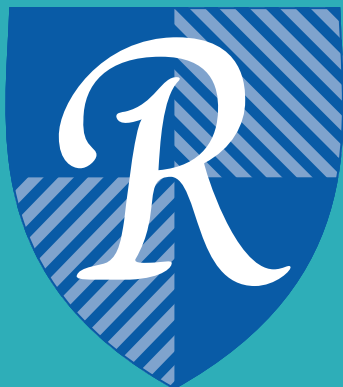


Fall 2018



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)

## FALL FESTIVAL 2018



Despite the rainy weather, our Annual Fall Festival went off without a hitch on Saturday, October 27th! Our Reece students and their families enjoyed a morning full of seasonal activities and were even treated to a special magician performance by SOFunCity. Thank you to all that participated and came out and a very special thanks to Daryl Cooper (Instagram: @dcoop15) for the amazing work she does face painting and SOFunCity (Instagram: @so.funcity) for treating us to such a magical performance!



Winter Wonderland is coming!!

Saturday, December 8, 2018

Dear Families,

Wow, how fast the fall has flown by!

We have certainly had a lot of fun and exciting activities to promote learning here at Reece... it's been incredibly busy, but the progress the students have made in just a few short months has been astounding! By now, everyone is settling in well to their new classrooms, their new routines and getting down to the business of learning. This year has so much in store, our entire community is excited to witness this growth!

As winter is near and a dip in temperatures upon us, please remember that our students go outside year-round, and now is the time to wear sweaters or jackets.

Have fun reading all the wonderful articles and stories.

All the best,  
Dr. Duncan

Executive Director



**REECE  
STAFF  
SUNSHINE  
CLUB**

Our Staff Sunshine Club continues to gain popularity and help boost morale! In addition to our monthly bagel breakfasts, we kicked off the school year with a staff mixer, followed by bowling in Brooklyn, and our most recent Game Night! This winter we look forward to more social mixers, as well as hosting an evening of karaoke and Paint Nite, both for the second year in a row!



## REECE RUNNERS

By: Ajanae (Class 518) and Kameron (Class 511)

We are the Reece Racers Club! We meet every Tuesday with our coach, Charlotte, and go out for exercises and runs. We are members of the Rising New York Road Runners. We have been to a meet at Icahn Stadium where we all ran one mile in and outside of the stadium. On November 1st, we ran the last 400 meters of the NYC Marathon route. We were given medals and we met Jenny Simpson. She is an Olympic athlete. We are happy to be in this club and excited for new things to come! To find out more about Rising NYRR go to: <https://www.nyrr.org/rising-new-york-road-runners>



## The Reece Party Planning Club

The party planning club is comprised of fourth and fifth floor students. We are so excited to plan special activities and events for the 2018-2019 school year! We started off the year planning our annual bake sale. This took place on Tuesday, October 30th. We are so grateful for all the delicious baked goods that were sent in from many Reece families. This event allowed us to raise money for future events! The party planning club will continue to brainstorm what events we think would be best for Reece!

Our next event will be a Winter School Dance. We will be planning the dance in the next few club meetings and send details out soon!

**HAPPY FALL!!**



## BACKPACK AWARENESS DAY

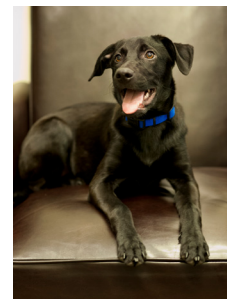
On September 26th, the OT department organized & hosted Backpack Awareness Day at the Reece School. At this event, the OT department;

1. Weighed backpacks and their wearers
2. Showed how to pack backpacks properly
3. Had kids guess the weight of packed backpacks
4. Provided word searches and coloring sheets to the kids

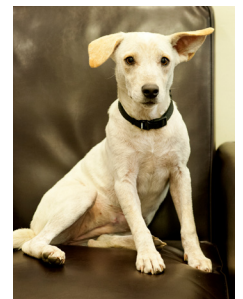
You shouldn't wear a backpack that's too heavy for you because it can hurt your back. To figure out how heavy your backpack should be, weigh yourself then your backpack. Your backpack shouldn't be more than 10% of your bodyweight. When packing your backpack, always put the largest, heaviest objects you have in the very back of your backpack.



