



# The Howler

Tracking the Pack...



Volume 5 Issue 2

## Update from The Leader of the Pack...

October 2015



*Success is to be measured not so much by the position that one has reached in life... as by the obstacles which he has overcome while trying to succeed. ~ Booker T. Washington*



Happy Fall, Everyone! This is one of the most beautiful fall seasons that I can remember, but also one of the most tragic. Many recent events affect our community and sap the beauty out of the season. In the face of the many tragedies...the fires that consumed so many homes, the loss of people we dearly love, or the insanity of mass shootings which leave hundreds of lives shattered, I am amazed at the generous outpouring of support by our local families and organizations. I feel blessed to be part of this caring valley, and I want to say thank you to everyone of you that extends a helping hand to help our neighbors and friends in times of hardship.

There are several bright beams that shine through the clouds for us at Redwood Prep. First, we are making progress with our facilities project and the construction of our new school site at 1480 Ross Hill Road. Our USDA loan is in the final closing process. Our plans for modular classrooms is submitted to the engineers, and we are working to obtain the city permits that will allow us to break ground soon. As always, we are trying to minimize costs in order to spend more money on materials and activities that directly benefit our students. If you are interested in helping with various stages of the construction, please let us know. We could really use the expertise and man power of contractors that are certified in asbestos removal to help with a couple of demolition activities that need to occur prior to construction. We need help determining the gas and sewer line directions for the existing building. We also need the help of someone with a tractor or heavy duty lawn mower to cut the high grass in the back of the building. Once the grass is cut, we have a riding lawn mower that can take it from there. If you are interested in helping, please let me know!

Other exciting news for RPrep is that we were ranked in the top ten scoring schools for CAASPP test results in Humboldt County. The CAASPP test is replacing the STAR test as a standardized measure of how well our students are doing academically. It is a very rigorous test and is much different than the STAR tests of the past. California students did not score highly in our first year of implementation, and the scores are being used as a benchmark for improvement. Now that staff and students have experienced the testing process and are able to analyze the results, we have a better idea for where our strengths lie and what improvements we need to make. Although we are happy that we scored in the top ranks of Humboldt County schools, we realize that there are areas needing attention and improvement. Our staff met as soon as the results became available to begin our plan of improvement. Our action plan for improvement is listed below.

1. Review the shortfalls in our current middle grades math curriculum, create a plan for filling the gaps, research successful instructional practices and math programs, purchase additional curriculum and materials as needed to increase efficacy of current math curriculum.
2. Provide equitable technology tools and time for students in fourth and fifth grade to better prepare students to utilize the tech tools and processes involved with CAASPP testing.
3. Fully utilize the Dreambox Math individualized math program that we already purchase in the classrooms instead of during tech time. Set individual student growth goals based upon current levels of student understanding and achievement as demonstrated in the assessments of this program.
4. Fully implement the NWEA assessment tool at each trimester to determine student growth as aligned with common core standards.
5. Add additional math intervention support and time for students not demonstrating mastery of grade level standards.
6. Include additional professional development time each month for vertical team meetings and peer coaching to improve cohesiveness of cross grade level math instruction in addition to outside math instruction trainings.

We have analyzed the data and identified areas of need. We have an action plan for improvement. We are looking forward to higher student achievement and school success this year! Please let us know if you have any insights or ideas that can help from your parent-educator perspective.

## TK- Morgan Drake [mdrake@redwoodprep.org](mailto:mdrake@redwoodprep.org)

TK is off to a great start! Our youngest students are amazing and are already creating their own little community. It is so great to sit back and watch them interact and learn from one another. We have been working on routines and expectations and the kids are catching on quickly. We have also been focused on a community helpers theme this month and the kids have been interacting with this theme by making 9-1-1 calls, taking fingerprints, exploring an ambulance, building a house and they will finish up the month with their first field trip to CalFire.



The kids are so excited about every project and every experience. It is so fun to be working with these little ones. We are going to have a great year.



