

March 2017



Reece School

NEWSLETTER

Reece School, 25 East 104th Street, New York, NY 10029
(212) 289-4872 Follow us: www.reeceschool.org

Save the Date!

2017 Fundraising Auction

Pilot Program:

Using Rocker Chairs to Help Students Focus

Over the past several months, Justine and Samantha of the OT department, have been taking data on the effect of replacing standard classrooms desk chairs with "rocker chairs" in two different classrooms as part of a pilot study. As prior research has shown, movement helps students focus and remain engaged in classroom learning. The teachers in both classrooms have noticed that when their students are able to safely move around by rocking in their seat, they demonstrate a better ability to attend to their classroom tasks, can attend for longer periods of time, and show less "off task" behaviors. Students using these rocker chairs have stated that they feel more focused and are less distracted during classroom instruction. Justine and Samantha will be presenting their findings at the National American Occupational Therapy Association conference in April.



Birds of Prey March is coming!!

March 18, 2017

TASTING THE NIGHT AWAY

THE REECE SCHOOL'S 2017 FUNDRAISING AUCTION

Thursday, May 11, 2017

**WINE TASTING, HORS D'OEUVRES, RAFFLES,
LIVE AUCTION, AND MORE!**

IN THE REECE SCHOOL GYM

410 Gives Back: Toy Drive



During this holiday season Class 410 teamed up with enCourage Kids Foundation to collect and send gifts to Mt Sinai West and their Developmental Disabilities Center. The center has about 100 kids ages 3-12 years old. The students received certificates from enCourage Kids Foundation in recognition of participating in the enCourage Kids 2016 toy drive!! Here's a quote from Mt Sinai "Thank you so much for helping us with some of our most vulnerable New Yorkers! You are saving us!" Happy Holidays!!!



The Reece School Therapeutic Music Lending Library

Dear Reece Families,

We're very pleased to announce that we're in the process of opening the Reece School Therapeutic Music Lending Library this month!

As many of you already know, we've been conducting a pilot therapeutic music program in class 210, 212, Creative Arts and a therapy office to implement the Sound Health Music Collection of the Listening Program, since September of the last year. We've been utilizing a research/evidenced based school protocol to integrate therapeutic music during specific daily academic periods and therapy sessions. We've been monitoring its effectiveness by using a set of occupational therapy assessment tools and also weekly feedback provided by the involved school staff.

We received a lot of positive feedback from the participating school staff, students and families. Also, many of the students partaking appear to be calmer, better focused and more interactive in their classrooms and therapy sessions. Subsequently, we have

decided to expand the program and will start implementing it in twenty school wide locations starting this year. This therapeutic music program will be integrated in our eleven school classrooms, Creative Arts class, six therapy offices, second floor break room and nurse's office. We'll also have the therapeutic music lending library set-up so that all school staff can utilize this program with their students as needed.

This is one of our new school wide sensory integration and preventive therapeutic intervention initiatives that we're starting this year. We hope that this additional therapeutic intervention can assist in bringing out more positive changes in many of our students who currently struggle with their attention, sensory processing, self-regulation, emotional-regulation, learning behavior and socialization skills.

If you have any questions about this program, feel free to contact me at su.chung@reece.school.org or (212) 289-4872 Ext. 314.

~ Su from the Occupational Therapy Department~

Science Corner



The Science Program has some incredibly exciting news to share with everyone! We applied for the "Pets in the Classroom" grant through Petco, and were approved. We will be welcoming a bearded dragon (*extremely friendly despite the name*) to the Reece School, which all of the classes will have access to during Science time. This should be an incredible learning experience for all students, and we look forward to sharing it together.

