

# Moral Focus: Self-Control December 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2  Ice Cream Social	3
4	5	K-2 GRADE TRIP  New York Hall of Science	Kindergarten TRIP Springfield H.S.	8	9 2 Grade 	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23 LAST DAY** →	24
25 	26 ← NO SCHOOL	27	28 Holiday Break	29 NO SCHOOL** →	30	31

\*\*School Resumes on January 2nd, 2012

East Side, West Side...All Around the town...

## TimeOut Kids

### Holiday Train Show at the New York Botanical Garden

A New York City holiday tradition, the Holiday Train Show at the [New York Botanical Gardens](http://www.nybg.org) features an extensive collection of model trains and over 140 scaled replicas of New York landmarks made by designer Paul Busse. The entire display is crafted exclusively from plants.



For more information log onto [www.nybg.org](http://www.nybg.org) or call 718-817-8700

### Holiday Open House at the Queens Farm Museum:

Celebrate the holidays with free Yule-time tours of the Queens Country Farm Museum, plus arts and crafts for kids and mulled cider. Also come by the Farm in December to buy Christmas trees, wreaths, and poinsettias. December 26, 27, and 28, 2010- noon - 4 p.m., free  
Queens Farm Museum, 73-50 Little Neck Pkwy, Floral Park, 718-347-3276  
Christmas Trees and Poinsettia Sales: December 1 to 24

Citi Pond at Bryant Park is Manhattan's first and only free admission ice skating rink. Back for it's seventh season, Citi Pond is one of NYC's most treasured winter destinations.

Open Daily until February 26, 2012

General Admission: FREE

Skate Rentals: \$14

Locker use: FREE

Lock Purchase (L): \$9

Bag check: \$7

\*all prices include sales tax and are non-refundable

[www.citipondatbryantpark.com](http://www.citipondatbryantpark.com)



# THE RIVERTON VANGUARD

True Collaboration Leading to Exceptional Student Learning

Verone Kennedy, Principal

Tyvoia Ivey, Registrar

Riverton Street Charter School \* Saint Albans NY 11412 \* 718-481-8200

Letta Belle, Dean 3-5

Brianne Spinello, Dean K-2

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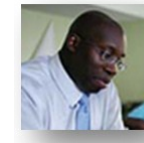
### Newsletter Staff

Rayann James

Managing Editor

R.S.C.S. Staff and Parents

Contributing columnists/writers



"If you see something... say something!" This popular quote

has become familiar to millions of U.S. residents as the Department of Homeland Security's PSA admonishes all of us to actively participate in the process of protecting that which we have come to love. As a believer in proactivity, I understand and subscribe to the idea that our degree of effectiveness as a learning community weighs heavily on our ability to serve as active stakeholders working to ensure the achievement of our collective goals.

At Riverton we have taken an unconventional approach to educating our scholars as we consider the input of each and every community stakeholder. In addition to our collaborative internal practices, we proudly partner with focused goal-oriented Parent Action Commit-

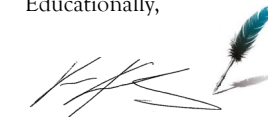
tee members who work committedly to manage our Volunteer, Academic and College bound PACs. We are excited about the work that has been done to better our school and encourage others, who may be interested in serving on a committee, to reach out to Ms. Rayann James (Office Administrative Assistant) at [rquashie@heritageacademies.com](mailto:rquashie@heritageacademies.com). Ultimately our success in further developing our extraordinary institution of learning hinges on our ability to see and explore possibilities together by actively engaging ourselves as doers and not expert talkers or complainers.

The word Ujima is a Swahili term interpreted as a call to "collective work and responsibility". Unquestionably, in my mind, Dr. Karenga (creator) had insight into the practice of "saying something" when he crafted the principles of Kwanzaa. His understanding of goal actualization via shared purpose/action confirms our RSCS practice of stakeholder

pre-Riverton school experiences, whether yours or your child's. Instead let us look away from what was to what is and what can be. Riverton represents just that... the school we've always wanted for ourselves and or our children. Together we can and will make great things happen!

