

# ROCKETS NEWS

Riverdale Elementary  
School

325 W. 142<sup>ND</sup> Street

Riverdale, IL 60827

June 2022



## Principal's Message

Dear Parents and Families of Riverdale School:



### Calendar of Events

We have come to the end of our return to in-person learning year with our Riverdale families. What a year it has been! I am so proud to be able to serve the wonderful students and families in the Dolton West SD148 community. Many times, you have heard me say that I have the best job in the world, and on a daily basis this has been reinforced to me. Thank you for all you do to make working with all my families such a pleasure and privilege.

Academically, this has been a stellar year. We obviously still await the results of the impact that remote learning has had on our students. However, we believe that our student outcomes will be amazing, and will go beyond what we could have ever imagined. We simply do not believe in writing children off because we know that all children can learn, and all children want to learn. We believe that our exceptional scholars, who are well on their way to top universities and those who achieve beyond their wildest dreams, are the best part of the best job!

I do not intend to repeat the details of everything I have written in my previous letters to you about the many facets of the Riverdale life in our Riverdale families. Assuredly, our educational lives are always busy, and our children are always inspiring. Over the past week or so, we have seen this again in so many ways. During these unprecedented times, our families have shown commitment and dedication to student achievement beyond what we could have expected. We celebrated the academic achievement of so many students, but also saw the huge support that our parents gave to our school.

Please keep an eye on our district website for up-to-date news of on-line registration, and summer learning programs. Thank you for all your support in making sure that Riverdale School students are successful.

Striving for Academic Excellence for all Children,

Dr. Shinora Montgomery Principal  
Riverdale School

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### Kindergarten

**Ms. Kovalik and Ms. Williams**

The school year has gone by so fast. It feels as only yesterday our kindergarten students were learning how to write their names upon their paper. Now, look at them! These same students have begun to read, write, and create their own sentences!

This has been truly amazing to see how much hard work our students put forth to become excellent readers and writers! This year was extraordinary. It was a year filled with fun, friendship, learning, and fond memories that will last a lifetime!

Have a great summer everyone and be sure to finish your summer packets and review your sight words in order to be ready for first grade.

Ms. Kovalik and Mrs. William-Stewart

### First Grade

**Mrs. Harris and Dr. Merriweather**

Hello Families,

It has been an exciting ride. Looking back at photographs of our children is amazing. Many of them started the year with their front teeth and lost them along the way. Some were short and had a huge growth spurt. Some were quiet and shy and now are loud and outspoken. They have learned a lot and can share a lot with their younger siblings.

Parents we ask that you continue this learning through the summer. Please take them to the library and get them their own library card if they do not already have one. Then, take them to the library weekly. Set a goal of one book per week of summer, which will be thirteen books read by the end of the summer. We look forward to seeing our children in passing in the halls next year, as they become second graders. Happy Summer!

Tag you are it! (LOL)

Sincerely Riverdale's First Grade Team,

Mrs. Harris & Dr. Merriweather



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## Second Grade

Ms. Huff and Mrs. Ingram

As the school year comes to a close, we would like to thank all of the parents and students who supported us during our first year back in the building. Your effort is appreciated. We hope that you continue to work over the summer in preparation for a new school year.

This includes completing all summer learning packets sent home as well as practicing your reading fluency and comprehension. Please continue to stay safe. We are looking forward to seeing you in August.

Have a great Summer!

## Third Grade

Mrs. McPherson and Ms. Toney

Third grade finished Module B of Unit Two in Ready Gen. Students have learned many literary skills over the school year, including main idea/detail, sequence, character, text features, and comparing & contrasting texts.

We started using NEWS-O-MATIC for our science and social Studies curriculum. Students learned to read about current events through news articles. In math, we completed area, fractions, and multiplication over the last few months. We want to thank everyone for a great school year and your continued support as we navigated returning to in person learning. Have a wonderful, safe summer!

Ms. Toney and Mrs. McPherson



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### Fourth Grade

Mr. Chadwell

RIVERDALE

In music our fourth grade students were afforded the opportunity to play the violin, courtesy of Mrs. Davis, our music teacher.

