

January Parent Newsletter 2019

***** This newsletter is in English, Spanish, and Polish (All the version are accessible online on our website <http://www.rhodes.k12.il.us>) *****

I hope that this newsletter finds you well and that you have enjoyed the last two weeks with family and friends! The Rhodes staff was able to enjoy time in and around Chicago with family over the holidays, with one of our own even getting married (congratulations to the former Ms. Chavez, who is now Mrs. Clause!). However, we are very excited to have your children back at school and to have our halls filled with noise again, with our students connecting back with friends and readjusting themselves to the flow of a regular school day.

Academically we began challenging students immediately! We were able to review the winter MAP scores before and over break and now have an even better idea of where our students are at academically, especially in the areas of Reading and Math. Our Project Teach and Title One groups started back up right away as we have begun preparing for the ACCESS and PARCC (now also called IAR) tests, which take place in January and March, respectively.

We have approved several clubs that will start throughout the month of January. Students will begin receiving information about these clubs starting the week of January 14th, so please be on the lookout for more information. They fill up fast, so make sure that you return any club information as soon as you get it.

For the parents of our 8th grade graduates, information will be coming at the end of this month (can you believe it?). We will be sending out a packet of information regarding Dinner Dance, the Six Flags Trip and other important dates for graduation. Please be on the lookout for that information, and you can contact the main office if you have any questions.

Starting in January our District Strategic Plan team will begin meeting to put together our 5-7 year plan for the district. This team, which consists of community members, parents, board members, administration and staff, will spend several meetings looking at the overall health of the district and setting goals in the areas of academics, technology, and community involvement, just to name a few. We look forward to sharing our progress with you before we head into the 2019-2020 school year.

Our Literacy Committee is sponsoring a **Multi-Cultural Night on Thursday, January 24th from 6:00-7:30 pm in the McNally Gym.** This amazing night will feature stations that highlight countries all over the world, including Poland, Puerto Rico, Guatemala, Nigeria and Ireland, just to name a few. Over 20 countries will be represented! Students and their parents will have the opportunity to move around to different stations where information will be presented by staff on the various countries, including literature from each country. Families will have passports that will be stamped as they visit each station. This amazing event will allow families to travel the world to learn about different cultures. We look forward to sharing more information with you over the next few weeks, but mark the night down in your calendars now!

Here are some important dates to remember:

January 11	Report Cards home
January 15	RMPA meeting at 6:30
January 18	Honor's Breakfast at 7:30
January 21	NO SCHOOL-MLK Day
January 23	School Spelling Bee at 1:30
January 28	Graduation Picture Day

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February 1	Progress Reports home
February 6	PTA meeting at 6:30
February 11-14	PTA Book Fair
February 13	Spring Sports, Band and Chorus pictures
February 14	Valentine's Day parties (9th period)
February 15	NO SCHOOL-Teacher Institute
February 18	NO SCHOOL-Presidents' Day

In cafeteria news, they wanted to remind everyone that our Rhodes Cafeteria serves a hot school lunch and also offers hot items on our Ala Carte side. Starting this January we will be sending menus home monthly for grades K thru 5. Please look for it in your student's backpack. Open Kitchens (school lunch) will be on one side and Ala Carte on the other. Menus will still be available on the Rhodes website.

Finally, Rhodes School is participating in the Illinois 5 Essentials Survey, which is commissioned by the University of Chicago. Students in 4th-8th grade and all of our teachers will have an opportunity to participate in this survey as well. This survey is designed to generate a detailed picture of the inner workings of each school in Illinois. As a parent, this opportunity will allow you to share your thoughts on the important elements of school effectiveness in a survey about Rhodes. Your participation in the parent portion of the survey will help us understand the conditions at Rhodes and guide improvement. Your identity and survey responses will be kept completely confidential and will never be connected to you or your child. The link is attached below and is active until February 15, 2019.

<http://survey.5-essentials.org/illinois/survey/parent/>

I have included some pictures from the 1st semester on the next page. Enjoy, have a great start to 2019, and as always, thank you for reading!

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#RhodesKidsCan
#RhodesPride

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Pictures from 2018!!!



Eating Lunch with students



Breakfast with Santa



Students reading to students



Family Reading Night



Honor's Breakfast



ROAR Mentoring Club



Annie the Musical!