

THE RICHARDSON RATTLER

October 2018

ISSUE 2

www.richardsonmiddleschool.org



23751 Nancy Lee Lane
Torrance, CA 90505
310.533.4790

*Home of the
Rattlesnakes*

Dates To Remember...

10/8 & 9 Student
Free Days, no school

10/9 PTSA Executive
Board Meeting, 6:30

10/12 Membership
Dance

10/16 Reflections
submissions due

10/18 CA Shakeout
Earthquake Drill at
10:18

10/22-26 Red Ribbon
Week

10/28 Skechers Pier
to Pier Walk

10/31 Leadership
Halloween Costume
Contest

A Message from our PTSA President,

Stacey Launius, stacey@staceybarney.com

I hope that you and your children had a smooth transition back to school, homework, and after school activities. Hopefully all the students had fun during Welcome Week, which was put on by **Leadership and Mrs. Beck!** The first PTSA Association Meeting and Back to School Night were on September 25, it was great to see everyone there. The RMS PTSA Bylaws require four Association meetings a year. These meetings are our chance to show you what we do with the money you so generously donate and to seek your permission to keep conducting business until the next meeting. We hope you enjoyed Back to School Night, met your child's teachers, and learned about their teaching styles.



We kick off October with one of our Fall highlights, the Annual PTSA Membership Dance, on Friday, October 12, hosted by **Cheryl Keel**. This year's 80's themed dance will be a lively way for students to start the Fall season. Tickets are \$8.00 at the door. However, your PTSA membership includes one free ticket for your child. See page 7.

We hope everyone enjoyed our first Restaurant night at California Pizza Kitchen on October 2. Another way to support public education in Torrance is by joining Team Richardson Rattlesnakes at the annual Skechers Pier to Pier Friendship Walk on Sunday, October 28th. We round out the month of October with Red Ribbon Week, Oct. 22 - 26, led by the RMS Leadership class. And don't forget your costume for the contest on October 31 at lunch!

PTSA Reflections Competition submissions are due October 16. We are still looking for a chair, but thank you **Grace Johnson** for helping out until we find one! The theme is "Heroes Around Me." This is your child's chance to reflect on the theme, create an original work, and be recognized! For more information see page 6.

Finally, thank you **Paola Hirsch** for putting together our student directory which will be ready for distribution this Fall. We deeply appreciate all parent volunteers. It is your dedication to RMS that makes us one of the best middle schools in the South Bay.



Wishing you a wonderful Fall full of memorable moments with your children!

-Stacey Launius, PTSA President, 2018 - 2019

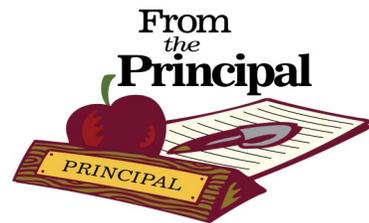
PTSA
everychild.one voice.

• IAN DRUMMOND, PRINCIPAL • ELLEN HARRISON, ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL • STACEY LAUNIUS, PTSA PRESIDENT •
• JULIE SULLIVAN, EDITOR •



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Mr. Ian Drummond,
drummond.ian@tusd.org



Greetings Richardson Rattlesnakes:

Summer feels like a distant memory as we now head into our second month of school. RMS students and staff have settled into their daily educational routines. Hopefully, you were able to attend Back to School Night. If you did, you should have a pretty good understanding of what child's classes and teachers will be like this year. I encourage you to regularly check your child's progress on PowerSchool and follow up with their teachers throughout the year, anytime you are looking for clarification about your child's learning experience. Please remember that positive communication will result in a more focused and effective discussion on your child's learning needs.

RMS began our year by joining the TUSD partnership with Sandy Hook Promise and launched *Starts With Hello* with a kickoff assembly for each grade level. Our presenter from Sandy Hook Promise guided our students on ways to meet other students on campus. The focus of this program is to help all students feel more connected and less alone at school. Our Leadership Class picked things up from there and created a week of positive activities. Monday was *Hellos Around the World*. Students greeted as many other students as they could in as many languages as possible. *Telegram Tuesday* encouraged students to write a note of encouragement to a classmate and post it on a banner near the Cafeteria. Wednesday was *Performances in the Park*. Students and teachers gathered together to watch performances by students and staff. Thursday's activity was a *GIANT Meet in the Middle* game at lunch, where students got to find out what they had in common. *High-Five Friday* finished off the week. Students high-fived each other throughout the day. This day was also our *No One Eats Alone Day* – students met some new friends and became more included in the Richardson community.