On May 25<sup>th</sup> our student participated in Riverdale Elementary's fourth grade luncheon. Our fourth grade students were served a special lunch as a way of Riverdale School and staff saying farewell and wishing them much success at their new perspective schools in the fall.

In ReadyGen Reading our fourth graders ended the year working on a Native American chapter book titled **The Longest Night**, focusing on being able to support a personal opinion about a character or event in a book with details and examples from the book. In i-Ready Math we wrapped up the lesson on modeling and solving multi-step word problems, and multiplication with single and double-digit numbers.

We are Champions!!!!



### Art

Ms. Shelton

### Art Skills, Life Skills

Learning Through Art



Kids are naturally creative, and there are so many developmental benefits of art making for kids: When they hold a pencil, use scissors, or fold paper, they're building important fine motor skills. When they scribble or draw a story, they're laying the foundations of reading, writing, and language. When they mix colors or experiment with new materials, they're bringing science and engineering concepts to life.

Artsmaking can help build some "invisible" skills, too—such as skills that build resilience:

- **Emotional Awareness.** Creating art gives kids a way to reflect on and express their feelings. Making art with others can build social skills such as collaboration and compromise.
- **Problem Solving.** Artsmaking presents challenges, so it requires persistence, practice, and patience. In fact, you might think of each piece of art as its own "problem"—how will you bring an idea to life? Children will need to make choices: which materials, surface, colors?
- **Confidence.** As with other skills, the more kids create art, the more confident they'll become. It feels good to take a project from start to finish.

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## Physical Education

Mr. Moore

### From the Coach's Desk

Congratulations to our “Riverdale Family” that joined the thousands of Girl’s on the Run 5k participants last month in downtown Chicago at Grant Park. Our team almost doubled in size and we look forward to the 2023 team.

Summer weather brings the opportunity to participate in outdoor family activities like walking, skating, playing catch, biking, jumping rope, gardening, chalk art, or going to the local playground or forest preserve. Remember to exercise for at least one hour a day!

I've listed some nearby summer opportunities below. Have a great safe summer!

See you in August!

Coach Moore

### Summer Opportunities

District 148 Summer Learning Program

Riverdale Park District

Riverdale Library

Summer Aquatic Opportunities

Salvation Army Krock Center

Carver Park Field House and Pool



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## Music

Mrs. Davis

It was so nice to see the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade performers on the virtual Fine Arts Fest! Congrats to all who participated. 4<sup>th</sup> grade has wrapped up the year with learning the instrument families. They had a chance to play some instruments too!

3<sup>rd</sup> grade sang the *Do Re Mi* scale song from the Sound of Music and got a chance to accompany their groups with boomwackers. 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> graders participated all the short May Songs and sang a solo for the class during the last week of school.

Kindergarten had a chance to play percussion instruments while they keeping a steady beat, counting aloud, and repeating after others.

It's been a great year! Have a good, safe summer!



## Technology

Ms. Washington

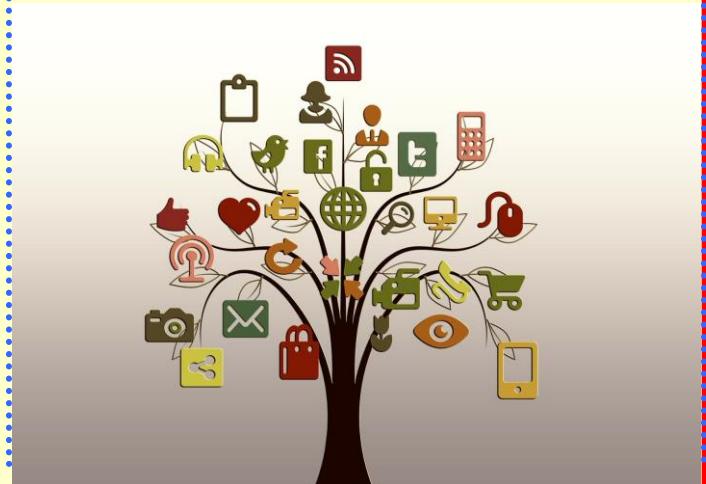
Happy June!

This is our last official newsletter article for the academic year! Summer is a crucial time and students can lose up to three months academic gains during the summer. Please help and encourage your child to continue to build on the skills that they have already learned.

