



Ravinia Blue News

Message From Kathy

At RNS we try hard to communicate with families through a variety of methods including causal conversations, Ipads, newsletters, Facebook and email. We as a staff realize how important two way communication is for developing partnerships. Likewise parents often crave information about the school day from their child. Unfortunately most children can't answer questions like "How was school today?" Or "What did you do at school today?" These are hard questions since children do not summarize like adults. Also some children still think that their parents know what is in their heads as developmentally they don't realize they are separate from their parents. So how

can parents get more than a monosyllabic answer from your child? Something you may want to try is to ask your child specific questions from the following categories.

Things that your know interest your child. What was in the water table today? What did you have for snack?

Questions about specific people or events. Who did you sit next to at snack? Who was the everything person today?

Comment on activities or "schoolwork". This is a beautiful picture. Can you tell me about it? What songs did you sing? What was the story about today.

If you child comes out of school in a mood. You might even get a conversation going through "clearing the air". Was something hard for you today? Did you ask your teacher for help?

These are just a few suggestions to get the lines of communication going. Please do remember that each child is unique, some love to talk and others don't use talking as their main way of communication. Just be open to other signals or methods your child uses to connect and "tell" you about what is going on.

November 2014

CALENDAR

- 7 C/D Class Undernighter 5:30- 7:00PM @RNS
- 11 No School Veterans Day
- 10-14 Parent/Teacher Conferences School In Session
- 15 Open House 10:00AM- 12:00PM
- 26-28 Thanksgiving Break No School

Talk of the Town Parent/Teacher Conferences

Parent teacher conferences will take place this year during the week of November 10th - 14th. We have conferences for preschool children twice a year, November and April, and once in the Spring for the Two Can Classes. The classes will be in attendance these days with substitutes for the

regular teachers. Individual conferences will be 20 minutes in length and will give you an opportunity to share information about the school year so far. Please check outside your classroom doors for the sign-up sheet. The individual schedule is as follow:

Conference Schedule

- 11/10 AM - Mrs. Roberts
PM - Ms Helfand
- 11/12 AM - Mrs. Roberts
PM - Mrs. Beckway
- 11/13 AM - Mrs. Cohen
PM - Mrs. Littman
- 11/14 AM - Mrs. Cohen
PM - Mrs. Littman

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Message from the President

Fall is in full swing at the Little Blue School! The teachers have done such a wonderful job of incorporating the fall themes into their stories, lessons and many crafts that have come home. Fall, like all of the seasons, is full of fun at RNS. The afternoon classes had exciting field trips to Didier Farms to enjoy hayrides, the petting zoo and pumpkins. Check out the photos on our Shutterfly site! And the afternoon classes will also soon enjoy our first Undernighter of the school year on November 7th. Don't miss this fun evening of PJs, pizza and magic.

Our Special Guest Day on October 18th was a *huge* success. We had record-setting attendance and it gave the children a great opportunity to feel very special as they showed off their teachers and classrooms to their

friends and family. It is so rewarding to me to see how proud the kids are of their school. Thank you to all of the teachers for sharing your Saturday mornings with all of our families. We truly appreciate everything you do for our children.

And remarkably, fall is also the time when we start planning for *next* fall at RNS. Our Open House for prospective new families will be held Saturday, November 15th. Please spread the word to any families you know who might be looking for a new preschool home starting next school year. Our requests for admission routinely outstrip our availability and that is such an incredible testament to not only what a special place RNS is but also how wonderful our families are for constantly spreading the word in the

community about the Little Blue School.

And finally, I wanted to mention that our iGive campaign is on-going and our second Grocery Dollar round will start on Nov 10th in time for the holidays. Please consider doing some of your holidays shopping with these gift cards and through iGive, as it is not only an effortless way to do your shopping but also a FREE way to help support RNS.

As always, I am here for you all. Please feel free to contact me anytime.

Kristen Ramirez
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Winter Weather Wear

As the cooler weather is fast approaching I thought it was a good time to remind everyone about our outdoor play procedures. We do still try to play on the playground every day and use 20 degrees or above as a guide for our decision. However, other factors can affect outdoor play on a daily basis, such as ice on the playground or a Chicago wind chill. I will send an email blast out to parents as winter gets



underway to try to help you know if the children will be going outside. In the morning the blast will go out about 8:30 and for the afternoon it will go out at around 11:45. On the days we are going out to play please send you children dressed and ready to have fun on the playground. If you are in doubt or leave before you get the notice the best thing to do is send the children with snow pants and

boots so they will be able to get dressed for outdoor play if needed. Parents of Two Cans please remember to make sure they have all their extra outdoor winter clothing (snow pants, boots ect that they aren't wearing) in their bag and we will get them dressed to play outside. The children really do love to be outside and it is so beneficial for them to be able to do this whenever possible even in the colder weather. Thank you all in advance for your cooperation in this matter. Kathy

Open House

The Saturday November 15th 10:00 am - 12:00, RNS will host its annual Open House to welcome prospective families to visit our school. Word-of-mouth from our current families is the strongest tool to encourage new families to consider RNS as their preschool of choice so, please spread the word! Registration will be accepted for all available classes. Questions? Contact Marci Taub at mweinberg1998@hotmail.com or Kathy at director@ravinianurseryschool.com



PM Undernighter

Attention C & D Classes

The first PM Undernighter is coming up on Friday, November 7th from 5:30pm to 7:00pm. Wear your favorite pajamas, make a craft, eat Moccio's pizza and enjoy a magic show by J-Magic. Admission is only \$10.

For information or to register, please contact Cyndi Wood at (847)691-8728.

