

Tiger Tales

Rockfish Elementary School
5763 Rockfish Road
Hope Mills, NC 28348
September 15, 2016
Volume 6, Issue 1



Mission Statement

Rockfish Elementary School is committed to providing a quality education for all students by providing a safe atmosphere in which all children feel secure, loved and challenged.

September 2016

- 20 ~ All Day Dine Out Rudino's Hope Mills Mention Rockfish
- 21 ~ Battle of the Books Tryouts
- 22 ~ PTA/Title I & Curriculum Night 5:30-7:30 p.m. - Dinner \$5.00
- 22 ~ Fall Fundraiser -- Ends Oct. 14
- 27 ~ Dine Out - 4-8:00 pm - Firehouse Subs, Hope Mills
- 28 ~ Progress Reports Go Home!!
- 30 ~ *All required student records must be on file in the office in order for a student to remain in school.*



Looking ahead...

October 2016

- 4 ~ PTA Dine Out Arby's 4-8 p.m. Hope Mills
- 6 ~ PTA Board Meeting 2:45 p.m.
- 7 ~ PTA Fall Tiger Trek 8:30-9:30 RFES
- 11-12 ~ Fall Pictures - 11/K-2 12/3-5
- 13 ~ AR Family Night/Reading Library Grades 2-5 6:00-7:30 p.m.
- 14 ~ RFES Fall Fund Raiser Ends
- 15 ~ READING ROCKS! - 8:00-11:00 a.m.



From the Principal's Pen...

SEPTEMBER 2016!! It was wonderful to welcome back our Little Tigers to another great year of learning and growing at Rockfish Elementary School. We worked diligently throughout the summer to prepare for their return and success, and true to the Rockfish tradition, we began the year with *high expectations*. Our *high expectations* always extend to students, staff, and parents, because it takes all of us working together to ensure academic success for all students. Research affirms the crucial connection of home-school-community to student achievement and success.

Some timely guidelines for student success include:

- **Be on time every day and remain in school for the full day.**
- Be responsible for your behavior at school. Distractions and disruptions will not be tolerated.
- Tell an adult at school and/or at home if you are bullied.
- Get help when someone else is being bullied.
- Dress appropriately - Student dress code is in the Parent-Student Handbook.
- Take advantage of extra-curricular opportunities planned for students and parents.

Parents, I ask that you make every effort to assure that your child arrives to school on time each day and remains for the entire school day. Tardiness and early checkouts are disruptive and take invaluable instruction time away from the entire class. Research shows that every disruption causes a gap in learning for ALL students in the classroom and can make the difference between a student passing or having to remediate. Please read the *Parent-Student Handbook* and go over it with your child. It includes a calendar of special events as well as important information that explains school policies and regulations. For those families who are new to the Rockfish community, you will discover that we have many wonderful activities available for parents and students. When we have a school-wide event that is not noted in our handbook calendar, your child will bring home a note or flyer with specifics, and you will be notified by phone through ConnectEd.

Every day is a great day of learning at Rockfish Elementary School.

~Mr. Gardner, RFES Principal

From the Media Center

The 13th annual Reading Rocks! Walk-A-Thon fundraiser is already in full swing. If you would like to donate money for Reading Rocks!, please send in your contribution by October 6. All funds raised are used to purchase new books or electronic reading devices for our Media Center. We have a few different ways to donate this year: First, families may donate using the envelope that went home last week. Second, we will be hosting a school dance for all students. The cost is \$10 for admission, pizza, chips, and a drink. Students may bring in the money anytime between now and the dance to purchase pre-sale tickets, or they may purchase tickets at the door. Students in grades K-2 will have their dance at 2:30-4:30 p.m. on Thursday, September 29. Students in grades 3-5 will have their dance at 2:30-4:30 p.m. on Friday, September 30. Parents may donate loose change in the parent pick-up line on September 14-15.

The Reading Rocks! ceremony begins at 8:30 and the walk begins at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, October 15, at Festival Park in downtown Fayetteville. There will be incentives for any student who participates in the walk to show that Reading Rocks at Rockfish!