Have a Happy and Healthy Holiday Season!

Educationally,



Verone Kennedy



### Where do I begin helping my child at home?

On Sunday, December 4th, the New York Times covered the story of an 8 year old chess player who just took 1st place at the World Youth Chess Championship in Brazil. The winner Awonder Liang was an American from Wisconsin. He was described as a very thoughtful and deliberate player applying virtues of patience and perseverance to overcome a formidable opponent.

As I read the article, I couldn't

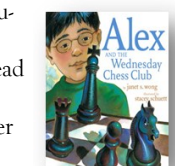
help but think about our children and the skills we seek to impart in them each and every day. We have already introduced the majority of our scholars to the game of chess. Our belief is consistent with those of the many theorists/studies conducted throughout the world

which emphatically state that chess improves one's ability to think with clarity, intent and purpose. This is everything we want for our learners as such



skills are not exclusive to one activity/event but instead transferable to a significant number of instances.

As we enter this holiday season, I encourage you to give your child "the gift that keeps on giving". Purchase a chess set specifically designed for novice play/instruction. If you are skilled with technology, there are numerous "on-line" learning games as well as I-Pad and tablet learning applications



Alex and the Wednesday Chess Club by Janet Wong.

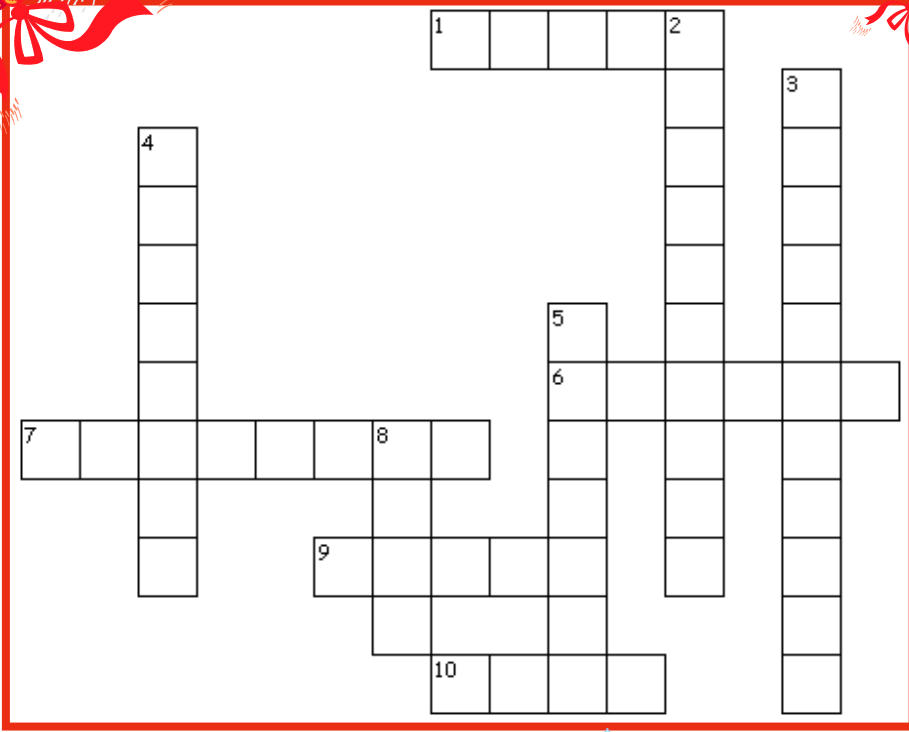
that will make learning and or development easy. As your young scholar continues to practice and develop, you will observe an increased ability to think through problems, exhibit patience over extended periods of time and lastly, reflect on decisions made (before and after the act).

Here at Riverton, we will continue to work to identify both conventional and innovative ways to improve teaching and learning or our scholars for the express purpose of high-level college readiness.





Do you know more about Riverton NOW?



