



# The Howler

Tracking the Pack...



Volume 5 Issue 5

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

January 2016



*“Write it on your heart that every day is the best day in the year.”  
~ Ralph Waldo Emerson*



Happy 2016, Everyone! May this new year bring you immense joy, good health, grand adventures, and all the love your heart can hold!

This year promises to be an adventure for Redwood Prep with the construction of our new facility well underway! Have you seen the modular units that are beginning to arrive to our new site? The rain created a bit of a mud problem, but due to the kindness of the new owners of Hansen’s Truck stop, we have a place to store the buildings until we can place them on our own property. The generosity of this community never ceases to amaze me!

We received permit approval from the City of Fortuna for Phase 1 of our project. We are waiting to finish up some gas line work with PG&E, then the digging of the foundation for the modular units will take place. We hope that the classroom construction will be completed by the end of March.

Our engineers are finishing up their work for the existing building, and we should be ready to put out our request for bid proposals in the next month or so. Phases 2 and 3 of our project will include the remodeling project and the parking/landscaping work that will occur simultaneously. Our goal is to be ready for occupancy by the end of July. Keep your fingers crossed with us! To keep our costs down, we will be holding another demolition work party on January 23rd (maybe also the 24th). We could sure use your help! There is outside clean up left to finish and lots of interior building prep work to get started. This is a great way to get to know other RPrep families and to share in the building our children’s futures!

In other exciting news, we received preliminary results for our school accountability measures from the State. According to these reports, RPrep met our Adequate Yearly Progress measures for the 2015 school year. CAASPP test participation and school attendance rates were the key measures for school accountability last year. Thanks to the hard work of the staff and students on academic testing and your help with getting your children to school regularly and completing Independent Study contracts, RPrep met or exceeded the state goals! Let’s keep up the good work in 2016!

### Open Enrollment Period Begins This Month!!

Open enrollment for Redwood Preparatory Charter School begins this month. We will be holding mandatory informational meetings for prospective families in January and February. Dates will be posted on our school website by January 8th. To participate in the enrollment lottery, prospective new students must have at least one parent attend an informational meeting.

We will be contacting families that have already submitted intent to enroll forms this year. If you know any families with school age children that might be interested, we encourage you to share RPrep’s mission and vision with them. Families can visit our website at [www.redwoodprep.org](http://www.redwoodprep.org) to read about our educational philosophy or check out our photo gallery on Facebook. Intent to Enroll forms are available on the website. Interested families can contact us by emailing [timber-wolf@redwoodprep.org](mailto:timber-wolf@redwoodprep.org) or calling the school at 682-6149.

Current students need to submit a 2016-17 Intent to Enroll form to reserve their space in a class for next year. If you haven't done so already, please make sure to get your form in by January 8th to ensure your child’s continued enrollment!

We appreciate your continued support!

**Transitional Kindergarten** - Morgan Drake [mdrake@redwoodprep.org](mailto:mdrake@redwoodprep.org)  
- Faith Gittins [fgittins@redwoodprep.org](mailto:fgittins@redwoodprep.org)



Hello friends and family! In preparing to say goodbye to 2015, the TK students have been very busy. We continued our curriculum, while also making time for fun holiday activities. We made snow globes, ornaments, snowflakes, cards and more. We also had a great field trip to Parasol Arts where the kids made some fun gifts for their families. The kids also performed at the Winter Performance and I could not be more proud of how well they did. With the start of the new year come some significant changes in our TK classroom.

I will be transitioning over to teach the 3rd grade class while Mrs. Kendall is on maternity leave. While I am saddened to leave my TK students, this is ultimately the best situation for the school, as well as for myself. Fortunately, we have a wonderful replacement for TK with Faith Gittins. Faith has worked at Redwood Prep for several years as the intervention specialist. She is very excited to be moving into the TK classroom and has already started to familiarize herself with the students. Faith is a great addition to the class. While I am sad to leave TK, I am so happy for the time I was able to spend with these amazing students and I am excited for the opportunity to work with the 3rd grade students. Happy New Year!