Additionally, we have been hard at work continuing our project based STEM (*Science, Technology, Engineering, Math*) learning. We have been using many household items to design, build, test and troubleshoot various model projects. Some of the student's favorite activities have been making a marble run, building a bridge, and creating a basket to carry objects along a "zip line." Most of these projects are collaborative, and the students have really enjoyed working as a team. If possible, we would appreciate donations of any of the following items that can either be collected at home, or purchased for use on future projects. Please feel free to contact me with any questions at mike.rosenfeld@reece.school.org

Cardboard
Toilet Paper Rolls
Paper Towel Rolls
Paper Towels

Plastic Cups
Popsicle Sticks
Empty water/soda
bottles & caps

Popsicle Sticks
Toothpicks
Pipe Cleaners
Paper Plates

Twist Ties
Plastic Spoons
Tape: Scotch or Masking
Rubber Bands



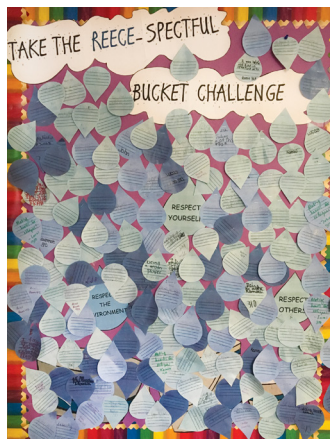


February 13-17, 2017

REECE-SPECTFUL STUDENTS WEEK

Feb 13th-17th was "respect for all week" in all NYC public schools. During this week, Reece students had the opportunity to highlight and build upon ongoing social skills programs as well as to embark upon new initiatives that promote respect for diversity and engage students in meaningful lessons and/or other activities that focus on compassion, kindness, empathy and respect.

Each day of the week followed a theme, including respecting myself, respecting others and respecting the environment. Special daily activities and lessons focused on promoting kindness and respect. The entire school participated in a Reece-spectful bucket challenge where students received paper water droplets for demonstrating



kind acts and placed them in "buckets" hanging in our main office and lobby. As a special way of recognizing our respectful students, we had four randomly drawn winners for respectful students each day.

The culmination of this week was on Friday with our "beyond differences" day. A day that celebrated what makes each of us different and unique and the importance of respecting those differences. A special assembly was held giving students the opportunity to present what they had learned during the week.

Although we promote respect everyday here at Reece, this week was a reminder of the importance of being kind to ourselves, to others and to our community.



Friendship Booth

On February 14th we held a Friendship Day booth. It was for Valentine's Day and Respect For All Week. We gave out friendship tip cards, lollipops with Valentine's Day notebooks, and raffle tickets for a prize. The students who came to our booth told us ways that they had been respectful to others. It was a successful and fabulous event!



Camille, Mya and Cyanni
(Classes 510 and 511)

Mystery Readers

Respect for All Week was a magical one here at the Reece School. Throughout the week we had very special guests read respect-themed stories to the students. They were our Reece Mystery Readers! Parents, Reece staff members, Dr. Duncan, and many more read some of the classics, such as *Chrysanthemum* by Kevin Henkes, *It's Mine* by Leo Lionni, and chapters out of the wonder novel *Wonder* by Rael J. Palacio, among many others.

What a wonderful experience!



Sam's mom read to 211



On Saturday January 21st, the Reece School held its annual Family Bowling event at Bowlmor Lanes! Once again, we had a great turnout and a fun time was had by all. Reece students and their families spent the afternoon bowling, snacking on pizza and soda, and enjoying each other's company. Thanks to all who came out to make this a successful and meaningful event!



Shredders!

On an unusually warm January day, 8 Reece students got to hit the slushy slopes at Windham Mountain with the *Ride 2 Live* program. Thanks to this program, lift tickets, rental equipment, meals, and instruction were all free. Each student had two volunteer instructors teaching them the entire day! These students were able to learn and practice their



snowboarding skills on the "bunny hill," as well as practice getting on and off the lift. After lunch, students who were ready to try a green (beginner) level trail, headed up on the lift to the main part of the mountain. It was amazing to watch these students practice making turns and stopping, as well as popping right back up on the board whenever they lost their balance. I saw them cheering each other on and even showing support for others

on the mountain who were using monoskis, which is a type of adapted skiing for someone in a wheelchair. The students enjoyed using some snowboarding lingo such as calling each other "shredders," which means someone who is good at snowboarding or skateboarding. Since then, several students have said that they plan on heading back to the mountain to try snowboarding again and have been encouraging their peers to give snowboarding a try. I hope to see all of our Reece shredders back out on the slope soon!



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