

Reiche School News

Volume 12, March 23, 2018

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

For your consideration

As parents we are all balancing our family values, the needs and wants of our children, and the pressures of social media and video entertainment. Our children's enthusiasm for the things they think they want can sometimes overpower our better judgment.

Some themes have arisen around these topics recently at Reiche School. We encourage all parents to consider, or reconsider, allowing their school-age children to have access to social media or video games that are rated Teen, Mature, or have themes of violence, hurting women, or sexualized behavior. Some examples include *Five Nights at Freddy's*, *Grand Theft Auto*, and *Call of Duty*.

Although children will often let us know they like having access to these games and videos, they are not sophisticated enough in brain development to be able to discern, without adult guidance, what is appropriate for their age group. Students are coming to school talking with staff and peers about scary images, nightmares interrupting their sleep, and creating a climate of worry rather than a focus on learning. Please contact Anne Baltren, Michelle Turner, or Susan Wiggin if you have questions or concerns about this topic.

Important Dates

Mar 19 – Apr 3:
MEA Testing

Tuesday, Mar 27:
*7-9pm PTO Auction
Salvage BBQ*

Wednesday, Mar 28:
2:30pm dismissal

Wednesday, Apr 4:
2:30pm dismissal

Friday, Apr 6:
5th grade trip to Boston

It's the Law

Sometimes families ask us about access to justice and legal help. Here are a few resources we want to share: Pine Tree Legal Assistance (ptla.org) believes in fairness and justice for everyone; they are a resource for free civil legal aid in Maine. The Maine Community Law Center is offering a series of informational sessions regarding specific legal issues. The series will be held at the main branch of the public library, 5:30-6:30pm. Topics include: Protection from Abuse Matters (March 21), Landlord/Tenant Issues (May 2), Ballot Issues: What Do They Mean? (Oct 10).

Maine Maple Syrup Sunday

Maple Syrup Sunday is a long-held tradition in Maine. For more information about events around the state, visit: mainemapleproducers.com

FREE in Portland

Here are some free (and almost free) things to do with your family:

1. **Reiche Community Pool.** Saturdays 12-1:00pm, open swim is \$1 per child and \$4 per adult.
2. **Community Dinners.** Enjoy a meal at Reiche School, Mondays at 5:15pm, or at the Salvation Army, Tuesdays at 5:00pm.
3. **Portland Museum of Art.** Every Friday night the Portland Museum of Art is free to enter between 4-8:00pm.
4. **Portland Public Library.**

Come! Sit! Read!: Children enjoy reading to furry, non-judgmental listeners. Tuesdays, March 27 and April 3, 3:30-5:30.

The Kids Are Alright: A family-friendly local music series. Saturday, April 7, 10:30-11:30am.

Smart Girls Read: Monthly book club for girls ages 9-12. Saturday, April 7, 2:00-3:00pm.

Thank you for reading our bi-weekly newsletter! Please contact Susan Wiggin or Anne Baltren with questions or suggestions (wiggis@portlandschools.org or baltra@portlandschools.org).