

JULY 2016



# Reece School NEWSLETTER

Reece School, 25 East 104th Street, New York, NY 10029

Tel: (212) 289-4872

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## Quiet Room

The Sensory Committee is excited to announce that the redesign of the 2nd floor Quiet Room is almost complete! We have been working on redesigning the room to create an inviting, therapeutic, and calming space that can be used by students when they feel overwhelmed and have difficulty regulating their mood or behavior in the classroom environment. The new space will be sensory supportive as opposed to sensory depriving with the intent of helping students recover more quickly and reducing the amount of instructional time missed after critical incidents occur.

The room was researched and designed by a multidisciplinary team of three occupational therapists, a psychologist, a speech therapist, a teacher, an office supply manager, and our behavioral support team in collaboration with our executive director and maintenance supervisor. We met biweekly to review the research and select a color scheme and items that would best meet the needs of students who currently require support outside of the classroom. We are hopeful that this new space will promote our positive approach to behavioral support and emphasis on healing and recovery as a part of crisis intervention.

-Myriah Rosengarten

noted that "Many of the students play soccer in their home communities and others were quick learners to pick up the skills."

## Circus of the kids

### *Spilling the beans about behind the scenes*

The entire Reece school participated in Circus of the Kids on April 22, 2016 and here is how it went: Before the circus, we did auditions. In the auditions, we saw all the stations and we went through all of them a few times. Then they determined what station we would be in for the circus. Then we focused on that one station.

Tyler, Skyler, Joshua, Kameran, Ryan, and I were all Hula Hoop Ringers. The practice was really tiring. We practiced 1 to 2 times a day for 14 days straight and we learned some tricks. When we heard we would get cotton candy if we did well in the circus, we

all tried our hardest. Finally, we performed in the circus. When there were other acts, we went to the hallways or behind the giant circus tent. At first, I felt sad and worried because I thought that I would do badly in the circus. But then, I felt happy and excited when I did it! It was a great experience for me and the other Hula Hoop Ringers! THE END!

- Ariel C.



## Players Eye

New this year, we invited two soccer coaches from Players Eye to train our students and organize a "Soccer Day from Around the World." Players Eye runs soccer clinics and camps throughout the tri-state area. The coaches, Jamie and

Andreas, are originally from the New York Red Bulls but are now associated with both NYC FC and Juventus. On Friday, teams were formed for a double elimination, five-a-side tournament. "The children showed a competitive spirit and excellent sportsmanship, cheering for all teams throughout the day," said Jamie, who also





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## Annual Picnic



On Saturday, June 4th, we held our annual end of the year picnic. This year, we decided to utilize our recently updated, lovely outdoor garden space and our state of the art grill to have a BBQ at the school. This event was a big hit among families. The turn-out was incredible and we thank you all for coming. Gabe was a rock-star on the grill for almost 3 hours, cooking

up delicious hamburgers, hot dogs and veggie burgers. Our families provided so much additional food, that we were even able to provide lunch for staff the following Monday (we appreciate it!). Parents were able to see the wonderful projects that the students are working on out there as part of the new Science curriculum. It was a perfect way to gather our entire Reece community in a beautiful outdoor space and end a great year. After everyone was well fed, the activities continued over at Central Park. The weather was beautiful and made this event even more enjoyable. A big "thank you" to all of the staff who helped out that day and to all of our families for joining in the festivities and making it such a successful event. We look forward to doing this more in the coming future!

- Erica Corvin

## Professional Development Day

We would love to thank the Parents Association for sponsoring our professional development day on June 3rd! Paulo was busy on the grill cooking for everyone: His Brazilian BBQ was so delicious that nobody wanted to leave the garden to attend afternoon sessions.

In addition to attending various workshops, all of our staff came together to collaborate on the topic "what worked this year for each child." Staff then shared the successful strategies with next year's teachers to help provide a smooth transition for students as they move to new classrooms over the summer and fall.

- Duncan Lester



## Earth Day Saturday

Our Earth Day Saturday program was a successful celebration once again this year! Reece students, with staff guidance, participated in a variety of activities including tie-dying t-shirts, following recipes to make healthy snacks, creating a Hand-Tree art mural, which is currently on display in our lobby, and planting a variety of fresh flowers and bushes in our Memory Garden for the spring and summer seasons. Everyone enjoyed the beautiful weather and working together to better our school and environment!







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## Graduation Anxiety

Change can be difficult for all of us. Parents worry about how their children will transition to a new school and children worry about what to expect. It is important to remain positive; acknowledge children's fears; and remind them of and praise them for their strengths and capabilities.

Elijah and Alejandro would like to share some of their thoughts about going to a new school, as well as strategies they hope to use to handle them. Alejandro says, "I like Reece. I like my new school." Elijah says, "It's easier to know what's going to happen than to just guess. I know this isn't always possible but I can handle it!"