## Kindergarten Krista Croteau [kcroteau@redwoodprep.org](mailto:kcroteau@redwoodprep.org)

Our Redwood Prep kindergarten class is going global! This October we'll partner with another class from across the nation and/or the globe to participate in Global Read Aloud 2015. The goal of this project is to make the world a little smaller by sharing the experience of connecting students through a great book or books. I am

currently working to find a partner or partners to join the Redwood Prep kids as we undertake an author study of Amy Krouse Rosenthal. Over the course of five weeks, we'll read the following books: *OK, Chopsticks*, *(!) Exclamation Mark*, *It's Not Fair!* and *Duck! Rabbit!* On the sixth week, we'll connect with our partners via Skype or Google Hangouts to share our reactions to the books and to find out more about each other. I'm excited to expand the connections between our kids at Redwood Prep and students from afar who may have vastly different school and community experiences.

### Global Read Aloud 2015 Book Choices



## 1st Grade—Dawn Carroll [dcarroll@redwoodprep.org](mailto:dcarroll@redwoodprep.org)

I am proud of the Redwood Prep 1<sup>st</sup> graders...what a great group of kids! We have been working hard learning our classroom routines and procedures. We love our new larger 1<sup>st</sup> grade classroom. We have focused on being independent learners and have begun our



Daily 3 language arts and math rotations. In social studies, we are studying American symbols and icons.



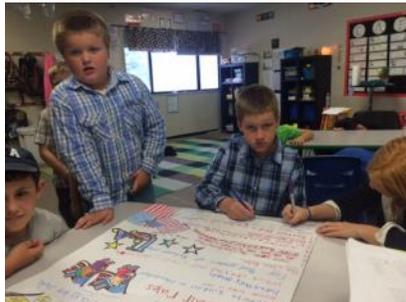
## 2nd Grade— Lori Head [lhead@redwoodprep.org](mailto:lhead@redwoodprep.org)

“Think left and think right and think low and think high. Oh, the thinks you can think up if only you try!” –Dr. Seuss

Second graders have really been thinking about reading this month! We have really been digging into books and learning many comprehension strategies. It is fun to watch second graders take what they learned in kindergarten and first grade and use it to think about their reading. We have discussed that books have themes such as responsibility, persistence, or compassion. Each week, we read books with a different theme. Students have discussed their similarities and differences. They have completed story maps that show story elements like character lists, the setting, the problem and the solution. We have also discussed the different genres of books. We focused this month on realistic fiction. Students know that these stories are not real but could actually happen. Next, month we will focus on the genre of historical fiction. As we learn these strategies, we continue to read, read, read. Each student is reading books independently, and we read books together. We have laughed during *The Legend of Spud Murphy* and had tears during *The Junkyard Wonders*. These second graders are learning books can change their lives and their way of thinking. I am happy to help them down this road.

## 3rd Grade - Kim Kendall [kkendall@redwoodprep.org](mailto:kkendall@redwoodprep.org)

We are having fun in third grade! We are finishing up our US Government Unit this week. We learned about important Americans, historic landmarks, and even met a Supreme Court Justice during a live internet interview. The class discussed why we have laws and we even created a class Constitution! (Check out our pics!) Next we will move on to explore local history through timelines and read about local Native American tribes.



In Language Arts, we are exploring the Biography genre and each student picked someone to report on. They are also writing their autobiography as well. We are getting into our routines for our Daily 5 and CAFE. In math, we are learning about rounding and estimating. We will take our practice out in the real world on a field trip to Safeway where the class will complete a challenge using their new skills .



## 4th Grade— Amy Eastman [aeastman@redwoodprep.org](mailto:aeastman@redwoodprep.org)

Happy October! It is hard to believe that we are already moving through Fall! 4th grade has a lot of very exciting events and projects in the coming month. We have been working on our regions of California projects, learning about the different areas of our great state and what characteristics set them apart from each other.

We are working on analyzing patterns in math and beginning work on biographies in writing. We are taking our first field trip of the year aboard the Madaket in Eureka. It should be great fun looking for wildlife, seeing Eureka from another angle and learning about local history! We are also going to be visiting the Leonardi Pumpkin Patch with the 3rd graders and participating in the CASA Kid's Walk fundraising efforts for our school team. What a great month we have ahead of us!

