



Dates to Remember!!

# RICHMOND SCHOOL WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

DAN WESTON, PRINCIPAL

## FROM PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE:

2/2/22—PTA Meeting  
6:30

Richmond Consolidated School Community,

On Tuesday we sent home an important notice about a new testing opportunity and important changes to how we respond to COVID-19 cases. RCS will be participating in the at home testing program. Your participation in this program is optional, but we encourage all families to participate. If you have not signed up for this program, and would like to do so, please use this

link: <https://forms.gle/qiZRYyeusXnp36QP6>.

Our participation in this program brings forward the following changes:

- This program begins the week of February 7<sup>th</sup>.
- The Test and Stay program must be discontinued and we will no longer be conducting contact tracing per DPH/DESE protocols.
- This will eliminate the requirement that students, who may have been close contacts at school, quarantine.
- We will continue to do our weekly COVID safety checks on Thursdays.
- We will continue symptomatic testing based on the current protocols.

We believe that this new approach will help keep students in school and continue to reduce the risk of transmission for the RCS community. Please see the letter included in this newsletter for detailed information.

Dan Weston

## Important Reminders

- Kiss & Ride — Pre-k & K—Be in line ready at 2:45 Grades 1-8—Be in line no earlier than 2:55
- Celebration Day— Jan 28

Monday, Jan 31	Tuesday, Feb 1	Wednesday, Feb 2	Thursday, Feb 3	Friday, Feb 4
Grilled Turkey and Cheese on Pittsfield Rye Bread	BBQ Chicken	Pulled Pork Sand on whole wheat roll	The Madrid Burrito (spanish rice, chesse & egg)	French Bread Piz-za
Seasoned Potatoes	Potato Salad	Cole Slaw	Veggie	Salad
Carrot Sticks	Corn Bread	Fruit	Fruit	Fruit
Fruit	Fruit	Sandwich:	Sandwich:	Sandwich:
Sandwich:	PBJ	PBF	PBJ	PBJ
PBJ				

*This institution is an equal opportunity provider*

**LUNCHES ARE FREE** per The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) who announced the extension of flexibilities to allow universal free lunch meals including beverage to be available to all children and teens **throughout the entire School Year 2021-2022.**

**We encourage you to have your student try our delicious home cooked lunches.**



## Richmond Consolidated School

1831 State Road  
Richmond, MA 01254  
413-698-2207  
413-698-3199(fax)

Dan Weston,  
PRINCIPAL

Richmondconsolidated.org

Click [here](#) to find the 2021-2022 Free and Reduced Lunch Application.

Sign up for "myschoolbucks" to track student snack purchases in real time.

**Town of Richmond** If you suspect your child may have special needs and is three years old or older, please call the Special Education Director, Mary Shook, at 413-698-4001 to schedule an evaluation.



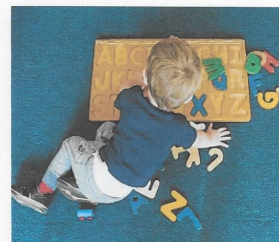
The Flower Power fundraising materials will go home March 4th. All orders will be due by April 1st. All orders are placed online.

PTA is working with each grade level teacher and Mrs. O'Donnell on a special Valentine Day craft. Students will bring the completed projects home early in February.

Join us for our next meeting on Wednesday February 2nd\* at 6:30(note to date change) we will reevaluate potential dates for winter socials based on the overall health and well-being of the school.

## Richmond Reads!

1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of every month  
10:00am-11:00am  
Starts December 7<sup>th</sup>  
Richmond Library  
2821 State Road/Richmond



\*Join South Berkshire Kids at the Richmond Library for a storytime and craft! This monthly, parent-child program is free and open to the community! Best for families with children ages 2-5. Masks will be required.



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Department of  
Early Education and Care

**\*\*South Berkshire Kids is funded by the Coordinated Family & Community Engagement (CFCE) grant provided to the Lee Public School District by the Department of Early Education and Care (EEC).**





















A group of approximately 12 students are posing in a classroom, each holding up a unique, hand-drawn mask or puppet. The masks feature a variety of designs, including animals like a bat, a tree, a bird, a wolf, and a frog, as well as abstract patterns and symbols. Some masks have handwritten labels such as "BAT", "TREE", "BIRD", "WOLF MASKER", and "FROG". The students are dressed in casual clothing, and the background shows typical classroom elements like shelves with books and posters.



