



The Howler

Tracking the Pack...



Volume 5 Issue 4

December 2015

Update from The Leader of the Pack...

*As you celebrate the joy of this special season,
May your heart be filled with love and peace.
May holiday blessings linger in your home
And bless you throughout the year.*



We are happy to share that Santa Claus has arrived at Redwood Prep! He brings us the best present for our school....funding for our new facility! Friday afternoon we learned that our facilities loan with USDA Rural Development for approximately 2.6 million dollars closed successfully. We now have funding to complete our building project at 1480 Ross Hill Road which will allow us to bring all of our students back together in a TK-8th grade setting beginning next year. It has been a long, challenging process with many people to thank for their support, guidance, and hard work!

Our Board President, Jeremy Stanfield expressed it well, "Congratulations to all!! Such dedicated people to see this through to the end. Thank you Kim K. for pursuing the USDA loan, Thank you Lisa and Tiara for working through this entire deal, start to finish, Thank you facilities team for taking a risk and making this happen for our school, Thank you staff for keeping the wheels on the track while all those balls we were all juggling were in the air. Thank you parents for believing in this school and making it a priority. Thank you Stacey at Humboldt Land Title Co. for working so diligently

through the process with us, and helping all the pieces fit together in this great big puzzle. Thank you Brian Ontiveros and crew for your help thus far in the journey, you have been awesome. Thank you to all that have helped in this process. All of us, is the only way this gets done."

Our Redwood Prep school is truly a work of the heart! Everyone seems to just step up and step in when things need to be done! We started this school during the most challenging fiscal period California schools have ever faced. Because of the dedication, sacrifices, and amazing work ethic among our school community we have impressed potential funding organizations and auditors involved in our fiscal reviews; received high accolades from both the California Charter School Development Center and California Charter School Associations; garnered the support of local politicians including City, County, State Senate and Assemblyman; and met the requirements of a complex USDA loan process to build this dream for our children!

To put it in perspective with information showing how our combined efforts are helping provide children with the learning environment, materials, supplies, curriculum, and adult support, let me share a bit of information we have gathered for how much money we have saved so far this year.

- Conservative staff salaries (compared to local schools) provided approximately \$50,000 savings in just the first trimester to be used toward student programs and materials.
- Independent Study contracts completed by students allows students to continue the learning process when unable to attend school and provided approximately \$17,000 that would have been lost funding for the first trimester of this year.
- Parent volunteers working to help clear brush and debris from the work site of our new school saved the school approximately \$20,000.
- Parent volunteers that help clean classrooms, bathrooms, the annex, and the kitchen have saved the school approximately \$10,000 so far this year.
- Donations of paper supplies, classroom supplies, and cleaning supplies have saved the school approximately \$2,500 so far.

This dedication is the reason that we are able to begin our facilities project after just five short years. In just the first trimester of this school year, the combined efforts, sacrifices, and donations of our school community has resulted in close to \$100,000 for our kids! This savings could fund 1.5 teachers, two modular classrooms, an extensive playground system, a one-to-one ratio of technology tools for the entire school, a nest egg savings for building a gymnasium or purchase of a school bus in the future... I hope this impresses you as much as it does me! It makes me wonder what else we can accomplish for our children and fills me with hope for our future! Thank you so much to all of you Santa Clauses out there that are making this happen. Every little sacrifice of time or energy, donation, Independent Study contract, and volunteer hour matters. You are wonderful, and we are so thankful!!

Wishing you the very happiest of holidays from the RPrep Team!

Transitional Kindergarten - Morgan Drake mdrake@redwoodprep.org

As we wrap up November with parent-teacher conferences, it is apparent just how hard the littlest timber wolves have been working. They have nearly mastered their letters and sounds, have continued to make progress with their numbers and have also had a little fun along the way. We spent much of November in TK learning about Thanksgiving and doing several fun projects. We made turkey picture books and spent two weeks making leaves for our thankful trees. The kids thought long and hard each day about something they were thankful for and they came up with some great ideas; including being thankful for mom, dad, and siblings, as well as being thankful for robots, balloons, and cake. As we move on from Thanksgiving and look forward to Christmas and the New Year, the kids will be practicing and participating in this year's winter program with our wonderful kindergarten class. I can't wait to see the little ones perform together. We also have fun field trips and projects planned for December. We are very excited about the upcoming holiday festivities and hope to see you all at the winter program.



Kindergarten - Krista Croteau kcroteau@redwoodprep.org

December always brings a flurry of activity to kindergarten! We're busy learning songs for the winter performance, making gifts for our family and striving to develop persuasive writing skills to enhance our letters to Santa. The kids are discovering how to ask for what they want and to provide details that support their request. Kindergarten parents, beware! They are developing some very compelling arguments for why they need baby kittens, puppies, sisters, brothers and I-pads!

