Ruppel Academie Française

October 2024 Newsletter

I hope that everyone fared well during the recent hurricane. We missed the students, but it was wonderful to return back to "normal" so quickly-relatively speaking! We are busy planning many special events that will take place between now and the winter break, so please be sure you read this newsletter carefully and keep it for future reference. The highlight of October is always the Trunk-r-Treat event, so please read the attached flyers carefully if your family intends to participate. However, this event is not possible without the help of countless volunteers, so we are asking each family attending to volunteer. The PTO will send a Sign-Up Genius soon. We need multiple volunteers from each homeroom to help with concessions and games.

Also, if you are not getting regular emails and text messages from me, something is not accurate in our data system, so contact the front office.

PEER RELATIONSHIPS: Throughout October, we focus on a variety of student safety issues with a particular focus on kindness. It is important that we all work in cooperation to communicate a consistent message regarding the treatment of others. Childhood years are often difficult, as children are learning to navigate social structures in a variety of settings. Children will encounter different types of frustrations with peers, including simple annoyances, personality differences, and sometimes even outright mean or hurtful behavior. At Ruppel, we work hard to teach students how to handle these situations in a positive and productive manner. The most important way to prevent conflict is by teaching and encouraging kindness and respect, as well as learning to forgive because we all need forgiveness at times.

The majority of peer conflict that we observe daily is the result of mutual unkindness. However, children often do not yet have a mature enough perspective to understand their role in a situation. Children often only communicate grievances that specifically impact them, as they are still learning to observe the world and all its complexities during their development process.

Please reinforce with your child that it is **never** okay to return unkindness with more unkindness when at school. This is never a productive or positive solution and will usually exacerbate the situation. When at school, your child is surrounded by a support system of adults who can help them navigate frustrations. Students do not need to resort to hurting others physically or emotionally as retaliation to hurtful behavior.

For positive conflict resolutions strategies and examples, see the attached Tip Sheet. The strategies and ideas shared on the tip sheet are reinforced by Mrs. Eakin when she meets with classes.

VOLUNTEER/DONATION OPPORTUNITY: As you know, we take pride in creating a warm and inviting learning environment for students. If you'd like to help us decorate for the fall and winter holidays, please click this link to donate either a pumpkin or poinsettia for the front steps.

https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080C4BACA828A5FC1-51497471-holiday

CHILD CARE CHANGES: Child care will be canceled on Friday, October 4 due to Gretna Fest. All students will need to go home on the bus or during carpool that day. Additionally, child care will close at 4:00 p.m. on Friday, October 18 for Trunk-r-Treat.

LASER TAG: PTO is hosting a laser tag night on Monday, November 4. Employees will NOT be on hand to supervise, so all Ruppel students must be accompanied by parent. A flyer will be sent home soon.

SMOOTHIE KING: The PTO will be hosting five Smoothie King days throughout the year. Orders are placed on School Cash Online (SCO) and must be placed one week before the smoothie day. We have a deadline to place orders with the

vendor, so we will not be able to accept late orders. A flyer will be sent with additional details when the first date approaches.

Day 1: November 20th- Angel Food
Day 2: December 18th- Strawberry Bluegurt Blitz
Day 3: January 15th- Caribbean Way
Day 4: February 12th- Strawberry Kiwi Freeze
Day 5: March 19th- Angel Food

SPIRIT WEEK & RED RIBBON: We are hosting spirit week October 28-31 (no school Nov. 1), and the theme is "Kindness is an Adventure!" During the week we will highlight school safety and healthy lifestyle topics with kindness as the primary focus. To add to the fun, we will offer three days of themed dress down options for $1.00 each day. Please see the attached flyer.

The week of October 28 is also Red Ribbon Week, so we will have a "Scare Away Drugs" costume dress down on Thursday, October 31. The PK class will host a trick-R-treat event that day as well, so all students will get candy. Please see the flyer for costume dress down guidelines. There is no charge to dress in costume or other fall-themed attire on October 31.

TRUNK-R-TREAT on OCTOBER 18: This is one of our most popular family events of the year! Please see the flyer attached for all of the details regarding the entrance fee and how to purchase. We need cakes or other sweets for our cake walk. Please see the flyer for details about donating. Be sure to adhere to purchasing deadlines as stated on the flyer. This event is not open to the general public, only Ruppel families and friends.

SAINTS SHIRT DAYS: On Monday, October 7 and Thursday, October 17, students may wear a Saints shirt, black shirt, gold shirt, or other New Orleans themed shirt in place of the uniform shirt with uniform skirt, pants, or shorts. This is NOT a dress down day.

TARDY TO SCHOOL: We have too many students walking into the building after 7:20 a.m. Not only is this a disruption to the learning environment, it puts a child at a disadvantage when starting the school day. Arriving to the classroom after 7:20 a.m. impacts a child's eligibility for PBIS rewards including the BINGO Party raffle each month. Students are eligible for such celebrations when they consistently demonstrate RAMS Pride (Respectful, Accountable, Motivated, Safe), and entering class after it is started is opposite of those expectations. Our carline moves smoothly starting at 6:50 a.m., so there is an opportunity for every child to be in class on time if he/she arrives to the carpool line in a timely manner. We encourage all families to be in the carpool line no later than 7:15 a.m. to ensure that a student has time to get to class by 7:20 a.m.

DRESS CODE REMINDER: The policy states that only stud earrings are allowed. If students are wearing earrings of any kind that hang below the ear lobe, they will be asked to removed them and place them in the bookbag. If a student habitually violates this policy, additional consequences will be issued.

GRADES & BENCHMARKS: Benchmark testing in K-8th grades will start on Monday, September 30. Report cards will be issued on Wednesday, October 16, and the signed report card envelope is to be returned no later than Friday, October 18.