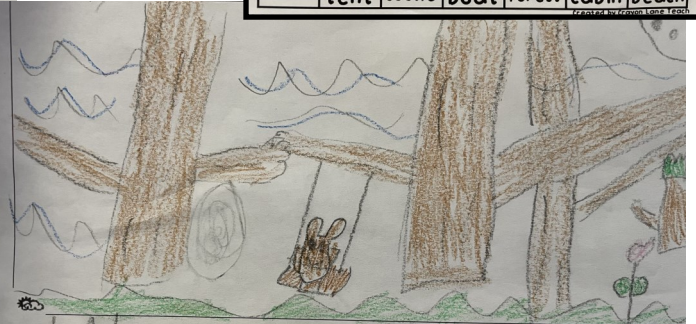


Kinders practiced handwriting by writing silly sentences that were started by rolling a die for the "who, what, and where".

Roll and write!							Roll the dice 3 times and write the sentence parts.						
Roll!	1	2	3	4	5	6							
Who?													
	girl	sheep	owl	boy	angel	nurse							
What?													
	drive	hop	swim	swing	mop	write							
Where?													
	tent	castle	boat	forest	cabin	beach							



The boy will mop the tent.



We can see an owl swing in the forest.



The boy will mop the tent.



We can see an owl swing in the forest!

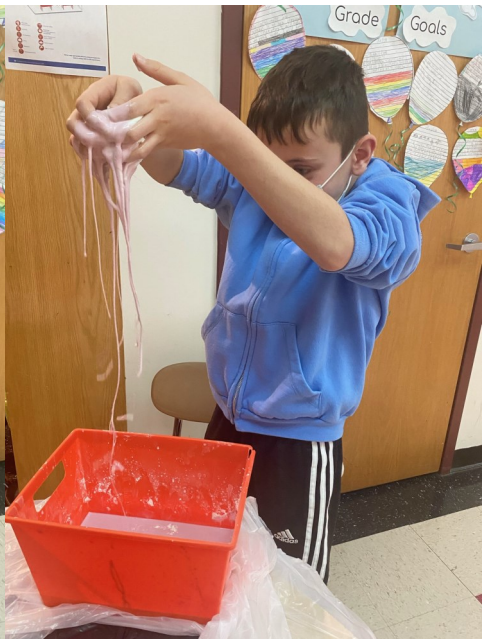


The boy will mop the tent.



The angel will hop off the boat.



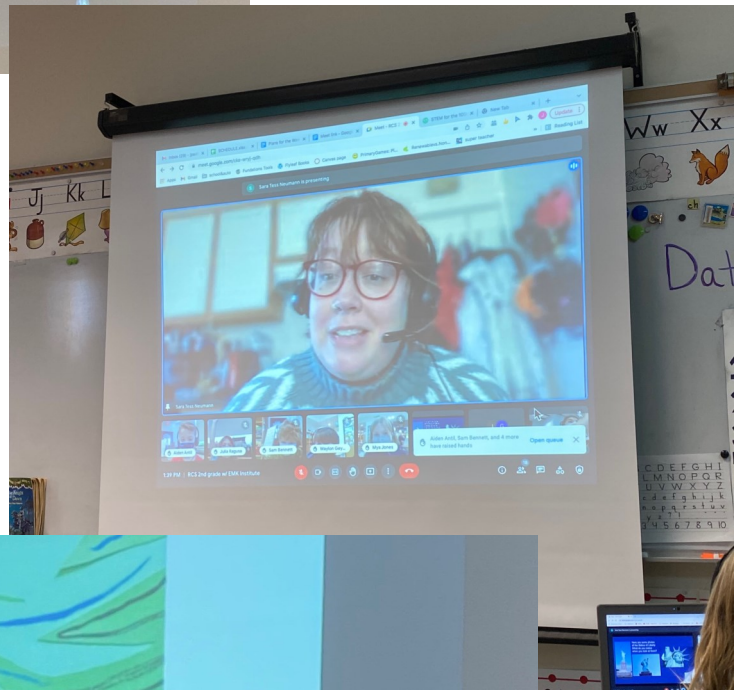


Second grade wrapped up our learning about solids, liquids and gases with a gooey experiment!! We made oobleck!! This slime behaves like both a solid and a liquid!!





