

Roselle Park Public Schools District Newsletter

Winter Issue - February 2011

"Committed to Excellence"



FIFTY-EIGHT STUDENTS INDUCTED INTO HONOR SOCIETIES

The World Language Department of RPHS held its 13th annual induction ceremony into the French and Spanish National Honor Societies on November 1. Held in the high school auditorium, thirty-four students were inducted in La Vida Es Sueno, our local chapter of the Spanish Honor Society. Twenty-four students were inducted into the local chapter of the French Honor Society.

The candle lighting ceremony was attended by family and friends of the new inductees, followed by a reception for all in the students' cafeteria. To qualify for membership into the honor societies, students must be enrolled in the third, fourth or fifth year of their chosen language and have achieved an A average for two consecutive years. Students must have demonstrated an excellence in their command of the spoken and written language and appreciation for the cultures that they studied. *Pictured top right is the French Honor Society; pictured bottom right is the Spanish Honor Society.*

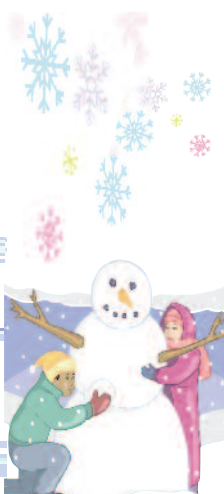


THE HELPING HEARTS CONNECTION

Each month a different set of RPMS 7th graders have the opportunity to become pen pals with students from Mrs. Amy Balestrino's class. Her class linked with Mrs. Karen Carey Lynch's 7th grade LAL students to become penpals. In addition to practicing writing friendly letters, the students ask questions back and forth. This helps to increase the communication skills for the students. At the end of each month, the 7th grade students are invited to Mrs. Balestrino's class to meet their pen pals. This "Helping Hearts" experience has allowed many life lessons for all involved. Thank you to the seventh graders for having "Helping Hearts" because recognizing friendly faces in the hallways help to create a happier and welcoming environment.



Pictured above, sitting from l to r are "Helping Hearts" penpals, Larissa Steuber and Ghaida Perez.



Pictured above, sitting from l to r are "Helping Hearts" penpals, Alex Dinardo and Jacob O'Connell.

IT'S ELEMENTARY...



Pictured above are EJJ-Aldene's Students of the Month for November: (from l to r) David Rocha, Jessica Fertig, Darshan Patel, Beatriz Limon, Karen Galvin, Jacob Donahue, Luke Bockenbauer, Emmanuel DeLeon, Xavier Vasquez, and Alana Fernandez.



Pictured above are EJJ-Aldene's Students of the Month for December: (back row, from l to r) Christian Perez, Peter Talbot, Fredi Perez, David Diaz, Matias Carrion; (front row) Ramona Arora, Talha Awan, Jonathan Stephens, Samir Djokic, Lorena Perez.



Madison Hummel, Michael Limo, and Mikayla Nieves are pictured above, proudly holding their Lenape Indian Village Projects which they completed in Mrs. Lisa Mack's fourth grade Social Studies class at Sherman School. Each student represented all of the aspects of a real Lenape Indian village in their project.



Students in Miss Bernardine Scholz's first grade class enjoyed performing "The Little Red Hen" for Principal Mary Christensen. Pictured from l to r are Brandon Ceterko, Santiago Khalili, Alexis Hudnall, and Michael Strzeczkowski

COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT

Students at Sherman School participated in Harvestfest, a community service project sponsored by the second graders. Craft items and baked goods made by the 2nd grade students were exchanged for canned goods and pet supplies that were donated by the students in kindergarten through 5th grade. Pet food and supplies were donated to the Plainfield Humane Society. Canned goods were donated to the Casano Center. Pictured at left, from l to r, are Leslie Espinosa, Andrea Lee, Sebastian Aguilera, Owen Herrera, Katarina Zivanovic, and Elizabeth Ellis.



CREATIVE EXPRESSIONS



SO, YOU THINK YOU CAN DANCE?

The EJF-Aldene teachers performed a dance routine in this year's Talent Show. The Halo/Walking on Sunshine routine was choreographed by teachers Linda Green and Becky Riccitelli. Joining in were Joan Smith, Marina Teperman, Stephanie Leonardis, Jamie Carlson, Nicole Quaglia, Judy Nese, Nancy Merwede, Mary Lou Gugger, Jennifer Durkin, Jodi Foy and Rosa Iglesias-Blazquez. (Pictured above). The Annual Talent Show included 29 acts of singing, dancing, piano, drum, guitar, and saxophone solos. In the picture at top right from l to r are EJF-Aldene students David Diaz, Deeya Shah, Yanni Francois, Olivia Mogenis, Angela Gonzalve, Michael Butler, Jon-Vincent Gonzalve, and Isha Patel.



