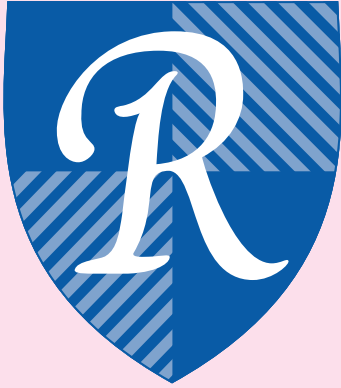


WINTER 2020



Reece School NEWSLETTER

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

HOLIDAY GIFT GIVING



On December 14, 2019 the Reece School held its 8th annual Winter Giving event in the gym. Students and families from the Reece School spent the holiday season collecting gifts for children who are less fortunate. On the morning of the 14th we gathered in the gym to wrap the presents, and then brought them to the shelter to deliver to the children. It was a wonderful event that taught our students about the spirit of giving back during the holiday season.

Dear Reece Families and Friends,

In light of the current situation regarding COVID-19, and in efforts to reduce the spread of the virus in order to protect our community and beyond, NYC, **has made the decision to close school beginning March 16, through April 20, 2020.**

I want to thank all the faculty, who are working diligently to ensure that we have the resources available to support our students and families through these challenging times.

These are unprecedented times and when we get through, we will look back and reflect on how our community came together at the darkest of times, to create something brighter, than before.

Sincerely,
Dr. Duncan

Executive Director

★
★ **REECE'S GOT TALENT!** ★
★ **POSTPONED UNTIL** ★
★ **FURTHER NOTICE** ★





REECE RACERS ROCK



The Reece Racers Team is going strong! We have run in the snow, freezing temperatures and plenty of rain! We have run the steepest hill in Central Park too many times to count, and when we aren't on the hill we are looping the Reservoir or sprinting the Bridal Path. In addition to the weekly training, the team has represented the Reece School in various meets around the city.

We are proud to announce, as we move into Spring, the busiest season of the year, that every current runner on the team is now a Stage Three competitive runner with the Rising New York Road Runners program! Upcoming races include the Washington Heights Salsa, Blues, and Shamrocks, a 1.5-mile event on March 1st and the Rising NYRR at Van Cortlandt Park on April 4th. If you are in the neighborhood, come cheer on the runners and support the team!

NATIONAL HANDWRITING DAY

National Handwriting Day is celebrated every year on January 23rd, as that is John Hancock's birthday. John Hancock's famous signature was the first, and largest, on the Declaration of Independence. This day encourages the use of pen and pencil to write down thoughts and ideas, as well as an opportunity to promote cursive writing. To celebrate, staff and students were invited to write each other handwritten notes, and sign their names on the Handwriting Day poster, just like John Hancock! Students were also able to have their handwriting analyzed to see what their handwriting says about their personality. Lacine in class 417 said, "I liked Handwriting Day because I got to see what my handwriting said about me. It said I was organized, and I am!"



CONGRATULATIONS!



In addition to the Reece Racers' successes on the track, we want to congratulate team members Alvin Rodriguez and Henry Valencia, who are the recipients of a very prestigious, full scholarship to *The Running School*, a week-long, intensive running program in Swan Lake, NY. The scholarship covers full tuition to *The Running School*, room and board for the duration of the camp, and transportation to and from NYC. With this coveted scholarship comes great responsibility, as Alvin and Henry will each be provided with an individual training plan tailored to fit their level of fitness that they must follow in the upcoming months to ensure they are prepared for *The Running School* in August. We have no doubt that they will both rise to the occasion and run like the wind! CONGRATULATIONS Alvin and Henry! Your coaches and teammates are very proud of you!



RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS WEEK!



One of our favorite weeks of the year is Random Acts of Kindness Week! While kindness is promoted each and every day throughout the school year, this nationally recognized week is a wonderful opportunity to take a little extra time to highlight how important kindness is and how easy it is to share with others. From thoughtful moments between students, to positive notes written by students to their teachers, kindness and empathy were felt all around. Our Sunshine Club and administration even hosted a waffle breakfast for staff to thank them for their continued kindness and dedication to our students and school! Our motto is, "It's cool to be kind!"

INSPIRATION AT REECE

The Reece School Environment Committee is a multi-disciplinary team of staff members, who work to improve the environmental aspects of the school, to help facilitate a continued, positive learning environment for both students and staff. Most recently, the committee chose various inspirational and positive quotes to display on each floor. When students and staff read each quote, the hope is for them to become inspired and motivated to work hard, and always try their best!



COHORT SPIRIT!

We love celebrating Cohort Spirit Day each and every month! These past few months, we've seen students and staff dress as their favorite holidays, proudly wear their favorite sports jerseys, and dress for comfort in their coziest pjs! With such creative students and staff, Cohort Spirit Day is always a fun and special day at Reece!



PRINCIPALS FOR THE DAY

"I really enjoyed being principal for the day. My favorite part was creating the morning announcement trivia question that class 312 and class 611 answered correctly. I enjoyed having my dog Luna visit the school. Luna came while class 611 and class 312 were in the lobby getting ice cream as their prize for the morning announcement trivia. It was also nice getting to walk students to their classrooms. I hope everyone gets the chance to be principal for the day at some point during their time at Reece."

