

R.H. Conwell Elementary Community Newsletter February 14, 2025

Dear Community:

Happy Valentine's Day! And, cheers to winter recess! We've had so much sickness going around these past couple of weeks, and break couldn't come at a better time for everyone to have a week off to rest, relax and for some recovery from being sick!

Tonight is the PTO Valentine's Dance. Just a friendly reminder that the dance will take place from 6 - 8 and all students need to have a chaperone. Also, if you student was absent from school today we ask that they not attend the dance. Thank you!

Summer Program: Registration forms for the After-School Program's summer program have been handed out to students in their school day classrooms this week! Forms should be returned to classroom teachers or emailed to smadden@rhconwell.org by March 7th. The summer program will run from Monday, July 7th to Thursday, July 31st from 9:00 am to 2:30 pm. Students enrolled in R.H. Conwell in grades K to 5 are eligible to attend (K to 5 during the **24-25 school year**). There is no fee for attending the program due to funding through the DESE 21st Century Community Learning Center Grant! Students must enroll/attend for the 4 weeks -This is a grant and program requirement. Our summer theme will be outdoor adventure and exploration!

Session 3

Session 3 of the after-school program will start Monday, March 10th. (Session 2 ends March 7th.) Registration forms for session 3 will be handed out on March 3rd.

Pancake Breakfast: A huge thanks to Ashley, and all the volunteers who helped with the pancake breakfast on Saturday! It was such a success and we raised \$875.00 for Nature's Classroom!

New last day of school: Monday, June 16, 2025 and we will dismiss at 12:00



Betsy's Binoculars!

February 12, 2025



This Weekend: Participate in the Great Backyard Bird Count

Join me and other bird enthusiasts worldwide this Friday through Monday, February 14 through 17, for the Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC). More than a half-million people participated during the 2024 GBBC—more than double the number that participated just five years ago. They reported 7,920 species of birds from 200+ countries and subregions. The GBBC helps scientists learn about the distribution and abundance of birds. Simply report the number of individuals of each species you see during a single counting session, and submit your counts through



eBird or the Merlin Bird ID app.

Visit GBBC's how-to-participate page to learn more.

From the Nurse's Office:

So much **sickness** here! A record 22 out of 75 students (almost 30%!) were out one day last week, and even some teachers. 25% of students were out on Tuesday, but we are averaging 18% absent for these last three days.

And such a **long recovery time** for the flu! I would like to add another measure of your child's readiness to return to school after illness in addition to no fever for 24 hours without fever reducers: we need fuel to carry us through the day, so make

sure your student has been able to **eat a full supper the night before they return**, especially if they eat breakfast at school, and you don't know whether they'll eat or not.

Mark your calendars:

Screen-free Days: Tuesday May 6 through Thursday May 8

Socks needed! Any size, style or color, even unmatched. We have none, and everyone has wet feet these days

Upcoming Events:

- ☐ February 14, 2025: Valentine's Day Dance 6:00 - 8:00
- ☐ February 17 - 21, 2025: February Break
- ☐ February 28, 2025: Family Breakfast and All School Mtg.
- ☐ March 14, 2025: Noon Dismissal - work on report cards/para meeting
- ☐ March 21, 2025: Walk to School
- ☐ March 28, 2025: All School Meeting

UPCOMING MCAS TESTING

- **ELA: April 8, 9: makeups 10th** March 24-April 18
- **Math: May 13, 14: makeups 15th** April 28-May 23
- **Science: May 20** April 28-May 23 (grade 5 only) -

From the Cafeteria: Please find the February menu [here](#).

Have a wonderful and restful vacation.

Cheers,
Gretchen Morse-Dobosz
Superintendent/Principal