

The Ridge School
Ridgewood Public Schools
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February 6, 2018

Dear Ridge Students and Parents:

We recently passed the halfway point in our school year and I am pleased to report that we have continued to work on *Choosing To Be Nice* as a community of learners and friends. In my announcements every Monday morning, I give a reminder of our pledge to be nice to each other this year by giving a suggestion of what we can do. Yesterday I asked the students to do something nice for someone else that didn't cost any money or require much effort. Little things like doing chores without being asked or volunteering to help you around the house were two of my suggestions. As we all know, it feels good to do something nice for someone else.

Two opportunities along those lines will present themselves next month; our Science Fair is on March 1 and the annual Lip Sync Night is March 15. I encourage students to work with one or two others on a Science Fair project that is both meaningful and fun. Lip Sync is meant to be an entertaining event for all children who want to participate. Unfortunately, there have been situations in the past when children have had hurt feelings and felt left out of both these special events. I believe if, as a community, we approach the Science Fair and Lip Sync with an attitude of inclusion and choosing to be nice, they can truly be fun for all. If there is a question about whether or not to invite or include another student, I hope the answer will be, "Yes!"

Parents, please remember that the Science Fair and Lip Sync Night are events for children. As much as possible, I ask that you step back and let students be in charge. The result may not be perfect but that's okay.

Beyond these two special events, there are opportunities every single day at Ridge School for us to reach out and extend friendship and kindness to others. We need to think about it and act purposely.

Thank you for helping me make Ridge School an inclusive and nice place to learn and play.

With gratitude,

Dr. Schoenlank
Principal