

WINTER 2020-2021



Reece School

NEWSLETTER

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

2021 TALENT SHOW!

On the evening of March 5th, The Reece School Parents Association held its first ever "Everybody Got Their Something" event. It was a special occasion where current students, staff members, alumni, parents, and extended family came together to highlight a variety of talents. Attendees were treated to performers' poetry, singing, music and video production, instrument playing, dancing, drawing, improv, art, and more.

What a heartwarming and inspiring community event for all who were there! Thank you to all performers, attendees, the Reece School administration, and Rob Sheridan, our emcee. It was an event to remember and will become a new Reece annual tradition!



Josephine was amazing on the drums!!

Congratulations to all our talented participants!

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Dear Reece Community,

It's been a year since we sent our first pandemic-related communication. In that letter, I said "The safety of your children and the staff at Reece will be our first priority, with a focus on controlling what we can control."

None of us could have predicted the journey that followed or the tremendous way in which, as a community, we have responded. I've been thinking about what allowed Reece to come together and move to an inclusive hybrid and remote program so quickly. I believe it comes down to mindset - the ability to focus on what we can control and look creatively at challenges.

As we continue to move our reopening plan forward, we look at creative ways to open five days a week for students who choose in-person while still providing high quality remote learning.

I thank you all for the support you have given the staff at The Reece School during this year.

Stay safe and healthy,

Dr. Duncan
Executive Director

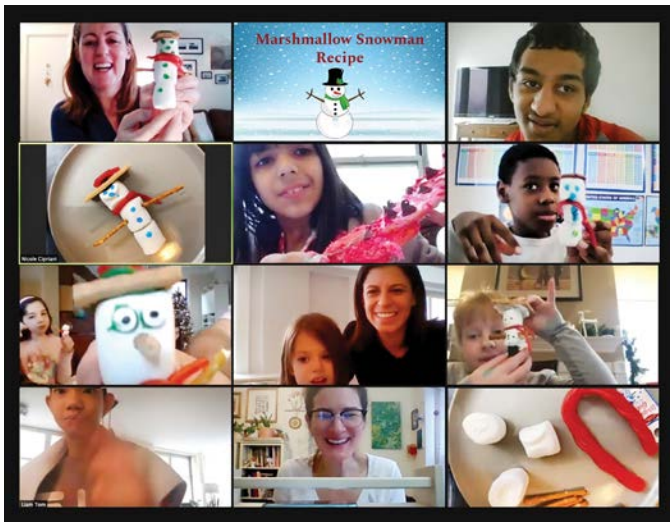
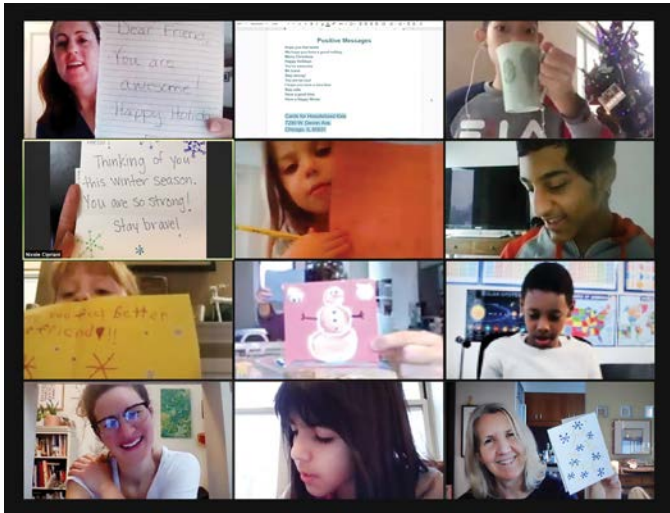
Save the Date!

Thursday, May 20, 2021
Annual Benefit Auction





WINTER GIVING!



