



WILMA RUDOLPH LEARNING CENTER NEWSLETTER MAY

LETTER FROM THE PRINCIPAL

MAY 2017

Greetings Rudolph Families,

I hope all of you enjoyed Spring Break with your children and families. Can you believe that we are in the 4th quarter already? It was a great turnout at Report Card Pick-up. Not only did we have a book fair, but we sold new Rudolph Gear.

We have some great things planned for May and June for both students and families. If you haven't done so already, please mark your calendars for June 9th, as it is our annual Friends and Family Day celebration. There is a petting zoo, carnival games, face painting, entertainment and hot dogs on the grill. It is always a great time.

I am sure that you have heard the news already, but yes, CPS

will be in session until the end of the school year. The last day for students to report to school is Tuesday, June 20th. I will continue to keep you informed of any additional information or changes.

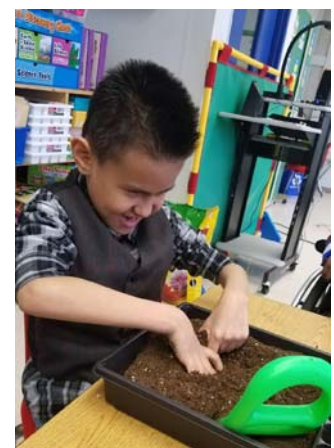
We are pleased to introduce Ms. Juliana Morales, our new bilingual teacher. Juliana joined the Rudolph team just after spring break. Juliana is eager to continue to get to know our students and offer her supports. Welcome Juliana, we are so happy to have you at Rudolph.

I would also like to recognize Ms. Sara Kenny in room 3. She has received multiple donations from Lowes and Gethsemane Garden Center to help beautify the front of the school and teach students science and life skills. Great job Ms. Sara!

I look forward to ending the school year strong, celebrating our students and our successes. I again thank you for allowing me this awesome opportunity to serve the Rudolph School and Community as your principal. I can honestly say, I love this job with all my heart!

Yours in Education,

Principal Dacres



SAME and DIFFERENT

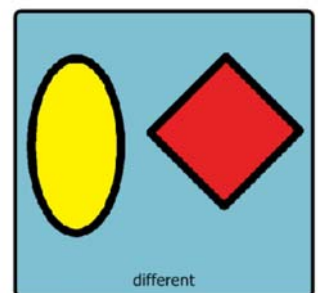
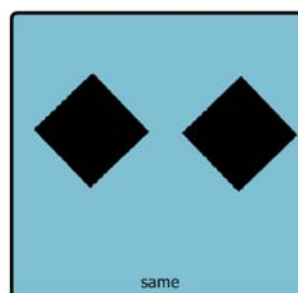
Hi Parents,

Can you believe it is May! We hope you were able to incorporate **WORK** and **HELP** into your daily life activities at home last month. At Rudolph, we utilized them when discussing community helpers, engaging in “classroom jobs” and when helping friends. We were able to use them when gardening out front and on our field trips to the Children’s Museum and Science and Industry Museum. The students did a great job “helping” each other. Work and help were also emphasized during our Smoothie Sale in Room 9.

For the month of May, the core words of the month are **SAME** and **DIFFERENT**. These words can be used when comparing items, putting objects away, getting dressed, or during meal and play time. At Rudolph, we will incorporate these words during circle time, math, art, science as well as during transitions and recess.

To the side are some more specific examples of how **SAME** and **DIFFERENT** can be used at home. The visuals provided will assist with using aided language stimulation.

