

**RYE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**  
School Board Principal's Report  
June 2019

**Enrollment** as of June 5, 2019

Kindergarten: 40  
First Grade: 53  
Second Grade: 42  
Third Grade: 48  
Fourth Grade: 43  
Fifth Grade: 40  
**TOTAL: 266**

**Upcoming Events:**

June 11<sup>th</sup>: 4th grade State Fair 8:30

June 12<sup>th</sup>: Walk-a-thon for the Lighthouse (grades 3-5)

June 14<sup>th</sup>: Last Day of school (½ day) & 4<sup>th</sup> & 5th grade Awards Ceremony 9:00

**Numbers:**

- 2 students are being retained in kindergarten
- 5 students from grade 5 attending private school next year
- 35 registered for kindergarten next year
- 39 registered for grade 1 next year

**HIGHLIGHTED FOCUS FOR JUNE**

**RSD Goal:** Increase the depth and rigor of instructional and assessment tasks so students can engage with meaningful content and skills

1. **Fine Arts Showcase:** 131 students (2 absent) presented their fine art's passions at our 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Fine Arts Showcase. Students presented in multiple venues a variety of talents including: drama, instrumentals, duets, solos, art, chorus selections, band, creative writing, puppets, drum lines, hip hop, dance routines, & stem projects. This lasted two hours and was an evening packed with enthusiasm and creativity. To improve upon last year we timed the events closely and added student gatekeepers to keep noise to a minimum. The audience was terrific.

The beauty of this event is that it is all student-driven. They were the creators and the ones who ran with the show. We as adults were just their coaches and biggest supporters.

A few comments from parents:

*"Great Fine Arts Showcase yet again! I'm amazed at all the talent at RES, and how well you all put together this event."*

*"Another great Fine Arts Showcase tonight...thank you to you and the entire staff!!"*

*"A big congratulations to you and the staff for a great night. The showcase is such a great end to the school year and appreciated by the community, parents and kids."*

**2. Project-Based Learning at Rye Elementary:** The goal for each grade was to complete one project-based unit this school year. We provided multiple professional development sessions to work on these units and to reflect on the process. Each team filled out a seven-page project design form outlining the unit with the competencies, resources, final product, method of reflection and more. Here are the projects per grade:

**Kindergarten:** It Takes A Village- KIBO Robots with voices were created explaining their roles in a community and why that community helper is important.



TRANSFER STATION



POLICE STATION & OFFICERS

**First Grade:** Protecting the Estuaries-Students learned about estuaries and the importance of protecting this unique ecosystem. They generated ideas and took action to inform the community of the need to protect Rye's estuaries. Still in process so no photos.

**Second Grade:** Save the Pollinators (see handout) Check out this website and the RES link on it. <http://seabeehoney.com/index.html>



Poster Informing Public of Painted Bees



**Third Grade:** Designing a Zoo Habitat- The students researched an animal and what they need for a healthy habitat. They visited the Stone Zoo to compare the habitat to what they researched. They followed up with a letter to the Zookeeper explaining what changes they believe the zoo should make to create a healthier habitat if necessary.



Stone Zoo Scientists

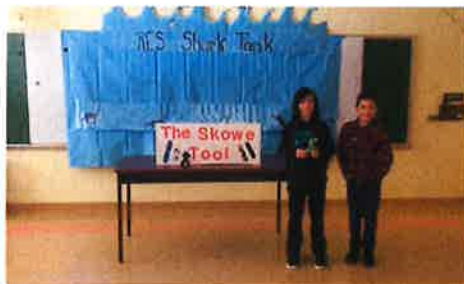


Mapping out the Habitat Locations



Checking out a Habit

**Fourth Grade:** Shark Tank- Students worked in collaborative groups to identify and create a solution to an everyday problem. Some projects included: Magnetic trash bags that will not fall in a trashcan, Puppy Go-everything you need to travel with a puppy, and two pictures featured below.

