



January 2024 Newsletter

Kindergarten Center

www.rutherfordschools.org/kcenter/

January 2	Schools Reopen Library Tales - Ms. Sayre
January 8	Library Tales - Mrs. Parkinson
January 9	Library Tales - Mrs. Kratzer
January 15	Schools Closed - Dr. King's Birthday
January 16	Library Tales - Ms. Ketcho (Mrs. Bomzer)
January 18	Lunch Portal Opens for February Orders
January 22-24	Climate Change Assembly Great Kindness Challenge/Spirit Week Library Tales - Mrs. Rim
January 23	Library Tales - Ms. Coccoz
January 25	One Session Day-Conferences (Pre-K-6 ONLY) 12:45 Dismissal; No Lunch Served. Bring a snack.
January 26	Schools Closed-Conferences (Pre-K-6 ONLY)
January 29	Library Tales - Mrs. Witalis
January 30	Library Tales - Ms. Ruglio

**Please note all books borrowed from the Public Library during the Library Tales visit must be returned directly to the Rutherford Public Library. Do not send them back to school for any reason.*

Health Office/Medical Information

- Please keep all children home until they are fever free for 24 hours without the use of Tylenol/Motrin.
- Any student that has vomiting and diarrhea must stay home for 24 hours until the symptoms have passed.
- Please be sure to follow up with the pediatrician if your child has a productive or persistent cough.
- If your child was seen by a physician, please provide a note to the school.
- Head Lice: Please continue your part by checking your child's hair daily. Please notify [Nurse Erica](#) if you identify head lice or have a question about it.
- **Doctor notes are required for gym and recess accommodations.**

Absences

To report an absence, call **201 438-7675 ext. 6219** or Email kcenterattendance@rutherfordschools.org

Please report absences by 9:00 am.

Provide your child's name and teacher and upon return, please provide a written note regarding their absence(s) signed by a parent/guardian and/or a note from the physician regarding their absences.

A child must be present for 4 hours to be marked present for the day. Students who are absent more than 18 days may be retained as noted in the Student Handbook. Please provide the proper documentation for health related absences for our records in the event 18 days are accumulated. Your cooperation is appreciated.

(Late) Arrivals

If your child arrives after the doors have closed, they must be signed in at the main office. At no time shall a child be dropped off, unattended, when school is in session. As stated in the Student Handbook, a parent conference will be held to address tardiness. During the first Trimester, it is understood that kindergarteners and families are adjusting to the new norms, however, as we start the 2nd Trimester, **all students are expected to be arriving on time and as noted, students will receive a lunch detention on the sixth tardy and on every third tardy thereafter.**

Author Visit

Author Beth Ferry will be visiting and presenting for students Kindergarten to Grade 3. Kindergarteners will be attending the presentation at Lincoln or Washington School with their class and classroom teacher on February 8 via a district school bus. Your teacher will provide additional information respective to the school your child will be visiting. Attached is an [order form](#) to review for ordering the author's books.

Celebrations

Food/candy will not be distributed from home at any time. To celebrate your child on their special day, students may bring in a party favor, donate an item such as a book or game to the class, and/or have a guest reader. Additionally, party invitations will be distributed at school **only if the whole class or all boys/all girls are invited.** Please contact your child's teacher directly to coordinate.

Conferences

Parent conferences will be held on January 25 and January 26. Students have a one session day on January 25 and students are not in session on January 26. **This is a parent only event.** Each conference is no longer than 15 minutes long and your cooperation in following the allotted time is appreciated. Information regarding date and time will be sent home by classroom teachers. Please contact your child's classroom teacher directly if you have any questions.

Climate Change Assembly

The Meadowlands Environment Center will be visiting the Kindergarten Center on January 22, 23, and 24 to give a presentation on climate warming to the students.

Dismissal

Students are dismissed from the designated dismissal doors at 2:35. Parents/guardians must meet their child directly at their class dismissal area to ensure a safe dismissal. Parking in crosswalks and blocking driveways pose safety hazards and is inconsiderate to our neighbors. If your child is being picked up by someone that is not on the authorized dismissal list, please be sure you have contacted the teacher prior to the start of the day.

