

Fall 2017



Reece School

# NEWSLETTER

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

## Internet Safety Awareness Presentation

by Bradley, Class 317 and Jesus, Class 518



On Monday, November 13th, retired New York City Police Detective Thomas Grimes of NY Finest Speakers, talked to us about how to be safe on the Internet. We learned about the risks of kids being bullied online and he warned us about dangers that exist on the Internet.

Mr. Grimes's presentation taught us ways to be safe, such as making sure our privacy settings are on and talking to our family members when we feel uncomfortable and need them. Thank you Mr. Grimes!

**Winter Giving is coming!!**  
Saturday, December 9, 2017

Dear Families,

*It is a pleasure to welcome our new students & teachers as well as current staff back for another school year. It's terrific to be part of this creative learning community every day.*

*In 2017/18 we were nominated to receive a Blackboard Award. These awards honor excellence in local education in all sectors and grades. The schools' administration has been invited to attend the Annual Schools and Principals' ceremony, December 4th.*

*We have had an exciting beginning to the year as you can see from all the great stories children and staff have shared and written about on these pages.*

Duncan Lester,  
Executive Director

## Backpack Awareness Day

by Crosby, Class 212

In September we had Backpack Awareness Day in the gym. There were different stations in the gym where we weighed our backpacks to see if they were too heavy, guessed which backpacks had too many things inside, and colored and did some really fun word searches! When the OTs weighed my backpack it was too heavy! I had fun and think we should have Backpack Day again next year, but with harder word searches!





## The Reece Party Planning Club

On October 27th, the Reece Party Planning Club hosted a bake sale. It was a huge hit!! The party planning club spent weeks organizing this event. We sent a letter home asking for baked goods and put up lists all over the school about the date and time of the event. The response was incredible! Students brought in cupcakes, cookies, cake, brownies, cookie pops, doughnuts, pies, and more!! Each class had an opportunity to visit the sale as well as all of the Reece Staff!! Not only did we fill our stomachs, but we filled the party planning club bank with over \$300!! We can't wait to use this money for future exciting school wide events!! The club will be sending out a survey in the next two weeks asking students to suggest what kind of events they would like to have at Reece! We are very grateful to Reece Families for their help in making this event a success.



*Sincerely, The party planning committee*

## The Second Floor Gives Back to Animals

*by Class 211*



In honor of November's giving back theme, the 2nd floor students collected donations for the Animal Care Centers of NYC's 110th Street location.

We're helping the homeless dogs because they need shelter. – *Jordy*

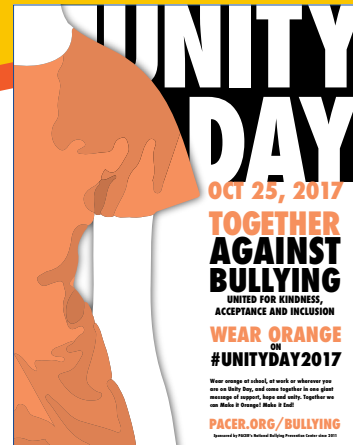
Cats need owners and food. – *Rikard*

Every pet needs owners! – *Eli*

Everyone saw our posters and they brought in stuff to help. Well done! – *Julian*

Thank you for all the animal supplies! – *Isa*

Thank you for helping the animals. The animals are going to feel happy! – *Kessyana*



## Bullying Prevention Month and Unity Day *by Avant, Class 511*

In October we recognized Bullying Prevention Month. Bullying happens everywhere and it is a problem because it's mean and hurtful. Instead, we should be kind to each other and respectful. Wednesday, October 25th, was Unity Day. We wore orange to stand united against bullying.

## Rocking Out at the Reece School

On October 12th musicians Wes Swing and Gull performed for the students of the Reece School, and shared their unique musical style of modern Rock sounds for the students to experience. The Music Department has been introducing a variety of new technologies for students to engage in the music making process. In December the Reece School will partner with the *Little Kids Rock* organization to give students the opportunity to learn guitar, key board and drums so they too can perform for the Community.