2nd Grade had a virtual field trip to the Edward M. Kennedy Institute for the United States Senate. We learned about the Statue of Liberty!





presents

# UKULELE WORKSHOP

at Richmond Consolidated School

January 21, 2022

Dear Parents and Guardians:

Exciting news! The Berkshire Music School will be offering 8 FREE ukulele lessons to Richmond Consolidated School 4th - 6th grade students after school on Mondays from 3:10-3:55 at the school. The lessons will be conducted in a small group setting. Therefore, due to the nature of the instruction, the group will be limited to the first 10 students who sign up. Admission will be decided on a first come, first served basis. **This project has been supported by a grant from the Richmond Education Enrichment Fund (REEF) of the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation and the Richmond Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.**

**The classes are FREE, and the DEADLINE for registration is MONDAY, JANUARY 31, 2022.**  
Please use the attached permission slip to register.

Ukulele Workshop

**Mondays 3:10-3:55 pm  
February 7, 14 (school vacation 2/21), 28  
March 7, 14, 21, 28  
April 4**

**The ukulele lessons are FREE** and the Berkshire Music School has ukuleles to lend. However, it is strongly suggested that you purchase a ukulele for your child so that he or she can practice at home and continue to play after the workshop is finished, the cost is \$20 to be paid when registering for the class. (If borrowing a ukulele

from the school, there will be a \$20 security deposit that will be refunded when you return the Ukulele undamaged). Pick up will be at Richmond School during the first class. If borrowing a ukulele, please return it to the

instructor during the last class. **If borrowing or purchasing a ukulele, please bring ukulele money in an envelope with your child's name to the Richmond School office**

**With restrictions in place due to the COVID-19 pandemic, registrations for the ukulele workshop will be taken through the Berkshire Music School's office by emailing the attached permission slip to: [outreach@berkshireremusicsschool.org](mailto:outreach@berkshireremusicsschool.org) or by calling 413-442-1411.**





UKULELE

WORKSHOP

Richmond Consolidated School

## PERMISSION SLIP

**The DEADLINE for registration is MONDAY, JANUARY 31, 2022**

**Please email permission slip to: [outreach@berkshireremusicsschool.org](mailto:outreach@berkshireremusicsschool.org)**

My son/daughter \_\_\_\_\_ has my permission to participate in the Berk-  
shire

(Student's Name)

Music School's after-school ukulele workshop

Student's Grade: \_\_\_\_\_ Teacher's  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Ad-  
dress: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\*Phone number \_\_\_\_\_ \*Email ad-  
dress: \_\_\_\_\_  
\*Required

Photo / Video Release: (check one)

I allow the Berkshire Music School to use photographs, videos, art work, and recordings made during  
this program for fundraising and promotional purposes.

Please do not photograph or record my child during this program.

\_\_\_\_\_.

(Parent's Signature)

(Date)



Join us for this weekly Zoom program for children who will be entering Kindergarten in the Fall 2022. Each week we will be working on different Kindergarten readiness skills (letter and number knowledge, listening, print awareness, concept words) and reading books about going to school!

**Every Wednesday in February @ 10:00am  
(February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>)**

**To Register:**

Email Jessica @ [southberkshirekids@gmail.com](mailto:southberkshirekids@gmail.com) to sign up and receive the zoom link.



