

Dates to Remember

October 2017

- 10/01/18 - October tuition due this week and any August/September LB/AA fees
- 3's kick-off their PDQ Fundraiser
- 10/02/18 911 presentations by Pinellas Ed.
- 10/03/18 911 presentations by Pinellas Ed.
- 10/08/18 Cookie Dough Fundraiser begins
- 10/09/18 Pumpkins arrive tonight for RUMC pumpkin patch
- 10/10/18 Student Photo Day
- 10/11/18 Student Photo Day
- 10/12/18 Student Photo Day
- 10/15/18 No school today (In conjunction with the Pinellas County School calendar)
- 10/17/18 School Spirit Day!
- wear your RDS shirt
- wear your crazy Halloween socks
- 10/18/18 Parent Leader meeting 9:05 a.m. -Rm. 19
- 10/19/18 Parent Leader meeting 9:05 a.m. -Rm. 19
- 10/20/18 Riviera Church's Fall Festival
- 10/25/18 School Spirit Day!
- wear your RDS shirt
- Chick-fil-A Day
- 10/30/18 Fall costume parades
- 10/31/18 Fall costume parades
No afternoon classes today-
Everyone gets picked up at noon



3's Classes School Fundraiser

The 3's Classes are offering an awesome fundraiser this month. You can purchase PDQ gift cards that are valued at \$10 for only \$8 each. What a deal! They never expire and they make great gifts too. All the proceeds go towards our Busy Bee 3's class and our Under-the-Sea 3's class.

Chapel

October 2018



This month's
Fruit of the Spirit
lesson is:



The Riviera Reporter October 2018



What Sets Us Apart?

By Cyndi Chavez

Recently, I was asked the question, what sets us apart? What makes Riviera Day School a successful, well-known school in the community? The typical answers came to mind—amazing teaching staff, safe facility, family participation, church support, and so on. Yes, those are all great qualities, but what “extras” set us apart?

I belong to a group of preschool Directors called the DUCKs (Directors United in Caring for Kids) - an acronym I came up with several years ago to name our group as we began meeting on a regular basis. The DUCKs meet every other month at RDS to discuss school issues, licensing updates, policy concernsbasically, what works and what doesn't? It is a great networking team as we share successes and concerns that we face as school Directors. Inevitably, the question always comes up—what do you do at Riviera that keeps your school full? I tell them I simply help orchestrate the incredible harmony that plays out between the teachers, the parents, the children, the church, and the community. It is everyone that is involved in those groups that make RDS a success!

So, we were recently creating a new information brochure for our school and the question came up again—what sets us apart? I realized, through others' eyes, feedback, comments, and such, the wonderful “extras” we provide truly do make RDS an amazing little preschool. Our licensing specialist recently conducted a surprise visit. She comes twice a year. She stated how much she loves coming to our school—our records are impeccable, our playground is one of the best she has seen in Pinellas preschools, we are NAEYC accredited, our staff is exceptional and credentialed, and we offer enrichment programs like Chapel, Music, and Spanish (starting this month with Señora Rebecca). We scored 100% for Pinellas County Licensing and 100% for our Health Department visit as well. Our Kindergarten Readiness Rate is 97% - one of the highest in the county—putting us in the top 5% of preschools in our area.

We recently hired 2 new teaching staff members, Rachel Anderson and Alessia Calandra (VPK teaching team). They are not only teachers, but offer other wonderful qualities that benefit our school. Rachel's experience as a Behavior Support Specialist aids us in training in behavior management. Alessia's Communications and Marketing degree is a great benefit as she works on our marketing tools and school website. I have run out of room, but I could go on for days about my love for Riviera Day School and how great it is.

Does it sound like I'm boasting? Yes, I am! Sorry—not sorry.



Student Photo Days

We are so excited to have our RDS Alumni mom, Jodi Eliason, of WyLo Photography here this month to take our students' photos. Jodi is so talented and does an amazing job. These are not your typical, ho-hum school pics. Jodi has a way of taking a child's photo that brings out the best.

Please refer to the photo card we sent home in the backpacks regarding your child's scheduled photo shoot day. These are school pictures so please send your child in clothes and shoes they would normally wear to school (of course, they can be prettied up). We will not have time to change clothes here at school before going to the playground.

You will be given a proof sheet this month to check out your photos before ordering. Photo packages will be returned to you in plenty of time for Christmas.

Cookie Dough Fundraiser

Each year we have a cookie dough sale right before the holidays. We are kicking-off our cookie dough fundraiser this year on October 8th with all orders due by October 23rd. You will receive a catalog with all kinds of goodies—not just cookie dough. Last year, the best was the Rhino cups (they are like Yetti cups) in all kinds of fun colors. I ordered one in each size. They are awesome and make great gifts. Some told me they even took them and had them monogrammed for Christmas presents. You will receive items you purchased the week before the Thanksgiving break. If you don't want the cookies for your own family, make a batch or two and take them to an assisted living facility or a homeless shelter—and take the kids along with you—what a great lesson about giving.

The money raised from the cookie dough fundraiser goes directly to our building fund where we can use it for property enhancements like the outside overhangs, updated fire alarm systems, and such.

Riviera United Methodist Church Events

Riviera Church has several fun events happening in October. The pumpkin truck is due to arrive on October 9th. Please consider purchasing your pumpkins from the Riviera Church pumpkin patch as this is one of their biggest fundraisers. They need lots of volunteers to help with shifts. Look for the sing-up table in the Narthex hallway.



Also this month, the Church will be hosting a Fall Festival on Saturday, October 20th. There will be plenty of fun, family activities to enjoy from 4:00 pm—6:00 pm right here in our back parking lot. All Riviera Day School families are invited to come and bring some friends too. Good fun and good food (food proceeds go to Cuba missions).

Fall Costume Parades

It's that time of year again—costumes and parties and treats—oh, my! We will be celebrating on October 30th and 31st with all the children participating in a costume parade (please make sure that costumes are not scary and preschool appropriate with no weapons of any kind). They will be stopping at different stations to collect treats (no candy, just fun trinkets) and having their class parties.

Parents, grandparents, and siblings are welcome to come and be the paparazzi at the end hallways that morning and watch the children as they parade on by. The school hallway and parade path must remain clear.

We will start around 9:20 a.m. Make sure to get your little trick-or-treaters here on time that morning. You may take pictures of your child in the parade. Please make sure not to post pictures of any children besides your own. We must adhere to photo permission restrictions set by parents.

911 Presentations

Students will get to hear a 911 presentation by Lori Collins, Pinellas Education Coordinator for Pinellas County Emergency, on October 2nd/3rd. Lori will talk about what is considered an emergency and how to call 911. Every child will get to practice calling. Older children are also asked if they know their address and phone number. This is a great topic to follow-up on at home. Many homes do not have land lines anymore so parents will need to instruct children on how to use their cell phone in case of an emergency. Lori will return in the Spring to review 911 procedures and discuss summer safety such as wearing a bike helmet and swimming rules.

RDS Spring Fling Carnival

Each year, RDS hosts a family fun day with a show and a carnival. We have tentatively planned this for March 2, 2019, but in order to continue with our plans, we do need a parent team of 2 or 3 to step up and be in charge. We have all the information in a binder at the school and will have other volunteers and RDS staff to help set up the carnival. High school volunteers will run the game booths. The Spring Fling carnival team will be primarily in charge of planning and organizing, which actually needs to start soon. Please contact Cyndi in the school office if you think this is something that interests you.



Check out this month's bulletin board:
Meet our Busy Bee 3's Class