1st Grade—Dawn Carroll dcarroll@redwoodprep.org

I have a lot to be thankful for this year...

- Alexa**, for her quiet personality, sweet nature and great work habits.
- Asher**, for his quiet demeanor and his “do the right thing” attitude.
- Aya**, for her wonderful hugs, bright smile and improved decision making.
- Bethany**, for her smile and being a good friend to everyone.
- Boaz**, for his fun personality and growing self-confidence.
- Brayden**, for his happy nature, imagination and positive outlook.
- Carter**, for his kind heart, great hugs and improved self-control.
- Claire**, for her quiet demeanor, positive attitude and growing independence.
- Jacob**, for his energetic spirit and eagerness to take on a challenge.



- Jeremiah**, for his easy-going nature, his quiet confidence and “can do” attitude.
- Kaden**, for his easy-going personality and his fun sense of humor.
- Kayden**, for her bubbly and confident personality.
- Kelton**, for his quiet demeanor and his thoughtful and positive attitude.
- Leora**, for her helpfulness, persistent personality and her hugs.
- Lucy**, for being a good friend and a thoughtful person.
- Ronin**, for his love of sports and cars and his charming personality.
- Scarlet**, for her vibrant, outgoing personality and her kind heart.
- Sirius**, for his love of the outdoors and his easy-going nature.
- Svea**, for her love of learning and her great math equations.
- Trinity**, for her creative spirit and bright smile.
- Westin**, for his sense of adventure and his easy going nature.
- Zoie**, for her hard work, helpfulness and her desire to do things well.

And all of the great 1st grade families!



♥ Mrs. Carroll



2nd Grade– Lori Head lhead@redwoodprep.org

Second graders have been having a great time studying rocks and minerals. We learned about the three types of rocks. To get the idea of how the systems work, we made each type of rock out of food. Igneous rocks are formed by heat and cooling. We melted chocolate which represented magma (or lava once it is on the earth's crust) and poured it over ice cream. The chocolate cooled and hardened just like magma. Next, we made sedimentary rock. Students used a gummy bear, a graham cracker, and chocolate chips. We used pressure to compress the items into something new. Last, we made metamorphic rock. Metamorphic rock is formed by heat and pressure. We made s'mores to represent this type of rock. It is great how well this activity helps with the student's understanding. We ended the unit with a great field trip to Chapman's Gem and mineral shop.



3rd Grade - Kim Kendall kkendall@redwoodprep.org



I hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving! We have a lot to be thankful for in 3rd grade. We had our feast with our Kindergarten buddies before the break and made stone soup. It was a special day and both grades really enjoyed it. Check out more pictures on Facebook.



We are busy getting ready for the holidays and we are also starting our first Project Lead the Way Unit next week. Our first module is the science of flight. I know the students will have a great time with this! I hope everyone has a safe and happy holiday season.



4th Grade– Amy Eastman aeastman@redwoodprep.org

Happy holidays! It is hard to believe that we are now in our second trimester of the year! Our fourth graders were busy this past month with Long Ago night where we focused on the historical events and groups in California's history. We also reflected throughout the month on people and items that we are thankful for. We learned more about the scientific method through our pumpkin pie experiment, which was very tasty! This coming month will be filled with



our participation in the month of giving, as well as our preparations for the holidays. We have started our unit on multiplication, and we are excited about our upcoming performance at the annual winter music program. We hope to see you all there!



5th Grade - Miranda Head mhead@redwoodprep.org

Self-reflection is a humbling process. It's essential to find out why you think, say, and do certain things... then better yourself.

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With the first trimester done, I really start to reflect on the growth that my students have already shown this school year. They come into 5th grade still really young and I get to watch them mature into big 5th graders. As an educator, I find it to be incredibly important to teach my students the skills to be self reflectors. Everyday we reflect on the positive and negatives of the day and how we can change actions to create better outcomes.

On the report card, there is a social and emotional development section. I set grades for this. However, I create a document that allows my students to put in their input for this. It allows them to reflect on their behaviors and mindsets. There is a space for them to tell areas that they would like to show growth in this next trimester.



6th Grade - Melanie Downing mdowning@redwoodprep.org



The 1st trimester has come to a close. The kids have been busy completing assessments and reflections in preparation for their parent-student-teacher conference. One self-evaluation every 6th grader does is on the Habits of Mind. Here's a great graphic



showcasing the 16 habits.