**\*\*South Berkshire Kids is funded by the Coordinated Family & Community Engagement (CFCE) grant awarded to the Lee Public School District by the Department of Early Education and Care (EEC).**





Mark your calendars!  
Join us from the comfort of your home!  
Parent Workshops with  
**Scott Noyes on ZOOM!!!**

**\*Wednesday, January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2022 @ 7:00pm-8:30pm**

**Topic: De-escalation with Children**

De-escalation is the reduction in the intensity of a conflict. Unlike escalation, which often occurs rapidly and unintentionally, de-escalation tends to be slow and only happens intentionally through much effort. This workshop will explore multiple approaches to support caregivers and children.

**\*Wednesday, February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2022 @ 7:00pm-8:30pm**

**Topic: Parent/Child Interactions & Self Esteem**

By evaluating the phrases children are being told daily, parents and care providers understand the impact of their words. This workshop looks at ten common expressions adults use with kids. Discovering language flaws and finding ways to better express ourselves supports healthy relationships with children. Avoiding the pitfalls in communicating with children is the primary focus of this exciting session.

**\*Wednesday, March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2022 @ 7:00pm-8:30pm**

**Topic: Children's Rivalry**

Stop the fighting!! We will learn how to help children with rivalry, competition, resentfulness, envy, and conflict. This workshop is free and open to all caregivers...parents, grandparents, and early educators. Bring your concerns and leave with a few helpful parenting tips!!

**\*\*Each night we will raffle off a collection of Scholastic books! If you attend the workshop your name will be entered into the raffle and the winner will be announced at the end of each workshop!**

**\*\*Registration required to receive the Zoom link.**

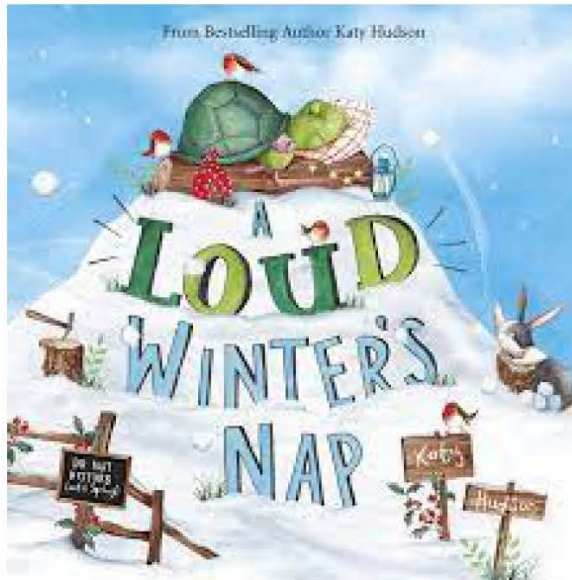
**Email Jessica: [southberkshirekids@gmail.com](mailto:southberkshirekids@gmail.com)**



# South Berkshire Kids and the Lee Library

welcome you to enjoy a

## STORYWALK<sup>®</sup> through downtown Lee!



\*Pages of the children's book **A Loud Winter's Nap** by Katy Hudson will be posted in store front windows along the main street in Lee.....enjoy taking a walk and reading this book along the way!

**February 1<sup>st</sup>-28<sup>th</sup>**

The Storywalk will remain up during the month of February. Stop by the library during open hours to pick up a free learning packet, while supplies last.

\*Park at the Lee Library, the storywalk starts and ends at the library.

\*After completing the walk, fill out the form below, and drop it in the Lee Library's book return. You will be entered into a drawing for a Barnes & Noble gift certificate!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# of children who participated \_\_\_\_\_

Email or  
phone# \_\_\_\_\_





## South Berkshire Kids

CFCE Grant

### February 2022

Program Schedule

\* If you have further questions, please contact Jess at 413-464-5095

[southberkshirekids@gmail.com](mailto:southberkshirekids@gmail.com)

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Department of  
Early Education and Care

