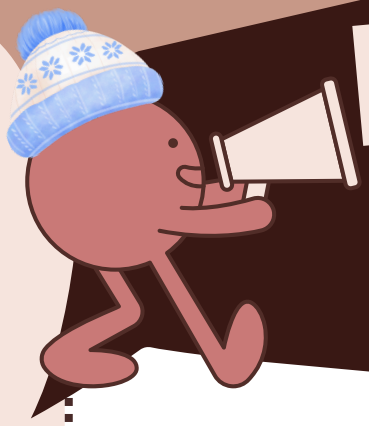


ILLINOIS CITY

JANUARY 16, 2026

YOUR WEEKLY NEWSLETTER ABOUT OUR SCHOOL!

IMPORTANT INFO:

- SCHOOL BEGINS AT 8:05. PLEASE HAVE YOUR STUDENT HERE BY 8:00 SO THEY CAN GET TO CLASS ON TIME
- 25/26 YEARBOOKS ARE AVAILABLE TO ORDER. PLEASE REFER TO THE FLYER BELOW.
- IF YOU HAVE A CHILD ATTENDING KINDERGARTEN NEXT YEAR PLEASE BE SURE TO REGISTER THEM FOR UPCOMING INFO.
- PLEASE READ THROUGH EVERYTHING AND REACH OUT IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS!

UPCOMING EVENTS:

JAN 16 - SIP DAY 11:30 DISMISSAL

JAN 19 - NO SCHOOL MLK DAY

JAN 28 - PTO @ ANDALUSIA

JAN 28 - 100TH DAY OF SCHOOL

JAN 30 - SIP DAY 11:30 DISMISSAL

FEB 1 - DEADLINE FOR PERSONALIZED YEARBOOKS

FULL CALENDAR HERE

CLICK HERE

RR300.ORG/O/ICES

TIMES

SCHOOL START: 8:05
SCHOOL END: 3:12
CAR RIDERS: 3:12

CONTACT US

MR BIZARRI - JBIZARRI@RR300.ORG
MRS ZAMPOGNA - KZAMPOGNA@RR300.ORG
OFFICE: 309-793-8090
FAX: 309-791-0710
24017 122ND AVE W
ILLINOIS CITY, IL 61259

JANUARY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 	2 Holiday Break	3
4	5 No School - Teacher Institute	6 School Resumes	7	8	9 Report Cards	10
11	12	13	14	15	16 SIP Day Out 11:30	17
18	19 No School - MLK Day	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28 PTO @ Andalusia	29	30 SIP Day Out 11:30	31

100

FEBRUARY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9 ICE 70th Birthday Party!!!	10	11	12	13 SIP Day Out 11:30	14
15	16 No School - Presidents Day	17	18	19 Spring Pictures	20	21
22	23	24	25 PTO @ TRE	26	27 SIP Day Out 11:30	28

Yearbook Orders



YEARBOOK ORDERS

PERSONALIZED: 25.00 DUE 2/1/26

REGULAR: 20.00 DUE 4/3/26

ALL ORDERS WILL BE ONLINE!

CLICK HERE

Inter-State.com/ORDER

Use Code: 0336EC



WITH THE WEATHER GETTING COLDER, PLEASE START PRACTICING PUTTING ON AND TAKING OFF THESE AT HOME:

1. SNOWPANTS
2. BOOTS
3. HAT AND GLOVES
4. COAT (ZIPPING UP INDEPENDENTLY)

THIS HELPS STAFF SO THE KIDS CAN GET OUTSIDE AND ENJOY RECESS. IT TAKES A LOT LONGER WHEN 2 PEOPLE ARE TRYING TO HELP 30 STUDENTS GET IN THEIR WINTER GEAR.



MR. VIREN – PE

This past week we've been starting our soccer unit! We are finishing up practicing dribbling and will start passing next week. The goal is to show the students the correct forms to use when playing soccer and give them small skills they can practice at home if they wanted! I hope you all have a great weekend!

MS. WINN - MUSIC

Last week, all grades did a few lessons based on the book, The Color Monster, by Anna Llenas. We read the story and talked about what each emotion/color would sound like in music. Students then chose instruments to represent each emotion, and used them to play songs based on the different emotions. This week, 1st and 2nd grade reviewed rhythm by composing their own rhythms and playing review games, including a rhythm snowball activity. Kindergarten learned a song and game called Ha Ha This-A-Way, and did some steady beat activities with rhythm sticks.

JANET GRIFFITH – SPED

My phonics students continue to impress me with the growth they are making! Our kindergarteners are working hard to perfect their CVC word patterns, while our second graders are building their skills with initial blends such as fl, sl, and gl.
In math, students are focusing on teen numbers and learning strategies for adding three numbers. In Knowledge, we recently wrapped up our unit on Colonial Times and are excited to begin a new unit exploring Presidents and national symbols.
I'm proud of the effort and progress students are showing across all areas!

MISS KAY – HEALTH AIDE



MS. TAMMY - KITCHEN

WOW! What a way to start the new year off. The kids are able to be outside before school to play, and outside recess! Doesn't get any better than that. But reality is going to sneak up on us this weekend....YUK!!!

We've been working this week on understanding what eating the main course first means, versus beginning our meal with eating dessert first. It's definitely a work in progress. But they'll get there,I'm sure!

