

Reiche School News

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Reiche Community School | 166 Brackett Street, Portland, ME | 207.874.8175

Welcome!

Please welcome Fatuma Ali and Hermenegildo Paulo to the Reiche Community! Ms. Ali, a former Reiche student, is joining us as a Special Education Ed Tech. Mr. Paulo joins us as a multilingual Ed Tech. He is fluent in English, Portuguese, and Spanish.

Parking

Please use the bus circle to safely drop off students in the morning. If you need to get out of your car at drop off or pick up, you must park in a space available on the streets surrounding the school. Do not park the lot next to Fresh Approach. This is permit parking only for school staff and you will be ticketed.

Popcorn

Reiche's 4th graders are working to help fund their trip to Augusta! Popcorn will be for sale on Friday mornings, before school, for \$.75. Fourth graders spend weeks studying Maine and are excited for their trip to visit the State House, the Maine State Museum, and Fort Western. Thank you for your support!

Mindfulness

Over the next few weeks, Ms. Baltren will be visiting 1st, 2nd, and 3rd grade classes to practice mindfulness. Mindfulness is being aware of thoughts, feelings, and surroundings. Mindfulness can help students focus in class, develop empathy for others, and problem solve. Both kids and adults can practice with simple activities like naming things that you can see, hear, smell, feel, and taste. Try practicing taking deep breaths and noticing your muscles. Some of our teachers use mindyeti.com for free guided mindfulness practice for kids, and you can try it at home!

Office Changes for Dismissal

Student safety is our greatest priority in creating school procedures. We are worried that the activity level in the main office for end of day pick up between 3:15pm and 3:30pm results in a reduction in our capacity to be safely responsive to everyone's needs. Moving forward we will be enforcing our policy regarding early dismissals: **We will not be able to dismiss students between 3:15pm and 3:30pm**, or between 2:15 and 2:30pm on Wednesdays. If you need to pick up your student early, please come prior to 3:15pm.

Beginning Monday, February 25, *phones will not be answered between 3:15-3:30pm*, and 2:15-2:30pm on Wednesdays. Our front office staff is concerned that the volume of calls during this time reduces their ability to be attentive to students' and staff's safety during dismissal time. If you have a change to your child's dismissal plan, please inform your child's teacher in the morning, or call the office before 3:15pm.

We believe these practices will strengthen our capacity to continue to grow the most safe and calm dismissal process possible. Please see Andrea at the front desk with any questions.

Important Dates

Wednesday, Jan 30
2:30 Dismissal

Wednesday, Jan 30
PTO Meeting
6-7:30pm

Tuesday, Feb 5
Talent Show
Auditions
3:30-5pm

Wednesday, Feb 6
2:30 Dismissal

Wed-Sat, Feb 6-9
Annual Book Fair

Saturday, Feb 9
Winter Fest
2-5:00pm

Thank you for reading our bi-weekly newsletter!

Please contact Anne Baltren with questions or suggestions (baltra@portlandschools.org).