





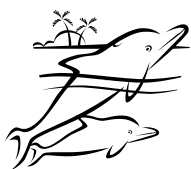
Moral Focus: Perseverance January 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 back to School 	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12 Enrollment Information Meeting	13	14
15	16 Happy Birthday 	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24 Half Day	25 K-1 Field Trip to Alice in Wonderland	26	27	28
29	30	31	 NO SCHOOL  HALF DAY 7:30AM-3:00PM SCHOOL HOURS 7:30AM-11:30AM (HALF)			

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



Register for free swim classes this Saturday, January 29



Beginning this Saturday, January 29, at midnight, families can enter the New York City Department of Parks & Recreation's brand-new computer lottery for its [Learn to Swim Program](#). All classes are held after school or on Saturdays from February 12 to April 30,

in locations throughout the five boroughs (all indoors, of course). Students are grouped by age: 3 to 5 and 6 to 14; adult lessons are also offered.

The lottery ends at midnight on Sunday, and results will be e-mailed on Monday, January 31, so you *almost* get instant gratification. For more information about Parks' swim programs, call Parks Citywide Aquatics at (718) 760-6969.

For general information about Parks & Recreation, call 311 or (212) NEW-YORK from outside New York City

Good luck



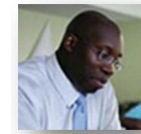
Create African-Inspired Masks with Susan Hale Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, 4pm, free, 212-491-2200, nypl.org/locations/schomburg
Learn about different kinds of traditional African masks, patterns, colors and techniques. Afterward, design and create your own African-inspired mask to take home. Materials are provided, but space is limited; to register contact the center at schomburgsvp@nypl.org or 212-491-2229.



New Year New Thinking

Verone Kennedy, Principal
Tyvoia Ivey, Registrar
Riverton Street Charter School * Saint Albans NY 11412 * 718-481-8200

Letta Belle, Dean 3-5
Brianna Spinello, Dean K-2



"2012 is going to be a phenomenal year; if people would simply spend more time addressing their interests and less time concerned about mine. The year will be extremely successful for me if I can steer clear of any unfortunate incidents. Last year it seemed as though I had one disappointment after another. I just don't know if I can have another year like that one." At some point in our lives I'm sure many of us have expressed similar sentiments. But, what actually happens when we choose an empowered approach and shift our paradigm of thinking to consider what could be as opposed to what has been?

this period of "newness" is what is your default disposition? When faced with adversity, what is your immediate/likely response? Are you conditioned to see the impediments or the opportunities afforded to you? Is your mindset consistent with the thoughts of Norman Vincent Peale who said, *"Any fact (event) facing us is not as important as our attitude toward it, for that determines our success or failure. The way you think about a fact (or instance) may defeat you before you ever do anything about it. You are overcome by the fact (occurrence) because you think you are."* This empowering quote gives insight into the degree of license/control possessed by the thinker. Everything begins with our attitude. While we cannot always control our circumstances or individuals of whom we come in contact, we have complete control over how we receive and respond to them.

John Maxwell, leading authority in the area of leadership shares some insightful strategies as to how we can work intently to transform our mindsets to support an attitude that will improve our quality of living. Below, I've bulleted his strategies and added some personal thoughts .

- **Recognize that your attitude needs daily adjustments.** Life/living is not

static, but just the opposite, dynamic. With shifting and inter-changing pieces, we must consistently monitor the manner in which we observe, approach and react to our experiences. We can do so by speaking with trusted family members and friends who are capable of providing honest feedback relative to your attitude (degree of optimism).

- **Find something positive in everything.** It is certainly easier said than done but if you sincerely approach a given situation objectively, you can see something positive and render your decisions accordingly.
- **Find someone positive in every situation.** Your thinking will eventually mirror or take on aspects of the thinking around you. My question is, do you actively work to surround yourself with individuals who think optimistically?

- **Think, Act, Talk and Conduct yourself like the person you want to become.** It's never too late to make changes. The quote, "you can't teach an old dog new tricks" is a false misnomer. If anyone truly desires to change, it is possible! The operative word however is **"desire"**. As Will Smith said in his portrayal of Chris Gardner, "If you want something . . . go get it!" If you want to adjust your

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Newsletter Staff

Rayann James
Managing Editor
R.S.C.S. Staff and Parents
Contributing columnists/writers

mindset, exhibit more optimistic behaviors. Just think about your desired state and work committedly towards making the transition.

- **Say something positive in every conversation.** There's always something good and or conductive you can say about a person, situation or an idea. The challenge however will be to enter conversations with an ear to hear and void of a personal agen-



da. Give positive feedback, let your gestures exude sincerity by considering your words, tone, cadence and posture.