On December 12th, a group of students and staff gathered on Zoom to celebrate our annual Winter Giving Saturday Event. Students and staff wrote letters to children who would be spending the holidays in the hospital and spent the second half of the workshop following a recipe to make a delicious winter treat to enjoy together. During both activities, our students were engaged, listened to each direction given, and enjoyed the time spent together. They talked about how to show kindness to others and the importance of giving back. We are also happy to share that, despite the pandemic, Reece was able to follow through with our yearly holiday toy donation to a local women and children's shelter.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

BLACK
HISTORY
MONTH

Black History Month, an annual observance and honoring of important people and events in the history of the African-American community, was celebrated and studied in many ways at Reece.

Class 518 did an AMAZING job presenting Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I Have A Dream" speech in front of the students from class 412. After a brief introduction with some background information about Martin Luther King, the students "performed" their assigned section of the speech. They were asked to deliver the words of this iconic speech with focus and reverence - making sure that they spoke with strong, clear voices so that every word was given the weight and honor it deserved. 518 took these directions with commitment and their delivery of the speech was powerful and moving.

Here's how they felt:

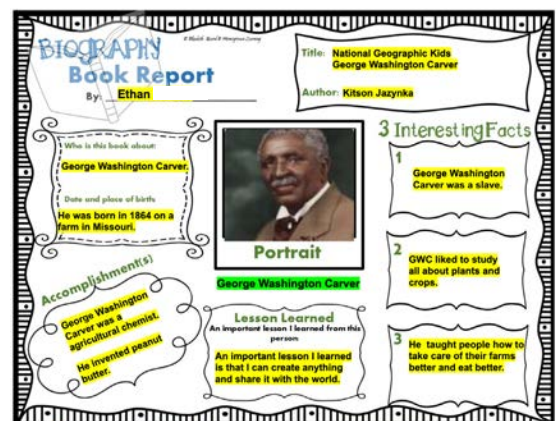
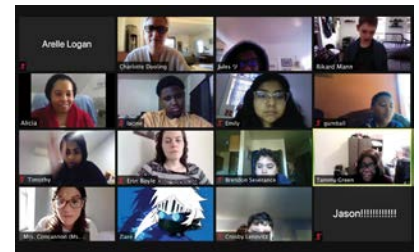
"I felt confident and proud to recite "I Have A Dream" in front of the class" - Adiella

"I felt nervous - but I memorized it and got over it!" - Lacine

"Learning this speech was challenging because of all the memorizing, but it was fun" - Jackson

"It was a satisfying moment" - Kennedy

"Performing in front of Class 412 was amazing because I got to share all my work" - Emily

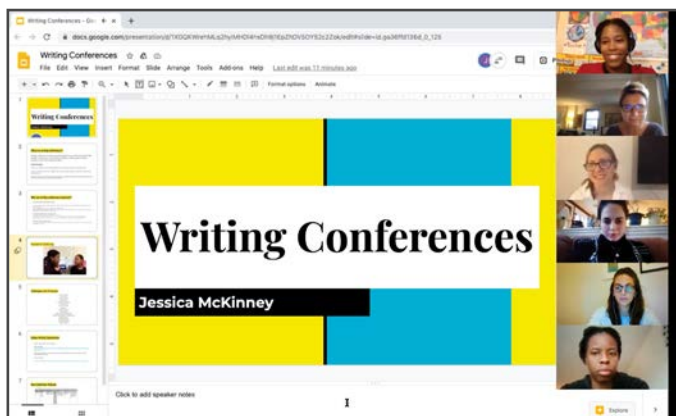


Ethan O., class 410, did research on George Washington Carver.





WRITING CONFERENCES PD



Writing conferences are an important facet of developing students' writing skills. They help teachers and clinicians provide one to one differentiation for students. Even in this virtual space we can continue to engage students in the aspects of story development and writing conventions. Ms. McKinney conducted an action research project on how teachers use writing conferences at Reece and used her findings to lead a professional development on effective practices for conferring. Resources were shared with staff for online and for when we return in person. Writing is a powerful tool and we want to give students the opportunities they need to partake in this form of expressive language.