As we all move into our School Year Routines, I would like to take this opportunity to remind our RMS Parent Community that we need your help to keep RMS as safe as possible during our Drop Offs and Pick Ups at the beginning and end of the day respectively. I'm generally out front supervising and sometimes helping with the crosswalk. Overall, students and parents keep safety as a priority at these times, but there are still a few areas where we can improve. Please encourage your students to use the crosswalks and cross with the Guard. Drivers are focused on the crosswalks as this is where they expect to see students crossing. Jaywalking causes drivers to take their attention away from the crosswalk and Crossing Guard. When students take unnecessary risks by jaywalking in order to take the shortest distance across the street, this action puts not only your child but other children at risk. Another area where we can improve is in making sure your child always exits and enters on the sidewalk-side of the car. It is simply too dangerous for your child to be on the street-side of your vehicle during these busy times of day. Please remember to always drive slowly and cautiously whenever in the vicinity of Richardson Middle School. Also, just a quick reminder that any student who travels to school on a bike, scooter, or skateboard is required by law to wear a helmet. We will not be allowing the students to leave campus with these vehicles if they are not prepared to follow the law.



Thank you for all that you do to help make Richardson Middle School the great and positive school that it is.

This Team!

Ian Drummond, Principal
Richardson Middle School



What is P.B.I.S?

Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports

Why does PBIS work?

Research shows that when a school environment is positive and predictable, students feel safer, have better academic performance, higher test results and make better behavior choices. Schools also show a gain in instructional time, reduction in out of school suspensions and discipline referrals.

RMS has developed schoolwide behavior expectations to communicate how students should behave in all areas of the school. When students demonstrate the expected behavior, they are recognized with Rattlesnake Rewards that can be used at the Rattlesnake Store. We have developed a matrix of positive behavior expectations that follows our theme of HISS:

***Hold Yourself Accountable * Inspire Others Positively * Show Respect * Strive for Success.**

Working Together

Many parents have also found that using the same expectations as their child's school has also supported behavior at home. When home and school have the same behavior expectations and use the same language, it is easier for children to make good decisions.

Parents can support positive behavior for their child by:

1. Reading the attached copy of the Expectations Matrix on page 4.
2. Placing a copy on the refrigerator for easy reference.
3. Discussing the expectations with their child.
4. When contacted regarding a problem behavior, referring to the Matrix and discuss the correct choice that their child could have made.

-Ellen Harrison, Assistant Principal



Richardson Middle School is partnering with The Volunteer Center to host several food drives throughout the school year. The food collected will support TUSD students in need of meals. Many students in our district have little food to eat over the weekend and during school breaks.

With the holidays coming up, this is truly a time of need.

The grade level that turns in the most food collection bags, will receive an extended lunch period as a reward. Who will it be? The 6th graders? The 7th graders? Or the 8th graders? We shall see!! Let's get competitive, have some fun, and do something amazing for our community!

Collection bags will be available soon. If you have any questions or if you would like to be on the food drive team, please stop by the library for more information.



Richardson Middle School Positive Behavior Expectations

HISS	Classroom	All Areas (lockers, hallways, crosswalk)	Field	Lunch/ Cafeteria	Office	Restrooms
Hold Yourself Accountable	Recycle Be on time and prepared Follow directions	Be mindful of neighborhood surroundings Use designated crosswalks before and after school Clean up after yourself and recycle	Exercise good sportsmanship at all times Return equipment to proper place	Clean up after yourself Put trash in the appropriate sorting bins	Be honest Return to class promptly	Keep bathroom clean and free of trash and graffiti Wash your hands
Inspire Others Positively	Be helpful and kind Be inclusive	Use polite language Help your neighbor Model good behavior	Pick up your personal trash Place lost jackets in Lost and Found	Be inclusive and invite anyone to sit by you and share the table Use good manners	Use polite language: "Please," "Thank You," "Excuse me" etc. Set an example for others	Practice good manners Conserve our bathroom resources
Show Respect	Keep an open mind Be an active, present learner	Interact with peers and all adults in a respectful manner Be considerate of neighbors' space and property Treat others the way you want to be treated	Ask others to join you to play Be tolerant of others' differences Be respectful of adults on campus	Be respectful to all adults Wait in line appropriately and patiently	Address the staff politely Wait quietly	Give others privacy Use quiet voices at all times Notify school staff with any issues with the bathroom
Strive For Success	Stay on task and focused Give your best effort	Use time wisely Be efficient with your time between classes Use electronic devices appropriately	Clean up your personal trash and belongings after eating	Follow proper cafeteria procedures See something, say something Make nutritious choices	Follow directions Minimize unnecessary office visits	Use the bathroom at the appropriate times Return to class promptly



Student Reporter, Madison Jones



“I hate Late Start Tuesday!”
...said no student ever.

Getting to stroll into school over an hour after normal school time. Knowing all your classes will be much more tolerable because they’ll be shorter. What is there not to like?

Late Start Tuesday is a favorite for most students taking second to Friday only because it isn’t followed by the weekend. Students definitely look less rushed and more relaxed as they arrive for the later start time. Why is that? How is that extra one hour and fifteen minutes before school being spent by students?