**5th Grade - Miranda Head [mhead@redwoodprep.org](mailto:mhead@redwoodprep.org)**

In the 5th grade, we have been talking a lot about kindness. We have been brainstorming ways that you can show kindness throughout the day and how it can benefit the one giving kindness and the person receiving kindness. I started by having the kids all come up with something that they would like to see more of in our classroom. Some ideas that they came up with are: kindness, respect, empathy, teamwork, achievement and love.

This week, we are starting our Random Acts of Kindness challenge. The kids will be responsible for showing random acts of kindness throughout the day and will be keeping track of it for our reflections at the end of the day.

**6th Grade - Melanie Downing [mdowning@redwoodprep.org](mailto:mdowning@redwoodprep.org)**

Our crew of nearly 70 students survived another awesome middle school adventure! For 4 very busy days, our wonderful group of chaperones drove, cooked, cleaned, organized, guided, and nurtured. It takes a special person to be willing to use 'vacation days' to drive a carload of pre-teens for over 500 miles AND sleep in a tent under very rustic conditions. I know I speak for all of our middle school staff and students when I say thank you to the moon and back, chaperones!

One of my favorite events during our "Sacramento or Bust" field trip was a visit to the Historical Museum in Old Town. We kicked off the "Heading West" theme with a visit to the IMAX theatre to watch Lewis and Clark: Great Journey West. Once inside the museum, kids partnered up for a fact-finding scavenger hunt through the interactive displays. The biggest museum challenge was an Oregon Trail simulation. The kids had to decide what to pack in their wagons and what to leave behind. They then communicated and compromised as they braved the harsh realities of heading west. The teacher nerd in me loves nothing more than seeing kids think critically, argue respectfully, and collaborate like survivors!



*I arise in the morning torn between a desire to improve the world  
and a desire to enjoy the world.  
This makes it hard to plan the day.*

*E.B. White*

**7th Grade - Katie Dore [kdore@redwoodprep.org](mailto:kdore@redwoodprep.org)**

The Aerospace Museum of California was one of our most memorable locations to visit. It is located on the grounds of the former McClellan Airforce Base and clearly still holds some amazing aircrafts. Our students were able to climb inside a few different airplanes including one that actually was flown into France on D-day! Our tour guides were retired pilots and air craft mechanics and, boy, did they know their stuff! They offered many super interesting facts and answered every question with ease.



Probably one of the students' favorite aspects of this museum was using the flight simulator software. The volunteers taught the students how to take off and land different air crafts. Many of them were able to do barrel rolls, land on moving aircraft carriers, and fly underneath the Golden Gate Bridge! What a cool experience! Overall, our trip was pretty spectacular!! Thanks to our wonderful chaperones who helped caravan our fleet as well as our stellar students, we were able to make some amazing memories.

**8th grade - Janice Lourenzo [jlourenzo@redwoodprep.org](mailto:jlourenzo@redwoodprep.org)**

6th-8th grade students just arrived home after a jam-packed four days in Sacramento. The best part?!? It's hard to pick just one... But I'll go with meeting Senator Mike McGuire and hanging out on the Senate Floor. Senator McGuire is an amazing guy that interacted with our teens in a personal way that definitely wasn't too adult-ish. Our second group met



Assemblyman Jim Wood another Sacramento politician willing to take a break and meet with a small group of kids from Humboldt County. Chaperone of the Year awards go to the 17 parents that made this trip possible. From the kitchen crew to the pudding challenge volunteers, we had an amazing group of parents step-up and make this trip possible. Way to go, Sacramento or Bust Chaperone Team!



*“Anything that you learn becomes your wealth, a wealth that cannot be taken away from you; whether you learn it in a building called school or in the school of life. To learn something new is a timeless pleasure and a valuable treasure. And not all things that you learn are taught to you, but many things that you learn you realize you have taught yourself.” – C. Joy Bell C.*



**Music– Jill Petricca [jpetricca@redwoodprep.org](mailto:jpetricca@redwoodprep.org)**

Our world is full of sounds. The vibrations effect our movement and when we think musically, we move musically. Our students have spent music class feeling the time through movement. From tongue twisters to canons, our rhythms gain structure through our individual and collective body. Stay connected: clap, high five, hum their tune, speak their language playfully and with a beat. October is full of magic! Band spotlights a wonderful set of daring students who are trusting their community to support musical and daring performance efforts with brass, wood

winds, and percussion. .



