



WILMA RUDOLPH LEARNING CENTER NEWSLETTER JANUARY

LETTER FROM THE PRINCIPAL

JANUARY 9, 2017

Greetings Rudolph Families,

I hope all of you had a great Holiday Season and a fun time ringing in the New Year. I am excited for all of the great things that 2017 will bring to Rudolph and our students. I cannot believe that we are halfway through January as we are just returning from break. The great news is that Rudolph welcomes a new staff member, Ms. Carolyn Williams. Carolyn is not brand new to Rudolph as she worked our ESY program in July. We are excited to have her as a new member to our team and she brings to us an extensive teaching background with experience with all age ranges in not only music, but also special education. Please help me in welcoming Ms. Williams to room 6.

Before January ends, I want to share the highlights of December with you. Our students are becoming quite sophisticated and knowledgeable. Not only was there a visit to the Science and Industry Museum to see Christmas around the world, and all of the beautiful trees, there was also a field trip to the Field Museum. Students had a great time on the trips and were able to learn and experience activities from water tables, air planes, to dinosaurs. A great time was had by all. Thank you to all of our chaperones too!

At Rudolph, we are always learning. However, that does not mean that we cannot have fun and learn at the same time. The Winterfest at Navy Pier was another fun learning activity that our students participated in. Lots of laughs and smiles took place that day. On Friday, December 11th, we had a visit from JAYCEE and the man in the big red suit, known as Santa. Santa and the JAYCEEs sang carols, presented the students with gifts, and ensured that each student had a picture on with Santa. It was delightful!

As we approached Winter Break, not only did we have classroom performances and decorations to celebrate the holidays, but also a special celebration for the Rudolph staff sponsored by our PAC Parents. On behalf of the PAC Committee, AP Dentz, the staff and myself, thank you for the kind donation to the parent breakfast. It was a great way to kick off Winter Break and show Teachers and Staff how much they are appreciated for all they do in order to support our students.

Finally, as we embrace the new year, it is always hard to stick to resolutions. So instead of resolutions, what challenges are you going to embrace this year, both personally and professionally? Personally I am going to work on being the best mom and wife that I can be. Professionally I am

going to work on increasing my knowledge and learning. This should be easy, right!? Some things are easier said than done, but research does show you are more likely to stick to your goals if you write them down and revisit them or find an accountability buddy. What is an accountability buddy, you might ask? Well, that is someone you share your goals or challenges with and they continue to check-in or up on you to see your progress. I encourage you, just as I have our staff members to find that buddy and hold yourself and each other accountable to reaching our goals.

I wish you and your families a happy and healthy New Year. I look forward to seeing our continued growth in all areas including academics, communication, socially and emotionally. Thank you for all you do for the students.

Yours in Education,

Principal Dacres



Rudolph Core Vocabulary of the Month- January

Hi Parents,

Happy New Year! I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday and new year. January 2017 is here. For the month of January, we are targeting the core vocabulary words **GOOD** and **BAD**. Throughout the month at school, we will emphasize these words during activities and use aided language stimulation. It is important that not only are these words modeled at school but are also modeled at home during motivating, frequently occurring routines. Think about ways that you can use aided language stimulation (touching pictures and saying the word simultaneously) at home. Using aided language stimulation will improve your child's ability to understand vocabulary, point to pictures to express himself/herself and/or use communication systems.

Coming soon: we will be posting resources to support use of core vocabulary and aided language stimulation on Rudolph's

website. Please be on the look-out for a video that shows direct instruction using aided language stimulation.

The pictures of **GOOD** and **BAD** are attached. These words are great when describing objects, food items, and feelings. These words are also used often during greetings. We need to remember to NOT use them in reference to behavior. Instead, we can use them in reference to choices. For example, "That is a good/bad choice."

Here are some examples of opportunities to use (model and reinforce) these core vocabulary words of the month at home.

GOOD and BAD

You can incorporate the words "good" and "bad" when commenting, expressing feelings/opinions, providing descriptions, during greetings, etc.

Story Time While reading a book, emphasize the words good/bad in the book, ask/answer questions and discuss good versus bad. For example, "He is a good prince", "That is a bad dragon". Some books such as "Good days, Bad Days" by Catherine Anholt or "Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No-good Very Bad Day" by Judith Viorst describes good versus bad.

Activities	Ways
Greetings	Model and use greetings throughout the day such as "good morning", "good day" and "good night".
Music, Art or Meal Time	Listen to music, look at pictures of art or while eating, discuss your opinions and whether you thought "The song is good/bad", "It looks good/bad" or "I think it tastes good/bad".
Choices	When discussing choices or expectations, you can discuss "good choices" and "bad choices". For example, you can say "hitting your brother, was a bad choice" or "waiting your turn, is a good choice."
Review of Day	Talk about how your day is going or went. "I had a good/bad day", "That was the best!", "You did good".



TEACHER/SECA SPOTLIGHT

Fernando Olszanski:

Hello, I'm Mr. Fernando, the Bilingual teacher. I was born in the city of Buenos Aires, Argentina, but I have lived in the US for almost 20 years. I have been working at Rudolph for the last 7 years, and I consider this school a second family. I love to work with our students and their families, because I firmly believe that I can help to make the difference. But also I love to work with the talented, passionate, and caring people that work in this school. Every day I learn from everybody, and that improves me as a teacher but also as a human being. I enjoy books, traveling, playing chess, and as a good South American, I love soccer, and rugby. This year I'm working in the library, feel free to visit, and read a book for the children together.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM YOUR STARS TEAM

The Stars program implements Successful Teaching Achieved with Responsive Supports. Our students are provided with a highly structured teaching approach to address the whole child. Our goal is to provide structured instruction while encouraging social engagement and peer interactions that promote positive behaviors and independent functioning.