

THE RICHARDSON RATTLER

December

2018

ISSUE 4



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Torrance, CA 90505
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*Home of the
Rattlesnakes*

Dates To Remember...

- 12/7-14 Adventures in Art Lesson #2
- 12/11 Barnes & Noble Book Fair
- 12/11 Panda Express Fundraiser
- 12/14 Holiday in Hawaii Winter Dance
- 12/18 PTSA Executive Board Meeting 6:30 pm
- 12/19 PTSA Holiday Lunch at HT Grill
- 12/21 - 1/6 Winter Break
- 1/7/19 Return to School



A Message from our PTSA President,

Stacey Launius, stacey@staceybarney.com

Happy December, Rattlesnake Families,

The Holidays are here, and they are an especially busy time for all of us. As you rush to buy gifts, cook meals, and wind-up end of the year obligations, remember to check in with your kids as they approach the middle of the school year. Start a dialog by asking, "What is your favorite subject?" or "Can you tell me about any new friends you have made?" Carving out just a few minutes a day for your middle schooler can keep the lines of communication open.



The month of December got under way with the Winter Concert featuring the RMS Jazz Band, Choir, Beginning Band, and Advanced Band at the Armstrong Theater on Monday, December 3. Immediately beforehand, I hope you joined us for the PTSA Association Meeting. It was great way to get into the holiday spirit, and it was a memorable night.



Another way to get in the holiday spirit is to join us at the Barnes and Noble Book Fair on Tuesday, December 11.

Keep in mind that Barnes and Noble will donate a portion of the proceeds back to RMS. Make sure you also stop by Panda Express afterwards for some dinner for one of our Restaurant Nights. Hope to see you all there!



The PTSA was holding on to our funds for a while due to construction on campus. We decided it was time to make a few purchases. We formed a committee and asked teachers and staff what they needed for their classrooms. We have decided to spend about \$30,000 on various supplies for classrooms and for the school including a Chromebook Cart, TVs for classrooms, support for the engineering classroom, and supplies for our nurse and learning center. I would like to thank all of our parents for their generous support in the past and the future in support of our Richardson Rattlesnakes.

I wish you and your family a wonderful winter break filled with holiday cheer and fun times. Thank you for your continued support of our Rattlesnakes! Happy Holidays!

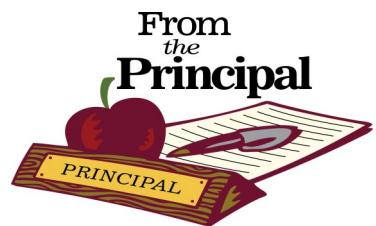
-Stacey Launius, PTSA President, 2018 - 2019

• 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:

Winter Break is on its way! We will be on break from December 21 (no school on Friday that week) until January 4 (we return to school on January 7).

Our students in the RMS Music Program put on another amazing performance at our annual Winter Concert on Monday, December 3 at the Armstrong Theatre. Ms. Willett always does such a fantastic job preparing her students for their performances. All levels of music students performed, which included Beginning Band, Advanced Band, Jazz Band, and Choir. The evening is a great night for parents to see the results of all that practicing! Many of the students in this program also impressed all who attended at their performance at the Torrance Festival of Trees at the end of November.

The biggest shopping day of the year for Richardson families is coming soon – Teal Tuesday! Come out to the RMS Barnes & Noble Book Fair on Tuesday, December 11 and pick up some special presents. Richardson Middle School will be receiving a percentage of your holiday purchases that evening. The greater the volume of sales made that evening, the higher the percentage that will be donated back to RMS. Please include this RMS Fundraising Event during your holiday shopping this year.

Just in time for the holidays, our additional lockers have finally arrived! All 6th graders were finally assigned lockers in the last week of November. Thank you all for your patience while we awaited the arrival of these lockers that allow us to be able to provide your children with some space to store their learning materials during the day. Students are still allowed to bring their backpacks with them to class, but they should utilize their lockers throughout the day in order to lighten their load and maximize their ability to locate their necessary materials during class.

