



The Children's School of Rochester
"A World in a School"
May 2016



Letter from Principal Piper

Dear CSR families,

As the weather gets warmer and the school year winds down, I want to remind you of some exciting events coming up this month.

The Ride for Missing Children

On Friday, May 20, CSR will be participating in the 15th Annual Ride for Missing Children as a "Ride By School." Over 300 bicycle riders, including our own Assistant Principal, Ms. Johnson, will ride throughout the community on their one-day, 100 mile journey, honoring and bringing awareness of the plight of missing children. The program also promotes safety awareness for students and their families. The group will have a police escort and will be passing the school at approximately 1:30 in the afternoon. Students will be making signs to encourage and support the riders as they pass by.

Summer School

This year CSR will once again be offering a summer learning program for our English language learners. The program will be held at School #50, and will run from July 5 - August 5, from 7:45 am to 11:45 am, Monday through Friday. For our general education students, the district is offering a Summer Arts Academy at School #5 for grades 1-6, and the Reading, Leading, and Writing Program at School #45 for grades K through 6. For our 3rd and 4th grade students, the Rochester Summer Scholars (Wallace Program) is a wonderful opportunity for students to participate in, not only learning, but exciting enrichment activities, as well. All families should have received an application in the mail. Please be sure to return the application to the main office before the May 20 deadline. Don't wait, many programs are filling up fast! For more information on Summer School programs, please visit the district website at www.rcsdk12.org, or phone the main office at 585.262.8830.

CSR Annual Spring Concert

Our Annual Spring Concert will be held on Friday, May 27, during our morning briefing, beginning at 8 am. Our young singers and musicians have been working very hard during the school year under the guidance of Ms. France and Mrs. Robey, and can't wait to showcase their talents.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us at 585.262.8830.



Mr. Jay B. Piper
The Children's School of Rochester

"Believe you can and you're halfway there." -- T. Roosevelt



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Curriculum Corner

Pre-K Family

Spring is here! It is a beautiful time for observation for our PreK class. Part of the HighScope curriculum includes Science and Technology. During our outside time we have been placing an emphasis on the investigative process. Our latest question was, "Will the ants eat an apple?" The students placed an apple on the edge of the grass and observed after time that the ants crawled onto the apple. It looked like the ants were eating the apple! How exciting! Our next science investigation will be with butterflies. We will be observing the butterfly life stages. We have just received larva and will be watching closely to see what happens over time. There is so much to discover! The world is still a new place and there are so many mysteries for our little people. Special thanks to Mr. Piper & Ms. Alvarez for supporting our Pizza, Parents and PreK night on May 3. Many of our families came to see what our students are doing each day in PreK and signed up for future volunteer opportunities. It was a special night.

Kindergarten Family

Spring has sprung in Kindergarten! In Science, we have begun studying plants more in depth. We will be planting seeds and decorating the bricks that we made with our visiting mason to help make our courtyard more beautiful. In Listening and Learning and Social Studies, we are learning about Colonial Times and will compare the past to modern times. We will be visiting the Genesee Country Village and Museum as our culminating event. In Math we are exploring 2-D and 3-D shapes. Ask your children to show you some! In ELA we continue to work on reading fluency, comprehension, and tricky words. We are almost ready for 1st grade!

1st Grade Family

Our family has many exciting things to look forward to in the month of May! We will be hosting briefing on all A & D days, so if you are available from 8:00-8:20 on briefing days, please come by the school to watch your scholar in action! We are scheduled to head to the Zoo on May 16th. Please check the weather for the day of our trip and dress your child accordingly.

Our learning continues in all subject areas, as we are introduced to several new topics. We will be learning how to tell time to the hour and half hour during Math. Lewis and Clark, along with Sacagawea will be at the forefront of Listening and Learning. During Science our scholars will be learning all about measurement and how you can use something as basic as your finger to measure an object, and/or the distance that an object has traveled.