SHOPPING SPREE FOR SENIORS

EJF-Aldene fifth grade students prepare for the annual Senior Citizen Shopping Spree. Seniors shop for cereal, canned goods, and paper products donated by the students. The 5th graders then help them open gifts and win raffle prizes donated by the teachers and parents. Pictured from l to r are Naazir Alexander, Christian Luciano Beatriz Matos, Gianna Fernandes, Natasha Patel, Sal Pecorella, Garrett Maney, and Anaya Miller.



SNOWMAN STORIES

After reading and enjoying the book, "Snowmen At Night", Miss Dena Ahmad's first grade class at Sherman School wrote their own stories about what their snowmen do at night. Pictured above from l to r: Ernest Romero, Brianna Pichardo, Neel Mitra, Sophia Villegas, Ariana Moutis, and Fabian LaRosa.



Shown above are four Robert Gordon T&G students holding their paper cranes. From l to r are Madelin Romanoff, Kayla Pierre, Christy Zheng, and Isaac Goodman.

THE TALENTED & GIFTED EXPERIENCE

PILOT LUNCH PROGRAM A SUCCESS!

The first Circle of Friends meeting took place at Robert Gordon School on Tuesday, November 23, 2010. The Circle of Friends is a program piloted this year by Mrs. Arlene Terpenning, Teacher of the Talented & Gifted, and Ms. Deborah Cordes, Child Study Team Social Worker. The aim of this program is to bring students from different classrooms together to socialize while encouraging them to recognize and embrace learning differences in their fellow classmates. This lunchtime program included students from 3rd, 4th and 5th grade. They ate lunch, had a special snack, and participated in a project together. A fun time was had by all and the students took advantage of the opportunity to make new friends. As one student stated, "I wish we could do this every day!"



SUPER MENTAL MARATHON

The 8th grade students in Mrs. Joanne Carbotti's Talented and Gifted class attended convocation at William F. Halloran, School #22, in Elizabeth with neighboring T&G students from other districts. Mountainside, Cranford, Elizabeth, and Roselle attended the convocation along with Roselle Park.

Students participated in a brain bowl, building a structure, and solving pentominos. Teams were awarded points throughout the day for their placement in each of the three activities. Trophies were given to the 1st, 2nd and 3rd place team members. Shannon Kennedy and her team won 1st place, Lindsey Bianco's team won 2nd place and Andre Santamaria's team placed third. All three students are in Mrs. Carbotti's 8th grade T&G classes. It was a fun day for all. (See photo above).

THE BRAIN CONNECTION

Seventh grade T&G students from Mrs. Joanne Carbotti's T&G class attended the Union County Gifted Convocation with other neighboring schools in Union County. The theme of the convocations this year was the "Great Brain". The students were from Roselle Park, Roselle, Elizabeth, Springfield and Cranford. Students in the morning session rotated to various workshops that taught lessons on keeping your brain safe. Students saw a video about a child who had brain trauma caused by an accident, and his road back to recovery. Students performed various activities to test what part of the brain controlled what functions of the body. Students also attended a presentation by a neuropsychologist who explained various injuries to the brain and the problems these may cause long term.

The culminating, afternoon activity involved students being placed in small groups and working on a mystery skit that involved putting into action what they learned in the morning sessions about brain discovery, safety and prevention of brain injury. It was a day of not only learning about the brain but also making new friends throughout the county. Students learned a lot about the function of the brain and also how to keep their brain safe. (See photo above).



EXPRESSION OF HOPE

Students in Mrs. Terpenning's 4th Grade T&G class at Sherman School learned the art of Japanese paper folding by creating beautiful paper cranes to be given to friends and family members over the holidays. The delicate crane is an international symbol of peace. Every year thousands of people fold paper cranes as an expression of hope for a world at peace. Pictured above, from l to r, are Delaney Czernickowski, Natalie Tribiano, Andrew Yip, Demetri Moutis, Andra Constantin, Lucy Marie Rennar, Loretta Kopf, Kaitlyn Donnelly, Katelyn Fischer and Tyler Ellis.