“I like to go surfing in the morning!”
-Caleb Kerekes, 8th grade

“I usually wake up early and play video games or watch TV and get ready for the next day.”
-Drew Petty, 6th grade

“I like to go to Starbucks or Donut Den to see my friends from Calle Mayor.”
-Parker Evans, 7th grade

“Late Start Tuesday is when my mom makes all our ortho appointments but when I’m free I like to sleep in or go surfing with friends.”
-Makena Jones, 8th grade

“On Late Start days, I go out to eat breakfast.”
-Megan Zelhart, 6th grade

“My friends come over on Late Start Tuesday and we watch a movie.”
-Katie Shenbaum, 6th grade

“I go to Starbucks and Ralphs to buy Coca-Cola.”
-Theodore Nezis, 8th grade

“I go to Starbucks and sometimes I sleep in.”
-Bella Benoit, 8th grade

“I do my homework before school.”
-Ben Libuser, 8th grade

“I go to Starbucks and hang out with friends.”
-Maddie Kerekes, 7th grade

“I sleep in.”
-Lucy Gates, 6th grade

“I use the time to play Fortnite since I can’t play after school due to sports.”
-Shay Sullivan, 7th grade

“On Tuesdays I go surfing with my friends at the beach. We go early in the morning when there are good waves. I have to sacrifice my sleep time and wake up really early in the morning. But it’s all worth it.”
-Peter Broughton, 6th grade

Whether students sleep in, surf, or socialize, they all seem to be doing something they enjoy. And while students still might not be excited to go to school, having the extra time in the morning to themselves sure seems to make everyone a little happier!
-Madison

“I go to South to see my Dunia and my twins!”
-Chloe Wong, 8th grade



HEROES AROUND ME

ENTER IN AS MANY CATEGORIES
AS YOU WISH ~ FIRST PLACE IN EACH
CATEGORY WILL CONTINUE ON TO
COUNCIL LEVEL ~ FOR MORE INFORMATION
GO TO THE CALIFORNIA PTA WEBSITE
[HTTP://CAPTA.ORG/
PROGRAMS-EVENTS/REFLECTIONS/](http://CAPTA.ORG/PROGRAMS-EVENTS/REFLECTIONS/)

ENTRIES DUE IN RMS OFFICE ON
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 16

WHO ARE THE HEROES
AROUND YOU?

- ✓ REFLECT ON THEME
- ✓ CREATE AN ORIGINAL WORK
- ✓ BE RECOGNIZED

STUDENTS MAY ENTER ANY OF THESE CATEGORIES

DANCE CHOREOGRAPHY
MUSIC COMPOSITION
FILM PRODUCTION
PHOTOGRAPHY
VISUAL ARTS
LITERATURE



FOR DETAILS, CONTACT: REFLECTIONSHELP@YAHOO.COM



PTSA MEMBERSHIP DANCE

**Friday, October 12
3:00 - 5:00 pm
RMS School Cafeteria**

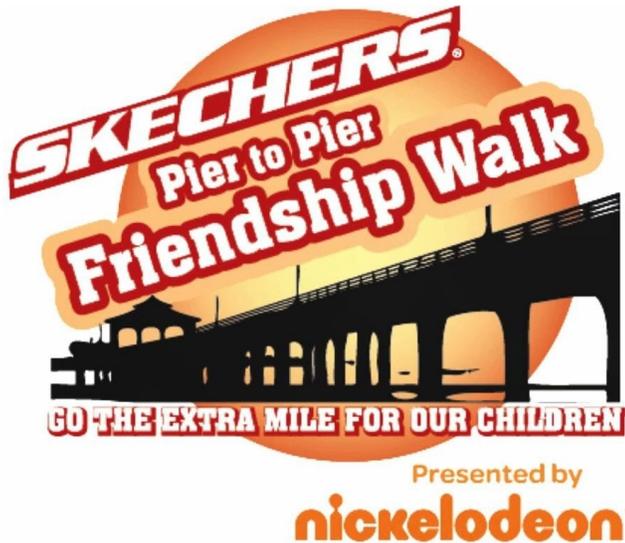
This dance is FREE for Richardson STUDENTS who have joined the PTSA.

(Refreshments will be provided by the Richardson PTSA.)

******Opportunity drawing for movie tickets will be held at the dance and 2 tickets for Knott's Berry Farm or Knott's Scary Farm winner's choice******

Memberships are \$7.

Membership envelopes are available in the office
Memberships will also be available for purchase at the door.



Join the Richardson Middle School Team!

October 28, 2018

9:00 am

at the Manhattan Beach Pier

Donation is \$30 per walker

You can walk with us or register as a 'virtual walker.'

All donations go directly to RMS to benefit the P.E. program.

To Register:

1. Go to <http://www.skechersfriendshipwalk.com>.
2. Click on Register.
3. Click on join an existing team.
4. Enter **Richardson Middle School (Jeff Oden is the Team Captain)**.
5. Complete the registration process. Indicate whether you will be there in person or in spirit.
6. **Be sure to check the box for Torrance Education Foundation to receive the support of your contribution.**
7. You will receive an email confirming your registration.

The annual SKECHERS Pier to Pier Friendship Walk is an awe-inspiring event that brings together all walks of life for one common purpose; to support children with special needs and education. The walk is produced by SKECHERS USA and co-produced by The Friendship Foundation.

Register online and receive 3 mile passes from your PE Teacher!

Print out your 'Thanks for Registering' page and turn it in to your PE Teacher to receive your passes.

Let's make a difference and donate today!