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Please continue to read with your child on a daily basis. Assisting them with their homework and practicing basic math facts will allow for them to be successful throughout the remaining few months of first grade.

2nd Grade Family

The Second Grade is feeling so inspired! We are beginning a new domain, Fighting For a Cause, that will introduce students to several ordinary people who stood up for what they believed in and who fought for a cause, even when faced with immeasurable odds. Students will learn about the dedication and sacrifice of historical leaders including Susan B. Anthony, Eleanor Roosevelt, Mary McLeod Bethune, Jackie Robinson, Rosa Parks, Martin Luther King Jr. and Cesar Chavez.

In Math, 2nd graders are learning about **Geometry**. They will study different polygons and then make 2-dimensional shapes out of polygons using pattern blocks. They will learn about equal shares of a whole as a **fraction** and name the equal parts halves, thirds, or fourths. Finally, they will apply their understanding of splitting the whole into halves and fourths to **tell time** to the nearest five minutes.

Please help your child at home by checking their homework, helping them make reading a priority each night, and practicing math facts to automaticity. Thank you!

3rd Grade Family

This month we have begun learning about the human body and the specific senses of sight and hearing. We will learn about the skeletal, muscular, and nervous systems of the body as well as how the eyes and ears work. At the same time, we are focusing on learning about extreme weather and the water cycle. In math we are working on geometry. We have been sorting polygons based on their attributes.

4th Grade Family

This month we will be traveling to Corning, NY, to take a tour of the Corning Glass Museum!!! We received a grant, through the help of our librarian Ms. Frost. We are so excited to go. We will see a live blown glass demonstration, view incredible works of art in glass form and have the chance to make our own glass artwork. Remember that we will be arriving home after 4 p.m. and you will need to have a ride home for your child.



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5th Grade Family

In the Fifth Grade Family, we are looking forward to an exciting month including a field trip to the Corning Museum of Glass on May 12th and a workshop with Wild Wings on May 17th. The buses for the field trip to the Corning Museum of Glass will be leaving the school promptly at 8:00 AM. Please, make sure that your student is at school on time to get breakfast before we leave. Also, the buses will be returning to the school at 4:30 PM. Thanks to our librarian, Ms. Frost, for writing a grant to make this trip possible. Please make sure that your student has a ride home. Wild Wings is a bird of prey rescue organization that conducts school presentations.

5th graders are reading, Promises to Keep: A Biography of Jackie Robinson. Students are enjoying learning about the game of baseball and have run the bases of the baseball field at school. Watching highlights of great plays is a favorite of the class.

Math finds us learning about coordinates and the coordinate plane. Battleship is a fun practice for the skills we've learned.

6th Grade Family

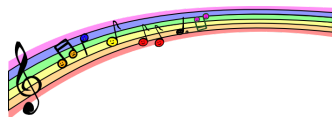
This month 6th graders will be knee deep in data. Each one of us has been keeping track of our progress in Math throughout the year. In May we will be analyzing our work through dot plots, histograms and box and whisker plots. Looking for a Mother's Day gift? Our 6th graders have designed a variety of offerings that they will be selling. Thanks to Mr. Siva, a volunteer from the Unitarian Church, we have been studying Economics. Our products will help us raise money for our overnight field trip to the Rotary Sunshine Camp!

In Social Studies, we are continuing our study of the Semitic religions. We have finished learning about Christianity and Judaism and are now learning about the Islamic faith. We have discussed the many similarities and differences between them.

In ELA, we are continuing to read about Chinese American immigrants in San Francisco before the 1908 earthquake in the novel, **Dragonwings**, by Lawrence Yep.

The ELL students in Sixth Grade are also taking the Listening, Reading and Writing portion of the NYSESLAT. How much progress we've made!

