

ROWE ELEMENTARY AND MIDDLE SCHOOL ROCKET READER



December 2018 issue

Hello Rowe Families, Friends, and Supporters,

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I hope this message reaches you all in health and happiness. The holiday season can carry both immense joy as we spend time with loved ones we see often and not often enough, as well as a sobering reminder of our loved ones who are no longer with us. Wherever you may be on that spectrum, we wish you all happiness and comfort during this season.

I would also like to reinforce a bit of wonderful news we've shared over the past couple of weeks. Due to the incredible work of our scholars, our staff, and all of you, Rowe has earned the 1+ designation from CPS. It is awfully rewarding to see our hard work pay off, as well as quite the relief. With that said, we are well into a new year and on our way to improving on the incredible gains we made last year. Here are a few steps we're taking to continue strong with our progress.

- Math Kindergarten – 8th grade: We've welcomed a new curriculum, Eureka, that is pushing our instructional practice and student learning to new heights. It is a rigorous and well researched curriculum that provides our scholars with the conceptual knowledge they need to think critically about math, as well as the practice to math do problems fluently.

- School Culture: We've recommitted ourselves to having a strong school culture. From uniforms to hallway transitions to problem solving. We are working diligently to make sure our school culture reflects our values and that Rowe is a place where scholars can be joyful and safe in school.

- ELA: Books, books, and more books. We want scholars to continue to grow their love of books and reading and recognize the purpose and joy in it. Scholars in 3rd through 8th grade will be exposed to numerous rich novels throughout the course of the year.

We're already seeing signs of success. Two of the many that stand out are:

- ⇒ As of Monday, three Rowe 8th graders have been awarded the Daniel Murphy Scholarship. This prestigious and exclusive scholarship supports scholars as they apply to and attend the best high schools in the country, as well as providing ongoing support in high school to prepare them for college.
- ⇒ Our ANet data, which is a grade level based interim assessment we use to monitor student learning, showed nice progress.
 - 2nd – 5th grade average score on math = 63.5 (up from 56.5 on A1 last school year)
 - 6th – 8th grade average score on math = 39.6 (up from 35.3 on A1 last school year)
 - 2nd – 5th outscored the network on average by 18.75 points (up from 4.75 from A1 last school year)
 - 6th – 8th outscored the network on average by 6.3 points (up from being outscored by 3.6 on A1 last year)
- ⇒ This is good progress, but we have still have much work in front of us.

Our families have a critical role to play in our progress as well. Collectively, we need you all to do the following to accelerate our progress even more:

- ⇒ Support our scholars to truly understand the importance of education. You can do this by:
 - Having high expectations for your scholar. A B+ is fine if they've maxed out their effort, if they haven't maxed out their effort, we need to expect more.
 - Discussing your aspirations for their future with your scholars. As parents, we all want our scholars to exceed whatever levels of success we have. We should speak to them about that. Talk about what's brought us success, as well as what obstacles, both created by others or self-inflicted, have stood in our way.
 - Fostering accountability for learning. Talk to your scholars about what they have learned. In 6th grade our scholars are reading Hunger Games. In 2nd grade they are working on place value. Talk to your scholars about what they learned. Have them connect their learning to things around the home or the errands you run to the grocery store or laundry mat.
 - Talking about the value of education. Simply put, reinforce as often as possible why school is important. The beauty of this is there are an infinite number of reasons why we think education is important. Whatever your reason is, it's valid.

Additionally, we look forward to seeing you all in the building next Thursday, December 6th and Friday, December 7th for Report Card Pick Up. This is a great opportunity for families and teachers to collaborate, partner, and get on the same page about what needs to happen in Trimester 2 to push our scholars to new heights.

Additionally, at Report Card Pick Up, Irakere Picon, an immigration attorney with the Illinois Business Immigration Coalition will be available to talk to families about any immigration law questions they have including DACA renewals, family petitions, citizenship applications, deportation/removal proceedings, and more. For more information, please let me know.

Thank you all for your commitment and work.
Take care,
Tony

PAC Holiday Grams

Send your scholar some love this holiday season thru a Holiday Gram.

Each Gram is \$2.00 and it comes with a Holiday Smencils. Grams will be sold week of December 17th thru the 21st at dismissal.



Come out for dinner at Wendy's! Thursday, 12/6/18

4pm to 7pm—1623 W. Division St.

A portion of the sales comes back to Rowe.

Rowe's Fundraiser at Chuck E Cheese

Friday, 12/7/18 (no school)

3 pm to 7pm
1830 W. Fullerton

Let's celebrate our scholar's report card.



No School on
Friday,
December 7th
Report Card Pick Up



Report Card Pick Up Conferences

Please note conferences will be held on December 6th from 4:00- 7:00 and Friday, December 7th from 9:00- 4:00. Conferences will be held by your scholar's teacher.

Follow us on

Rowe Parents

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Upcoming Events

Dec 3rd thru 7th— Book Fair at RES at Dismissal

Dec 6— Report Card 4pm to 7pm

Dec 6—Wendy's Fundraiser

Dec 7—No School for Scholars

Dec 7—Report Card 9am to 4pm

Dec 7—Chuck E Cheese Fundraiser—3pm to 7pm

Dec 18 thru 22 — Holiday Grams

Dec 24 thru Jan 4 —Winter Break—No School

Jan 7 —Return from Winter Break

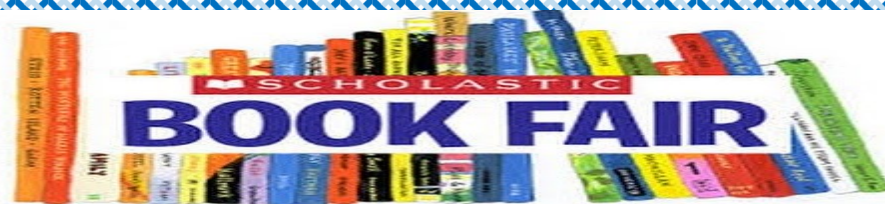
Winter Break



Winter Break is from Monday, December 24th through Friday, January 4th

We return on Monday, January 7th.

Please mark your calendar.



Join us for our Annual Book fair
December 3rd thru 7th
At dismissal
RES