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

I am so excited to get back to school after the holidays! When we come back together, we'll hit the ground running. We've been working on 2 dimensional and 3 dimensional shapes; learning how to recognize them by the number of sides, corners (vertices), type of lines and faces they possess. We'll continue this, and begin to work on writing equations to match word problems using addition and subtraction. The kindergarteners have been ramping up their arsenal of sight words, and are moving into reading instruction at their individual levels. Teaching reading is one of the most gratifying parts of this work because it so thrilling to watch kids view themselves as readers! We're preparing for our upcoming class play, The Mitten, and will begin our first Project Lead the Way course on structure and function. We've spent the last few months setting the groundwork for all of the important learning we have ahead and I know it's going to be amazing!

*“Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things that you didn't do than by the ones you did do. So throw off the bowlines. Sail away from the safe harbor. Catch the trade winds in your sails. Explore. Dream. Discover.” ~ Mark Twain*

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

First grade is a wonderful place to be in January! I think of it as a magical time. The students have spent the beginning of the school year getting to know their classmates, learning school and classroom routines, and soaking up endless information. When school starts in January, they all return a little older, most will be noticeably taller, they are more independent, and they are ready to take off academically and socially. As their teacher, this is a very exciting and rewarding time.



We will hit the ground running in 2016! We will be diving into a fairy tale unit that will lead into our class musical, *Goldilocks and the Three Bears*, on January 21<sup>st</sup>. We invite you all to join us for a fabulous performance.

We will also begin our mapping unit and Flat Stanley will be sent out to travel the world with our friends and families. We will be tracking his travels on a map in the hall outside our classroom. We can't wait to share his adventures.

The 1<sup>st</sup> graders and I wish everyone a fabulous 2016 full of family, friends, laughs, love, learning and adventures.



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

I hope you had a wonderful holiday season. I wanted to share a special moment from second grade. Before the break, we went Christmas caroling along with the third graders. Mrs. Kendall and I thought it would be a fun activity. We walked to Royal Crest Senior Park. We walked from trailer to trailer singing songs and handing out cards and candy canes. The students looked adorable in their jackets and warm hats. The seniors at the park really seemed to enjoy it. In fact, one resident asked to take our picture. The next day, she came to the school with the picture and a wonderful note saying how much she enjoyed our caroling. She said, “*You spread happiness to everyone everywhere you went.*” This was a great lesson for the second graders. They learned that sometimes it just takes a little thing to make a change for the better. Our caroling helped make some peoples’ lives a little brighter. This is a lesson we need to remember the whole year through. Do some little things to help make the world a better place. This is one of our goals in second grade. Each week, we are going to do something to help make someone’s day a brighter. We challenge you to do the same. Happy New Year!



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

I hope everyone had a restful and joy-filled holiday. The New Year brings a few changes for 3rd grade. Morgan Drake will be stepping in to teach third grade while I am on maternity leave. I know the kids are excited to have her! I will miss being at the school during my absence, but it does feel nice knowing that we all take care of each other to make the best place for our kids!





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

Happy new year!! I hope that you and your family enjoyed a wonderful holiday together! We are excited to hit the ground running this new year as we come back from all of the busy holiday festivities.

We will be learning more about the Native American tribes in California and complete a fun project which culminates the unit studies. We will also be working on multiplication of 2 digits numbers and starting a classroom novel this month! Can't wait to see everyone!

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

The holiday season always makes me reflect on all of the good in my life. I am so unbelievably lucky to work at a school that allows me to teach with my whole heart and with people that I truly care about. It is amazing what can happen when we are come together for the same thing: the kids:)



I am excited to start out this New Year with my 5th graders and watch them grow and develop in the months ahead. Coming up in the 5th grade is: Project Lead the Way: Robotics, Science Fair, experience with the 3D printer , Wolf Creek, and much more!



