

February 2024

Columbia Elementary School

February breakfast and lunch menus

Mark your calendar

- February 1st - February 29th - **Kindergarten Enrollment for 2024-205 school year** (more details below)
- February 7th - Progress reports sent home
- February 14th - Valentine's Day
- February 26th - March 1st - Book Fair (during school library class - more details below)
- March 1st - 5:00pm - 7:30pm - Book Fair Family Night (more details below)



Reminders

- With Valentine's Day around the corner....Deliveries of flowers, balloons, and other gifts are *discouraged* at Columbia!! Please see page 7 of our Student Handbook under **GIFTS AND PARTIES.**
- Before school care - if we have a 2 hour delay and then get the call school has been closed students need to be picked up within 30 minutes of closure. There is no childcare at Columbia on days school is closed.
- **Please label your student's winter gear!**

Click to order your yearbook - enter code 83095R

Cost: \$16

Online yearbook ordering available until: Friday, March 08, 2024

RCSC Inclement Weather Days

The following resources will be utilized to notify parents/guardians and the community of school closure due to inclement weather:



- School Reach Phone Calls
- RCSC Website www.zebras.net
- Facebook (Rochester High School, Rochester Middle School, Riddle Elementary, Columbia Elementary School)
- @RHSZebras & @RMSZebras on X
- rochester_zebras on Instagram
- WROI 92.1 FM
- WSBT
- WNDU



Contact your building secretary or log in to your student's Harmony account to sign up for School Reach alert phone calls.

Meet Our Staff



All Day Preschool IA's

Mrs. Howard, Miss Krista, Mrs. Replogle, Mrs. Thayer



Kindergarten IA's

Ms. Pelko, Mrs. Jaeger, Mrs. Sutton, Mrs. Kamp, Mrs. Shuck, Miss Hannah



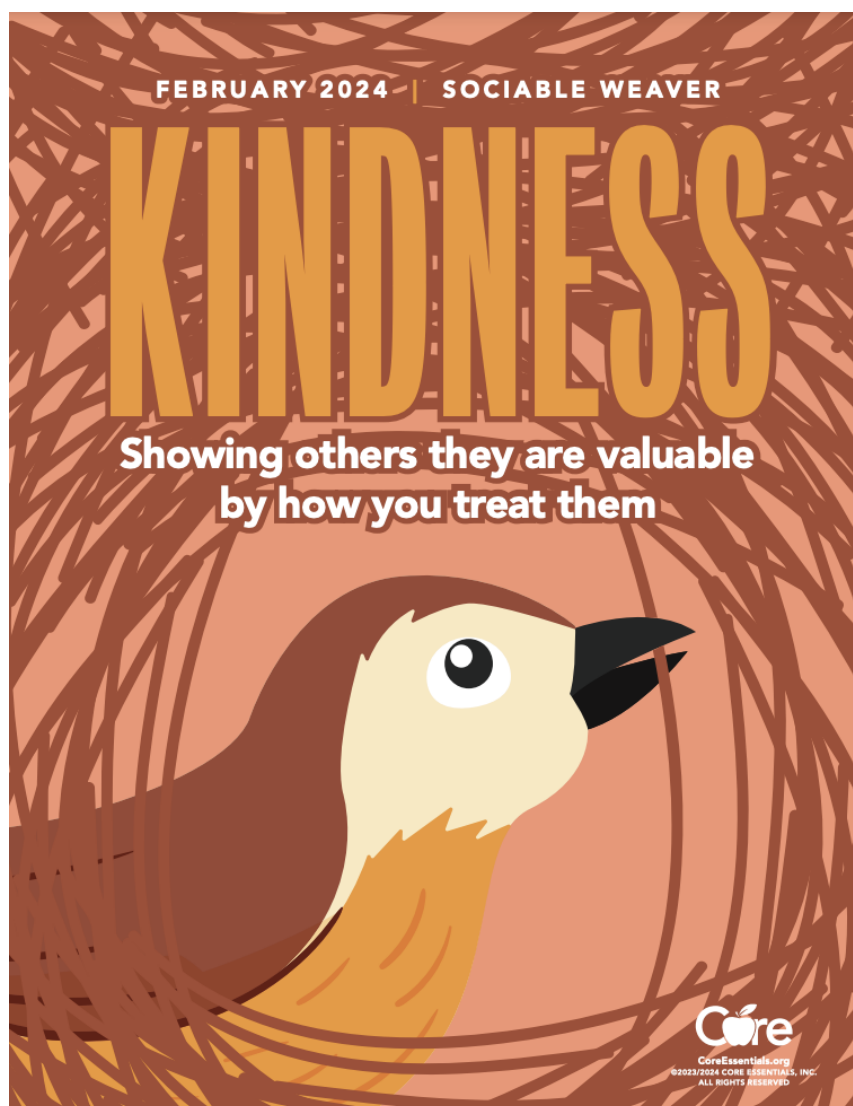
First Grade IA's

Mrs. Vincent, Mrs. Fincher, Mrs. Amezcua, Mrs. Scott

Counselor's Corner

During the month of February, Kindergarten students will be learning about personal space. We will brainstorm about Safe Touches (a welcomed hug, encouraging pat on the back or cuddling with a parent) and Unsafe Touches ("icky," uncomfortable or confusing touches) make them feel. Students will learn they have private parts, which are covered by their bathing suits, and that NO ONE should touch or look at their private parts, except their Grown-Up Buddies and doctors when they are in pain or feel that something may be wrong. Students will also learn their mouths are private parts and no one should put anything in them, unless they're at the doctor or dentist. Students will be strongly encouraged to tell a trusted adult about any touch that makes them feel unsafe and to keep telling until they get the 2 H's: Heard and Helped.