Community Service

It's almost time for the holidays, and that means it's almost time for our annual **Toy Drive!** We have again partnered with the Family Network and will be giving gifts to those children that are part of the **Right From the Start** program. This program provides education and family support services to at-risk Spanish speaking families who are expecting a baby or who have children and live primarily in Highland Park, Highwood, and nearby communities. This will include courses aiming to promote healthy family functioning, healthy prenatal outcomes for pregnant women, and enhance the development of children. Students will be able to select a child, then purchase a gift for that child based on his/her age and gender. Please make sure that when you bring back the gift, it is wrapped and the child's name and age is

included, that way each child will get the thrill of opening their present at the Family Network's annual holiday party in December! A flyer will go out soon with additional information, so please stay tuned. To learn more about the many program's offered by **Right From the Start**, please visit www.familynetworkcenter.org

Huge thanks to those of you who have donated diapers, those donations are greatly appreciated! The bins will remain outside Kathy's office, please feel free to donate at any time.

As Thanksgiving approaches, we would like to remind you that we are collecting for the **Moraine County Food Pantry** which services residents of all ages, from children to seniors in our community, and providing them with

food and non-food items. Look for a board on the wall covered in felt food. Your child can take some food off the wall and bring it back the next day with a donation for the **Food Drive** that matches the food from the board. It's another way your child can feel a connection to humanitarianism and the community. To learn more about the **Moraine County Food Pantry**, please visit

<http://www.morainetownship.org/super/pantry>

If you have any additional questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Agi Semrad semrad.agi@gmail.com or Melanie Stagman pastrypixie@gmail.com

Grocery Dollars Off to a Great Start

A big thank you to all who participated in our first Grocery Dollar fundraiser of the year. You helped raise \$593.32 for our school by simply purchasing everyday gift cards! Class A had the most participation and won a popsicle party/class gift. Congratulations to Lindsey Entin for winning the gift card. We are also offering a new incentive for this school year, if we meet our annual goal, RNS will be able to select a special gift at the end of the school year. The next Grocery Dollars form will go out on **November 10th** and will be

due **November 21st**. The cards will be in your pocket in time for Hanukkah and Christmas. There won't be another Grocery Dollars until February, 2015 so please stock up. Be sure to check the form for some new fun incentives and let's get everyone involved to continue making Grocery Dollars a huge success! Please keep your eyes open for the form and let me know if you have any questions. You can contact me at katiepowers@hotmail.com



New Approach To Curriculum

As a staff and school we have been studying "The Project Approach." Our staff has been involved in a series of all-day workshops to help us understand, collaborate and get started with this method of teaching and learning. Topics to be explored are driven by the children and it allows them to go in depth with their learning of chosen topics. It is a meaningful way to approach curriculum and one that allows the teachers to bring real artifacts and if possible go on a site visit. Project work is very in tune with all the current

brain research. To learn children's brains must be immersed in real life, hands-on, and meaningful learning experiences. Project work requires problem-solving, the foundations of critical thinking and engages the whole brain. We will continue to keep you updated but you will certainly begin to see some wonderful new topics and explorations emerging in the classrooms.

3 Phases:

Phase 1 - Beginning

- Identify potential topic, initiated by children
- Build children's background knowledge

Phase 2 - Investigation

- Collect resources for investigating topic
- Help children use resources

Phase 3 - Culmination

- Guide children to reflect on what they've learned
- Help children find a way to share learning

Congratulations

New Kid on the Block

We have a new addition to the RNS family. On October 1st, the Kiferbaum family (Ethan T/Th Two Cans, Charlie B Class and Sophie alum) welcomed Jack Noah to their hearts and home. He weighed in at 7lbs 6 ozs and was 19.5 inches long. He definitely turned the boy/ girl ratio in the household. Looks like Sophie will be well taken care of by three brothers. Congratulations to all.



Radon Testing

Recently DCFS, our licensing agency, passed a ruling that all daycare centers and nursery schools need to be tested for Radon. Last month we did have a Professional Radon Measurer perform the test at our school. Ravinia Nursery School passed with levels below 4.0 throughout the building. A certificate is posted on the wall inside the front door and a copy of the Radon test report can be provided to you upon request.

Special Guest Day A Success

The Special Guest Day was a big success. Lots of fun was had by the children and the special person they brought to share their preschool experience. It is always fun to see the children proudly show the adults around the room and then settle into some serious play with them. Many of the groups even had a snack and did a little circle time to show off their considerable skills. The teachers did a fantastic job and the rooms looked fabulous. Thanks to all of them for not only

working hard the weeks leading up to this event but also coming to school on a Saturday so you could all enjoy it. Please check out photos of the morning on our Shutterfly account and posters throughout the school



Thank You

To all the wonderful parents that drove and/or chaperoned C and D class to Didier Farms.

To all the amazing parents that helped to plan and execute many fabulous Halloween Parties throughout the school.

To Colin and Patrick McMahon (D Class) and their parents for donating a *Science Lab Set* and *Police Legos* to the classroom in celebration of their 5th birthday.

To Juliet Hausman (D Class) and her family for donating the book Being

Friends to our school library in honor of her 5th birthday.

To Reese Hausman (W/F Class) and her family for giving the class *two wonderful new dress up costumes, a princess and a mermaid*, in celebration of her 3rd birthday.

To Liev Wieselmann Schulman (D Class) and her family for donating the book What Do You do with an Idea to our school library in honor of her 5th birthday.

To Sam Schachter (B Class) and his family for giving the class a *Planes*

set of Legos to celebrate his 4th birthday.

To Emerson Redisch (W/F Class) and her family for giving the class an *Ellsa dress* in honor of her 3rd birthday.

To Spencer Polovin (B Class) and his family for donating the book Don't Push the Button to our school library in celebration of his 4th birthday.

To Izzy Donohue (D Class) and her family for donating the Book Dragons Love Tacos to our school in honor of her 5th birthday.