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>In Person</b> ➔	<b>*StoryWalk</b> Downtown Lee during the month of February! <i>A Loud Winter's Nap</i> by Katy Hudson	<b>*Otis Explore &amp; Play</b> @ Otis Town Hall 10:00am-11:30am, Drop in. <b>*Richmond Reads @</b> Richmond Library, 10am 1 <sup>st</sup> Tuesday of every month, Feb 1 <sup>st</sup> Drop in.	<b>*Lenox Play @</b> Lenox Community Center, 10:00am. Registration Required.	<b>*Brain Builders @</b> Lee Library, 10:30am-11:30am Registration Required. <b>*Monterey Play @</b> Monterey Library, 10am Drop in.	<b>*Ages &amp; Stages</b> screenings, February 4 <sup>th</sup> & 18 <sup>th</sup> . Registration required.
<b>Virtual ZOOM</b> ➔	<b>*Baby Zoom</b> 10:00am. Email Jess for Zoom link.	<b>Virtual Puppet Shows with Tom Knight</b> zoom @ 10:00am. Email Jess for zoom link.	<b>*Virtual Wednesday Storytime</b> , pre-recorded stories posted on Facebook, 10am <b>*Getting Ready for K</b> 10am 4 zoom classes. Email Jess for zoom link	<b>*Sing with Kim!</b> Zoom @ 10:00am. Email Jess for zoom link.	

\*Program info can be found on our website: [www.SouthBerkshireKids.org](http://www.SouthBerkshireKids.org) \*All programs are free & open to the community!

#### In Person Programs

- **Otis Explore & Play** with Anina @ Otis Town Hall, 1 North Main Road, Otis. Tuesdays 10am-11:30am. This weekly caregiver/child playgroup will include play, songs, stories, and crafts. Drop in.
- **Richmond Reads** with Michelle @ Richmond Library, 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of every month, Feb. 1<sup>st</sup> @ 10am. Story, songs & craft. Drop in.
- **Ages & Stages** with Jess February 4<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> 10am-noon. We will meet you at any library in South County! Learn more about your child's development by signing up for an in-person screening visit. Screenings are available for ages 2 month-5 years old. Registration required to reserve a 30-minute family slot. Email Jess @ [southberkshirekids@gmail.com](mailto:southberkshirekids@gmail.com)
- **Lenox Play** with Michelle @ Lenox Community Center, Wednesdays @ 10am-11am. This weekly, parent-child program will include social play, stories, and craft. Limited spots, registration required for the Jan/Feb session, 8 classes.
- **Brain Builders/Lee** with Michelle @ Lee Library, Thursdays 10:30. This weekly, parent/child program will include a circle time & craft. Limited spots, registration required by emailing Jess at [southberkshirekids@gmail.com](mailto:southberkshirekids@gmail.com) Jan/Feb session, 8 classes.
- **Monterey Play** with Anina, @ Monterey Library, Thursdays 10:00am. This weekly, parent/child program includes free play, stories and a craft. Drop in.
- **StoryWalk** Pages of the children's story, *A Loud Winter's Nap* will be posted throughout downtown Lee through the month of February. Park at the Lee Library, pick up a free learning packet, while supplies last.

#### ZOOM \*Check website for online sign-ups or email Jess and Zoom links will be sent to you.

- **Babies & Books** with Jess, Mondays 10:00am. Join us on zoom for this weekly program that includes singing with the children and chatting about the joys and challenges of parenting. Great for babies & toddlers! Email [southberkshirekids@gmail.com](mailto:southberkshirekids@gmail.com) for zoom link.
- **Puppet Show with Tom Knight!** On zoom! Tuesdays 10:00am. This was a favorite program last year, join Tom with puppets, singing and dancing! Email Jess for the zoom link: [southberkshirekids@gmail.com](mailto:southberkshirekids@gmail.com).
- **Wednesday Storytime on Facebook** Visit us on our Facebook page for pre-recorded stories!
- **Getting Ready for K!** with Jess, Wednesdays @ 10am. This program is great for children who will be starting Kindergarten in the Fall. 4 zoom classes Email [southberkshirekids@gmail.com](mailto:southberkshirekids@gmail.com) to register.
- **Sing with Kim!** Join Kim on zoom for songs and a story, every Thursday @ 10:00am. Email Jess for the zoom link: [southberkshirekids@gmail.com](mailto:southberkshirekids@gmail.com)



Visit us online for additional resources & information  
[www.SouthBerkshireKids.org](http://www.SouthBerkshireKids.org) [www.Mass211.org](http://www.Mass211.org)



