

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

:: Middle School Section

By: Walter Koertge

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Message from Middle School Principal

Each passing year brings in celebrations of life and the learning. This new year, 2008, will also hold increased amount of aspirations and greater hopes, with parents who are satisfied, students with increased amount of enthusiasm, and teachers with renewed zeal for teaching. We will see a major paradigm shift in Values curriculum, where students will learn to examine chosen Global Issues and provocative problems through different perspectives and gain practical insights. The Performing Arts will expand to include a speech component.

It is my personal and professional opinion that we have committed, dedicated and motivated teachers with which to make every aspiration plausible. I am also totally confident in knowing that we are blessed with the most outstanding students and supportive parents.



Ms. Sudha Augustine



Mr. Walter and MS students are painting a reindeer

Middle School Visual Art



Mr. Pui and MS students are painting a Santa's sleigh

The main aim of the Middle School Art Department this academic year has been to continue to develop and build a curriculum that reflects the school-wide philosophy and one that is concerned with raising the standards and achievements of our Middle School students. It also aims to improve the overall profile of art within the school environment.

Middle School Art students have been involved in many art projects this semester. Some of the projects include, The Typography Name Project, Unity of Color, Cultural Mask Making, Contrapposto, 'Wizard of Oz' 3-D Prop Creations, Contour Drawings, Animal Drawings, Portraits, Fall Celebration Leaf Painting, Radial Balance, The Alphabet Project, Color Wheels, the instillation of a large mural inside Phoenix Hall, and the instillation of the Color Wheel Bush in the MS courtyard.

Recently, students expressed their Christmas wishes for the RIS community with some fantastic chalk drawings in front of the Administration Building. These include a large sun with vines surrounding the Thai Flag pole, Santa Clause with sled and reindeer, a large Christmas tree, Frosty the Snowman, and a wonderful version of Day/Night happiness.

We sincerely wish all the RIS community, families, and friends a very **HAPPY NEW YEAR 2008.**

"Lord, grant that I may always desire more than I can accomplish."

- Michelangelo



MUMMY PROJECT



By: Mr. Kevin T., Mrs. Bobbie, and Mrs. Suzanne

Our pharaoh is dead! Did Ramses II, Hatshepsut, King Tutankhamen, or Cleopatra make it to the afterlife? The goal of all the 6th graders was to prepare each deceased pharaoh for a successful and enjoyable afterlife. The students had four in-class work sessions, affectionately titled "mummy days." The work sessions comprised of research in the library, group discussions/decision making, and hands-on construction of Egyptian artifacts. The students had opportunities to work with other 6th grade students outside their homerooms.

The main presentation took place in the MS courtyard on December 3, 2007 during milk break. On this special occasion, four ancient Egyptian pharaoh burial reenactments occurred at the same time. The mood was festive as parents, administrators, faculty, staff, and students (from

all three schools) enjoyed the live show!

All Egyptian artifacts and papers were then transported to the mummy museum exhibit on the 3rd floor of the MS building in the breezeway. The exhibit will be open to the public from December 3-17, 2007. All visitors will have the opportunity to see painted coffins, canopic jars, custom made Egyptian clothes, obituary scrolls, Egyptian jewelry, various pieces of Egyptian artwork, and a book of spells. In addition, Mrs. Suzanne's class made Egyptian newspapers using the computer program Microsoft Publisher. The newspapers, which highlight ancient Egyptian life, were constructed with historical accuracy and an artist's eye. As one student said "the Egyptian newspapers make the mummy museum complete."