First grade students will learn about safe and unsafe secrets. A safe secret is one that is eventually told and that makes everyone happy- like a surprise party or a secret handshake with a best friend. An unsafe secret is one that makes you feel confused, “icky” or bad and you are told not to tell. Students will learn that it is never safe to keep an unsafe secret, no matter who asks or tells them to keep it. When faced with being asked to keep a secret, students will learn to use Think, Feel, Act to help them process how the secret makes them feel. If it makes them feel confused or icky, they must tell their Grown-Up Buddy or someone in their Trusted Triangle. To learn more about the curriculum, please visit <https://safersmarterkids.org/> and click on “parents.” If you have questions, please feel free to contact me at 574-223-2501 ext. 2005.



Note From Nurse Stacey

As we continue to make our way through winter, please ensure your children have proper clothing to go outside for recess.

Remind your child not to share clothing items such as hats. If your child needs a coat, hat, or gloves, please let me know and I will be happy to provide them.

Please continue to monitor your child's health as we continue through the flu season. If parents keep their children home at the first signs of illness, it will help us prevent the spread of illnesses to other children. The following are guidelines to help determine when to keep your ill child home and what is determined to send your child home from school: nausea vomiting diarrhea earache

sore throat, persistent cough, temperatures of 100.4 or higher, headache & stomach ache in combination with other symptoms (i.e., cough, sore throat, and low grade fever).



February is Children's Dental Health Awareness Month!

Here are some Healthy Smile Tips for your children:

- 1) Brush your teeth 2x/day with fluoride toothpaste.
- 2) Clean between your teeth daily.
- 3) Eat healthy foods & limit sugary beverages.
- 4) See your dentist at least twice a year.

Columbia PTO

- All prizes from LaBraid will be sent home in February.
- Smencil sales will be February 7th-14th (**see attached flyer**)
- If you attended any of the High School basketball games this winter you may have noticed PTO having spirit blankets for sale. We still have a few left for \$30 if you would like one or more. The size of the blanket is 60x70. Please email Michelle Jaeger if you have any questions. (**see attached flyer**)
- We will be having PTO meeting in March, date TBA.
- We will be having one last Double Good popcorn sale this year. It will be the last year we participate with this company. Sales will begin after Spring Break.



Smencils

[Download](#)

161.7 KB

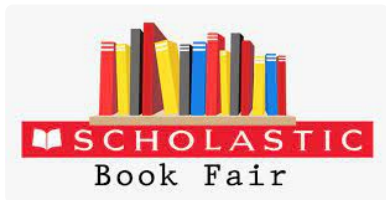
Spirit Blankets

[Download](#)

419.8 KB

Book Fair  February 26th - March 1st

Family Night - March 1st, 5pm - 7:30pm



Here's what you need to know about the big event, which will take place from 2/26 - 3/1! During that week students will be able to make purchases during their library time! We also have a FAMILY EVENT, 3/1 from 5 pm to 7:30 pm!

Visit our Book Fair homepage to learn more and get started with eWallet and online shopping:
<https://www.scholastic.com/bf/columbiaelementaryschool28>.

Kindergarten Enrollment for 2024-2025

Please stop in the office at Columbia Elementary to pick up a packet, fill out the necessary information and return completed pages to Columbia. Be sure you've included a valid email. In the beginning of March we will start emailing those who have turned in their packets to set up a time to bring your student to the Learning Center for Kindergarten Roundup on April 5th.

If your student is currently in Columbia's preschool program you DO NOT NEED TO DO ANYTHING!

April 5th Round-Up

[Download](#)

99.5 KB

Teacher requests for 2024 - 2025

Below are the different ways to make a teacher request, depending on what grade your student will be in next school year. All requests made prior to the deadline will be considered, however we are not able to make guarantees. Class placement will be made based on a variety of factors.

LATE REQUESTS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED

*Students entering Kindergarten -an email will be sent from Brenda McClain using Google Forms on April 5th and need to be submitted by April 12th.

*Students entering 1st Grade - an email will be sent from Brenda McClain using Google Forms on March 1st and need to be submitted by March 8th.

****RCSC does not offer teacher requests beyond 1st Grade****

Pay preschool tuition - due on the 1st of each month



Columbia Elementary School

The Littlest Zebras In The Herd

1502 Elm Street, Rocheter, IN 46975

574-223-2501