HAPPY RETIREMENT!



We are both happy and sad to announce that Mr. Nicholas Caropreso is now officially retiring from his position as Reece's Facilities Supervisor. Nick has been with Reece since 2007. Throughout the years, Nick has been responsible in making sure that Reece is a clean and safe space for all staff and students. His contributions and hard work will always be valued. We surely will miss his friendly personality and great humor. Although sad to see him go, we wish Nick a happy and healthy retirement.

510 FOOD DRIVE

The Reece value of the month for December was community. As a community service project for 3S, class 510 chose to do a virtual food drive. This food drive was set up online and funds were collected to provide food to donate to those in need. As a class, we were able to donate over 300 pounds of food! "The virtual food drive was worth it!" according to Brady, who also wrote a rap song to help promote the event.

Juliana Chiodi, OTS, and Justine Balog, MOT, OTR/L



COHORT SPIRIT!

We have been enjoying our virtual Cohort Spirit Days this year! In December students and staff showed off their school spirit by dressing as their favorite holiday to their Zoom classes and in January, everyone was excited to have the opportunity to wear their coziest pajamas to their remote classes. We love having the opportunity to celebrate our school spirit! In March, our cohort spirit day was celebrated during our final SO Fun City school performances and also included a food party to celebrate National Nutrition Month!



Class 310 dressed as their favorite holiday for Cohort Spirit!





WELCOME BRITTANY!



This January, we were fortunate to add another member to our team of support staff. Brittany Weinstein has joined us as the new Ex-missions Coordinator at Reece. Her role is to help facilitate the moving on process and to provide support and guidance to Reece families as they prepare for an exciting new chapter after Reece.

Prior to joining Reece, Brittany worked in the Admissions office at a private all-girls school for five years where she worked with families applying out from their child's current school, seeking a new environment that would be the best fit for their family. In her short time here, Brittany has already demonstrated her value to Reece by learning as much about the process that she can, building relationships with other high schools in NYC and creating structured processes and timelines for our families that are moving on. We can already tell that she is going to be a wonderful asset here and we are very grateful to have her as part of the Reece team. Please join us in giving Brittany a very warm welcome!

SELF-ESTEEM WORKSHOP



On February 27th, Reece hosted a Self-Esteem Saturday virtual workshop to celebrate our February Value of the Month...self-esteem! The students and staff that joined spent the hour creating individual color wheels, using positive self-talk statements. Participants shared with the group what emotions certain colors make them feel and how they can incorporate positive self-talk during challenging moments. It was a very reflective and POSITIVE experience!

SO FUN CITY RESIDENCY AND FAMILY EVENTS



We were so excited to announce in the Fall, that SO Fun City was going to be working with our Reece Community once again! Starting in December, our students kicked off a 12-week residency with our friends, Josh and Sarah, from SO Fun City. Each week, cohorts attended a 30 minute class learning new magic tricks and skills, while also learning and implementing active listening skills, practicing appropriate turn taking, working within a group, gaining confidence, and, most importantly, having fun! In January, SO Fun City hosted a special Saturday magic show event where students were able to showcase the magic tricks they have learned and also were treated to a magic show by professional magician Josh! In March, our SO Fun residency concluded with a cohort spirit day final performance and food party to showcase our students growing talents, while also celebrating National Nutrition Month. Our entire Reece Community was also treated to a SO Fun Family Game Show on March 17th to close out the fun. We are SO thankful to our friends at SO Fun City and we look forward to working with them again!







KINDNESS WEEK

Adrian kindness **MATTERS**

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Give someone a hug	Share your food	Make a card for someone in my family	Say hi to everyone in class	Playing a game with friends





Class 211 Celebrates Random Acts of Kindness Week

Although this year's official Random Acts of Kindness Week was during our mid-winter recess, that didn't stop our students and staff from celebrating Kindness Week as soon as they returned to school! Within their classroom lessons, as well as in clinical sessions, the theme of kindness was infused throughout the week. In our morning announcements Google Classroom, students submitted kindness quotes, advice, pictures, and even facts about the health benefits of being kind. Each year, this week is such a special reminder of how easy and important it is to be kind every day. As Efrain in class 611 said, "In life you should be nice to everybody and kindness can change everything."

