



Ravinia Blue News

Message From Kathy

It is hard to believe that we are now two thirds of the way through the school year. As I reflect back over the last several years I can see that Ravinia has gone through much change and growth. We continue to work hard to provide a stable wonderful environment in which our children can thrive, yet we are always looking ahead in this ever changing world. With the progressive direction kindergarten is moving and the new common core standards states are working on implementing, all levels of education will certainly be evolving in the coming years. I think as a school community we all have managed to balance change and stability, and after eighty eight years we are still going strong.

As a director I try to keep in mind the original philosophy of Ravinia. I thought this was a good time to remind all of us that children truly learn by example. Following you will see this very aptly put by Dorothy Nolte.

CHILDREN LEARN WHAT THEY LIVE

If a child lives with criticism, he learns to condemn.
 If a child lives with hostility, he learns to fight.
 If a child lives with ridicule, he learns to be shy.
 If a child lives with shame, he learns to feel guilty.
 If a child lives with tolerance, he learns to be patient.
 If a child lives with encouragement, he learns confidence.
 If a child lives with praise, he learns to appreciate.
 If a child lives with fairness, he learns justice.
 If a child lives with security, he learns to have faith.
 If a child lives with approval, he learns to like himself.
 If a child lives with acceptance and friendship he learns to find love in the world.

I feel very inspired by these words and know this is the philosophy we try to maintain in the Ravinia environment. As more brain research tied with early childhood emerges, the Ravinia tried and true methods continue to be supported. Current research on brain development and emotional intelligence suggests that children must feel comfortable and secure for healthy development and learning to occur. I see countless examples of that daily at our school. We try to make sure the children are given opportunities to explore and discover things at their own pace. Remember the best thing we can give children is time and understanding.



March 2015

Calendar

March

- 5 A Class trip
 - 14 Spring Event
 - 20 Undernighter for Two Cans and Parent/Child 5:30-6:30
 - 27 NO SCHOOL - Teacher In Service
Spring Break Begins
- #### April
- 7 School Resumes
 - 8/9 Class Photos
 - 17 Undernighter for PM 5:30-7:00
 - 26 Parent/Son Event

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Message for the President

Spring is in the air, which means that our annual Spring Event is just around the corner! In addition to being our biggest fundraiser of the year, the Spring Event is the only "grown-ups only" event that we hold each year. You do NOT want to miss this wonderful event on Saturday, March 14th. Marci Taub and Kisha Mani have a fantastic evening planned for us all! It is always such a great time to catch up with old and new friends and to benefit the RNS community.

February saw so many wonderful RNS events. I want to thank Agi Semrad and Melanie Boyd for planning the lovely Valentine's Party at the Senior Center. The seniors always appreciate the time they get to spend with the kids so much and it was a special party. And a huge thank you Rebecca

Carson and Morgan Rosenberg for all of their awesome efforts in putting on the 2015 Daddy-Daughter Dance - the disco theme was a big hit and all of the girls and their "dates" had such a great time. The pictures are awesome! Don't forget to check them out in the hallway the next time you are at school and on our Shutterfly account.

I also want to take a minute to recognize all of our incredible Room Moms who always put on such great holiday parties for the children and they all delivered once again with wonderful Valentine's Day celebrations for the kids. Thank you, thank you Room Moms for all that you do to help in the classrooms and support our teachers!

And as we say farewell to chilly February, I want to take a minute to send a special thank you to our amazing teachers who have been holed up inside with our wonderfully energetic children so much this winter. They have really pulled out all the stops to keep the kids active and engaged even while spending so much time indoors. Thank you teachers!!

Thank you all again for your constant support of our very special, very incredible, Little Blue School.

Hope to see you all at the Spring Event,

Kristen Ramirez

Spring Event 2015

WANT YOUR TEACHER TO TUCK IN YOUR LITTLE ONE? Buy a Teacher Raffle Ticket in March!

In support of our Spring Fundraiser, March Madness held on March 14th, our generous teachers have donated some very special prizes that will be raffled off at the event. Prizes include ice cream dates, bedtime tuck-ins with milk & cookies and pizza parties with your child's teacher. Tickets are \$5.00 each or 5 for \$20.00 and will be sold at school beginning March 10th (cash or check only). Hope to see you at the fundraiser but **WINNER NEED NOT**

BE PRESENT!



MARCH MADNESS for our Little Blue School

Need a manicure, night out, bit of pampering at the spa or a guys night out with the Blackhawks? Then don't miss the Spring Fundraiser on March 14th at Michael's featuring all you can eat menu, open bar, silent auction and a pop-a-shot basketball tournament! one hundred percent of silent auction proceeds support

Talk of the Town

The parent teacher conferences will take place this spring during the weeks of April 13th and 20th. 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 your child and learn more about his/her school

experiences at RNS. The Preschool classes will have conferences the week of the 13th and the Two Cans will have them the week of the 20th. You will receive more information about times and days of your classes' individual conference next month. We will also give you information as to when and how to sign up for your

conference. We are looking forward to sharing with you all the wonderful things your child has done this year.

Vision and Hearing Test

On Friday, March 13th a nurse from the Lake County Health Department will be conducting vision and hearing testing on **all our preschool children**. The teachers will practice with the children before the test and also one teacher will accompany each group to the library and stay with them. If the nurse feels your child needs more assessment you will receive a note that day. **Otherwise your child has passed.** Also please note that this does not take the place of the vision test needed for entering kindergarten. Those must be conducted and documented by an Ophthalmologist.