BY: LUCAS, CLASS 611

I was so happy being principal for a day! I didn't want it to end. First, I went around from classroom to classroom to tell the students that they had no homework for the night. This made me happy for two reasons – 1) I love bringing joy and everyone's happiness made me really happy, and 2) all the different reactions were cool to see.

Next, I read a book called Two Bad Ants to some third graders and taught them a lesson on the book. After, one student said he gave my reading a 10 out of 10. The next student said he gave it a 100 out of 100. And the next student said he gave it infinity out of infinity. I felt really proud.

Finally, I went into the principal's office to sit in his, I mean, my chair, but I spent most of my time there petting Buddy.

BY: JONAH, CLASS 611





20 FOR 20 INITIATIVE

Thank you to all our families and friends who made our #20for20 a success in the month of February. A special thank you to the Besthoff Foundation who matched all the gifts.



SAVE THE DATE!

Friday, May 29, 2020

Reece School Annual Benefit

DANCING WITH THE SNOWMAN!



On Friday, December 13, 2019 the Party Planning Club hosted its 3rd annual Winter School Dance in the gym. It was called "Dancing with the Snowman" and members of the Party Planning Club worked hard to come up with décor and food related items to match the "snowman" theme. Students dressed in their "winter best" and enjoyed a fun-filled afternoon, complete with delicious snacks, music and dancing, and time well-spent with friends.

THREE KINGS PARADE

Reece excitedly participated in the Three Kings Parade on January 6th for the second year in a row! This annual event, hosted by El Museo, incorporates the entire El Barrio community and is part of what makes the neighborhood so special. Our students, along with children from neighboring schools, proudly marched up Third Avenue, wearing crowns and taking in the festive atmosphere. It was a great way to kick off the New Year!





FAMILY BOWLING!

On Saturday, January 11, Reece students and families headed to Bowlmor Lanes in Times Square, for our annual bowling event! It was a huge success! Reece families enjoyed bowling, playing video arcade games, and hanging out with their friends. A great time was had by all.



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MEDIA HEALTH & DIGITAL CITIZENSHIP



December's health theme was Media Health and Digital Citizenship. On December 12th, Thomas Grimes, a retired NYPD detective, conducted a parent workshop and student lessons for the middle school students on the positive and negative impacts of social media use and strategies for keeping kids safe online. He discussed social networking sites, apps, and online games such as Instagram, Snapchat, Vine, Twitter, Facebook, and Fortnite, and how innocent behaviors like status updates, tagging pictures, and chatting with strangers while playing online games can have a long-term impact. Students learned important online safety rules including never giving personal information to anyone online and to only speak to people online that they know in real life.



Go to www.campreece.org



Guidelines from the CDC. Go to [cdc.gov](https://www.cdc.gov) for more information.

HOW TO PROTECT YOURSELF DURING THIS TIME

KNOW HOW IT SPREADS

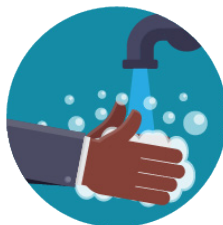


- There is currently no vaccine to prevent coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19).
- **The best way to prevent illness is to avoid being exposed to this virus.**
- The virus is thought to spread mainly from person-to-person.

- Between people who are in close contact with one another (within about 6 feet).
- Through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes.

- These droplets can land in the mouths or noses of people who are nearby or possibly be inhaled into the lungs.

TAKE STEPS TO PROTECT YOURSELF



Clean your hands often

- **Wash your hands** often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds especially after you have been in a public place, or after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.

• If soap and water are not readily available, **use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol**. Cover all surfaces of your hands and rub them together until they feel dry.

- **Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth** with unwashed hands.



Avoid close contact

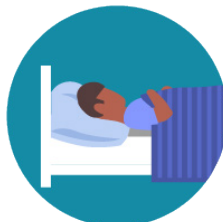
- **Avoid close contact** with people who are sick
- Put **distance between yourself and other people** if COVID-19 is spreading in your community. This is especially important for people who

are at higher risk of getting very sick.

TAKE STEPS TO PROTECT OTHERS

Stay home if you're sick

- **Stay home** if you are sick, except to get medical care. Learn what to do if you are sick.



Cover coughs and sneezes

- **Cover your mouth and nose** with a tissue when you cough or sneeze or use the inside of your elbow.
- **Throw used tissues** in the trash.
- Immediately **wash your hands** with soap and water for at least 20



seconds. If soap and water are not readily available, clean your hands with a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.

Wear a facemask if you are sick

- **If you are sick:** You should wear a facemask when you are around other people (e.g., sharing a room or vehicle) and before you enter a healthcare provider's office. If you are not able to wear a facemask (for



example, because it causes trouble breathing), then you should do your best to cover your coughs and sneezes, and people who are caring for you should wear a facemask if they enter your room.

- **If you are NOT sick:** You do not need to wear a facemask unless you are caring for someone who is sick (and they are not able to wear a facemask). Facemasks may be in short supply and they should be saved for caregivers.

Clean and disinfect

- **Clean AND disinfect frequently touched surfaces daily.** This includes tables, doorknobs, light switches, countertops, handles, desks, phones, keyboards, toilets, faucets, and sinks.
- **If surfaces are dirty, clean them:** Use detergent or soap and water prior to disinfection.