**Richmond Consolidated School**

1831 State Road  
Richmond, MA 01254-5100  
(413) 698-2207  
(413) 698-3199 *facsimile*

*Dan Weston, Principal*

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Keeping your students safe and in school is our top priority at RCS. We are writing to let you know, in accordance with the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) and the Department of Public Health (DPH), our district is updating our COVID-19 Testing Program. We are opting into an at-home testing program that will increase testing of our participating students and staff, regardless of vaccination status. For more information about this update to the statewide testing program, please [click here](#). The at-home testing option will begin during the week of February 7<sup>th</sup>. In addition to this new at-home antigen test option, we will continue with routine COVID safety checks and symptomatic testing during the week. As part of this shift in the program, we are discontinuing Test and Stay and contact tracing for in-school close contacts. This means that if your child is a potential contact in school, they may continue to come to school and do not have to quarantine. This new at-home testing opportunity is voluntary and only those who opt-in will receive tests. We strongly encourage you to fill out the form today to opt-in. If you have questions, please contact the school's nurse.

**COVID-19 Testing Programs in our Schools:**

1. **At-Home Rapid Antigen Testing** on **Monday morning before school**. (**NEW** opt in form <https://forms.gle/qiZRYyeusXnp36QP6>)

**Routine COVID Safety Checks** every Thursday (If you have not yet signed up, [click here](#))  
**Symptomatic Testing** (If you have not yet signed up, [click here](#))

**Overview: At-Home Rapid Testing Program**

**About the Test:** [iHealth](#) is a 15-minute at-home FDA-approved rapid antigen test

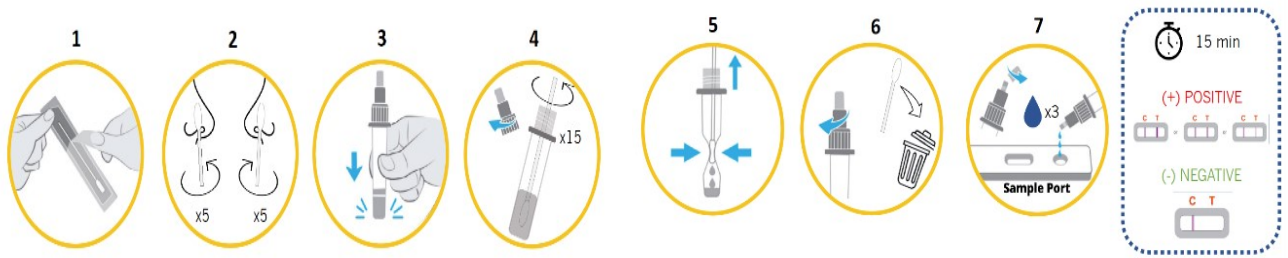
- **Opt-In:** To participate, you must opt in by completing the opt in form. By opting in, you will agree to review the training materials for test administration, report positive test results to your student's school, and administer the tests according to RCS's guidelines.
- **Weekly:** Every two weeks you will receive an iHealth at-home rapid test kit. Each kit contains two individual tests. Your student will administer one test each week on Monday morning.

**Reporting Positive Test Results:** If your student tests positive on an at-home antigen test, you will inform their school of the positive result by emailing our school nurse at [clenfest@richmondconsolidated.org](mailto:clenfest@richmondconsolidated.org). The school will keep the results confidential and will not make individual results public. **In addition, it is strongly recommended that you inform your healthcare professional of the positive result.**

**Easy, Free, and Flexible:** This test is administered at home (not at school), reducing the burden on school staff and time to administer tests and increasing a family's flexibility to do testing in the home for free.

### How do I administer the test?

[Click here](#) for a full "how to" written guide in various languages



[Click here](#) for a **video** of an individual self-testing

### How do I submit results?

- **Submit Results:** You must submit positive test results to your student's school. Please email the school nurse at [clenfest@richmondconsolidated.org](mailto:clenfest@richmondconsolidated.org)
- Confidentiality:** Positive test results are shared with your school district for informational purposes only. Individual results will remain confidential, and they will never be made public.

Sincerely,

Dan Weston, Principal