



The Redwood Rocket

Redwood's Family Newsletter
Bruce Arcurio - Lead Learner/Principal
Ana Marti - Assistant Principal

November 2016

A Note from Mr. Arcurio

Dear Families,

October has been a wonderful month so far! We have observed Week of Respect with a variety of fun ideas, we are currently observing School Violence Awareness Week and will be celebrating Red Ribbon Week soon. This month is the perfect month for our **ROCKET** character trait of **Respect**. The students have learned a great deal about respect through our daily announcements, our Community Day, our whole school meeting, and the various activities that teachers have organized within our

classrooms. Please be sure to talk with your children about what respect means to your family.



Next month our **ROCKET** character trait is **Responsibility**. Our students will learn what it means to be a responsible member of the Redwood Community. This includes taking care of ourselves and others, caring for our school and community, and ultimately taking care of our greater world. As always your help is appreciated in teaching these lessons to the children. Any ways that you can help your children understand the importance of being responsible around the house will help. Maybe they can be responsible for cleaning a room or feeding a pet or loading the dishwasher. The key is to talk about how those things help them develop their own sense of responsibility. As always thank you for all that you do to support your children and Redwood School.

Important Dates

Nov 8	Schools Closed - Election Day
Nov 9	Schools Closed for students - Teacher Inservice
Nov 10-11	Schools Closed for NJ Teacher Convention

Better Together,

Bruce. Arcurio
Lead Learner/Principal

American Education Week

Arrival/Dismissal Procedures

In order to keep the flow of traffic uninterrupted for the smooth arrival and departure of buses and cars and most importantly, the safety of the children, parents, staff and faculty of Redwood **must follow the rules** for the pickup/drop-off procedure at Redwood School.

- When coming to drop-off/pickup your child/children in the Kiss-and-Go-Lane, please approach this area by coming east on Woodland Avenue and turning **RIGHT** onto **REDWOOD AVENUE** and **RIGHT** into the Kiss-and-Go-Lane.
- **Students may only exit the car from the passenger's side.**
- After dropping your child/children off, **A RIGHT TURN ONLY** is permitted onto **REDWOOD AVENUE**
- **DO NOT:** Park or Stand when dropping off your child/children in the Kiss-and-Go-Lane. Please do not remain on **REDWOOD AVENUE** to watch your child walk into the school. This causes an unsafe condition for fellow drivers

and pedestrians. You may park legally and escort your child to their arrival door. Please do not talk on your cell phone while waiting to drop students off at the Kiss and Go Lane.

- I encourage you not to park on WOODLAND AVENUE east of Redwood Avenue (above the parking lot). Although it is legal to park on Woodland Avenue, parking and walking your child from this area of Woodland Avenue to our campus causes unsafe conditions. I ENCOURAGE YOU TO USE THE KISS-AND-GO-LANE.
- **DO NOT:** let your child/children disembark from your car while you are waiting by the curb to come into the Kiss-and-Go-Lane.
- **PLEASE DO NOT:** approach the Kiss-and-Go-Lane WEST on WOODLAND AVENUE. There is a true traffic jam and congestion at the crosswalks. Observing this is frightening. All activity in the Redwood Kiss-and-Go Lane needs to be from the EAST.
- The West Orange Police have worked with the school for the past several years and are supportive of these safe arrival and departure procedures.
- An easy way to remember is **RIGHT IN AND RIGHT OUT** of the Redwood School Kiss-and-Go-Lane and Parking Lot.
- Although you may think that you are saving minutes by possibly not using one of the above mentioned procedures correctly, kindly understand that **NOT** following the procedures takes more time. Also, it creates unsafe conditions which could lead to serious injuries for our children, our parents, or our staff.
 - **Never let your child out from your car at any of the crosswalks. This is illegal.**
 - **Never have children remain in your parked vehicle if coming into school.**
 - **Children should not be dropped off or picked up in the rear of the school.**
 - **Only cross the streets and bus loop at the crosswalks**
 - **During arrival and dismissal there should never be anyone walking in or across the bus loop**

Halloween Parade

The Redwood School Annual Halloween Parade for kindergarten & grades 1 to 5 will be held in the school bus loop on Monday, October 31, 2016 from 2:00 PM until approximately 2:30 PM. All children in grades kindergarten & grades 1 to 5 will have an opportunity to dress in their costumes after lunch. The parade will **begin promptly at 2:00 PM** as students will begin their march around the bus loop with parents positioned in the center of the loop. We look forward to the Concert Band under the direction of Ms. Andrea Rommel accompanying the parade event.

The Redwood staff and I extend an invitation to you to visit and view the children in their costumes. **Please note that due to the current media issues that have arisen over “scary clowns,” we will not allow clown costumes this year. Many of our students expressed fear over the topic over the past month and we do not want our Halloween festivities to be marred by this issue. Thank you for your attention to this. We also ask for your cooperation in insuring the following: that your child does not wear his/her costume to school; that your child’s costume is appropriate with regard to safety, health, and theme, and includes no potentially hazardous objects (sharp-edge, pointed) and no weapons (guns, knives). Please do not send in any food containing nuts or peanuts to the Halloween parties. Please follow the guidelines for a healthy food celebration. A good rule of thumb is that all costumes should be “G” rated.**



- Also, in an effort to extend courtesy to our neighbors who live near school, we ask that you park properly near the curb and that you do not block any driveways. In addition, please be extra cautious as you venture home with your children to insure their safety in the parking lot and roadway at the conclusion of our festivities.
- If you choose to take your child home after the party, please be sure to sign them out.
- In the event of rain, the parade will be held in the new gymnasium with parents asked to position themselves in the center of the gym as the classes will march around the perimeter of the gym and return to their classrooms for a healthy foods celebration.
- For those children whose religious beliefs do not permit participation in Halloween activities, we ask that you **send a note in to your teacher by Friday, October 28, 2016**, to enable alternative activities to be implemented. Students will only be involved in this alternate activity if a note/e-mail is sent to the classroom teacher addressing this concern.

ROCKET into character and make good choices everyday!

Thank you for your attention to these items. We look forward to your visit with us to enjoy the festivities.

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