- **Remove negative words from your vocabulary.** Enhance your vocabulary with words that affirm and build. Don Miguel Ruiz writer of the book "The Four Agreements" encourages positive thinkers to "be impeccable with your words". What you say and think can have a profound effect on outcomes. Words like can't, impossible, never are extreme expressions and should themselves be removed from our thinking.
- **Express gratitude to others daily.** Extend yourself beyond that of the norm. Show gratitude with your words and deeds. Remember, no good deed ever goes unreturned.

post-secondary goals of acquiring a Bachelor's degree. My goal with this offering is to remind you that we as partners in education need to remain mentally healthy for our children so that we can accomplish that which we set out to do last year. As keepers of the dream, let's continue to work towards supporting our young scholars, remaining mindful that optimism and the absence of stress will go a long way towards achieving our goal.


Here's to a healthy, prosperous and stress free New Year!

Educationally,




Verone Kennedy


2012 is going to be a fantastic year! Our scholars are going to successfully take yet another step closer towards actualizing their




DID YOU KNOW? Stress has been called "the silent killer" and can lead to heart disease, high blood pressure, chest pain, and an irregular heart-beat.




Chronic stress can impair the developmental growth in children by lowering the production of growth hormone from the pituitary gland.



The top three stressful cities in America are Chicago, Illinois; Los Angeles, California; and New York, New York.



It is unfounded that stress can turn hair gray, however, it has been proven that stress can cause hair loss. In fact, telogen effluvium (hair loss) can begin up to three months after a stressful event.



Laughing lowers stress hormones (like cortisol, epinephrine, and adrenaline) and strengthens the immune system by releasing health-enhancing hormones



The following quote perfectly encapsulates the meaning of marking new beginnings as we look forward to 2012:

"A journey of a thousand miles must begin with a single step."
~Lao Tzu~

Our scholars take steps in each grade level to achieve the ultimate goal of college graduation. It is important that they have meaningful experiences outside of school to enrich their understanding of the world they live in as they grow and develop. Students who have social experiences that are relevant to school subject matter perform better on exams and are better prepared to deal with more challenging literature. They will therefore be better suited to construct meaning from and grapple with new situations that are sure to be a part of their rapidly-changing world.

Be sure to take advantage of the learning opportunities students can have outside of school. The art and music team has assembled information for Riverton families to enjoy at venues including Flushing Town Hall, Carnegie Hall and Lincoln Center. Please see the Parent Information board in the lobby for more information. The Queens Parent magazine is available and contains information on affordable activities and events to attend with your child. Please speak to me if you need any additional information or ideas. I wish you all happiness, joy and prosperity for the New Year!!

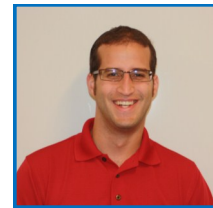
Warmest regards.

Letta Belle



THE SPOTLIGHT

January spotlight goes to *Mr. Rivera*

Riverton Street Charter School would like to nominate Mr. Rivera as our January Spotlight. Mr. Rivera is our #1 and only Physical Education teacher here at Riverton.

Born in an igloo near the North Pole...near Canada... near an ice rink, young Rivera came to this world with stick in hand and skates on his feet. Somehow he was transported to an area of Brooklyn shortly after that, where he lived the first ten years of his life. Young Rivera then found his way out to Suffolk County, Long Island where he turned into Young Man Rivera. He attended school everyday, sick or not from the fifth grade to his last day of high school (Ma Rivera made him go everyday). While growing up as Young man Rivera, he slowly began to enjoy all sports and what they offered (especially Hockey...let's go Rangers). Young Man Rivera played on many sport teams during his middle and high school days, including Soccer (Striker), Hockey (all positions), Track and Field (400m & Pole Vault), and Football (Team Food Eater). His passion for sports grew and opened the door to coaching and teaching others. Young Man Rivera embarked in a long long extra long journey and graduated with a Physical Education Degree from C.W. Post (LIU). Now the freshly turned Old Man Rivera is a Riverton Owl, where he enjoys everyday teaching our future champions... Woop Woop Jazz Hands!!



KNOW?

Did you know that Mr. Rivera coaches the Lady Owls Track Team? They practice two days a week and compete against others on the weekend in Brooklyn. Coach Rivera also has a tennis team that practices on Tuesday at Roy Wilkins Tennis indoor arena.



A Riverton Street Scholar is an Exceptional Scholar in Every Way!

Students at Riverton are expected to reach and exceed the highest academic standards academically and socially. It is also a non-negotiable expectation that our scholars present themselves appropriately each and every day. This particular community has put in place a uniform policy designed to create a sense of student pride, unity and simultaneously reduce distractions and meaningless competition. Expectations are delineated below, please govern yourselves accordingly.

Boys

- Boys are expected to wear dark grey pants and belts must be worn with trousers bearing belt loops. Blue logo bearing shirts (Riverton and college bound logos) must stay tucked in pants at all times.
- Shorts are not permitted unless worn during gym time.
- Socks must be gray, black, or blue.
- Hairstyles must be conservative with hair being off the collar.

Girls

- Girls will wear dark grey pants, skirts, or jumpers. Skirts and jumpers must be longer than the fingers when arms hang at the student's side, or no more than three inches above the knees. Blue logo bearing shirts (Riverton and college bound logos)
- Socks/tights will be grey or blue.
- A reasonable number of earrings are permitted. Only ears may be pierced.
- Makeup is not permitted.