Upcoming Parent Workshop  
February 6, 2018

*Helping Children Cope with Loss and Grief*





## 410 Gives Back!

On November 14th we volunteered with the Central Park Conservancy at their *Pitch in, Pick up* volunteer program. The class received gloves, garbage bags and grabbers and went around the North Meadow and used the grabbers to pick up garbage. We picked up wrappers, papers, and bottles. It was a great experience and a nice way to "pitch in" for our community. The students really enjoyed the experience. Happy Thanksgiving!!



## Reece's Reading Dog, Pepper

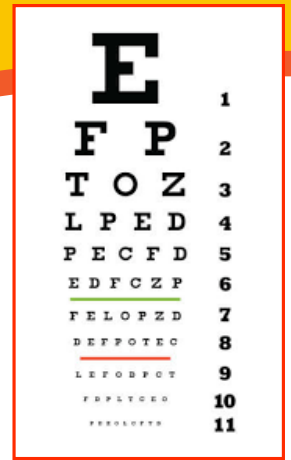
by Alvin, Class 317



I, Alvin, read with Pepper the dog, who is from the R.E.A.D. program of the New York Therapy Animals, every Friday morning for about 20 minutes. It is very relaxing to read to her as she sits next to me on the floor. Pepper usually licks my hand as I read, and sometimes she watches me read. I look forward to this time with her, and I can't wait to have this calm and relaxing reading time with Pepper again.

-Alvin

## The 4th Annual Vision Screening Day at the Reece School



On October 2nd and 4th, the supervising optometry doctors and clinical residents of the SUNY College of Optometry & University Eye Center Community Outreach Program returned to the Reece School to provide free vision screening services to our students. They're trained to use alternative methods to screen and assess special needs children in a sensible and non-threatening way. This year, over 80 students had signed-up to receive this wonderful service and follow-up vision referral when was needed. With support from the clinical staff at the University Eye Center, we're also able to update our free vision resource list and then share it with all Reece staff and families. If you need a copy of the updated free vision resource list, please send your request to [su.chung@reecschoool.org](mailto:su.chung@reecschoool.org). We'd like to thank the caring and incredibly dedicated doctors, clinical residents and staff for providing another successful vision screening year at our school and we're looking forward to seeing you again next year!



## Chili Cook Off!

This year we decided to have a regional Chili cook off! We had chili from Brooklyn, Staten Island, Manhattan, Putnam County and Long Island. All staff had a wonderful time and did great in participation. This year's winner was Manhattan!

Congrats to them!





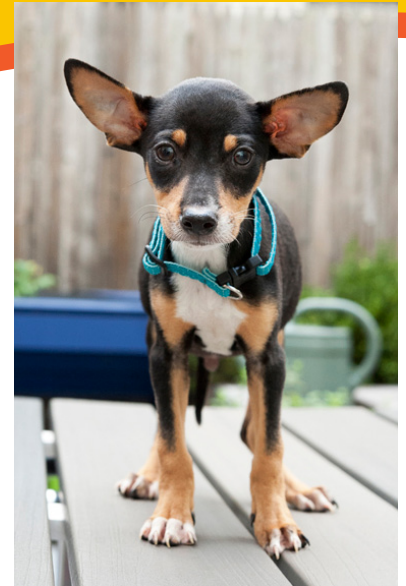
## Minion, Reece's First Foster Dog *by Class 317*

Hi! My name is Minion. I am a Miniature Pinscher with a big heart. I was born in Texas and recently took a long ride to New York. Though I don't have any stamps in my passport, I'm quite the excellent traveler. I currently ride with my foster dad to and from a school full of wonderful children each day in NYC, where I work on my social skills. I am a lover and enjoy snuggling up and giving kisses. When school is not in session, I like to let loose and run around the yard with my friends; both humans and dogs. My foster brother has taught me when to go outside and do my business and I rarely have accidents. I am not a big talker, which I heard is a great thing in the adopting dog community.



Just like the Minions in the movie, I live to serve and please; but don't let that fool you! I'm looking to change the story line by not having a series of unsuccessful masters and looking for my perfect match and lifelong companion.

