



From the Principal's Pen...

NOVEMBER 2020 - Traditionally, we think of November as a season of Thanksgiving and set aside a special day for our expressions of thankfulness; however, heartfelt gratitude is timeless. Even in the midst of a pandemic, we can, and should, express gratitude every day for the blessings in our lives.

Our community has experienced many difficult situations since March 2020; nevertheless, we have joined together and continued the important task of preparing our students for success. For that blessing alone, I must extend my deepest appreciation to our wonderful staff, students, parents, and community for doing so much with so little to make it happen. I am aware that it has not been easy for many of you.

In November, we also set aside a special day to honor the military veterans in our great nation. I want to say thank you to all the veterans among our RFES parents and staff. Because of your sacrifices, we have the privilege of educating our children and teaching them about the numerous opportunities they are free to explore and enjoy.

Progress Reports will be issued on Monday, November 16. Carefully review the report with your child and contact your child's teacher if you have concerns. Research confirms that a child's academic progress increases significantly when a parent supervises homework completion and encourages daily reading. I would also remind you to make every effort to assure your child logs in on time to school each day. Let's work together to make this year the most successful ever for your child.

If you plan to travel during the holidays, please be safe and remember our three Ws:



From the Counselor's Corner

Parents/Guardians, if you are interested in your child getting a bicycle from the Bicycle Man, contact your child's classroom teacher or Monica Hall, School Social Worker. Bicycles are limited to 2 per family and require a \$5 cash donation.

November's character trait is *INTEGRITY*. Integrity is doing the right thing when nobody is watching. Parents, you can check the history on your child's computer to make sure they are staying on task throughout the school day.

If you think your child could benefit from Mrs. Zahm's counseling services, please call the school and leave a message, email sarahzahm@ccs.k12.nc.us, or reach out to your child's classroom teacher.

Help is available for rent and utilities through the NC HOPE program for families affected by the economic impact of the coronavirus pandemic. You may call 211 during HOPE intake business hours of 7:00am-6:00pm, Monday- Friday or fill out an evaluation form online at <https://hopenc.tfaforms.net/3>. Classroom teachers, Monica Hall, and Sarah Zahm also have this information.

NOVEMBER 2020

- 1 Daylight Savings Time Ends - Turn clocks back!
- 3 Student Remote Learning/Teacher Workday (students will complete assigned work with no live instruction)
- 9 SIT Meeting - 2:45 pm
- 11 Student/Staff HOLIDAY - NO SCHOOL
Veteran's Day
- 16 Student Progress Reports shared virtually
- 25 Student Remote Learning/Teacher Workday (students will complete assigned work with no live instruction)
- 26-27 Student/Staff HOLIDAYS - NO SCHOOL



Pre-K

Happy Fall! Pre-K continues to learn and work hard daily! Tuesday, November 3 will be a student remote learning day/teacher workday, so students will not meet online. School will be closed on Wednesday, November 11 in honor of Veteran's Day!

The Pre-K Progress Report will be ready to share on Friday, November 13! I will send out more information soon. Since Wednesday, November 25 is a remote learning day/teacher workday, our students will not meet online. Thursday and Friday, November 26-27 are student holidays; school will be closed on both of those days. We hope everyone has a wonderful Thanksgiving!

Kindergarten

Small group instruction has started and K students are receiving individual instruction at their academic level. This makes a huge difference in their learning. We are excited at the progress they are making!

Literacy: We continue to learn about beginning sounds, segmenting words into two parts, and writing expectations. Math: We are making our way to counting and identifying numbers to 20. Science: We did some fun experiments involving force and motion and will be learning about physical properties of objects. Social studies: Students have learned about maps and using positional words to navigate to different locations. We will learn about needs and wants in upcoming lessons.

We want to thank our Rockfish families for all the support at home as we work together for the success of our children!

First Grade

Greetings, families! Our first graders are continuing to work hard during virtual learning. We look forward to seeing their faces each morning and love watching them grow! Please remember to have your child to continue completing the online Canvas assignments each week. Additionally, Success-Maker and Istation should be accessed 20 minutes daily. A great time to do this is during the afternoon small group time! Thank you for all that you do. Happy holidays!

