RUPPEL ACADEMIE FRENCAISE

January 2026 Newsletter

Happy New Year! It is the time of year to reflect and take stock of what we've accomplished so far this school year, and how we want to improve and move forward to finish strong. The spring semester always brings a final academic push with LEAP testing and end-of-year Dibels literacy testing on the horizon.

ANNUAL DONATION DRIVE: As you may recall from previous years, we initiated a donation drive in place of previous school-wide fundraisers that are cumbersome to families. It has proven to be a huge success, so I ask that every family consider supporting Ruppel during this annual drive.

All of the funds raised directly impact the students. We typically purchase needed technology and other instructional materials, including materials for the French curriculum and elementary PE supplies for example. We use these funds to purchase supplemental materials as per teacher requests which enhance the student experience and make life easier on families, as well. These funds are also used for student celebrations and to provide many of the materials the school purchases at the start of the school year (agendas, VIP folders, seat sacks, etc).

Donation options start at $25, but we certainly welcome as much as families have to offer. Just as we have done in the past, we will offer incentives for students who secure donations.

If a family donates $25, the student may dress down every Monday through the end of the school year. If a family donates $50 or more, the student may dress down on both Mondays and Thursdays for the rest of the school year.

To qualify for the dress down incentive, donations must be made on-line only January 12 - January 25 at 11:59 p.m. Do not send donations to school with your child.

The dress down for those who donate will start on Monday, February 2 - Thursday, May 14, 2026.

SPECIAL SOMEONE DANCE: The PTO will again host the Special Someone Dance on Friday, January 30 from 6:00-8:30 p.m. at the Cultural Center for the Arts located at 740 4th Street. The theme will be Mardi Gras Masquerade Sneaker Ball! This is a popular event, but tickets are limited and offered first come-first served. Each student may attend with one adult. This event is for Ruppel students only with a special adult. If there are extra tickets available after the initial sale, we will alert families who may want to purchase extra. Please see the flyer attached. Ticket sales open on Monday, December 15.

PTO Meeting: The next PTO meeting will be held virtually at 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, January 14 via this link: https://meet.google.com/try-ddpq-rdk

REPORT CARDS: Report cards will be sent home on Thursday, January 8, and the signed report card jacket is to be returned by Tuesday, January 13. Failure to return the signed envelope will result in lunch detention.

UNITED WAY DRESS DOWN: We will host two United Way dress down days for students who are interested. The cost to participate is $1, which should be paced in the VIP folder. Students who participate must follow the dress down policy as stated in the handbook. Dress down days will be on Thursday, January 15 and Thursday, January 29.

MARDI GRAS: Carnival season in New Orleans is unlike any other tradition in the world, and Ruppel will celebrate! Students may wear a Mardi Gras shirt or a purple, green, or yellow shirt in place of the uniform shirt on the following Wednesdays: January 7, 14, 21, 28 and February 4, 11. These are NOT dress down days.

Students may dress down for the annual kindergarten Mardi Gras parade on Friday, February 6 for no charge. Additional information will be shared in the February newsletter.

All students will attend the kindergarten parade on Friday, February 6, and the PTO will host a bake sale and Chick-fil-A sale that day. The campus will not be open for guests to view the parade.

We do not do "king cake Fridays" after kindergarten, so please do not send king cakes unless your child is in PK or K and those teachers have asked you to send the weekly cake. First through eighth graders will participate in Mardi Gras celebrations the week February 9, and the school will provide a king cake celebration for each first through eighth grade homeroom that week.

Students and employees do not have school February 13-20 for the Mardi Gras holiday.

VALENTINE'S DAY will occur while we are on Mardi Gras break, so there will be no events on campus for Valentine's Day.