CEW



Kindergarten has been working so hard during the month of April to complete a secret project for our marvelous mothers! (They now understand that some works of art require a great deal of time and effort.) They will also be learning some mallet techniques to play our barred instruments, which helps our fine motor skills and letter recognition. This month, the



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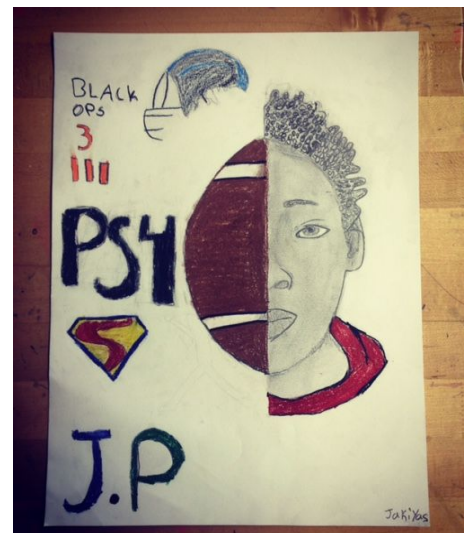


kindergarten students will be also be making some music videos for the Pre-K! First graders are composing a song about a stegosaurus to help with the core curriculum vocabulary word "HERBIVORE." They're also learning how to play the bass drum in a "mezzo" dynamic level - not *ff* or *p*. Second grade is learning a calypso-style song about the Statue of Liberty to augment their unit on immigration and working on a song about "Matter" - explaining the properties of solids, liquids and gases. Third graders are perfecting their "Reading Rap" and learning how to waltz to a $\frac{3}{4}$ meter song called "The Cinchy Sixes," a song to help us memorize the six times table. They will be performing "The Continent Song" on Thursday, May 5th along with the 4th graders at Briefing. Fourth grade will be working hard on their recorder compositions for the Spring Concert on May 27th at 8:00 AM. Fifth and sixth graders will be experimenting on our instruments to see if they can sound out the melodies they are very familiar with "by ear" and preparing our original recorder compositions for our Spring Concert. The Shining Star Choir will be performing on May 27th and is going to rock the house with their power and passion!

ART



Spring has sprung! The RCSD Student Art Exhibition is up at Central Office, 131 West Broad Street. If your artist received a postcard, please find some time to take them to see their artwork hanging downtown. Our school's spot is on the 3rd floor near the Board of Education Conference room. K-5th grade have been working on 3D artwork and will finish up their projects this month. 6th grade is working to complete their symbols self portrait -- they are coming out amazing!! {pictured -- Jakiyas' completed portrait} I am hoping to be able to take classes outside to draw as the days start to warm up; looking forward to those warm sunny days!





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PE



This month we are learning about track and field. Our 3rd-6th graders are going to be competing for a spot on our CSR team who will be competing in the Nick Zona Track Competition. The age groups are 9/10 year olds and 11/13 year olds. The competition is on May 19th. We are looking forward to see who will represent The Children's School at the meet this year.

Instrumental Music



Our **Spring Concert** will be held on **Friday, May 27th** at **8:00 am**. You won't want to miss it! Please encourage your young musicians to practice their concert pieces daily in order to be well prepared for this event.

Orchestra students have been working on bowing techniques and will be performing all of their selections 'arco' (with the bow) for this performance. 3rd and 6th grade students will have an additional performance opportunity this month at the May 12th briefing. They will be presenting *Old MacDonald* to the school as we invite our Pre-K family to attend. The 3 pieces that all orchestra students should be preparing for the Spring Concert on May 27th are: *Hot Cross Buns*, *French Folk Song*, and *Ode to Joy*.

Beginner Band students have been working on two full band arrangements for their upcoming performance. These pieces focus on independence and are a perfect way to prepare for the end of the year assessment in instrumental music. The 2 pieces that all beginner band students should be preparing for the Spring Concert on May 27th are: *Marching Madness* and *Invaders!*.