FORENSICS AND THE MYSTERY FELIX

Sixth Grade T&G students from Roselle Park, Roselle, Springfield, Westfield, Cranford and Elizabeth attended their annual 2010 Convocation at Union County College. This year's theme was Forensic Science, "Mystery of the Felix". Mrs. Joanne Carbotti, RPMS T&G teacher and Esther Graziano, Westfield T&G teacher organized an orchestrated the day. The students began with a presentation from Kristen Vogel, 8th grade Science teacher at RPMS who holds her degree in Forensic Science and did her internship with Union County police department. Ms. Vogel included in her presentation an explanation of hard evidence, inferences, what forensic science is and how to investigate a crime scene. Students were given a list of suspects and critical information on each suspect including where each suspect was on the day of the murder, and evidence that might link them to the crime. Students then proceeded to a simulated crime scene armed with their forensic notebook; they took notes and observed the crime scene evidence. Students then conducted eight different lab activities that tested forensic evidence that was found at the crime scene.

The students in their last station discussed who they believed killed "Felix" based on their evidence and the results of their forensic testing. Teachers returned to their district with information pertaining to the crime so that each district could continue investigating the crime with their students through various activities. This was a fun filled day where students had the opportunity to investigate and solve a crime just like real life forensic experts. They also made some new friends with T&G students from various schools within Union County.



MYTHOLOGICAL TECH TRIP

Mrs. Joanne Carbotti's 5th grade T&G students, along with several parent chaperones enjoyed an innovative field trip to the Apple Store in Menlo Park Mall. Mrs. Carbotti provided a lesson plan where students were asked to work in teams and create Mythological Creatures, along with a PowerPoint presentation. Several Apple technicians worked separately with each group of students and explained how to use the Mac computer and all its special features to create their mythological creatures and their powerpoints. When the projects were completed students were able to view each other's work on screen.

The Apple Store located in the Menlo Park Mall offers this free and innovative field trip where students can explore their imagination and creativity on a designed lesson plan provided by teachers who attend the field trip with their classes. Students were given a free tee shirt to commemorate the day, and a CD containing their completed mythological creature and PowerPoint presentation. Students were then allowed to explore all the new technology that Apple is famous for and available in the store. It was a fun yet informative day for the students, Mrs. Carbotti and all the parents who attended.



RPMS students took a field trip to the Jersey Gardens Mall where they were given a presentation and tour by the Mall's Marketing Director. The trip was entitled, "The Retail Experience. (See photo above).



G E T T J J N G J N T O T H E

BOOKS AND PAJAMAS FOR THE NEEDY

Students in Miss Restrepo's 5th grade class at RG have been giving back this holiday season. The students collected sleepwear to participate in The Pajama Program. The Pajama Program provides new pajamas and books to children in need. For every item collected, Scholastic matched it with a book to donate to children living in orphanages, group homes, and shelters. These 5th graders are also participating in the Reach Out and Read program, another charity paired with Scholastic encouraging students to read while making a difference. Students in Room 5R are close to their goal of reading 210 books to put toward Scholastic's nationwide goal of donating ONE MILLION BOOKS TO KIDS IN NEED!!



TOYS FOR TOTS

Mrs. Karen A. Carey-Lynch and Ms. Stacy Feszchak's (RPMS) advisory groups collected Toys for Tots for the third year in a row. "We were able to collect 93 toys and \$220 and are grateful to such a generous community", said Mrs. Feszchak. The students who participated in this community service activity are as follows: Robert Bamber, Julian Cortes, Jose Crespo, Christian Duque, Nicholas Ferdinandi, Austin Goodis, Mariana Guiralez, Amaris Larrahondo, Nicholas Latorre, Nicholas Matino, Juan Mejia, Brian Oliveira, Hetsri Patel, Thomas Provino, Carolina Ramirez, Gianna Schwarz, Janrey Serapio, Kristen Vrabel, Zaniyah Washington, Besarte Zenuni.



"BELIEVE" CAMPAIGN

In December, both 2nd and 5th grade classes at RG participated in Macy's "Believe" campaign in efforts to help the Make A Wish Foundation by writing persuasive letters to "Santa" explaining why they should be on the "nice list". For each stamped letter that was dropped off in Macy's Believe mailbox, Macy's department Store donated \$1 to the Make A Wish Foundation, a non-profit organization giving hope, strength and joy to children with life-threatening medical conditions by granting these children wishes. With the letters written by the 2nd and 5th graders at RG, the students helped raise almost \$100 total! Robert Gordon students helped Macy's Department Store reach their \$1,000,000 goal!



