

# Prekindergarten News

Rochester City  
School District



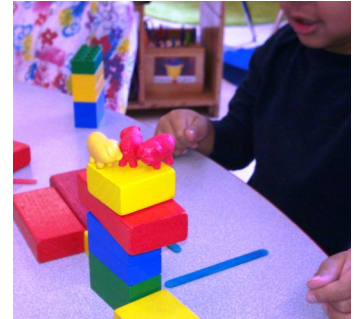
## *Message from the Executive Director, Dr. Robin Hooper*

**Preschool Math is More than Counting, however, Please Count on Attending our Early Registration Events!**

In this issue of our newsletter the focus is on prekindergarten math. Counting is one of the skills prek students learn in the program. Prekindergarten students are expected to count to 20 by the end of the school year. Parents are encouraged to practice counting with their children at home by counting things in their environment. For example, parents can count with children the number of dishes needed for a meal, the buttons on clothing, the number of steps they climb, the number of family members or children in a picture. In addition to learning to count items our prek students are also learning to recognize a number of items from 1-5 by sight. Many of our students are learning to do this through classroom activities such as identifying the number of toy bears on a boat or the number of dots that correspond with a number by sight without counting the items. After identifying the number of items students count the items to see if they were correct. This skill is called subitizing and it is part of the new strategy for teaching math skills supported by the New York State Foundation for the Prekindergarten Common Core standards. The reason for teaching prek students to recognize numbers of items on sight is this skill helps students become quicker in their recognition of numbers of items and assists them in becoming fluent in math.

Math is also a part of the development of literacy skills because numbers are the language of math. Prekindergarten students can solve simple adding and subtracting problems using real objects with a "math story." You can ask your preschool child to tell you how many cookies there are on a plate (1-5) and how many are left if they eat one cookie. You will be practicing math with your child.

This year the district will be offering an opportunity for families to **register early for the 2015-16 Prekindergarten Program on Saturday, January 10<sup>th</sup> at the Damon Center downtown.** More news about this opportunity will be coming. Please spread the word to other parents. In addition, parents will have the opportunity to register for district Prekindergarten and Kindergarten programs on **Saturday, February 7<sup>th</sup> at a Prek and Kindergarten Registration Fair at our Central Office located at 131 West Broad St.** On February 7<sup>th</sup> students and their families will have an opportunity to learn more about the district programs and to participate in literacy and math activities. Prekindergarten students who attend the event with their families will receive free books for their participation in the activities. Families will receive more specific information soon! Please plan to attend.



### Message Board

One of the reasons teachers use daily messages is to expose children to Math content. Counting, shape and number recognition, and subitizing (being able to see a small amount of objects and tell how many there are without counting), are all included in the messages shown here. Infusing content throughout the day is intentionally planned by all PreK teachers.



# Access to Science and Technology in UPK



Tools and Technology



*“Children are naturally curious about the world and want to find out as much as they can. They want to know what makes the wind blow, how trees grow, why fish have fins, and where turtles go in the winter.” (R. Wilson; 2002)*



Experimenting

*“Problem-solving with tools builds young children’s conceptual awareness because it involves “planning, sequential thinking, and predicting what specific actions with a tool might do.”*

*(K. Haugen; 2010)*



Natural and Physical World



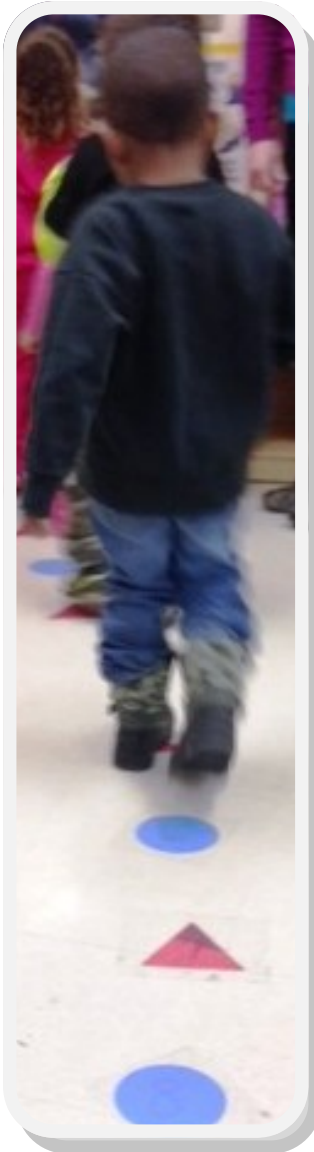
# Math Throughout the Day

“The National Council of Teachers of Mathematics emphasizes that young children need play-based opportunities to develop and deepen their conceptual understanding of mathematics.”

(A. Kirova; 2002)



Work Time  
Creating Patterns



Small Group Time-Working with  
Shapes



Outside Time



Work Time



Small Group Time  
Geometry



# Rochester City School District

Department of Early Childhood  
131 W. Broad St.

Phone: 585-262-8140  
Fax: 585-262-8273  
Sandra.hess@rcsdk12.org  
Margaret.spencer@rcsdk12.org



Every child is a work of art.  
Create a masterpiece.

## Our Vision

Prekindergarten Programs empower young children to successfully contribute to their families, school, community and environment.

## Our Mission

Prekindergarten Programs provide opportunities for young children to participate in challenging, stimulating programs, designed to support their language, cognitive, and social development while being sensitive to their strengths and needs.

Visit our website at  
[www.rcsdk12.org/PreK](http://www.rcsdk12.org/PreK)

Lending Library Update  
Pre K families continue to read many books together!



Volunteers of America  
Children's Center



Lending Libraries provided to each UPK District and community based classroom invite families to select books daily to read at home. Families and classrooms working together in this way support the development of literacy skills in all of our students.  
"Today a reader, tomorrow a leader." Margaret Fuller

## Save the Dates

**Saturday, January 10:** RCSD School Expo at MCC Damon City Campus  
228 E Main Street (10 am to 3 pm)  
Pre-K Registration as well as Information and Registration for District Secondary Schools

**Saturday, February 7:** Pre-K and Kindergarten Registration Fair  
Central Office-131 W. Broad St. (10 am to 2 pm)  
PreK and Kindergarten Registration  
Fun Math and Literacy Activities for all!