Intermediate Band students are preparing a jazz piece for the Spring Concert. We have started utilizing our new drum set to accompany the band on this piece and look forward to showcasing a few amazing soloists as well. The 4 pieces that all intermediate band students should be preparing for the Spring Concert are: *Marching Madness*, *Invaders!*, *La Scala*, and *Jazz Doo-ette*.

Library



May is such a fun month! We will be finishing up our research reports in grades 3 and 4 before moving onto making wordles. These fun graphic organizers are always interesting and our theme will be "what do we want for our new school?" Grade 5 will be looking at



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google searching and grade 6 needs to start working on annotations to prepare them for middle school. Kindergarten will be doing a puppet unit; first grade will look at beginning chapter books and second grade will be considering how non-fiction books are organized. The end of the school year is coming up soon. Please keep an eye on homework folders for overdue notices to make sure that your children have returned all their library books.

Reading Room



There have been a lot of changes to our reading groups over the past few weeks, which is a good thing! Students are making great progress! In each group, we are working on reviewing the sounds and skills that your child has learned in class so that they are prepared for the next grade level. If your student is new to one of my reading groups, please don't hesitate to call or email with any questions or comments.

When you read with your child at home, allow them to read some of the story out loud to you. It's a great way for them to practice sounding out words and reading fluently. Ask your child questions about what they are reading. Think about ways you can create projects or opportunities for writing that connects to what you have read. Keep reading fun and make it part of your daily routine!

Family Literacy Program



In the merry month of May, The Family Literacy Program continues our important work of preparing for our futures! As part of OACES (Office of Adult and Career Education Services) we are building our portfolios (with resumes, letters of recommendation, interview preparation) in hopes of finding meaningful employment. We also continue with our English language class and building strong connections with our children's teachers during our P.A.C.T. daily half hour in their classrooms! (Parent and Child Together Time) Stop in for a visit anytime in room 130!

Peace Ambassadors



Our Peace Ambassadors are spending the next month working on the flower beds in our courtyard. We have pulled weeds and will be planting flowers to help brighten up the area. Before the end of the school year we will be working on a community project that we will share with our neighbors to help strengthen our neighborhood. If you have any suggestions on what type of project we should work on please let us know!



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Primary Project

We have decided to combine our Spring Parent Event with our Graduation Celebration on Friday, June 10. Parents, please join us for Briefing at 8:00 am. All Primary Project students from this year will be recognized and receive a certificate. After Briefing, we will have a celebration with parents and students in the courtyard, where we will plant some seeds for you to take home. Save the date!



Social Work



2015-2016



Mrs. Sheppard, Mr. Sheppard, Mrs. Robinson and Mrs. Alvarez would like to congratulate the 6th grade participants of the Junior Debutante and Stepping into Manhood Programs!

In celebration of their hard work and dedication to learning social, communication and leadership skills, the young ladies will be having a "high tea" brunch and the young men will have a Hibachi style luncheon. We're so excited to celebrate with them on this tremendous accomplishment and we look forward to their continued success in their futures.

The sky's the limit! Keep dreaming, keep doing, and keep believing...because we believe in YOU!!!



Speech-Language

Communication Takes Care: Better Hearing & Speech Month 2016

From SuperDuperSpeech Inc. By Rynette R. Kjesbo, M.S., CCC-SLP

May is Better Hearing and Speech Month. It is a time to raise awareness about communication



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disorders (problems with speech, voice, language, and/or hearing) and the roles Speech-Language Pathologists (SLPs) and Audiologists play in treating them.

- Eight to nine percent of young children have speech sound disorders.
- By first grade, approximately five percent of children have noticeable speech disorders.
- More than three million people in the United States stutter.
- Stuttering occurs most often in children between the ages of two and six.
- Boys are three times more likely to stutter than girls.
- Six to eight million Americans have some kind of language impairment.

The primary way children learn is through verbal communication and social interaction with others. During these face-to-face interactions, children learn how to take turns, interpret nonverbal signals (such as gestures, body language, and facial expressions), create strong relationships, and develop empathy (the ability to understand and feel other people's feelings). This year the theme for Better Hearing and Speech Month is *Communication Takes Care*. If we *care* about our children, we need to take time to have the face-to-face interactions that are critical to our children's social, emotional, and cognitive development.