The RMS Leadership Class continues the holiday spirit by once again coordinating with the Adopt-A-Family. RMS Leadership will be accepting sign-ups for donations at lunch. Please consider supporting this worthy cause by having your child sign-up to help provide for a needy family this holiday season. Leadership will also be celebrating the holidays with the Holiday in Hawaii winter dance after school on Friday, December 14.

In closing, the holiday season is the perfect opportunity to encourage your child to reach out and say, “Thank You!” to any and all educators who have had a positive impact on his/her life. Our teachers and staff work so hard and selflessly, and hearing (or reading) those words make a tremendous gift.

**Happy
Holidays!**

Happy Holidays!
*Ian Drummond, Principal
Richardson Middle School*

Creating a Positive School Environment

Here at Richardson, we are doing our part to increase the POSITIVE in order to combat the negative. We aspire to create a campus where students want to succeed and make good choices. We celebrate these successes in a variety of ways.

On Tuesday, November 27, we had our first HISS Awards assembly, developed and run by the Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) Team. In this grade-level assembly, students were recognized for holding themselves accountable, inspiring others positively, striving for success, and showing respect. Students received a certificate, a Richardson cup, and their picture and write-up will be displayed throughout the quarter. We plan to have these assemblies every quarter so that students can be recognized for their positive contributions in front of their classmates.

We are quite fortunate to be here at Richardson Middle School where our students are invested in their own learning, and the teachers and staff truly care about kids. While we know that kids will make mistakes, we strongly believe that middle school is a great opportunity to teach kids that they can have a positive impact. We hope that by consistently focusing on the POSITIVE with kids, we will remind them to do their part to ensure that Richardson remains an effective and enjoyable learning environment for every student.

-Ellen Harrison, Assistant Principal



6th Grade



7th Grade



8th Grade

HISS AWARD

WINNERS



Hold Yourself Accountable

Inspire Others Positively

Show Respect

Strive for Success

Richardson Middle School is partnering with The Volunteer Center to host a food drive for **Food For Kids**. 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.

Bring your bag of food to the LIBRARY any time labeled with your grade level.

THANK YOU!



Shelf-Stable Shopping List

Donate any of the items below to help us feed local students in need!

BREAKFAST ITEMS:

- Cereal
- Oatmeal
- Granola Bars

SHELF-STABLE FRUIT:

- Canned Fruit
- Raisins
- Apple Sauce
- Fruit Cups

MEAL COMPONENTS:

- Canned Vegetables
- Canned Meat
- Chili
- Peanut Butter
- Jelly
- Macaroni & Cheese
- Pasta
- Pasta Sauce
- Ravioli
- Rice (1 or 2 lb. bags)
- Soup

No glass containers and no expired food please!

About Food For Kids

While low-income students receive school-provided meals for breakfast and lunch during the week, many of their families are unable to feed them adequately on the weekends. The students then arrive at school on Monday without the proper nourishment, which can negatively affect their school performance and self-esteem.

Food For Kids provides bags with items to make 2 breakfasts, 2 lunches, and 2 dinners to elementary schools to share with families with the greatest need each week.

Student Reporter, Katie Soares



When I say, "Winter," you might think of Christmas, Hanukkah, or celebrating something else with your family, and hanging ornaments on Christmas trees and putting up holiday decorations. Maybe you think of snow, or Santa Claus, or reindeer, or gingerbread houses.... But mostly, you think of presents.



Some students at Richardson start planning their wish lists in January so they will have plenty of things to ask for come December. But, there are many people who can't think of anything they want when it is a few weeks before winter break. Well, it's that time of year again. Here are some gifts that Richardson students are asking for this holiday season!

"I want merchandise from the bands I listen to, because not only do I love comfy hoodies but they also allow me to express my interests and taste in music."

-Sophia Fruttus, 8th Grade

"I want to have a locker at school because I don't have one right now, and my backpack is too heavy."

-Kendall Gittings, 6th Grade

"I want Apple Air Pods so I don't have to worry about plugging the cord into my phone correctly every time."

-Kristina Juckett, 7th Grade

"I want a Harvard sweatshirt because I want to go to school there in the future to get my engineering degree."

-Kendall DeVore, 6th Grade

"I want a new Apple computer because the computer that I have now is broken."

-Brendan Yanabu, 7th Grade

"For Christmas, I want an 8-piece Chickenjoy bucket from Jollibee, which is Filipino restaurant."

