



A collaborative, nurturing and learning community

Gold and Blue Review

March 2018
[Roaring Brook Website](#)

All **Lost & Found** items are on display in the stairwell across from the faculty lounge.
 Please check the lost and found if your child is missing any clothing during the school year.



A note from Mrs. Porcelli

Dear RBS Families,

It is hard to believe we are more than halfway through the school year and it is even harder to believe that spring is just around the corner, given this weather!

Our March calendar says so much about the kind of place Roaring Brook is and what is valued. Kids have ample opportunities to play, explore, sing, dance, and act, to read, write, problem-solve and wonder.

- Kindergarteners will take part in a program called *The Nature of Things*, where the children will observe and touch live animals as they learn what the animals need to survive, their various habitats, and the way they adapt to the change in seasons.
- First-graders will be learning about different marine ecosystems and the unique life that inhabit our oceans. They will have opportunities to touch and feel real artifacts from the sea.
- As part of our second-graders' science unit about energy, the famous *Dirtmeister* will come to Roaring Brook for a grade-level assembly. Students will examine the different forms that energy can take including mechanical, chemical, heat, light, and electricity and explore how it can be transferred and transformed.
- Third-graders took part in a weather program, in which they headed outdoors and used meteorology tools to collect data and then came back inside to analyze and discuss the data collected.
- Fourth-graders will head to Philipsburg Manor to complement their social studies unit on explorers and colonial times and will study the way in which these explorers used the natural resources of the area to survive and in some cases thrive.



We thank the PTA Cultural Enrichment Committee for making many of these opportunities possible!

Academic learning balanced with experiences like these help bring learning to life and help to give it context, meaning, and purpose. I can't think of a better way to learn, can you?

Warmly,

Alison

(Twitter: [@aporcelliCCSD](#))



Music

Students have been actively involved in the music making process with Mr. Dupont. In addition to preparing for their grade level performances, each grade has been manipulating musical ideas, such as rhythm, melody, and form, through a variety of media, such as singing, movement, non-pitched and pitched percussion.



Thank you all for coming out to support our 1st- and 3rd-graders for their musical performances. Looking forward to seeing you at our upcoming grade level performances.

Art

Recently, 1st-graders took part in an artist study of Wassily Kandinsky's work. They listened to several different types of instrumental music and armed with watercolors and paint brushes they conducted a symphony of their very own.

Students danced around the art room to the music while painting. Once the music changed their paper also changed, four different types of music turned into four paintings full of lines, movement, colors, and shapes.

The art class flew right by and left the students wanting more time to create and dance! We look forward to continuing our artist studies here at RBS.



Library and Technology

Students have adjusted to their new library and technology spaces and construction on the Global Learning Center is moving forward as planned.



In January, all grades participated in the *Month of Code*. Students were introduced to the [Code.org](#) program during library and worked on code modules during their lab time with Ms. Wendel. Hands-on coding was explored as well with Kindergarten learning sequencing with the BeeBot robots and Kodable app; 1st-grade explored advanced Bee-Bot robot challenges; 2nd-grade used Dot & Dash and learning to solve Minecraft Adventurer coding puzzles, and older students explored block coding with the Ozobots and learned the basics of coding through the MIT coding program, *SCRATCH*.

World Read Aloud Day

was celebrated on February 1 and was a very exciting day with guest readers visiting classrooms to read aloud. We also had different grade levels partnering for Buddy Reading. We celebrated the joy of literacy and reflected on how fortunate we are to have books readily available to our students to increase their knowledge, inform their interests and journey to the world of imagination and adventure.



In addition, the "American Library Association Youth Media Awards" were announced on February 5. Roaring Brook readers participated in a mock Caldecott activity by voting on 18 different picture books that were under consideration for the Caldecott Medal. The award went to *Wolf in the Snow* by Matthew Cordell, and Roaring Brook's favorite was *After the Fall* by Dan Santat.

Physical Education

Right before the Winter Recess, students did amazing work in their fitness stations! Students had one minute in each station to engage in push-ups, jumping jacks, burpees, sit-ups, planks, shoulder taps, and "clean the floor." Students recently wrapped up their "pin pass" unit which involves team play, throwing and math skills. Coach W and Coach Lops are now working with the students on basketball and will move into hockey or European handball next!



[Important] Upcoming Dates at Roaring Brook

- March 12-16: Kindergarten Registration (9:30am-2pm)
 - March 13: Parent University (7-9pm at Seven Bridges)
 - March 20: Parent/Principal Coffee (STEAM: 9:30-10:30am)
 - March 30-April 5: Spring Recess (**school on April 6**)
 - Testing Dates for 3rd and 4th Grade:
 - April 11-12: ELA
 - May 1-2: Math
 - June 4: Science
 - Performance Dates:
 - March 23: Kindergarten
 - May 11: Second Grade
 - June 15: Fourth Grade
 - May 3: Incoming Kindergarten Orientation (7-8:30pm)
- Click [HERE](#) for the full calendar of upcoming RBS events.



Safety Updates & Reminders

As a school, we are always reviewing our safety procedures to ensure adequate safety for all of our students. In light of the recent tragic events in Florida, we have reviewed our sign-in procedures and have made some adjustments:

- As in year's past, Mr. Gately will return to the procedure of using the intercom system for ALL visitors to Roaring Brook. He will ask visitors to present their license to the intercom camera before being buzzed into the building. Visitors will then sign in on the log as usual. Upon the completion of the visit, all visitors will be asked to head back to Mr. Gately's desk to sign out of the building and exit through the front of the building only.
- Parking for performances: We ask that all visitors enter through the front of the building to sign in for performances. If you park in the upper lot, you will be asked to walk around to the front of the building.
- Please remember that parking in fire lanes is not permitted at any time of the day, as we need to leave these lanes free in case of an emergency.

Thank you for your support and flexibility with our safety procedures. Please feel free to reach out if you have any questions.