Activities	Ways
Comparing Objects	When looking at multiple items, compare and discuss how the items are “different” and/or the “same”. “These look the same/different.”
Cleaning Up	When cleaning up, talk about where to put items. You can put them in the “same” place or “different places”. You can also rearrange items and then ask “What is different?” or “What is the same?”.
Getting Dressed	When getting dressed, you can discuss how “socks and shoes are the same.” Or you can put on different socks and say “Oh no! Your socks are different.” Play dress up, and change your hat, scarves, glasses, wigs frequently, modeling “different” with each change.
Meal and Play Activities	During meal time, discuss how food items taste. “This tastes different” or “these are the same.” During play activities, give the “same” item over and over, then model “different” when you give them something different to play. For example, when playing blocks, give them the same small red blocks over and over, until suddenly you give them a big blue block.
Story Time	During story time, you can look through the pictures and talk about what is different in the picture and what is the same. The following books have repeated lines with the word “different”: • “Giraffes Can’t Dance”, by Giles Andreae (he does something different!) • “It’s okay to be Different”, by Todd Parr. Some other books are “Same, Same but Different” by Jenny Sue Kostecki-Shaw and “We All Sing with the Same Voice” by Philip Miller



TEACHER/SECA SPOTLIGHT

Bridget Hickey - Vision Teacher

Vision at Rudolph is important to me. This was the first school I was assigned to and I remember feeling so lost. I had just graduated college and was under the impression that I would have a caseload of totally blind children and that I would be teaching braille or vision skills. So when I walked into a caseload of CVI, I didn't have a clue what to do. I remember having a conversation with coworkers who were just as unsure. I figured I had two options- 1. complain to my boss and give up or 2. look at this as an opportunity to learn something.

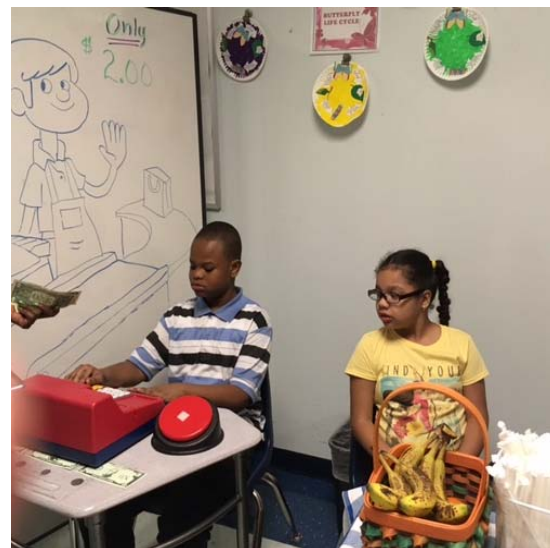
Not much is taught about CVI (Cortical Visual Impairment), as it is one of the newer visual impairments that people in my field are now providing service for. We had been told in the past that we just sit those kids in front of a light box and that should be enough. I didn't feel like that was doing anything so I went out in search of some answers. I spent a lot of my time just watching students and reading every single bit of information I could find on the subject. I'm happy to see how far we have come in the past 2 years here at Rudolph. I know that students are making visual gains due to utilizing the CVI Range for their assessment. I love how each student is so different and they have their own way of seeing. We have been able to come up with actual strategies that help our students develop the use of their vision, and it's clear that this is doing more than just "sitting them in front of a light box". These visual gains wouldn't be possible without the absolutely stellar staff members who have gone above and beyond just to understand vision. So thank you Rudolph for welcoming me and my sometimes weird ideas. It's been fun!

HIGHLIGHTS FROM

VANESHA WEBB

NUTRITIONAL SUPPORT

I love working at Rudolph with the children and staff. Rudolph is so welcoming. My job is to cook, clean and serve all students their meals and snacks. I take pride in ensuring students are provided with nutritional, hot meals. I also make sure they have their lunches when attending all of their fun special activities including field trips!



RESOURCES

RIC Rehab Institute of Chicago: Therapy provider. Phone #: 312-238-1000, www.ric.org
Therapy Yoga Gymnastics Rocks: Pediatric occupational, physical and speech therapy in sensory rich gymnastics centers. Phone #: 773-991-7316, www.therapygymnastics.com
Tuesday's Child: Behavior support and parent education. Phone #: 773-423-5055, www.tuesdayschildchicago.org
Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities: Accessibility services. Phone #: 312-744-6673, www.chityofchicago.org/city/en/depts/mopd.html