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

I had a fabulous couple of weeks with my family, and I hope you did as well. I spent some time over winter break exploring new options for project-based social studies. The purpose of social studies in elementary school is to enable students to understand, participate in, and make informed decisions about their world. According to the National Council for Social Studies, *“Success in the twenty-first century requires the ability to make decisions both independently and collectively. These abilities are not innate; they must be taught. If the young learners of this nation are to become effective participants in a democratic society, social studies must be an essential part of the elementary curriculum...The democratic tradition of this country deserves an equal place in the elementary classroom. The founders of this country would expect nothing less.”*

As an educator, I feel the weight of this important job. It is easy to have students open up a text book and read the publisher’s narrative about various historical events. However, does that really equip students with the knowledge and understanding of the past; does it provide them with skills for productive problem solving and decision making; does it support them in assessing issues and making thoughtful value judgments? The research says that simply reading a textbook is not the way most students learn. If you think back to your own experiences with history class, what knowledge is still with you today and why did you retain that particular information? My education left a lot of gaps in the four core disciplines: civics, economics, geography, and history. I am striving for a social studies program that will empower our students to become effective participants in a democratic society, so in addition to book narratives, students need time to analyze multiple perspectives, argue viewpoints, make connections between past and present, and dig deeper into the pieces of history that intrigue them. A well-rounded education requires a multi-faceted approach!

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



Did you know... 45% of Americans make New Year's Resolutions but 1 out of 3 will ditch their goals by the end of January?! Did you make a resolution? I always have a hard time coming up with a goal that is obtainable and usually just spend the time reflecting on things that I need to work on at work and at home. Maybe that's making sure my desk is clean before I leave school or perhaps actually getting the dishes into the dishwasher!

For students, reflecting on work habits and coming up with a resolution is a great idea!

Developing beneficial work habits early on will surely help all students grow into successful working adults. Here are a few suggestions for school related resolutions:

- Create an afterschool homework routine – set a certain routine after school each day to get any homework done as well as balancing some time to relax.
- Organization – Clean out backpacks and folders periodically and make sure to keep all papers, assignments, and other important documents organized. This also goes for your electronic documents, too. Create folders in your email inbox and your Google Drive.
- Make a commitment to improvement – start with choosing one subject or area that you want to work on improving and work hard! Ask questions, problem solve, and above all else stay confident!

In the next month, 7<sup>th</sup> graders will be continuing to study all human body systems as well as dissect a cow's eye (my favorite activity!!). In 8<sup>th</sup> grade, we will be exploring and researching the periodic table of elements as well as chemical equations.

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

8<sup>th</sup> grade students just completed an eight week youth entrepreneurship program that focused on creativity and innovation. With the support of Decade of Difference coordinator, Karen Brooks, students navigated through the business development process which culminated with a real world selling event. The Crafting Up project was truly a 21<sup>st</sup> century learning experience.



*"May Light always surround you;  
 Hope kindle and rebound you.  
 May your Hurts turn to Healing;  
 Your Heart embrace Feeling.  
 May Wounds become Wisdom;  
 Every Kindness a Prism.  
 May Laughter infect you;  
 Your Passion resurrect you.  
 May Goodness inspire  
 your Deepest Desires.  
 Through all that you Reach For,  
 May your arms Never Tire."  
 – D. Simone*



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

Wishing all of our families peaceful movements as we step lightly and soundly into the new year! General music classes will be begin experiencing stories, movement, people, and places of composers associated with the classical, romantic, and modern day as it connects up with the Eureka Symphony Schools to Symphony this spring. Good work and outstanding kudos to the following distinguishing band students preparing to work extra hard in January for the Southern Humboldt Honor Band: Emma Houseworth, Emily McTigue, Kyle Justesen, and Noah Hergenrader.



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

Happy 2016! It's so hard to believe that we are almost halfway through the school year. We have had a great 2015 in afterschool. You may have noticed all of the artwork and crafts that went home over the break. We will continue to stay busy with our continued daily activity hour and enrichment classes starting up soon. I am switching things up a bit with activity hour; it will now have a theme. So if you or your kiddos have any theme week ideas please let me know.

