

December 2024

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Restorative Justice Scoop



MS447
THE EXPLORATORY SCHOOL

RJ Department: Dallas Alexis, Sameera Abadi, Joy Canning, Administration

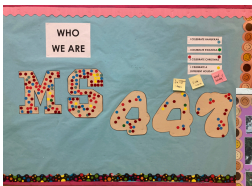
RPET:

RPET is our **Restorative Practices Equity Team**. This team is committed to building and healing community and creating and upholding equity through research, policy, and practice. We are a collaborative group of students, teachers and adult staff, and grown-ups from home. Currently we have eight 6th graders, five 7th graders, six 8th graders, seven school staff/teachers, and one parent (we are seeking to add 2 more parents this year).

Students in RPET have been nominated by their teachers, counselors, and other staff who recognize their leadership, leadership potential, powerful student voice, strong voice just waiting to emerge, passion for equity - justice - and/or community, ability to identify inequity or desire to create change. The students who have been selected are of course not the only students in our school who meet this criteria, but they are the ones who currently comprise this team. The team demographic also seeks to have a broad representation of our students, families, and teachers; bringing diverse perspectives to our conversations and our work.

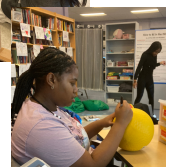
RPET meets during the school day one C day a month in a joyful and collaborative gathering. Our desire is to

- Uphold our **Wolfpack Values (Integrity, Justice, Equity, Curiosity, Joy, Responsibility, and Belonging)**
- Build **community** and **heal relationships**
- Improve **school climate and culture** for all
- Continue to learn about **Restorative Justice** and what it means to be a restorative and equitable school.



Representing Who We Are at 447
in the context of some of the December
heritage, cultural and religious celebrations
*not all students participated

Student Equity Team 2024-2025



7th grade CoCreate -- created a Donor's Choose Project to
acquire new play equipment

RJ Book Discussion Group: For Grown-Ups at home

Are you interested in joining a reading/thought discussion group focused on Restorative Practices and living restoratively? Please let Joy know at jcanning@ms447.org . In the Subject Line write **RJ Book Discussion Group**.

Our first selection is ***Talking Stick - Peacemaking as a Spiritual Path*** by Stephan V. Beyer. This book is a practice for deeper relationships, personal growth, and connection to nature. ***Talking Stick*** presents an opportunity to establish deeper connections with others. By learning to speak honestly and listen devoutly, we can overcome our culture's hierarchical and punitive approach to conflict and relate to each other in a sacred manner that is egalitarian, liberating, and transformational. The book explains how to apply this practice with large and small groups and on an interpersonal level. It focuses on deepening relationships, healing old wounds, and restoring harmony among people. Join us as we work toward living restoratively together. **Those who express interest will work together to determine best time and place for the monthly discussions.**

How Grown Ups at Home Can Support Restorative Justice

- **Model Empathy and Accountability:** Grown Ups can support RJ by demonstrating empathy and encouraging children to take responsibility for their actions, especially when things go wrong.
- **Open Communication:** Encourage children to express their feelings and listen to others' perspectives. This will make RJ processes more effective when they are implemented in schools or communities.
- **Stay Involved:** Support the school or community efforts by attending meetings or events related to RJ and keeping an open line of communication with educators.

Why It's Important for the Whole Family

- **Building Stronger Families:** RJ encourages communication and understanding not just among peers, but within families. When used at home, it can help address conflicts and build stronger, more supportive family relationships.
- **Long-Term Impact:** By reinforcing the principles of RJ at home, grown ups can help their children grow into more empathetic, accountable, and community-minded individuals, benefiting both the family and the broader community.