Reminder

Student arrival begins at 7:00 am and concludes at 7:30 am sharp. 7:31 am is considered "late" and is recorded as such. Our "college bound" curriculum seeks to take advantage of every moment. Even during breakfast, students are learning, and working on their "do now" assignments.

Parents please, 7:30, those minutes really matter.



R.S.C.S Word search



D R Z R R R G H S U Y O C O X
 E D J X E G S R Y L N O A E H
 V F O L T L P C D V G R W B B
 E X A N R T I V E J A X E N Y
 I N B N A Y N B N A V L N J P
 H G I I H P E B N J L I A W O
 C G L I C N L Y E E A T H P W
 A Q I D N O L P K Z S U M X D
 X Q T Z O O O J E Z P J Z M R
 V D Y O T Y J T N O I X X D E
 W Z L I R C Z R O A R T I O A
 P Q P X E Z T O R P E B V K M
 V C O B V O W F E P Q G E L R
 V S Y O I Q O F V L A N Y K O
 O O Q F R A B E X Y O Y M G U

ABILITY
 ACHIEVE
 APPLY
 ASPIRE
 BELLE
 DREAM
 EFFORT
 IVEY
 RIVERTON CHARTER
 SPINELLO
 VERONE KENNEDY



A College Bound Track for All RSCS Scholars



Hello Riverton Families!
Happy 2012!

It is already that time of the year that we are venturing through our Winter NWEA Exams. I cannot believe that this time is already upon us, but scholars and staff are eager to complete their exams and celebrate their academic growth so far this year. I've never been in a place where scholars, parents and teachers are actually excited about testing and all the anxiety that it brings. It's very different here at Riverton. On Friday, January 6th, we assembled in the multi-purpose room for an NWEA pep rally and boy was it incredible! Ms. Belle and Mr. Rivera MC'ed the NWEA All Stars vs. Obstacles Basketball Game. Teachers on the NWEA All Stars were identified by their RIT scores and those on the Obstacles team were identified by the hurdles that students may face while taking their exams. The NWEA All Stars would not let The Obstacles stand in their way and won with a score of 13-1! Scholars walked away with the

inspiring message that we speak often at Riverton: Never give up and persevere through challenges you may face, because it will always be worth it in the end. Teachers are confident in our scholars and their ability to perform at high levels and persevere through academic challenges as each of them are NWEA All Stars themselves. Standardized testing is simply the "nature of the beast" in education today, and we understand that it truly provides as much information as possible for us to inform our instruction and progress our students to move forward. As I know that you as parents understand the same, please ensure that your scholars are getting plenty of rest, reviewing on their different websites that I have also provided below, and are reading every single night. It is so important that our students are applying all of the skills learned in class to their independent reading at home. Please continue to encourage your child to read, read, read and read some more and do not hesitate to ask your child's teacher for some suggestions on titles, authors and genres that may be worth introducing to your scholar. I am looking forward to all of the incredible results that we will

see from the NWEA exams and cannot wait to celebrating even more than I anticipate with all of our scholars great success!


Review Resources:

- K-4 www.studyisland.com
Username : First Initial + Last Name.RSCS (i.e. BSpinello.RSCS)
Password: 89.RSCS
- www.ixl.com
- K-1 www.starfall.com
www.morestarfall.com

I wish you and your family all the best in the new year!

Best Wishes,
Dean Spinello

The Time to Volunteer is now....

 The Parent Action Committee #1 and #2 are organizing the first event for the 2012 Year, A Valentine's Day Dance. We expect this event to be as successful as the October Character Party. Your contributions and participation, led to the overarching success. We hope to have the same or better results for the Valentines' Day Dance and it will not be possible without your assistance.

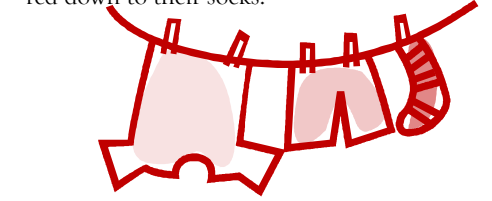
Party Information

Date: Feb 11, 2012
Time: 12pm-2pm for grades K-2
3pm-5pm for grades 3 and 4

Place: Riverton Street Charter School (multi-purpose room)
Price: \$5.00 per child **CASH ONLY**

Please put money into an envelope and have your scholar give it to their teacher.

P.S. Encourage your scholars to write their Black History Month poems and submit them to the office and both committees will choose the best poem for each grade. Also, there will be a contest for who can wear the most red. Boys and Girls will be judged differently, so make sure your scholar is all red down to their socks.



REMINDER

The money for the event, \$5 per child, is due Friday February 3, 2012.

All donations should be dropped off at the main office by Wednesday February 8, 2012.

Please complete the bottom noting your contribution and participation to making this event a success. If you are not participating and would like to make contribution, please indicate below, as well.

Parent Name: _____

Child Name: _____ Grade: _____

Contribution: _____

Please check: Participation _____ or Contribution only _____

Please return this page to the main office on or before Feb. 3rd

Regards,
Parent Action Committee #1 and #2

