

October Parent Newsletter 2017

Welcome to the October edition of the Rhodes Parent Newsletter, our first one of the 2017-2018 school year.

SEL Rewards & Roof Adventure

Mr. McConnell had a fun time up on the roof as part of the students Rhodes Respect program! Last year we promised the students that he would sleep on the roof if they earned enough Rhodes Respect tickets from their teachers. The final week of the year, they finally reached their goal. So three weeks ago Mr. McConnell was up on the roof at dismissal to wave goodbye to the students. He also did a Periscope video via our twitter feed. Thank you to all of the parents who offered water and snacks! In the end, we are just happy that our students showed such positive behavior last year. This year, if they reach their ultimate goal, he will be in a dunk tank at the end of the year carnival! The fun never stops!



The Eclipse

The K-5th grade students went outside on the soccer fields with protective glasses from 12:50-1:30 to watch the Eclipse as it reached its peak visibility. A representative from Triton talked to our students and staff about the eclipse and answered several questions the



students had. Our 6th-8th grade students went to Triton to participate in specific activities and witnessed the event there. It was a memorable event and we were thrilled to share it with our students!

Rhodes School Promotes School Wide Literacy



Several teachers volunteered their time this summer to attend a meeting to brainstorm ideas to promote literacy at Rhodes. At this meeting, we scheduled our Drop Everything and Read (D.E.A.R.) dates and quarterly reading events including Community, Staff and Student Guest Readers! After discussing several options for a school wide theme, we decided on... **READING IS OUT OF THIS WORLD!** Teachers will incorporate science related texts into their lessons throughout the year. Read, read, read!

World Language

This year Rhodes is launching a new class available to all kindergarten through fifth graders. Our students will be receiving Spanish language instruction one day a week. Our students will be learning new vocabulary centered around a common monthly theme. Each month their teacher will highlight key cultural aspects of a different Spanish speaking country. Middle school students will continue to receive Introduction and Heritage Spanish classes two to four times per week as an elective. This is a continuation of the model we had in place last year. So far our students have enjoyed learning a new language or in some cases, sharpening their Spanish language skills.

PTA Zap Show

The PTA was thrilled to see almost 200 parents and children attending ZAP! on the evening of Wednesday, September 13, in the McNally Gymnasium. The ZAP! program about electricity was presented by The Science Alliance, an organization dedicated to fun, interactive and safe science educational experiences. Some of the children



got to act out an electrical circuit. Others had the opportunity to make a human electric bridge. The audience also got to see the Jacob's Ladder, which had a crackling charge of electricity travelling up two long poles. Finally, every child who attended had an opportunity to experience the Van de Graff generator, which can raise the hair right off a person's head! The PTA was happy to present such an entertaining and educational program at Rhodes School.

Rhodes Music Parent Association

The RMPA car wash fundraiser was a huge success! We beat our total from last year, and brought in \$536.00! A big thank you to Mrs. Wagner, Mr. Lark, the students and all the parents that volunteered to make this event a success. Keep an eye out for more information on our October Krispy Kreme Doughnut Day fundraiser!

New Playground

A huge thank you to everyone who helped us build our brand new playground and picnic area! Last Thursday, thanks to over 225

volunteers from CarMax, River Grove and Melrose Park, we were able to turn a plot of land into a playground that also comes with two picnic tables, a garden/bench gazebo, two benches, two huge garden/flower boxes, a trash/recycling bin and several new games for the blacktop area. Plus, we were totally surprised when CarMax awarded us with a



\$10,000 donation to be used to support our students and our programs. Needless to say, we feel totally blessed by this good fortune. It did come with a lot of hard

work, and we need to specifically thank the following Rhodes staff members: Jill Oswald, Suzy Boehm, Jaime Johnson, Don Palmer and Tracy Wisniewski. Without their help, this project never would have happened. Now we hope our students and families can enjoy this area for years to come!



MAP Testing

Fall reading and math MAP testing is complete. The MAP assessments help teachers identify the instructional level of the student and also provide context for determining where each student is performing in relation to local or state standards and national norms. The MAP Growth Report will be sent home with Report Cards on October 27th.

Fall Sports Update

Cross Country

Cross Country has had three meets so far this season! Two of the meets were at Schiller Woods where the students ran 1.5 miles, and one of the meets was a practice meet that took place at Rhodes. The students have been working really hard at practice, and pushing through the tiredness/stress that running can put on the body. Mr. Kellerman and Ms. Johnson are happy with the work ethic a majority of students display each practice. At the most recent meet on September 19th, we had many students improve their times. Most runners were able to drop about 20-45 seconds from their first race time. Practice and hard work really does pay off!

The Conference meet will be on Wednesday, October 4th, at Schiller Woods off of Irving Park road. Please come out to cheer on our Rhodes runners, and celebrate all the hard work they have put into this season! We are hoping to come home with a few awards!

Boys' Softball

The boys softball team has had an up and down season. Led by the stellar pitching of Adam Arabik and the solid bat and defense of Zach Hernandez, the team has had a competitive season but has come up on the short end of the scoreboard more often than not. They did make the playoffs, but lost in the first round in a dramatic finish to the game. We are proud of the effort and character our student athletes showed this season.

Girls' Softball

Girls' softball has been battling tough this season. The girls have worked hard and improved tremendously through each practice and game. Mrs. Wisniewski is really proud of their accomplishments this season!