## OUR RESCUE DOGS, ANNA AND ELSA



Anna



Elsa

SNARR (Special Needs Animal Rescue and Rehabilitation) Northeast pulls dogs from high kill shelters all over the country with a focus on the local NYC, NJ and surrounding area. Reece students are helping to socialize both Anna and Elsa to be well behaved puppies in different situations. Elsa and Anna came from Texas. Although the title speaks for itself as "Special Needs", SNARR also saves perfectly healthy dogs as well. The rescue is not picky; if they can figure out a safe, responsible home for an animal to be placed. Anna is as loving as can be and has been adopted, sharing her joyfulness with a family in Brooklyn. Elsa is an adoring pup who is ready to start her wonderful life with the great family that chooses to adopt her. Together both have shown their capability to be around other dogs, adults and children.

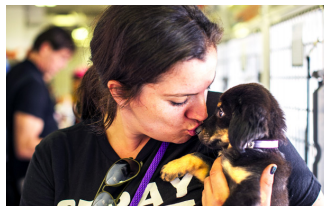




## The 5th Annual Vision Screening Day at the Reece School

On October 1st, 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 vision screening services to our students. During the past 5 years, we've successfully partnered with their clinical team to provide free vision screening services to over 260 Reece students who had signed-up to receive this wonderful service and post vision screening referrals when they were applicable. With support from the clinical staff at the University Eye Center, we've also created and updated our vision resource packet and then share it with our staff and families. Starting this year, the Reece School is following the most updated NYS Education Department Vision Screening Guideline for Schools. Each year, we'll offer free vision screening services to students who are in grades Pre-K/K, 1, 3, 5, 7 and 11 as well as all newly enrolled students who have started school after the previous vision screening day. We'd like to thank the kindhearted and dedicated doctors, clinical residents and staff for providing another great vision screening day at our school and promoting increased awareness about the importance of proper vision care to our students and families. If you have any questions about the vision screening program or would like a copy of the vision resource packet, please contact [su.chung@reeceschool.org](mailto:su.chung@reeceschool.org).

**Social Tees®**  
ANIMAL RESCUE



In the spirit of Thanksgiving, the purple and blue cohorts gave back to the community in the form of a donation drive. Throughout the month of November, the two cohorts collected donated items for Social Tees Animal Rescue. Social Tees is a not-for-profit organization in the East Village of NYC that takes abandoned animals from kill shelters and provides them with safe haven and veterinary care before placing them in proper forever homes. Through this service project, the blue and purple cohorts learned about the importance of volunteer work in their community.

## UNITY DAY

By: Joshua F. (Class 511)

### KINDNESS ACCEPTANCE INCLUSION



On October 24th, The Reece School celebrated Unity Day. Unity Day is about how to stop bullying. Kids had to wear orange to spread the message for being kind to others and to support your friends and classmates who have been bullied. The middle school students did posters about bullying. They presented them to younger students to help stop bullying. Unity Day is important because too many kids get bullied in their life and it is important to stop bullying.

Be kind to one another!





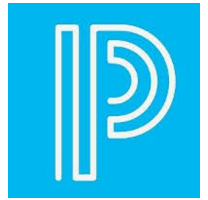
## COHORT SPIRIT!

Though we are only two months into the school year, we have already witnessed the great advantages of moving to a cohort model. Benefits include; improved communication amongst staff, more effective scheduling, the ability to capitalize on the multi-disciplinary nature of the program by involving all disciplines in decisions and the ability to create opportunities for fostering team building and a sense of community for both staff and students.

Our color themed cohorts (Red, Orange, Yellow, Green, Blue and Purple) have shown their spirit during "cohort spirit" themed days by wearing their colors, creating signs, posters and cheers to show unity within their cohort and many were rewarded with ice cream for their efforts. Cohorts are taking trips together, planning group events and sharing ideas for curriculum and community service. On a staff level, cohorts also showed their competitive sides with a staff chili cook-off won by the Blue cohort! Though we encourage team unity for individual cohorts, the message we choose to drive, is that, though each cohort is unique and special in its own way, when you put us all together we create a rainbow!