We're already in the second half of the school year. It just doesn't seem possible. The kitchens have a menu meeting this Friday to work on next month's menu, and then only three more meetings after that. Time sure does fly by fast when you're having fun!

Thanks again for sharing your kids with us. They all have their own personalities, and in the kitchen, we love them all!!!

Tammy and Theresa

TR/ICE SEL NEWSLETTER

January 2026

Grade-Level Learning

Kindergarten

Following directions can be challenging for young students! An important way we will practice Perseverance in Kindergarten this month is by learning to follow directions. Strong Listening is foundational for following directions. When we listen with our whole selves and follow directions, we are able to Persevere through big projects and tough challenges.

First Grade

In 1st grade, we are learning focusing strategies that help us Persevere. Focusing on a task, instructions, or even a conversation helps us be more successful.

Second Grade

While practicing Perseverance this month, 2nd grade students will be focusing on the idea of engagement. This means being an active participant in school, leading and contributing when collaborating in groups, getting involved in school and community groups, and building positive relationships. When we are actively engaged in our school and community, we demonstrate Perseverance.

Perserverance Overview

This month is all about Perseverance. One way to think about Perseverance is "pushing yourself through challenges and obstacles." We all experience challenges in our lives. We all have moments when we feel like we can't do it or that we want to give up on a big task. It is important to develop tools that help us work through those challenges in order to grow in those moments instead of giving up. How might you practice Perseverance as a family this month?

Strategies for Following Directions

1. Pay attention to directions with Strong Listening
2. Ask questions if you are confused
3. Do what you are asked to do the first time

Be Kind, Be Strong, Be Well

Miss Noe and Mrs. Sywassink

THIS MONTHS ROCKIN' ROCKETS




DESTINEE


ELLA


LILY


MARTHA


JACE


JADE

EMPATHY EARNERS

DESTINEE- KJ

DESTINEE CONSISTENTLY DEMONSTRATES EMPATHY BY RECOGNIZING AND RESPONDING TO THE FEELINGS OF OTHERS. SHE OFFERS HELP OR ENCOURAGEMENT TO PEERS WHO MAY BE STRUGGLING AND SHOWS RESPECT DURING GROUP ACTIVITIES

ELLA- KP

ELLA IS KIND AND CARING GIRL WHO ALWAYS NOTICES HOW OTHERS ARE FEELING. IN KINDERGARTEN, SHE HAS BEEN SHOWING EMPATHY BY SHARING HER TOYS WITH OTHERS, OFFERING COMFORT TO FRIENDS WHO ARE SAD, AND USING GENTLE WORDS.

LILY - 1H

SHE IS AN EMPATHETIC FIRST GRADER WHO NOTICES HOW OTHERS ARE FEELING AND TRIES TO HELP MAKE EVERYONE FEEL BETTER. SHE CAN BE SEEN OFFERING HELP TO OTHERS OR OFFERING A HUG OR WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT WHEN SOMEONE IS SAD OR FRUSTRATED.

MARTHA - 1R

SHE IS THE FIRST TO NOTICE WHEN ANOTHER STUDENT NEEDS A LITTLE HELP. SHE HELPS BY EXPLAINING AND NOT JUST GIVING THEM THE ANSWER.

JACE - 2B

JACE HEERKES IS A KIND STUDENT WHO DEMONSTRATES EMPATHY BY HELPING OTHERS WHEN HE SEES THAT THEY NEED HELP. HE ALSO FOLLOWS THE SCHOOL RULES AND WORKS HARD TO DO HIS BEST IN THE CLASSROOM.

JADE - 2S

JADE KARGL IS A VERY THOUGHTFUL AND CARING FRIEND TO ALL. JADE OFTEN DOES RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS TO BRIGHTEN SOMEONE'S DAY.

WELCOME

Future Kindergarteners

2026-2027



DO YOU OR ANYONE YOU KNOW HAVE A STUDENT WHO WILL BE ENTERING KINDERGARTEN IN THE 2026-2027 SCHOOL YEAR?! PLEASE SHARE THIS LINK FOR THEM TO FILL OUT TO HELP THE DISTRICT PLAN FOR THE UPCOMING CLASS OF 2039!

Join our team!

WE ARE HIRING SUBSTITUTES

Great pay, flexible hours, & a LOT of fun!

Contact Dawn Finley to find out more!

309-793-8001

dfinley@rr300.org



Do not hesitate to reach out and ask questions!

HIRING SUBS FOR: TEACHERS, PARAPROFESSIONALS, SECRETARY, KITCHEN, BUS DRIVERS, NURSE

ROCKRIDGE ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

2026 PTO UPDATES

What is the PTO?

Parent Teacher Organization - a collaborative group of people working to improve the learning environment, provide resources, and build a positive school culture, often through fundraising, communication, and organizing events that benefit students and staff

Meeting Schedule

All Meetings Begin at 6:00PM

Month	Day	Location
January	28th	Andalusia
February	25th	Taylor Ridge
March	25th	Illinois City
April	22nd	Andalusia

Who can attend?

Parents, teachers, school staff, community members - anyone interested in supporting the Rockridge elementary schools and students





For more information, contact:

Mandy Parchert, Abbie Hicks, Megan Doane, or Natalie Sloan