Kindergarten

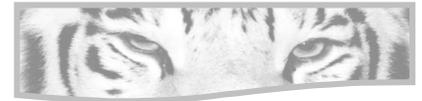
Kindergartners are off to a great start!! We were so glad to meet so many of you at open house! At this time your children are working on recognizing and writing their numbers 1 through 10 in math. They are learning all about scientists and what they do. In social studies students are learning to be responsible, respectful, and to follow directions. In English language arts the children are building their name and sorting lower and upper case letters as well as learning the letter sounds from the alphabet. It is a privilege to teach your children each day, and we look forward to an amazing school year.

An investment in knowledge pays the best dividends.

~ Benjamin Franklin

Expect the Best

Classroom News and Views:



First Grade

We are having a fabulous time getting started in first grade and looking forward to a month filled with exciting learning! In ELA, we are reviewing short vowel sounds to help students read with accuracy and fluency. We are also working on finding the main idea of a text. In math, we are working on adding and subtracting with word problems. Parents, now is a great time to start practicing those basic addition and subtraction facts with your children! There will be a big push for students to develop a deeper understanding of the literature we are covering this year by demonstrating comprehension through writing. We are practicing answering comprehension questions in writing along with writing complete sentences with capital letters, periods, and correct finger spaces. For social studies and science, we are discovering the importance of rules and safety procedures. If you have any questions or concerns at this time, please address them to your child's teacher. We appreciate all of your support and consider it an honor to work with your children.

Second Grade

In second grade, 2016-17 has started out to be an amazing year, and second grade teachers are looking forward to working with your children. Here are a few things you need to know and a few ways you can help at home:

Literacy – Please encourage your child to complete all station work on a daily basis. Station work reinforces skills taught in whole and small group and helps to support academic success. We highly encourage your child to read at home nightly and to take an AR test daily in the classroom.

Writing – We are beginning to write a personal narrative paper. To help at home, allow your child to write detailed sentences and remind them to begin the sentence with a capital letter and to end with a punctuation mark.

Math – Rockfish is striving for a quicker pace of math fluency. We will be working on basic addition and subtraction fluency to the sum of 20. We encourage you to buy/create your child a set of addition and subtraction flashcards to use nightly at home.

Science – Second grade level is putting together a Science Field Trip for students to learn hands on about matter (solids, liquids and gases). Information regarding the cost of the trip will be sent out on a later date.



Thanks to Barber Kings of Hope Mills and their "Cut My City" event, Mr. Gardner ROCKED a new precision haircut at Rockfish.

Terrific Third Grade

Third graders are off to an amazing start, and we are so excited to have this opportunity to work with your children as they embark on a new school year. Third grade is always full of transitions and challenges, since students are learning to be more independent and responsible. Organizational skills will be a big focus as we begin the year. Please continue to support at home by checking planners each night and developing strong routines that help your child prepare for a great day of learning.

We have started AR, and our students are already off and running with reading. Our math units are reinforcing some foundational place value skills with rounding, addition, and subtraction. Keep an eye out for cursive practice! Students are excited about their handwriting and it shows. Thank you for all your home support as we move forward into a thrilling third grade adventure. Please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher if you have questions or concerns!

Fabulous Fourth Grade

The fourth grade team is excited for another great school year. Parents please make sure that you return all paperwork that was sent home at open house and on the first day of school promptly. All fourth graders should be practicing multiplication facts at home. Also, please encourage your child to read each night as they work to meet their first AR goal of the school year!

Fifth Grade

- √ Fifth Grade welcomes Mrs. Spurlin and Mrs. Jones to our team!
- √ To encourage fact fluency we have an operational fluency test every week. Students who score 75% or below are required to practice their facts as "Weekend Math Warriors." Check planners weekly for their status.
- √ Every fifth grade student should be working toward earning their individual Accelerated Reading Goal by reading every day for thirty minutes.
- √ Please remember to check your child's planner for homework and notes.
- √ Homework is essential practice. When it's not completed students are unprepared for review lessons the following day.
- √ Encourage students to ask questions about homework prior to leaving each day.

A little school joke to chuckle about:

Q: Why did the music teacher need a ladder?

A: To reach the high notes.

HA!
HA!
HA!