Across

1. "Ms. \_\_\_\_\_ is our newsletter editor"
6. "Mr. \_\_\_\_\_ is our janitor and also helps us with our Spanish"
7. "This teacher has dreadlocks"
9. "Mrs. \_\_\_\_\_ name was Ms. Sapanski"
10. "Ms. \_\_\_\_\_ is our school Registrar"

Down

2. "The class that won the first box top party is called \_\_\_\_\_ University"
3. "In December we focus on this virtue"
4. "Our most seen parent volunteer in the office"
5. "We are here to *Aspire*, \_\_\_\_\_, and *Apply*"
8. "Ms. Goldstein's Art room is called THE \_\_\_\_\_"



A College Bound Track for All RSCS Scholars



Happy Holidays Riverton Families!

As we end another year and begin the holiday season, I would like to take a moment to thank all of you for your continued support in making college graduation a reality for our scholars. We have successfully made it through our first quarter of the 2011-2012 school year and I am ecstatic with the amount of progress our scholars have made thus far. We of course have a long road to travel and we will do so as a team. Teachers continue to develop our learners and provide meaningful and engaging learning experiences to strengthen each student's abilities.

What is happening in the classroom?

Kindergarteners are flourishing in their ability to segment sounds to create words and put them into stories that they create. First graders are becoming experts in their ability to read non-fiction text and discuss the connections they have made with their peers. Second grade scholars have created their

own communities and shared their incredibly creative ideas with their class. All of our scholars are developing into readers, writers, mathematicians and thinkers and I am so looking forward to their continued progress throughout the year.

What can you do at home?

With the hustle and bustle of the holiday season and of course our time away from school, please continue to actively participate in your child's education and provide learning opportunities at home. Continue to keep in touch with your child's teacher as often as possible. Whether communication is face-to-face, through email, or phone, it is imperative that you know what is going on in school with your child each and every day. Use every opportunity to expose your child to venues that surround us and will enhance background knowledge and in turn, academic performance (i.e. museums, aquariums, parks, performances, etc.). Continue to review concepts at home that are being taught in school and encourage your child to read each and every night. Continue to bring you child to

school each day and on time. Without them here, we are unable to provide all of the support and learning opportunities that have been planned to prepare our children for college.

During your holiday break, please take the time to spend with your friends, family and loved ones and enjoy each and every moment with your children. We thank each of you for your commitment and constant support, as you are a central stakeholder in your child's education and are an incredibly valued member of the Riverton community. Have a healthy and happy holiday season and we will see you soon!

R.S.C.S First Annual Coat Drive

One Warm Coat



Dear Riverton Families,

Most of us have been in a situation at some point when we were cold and didn't have on the right clothing to stay warm. It's an uncomfortable and disorienting feeling that leaves you unable to think about much else, other than how cold you are. Unfortunately, for millions of people, this can be a constant problem. Sometimes a warm coat is all it takes to ease a burden and warm a heart, especially during the

winter months.

Our Scholars demonstrate acts of kindness each and every day at school. Let's take it a step further and give back to our community. Please dig in your closets for any clean, reusable or new coats that you can donate to warm a heart this winter. Coats of all sizes are welcomed! We will be conducting the warm coat drive until **December 23, 2011**. Collection boxes are located outside the **Art**



Room (Ms. Goldstein's room).

Thank you for your continued support and commitment to our Riverton community.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask.

Jordana Goldstein  
89.jgoldstein@heritageacademies.com



From the Registrars' Desk

**Greetings and Happy Holidays**, to the Riverton Street Charter School family. As I look back on this past year, we have reached so many mile stones as we journey

into the New Year. I would like to thank all of the parents for their continuous dedication to adhere to the requirements of National Heritage Academies. As an administra-

tor for the past fifteen years in Early Childhood Education, I find myself on a rewarding experience as the Registrar of RSCS. I look forward to living up to the expectations of RSCS mission to instill in each student a passion for learning and hard work that will result in significant contributions to our school, our families, and our community. Parents and educators join together to create a strong academic base in which students will be expected to achieve

high academic levels in an environment that encourages compassion, respect and hard work. As we continue our journey of success I am grateful to those families who have made our progress possible.

**Simply but sincerely, Thank You and Best Wishes for the Holiday Season and a Happy New Year!**