In Learning and Leading with Habits of Mind, Arthur Costa says "Educational outcomes in traditional settings focus on how many answers a student knows. When we teach for the Habits of Mind, we are interested also in how students behave when they *don't know* an answer. The Habits of Mind are performed in response to questions and problems, the answers to which are not immediately known. We are interested in enhancing the ways students *produce* knowledge rather than how they merely *reproduce* it. We want students to learn how to develop a critical stance with their work: inquiring, editing, thinking flexibly, and learning from another person's perspective. The critical attribute of intelligent human beings is not only having information but also knowing how to act on it."

It's very interesting to watch a student self-reflect on their own Habits of Mind; they are often more critical of their abilities than I would be. Powerful insights and breakthroughs happen when kids think about their own thinking. In our very busy, sensory-rich world, it is important that we encourage kids to take time to reflect and set goals because that is when the real growth happens.

*"I have always thought of Christmas as a good time;
a kind, forgiving, generous, pleasant time;
a time when men and women seem to open their hearts freely,
and so I say, God bless Christmas!" ~ Charles Dickens*



7th Grade - Katie Dore kdore@redwoodprep.org

Recently, I came across a couple different articles about something called, "Algebraic Habits of Mind." I thought to my(geeky)self, "This is awesome! And fits perfectly into our school!" These habits of mind are ways of thinking about mathematics in a critical way and to help students developing thinking routines to increase their success. Here is a quick recap of my Top 3 of the Algebraic Habits of Mind:

Puzzling and Persevering: Students often see mathematics as a collection of rules to know and follow, but not all problems are so cut and dry. Many word problems force students to think beyond the rules and figure out where to start. There is no formula for me to teach to show students how to do this, but rather a skill that is developed.

Using Tools Strategically: Appropriate use of tools needs some reasoning about and pictures results before they are fully developed. In math, this means that students should be thinking about the results of a step or operation before fully carrying it out and to contemplate the reasonableness of their answer. Tools in math are far more numerable than calculators, such as sketches, number lines, rulers, and strategies.

Doing and Undoing: Many concepts in Algebra involve the reciprocity of operations and as well the concept of equality (i.e. "both sides of the equal sign") Students are developing this habit of mind will be able to use a process to reach a goal, but to also understand the process well enough to work backwards from the answer to the starting point.

8th grade - Janice Lourenzo jlourenzo@redwoodprep.org

Everywhere I turn, I find information on gratitude (the quality of being thankful; readiness to show appreciation for and to return kindness.). Research indicates that showing gratitude has a substantial impact on social, psychological, and physical health... Basically, people that are filled with gratitude have a better quality of life than their peers. My goal this holiday season is to show gratitude and find ways to appreciate those around me. First on my list... a big thank you to the parents of my 8th grade students and the 100% parent teacher conference attendance rate!! Your

commitment to your children and their education is astounding. I appreciate your support!



Holiday gift suggestions:
To your enemy, forgiveness.
To an opponent, tolerance.
To a friend, your heart.
To a customer, service.
To all, charity.
To every child, a good example.
To yourself, respect.
 (Oren Arnold)



Music— Jill Petricca jpetricca@redwoodprep.org

Our classes this month are special opportunities for students to sing and prepare a carol to present to families. Students who enjoy singing have great fun with the thought of sharing at our program. Others feel a pronounced risk and are challenged by using their vocal chords musically. Every opportunity to sing is so valuable for our students. Consider organizing or joining a group to go caroling through your neighborhood or local nursing home. Contemplate worthy additions to tradition by bringing up YouTube sing-a-longs around your beautiful living rooms and serve peppermint hot chocolate. But, above all, don't resist the deep and profound sound of silence as our spirits embrace the impending light.

Art/Technology— Sharn Chinnici schinnici@redwoodprep.org

Recently my second and third graders completed projects for their homeroom class using Google Drive. Here are some of the students' thoughts:

Adrian - "It's much easier using Google apps." Rocklin - "I liked saving through email." Laila F - "I liked just logging off because you didn't have to save it." Cadence - "It seems like Google Docs is easier. While you're saving it you don't have to worry about losing it." Max - "I like Google Docs because it is easier to save." Arianna - "I think Google Docs is easy to save because you just click the X while saving and you don't have to go to save as and desktop and you don't have to worry about people throwing it away."