Here are a few websites that students can use throughout the summer: PBS Kids, Sesame Street, Starfall, CoolMath, Make Me Genius, TIME for Kids, National Geographic Kids, The KIDZ Page, Khan Academy, IXL.com and Math Playground.

Also, as teachers we encourage good citizenship in the classroom and school community. Today, students need to be good citizens within the digital world, as well. Students' digital interactions have a big impact on themselves, as well as others, but what makes good or bad digital citizenship is often unclear. Please continue to monitor closely your student's usage of their computer devices and have a SAFE and FUN summer vacation!!

Shari L Washington  
Computer Education Team  
Dolton-Riverdale SD 148



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### C.A.R.E Mrs. Johnson



Mrs. Johnson's CARE Memo:

Suite360:

Grades K-4 ended the year working on social awareness and how to treat other people that guide their behavior. Students engaged in the Suite360 social emotional curriculum and actively participated each week. Each of their lessons corresponded to a parent lesson to encourage family discussions at home.

As we end the school year, we would like to thank students and parents for keeping up with all their Suite360 Lessons!

Reinforcement Activities:

- Field/Amusement Day-May 25, 2015
- Summer Learning program is available this 2022 school year!!

Students are given opportunities to show how they can accomplish these goals through Restorative Justice, Capturing Kids' Hearts and P.B.I.S. Check out some of these fun activities on [ClassDojo.com](#) each Monday and make a family night. Thank you parents for all your support and enjoy your summer!

Mrs. Johnson  
C.A.R.E. Facilitator  
708.849.7153 x2324

### P.B.I.S Mrs. Bivins



Learning doesn't have to stop just because it's summer break!

Here are some choice reads that celebrate summer, taking kids on beach trips and bike rides and to the baseball field. Add them to your students' summer reading list. I even included a hands-on activity book that will provide hours of science fun using a few common household items and a whole lot of creativity.

- [Curious George Goes to the Beach](#) by H.A. Rey (Pre-K-Kindergarten)
- [Swashby and the Sea](#) by Beth Ferry and illustrated by Juana Martinez Neal (Pre-K-3)
- [Hot Day on Abbott Avenue](#) by Karen English and Illustrated by Javaka Steptoe (Pre-K-3)
- [FLOTSAM](#) by David Wiesner (Pre-K-3)
- [Two Whats?! and a Wow! Think & Tinker Playbook](#) by Mindy Thomas and Guy Raz (Grades 3-7)
- [The Last Last-Day-of-Summer](#) by Lamar Giles and illustrated by Dapo Adeola (Grades 3-7)
- [Camp](#) by Kayla Miller (Grades 3-7)
- [Keeping Score](#) by Linda Sue Park (Grades 3-7)
- [Baseball in April and Other Stories](#) by Gary Soto (Grades 3-7)
- [Harris and Me](#) by Gary Paulsen (Grades 5-7)

Have a great and safe summer!!

## ROCKETS NEWS



**M.T.S.S.**  
**Mrs. Patrick**

### Take a Break, but Bring a Book!

By: [Reading Rockets](#)



Reading over the summer not only keeps your child from losing ground, but actually improves skills for the coming year. Here are some suggestions to keep a book in your child's hands over the summer months.

#### Summer reading tips for parents

Kids look forward to some time away from homework and quizzes, but summer is not a time to take a break from reading! When students don't read for three months, their academic skills can slip. Three months may not seem like a long time, but by middle school, some experts say this down time can put kids up to two years behind!

Reading over the summer not only keeps your child from losing ground, but actually improves skills for the coming year. Here are some suggestions to keep a book in your child's hands over the summer months.

- Visit your local library -books can be downloaded via the digital library.
- Make fun reading choices by exploring new authors and illustrators.
- Bring along a book whenever you leave the house.
- Don't make reading a punishment, just it a part of your day.
- Reward reading progress by setting a weekly reading goal. When the goal is met reward your child with a treat or fun activity.

For more information on helping your kids succeed at reading, visit: [www.ReadingRockets.org](http://www.ReadingRockets.org).



4<sup>th</sup> Graders visit Park Elementary School