**Afterschool/ Enrichment- Monica Holt [mholt@redwoodprep.org](mailto:mholt@redwoodprep.org)**

One month down and Afterschool is going strong. I have started a new routine in afterschool this year called “activity hour” which is working fabulously with all the new kiddos. From 3:30-4:30 each day we have three different stations that run for 20 minutes each. The kids get o pick what activity they want to do and have the chose to switch after 20 minutes. Since the activities are different everyday the kids really seem to be enjoying it. I am also planning on started an enrichment session on Octo-

ber 13th and running in through November 12th. We still need a few leaders to fill the classes to make sure that we can start on time. If you would like to lead a class or know someone that would please email me. Many of the kids have been asking me about bringing their personal electronics to afterschool. These can not come everyday. I will let the kids know the day before and send out an email. It will usually be on a Friday. Many of the younger kids have been bringing toys to afterschool and this is fine with me until they become a problem. Please let them know that any toys brought from home are their responsibility. For those of you on Facebook be sure to check out the Redwood Prep Afterschool page. I will be posting pictures and updates.



*October gave a party;  
The leaves by hundreds came,—  
The Ashes, Oaks, and Maples,  
And leaves of every name.  
The sunshine spread a carpet,  
And every thing was grand;  
Miss Weather led the dancing;  
Professor Wind, the band....  
The sight was like a rainbow  
New-fallen from the sky....  
~George Cooper, "October's Party"*

# October 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2 Early Release Day—12:00	3
4 8th Grade Parent Mtg. @ 6:30	5	6 Parent Council @ 6:00 p.m.	7 Family Events Committee	8 DIBI Board Mtg. @ 6:00 p.m.	9	10
11	12	13	14	15 Author Festival	16 Early Release Day—12:00	17
18	19	20	21 Pumpkin Patch Field Trip	22 RPrep Fall Carnival	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30 Early Release Day—12:00	31

## Events

October 2— Early Release (@ 12:00)  
 Oct 4 — 8th Grade Parent Mtg. @ 6:30  
 Oct 6 — Parent Council @ 6:00 New Site  
 Oct 7 — Family Events  
 Oct 8 — DIBI Board Mtg. @ 6:00 New Site  
 Oct 15 — Author Festival  
 Oct 16 — Early Release (@ 12:00)  
 Oct 21 — Pumpkin Patch Field Trip  
 Oct 22 — RPrep Fall Carnival  
 Oct 30 — Halloween Rotations at Ross Hill  
 Oct 30 — Early Release (@ 12:00)



## RPrep Volunteer Opportunities for October

- ✎ Yard Maintenance for the Ross Hill site.
- ✎ Contractor help with clean up projects at our new site.
- ✎ Fall Carnival Help Needed
- ✎ Halloween Rotation Volunteers



## Community News

There will be a community meeting about the Fortuna Community Health Center on Tuesday, October 20th— from 5:30-6:30 at the Fortuna Multi-generational Center to answer any questions about how this Center will affect our area. Information will be presented regarding WHY the Open door is so backed up on appointments. They are only running on 20 hours a week at this time.

Community members are encouraged to attend to learn about health care changes in the Eel River Valley . This is a very important topic for all of us!

*Oh how we love pumpkin season. You did know this gourd-ish squash has its own season, right? Winter, Spring, Summer, Pumpkin.... We anxiously anticipate it every year. ~Trader Joe's Fearless Flyer*

## RPrep Supplies Wish List for

- Copy paper
- Clorox or Lysol Wipes
- Large Garbage Bags (30 Gallon)
- Kitchen Garbage Bags
- Ziploc Storage Bags
- Bathroom Supplies for the South School site
- Items for our recycling drive (old pens, ink cartridges, tape dispensers...see attached flier)

