

Riverside Drive Charter School

Parent Newsletter

January 2012

A Note from the Principal

I can't believe it is already 2012! I hope that you had a relaxing holiday season you were able to catch up with your children so that they could show you all have learned the first part of the school year.



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We are working hard as a Charter School to make sure our written plan is implemented and all of our students are working to their fullest potential. Our next Governance Council meeting is on Thursday, January 19 at 3:00 in the parent center. Please come and be a part of major decisions that are being made at our school.

Do you like to write grants? Are you interested in campus beautification? Would you like to help us prioritize what technology we need to buy? We have a committee for you! Our charter school committees meet on a monthly basis and they are a great chance for you to get involved. Committee meeting times are posted in the main hallway and are sent out in our email blasts. If you don't get email blasts but would like to, please sign up for them at www.riversidedriveparents.org. All meetings are public and everyone is welcome to attend.

Attendance is Important



Daily attendance is important for students in grades K-5. LAUSD is monitoring attendance closely this year, especially for students in kindergarten. Students should be in school each day, unless they are ill, and should come prepared. This includes having their homework completed and materials at the beginning of the day. Lunches being delivered to the classroom are an interruption to instruction. The maximum number of absences allowed in one school year is 10 days. Students who have 3 or more unexcused absences or three tardies in excess of 30 minutes are considered truant by the state of California. Last month, absences by our students for 11 school days equaled a district loss of \$10,527 and so far this school year our school has lost \$52,637 in revenue for the district.

We have several attendance incentives going on at Riverside Drive Charter. Each class has a poster in their room with the words "perfect attendance" written on it. Each letter from that phrase is in a box and each day the class has perfect attendance, one box gets colored in. When all of the boxes are colored in, the class gets popcorn party or an extra recess period. We also have a monthly contest for overall class attendance and the winners are announced at our pep rally the first Friday of the month. The grade level with the highest attendance for the previous month gets an extra recess period and the class within that grade level gets a mini Rocky the Raccoon mascot to have in their classroom.

Math Master Program

Our Math Master Program is back in full swing! Each Tuesday, your child will take a one minute timed test that tests their knowledge of basic math facts. The tests have been tailored for each individual grade level (even kindergarten participates). The first time a student receives 100% on the test, they become a Math Master. Each Wednesday, the new Math Masters' names are called out over the loud speaker, their picture is taken and posted in the main hallway, and they are given a Math Master button. Each additional week the student receives 100%, they will get a prize. Math Master buttons are only given out the first time 100% is reached and lost buttons will not be replaced. This has been successful in the past in helping Riverside Drive students learn their basic addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division facts. Making flash cards at home and practicing with your child is a great way to help them become a Math Master. We will continue this program until testing begins in May.



Kiss and Ride

We are still in need of volunteers for our Kiss and Ride drop off program along Ethel in the morning. Lately, we have had problems with unsafe behavior from several of our parents during morning drop off. Please remember not to block our neighbors' driveways when you are arriving in the morning, they may need to leave their house. Students should always cross the street at the cross walk either at Huston or Riverside Drive and should never walk between cars or cross in the middle of the street. If you want to park your car and walk your child in to the yard, consider parking a block away. It will save you time in the end by avoiding the traffic congestion. It is important to remember that our students are watching everything you do and say and you serve as the model for safe behavior.



Important Dates:

January 16, 2012	No School; Martin Luther King Jr. Day
January 18, 2012	Child ID Program
January 19, 2012	Gov. Council Meeting; Parent Center; 3:00
January 24, 2012	PFRD Meeting; AM; Auditorium Maria's Italian Kitchen Night