Calling All RNS Parents!

We want to take one last opportunity to encourage you to consider participating on the RNS Board of Directors. One of the many things unique to RNS is that we are a Board-run school in every way. And it is the Board of Directors, comprised almost exclusively of parent volunteers, that helps to keep RNS the dynamic and relevant school that it is today. If you are a "retired" professional, a working parent, a creative mom or just an interested parent we need you! If you have any questions, please reach out to me (kristen.pate@ggp.com) or to Kathy for more information about the Board and some of the available positions. Applications are available on our website under "forms".

Future RNS Student Born

In February we had another little girl born to our ever expanding Ravinia family. On February 17th, Cameron Sloane was born to the Redisch family. She was 6 lbs 8 ozs and 19 inches long. She came home to Blake (D Class) and Emerson (W/F Two Cans) which both appear to be thrilled with the addition. Looks like dad will have to get used to a female household. Congratulations to Blake and Emerson and of course Heather and Michael.



Ice and Snow Patrol

I want to thank all of you that have pitched in and helped us keep our walks safe this year. Many of you have taken it upon yourself to chop ice, shovel snow or spread salt. The last few months have certainly often provided a situation in which extra help was needed to keep things clean. I appreciate all of your efforts on RNS's behalf.

Congratulations are also in order to the Stagman/Boyd Family with the addition of their third child, a boy on February the 25th. He was 7lbs and 20 3/4 inches long.

Grocery Dollars-Third Round

Thank you all for your participation in the school's third Grocery Dollars program. We had good participation in the last round and raised \$505.28 for RNS. Gift cards were distributed last week. We had participation from 18 families representing 22 students. Class A won a class gift for highest participation and chose Playstix. Congratulations to Charlie

Kiferbaum's family for winning a \$25 gift card! The next Grocery Dollars will be distributed in April, and that will be the last opportunity to participate this year. You will want to get all your gift cards for the end of the year and summer at that time. We have done a great job this year. So far this school year, we have raised \$1,513.40 for the school. If we meet our goal of \$2,000, RNS will be able to receive a school gift at the

end of the year. Thanks, again Katie Powers

Daddy Daughter Dance 2015

This year's newly themed disco was a huge hit with fathers and daughters alike. It was held on Sunday, February 8 at Soul 2 Sole Dance in Highland Park. Each of the girls received disco ball necklaces, peace sign tattoos, and glow stick bracelets. Father and daughter combos were able to have their portrait taken in front of a very fun disco backdrop, and everyone received a framed photo after the event. Most importantly, there was a lot of dancing, laughter, and fun memories

made. Many thanks to the volunteers who worked hard to make the event both run smoothly and so much fun: Morgan Rosenberg, Samantha Berndt, Christy Jones, Chelsea Duggan, Marci Taub, Melanie Stagman, Heather Redisch, Anika Olshansky, Erin Figenholtz, and Megan Zilberstein. Photos can be found on the poster at school and the Shutterfly site.

Thank You

- To our room moms and all their volunteers that helped out at the Valentine's parties throughout the school.
- To the Pizzo family (Bridget D class) for donating a Color/Cube Set for the light table, in honor of her 5th birthday.
- To The Taub family (Emily C class) for donating the book, Love Ruby Valentine, to our school library.
- To the wonderful teachers who are keeping you children active and happy indoors these last few weeks.
- To the Fedacsek family (Joshua, B class) for donating a play mobile cargo lift and a shuttle to the classroom in celebration of his fourth birthday.

Community Service Update

On Monday February 9th, our students celebrated Valentine's Day with the residents at Frank B. Peers Senior Housing Center. Residents and students enjoyed each others company while coloring and decorating valentines. Students proudly gave their valentines, which they had made in class, to delighted residents. The following companies were gracious enough to donate for the event: Michael's Chicago Style Red Hots donated two delicious salads, Once Upon a Bagel donated

an amazing tray of bagels & cream cheese, Sunset Foods donated a delectable platter of sugar and chocolate chip cookies, and Debtstoppers of Chicago donated yummy pizzas. Thank you to everyone that helped make this day so special!

We also wanted to thank all RNS students and families that have donated and continue to donate to the Moraine County Food Drive. We

have collected approximately 9 paper grocery bags full of food so far. We will continue to collect food until the end of March. As a friendly reminder, if you have diapers that you no longer need, please donate them by placing them in the appropriate bin outside Kathy's office. Stay tuned for the next upcoming community service project. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Agi Semrad at semrad.agi@gmail.com or Melanie Stagman at pastrypixie@gmail.com.

Undernighter For Two Cans and Parent/Child

Hey Two Cans and Parent/Totters, get ready to jam in your pajamas at the Two Can & Parent Tot Undernighter on Friday, March 20th. The event runs from 5:30 - 6:30 with interactive musical entertainment by Creative Celebrations (who are our own C Class parents.) The children will make their own musical instrument and dine on Moccio's pizza, all in the

comfort of their favorite, cozy pajamas. The cost is just \$10 per child. Tote notes will go out the first week of March with all the information. Contact Cyndi Wood or Chelsea Duggan with any questions or volunteer/ donation opportunities:

w.cyndi@yahoo.com or

chelseaduggan@mac.com