which your student will bring home on Fridays. It includes items, such as program flyers, artwork, notes from the teacher, etc.

**PTO Communication:** Our parent-teacher organization keeps parents in the loop through PTO newsletters and email notices.

# 2010-2011: Changes in Elementary School Schedules

Beginning next year, Rockwood parents will notice a few changes in the way elementary schools schedule the school day.

## What is it?

All Rockwood elementary schools will have larger blocks of time scheduled for core curricular areas, such as language arts, math, science and social studies. In addition, each grade level will have sections for art, music, physical education, strings and technology.

## Why the change?

Students have a lot to learn and enjoy in elementary school. By changing the schedule, students and teachers will benefit the following ways:

- 1) Focus on core curriculum:** Uninterrupted blocks of time allow for extended instruction in the areas of language arts, math, science and social studies.
- 2) Increased collaboration:** Teachers will have a common planning time and can share best practices that are innovative and successful in the classroom.

## Do you have a question about the new schedule?

Please contact your school principal and ask what changes you and your family can expect and how they will benefit your child's education. For more information call (636) 938.2447.

## What does it mean for my child?

### Core Classes: Language Arts, Mathematics, Science and Social Studies

With more time for core classes, your child's teacher can provide more opportunities for hands-on, individualized learning. The new schedule provides larger units of instructional time - and this allows teachers to manage the classroom more effectively and meet the needs of all students in these important curricular areas. It allows for increased collaboration among teachers for students who receive services to support their education, such as those provided by Special School District and Reading Intervention.

### Physical Education:

Rockwood is committed to providing health and physical education for all students. In previous years, elementary students had four days of physical education and one day of health in a classroom setting. With upcoming changes to the schedule, students will receive four days of physical education, which includes 30-minutes provided for health in this four-day schedule. The health curriculum is currently under committee review to determine the most effective way to deliver this instruction.

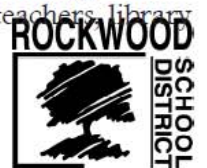
It is important to note the district exceeds the state requirements for minutes in physical education classes - now and with the new elementary schedule for 2010-2011. Students will receive four days of 30-minute physical education classes. In addition, remember that students have recess five days a week for 20-minutes sessions. Together, this provides our children more than 220 minutes of physical activity a week.

### Strings:

Research shows that students enjoy and retain music education the younger they are exposed to this type of learning. Next year, strings classes will be required for 3rd-grade and 4th-grade students. After this initial phase-in, strings classes become optional for 4th- and 5th-grade students during the 2011-2012 school year. Students at this level may choose the electives of strings or technology.

### Technology:

Rockwood incorporates technology into the classroom. Our curriculum focuses on integration so technology is an important component in the classroom learning. The district has increased its collaboration among teachers, library media specialists and instructional technology coaches to ensure students learn research skills and Internet safety inside the classroom as part of their core education. Additional technology classes are available for students, as an alternative to strings education.



**Come one, come ALL!  
To the 2010  
Uthoff Valley Elementary  
FUN FAIR**

**BIG TOP UTHOFF  
FRIDAY, MAY 14  
5:30 P.M. – 8:30 P.M.**

12 noon Ticket table open  
5:30 p.m. Food/snacks open until 8 p.m.  
Chick-fil-a boxed dinners \$5  
Carnival games open until 8:30 p.m.  
Stilt walker/juggler until 7:30 p.m.  
Mime until 7:30 p.m.  
Clown balloon sculptor until 8:00 p.m.  
Airbrush face painters until 7:30 p.m.  
Face painter until 8:30 p.m.



5:30 p.m. **STAGE – Comedy Magic Show (30 min)**  
6:15 p.m. **STAGE – Magic Show (40 min)**  
7:15 p.m. **STAGE - St. Louis Arches (40 min finale)**  
“Cuts for the Cure” will be happening in between acts

**CIRCUS**  
**BIG TOP UTHOFF**

**A special thank you to all the parent volunteers and Visiontracks, Inc.  
and Advanced Dental Arts for their commitment to the Fun Fair.**



The Rockwood School District and the Drug-Free Coalition invite parents to be a part of the Neighborhood of Excellence award program. Earn distinction for your neighborhood by giving youth a voice in your community.

Children and teens who feel valued, connected and accountable are less likely to indulge in risky behaviors. Join us in an effort to empower youth and enable them to reach their potential.

- Register your neighborhood.
- Plan and implement your ideas.
- Share your success stories.

Working together, we can build relationships, provide youth with opportunities for growth, and make a difference in the Rockwood community.

For more information contact the Rockwood Drug-Free Coalition at 636-938-2363 or visit [www.rockwoodcoalition.org](http://www.rockwoodcoalition.org).

## Rockwood Relay for Life

Join your friends and neighbors:

**American Cancer Society  
Relay For Life for Rockwood  
June 4, 2010 from 6 p.m. – 6 a.m.  
Eureka High School**

Bring your family to this districtwide event and be a part of our community's commitment to celebrate cancer survivors, to remember those who have battled the disease, and to fight back for a cure.

Eureka High is located at 4525 Highway 109. Find more information on the Web site: [www.relayforlife.org/rockwoodmo](http://www.relayforlife.org/rockwoodmo).

## Thank you Rockwood Voters! Prop 5 Passes ~ What's Next?

Nearly 11,000 Rockwood voters endorsed a check for \$55 million when they approved Prop 5 during the April 6 elections. Here is what stakeholders can expect to see during the next two years of this bond issue cycle:

In June 2010, Rockwood's bond advisors will sell the bonds competitively. Since these are AAA bonds, they are very attractive. A list of prospective bidders is formed and the bidder with the lowest interest rate will be awarded the bonds.

Once the bonds are sold, Rockwood has the funds needed to begin working on the school project list with contractors.

Rockwood's construction management company works with the district's facilities department to plan and design the work; facilitate the competitive bidding process; and award contracts for the various projects.

A schedule for projects is being developed. You can follow the progress of the bond issue projects and see when they are completed by visiting this site: [www.rockwood.k12.mo.us](http://www.rockwood.k12.mo.us).

## Administrative Center: 733-2000

On April 29, the Rockwood Administrative Center is replacing its aged phone system, which means the school district's main office will change its phone number to (636) 733.2000.

The district's central office and related departments located at 111 E. North Central will replace the aged/at capacity telephone and voice-mail system with Voice over IP technology that includes 911 service.

Rockwood patrons can find an updated directory of administrative staff at this location on the Web site: [www.rockwood.k12.mo.us](http://www.rockwood.k12.mo.us).

