

Rocket News

January 2020

A letter from your Principal

Happy New Year Rocket Families!

I hope you had some time to rest and relax over the holiday break. Your Rocket came back refreshed and ready to go. We had a great first week back and can't believe the end of the first semester is just over a week away.

The recent snow, as snow always does, provided some added excitement upon our return to school. Please make sure that your Rocket is dressed appropriately for Wisconsin Winters! We live by the motto "Work Hard and Play Hard"! Recess is a great time to play hard and move the body. It helps in the winter months if our Rockets are dressed for it.

It is hard to believe that our year will be half over next week (Jan. 23). As a reminder all student report cards can be found on the Parent Portal this year beginning Friday, January 31. Report cards are no longer being sent or mailed home. A Blackboard email will be sent closer to the end of the semester with more details. More importantly, please sit with your child and talk about the progress he/she is making. Emphasize the standards that she/he is doing well and the ones that may need a little more time and attention. Ask questions to inquire about the work they're doing. Talk about the importance of setting goals and checking in on those goals throughout a unit of study or quarter/semester. Feel free to contact your child's teacher with any questions. Those open lines of communication are key to the success of your child.

As always, our doors are open—stop by and see us!

Happy New Year!

20 Tips for a Positive New Year

1. Stay Positive. You can listen to the cynics and doubters and believe that success is impossible or you can trust that with faith and an optimistic attitude all things are possible.
2. Take a daily "Thank You Walk." You can't be stressed and thankful at the same time. Feel blessed and you won't be stressed.
3. Eat more foods that grow on trees and plants and less foods manufactured in plants.

4. Talk to yourself instead of listen to yourself. Instead of listening to your complaints, fears and doubts, talk to yourself with words of truth and encouragement.
5. Post a sign that says "No Energy Vampires Allowed." Gandhi said, "I will not let anyone walk through my mind with their dirty feet."
6. Be a Positive Team Member. Being positive doesn't just make you better, it makes everyone around you better.
7. Don't chase success. Decide to make a difference and success will find you.
8. Get more sleep. You can't replace sleep with a double latte.
9. Don't waste your precious energy on gossip, energy vampires, issues of the past, negative thoughts or things you cannot control.
10. Look for opportunities to [Love, Serve and Care](#). You don't have to be great to serve but you have to serve to be great.
11. Live your purpose. Remember why you do what you do. We don't get burned out because of what we do. We get burned out because we forget why we do it.
12. Remember, there's no such thing as an [overnight success](#). Love the process and you'll love what the process produces.
13. Trust that everything happens for a reason and expect good things to come out of challenging experiences.
14. Implement the [No Complaining Rule](#). If you are complaining, you're not leading.
15. Read more books than you did in 2017. I happen to know of [a few good ones](#). :)
16. Don't seek happiness. Instead live with love, passion and purpose and happiness will find you.
17. Focus on "Get to" vs "Have to." Each day focus on what you get to do, not what you have to do. Life is a gift not an obligation.
18. The next time you "fail" remember that it's not meant to define you. It's meant to refine you.
19. Smile and laugh more. They are natural anti-depressants.
20. Enjoy the ride. You only have one ride through life so make the most of it and enjoy it.

Winter Bus Reminders

Crossing Guard Recognition Week

January 13-17, 2020 is Adult Crossing Guard Recognition Week in Wisconsin. Please take a moment or two to thank the hard-working men and women who show up every day in our unpredictable Wisconsin weather to make sure your kids arrive to school and home safely.



Lost and Found

Kobussen has a lost and found for all items left on the bus. The driver will keep the lost item on the bus for a few days, then turn it in at the terminal. If your child has a lost item don't forget to check with Kobussen. Feel free to stop by the terminal at 1500 Forward Drive, Sun Prairie to check the lost and found.

Stopping for Flashing Red Lights

Please remember, drivers must stop on the street or highway 20 feet or more from any school bus that has stopped and is flashing red warning lights.

- This applies both to vehicles approaching from the rear and from the opposing lanes.
- All lanes of traffic must stop for the school bus, except in opposing lanes if the highway is divided with a center median.
- No vehicle may proceed until the bus resumes motion and has turned off the red warning lights.
- The stop arm on the bus is an added communication to other drivers, but the lack of an extended stop arm is not a reason to pass a bus whose red lights are flashing.

For more school bus and student transportation safety tips, click [here](#).

Bus Delays and Emergencies

Please remember that buses may be slightly delayed when we are experiencing snow and icy conditions. Anything within 5 minutes of the scheduled arrival time is considered "on time."

If your child's bus is delayed and/or evacuated for any reason (bus breakdown, emergency, etc) students are not allowed to leave the scene. Students must stay with the driver and wait for further instructions. If another bus is dispatched, students are to ride that bus and only get off at their assigned stop.



January News from the advanced Learner program:

Happy New Year! It is going to be a great year of learning!

Math 24 - 4th and 5th Graders: January is the deciding month for 4th and 5th graders who are wanting to compete in the Math 24 competition. This year we will be having a local competition to decide which 15 fourth graders and 15 fifth graders will represent Sun Prairie at the regional Math 24 Competition. The local competition will be held on Feb 7th. Each school will be choosing the top 3 students in 4th grade and the top 3 students in 5th grade to represent their school at this local competition. I will be having small tournaments during our Math 24 Club time to determine who will represent Royal Oaks . If your student is interested in competing, attendance at all Thursday mornings in January from 7:45-8:15am for Math 24 Club is crucial.

Yahara - 5th Graders: Local Judging will take place on January 14th. All 5th graders who wish to participate, must electronically submit final copies of writing and/or artwork by January 7th. The top 10 pieces from each category, poetry, short stories, cartoons, and editorials, will be selected to move onto regional judging on January 14th. Please submit entries to klplesa@sunpraireschools.org .