Camp is back!!

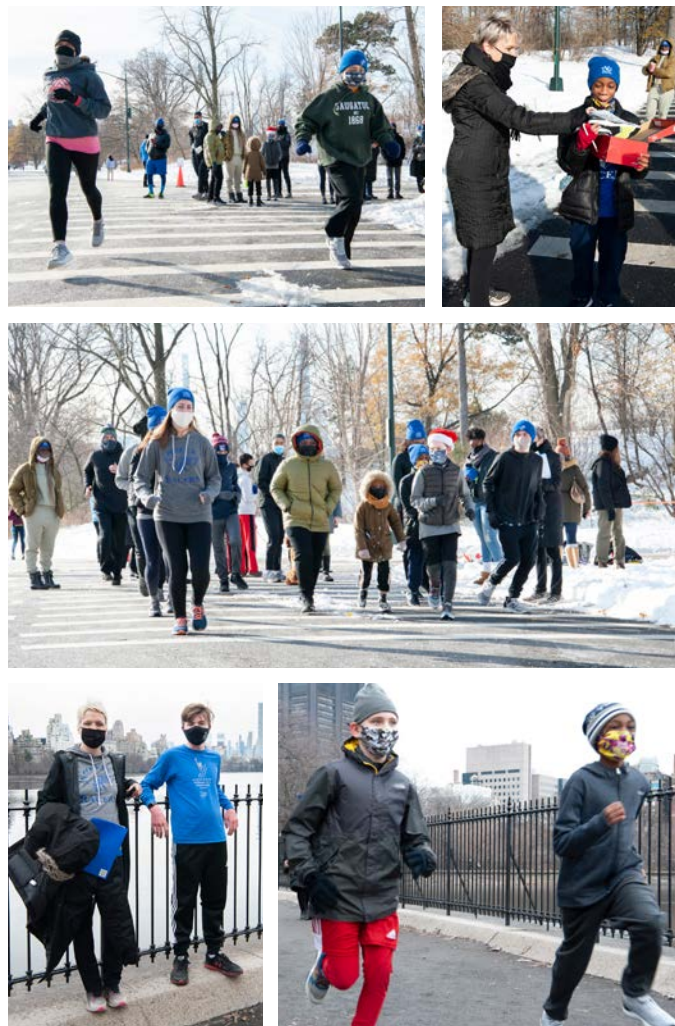


Go to www.campreece.org



REECE RACERS ROCK ON!

The awesome runners in Reece Racers keep showing up! Along with a series of "training runs," the Reece Racers have managed to knock out an event almost every month since the start of the school year! After the "Masked Mile" (September), "The Bat Bolt" (October), "The Gratitude Run" (November) - we have kept at it despite the snow and chilly temperatures for our "Holiday Hustle" race in December, and the mud and threat of a downpour for our "Run Your Heart Out" event in February. The resilience and commitment of the team never cease to inspire! If you think you may have what it takes to join the Reece Racers, feel free to reach out to coaches Kaitlin M. (Counselor), Karen S. (Speech) or Charlotte D. (Teacher) to see how you can participate in our upcoming events!





VISION BOARDS 2021!

This January, students collaborated with Reece faculty and each other to create vision boards! While the orange cohort focused on using all of their senses to express what brings them comfort, the red cohort looked ahead to the new year and came up with goals for themselves to accomplish. Both provided students with an opportunity for students to be reflective and creative in their outlook for the new year. From an OT clinical perspective this activity focuses on executive functioning skills while also allowing the student to identify and express themselves through pictures. The vision boards were an excellent way for students to organize their thoughts and interests visually while using their descriptive language to share with the class.

