

RESTORING CONNECTIONS NEWSLETTER

December Edition 2025

Bridging Home to School

*Restoration Academy
Monthly Magnet Newsletter*



Dear Restoration Academy Families,

Happy New Year!!! Welcome to 2026! As we return to school following Winter Recess and begin ushering in the new year, let's take a moment to reflect on 2025 by sharing some of our December highlights.

Middle School Tours

In the month of December, we continued our Restoration Academy middle school tours for fifth grade students. In total, we hosted nine elementary schools in experiencing "A Day in the Life of a Raven". Led by our Student Ambassadors and a committee of staff members, fifth grade students participated in class workshops that included:

- STEM: Egg Drop Station
- Math: Algebra Introduction
- Art: Watercolor Expression
- Dance/Theatre: Mini-Production of Annie Jr.
- Music: Steel Pan
- Chess Learning Station



Spirit Week

We kicked off the holiday season by bringing the community together to spread joy during Spirit Week. Staff and students participated in themed dress up days, including Ugly Sweater Day, Pajama Day, and 90s Day.



Our first annual **Holiday Show** was a roaring success as students showcased their talents and spread holiday cheer. A special shout out to Ms. Dunn for coordinating this spectacular show! On our final day before Winter Recess, students began the day in skate class with GoSportsNYC. We believe that learning new skills builds confidence. This is echoed in the philosophy of GoSports NYC who believe that "through skateboarding, rollerblading, and our new AI music lessons, we provide an environment where kids can explore their passions while also building key life skills". We look forward to continuing this partnership!



Magnet School Minute

Developing **Community and Family Partnerships** is one of the five pillars that guide Magnet programs.

Developing Community Partnerships through Gift Giving

Support from the New York Cares Foundation's Winter Wishes program allows us to identify fifth grade classes in neighboring elementary schools to gift during the holiday season. In our initial visits, we discussed the importance of kindness and asked students to share examples of how they show care to others. Our return during the holiday season was full of joy and excitement as we fulfilled the fifth graders wish list by presenting their gifts. Opportunities like this help us deepen our relationship with other schools within the community.



Creating Family Fun at Restoration Academy

Our **Holiday Gingerbread House Contest** was a beautiful evening filled with creativity, laughter, and family fun. The competition was tough, the energy was high, and the smiles were endless. Thank you to all the parents and families who joined us!

- 🏆 1st Place: 50-inch TV
- 🥈 2nd Place: Air Fryer
- 🥉 3rd Place: Hair Dryer + Bluetooth Speakers



First Prize Winners 8th grader, Taylor Smith and family

International Baccalaureate (IB) News:

As an IB school, each unit of study incorporates a Summative Assessment. Summative assessments are used as tools to evaluate a student's overall understanding, proficiency, and performance. As a project-based learning environment, each subject or interdisciplinary unit culminates with a project that allows students the opportunity to utilize the transferable skills learned throughout the unit.

As we further develop as an IB school, we plan to host Culmination Ceremonies at the end of each cycle of units to share and display student work for the entire school community. Please look out for more information and invitations to our first Culmination Ceremony to be held in late January.

CURRICULUM CORNER

Lifelong Learning in Action

At Restoration Academy, learning is not only happening in the classroom with students. Our staff are dedicated to continued learning and through a range of professional development opportunities, we continue to expand our depth of knowledge while modeling for our students the importance of life-long learning.

During our weekly professional development sessions in December staff participated in our *Strengthening Teams* workshop series. The workshop series began with staff reflecting on their own personality types and learning styles to deepen self-awareness through the Personality Compass tool. Each of the following sessions in the series were centered around ICT partnerships and collaboration.

Just as we plan field trips for students to explore their in-class learning in a real-world context, staff were treated to an off-site experience to put into action all they learned in the workshop series. An excursion to the Escape Room put us all to the test, requiring us to collaborate, take risks, and cheer for each other along the way. Both teams were successful in escaping! So much fun was had!!



PARENT TOOLKIT



Progress Reports

Progress Reports were distributed on the last day before Winter Recess, Tuesday, December 23rd. Please ask your child or reach out to the school, if you did not receive a report. Below are suggestions on steps you can take to support your child after receiving their progress report.

- **Review the Progress Reports Together:** Review and discuss it with your child to understand their progress and areas for improvement.
- **Communicate with the School:** Keep open lines of communication with the school regarding your child's progress and any concerns.
- **Encourage Independence:** Gradually encourage your child to take on more responsibility and independence in their learning.
- **Seek Additional Help:** If needed, seek additional help or resources from educational support services or professionals.
- **Don't Forget to Celebrate Achievements:** Acknowledge and celebrate your child's achievements to build confidence and motivation.



Our SEL Snapshot

A The Urban Assembly This year we are enhancing our approach and intentional practices regarding Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) by partnering with The Urban Assembly. The Urban Assembly offers an integrated social and emotional learning model that supports schools as they “learn how to organize themselves around the principles of social-emotional development.” Working with our SEL team, the Urban Assembly offers tools to identify needs for program development and methods for tracking the overall impact of programs implemented.



Notes from the Main Office

- School starts at 8 am. Please make sure your child arrives on time.
- Please support us by making sure your child is in full uniform. Dress down day is on Friday!!
- Join the PTA! Contact Ms. Perrin, PTA President or Ms. Tucker, Parent Coordinator for more information.
- Monday, January 12th is our Snow Tubing field trip at Campgaw Mountains in Mahwah, New Jersey. Please sign both the permission slip and the waiver for this trip, as soon as possible.
- Please remember to check Jupiter for up-to-date information on student progress and grades.

RESTORING CONNECTIONS NEWSLETTER is our way of creating a bridge between the school and your home. Look out for monthly issues for updated school information, events, and celebrations!

Look out for monthly editions!!