



Tiger Tales

Rockfish Elementary
5763 Rockfish Road
Hope Mills, NC 28348

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S PEN

Plans for travel and fun celebrations are in full swing as Rockfish students and staff alike look forward to our winter holidays! Many will be honoring lifelong traditions such as family gatherings, hanging stockings, or exchanging gifts. However you choose to enjoy the school break and season of benevolence with your family, I would encourage you to find opportunities to teach your children the value of giving to those of our community who live in unfortunate circumstances and have little to celebrate. Kindness, compassion, and generosity are taught, not caught.

Again this year, I suggest you tuck "time gift cards" into your child's stocking with a date and destination for an event together or wrap up a small box filled with "time gift cards" that include predetermined dates along with a menu of events from which your child may choose. A gift of time will be long remembered when other gifts diminish in significance. The "time gift cards" can be as simple or elaborate as you choose to make them. If your traditions do not include exchanging gifts, consider placing "special time together cards" in a jar or box and let your child choose one each day for a week or for the entire break. There's nothing more valuable to your child than your time.

Tuesday, December 19 will be an early release day (12:25 p.m.) for all students, and the school will be closed for the Winter Holidays through January 3, 2024 for all students. **Students will return to school on Thursday, January 4, 2024.** Be safe as you enjoy this time together with families and friends. Students, please take time to read over the holidays.

COUNSELOR'S CORNER

December's character trait is caring. People who are caring display kindness and concern for people, their environment, their community, themselves, and animals. December is often the season of giving, which is a way to be caring.

Student Services hope you all had a wonderful Thanksgiving and have a safe and happy holiday season. Thank you to all who donated to our RFES Food Train - it was a HUGE success.

December 11-19 the Student Services is looking for volunteers to help wrap gifts for families in need. Please reach out to Sarah Zahm if you can help. You must be an approved CCS volunteer.

We will be hosting a Career Day on March 13 from 1:05-2:05 pm. Please call or email Sarah Zahm (sarahzahm@ccs.k12.nc.us) if you would like to participate. It would take up about 1 hour of your time. Thanks in advance.

December 2023

- ✓ 4th- PTA Meeting- 6:00pm
- ✓ 7th- Anger Management Session- 8:00-8:30am
(Learn activities/tips to help children stay calm)
- ✓ 14th- Winter Holiday Program (2nd/4th grade)- 5:30pm
- ✓ 19th- End of 2nd Nine Weeks/Two Hour Early Release
(Students will leave at 12:25pm)
- ✓ December 20th- January 3rd- Winter Break

MEDIA

Thank you for supporting the Media Center by making purchases from the Scholastic Book Fair. All money will be used to purchase items for classrooms, the Media Center, and replace books in our collection.

Try stepping away from electronics this month.



Use Your Imagination

- Make paper airplanes out of colored paper.
- Cut out paper dolls and accessories from newspapers.
- Create doll houses and furniture out of felt pieces.
- Build skyscrapers out of LEGOs or Tinker Toys.
- Use large cardboard boxes to create kid-sized houses that the kids can decorate.

Spend Time with Family

- Look through photo albums or school memorabilia.
- Use your talents to create a family variety show.
- Cook dinner together or bake cookies.
- Sing karaoke or have a dance party.
- Listen to a book on audio together every night.

(from www.atlantaparent.com)

...and reading a book is always a GREAT choice!

PRE-K

It is hard to believe that the winter holidays are quickly approaching! Our Pre-K students are working hard and learning every day! We would like to take this opportunity to thank ALL of our parents for helping our youngest learners at Rockfish! We could not do it without your help. Tuesday, December 19th will be a two hour early release day for all children. We will dismiss at 12:25 p.m. Wednesday, December 20th is the start of our winter holidays and children will come back to school on Thursday, January 4th! We hope everyone has a great winter break and we look forward to seeing everyone in the NEW YEAR!

Mission Statement

Rockfish Elementary School is committed to providing a quality education for all students within a safe and supportive atmosphere where all feel secure, loved, and challenged.



KINDERGARTEN

Kindergarten will begin working on the letters Nn and Cc. We will continue to identify the beginning sound in a word, blend and segment onset and rime, write a sentence, opinion write, and learn about Holidays around the World. We will also start learning the teen numbers. We were excited to see our "hidden turkeys" come in to school. We look forward to the winter break. The kindergarten team would like to wish you and your family a wonderful and safe break and a Happy New Year!

FIRST GRADE

First grade is moving along smoothly! In ELA we are continuing working with students in small groups. This helps us to meet with each student on his or her individual level. We are now moving on to more complex letter blends and digraphs. To help students with their reading fluency, please encourage students to read daily for 20 minutes. Students have the option to read their library books, decodables, reading/writing companions sent home with each Wonders unit, as well as online through EPIC. In addition to learning more complex letter sounds, students are learning all about solving subtraction and addition word problems and how to organize and display data. Students are continuing to

recognize patterns and changes in the moon's appearance from day to day. Lastly, students are learning how perspectives change the community and how art, music and literature enrich the community.



SECOND GRADE

Hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving break! We had a great time on our Zoo Field Trip learning about all the different types of animals. We have a little over 2 weeks before we go home for Winter Break. This is your last chance to meet your AR goal for this nine weeks! Keep reading!! In math, we are reviewing place value, skip counting by 5s, 10s, and 100s, and the different ways to show numbers (base ten, number names, expanded form). We are learning all about weather in science. Civics and Government is still our focus in Social Studies. Have a great Winter Break!

THIRD GRADE

Third graders have been busy at work. Students have enjoyed reading historical fiction texts about immigration to the United States. They have learned so much about the history of our diverse country, and why so many have chosen to move to America. They have worked hard to use text evidence and details to determine the central idea and theme, as well as the main idea of texts. We will be moving quickly into expository texts about Earth and the Solar system.

In math our students have been working on the relationship between addition and subtraction, estimating, and solving two step word problems. We will also be spiraling back to multiplication and division concepts, so students need to be working on their times tables at home to learn them to automaticity.

We look forward to learning about different winter holidays, and the way different countries around the world celebrate them.

Please be sure to check your child's planner each night, and ensure that they are reading so that they can earn their AR goal for the second nine weeks of school.

FOURTH GRADE

Happy December fourth grade families! This month in math, students will begin working on different strategies for multiplying and dividing multi-digit numbers. In ELA, students will continue to work on the stories in the Wonders curriculum with a focus on narrative stories, poetry, and writing. Our science explorations will lead us through the rocky process of the rock cycle. In social studies, students will learn about the different regions of North Carolina. Please make sure your child reads library books on their grade level so they can work towards achieving their AR point and comprehension goals (85%).

FIFTH GRADE

Fifth grade is working on narrative and free verse poetry. Narrative poetry tells a story and free verse poetry shares feeling with no set rhyme or rhythm. In literacy we are also working on theme. A poem's theme is the big idea or message the poet wishes to communicate to readers. Thinking about the speaker, word choices, and key details that the poet uses can help figure out the theme of the poem. In math we are working on extending multiplication to multiply a whole number by a fraction and mixed number. Fifth graders are learning to understand weather patterns and phenomena, making connections to the weather in a particular place and time in science. Please make sure your child is reading daily for a minimum of 20 minutes and you are having conversations with your child about what they are reading to help build fluency, enhance vocabulary, and foster a deeper comprehension.

