

Russian Hill School Parent Newsletter

September 2006

Welcome old friends and new friends to a new school year. For those who just joined RHS, this newsletter is a monthly publication written by the RHS Room Parents to keep parents updated on all of the activities that are going on in the classroom. Welcome to recent newcomers - Alex Mader and his parents, Miriam and Michael and Emily Brown, and her mom Katy.

Current Projects and Themes

There are a lot of interesting projects going on right now.

Autumn - There are two autumn trees being created in the classroom this Fall. The first is an apple tree that was recently completed. The children create the bark, stems, leaves and apples through multiple processes and applications. The second tree is an autumn leaf tree, which will involve four different teachers, each creating a different type of leaf. The first leaf was inspired by real leaves collected by the children on a recent work. They brought the leaves back and recreated them through printmaking and paint application. The second is a glitter leaf, which involves cutting out paper leaves and drawing on them with glue and glitter (great for developing fine motor skills and patterning techniques). The third leaf will be a collage project and the fourth and final leaf will remain a surprise - Teacher Yvonne is still in the planning stages. Stayed tuned.

Christmas Birds - RHS has committed to decorating one of the holiday trees at the Opera House this holiday season. A theme of "Birds of the World" has been chosen that follows our present multi-cultural unit study program. The children are busy at work creating the 400 ornaments that will be needed. To complete them, they will focus on cutting, gluing and construction techniques, while learning the letters associated with each bird. The Blue Jay, Cardinal and Warbler have each been completed thus far. They are beautiful paper birds adorned with feathers and glitter. The children are currently working on the South African Bee Eater and the Snowy Owl. In addition to these five, there will be three additional birds created by year end. Nancy Kalshed will be sending notification regarding volunteer opportunities and the timing of the Tree Decoration event.

Halloween - RHS will be anticipating Halloween through the month of October. The first week, through the magic of the back room, the children have been transported to Romania and are especially focused on Transylvania. The children have stamped their passports and there is a wall full of 3-D ghosts to welcome them.

The following week, the children will focus on the skeleton system and its importance. As part of the learning experience, they will make large skeletons with moving joints. The following week, the children will create and decorate a community Gingerbread House. This will tie into a RHS tradition - the showing of the Metropolitan Opera's Hansel and Gretel.

Teacher Lyvette has created a Multi-process Halloween "scarecrow" project which is underway and which should arrive home in time for Halloween.

At the end of the month, RHS will host a Halloween Party for the morning and afternoon programs. Children should arrive in costume and be prepared to wear it all day. Please think about keeping any accessories at home if they are detachable - they may end up lost at the school. The children will walk around the neighborhood and arrive back to the school for group pictures - around 12:15pm for the morning kids and 3:45 pm for the afternoon kids. Parents - you are welcome to come take pictures at pick-up time. Please note, most of the afternoon children leave immediately after pictures to start their trick-or-treating. Please let Bonnie know if your child must

stay until 6:00pm that day. Christy will provide detailed information regarding the timing and schedule of the Halloween events as the date gets closer.

Halloween Snacks

The school will be providing snacks and treats throughout the day. Please try to avoid candy if you are thinking about bringing a special snack for the school on Halloween. Also, children are not encouraged to trick-or-treat among themselves - there is always more than enough candy gathered outside the school.

Upcoming events

The fall Parent cocktail party is scheduled for October 12th at 6:30pm. It will be hosted by the Fontana, Kelly and Toteda families. Teacher Bonnie will be on hand to talk about the introduction of the "Orff-Schulwerk" method of introducing music-making and modern dance choreography, along with updates on the many new things going on at the school. Hope to see you there!