Second Grade

Time is flying! We can't believe it's already November! Our second graders have acclimated well to virtual learning. We are proud of them. In math, students will be making arrays and skip counting by 5s, 10s, 100s.

Epic is a great website to read books with your child every night. New AR goals for the second nine weeks of school have been set. Make sure your child is AR testing to meet his/her goal.

Yay! Istation and SuccessMaker are up and running! Your child should log in to both programs daily and engage in learning with 20 minutes of instruction in each program.

Terrific Third Grade

Third grade is doing a great job learning new technology skills. When we moved to Webex for our meetings they made a smooth transition. We have been very impressed with their skills!

As we work through the second quarter, it is very important that students begin checking their Canvas Inbox. We will send messages for missing work and reminders through this platform. Messages will show the student's name and date of the missing assignment. The Inbox is on the left side of the screen in the gray column. We have practiced using this system so everyone should be comfortable.

We continue to move ahead with many third grade skills and our students are rising to the challenge! Thank you for all your support at home!



Fabulous Fourth Grade

Our awesome 4th graders finished the unprecedented first quarter of our 20-21 school year strong. Their demonstrated strength is now the momentum that will carry them through to the end of the 2nd quarter. They have made amazing accomplishments in math, English language arts, social studies and science.

Math: Students will finish Cluster 3, which teaches place value strategies to add and subtract whole numbers. They will also complete their transition to Cluster 4, which develops multiplication and division strategies. Both clusters are essential to their understanding of fractions later in the year. ELA: Students completed eight Journey's lessons and will complete eight more by the end of the 2nd Quarter. Social studies lessons continue to focus on North Carolina's culture and history while science remains focused on force and motion and earth history.

The most important activity for our students is reading. Through daily guided reading, students are introduced to high-interest instructional texts across genres that provide them an opportunity to read books of choice on their independent reading level and help them grow as readers. Our goal is to develop within your children a love of reading, which will have a positive impact on the rest of their lives.

Fifth Grade

- ✓ AR Goals have been set. Please make sure your child is reading.
- ✓ Math Fluency tests will continue. We will add the 10, 11 and 12 times tables around Thanksgiving.
- ✓ The help that our parents and families are giving to our students is so appreciated. We could not do this without you.
- ✓ An Awards Assembly will be held early in November. Watch for upcoming information.

From the Media Center

Our Virtual Scholastic Book fair will continue through November 3, 2020. Please visit our school website <http://rfes.ccs.k12.nc.us/> for more information.

Our Media Center has over 500 eBooks online. You may access them from our catalog at <http://destiny.ccs.k12.nc.us> Find and click on Rockfish Elementary School. You may retrieve books in two different ways:

1. Sebco eBooks or Britannica eBooks:

- Click on the link Sebco eBooks or Britannica eBooks.
- The username is Rockfish and the password is tigers. Click on log in.
- If prompted for your child's ID number, key it in and click log in. The numbers are not saved. They are used only to assure proper access.
- You may access any of the eBooks there.

2. Catalog:

- Click on the Catalog tab.
- Click on the drop-down menu Material Type and select Electronic Book (eBook).
- Click on the Keyword icon to bring up all of our eBooks.
- When you click on a book, you will be prompted for the username Rockfish and the password tigers.
- When you finish reading a book, you may click RETURN TO LIBRARY to select another book or Log out.

When you are completely finished, please make sure to Log out so others have access.

Happy Reading!

KIDS' CORNER!



Which side of the turkey has the most feathers? The outside!

Why was the turkey the drummer in the band? Because he had the drumsticks.

What always comes at the end of Thanksgiving? The letter "g".

What kind of music did Pilgrims listen to? Plymouth Rock!

NOTABLE THANKSGIVING QUOTES...

Gratitude unlocks the fullness of life! ~ Melody Beattie

As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them.
~John F. Kennedy