James Pellegrito, Graduate student in speech-language pathology, Mairead Gormley, Graduate student in occupational therapy and Juliana Chiodi, Graduate student in occupational therapy.



"It felt good to do a vision board for 2021." - Liam T. - Class 610



"Doing the vision board made me feel happy!" - Gianni - Class 511

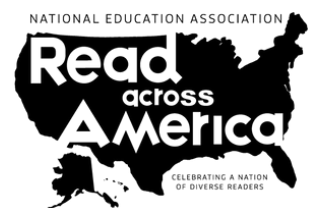
SUPPORT OUR PLANET!



Class 610 invites the Reece Community to join them on Friday, March 19th at 4:30 PM on Zoom for a screening of *Planet Earth: Ice Worlds* to raise awareness about climate change and the threat to polar bears. The goal is to raise \$55 to symbolically adopt a polar bear. Come support our students and our planet! Sign up through the Signup Genius link found on the Google Classroom Morning Announcements page. Donations are not required to attend, but we are suggesting a \$5 donation for anyone who chooses to. Come watch with us! "Join us and donate so we can symbolically adopt a polar bear!" - Isa, Class 610



LET'S READ!



On March 2nd, Reece celebrated the joy and importance of reading by joining in the Read Across America celebration! Through a school wide questionnaire, we learned what some of our students' favorite books are to read. Among them are *Dork Diaries*, *Pete the Cat*, *Amber Brown*, *Dr. Suess*, and comic books! Members of our staff also shared daily video read alouds during our morning announcements, reading books that focused on Positivity to embrace our Value of the Month for March.



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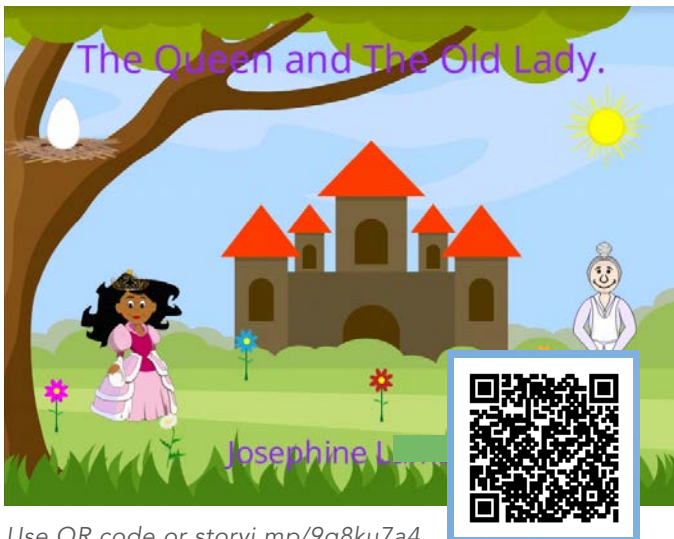




#GIVING
TUESDAY™

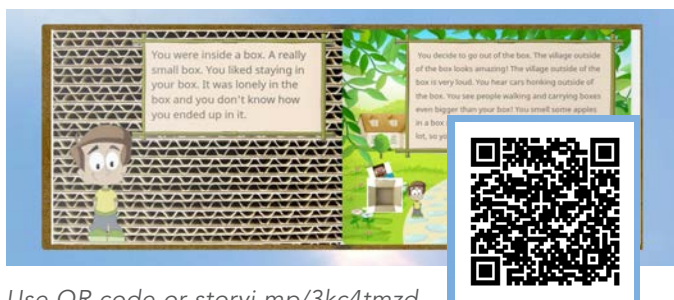
CREATING VIDEO BOOKS

Some of our students in class 311 have been working very hard on creating their own fantasy stories. Students have come up with various themes from boxes to fairy princesses. Before writing our students learned a lot about writing with dialogue. They learned where to place commas and quotation marks to show conversation between characters. Students also learned to indent whenever there is a new character speaking. When asked about the writing process one of our storytellers, named Josephine, commented: "I like the part when you told me to indent for each new speaker." She's also excited to continue working toward publishing a narrated video version of her book too.



