



# Ravinia Blue News

## Message From Kathy

### STEAM

After spending several days at the national early childhood conference in Atlanta I found myself not only renewed professionally but also in my appreciation of what we do at Ravinia. The conference contained many workshops and activities that were emphasizing STEAM with an underlying tone on play. It seems as we move forward in increasing STEAM education at all educational levels researchers and educators are finding the best and most effective way to implement and develop these areas is through hands on activities, often play. Some statistics were a bit eye opening; the average 3 year old has a 98% genius level when creativity is measured, however only 2% retain this level by the age of 25 or block play during the preschool years leads to higher math achievement as far out as high school. Others were reaffirming, such as the much discussed marshmallow challenge frequently used in various age groups to explore

engineering and group dynamics. When this activity was presented to many test groups, the leading problem solvers were professional engineers or architects, the second most proficient group were pre k and kindergarteners. Interestingly near the bottom in performance were groups made up of MBA students. Statistics and educational philosophy are telling us to allow our children lots of time to explore, experience real hands on activities, provide them with authentic open ended materials, and have them do these things with others. Play it seems is the prescription and foundation that will help our children face the many challenges in this fast moving, technically advancing world they will continue to live in. We should all be glad to know that for over ninety years Ravinia has been working hard to develop the STEAM skills needed to move all our children forward in whatever direction they choose to go.

**STEAM and Early Childhood (Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts, and Mathematics)**

STEAM is **more than an acronym**, it's a philosophy and a way of thinking that helps children to integrate knowledge across disciplines, encouraging them to think in connected and holistic way.

STEAM helps children to explore, observe, ask questions, predict and integrate their learning.

STEAM gives a label to **what preschools are already doing.**

STEAM complements **established approaches** to early childhood education.

## December 2017

### Calendar

#### December

- 14 Holiday Parties AM/ PM & T/Th Two Cans
- 15 Holiday Party W/F Two Cans  
**Last Day of School**

#### January

- 2 School Resumes
- 15 **No School** MLK Day
- 26 AM Undernighter

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## President's Message

Well, the weather has gotten even colder declaring that Winter is officially here! This is such fun time of year at RNS as holiday excitement builds and the always present possibility of snow looms.

A few highlights from the past busy month include:

**Didier Farms field trip for C&D class-** Students enjoyed hayrides, the petting zoo and even got to bring home some pumpkins. Thank you to our parent chaperones!

**Afternoon Class Undernighter -** The kids had a blast partying in their PJs, while eating pizza and watching a magic show. Thank you to Cyndi Wood for all your organizing, planning, and preparation and thank you to the parents that volunteered their time to help out that night.

**Beelow's Night Out -** I think everyone had a wonderful time at our Parents' Night Out. It was so fun to get a chance to catch up with one

another outside of school. A huge Thank You to Alissa Rissman for organizing this Fundraiser and to all those that attended to support our school.

**RNS Open House -** On November 4th, we opened our doors to prospective students and their families to come see for themselves what makes this school so special. Teachers had classrooms set up with activities, Board Members helped to give tours, and registration for next school year began! Waitlists have already formed for some classes and the event was a great success. Everyone wants to be a part of our Little Blue School!

**Conferences -** Hopefully you all had the chance to sit down and hear about your child's life here at RNS. Thank you to our teachers for all the preparation that went into each and every conference. We know it's a lot, but we so appreciate every last insight into our child's education.

**Holiday Food Drive and Toy Drive -** The generosity of our families shone through as we delivered trunk-fulls of donations of food just in time for Thanksgiving. Holiday gifts were collected this week and will be dropped off in time for the holidays. Thank you to Katie Cohen for her work in organizing both events and delivering the donations.

Read on to find out about some of our other upcoming events:

- **Father Daughter Dance**
- **Chipotle Night**
- **Holiday Parties**

I hope everyone has a wonderful holiday season! If you need anything, please don't hesitate to reach out to me.

Happy Holidays!

Anne Mucha

## Registration Continues for 2018-19

I am happy to announce that registration for next year is going very well. Our open house and added publicity has helped us attract many new families to RNS. At the open house we had several new families enroll for next fall. We do still have openings in

most of our programs. If you know of anyone that you feel would be interested in having their child attend RNS next fall please tell them to call the school to set up a tour. Current families are always the best reference for our program!

The feedback I get as I tour people is incredibly positive. I constantly get comments on the incredible staff and the happy engaged children. It always makes me realize what a wonderful school we have.

## Summer Camp 2018

Many of you have begun to ask for details about our summer camp, in particular when registration will begin. The registration materials will be distributed by mid-December. The forms and a deposit will be due back in January. The official contracts will then be sent out in the spring.

The camp will run for seven weeks, beginning on June 18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> and ending on August 2<sup>nd</sup>. The time frame for the Preschool Camp will be 9:00 until 12:15, Monday through Thursday, with the children bringing a sack lunch to be enjoyed with their friends. The Two Can Camp, for in coming Two Cans, will

be 9:15 to 11:15 on Tuesday and Thursdays. I will be happy to answer any questions or address any concerns you may have about these programs.

# Magic Show Undernighter - Thank You

Thank you to all the mini magicians from C & D classes who attended the November 3<sup>rd</sup> Undernighter! We had a blast making magic wands in our pj's and making our pizza disappear. To top it off, Jaime's Aponte's Magic Show was incredible! Thank you to all our wonderful parent volunteers who made the night, not only possible, but also so much fun.



Stay tuned for our Undernighter for the AM classes coming up on January 26<sup>th</sup>. Get ready for a fun night rockin' in our pajamas with Miss Aimee Leigh Cousino.

## RNS Fundraising

Give back to RNS as you shop online! It's so easy! Please select Ravinia Nursery School as your charitable organization on **AmazonSmile**. The program will donate 0.5% of eligible purchases back to our school. Thank you and happy shopping!"

[smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com)



Too busy to cook this holiday season? Enjoy a yummy, healthy dinner and support RNS! Our Chipotle fundraiser will be held all day on Thurs, Dec 7 at both of the local Chipotle locations; Deerfield and Highland Park. Mention RNS when you dine in or carry out and we will receive 50% off the bill!



## Save the Date

**An Evening with Your Sweetheart**

**Parent/Daughter Dance**

**Sunday**

**February 25, 2018**

**More**

**details to come...**



## Holiday Wishes

At Ravinia Nursery School we will continue to acknowledge and recognize the holidays in a very developmental low key manner. The teachers, and sometimes parent volunteers, will discuss with the children various holiday traditions that often are carried out in homes. Here at Ravinia, as in all parts of our curriculum we emphasis sharing, understanding and respect for another person's beliefs and customs. On a more personal level I want to wish all of you a joyful and peaceful holiday season. We have much to be joyful for including the many children that fill our school and lives. Have a Happy New Year, Kathy



## Thank You

To Teddy Schiller, (D Class) and his family for donating the book, The Bear and the Piano to our school library.

To Mason Bell (T/Th Two Cans) and his family for donating the book, Pete the Cat and the Missing Cupcakes to the classroom in honor of his third birthday.

To Samuel Newton (T/TH Two Cans) and his parents for donating the book I am a Garbage Truck to the classroom in honor of his 3<sup>rd</sup> birthday.

To Oliver Edwards (C Class) and his parents for donating the books, I'm a Frog and Should I Share my Ice Cream to our school library in celebration of his fifth birthday.