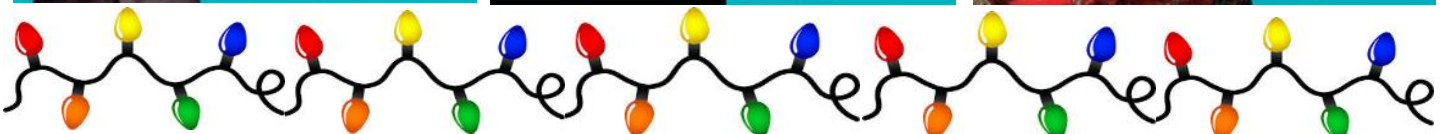
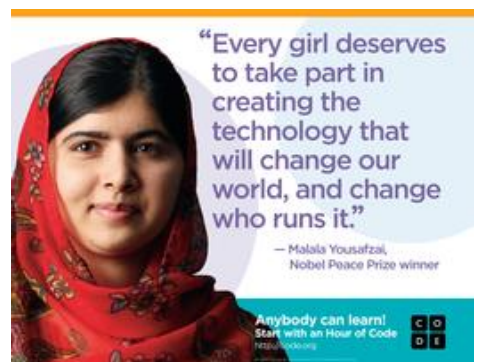
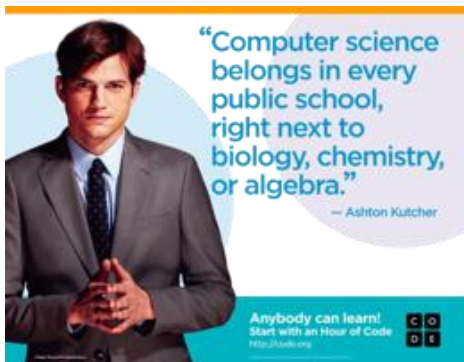


Next Week, Redwood Prep students will be participating with students across America in the Hour of Code

We live in a world surrounded by technology. And we know that whatever field our students choose to go into as adults, their ability to succeed will increasingly hinge on understanding how technology works. But only a tiny fraction of us are learning computer science, and less students are studying it than a decade ago.

That's why our entire school is joining in on the largest learning event in history: The Hour of Code, during Computer Science Education Week (Dec. 7-13). More than 100 million students worldwide have already tried an Hour of Code.

Our Hour of Code is a statement that Redwood Preparatory Charter School is ready to teach these foundational 21st century skills. To continue bringing programming activities to your students, we want to make our Hour of Code event huge. See <http://hourofcode.com/us> for details, and help spread the word.



December 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Parent Council @ 6:00 p.m.	2	3	4 Blanket Making Night 6:00	5
6	7	8	9	10 DIBI Board Mtg. @ 6:00 p.m.	11	12
13	14	15 RPrep Holiday Program 6:00	16	17	18 Early Release Day—12:00	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Winter Break						
27	28	29	30	31		
Winter Break						

December Events

- 1st— Parent Council
- 4th—Family Blanket Making Night 6:00
- 10th—DIBI Board Meeting
- 15th—RPrep Winter Program
 - 5:30 - 6:00 Wolfpack Workshop
 - 6:00 - 6:30 K-4th performance
 - 6:30 - 7:00 Cookies, Wolfpack Workshop
 - 7:00 - 7:30 Band, 5th-7th performance
 - 7:30 - 8:00 Cookie Reception
- 18th— Early Release Day 12:00
- 21st— Winter Break—No School



RPrep Supplies Wish List for

- Copy paper
- Clorox or Lysol Wipes
- Large Garbage Bags (30 Gallon)
- Kitchen Garbage Bags
- Ziploc Storage Bags
- 2 Dustpans



*Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus.
He exists as certainly as love
and generosity and devotion exists,
and you know that they abound and
give to your life its highest beauty and joy.
~ Francis Pharcellus Church*

RPrep Volunteer Opportunities for December

- ✎ We could use lots of helpers for our holiday rotations on December 18th. Please contact Michelle Austrus if you are available to help our students celebrate. 496-1749
- ✎ After the Christmas holiday we are planning another demolition day at our new site. This time we will be working inside the building tearing out the carpets and some of the cabinetry. We will let you know when we have a specific date.



Blanket Our Community In Kindness....

Family Events Committee is hosting Redwood Prep's Holiday Blanket Making Night. This event will take place this **Friday (December 4th) from 6pm-8:30pm** at the annex at Ross Hill. We invite all of you to come and enjoy hot apple cider, holiday music and good company as we make fleece tie blankets that will be distributed to families in need by the Fortuna Volunteer Fire Department's Santa Sleigh program this year. We are also asking Redwood Prep families to donate fleece for these blankets, even if you are not able to attend the blanket making night. If you are able to donate, each blanket requires 2 pieces of fleece, measuring 1 1/2 yards each. Please send in any donations to your student's classroom. Thanks for your support of such a great program and we hope to see you there!