RPMS students are shown above holding some of the toys that were collected for Toys for Tots. Pictured from l to r are Gianna Schwarz, Janrey Serapio, Ms. Feszchak, Nicholas Latorre, Hetsri Patel, Austin Goodis, Juan Mejia, Brian Oliveira.

HOLIDAY ELF GLYPHS

Second grade T&G students prepared for the holidays by creating elf glyphs that were used to help develop mathematical understanding of data collection and analysis. Pictured from l to r are Lucie Hafteck, Owen Herrera, John Kopf, Sara Crevani, Damian Czernikowski, Emily Scott and Olivia Qin.



H O L I D A Y S P I R I T

ACADEMY FUNDRAISER

For the holiday season, students at The Academy sponsored a fundraiser to raise money to buy food for the Casano Center food pantry. The Casano Center collects food and delivers baskets to Roselle Park families during the holidays.

The Academy students decided to make and sell chocolate covered pretzels. Order forms were handed out throughout the district and the response was overwhelming. There were almost 300 orders!

The students made and delivered the treats to the schools through the district. The proceeds from the sale were used to buy food to help stock the food pantry at the Casano Center. Academy Director, Mrs. Christine Muench said, "We appreciate all of the support and generosity shown by the staff throughout the Roselle Park schools. Due to the overwhelming success of this project we are looking forward to our next community project! Thank you everyone for your continued support!" (Please see the surrounding photos).



GINGERBREAD HOUSES FOR THE HOLIDAYS

As part of the "Gingerbread" theme in December both the morning and afternoon pre-school students from Mrs. Megan Ripka's classes made gingerbread houses! Each student got to take turns adding the icing and candy pieces to make their house special. Everyone had a lot of fun! The gingerbread houses were displayed in our classroom through the holiday season. Pictured above, at left, is the morning class. Pictured above, on the right, is the afternoon class.

P J E S F R O M T H E S R - S R



H O L I D A Y S O C I A L 2 0 1 0



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VAN GOGH'S CORNER



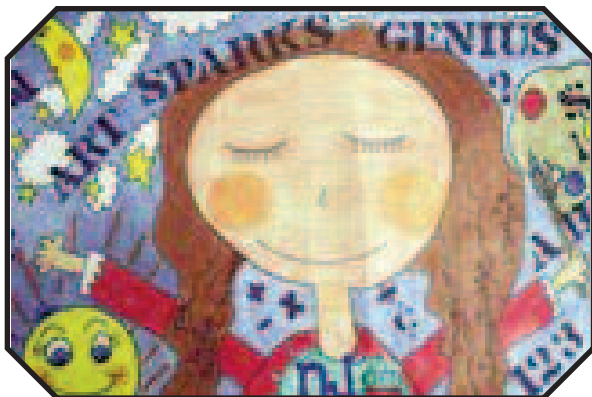
PAINTINGS, PROJECTS ON EXHIBIT

Seven RP students recently had their artwork on exhibit at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center in Newark, NJ. The artwork was on exhibit from December 6 through February 5. Sherman School 2nd graders, Damian Czernikowski, Lucie Hafteck and Valerie Aronhald exhibited their warm and cool initial painting and their classmates, Victoria Pineda and Olivia Qiu exhibited their "Cave Art" projects. EJJF-Aldene School 1st grader, Vrianna Vasquez exhibited her very own self-portrait and EJJF-Aldene 5th grader, Sara Lance, exhibited her Digital Photography created in the Enriched Art WISE class. Congrats to all the artists! *(See the photo at right).*



ARTWORK AT NJEA CONVENTION

Three Roselle Park students exhibited their artwork at the NJEA Convention! Their artwork could be seen in the Vendors Area at the Convention Center. Congrats to the following exhibiting students: Sherman School 3rd grader, James Palmarozzo, EJJF-Aldene School 5th grader, Kelly Corrente and EJJF-Aldene School 5th grader, Dana Delano.



STUDENT NAMED DESIGN WINNER

Francesca Crincoli, a 3rd grader at EJJF-Aldene School, has had her artwork selected as a NJ Youth Art Month Design Winner! Her artwork will be featured on the K-8 Youth Art Month Invitation and on two billboards in New Jersey. One billboard will be in Trenton near the State House, where the State Youth Art Month festivities are held, and the other billboard will be right here in Roselle Park! Look for Francesca's artwork on Westfield Ave., near the Gordon Street Bridge from February 21st through March 20. *Pictured at left is Francesca Crincoli's winning design.*