

## Dates to Remember

December 2018

- 12/01/18 December tuition due and November LB/AA fees  
12/04/18-12/07/18 2's Fundraiser—Paparazzi Jewelry  
12/04/18-12/05/18 SShhh! Surprise visit from the guy  
from the North Pole  
12/06/18 Gingerbread Party Night  
12/10/18 Last day to pay tuition to avoid late fees  
12/07/18 -School Spirit Day - wear your RDS shirt  
-Puppet Show at 9:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary  
12/15/18 RDS Parents' Pajama Party  
at Cage Brewing—7:00 p.m.  
12/17/18 Happy Birthday, Mrs. Gordon! (Busy Bee 3's Aide)  
12/18/18 School Spirit—Christmas Pajama Day!  
12/21/18 RDS Christmas Show—  
9:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary  
\*Early dismissal immediately following the show\*  
12/24/18 Riviera United Methodist Church Christmas Eve  
Candlelight Service at 6:00 p.m.  
Holiday Break—No School 12/24/18—01/07/19  
01/08/19 School resumes

**RUMC:** Check out the insert from Riviera United Methodist Church with all the exciting events listed for December. Join us on December 9th for a church potluck as we bid farewell to our Director of Family Ministry, Scott McQueen. Scott has taught chapel to our RDS children monthly for almost 20 years. We wish him well and will truly miss him!

**Playground Signs:** We have spots available in March and May if you'd like to order a playground sign. The cost is \$30. We hang them outside on the playground fence for the month and then you get to take them home. They are great to put in your child's bedroom or on the backyard fence. Signs will have your child's name and you choose either "Playground", "Bike Path", or "Racetrack". Let us know in the office if you would like an order form.

## **RDS Christmas Pajama Party**

December 15, 2018

7:00 p.m.



Make sure to get your tickets in advance for only \$10/person to join us at

### **Cage Brewing**

**2001 1st Avenue S., St. Pete**

This will be a fun, adult-only night to hang out with RDS parents, so book your babysitter ASAP. There will be live music, a food truck, and prizes for the coolest pajamas!



## Chapel December 2018

This month's  
Fruit of the Spirit  
lesson is:  
**Patience**



## The Riviera Reporter

December 2018



### What Happens In Washington, D.C... Does NOT Stay In Washington, D.C.

By Cyndi Chavez

The week before the Thanksgiving break, I traveled to Washington, D.C. for the annual NAEYC (National Association for the Education of Young Children) Conference. I had been to one before in Orlando quite a few years back and it was awesome, but I had no idea the magnitude of the event I was about to attend. Here is a clip from an article on the NAEYC website:

The 2018 Annual Conference brought more than 9,000 early learning professionals to Washington, D.C. to champion the profession. Attendees were energized, motivated and encouraged to "Get Loud" for early childhood education through advocacy opportunities. Educators, students and advocates enjoyed hundreds of sessions on topics that impact early childhood programs across the world, endless networking opportunities, expo activities and more.

The conference started off with the keynote speaker, Joanne Rogers (the wife of Fred Rogers from Mr. Rogers' Neighborhood), along with a panel from the production team that just created the new documentary movie, *Won't You Be My Neighbor?* Do you remember the T.V. show? It debuted on February 19, 1968 ....the day after my 5th birthday (yes, I 'm old)....and continued to be a part of our childhood until 2001. I was pleased to learn that Mr. Rogers was exactly the same man on the T.V. show and off. A gentle man that was a pioneer and advocate for children's education. If you get a chance, check out a cute clip on YouTube of Joanne Rogers on the Jimmy Fallon show from June 2018.

I was able to attend many sessions over the next few days and gained a wealth of knowledge on best practices for Early Childhood Education. There was something I realized while I was there.....actually, not realized, but was confirmed ....that Riviera Day School is an incredible school. We are currently going through our re-accreditation and, in the process, have been able to document criteria that shows that RDS is a high-quality early childhood school. It is a lot of work, but truly makes the invisible quite visible. It is validation of the continual success of RDS. After our site visit from the NAEYC Assessors from Washington, D.C. (surprise visit anytime between now and March 30, 2019), we will share with all of you and then, definitely, celebrate!