Suggestions for Parents

- **Unplug.** Show your child that you want to spend quality time with him/her and that time is important to you by putting away your smartphone, tablet, TV, and other devices.
- **Engage.** Take advantage of the time you have with your child. Talk and interact with him/her at meal times, in the car, at the store, etc.
- **Read.** Reading with your child can help build the foundational skills he/she will need to experience success in school.
- **Play.** Playing with your child develops communication skills and cultivates family relationships.
- **Move.** Physical movement is critical to your child's development. Take a bike ride, play ball, or go to the park.
- **Ask.** If you think your child may have a problem with his/her speech, language, or hearing, seek help from a Speech-Language Pathologist or Audiologist.



Thank you, Mr. Williamson, for procuring the donation of flowers for our courtyard! -The PA's
Thank you to everyone who came out and supported CSR and the PTO at our Barnes and Noble Book Fair! What a great turn out and wonderful musical performances from our students!



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Important Dates

Event	Date
4th and 5th Grade Field Trip to Corning Museum	Thursday, May 12
Transfer of Flags Ceremony at Franklin High School	Sunday, May 15 1:30 pm
First Grade Zoo Field Trip	Monday, May 16
PTO Meeting	Tuesday, May 17 6:30 - 7:30 pm in CSR Library
Nick Zona Track Meet	Thursday, May 19
Last Day to Register for Summer School	Friday, May 20
CSR Staff Appreciation Lunch	Friday, May 20
CSR Spring Concert	Friday, May 27 @ 8 am
Field Day	Wednesday, June 15
Kindergarten Graduation	Monday, June 20
Sixth Grade Moving Up Ceremony	Wednesday, June 22
Last Day of School for Students	Wednesday, June 22
Summer School Starts	Monday, July 5



**The deadline to register for Summer School is May 20!
Be sure to return your application to the main office before
then.**










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May 2016						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 A DAY	3 B DAY	4 C DAY	5 D DAY	6 A DAY	7
8 Mother's Day 	9 B DAY	10 C DAY	11 D DAY	12 A DAY 4th and 5th Grade Field Trip to Corning Museum	13 B DAY	14
15 Transfer of Flags Ceremony at Franklin High School 1:30 pm 	16 C DAY	17 D DAY 6:30 - 7:30 pm PTO Meeting CSR Library 	18 A DAY	19 B DAY Nick Zona Track Meet 	20 C DAY Ride for Missing Children  Last Day to Register for Summer School	21
22	23 D DAY	24 A DAY	25 B DAY	26 C DAY	27 D DAY CSR Spring Concert 8:00 am 	28
29	30 No School Memorial Day 	31 A DAY				



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MAY 2016
BRIEFING CALENDAR

- May 2 Super Shout Out Day
- May 5 3rd and 4th Graders perform "The Continent Song"
- May 6 "The New Horizon Big Band" performs for us
- May 11 Our "Read to Feed" plaque is presented
- May 12 Ms. Robey's instrumentalists lead us in "Old McDonald"
- May 17 We learn about Ms. Johnson's bike ride to earn \$ for
Missing & Exploited Children
- May 18 Mr. Piper teaches us about practicing Safety Procedures
- May 23 6th Grade boys present "Stepping Into Manhood"
- May 24 6th Grade girls present their Jr. Debutante Program
- May 27 "THE CSR SPRING CONCERT" with Orchestra, Bands,
Recorders and Choir
- May 31 Ms. Moraldo takes us under the sea

Briefing is a special time when we gather together as an entire school family to build our community and share our learning. We meet on A and D days in the gym from 8:00 - 8:30 AM. Please come and join us anytime - everyone is welcome. Contact Ms. France if you have something you'd like to share with us!