I am PAWSitive you'll love me. 🐾



Minion

## Camp Reece

We are happy to announce that we are already starting to plan for Camp Reece 2018! Octavia Man, Program Director of Camp Reece along with Kiersten Twitchell, Camp Director (former Reece School Social Worker) will be running the program. We are looking forward to having even more fun and adventures this year and have children explore possibilities and stretch the boundaries of what can be achieved, while giving each camper a lifetime of memories of fun with friends that they will carry with them long after summer's end.



## Alpha Grows Up

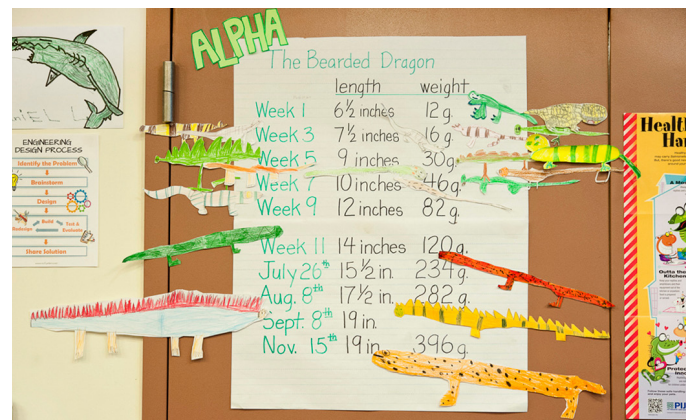
When the Science program last checked in on a newsletter, getting a school pet was merely a possibility. Now, our Bearded Dragon Alpha, named in a near unanimous school wide vote, is an integral part of our classroom. The students have watched him grow from six and a half inches and only twelve grams, to the nineteen-inch, 396-gram, fully grown reptile that he is now. Students have thoroughly enjoyed watching Alpha grow, and spending time with him and we are glad to provide that experience for them. We have also continued our exploration through STEM activities, and would gladly appreciate any of the following materials you may already be recycling: toilet paper rolls, paper towel rolls, and cardboard. Thank you!



Please Save the Date  
for the Reece School

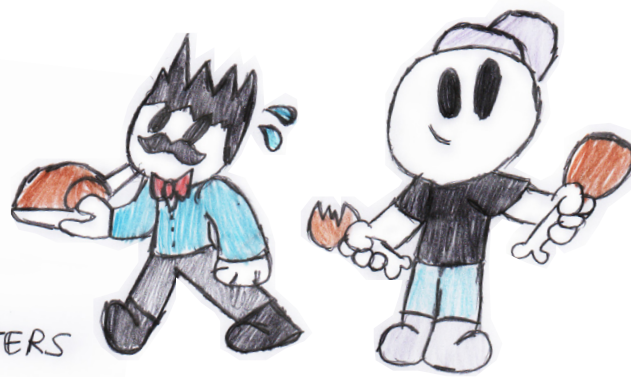
70<sup>th</sup>  
Anniversary Gala

Tuesday, May 8, 2018





# REECE SCHOOL REPORTERS



masthead by Christopher M., Class 317



## About Reece Reporters

Hello Readers! We are the Reece Reporters. Who are the Reece Reporters, you may ask? We are Ariel, Aaron Anthony, Lucas, Chris, Liam, and Josh. We edit, anchor, illustrate, interview, record, and report on current events and news in the Reece School.

We have reported about the bake sale, the weather, clubs, and have interviewed staff, such as Nurse Elizabeth and Derrick. The work we do is fun and makes us feel happy, proud, and excited!

## Meet Our New Nurse

by Liam G., Class 410  
Video Cameraman, Aaron C.



Elizabeth is the new nurse at the Reece School. She previously worked in two other schools and now she's bringing good health skills to Reece. We would like to welcome her to our school as not just the new nurse, but one of our best nurses so far!

Welcome Elizabeth!

## Pumpkin Roll!

by Anthony L., Class 511

We held our 3rd Annual Pumpkin Roll Event in Central Park on Halloween. It was very exciting! The students and departments rolled their pumpkins. Their pumpkins were decorated nicely and the students and staff wore cool costumes. Each class and department was called up to roll their pumpkins as far as they could. Everyone tried their best. The winners were Class 412 and the Science Department. Everyone had a blast and lots of fun. We look forward to next year!



Class 412 wins it!