### RDS Christmas Show

Everyone is invited—parents, siblings, grandparents, and more — to our annual Christmas show on Friday, December 21, at 9:30 a.m. Doors will open to the Sanctuary at 8:30 a.m. for early seating and the show usually lasts a little over an hour. Children are to be in class at their regular time. All RDS children will be free to go immediately following the show, so be prepared for an early dismissal.

Congratulations to our Auction 2018 winners from last March— the Bridge family, Hook family, Bassford and Perry families. They will get to enjoy the performance from the preferred section right up front. Everyone will have an opportunity to bid on front row seats for the 2019 Christmas show at our Spring Fling event on March 30, 2019.

We understand that parents will want to take pictures of their child during the show, but please be considerate of others at all times. Do not hold up cameras, Ipads, etc. to video and block the view of those behind you. If you want to video, please move to the back of the church during your child’s performance. This way you can record the event without disrupting others. Make sure to share this information with all family members attending. Also, you must have permission from other parents to post anything with any other child in it. The main concern is to make sure every family is able to enjoy the show.

### Gingerbread Night

Gingerbread tickets were a hot item this year. We are all sold out! The cookies have been shipped and are on their way. We are ready for some creative cookie decorating on Thursday, December 6th, with a fun craft, munchies, music, and maybe a visit from the big guy (the big guy in brown, that is). Thank you so much to our PAC Leaders, Tiffany Jones and Lauren Feaster, the PAC committee, and school volunteers.



### Book Fair Results

Thank you to everyone that participated in our school Book Fair. Because of your purchases and generous donations, we were able to fulfill the teachers’ wish lists—how exciting! New books are always a treasure in a child’s classroom. Now the joy can be shared with the entire class.

### School Photos

How amazing were the children’s school pictures? Thank you again to Jodi Eliason with WyLo Photography. She always does an incredible job! It probably doesn’t hurt that your children are absolutely precious as well. I love looking through all the photos!

The Bulletin Board for December is designed by the creative children of  
***VPK A—Forest Friends 4’s with Mrs. Anderson and Ms. Calandra***

### Spring Fling Carnival is On!

I am so pleased to announce that we will be able to plan our Spring Fling carnival for March 30, 2019, due to some amazing volunteers—specifically, Melissa Simoni and Natasha Kemper—and an awesome Spring Fling team! Mark your calendar for this fun, family event. Your child will be performing in the Spring Fling Spectacular show at 10:00 followed by our carnival from 11:00 a.m. — 2:00 p.m. More details to come in the Spring.



### Registration 2019-2020

Can you believe it? Registration for next Fall is right around the corner. We will be sending home forms right before the Holiday break (let us know if you need a new student packet for a sibling or friend). On the fence about your class choice and need help with your decision making? Let us know in the school office if you would like to sit in a classroom for an observation on January 10th, 11th, 14th, or 15th. Remember, we cannot accept any forms before the registration acceptance date. The schedule will be posted on the website as of December 7th.

### REMINDERS:

- Important: use the **office@rivieradayschool.org** email address when submitting any messages for the school such as absences, etc. This email is checked every morning by someone in the school office. We are still getting a few sent to our individual emails and some cannot be checked in time.
- Let the person who is dropping off in the morning know that they must stop at the restrooms for your child to wash with soap and water (and use the potty!)
- Please label your child’s winter gear: jackets, scarves, hats, etc.
- Students can only wear sneakers and socks—no boots, crocs, etc.

### Faith Covenant Puppet Show

On Friday, December 7th, we will be attending the annual Faith Covenant Christmas puppet show. Usually, we have to trek across the street to attend, but this year they are coming to us...which is awesome because we don’t have to worry about a head count, so our RDS families can join us as well. The show will be at 9:30 in the church sanctuary.

Please make sure to have your little one use the potty when they come into school in the morning. Not all classrooms have restrooms and it makes it very difficult if they need to use the potty first thing, especially when there is a show we have to attend right away.

Children that do not normally attend RDS on Friday are welcome to come with an adult that can stay for the show (we still have to mind our ratios). The show is free and it is always a great Christmas story. Hope you can make it!