Dress for the Weather

Students go outside to play on a daily basis. Remember to label all additional clothing items. Children will not go outside if it is raining or in heavy snow, however, if you decide to send your child in boots for inclement weather, please send a pair of shoes that they can participate in PE or outside play if applicable.

Drop-off Line

The drop-off line begins on Highland Cross and continues north on Sylvan Street. Please follow the staff's directives as you pull up. Cars are to pull all the way up to the driveway and pull up directly to the car behind them. Once stopped in the drop-off lane on Sylvan Street, please have your child exit the car **independently.** Parents/Guardians are not permitted to exit the car when utilizing the drop-off lane. Staff is there to supervise, however, your child must be able to independently exit the car. This includes unbuckling and opening/closing the door. If your child can not, you must park and walk your child to the front of the building.

Extra Set of Clothes

Clothing will be sent home to be replaced with weather appropriate clothing. Please be sure to return the labeled bag promptly, extra set of clothes with undergarments (in a labeled ziplock bag) inside your child's backpack in case of a spill or accident. The clothing will be kept at school. This is separate from that requested by Bulldog Care. Be sure to return a new set of clothes in the event your child needed to change while at school.

Great Kindness Challenge

The Kindergarten Center will participate in the GREAT KINDNESS CHALLENGE the week of January 22 to further promote a culture of kindness at the Kindergarten Center! Students and staff are challenged to go above and beyond their daily acts of kindness to spread kindness with others. This will coincide with a school wide Spirit Week.

Library Tales

Each class will be visiting the Rutherford Public Library. Our town librarian will provide them the opportunity to explore the various resources available and read the class a story. Students will be transported to the library via district school bus or on occasion walk. Any items that your child borrows from the library must be returned directly to the library. The school is not responsible for items. Library cards do not need to be sent into school or created prior to. Dates are scheduled from January through June of 2024:

Mrs. Bomzer (Ms. Ketcho)	January 16	March 4	April 22
Ms. Cocoz	January 23	February 20	May 28
Mrs. Kratzer	January 9	February 12	May 21
Mrs. Parkinson	January 8	February 6	April 23
Mrs. Rim	January 22	February 13	June 14
Ms. Ruglio	January 30	February 27	June 11
Ms. Sayre	January 2	February 5	April 17
Mrs. Witalis	January 29	March 12	May 13

Lost Items

To reduce the number of items in our Lost and Found Box, which will be located in the north lobby, please label all clothing items (sweaters, sweatshirts, jackets, hats etc.) with your child's name or initials. From time to time we will have all items outside the school for parents to go through.

Lunch

Parents must provide a drink and lunch for their child daily. Please see the options below:

Lunch from Home: Please provide a lunch meal, snack and drink. The school does not heat lunches or provide drinks. Glass containers are not permitted to be sent to school. Please practice opening containers independently and be sure to send utensils/napkins.

PTA Lunch: The PTA provides pre-order lunches from various local businesses. The specifics regarding the lunches have been shared directly by the PTA. They offer Bagels on Tuesdays, Pizza on Wednesdays and Jim Dandy's on Thursdays.

Ordered Lunch: The Kindergarten Center falls under Lincoln School for lunch ordering and you **must** select Lincoln School as the school when prompted. Specific information regarding the lunch service has been shared. The district will notify families via email as to when the lunch portal is open for each month. **Lunch orders are not accepted after the closing date of the portal.**

If a child does not have lunch, they will receive an extra lunch or crackers.

Playground/School Grounds

Bulldog Care has priority to use the outdoor school grounds beginning at 3:00 daily. Should you allow time for your child to play following dismissal, please be sure to leave school grounds by 3:00. All children must be well supervised by their adult. Children should be in sight of their adult at all times and should refrain from playing on the stairs, ringing the bells to the building, throwing rocks or any other items, standing on top of the climbing "rock" on the playground or being physical with other children. **It is the responsibility of the parents/guardians to maintain the safety of our students.**