



Orchard Elementary
Ridgewood Public Schools

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Good Morning Orchard School Families,

As we prepare to close out the 2018 calendar year, we have a great deal to be thankful for here at Orchard School! In the last month, our generous school community collected food and raised over \$1300 to donate to Social Services Association for their annual food drive. Our Kindergarten students amazed us with their heartfelt and joyous Thanksgiving feast, while our 3-5 grade students entertained us with their performance of “Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory”! We also held a successful book fair that brought families together through their love of reading. November may have been a short month, but boy we certainly have been busy!

The month of December is always hectic as the holiday season is upon us. Please take a moment to read below for highlights of Orchard events and happenings.

Choose to Be Nice - Family “No Homework” Nights!

Each month at Orchard School, we celebrate our Choose to Be Nice theme at a Community Building Assembly. The students share their learning from 2 different sources. We have designated a monthly book and theme for classroom discussions. This month, we are thrilled that our third grade play is all about our theme - acceptance - and about our book, Marisol McDonald Doesn't Match.

To connect with home, we are going to launch our first “Choose to Be Nice Family Night” this month. On Thursday, December 20, we will hold our Choose to Be Nice Spirit Day at Orchard School. That night, our teachers will not assign any homework. Instead, we encourage families to get together and enjoy some quality time with one another. We will do this each month!

Here are some ideas for activities to do as a family. We hope that you can take advantage of this time together...and try to do so in an “unplugged” fashion!

- An outing: Take a walk or a drive around to view holiday displays in your neighborhood!
- Arts & Crafts: Make a family banner, using handprints and characteristics to describe each family member.
- Philanthropy: Bring a meal to a neighbor, donate new or gently used items, stock the pantry at SSA!
- Games & Activities: Play an “old school” game like Candy Land, Uno, or Go Fish. They are still fun for all ages!
- Movie Time: Cozy up on the couch and watch a movie together - really together. No other electronics allowed!

Stay tuned for more “Choose to Be Nice No Homework Nights” in the future!

Wellbeing Speaker Series: Ana Homayoun, January 16, 2019

Our next wellbeing speaker series event will be held on Wednesday, January 16, at 7 PM. Join us as author Ana Homayoun speaks about her book, entitled: Social Media Wellness: Helping Teens & Tweens Thrive in an Unbalanced Digital World. Ana is a nationally recognized speaker and educator; a teen and millennial expert. We look forward to this exciting event. Hope to see you there! Please view this [flier](#) for more information.

As with every monthly update, we need reminders about our procedures and policies here at Orchard. Please read below on a few items of note:

- Drop Off/Pick Up: We are doing a much better job with our pick up at 3 PM! Thank you, thank you! Just a few reminders...
 - Please remember to pull all the way up if using the drop off lane in the morning. Also, please wait in that line and do not pull out of the line once your child has exited.
 - At pick up time, please do not double park and please remember that we do not have a pick up and go area - the red fire zone is just that! Please do not pull up or double park into the red zone for pickup.
- Link and follow our Google Calendar for HSA events! [Go to this link](#) and click

on the +Google Calendar in the right bottom corner.

- Lunch Ordering: Just some reminders for ordering lunch through [Village Fresh](#). All orders are placed online. Orders must be in **by 8:00 AM**, otherwise, they will not be delivered on that day. Get your orders in! Thank you!

Please review the list of dates below for upcoming events at our school. Happy Holidays!

Warmly,



Mrs. Ferreri

Upcoming events:

12/13: Grade 3 Play, 9:00 AM
12/14: Staff Holiday Luncheon (11:45-12:45)
12/20: Spirit Day, CTBN CBA, No homework day
12/21: Holiday Sing-a-Long, 9 AM
1/18: Bingo Night, 6:30 PM
1/23: Long Range Planning Team Meeting, 7:30 PM
1/29: Winter Concert, Grades 4&5, 9:00 AM
2/1: Talent Show, 6:30 PM
2/7: Grade 2 Play, 9:00 AM