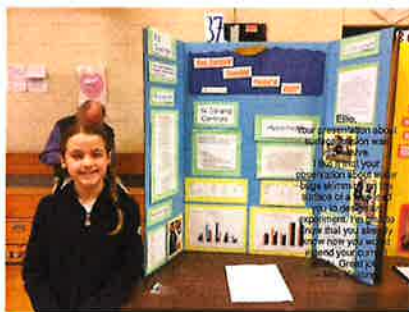


The Skowe Tool



Dog Dooty Destroyer

**Fifth Grade:** Science Fair-Students identified a question of their choice and followed the scientific method to find the answer.





**Rye Junior High School**  
School Board – Principal's Report  
June 10, 2019

**Upcoming Dates:**

**Jump Up day for grades 4 & 5:** Friday, June 7<sup>th</sup>  
**6<sup>th</sup> grade trip to Pawtuckaway:** June 11<sup>th</sup>  
**7<sup>th</sup> grade trip to Funtown:** June 11<sup>th</sup>  
**6<sup>th</sup> grade Celebration of Learning Breakfast:** Wednesday, June 12<sup>th</sup> @ 8:45am  
**8<sup>th</sup> grade trip to Canobie Lake:** June 12<sup>th</sup>  
**Awards Assembly:** Thursday, June 13<sup>th</sup> @ 9am  
**8<sup>th</sup> grade graduation:** Thursday, June 13<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30 pm  
**Last Day of School:** Friday, June 14<sup>th</sup>

**Updates:**

**8<sup>th</sup> grade trip to Montreal:**

42 8<sup>th</sup> grade students and 7 staff members embarked on a trip to Montreal from Wednesday, May 29<sup>th</sup> to Friday May 31<sup>st</sup>. The trip was a success and students had a fabulous time. Time was spent exploring old Montreal, visiting Notre Dame Basilica, going on a jetboat, enjoying a traditional Canadian dinner and dancing at a Sugar Shack, and touring the Olympic Stadium.

Staff members are discussion alternate possibilities for a class trip for next year. We are also working on adding a community service component to trip eligibility for 8<sup>th</sup> grade students. For example, students may need to complete x number of hours of community service throughout the year.

**7<sup>th</sup> grade “Staycation”:**

7<sup>th</sup> grade staff members took advantage of having the school to themselves for 3 days and planned a wonderful 7th Grade Staycation for students. The kids worked well building and solidifying bonds with their fellow classmates, and even strengthened their problem-solving skills in the process. Students went to Taste Buds Kitchen in North Andover, MA for a cooking event, painted with visiting artist “Art With a Splash”, went bowling at Bowl-O-Rama, attended several sessions of a drug and alcohol prevention program, and more. This was a great way to head off into the final stretch of 7th grade.

**6<sup>th</sup> grade trip to Hurricane Island:**

33 6<sup>th</sup> grade students and 5 staff members traveled to Hurricane Island from Wednesday, May 29<sup>th</sup> to Friday May 31<sup>st</sup>. The program was part of a unit on marine debris and gave students an opportunity to explore how they can be scientists and environmental stewards. Hurricane Island’s campus was an ideal backdrop for thinking about the impact humans have on the marine

environment. Lessons supported their marine debris unit and helped students understand why debris poses such a threat to our oceans.

Throughout this unit, here in Rye and on the island, students gained first-hand experience working through the process of doing science: designing data collection forms, maintaining a consistent sampling protocol, synthesizing data, presenting their findings, and finally designing solution-based public service announcements using their well-crafted writing skills in argumentative writing. Students have been inspired to create an individual change in the community.

6<sup>th</sup> grade staff members have already begun working on plans for a marine debris unit again next year, here in Rye. Students will work in the area collecting marine debris, learn and use sampling protocols and create an argument piece of writing. They also have plans to incorporate art standards by using marine debris to create sculptures.

**Open House for Incoming 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Students:**

Our Spring Open House held on Wednesday, June 5<sup>th</sup> was a big success. Over 100 students and parents were able to get information related to their child's transition next year, see the classrooms, and meet the teachers. 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> grade teachers and staff, along with unified arts teachers, were available for students and parents. Students seemed very much excited and ready for the transition. They will visit the school on Friday, June 7<sup>th</sup> for a "Jump-Up" day.