## Reece-Spect

The Reece-spect initiative began this year and was very well received by students and staff. All students were taught what it means to be Reece-spectful to Myself, Others, and the Environment during social skills lessons and as a part of our school-wide behavioral reward system. Signs were posted in classrooms and many classes created special earnings to reward Reece-spectful behavior in their classroom. In addition, there was a school-wide earning where Reece-spectful tickets were given to students throughout the school day when they exhibited Reece-spectful behavior. Students seemed excited to receive tickets and were able to bring them to the main office to place them in a box for Friday drawings. Each week, four tickets were drawn from the box, the students' names were announced on the loud speaker, and they were asked to come to the main office to receive a Reece-spectful certificate, get their picture taken, and select a prize. The winners' pictures are posted in our main office.

Overall, students responded well to this initiative and Reece-spectful behavior has improved in our school. We plan to continue this initiative this summer and in the fall. Congratulations to all of the Reece-spectful Student of the Week winners!

## Worries

- Will I have friends?
- What time does school start and what time does it end?
- How will I get there?
- I kind of know what the teachers are like because I visited the school, but I don't know everything about them. I don't know for sure who is going to be my teacher.
- What is the work going to be like?
- How much homework will I have?
- I'm not concerned about lunch because I will be bringing it.
- I like the clothes they wear.

## How to Handle Worries

- Calm down strategies: breathing, counting, telling myself I can do this.
- Talk to my parents.
- Talk to my counselor and teacher.
- See if I can meet one of my new classmates before school starts.
- Remember to "be real" with my new friends. Be nice to my new friends.
- Look on website to find out when school starts and ends. I may find out other things about the school.
- Listen in class and follow directions when I get to my new school.
- Try to keep in touch with my friends from the Reece School.
- Remember that I can come back and visit Reece.

- Elijah and Alejandro

## All about Reece

Hello, future students, I'm Daniel C. and I'm a 5th floor student who is graduating this year. Here is some advice I would like to tell you about Reece. As you get more mature, you can move to a higher floor. When you're on the 5th floor, you can have a job, have overnight trips, and do potlucks. There are many fun things you can do like Saturday programs, art class, school birthday parties, and the Circus of the Kids. You can get a "Reece-spectful Student of the Week" award by demonstrating respectful behavior. I remember when I was a winner! The Reece School is a great place to be and I hope you have an amazing time at Reece.

- Daniel C.





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## Occupational Therapy

In OT we know that movement helps our students focus and self-regulate. We are always looking for new OT ideas and strategies to implement in the classroom to make the students more successful learners. While attending the national American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA) conference, we saw many new products that could be useful here at Reece, one of which is a modified classroom chair that allows a student to rock in his/her seat without disrupting their classwork. Thanks to all of your fundraising and support, we are excited to announce that in September, two classrooms will be provided with these chairs as a pilot study to see its effects on our students, with the possibility of expanding throughout the whole school.

- Justine Balog & Samantha

## A Trip to the Conservatory Garden

In April the Speech Department went to Central Park to visit the Conservatory Garden. We saw many flowers like pink, purple, and yellow tulips, cherry blossom trees, and French lilacs. The flowers were all so beautiful and colorful. Some students got to see the duck pond. There were two ducks and they were cute. We walked around and saw three fountains. The first one was a wishing fountain; it had a beautiful statue and a birdbath with birds in it. In the summer park workers put fish in the pond. We hope everyone had a fun time at the conservatory garden.

- Tyler G.

## Family Kickball Game

On Saturday, May 14th the Reece School held a family kickball game in Central Park. It was a sunny and warm day. During the game it was the kids vs. the adults. The kids won that day! Some families brought delicious food and snacks to share. At the end of the game we took a big group picture. It was such a fun day!

- Tyler G.



## Painting Class

On Friday, May 6th, 510, 511 and the 2nd floor took a painting class with Daryl. We painted a picture for Mother's Day of a ladybug on a flower. Daryl instructed us how to do that. It was a messy, challenging and fun event!

- Kameron A. and Alvin R



## 5th Floor Food Drive

This spring the 5th floor organized a food drive for the New York Common Food Pantry. We did this to help the homeless and it taught us good teamwork. We passed our goal of 300 donations and celebrated with ice cream! Thank you Reece students, families, and staff for your support.

-Mya M. and Lance L.

## Cinco De Mayo

On May 5th, 510 and 511 had a Cinco de Mayo celebration. We learned about the battle between France and Mexico in 1862, which Mexico won. To prepare we went to the supermarket and we bought ingredients to make guacamole. We also had salsa, nachos and chips. It was a yummy event!!

- Joshua R. and Avant M.