Enrichment classes will be starting up on January 19th and run through February 11th. In order to start on this date, I need a few more leaders. If you or someone that you know would like to lead a class, please have them email me at [mholt@redwoodprep.org](mailto:mholt@redwoodprep.org) as soon as they can. I look forward to a great 2016 with you and the kids!

### **Important Information Regarding New Immunization Requirements for 2016**

Under a new law known as SB 277, beginning January 1, 2016 exemptions based on personal beliefs, including religious beliefs, will no longer be an option for the vaccines that are currently required for entry into child care or school in California. Most families will not be affected by the new law because their children have received all required vaccinations. Personal beliefs exemptions on file for a child already attending child care or school will remain valid until the child reaches the next immunization checkpoint at kindergarten (including transitional kindergarten) or 7th grade.

For more information about SB 277, please see the Frequently Asked Questions available at:

<http://www.shotsforschool.org/laws/sb277faq/>.

For more information about school immunization requirements and resources, please visit the California Department of Public Health's website at [www.shotsforschool.org](http://www.shotsforschool.org), or contact your local health department or county office of education.

Thank you for helping us to keep our children and community healthy.

*“Your success and happiness lies in you.  
Resolve to keep happy, and your joy and you  
shall form an invincible host against difficulties.”*

*~ Helen Keller*

# January 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5 Parent Council @ 6:00 p.m.	6 Family Events Mtg @ 5:15 p.m.	7	8	9
10	11 Baba Jamal Visits RPrep!	12	13	14 DIBI Board Mtg. @ 6:00 p.m.	15 Early Release Day—12:00	16
17	18 NO SCHOOL MLK Day	19 Afterschool Enrichment Begins	20	21 TK, K, 1st Grade Plays @ 5:30p.m.	22	23 RPrep Facilities Work Party 9:00
24	25	26	27	28 K Field Trip to HSU	29 Early Release Day & Family Movie Night	30
31						

## January Events

- 5th— Parent Council 6:00 @ RH
- 6th—Family Events Committee 5:15
- 11th—Storyteller Baba Jamal Visits
- 14th—DIBI Board Mtg. 6:00 @ RH
- 15th—Early Release Day @ 12:00
- 18th —Martin Luther King Day—No School Today!
- 19th—Afterschool Enrichment Cycle Begins
- 21st—TK, K, and 1st Grade Plays begin @ 5:30
- 23rd/24th — RPrep Work Party at the New Site
- 28th—Kindergarten Field Trip to HSU
- 29th—Early Release Day 12:00 & Family Movie Night



## RPrep Supplies Wish List for

- Copy paper
- Clorox or Lysol Wipes
- Large Garbage Bags (30 Gallon)
- Kitchen Garbage Bags
- Ziploc Storage Bags
- Bandages and Band Aids (all sizes)



## RPrep Volunteer Opportunities for January

- 👉 **Yard Maintenance**—As always, we can use help with yard clean up and maintenance.
- 👉 **Lunch for Baba Jamal**—We will be providing lunch for our favorite storyteller, Baba Jamal, on January 11th. If you are interested in cooking or helping to serve, please let Lisa know.
- 👉 **Removal of brush and cement debris**— There is a big pile of brush and a significant amount of cement debris to clear from our new site. If you can help, please let us know!
- 👉 **Demolition Crew Needed** — We are planning another demolition weekend at our new site to help prepare for the reconstruction of the existing building. If you are interested in helping, please let Lisa know! The last crew was amazing! We are so thankful for our volunteers!
- 👉 **Gala Volunteers** — Our biggest fundraiser of the year is the annual RPrep Gala. The Gala provides funding for sports, music, facilities, play equipment, etc. for our kids. Several of our parents work extremely hard on this event! If you are interested in helping this wonderful committee, please email us at [timberwolf@redwoodprep.org](mailto:timberwolf@redwoodprep.org).



*In 2016, We Wish you 12 Months of success, 52 weeks of laughter, 365 days of fun, 8760 hours of joy, 525,600 minutes of good luck and 31,536,000 seconds of happiness.*