-Nadia Carlini, 8th Grade

"I want gift cards to stores like Barnes & Noble because I read books quickly and I usually run out of stuff to read."

-Jaclyn Bruce, 7th Grade

"I want video games for Christmas."

-Cole Anderson, 6th Grade

"I want a fishing rod for Christmas, so I can go fishing."

-Steven Lara, 7th Grade

"I really want an Apple Watch."

-Hina Usuda, 6th Grade

"I think it would be nice to get an apology from someone for Christmas."

-Arisa Tateishi, 8th Grade



"I want a new laptop because the one I have right now is really slow and runs out of battery quickly."

-Jamie Hsu, 8th Grade

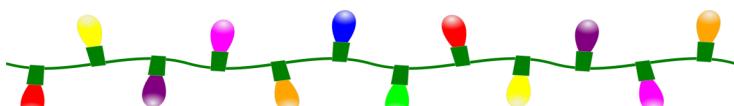
"I want clothes and a new bed because my bed is too small."

-Lucas Reinheimer, 8th Grade

"I want Apple Air Pods because the wires in earbuds are really annoying, so Air Pods would be so much easier to use."

-Emily Doupe, 7th Grade

For many more awesome RMS student journalism articles, go to <http://thelatesthiss.org>.



Whether you want video games, clothes, gift cards, or electronic devices, remember what we are really celebrating this holiday season. Always remember to be thankful for your family and friends, and maybe even spread the joy by giving back to your community this year. No matter how you celebrate this season or what presents you get, enjoy your winter break!

-Katie



All RMS students completed their first Adventures in Art project, Pineapple Faces! Thanks to the docents for attending the training and teaching the lesson during Social Studies. Thanks to Brett and Milissa Kleinhans for organizing the docents, schedules, and supplies for this awesome PTSA sponsored program! Looking forward to the next project, Negative Spaces.



Reflections

The PTA Reflections theme for this year was: "Heroes Around Us." Participants reflected on the theme; created an original work and were recognized.

The winners of this year's RMS PTSA Reflections program were presented with a certificate and trophy or medal at the school's recognition assembly on Tuesday, November 27, 2018. All non-winning participants will receive a certificate of participation.

Congratulations to our winners:

Literature		
1 st Place - Award of Excellence	Paige Johnson	8th Grade
Visual Arts		
1st Place - Award of Excellence	Katie Soares	8th Grade
2nd Place - Award of Merit	Sharon Park	8th Grade
3rd Place - Honorable Mention	Michael Kim	8th Grade
Film Production		
1st Place - Award of Excellence	Brianna Adewinmbi	7th Grade

Richardson's first place entries were sent to the Torrance Council of PTAs to compete with other middle schools.

I'd like to thank the community judges for their time. Thank you to our business supporters for their donations to help recognize those who participated: Blaze Pizza (1st place only); Chick-fil-A and Hof's Hut. Each participant was also given a cone of Popcornopolis popcorn from the RMS PTSA and Richardson Music Boosters.

Be a part of PTA Reflections; get working on the 2019-2020 theme: "Look Within."



Grace Johnson

2018-19 RMS PTSA Reflections Chair



REFLECT ON THEME ~ CREATE AN ORIGINAL WORK ~ GET RECOGNIZED

Straw Ballot

RMS PTSA Executive Board

2019-2020

The nominating committee for the RMS PTSA will be meeting in the near future. To help this committee in making selections for nominations, would you please give them your ideas for officers for our PTSA? Please take a few moments and write your suggestions below, fold your ballot, and place it in the PTA box in the office. You may suggest more than one name for an office or you may leave some slots open.

President_____

Executive VP_____

First VP (Ways and Means)_____

Second VP (Community Service)_____

Third VP (Programs)_____

Fourth VP (Membership)_____

Fifth VP (Hospitality)_____

Recording Secretary_____

Treasurer_____

Financial Secretary_____

Auditor_____

Historian_____



Please remember this is only a straw vote. It is not binding.
It serves as a way to help the nominating committee in its deliberations.

Thank you for your input and help.
Please fold and seal this Straw Ballot, and place in the PTSA box in the office.