

Russian Hill School Parent Newsletter

November/December 2006

'Tis the Season! Everyone is ramping up for the holidays. And if you've been in the school recently, you'll find RHS no different. A beautiful Christmas tree is up in the main room, decorated with seven different bird ornaments. Snowflakes and mittens adorn the December calendar. And the backroom has turned in to Santa's sleigh and reindeer on their way to the North Pole. It's hard to miss the holiday spirit.

Completed Projects

The Thanksgiving Play – need we say more? November was filled with rehearsing songs and making the beautiful costumes that all came together on November 15th. The kids learned all about American-Indians and Thanksgiving traditions. If you haven't done so already, come in and look at the photos from the play on the wall and included in a beautifully bound book.

In addition, in celebration of the fall season, each child made a scarecrow, which will be coming home with you soon.

Current Projects

Winter Season and Holidays: The fish and scarecrows are coming down from the walls, and the school will be turning in to a Winter Wonderland. Snowflakes and birds will create a winter feel. Parents can look forward to coming in and seeing the Winter Wonderland grow. The room will constantly be filled with songs with winter themes sung by the kids. A quite large gingerbread house is under way. The house will be surrounded by gingerbread men and popcorn trees, and the kids will enjoy decorating the house with graham crackers, frosting and candy (if they don't eat it all first!). The house will then be donated to an assisted living home or a children's hospital in Russian Hill before the holidays.

Hanukkah will be celebrated throughout the last week of school. A menorah is already out. Santa's sleigh in the backroom is a very creative way of introducing and learning about different countries' holiday traditions. The sleigh will be traveling to the North Pole and, in the process, flying over various countries. As it flies over each country, the kids will learn about how each country celebrates the holidays.

Future Projects

When the kids return to school in January, the winter months will include studying many different animals. The choice of animals will include those that the kids chose for their most recent placemats along with winter-specific animals.

The Numbers Books for those children who will graduate this year are well under way and will be completed by August.

Other News

Rachel Shusterman is a new teacher at the school. We wish her a warm welcome! Originally from Massachusetts, Teacher Rachel is a new resident of San Francisco. She graduated from the University of Vermont with a B.S. in education and came to California to teach and live before returning to school for her Masters.

The development committee is pleased to report that the fundraising activity for 2006 was met with generous support from the RHS community. The fall fundraiser held in November not only provided priceless memories, but supported the introduction of the highly regarded Orff program to the school, marking an important milestone in the curriculum development at RHS. The

development committee is looking forward to an exciting 2007 with the Spring Forward Auction that is currently planned for May 5th. More details will be forthcoming in the first of the year.