



Riverhead Charter School

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PARENT NOTES

January 2010

**All news and forms in our newsletters are posted on the RCS website at the above address*

Dates to Remember: February 4 – Parent Power Hour- 7:00 PM
February 5 – ½ Day Parent Conferences
February 9 – School Board Meeting- 7:00 PM
February 9 – Parent Support Group- 7:00 PM

Registration/Enrollment for 2010-11 school year - We are kicking off our enrollment campaign and are now accepting kindergarten applications for September. If you have a student who will be eligible for kindergarten in September, please call the office and register right away to ensure a seat for your child.

Intent to Return Forms for 2010-11 are necessary to hold your child's registration for next year. Please watch backpacks for these forms and sign and return them to your child's teacher as soon as possible to ensure your child's seat at RCS for next year. For your convenience these forms are also posted on the RCS website.

Get a Free Uniform For Your Child When You Refer a New Family Who Enrolls at RCS! - Make sure to tell your friends to put your name on the application when asked how they heard about our school. For every new family (referred by you) that enrolls and attends RCS next year, you will receive 1 free uniform at the beginning of the 2010-11 school year.

Welcome to our New Staff Members- We are pleased to introduce the following new teachers who recently joined our faculty at RCS. Mrs. Mary Ellen Weaver is co-teaching with Mr. Graf in the 6th grade classroom and has already implemented many new additions to the classroom. Previously she had worked with our ESL department and is familiar with both staff and students. Mrs. Erika Calliste, formerly an RCS classroom teacher, accepted the position of World Language teacher and has the students enthusiastically singing, writing and communicating in Spanish. Ms Kaitlyn Weeks is assisting Mrs. Tas with our classroom music as well as instrumental music classes. Ms Weeks has been sharing her expertise with the musically talented students that we have at RCS. Through the efforts of both Mrs. Tas and Ms Weeks we have been able to expand the music program and provide many more opportunities for the students this year.

Alumni News- We are looking for information from our 2009 and 2008 graduates. Please let us know how they are doing in their new schools (ie...honor roll, sports they are participating in, awards they have achieved, recognition for participation in events, etc.) Please contact the school as soon as possible or sign onto our website to provide us with some feedback on our former students.

Parent/Teacher Conferences - will only be scheduled for those parents who receive a notice of need from their teacher, or if the parent chooses to schedule an appointment for a specific reason this quarter. Notices will be sent home prior to the week of Feb 5th.

Explorations - Our Explorations classes are off and running (or should I say dancing and moving) as we offer the students classes in dance, comic book creation, student leadership, yoga, calendar making, kids cuisine, Girl Scouts, stomp class, family and RCS scrap book making, NYSSMA vocal and instrumental classes, student book club, and karate during the next 6 weeks.

Notes from our Music Department

- Students are preparing for NYSSMA (NYS Music Association) vocal and instrumental solo competition to be held at Mt. Sinai High School on June 4th and 5th. This is the first time ever that our students have participated in this event. Every spring, NYSSMA holds festivals for over 100,000 students all around New York State. These students prepare solos from the approved manual to be performed before a NYSSMA judge at a festival site. NYSSMA medals can be awarded to top-scoring students. Notices have been sent to the parents of those who have expressed in interest in preparing a solo for competition. If your child would like to be part of this event, please contact Jean Marie Tas at Ext 2226 or send her an email at jtas@riverheadcharterschool.org by Feb 1st.
- Students in grades 3-6 will be learning how to play a recorder. Your child may purchase their own recorder at a discount price from Mrs. Tas. Instrument rentals for those taking instrument lessons may also be arranged by contacting Mrs. Tas.
- March 11th The Long Island Philharmonic Youth Concert will be presenting a concert for grades 4-6. Maestro Wiley and the Orchestra will perform works by Rossini, Morton Gould, Richard Rodgers and others. This is a wonderful opportunity for our students. Tickets are \$8.00 per student and can be obtained by returning a permission slip and the ticket fee in a sealed envelope to your child's teacher by February 11th. Permission slips will go out to families soon.

Cookie Dough Fundraiser - our annual cookie dough fundraiser will kickoff at the end of January. Please watch backpacks for more information.

Parent Power Hour - Parents/guardians and community members are invited to this event to discuss new programs and events at RCS as well and to participate in the decision making of items that pertain to our students and their families.

Parent Support Group Feb 9- for parents/guardians of children dealing with difficult situations such as: loss of family members; learning disabilities; ADHD and other kinds of behaviors exhibited at home and school.

Student of the Month - We are happy to announce the following students who earned Student of the Month recognition by practicing the expectations that have been set up in each classroom. Some of these expectations are: great leadership skills; showing acts of kindness toward students and staff; completing assignments and demonstrating our core values. Each student was invited to a specialty pancake breakfast cooked by Mrs. Porteus. They were each presented with a student of the month certificate and received recognition during morning announcements.

NOVEMBER STUDENTS:

Christopher C - K
Lauryn V - K
Heidy E- 1
Olivia S- 1
Nahriek B- 2
Promise A- 2
Ariana R- 3
Kolby B- 3
Marcus D- 4
Keric K- 4
Edith E- 5
Alexus G- 6

DECEMBER STUDENTS:

Jessica M- K
Madison R - K
Gianna S - 1
Jason F - 1
Erica V - 2
Claudia N -2
Merjins C - 3
Melissa F - 3
Esbeidy D - 4
Nicole T - 4
Jessica P-5
Fiona M - 6

Jobs Available - The US Census is looking for people to fill clerical and field positions. For more information check www.2010censusjobs.gov. To schedule a test for these positions call 1-866-861-2010. Salary ranges are \$13.50-\$20.25/hr.

REMINDER: Cell phones and other communication devices are not allowed for student use during school hours. If students are using them during school hours, they will be taken from the student and the parent will have to come to school to pick the device up. Further disciplinary measures may be taken.

Family in Need: It has come to our attention that one of our families has had a terrible tragedy occur during the holiday vacation. The daughter of one of our families was in an accident that resulted in the child being placed in the hospital for an extended period of time. The family has been trying to divide its time between their other children at home and visiting their daughter at the hospital.

We are asking for monetary donations that will be used to purchase a gift card for gas and/or a gift card for food. If you are able to contribute a donation, please send it with your child to school in an envelope labeled "Family Donation." Any questions, please feel free to contact Mrs. Branker, RCS Social Worker at 369-5800 ext: 2234.