

Aug./Sept. 2008

Welcome to the start of the 2008-2009 school year! The staff at Rock Creek is excited to be back and working with the students. We welcome many new families to our school community and enjoy seeing many returning friends. We look forward to working together to help all students experience great success.

We welcome Kate Kimsey as our new Administrative Assistant this year as Debbie Mueller has taken the principal position at St. Peters Elementary. Please forgive the 'old' letterhead as we await the new to arrive. Both of us will work together to assist you in whatever way we can. Our goal is to help provide the best educational environment possible for each student to reach their highest potential.

We hope that Open House and Kindergarten Orientation helped you to better prepare your child for the first day of school. It is a good opportunity to ease some first day jitters and feel more comfortable with new classmates and teachers. It is also nice to complete some of the paper work while you are in the school building.



Our teachers will be implementing the new district-approved Social Studies curriculum to enhance learning opportunities. The process of writing curriculum goals which align with the State's grade level expectations occurred during the past year. These new textbooks and resources will help us in our goal of continued academic excellence.

As we begin our second year of being peanut-free, we'd like to thank everyone for their support of this policy. We understand this was a big change for our community last year, yet the process went fairly smoothly. The biggest concern came from the mini-snacks in boxed lunchables. We encourage everyone to look carefully and remove these items as needed. I am so proud of how well our students handled this change. They truly care for their peers and had a level of empathy we can all learn from. They also enjoyed the added microwaves, which increased lunch choice options. Our hope is continued support and understanding to keep these young students safe during school hours. Thank you!

We appreciate all efforts to keep the lines of communication open between home and school. As parents, your role in your child's education is vital to their success in school. We encourage you to look for ways to become involved in your child's education. Set your own goal to making a commitment to set aside quality time with your child. As always, feel free to contact your child's teacher, our office staff, or either of us if we can be of assistance.

Sincerely,

Deanne McCullough & Kate Kimsey





I would like to draw attention to the rummage sale drop-off on Friday, September 5 and the actual sale on Saturday, September 6. Brian Ott is a 4th grade student at Rock Creek Elementary who was diagnosed with Juvenile Pilocytic Astrocytoma at the young age of three. This is an invasive cancer of the brain and spinal cord. Brian's main tumor is located in his upper spine but has additional cancer in the meninges of the brain and lower spine. Despite all the doctors' efforts and treatments over the past six years, Brian's tumor has metastasized, causing the possibility for him to become a quadriplegic within the next several months if the mass is not removed. He is scheduled to have a very risky surgery to remove the tumor, but must travel to Memphis, TN to find a doctor with experience operating on a child the age of Brian. Due to the surgery being performed out of state, Brian's family is still waiting patiently to hear what amount will be covered by their insurance. As a family, the Ott's have dealt with financial struggles for years while dealing with all the medical expenses. Brian is only eligible to receive Medicaid, and if the family exceeds the allowable income, he could lose the benefits, causing the family to be accountable for all medical costs accrued.

With all this information shared, I know with the caring community we share, many will choose to help us raise funds to assist the Ott family. We will host a rummage sale in which donated items can be dropped off on Friday evening and the sale will occur on Saturday morning. All donated items will not be marked with specific prices, a donation for the items will be collected during the sale. If you would like assist us with donations or purchase items, we would love to see you on one/both of these dates.

WELCOME NEW STAFF

We are confident that our new staff members will enhance the professionalism and caring attitude of our building. Please join us in welcoming them into our Rock Creek community!

Michelle Anderson Behavioral Specialist	Cook Helper
Mary Lou Becker	Resource Teacher
Jeannine Bedel	Paraprofessional
Megan Boyd	Paraprofessional
Jennifer Cairns	Paraprofessional
Kristina Castillo	Counselor
Annie Dunavan	Orchestra Teacher
Laura Holzen	Paraprofessional
Amanda Hyman	Paraprofessional
Beth Jaggie	Administrative Assistant
Kate Kimsey	Paraprofessional
Shelley Light	Transition Teacher
Jill Luetkenhaus	Paraprofessional
Shara Mowrey	Cook
Laura Phife	Speech/Language Therapist
Paula Renna	Secretary
Angie Saxer	4th Gr. Teacher
Jill Schroeder	AM Kindergarten
Megan Twillman	Paraprofessional
Shelly Unland	

Gail Brewer and Kim Young will also be filling long-term substitute positions to begin the school year.



Info, Info and More Info.... We understand that you probably feel overwhelmed with paperwork. However, the school newsletters contain very important information. We encourage you to read through these carefully each month and let us know if you have any questions/concerns.



"Information Rack"

Our information rack is located just inside the front doors to our school. You will find flyers that may be of interest to you. Please feel free to pick up any of the information you wish. All information displayed on this rack must be district approved.

Below is a list of flyers currently available:

- Sport Opportunities
- District Calendar
- Rock Creek Newsletter
- Boy Scout Information
- PTA Membership Form
- PTA Newsletter
- Lunch Menus
- Bus Route Information



Arrival Procedures

In order to help keep our Rock Creek students safe, we ask that all car riders be aware of the start time of our school day. Students are able to come into the building beginning at 8:40 a.m.—which is 15 minutes prior to the start of our day at 8:55. The only students that should be allowed to exit their cars prior to the 8:40 time, would be those involved in before school clubs or activities, once these begin in September. We do not have staff on duty at the front door until 8:40, as they are preparing for the day to begin. By following these time frames closely, we can assure our students are properly supervised and safe in our arrival procedures. Thank you for your help.

At our Open House and Kindergarten Orientation, School Volunteer Request forms were made available. These are for any parent, grandparent or other relative who would like to volunteer at Rock Creek. Opportunities for volunteering could include, but are not limited to:

- Assisting students
- Attending class parties
- Chaperoning a field trip
- Helping a teacher

Please make sure these forms are completed and returned prior to spending time assisting in the building. We love volunteers—so we look forward to working with you!



Counselor's Corner

My name is Mrs. Dunavan and I am the new counselor. I am excited to be part of the staff at Rock Creek and to have the privilege of working with your child. I transferred from within the district and have eight years of elementary counseling experience. Each month in the newsletter I will let you know what lesson I have taught in your child's class so you can discuss the lesson. I am available to help with any problems at home or at school, please call, write or email me at adunavan@fz.k12.mo.us



*Fifth grade camp **parent only** meeting on Sept. 2 @ 6:30 p.m.*