Haiku - 4th Graders: This year 4th graders will be invited to write Haiku poems to submit for a regional Haiku competition. Information will be presented to classrooms the first week of January. Students will be allowed to submit up to 3 Haikus on one page. Final submissions will be turned in the first week of February.

Next Parent Learning Session:

- January 30th at the District Office (Room 100) from 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Teachers will be sharing information from the National Gifted Conference.

Please check the district website for any last minute changes to time or location.

Warmest Wishes,
Katie Plesac
Royal Oaks Advanced Learner Program Teacher
klplesa@sunprairieschools.org
(608) 834-7218

Reporting Student Absences

Parents/Guardians may report a student absence 24 hours a day by dialing **(608) 834-7200**.

Please contact the office before 8:30 a.m. any morning that your child will not be in school, even if they will be joining us late. If we do not hear from you, a safe arrival call will be made to you at home and/or work. We want to make sure every child is safe!

Student Council

Student Council is comprised of seventeen fourth and fifth grade students. The advisers for Student Council this school year are Ms. Schroeder and Mrs. Sefcik. Student Council is involved with community service, school improvement, leadership, and school store activities. This past December Student Council headed up the very successful food drive for Sun Prairie families. They packed and loaded fifty boxes of food for the annual Community Help Food Drive.





A letter from your PBIS Team

Reminder About Major vs. Minor Behavior Referrals

Question: What happens when students are not showing the Rocket Way?

Answer: Student behaviors are addressed through either a Major or a Minor (Fix-It) behavior referral, depending on the situation. This is an opportunity to communicate with students, teachers, and families about how their behavior choice was not following the Rocket Way and to problem-solve ways to change it in the future.

Major referrals are used for higher level behavioral mistakes, such as physical aggression, harassment, bullying, fighting, theft, and abusive/inappropriate language.

Minor (Fix-It) referrals are used for lower level behavioral mistakes. Some examples of minors include disrespect, disruption, defiance, physical contact, and inappropriate language.

Any staff member may write a major or minor when students are not following the Rocket Way. The goal of majors and minors is to recognize the mistake, learn from it, problem-solve ways to fix it, and change toward more positive behavior in the future. Adults and students are working together to follow the Rocket Way! Please have a conversation with your child about how they show Respect, Responsibility, Kindness, Self-Control, and Empathy at Royal Oaks.

Relationships and Communication: Social Media

Social Media can get a bad wrap, and sometimes, for good reason. New and ever-changing apps are hard to stay on top of, and many features CAN be used for negative and harmful things. But Social Media can also provide our students with a lot of opportunities to be connected, to find community, to be expressive, and to contribute to the world in a positive way. Really, social media is part of how people build relationships and communicate in a digital world. As a parent, helping your child capitalize on the opportunities while being aware of the drawbacks can be tricky. Here's some advice:

[11 Social Media Red Flags Parents Should Know About, and What to do About Them](#)

[5 Reasons You Don't Need to Worry About Kids and Social Media](#)

In school, we teach kids about the positives AND negatives of social media, and help them think about their own social media experiences. We categorize this learning under the *Relationships and Communication* focus of our digital citizenship curriculum. From our students, we have found that a big topic around social media is *oversharing*.

Check out [this video](#) to learn more about oversharing.

Here are more resources to explore:

[K-5th Grade Relationships and Communication Family Tip Sheet](#)

- [3rd-5th grade Family Activity - Relationships and Communication](#)
[6-12th Grade Relationships and Communication Family Tip Sheet](#)

Resources from Common Sense Media

- [Cyberbullying and Digital Drama Family Tip Sheet](#)
 - [K-2nd Grade Family Activity - Cyberbullying and Digital Drama](#)
 - [3rd-5th grade Family Activity - Cyberbullying and Digital Drama](#)
- [Article: Is There Any Way to Make Sure My Kid Won't Become a Cyberbully?](#)
- [Article: What should I do if my kid is bullied online?](#)
- [Article: It's not Cyberbullying, But...](#)

February Save the Dates

February 10th- Bus Driver Appreciation Week

February 11th- ROSCO Metting at 6:30 PM

February 21st- No School

February 24th- Dining Night Out at Culvers

A Letter from Nurse Lori

The Health Office is in need of boys size medium and large socks and boys pants (sweats) size 7 and 8. If you have any at home you are willing to donate we would greatly appreciate it!

Thank You,
Lori

STATEMENT OF NONDISCRIMINATION

No student may be unlawfully discriminated against in any school programs, activities or in facilities usage because of the student's sex (gender identity, gender expressions, and non-conformity to gender role stereotypes), color, religion, profession, or demonstration of belief or non-belief, race, national origin (including limited English proficiency), ancestry, creed, pregnancy, marital or parental status, homelessness status, sexual orientation, age, or physical, mental, emotional or learning disability. Harassment is a form of discrimination and shall not be tolerated in the District. It is the responsibility of administrators, staff members and all students to ensure that student discrimination or harassment does not occur. (SPASD District Policy JB)

If a student or parent/guardian would prefer to have this information translated into Spanish, please contact us at 608-834-6620. Si un estudiante, padre ó guardian prefiere tener esta información traducida en Español, por favor contactenos en el 608-834-6620.

If a student or parent/guardian would prefer to have this information translated into Hmong, please contact us at 608-834-6630. Yog tus me nyuam lub xiv los yog niam thiab txiv/tus neeg muaj cai saib xyuas tus me nyuam xav tau qhov ntawv ntawm no ua lus Hmoob, thov hais rau peb paub rau ntawm 608-834-6630.