Use QR code or storyj.mp/9q8ku7a4

Another one of our writers, Nicky, also had some special thoughts about his experience developing his story. Nicky shared, "It was helpful that my teacher helped me think of more ideas." In regard to using Storyjumper.com to create his narrated video book he exclaimed, "Story jumper is great. I've never seen anything like it." Working with students to create their fictional narrative was an amazing experience. You can use the links or the QR codes to view our students work!



Use QR code or storyj.mp/3kc4tmzd

Reece would like to thank all of our donors who supported the school on Giving Tuesday. You make a huge difference in the lives of our children.

Leonard & Erika Greenblatt
Adam Mann & Jenny Svensson
Gabriel & Michelle Tom
Pholida Barclay
Charmane Frazier
Theresa Gonzalez
Valerie Kalderon
Robert Sweetnam
Galit Lopatin Bordereau
Brenda Canarte
Karen Elder
Barbara Leone
Diana Jimenez
John Hickey
Melissa Braverman Goldstien
Rosemarie Gonzalez
Monika Paez
Aztiramy Jimenez
Marija Willens
Evalyn Hernandez
Jacqueline Smith
Bella Canarte
Yesenia Checo
Robert Sweetnam
Sonji Chesson
Claudine & Ricardo Ocasio
Sari Siegel
Melissa Feurtado

Katie Nelson
Elaina LaRusso
Daniel & Candida Leon
Vanessa Coss-Rosado
Glenn Robbins
Ivette Jimenez
Ashan Outlaw
John Days
Eileen Filpo
Jaclyn DeVore
Vanessa Peters
Judith Absalon
Emily Hernandez
Carol Winsett
Sehba Khan
Shantell Douglas
Marugenia Toxtle
Nelson Arnstein
Susan Schneider
Mark Magill
Ayana Hernandez
Maria Felicier
Marisa Staples
Tracey Kinahan
Claudia Rahman
Evelyn Hernandez
Jamillah Fontanez

Thank you
for your
generosity!





*There was so much talent on display on March 5th!
Enjoy this beautiful original poem by Emma Schaeffer.*

Ode to a Superhero

You
are a superhero.

It's not about the S
under the chest
or a flapping cape
a narrow escape—
it's not about changing
in a phone booth—
New York City has razed
all but four, and are you really going to trek
to the Upper West Side
every time
there's a need
for your powers?
Not to mention, have you ever actually looked
at a phonebooth?
They're really dirty.

So, you may not have the outfit, but still,
you are a superhero.
You don't need
a batmobile
or an unfriendly radioactive spider
to activate
what's already there. You don't need
the headlines or accolades
or a hidden lair. Real superheroes
don't need fanfare. That's how you know—
you are a superhero.

When you help up the classmate who trips,
it's there.
When you grit your teeth
and spend that extra minute
on a problem that's just too hard to solve,
it's there.
When you could leave a mess,
but you don't,
it's there. Every time
you do something
that makes the world a little bit warmer
for someone else—it's there.

All these little moments
slide into each other
the way drops of water
make an ocean,
and they make you
so
powerful.
Putting your arm
around a sad friend—
helping your family
before they have to ask—
telling yourself
you can do it,
(or at least, you can try)—
showing up
even when you might not want to—
it's all harder
than leaping tall buildings, but you
are up to the challenge.

it's okay
for it to be a secret.
you don't need a name, unless you want one.
you don't even have to tell anybody,
although they might notice.
you can hold your superhero-ness
deep inside of yourself
like a second heartbeat. It will sing out
in all those little deeds each day,
growing bigger and stronger
so that when someone calls for you,
says "You're the one we need!"
—or even when someone doesn't call,
but you just know, somehow,
they can't go it alone,
you will be ready,
at a moment's notice

because you
are
a superhero!

- Emma Schaeffer

Teacher, Class 312

Reece School

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In loving memory of Ayden Wolfe