## REECE TEAMS UP WITH POWERSCHOOL



In November, Reece administrators went to a conference in Springfield Massachusetts to learn more about the Power-school software that we recently purchased. The capabilities of this software are amazing and exciting. Over the next few weeks we plan to launch certain modules, and are looking forward to developing a series of customizations, specifically to serve the Reece Community. Stay tuned for more information about the parent portal and how it will improve and enhance communication with our families.



### CAMP REECE

Summer Camp for Children  
with Special Needs

<http://campreece.org>  
[info@campreece.org](mailto:info@campreece.org)

212-289-4732



**ARTS:**

- Photography
- Multimedia
- Graphic Design
- Organic Gardening
- Culinary Arts

**SPORTS:**

- Tennis
- Soccer
- Swimming
- Water Sports
- Wake boarding
- Waterskiing
- Jet Skiing
- Tubing

**ADVENTURE:**

- Whitewater Rafting
- High Ropes Course
- Biking
- Field Trips
- Theme Parks
- Hiking

## UPCOMING PARENT WORKSHOP



*Families of Digital Natives: Facilitating the Safe and Positive Navigation of a Digital World*

with **Jessie Gardner**

Director of Educational Technology,  
Cooke School and Institute

**Tuesday, December 11th**

6:00-7:30 PM

Classroom 511

*\*Child care will be provided by Reece Staff  
during the workshop*





## Pumpkin Roll 2018!

By: Christopher, Jenela, Ethan, Papa, Joe, Brandon, Malia, and Jo S. (Class 611)

## BALLOON FUN AT REECE

Second floor students were treated to a last-minute surprise visit from professional balloon artist, R David Robinson. As part of Reece's Halloween Fun Day, R David made all kinds of monsters, ghosts, and googly-eyed goblins for our kids. Some of the balloons were even made to match the costumes they were wearing! Mr. Robinson, who calls himself a twister, enjoyed talking to our kids, taking from those conversations his ideas on what to make. Each balloon was custom twisted especially for each child. Unfortunately, time was short, and since each balloon takes between 5-7 minutes to make, he wasn't able to visit our other floors. We hope that we can have R David return to Reece when there is ample time to twist his remarkable creations. Thank you R David!



Class 611 wins it this year!

It was a warm Halloween morning. We made our way to Central Park with Christopher carrying our class pumpkin. While we were all excited to participate, we weren't expecting the day to take the turn that it did! The park was filled with students from The Reece School. We saw Black Panther, a Russian Spy, a bunch of Fortnite guys, some Fairies, a few Super Heroes, a Care Bear, an Army Soldier, a Unicorn, Charmander and Ash among others.

Each class had a unique pumpkin that they painted in art class. There was a Goku pumpkin, a Venom pumpkin, a Skull Trooper and a bunch of other cool ones. Our class, 611, voted to paint our pumpkin as "Pusheen". It was gray and black and medium-sized. Duncan called up one class at a time to roll their pumpkins down the hill. By the time our class was called up, 410 was in the lead - but not for long! Ethan had the first roll and he did great. Then Christopher was up. "Everyone was putting pressure on me - even Charlotte", said Christopher. "I was nervous. I was not confident. Then I started the roll and I slipped on the wet grass. But the roll passed 410 and we took the lead. I felt GREAT! Everybody was cheering!". However, as Christopher recalled, several more classes still had to roll. "I was nervous that 518 or 511 might take the lead," Christopher admitted. "Luckily, they didn't. 611 won!", he said. It was an awesome way to kick off Halloween!

Class 611 is now the proud hosts of the 2018 Pumpkin Roll Trophy. We are so excited and honored to have the trophy in our classroom for the year.

## Alpha Does Halloween!



After a school wide vote, Pikachu was chosen as this year's costume for our Bearded Dragon, Alpha. The pumpkin came in a very close second! There's always next year... Alpha was very good about wearing the costume and posing for pictures; a very different story from last year's shark costume.