



Media Contacts:

Thien Ho (626) 372-8478, Thien.Ho@PandaRG.com

Juliam Lee (626) 372- 8506, Juliam.Lee@PandaRG.com

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PANDA RESTAURANT GROUP HOSTS WINTER WONDERLAND CARNIVAL FOR LOCAL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Janson Elementary School Recognized for Outstanding Achievements

ROSEMEAD, Calif. –Panda Restaurant Group, parent company of American’s favorite Chinese restaurant Panda Express, is hosting its 7th annual holiday party for nearly 700 elementary school students on December 18th in recognition of their academic and leadership achievements in *The Leader in Me* program. Since Panda Restaurant Group supported this partnership at Mildred B. Janson Elementary School seven years ago, it has become the first school in California to earn “Lighthouse” Status, a prestigious distinction among *The Leader in Me* schools.

The celebration will begin at 9 a.m. at Panda Restaurant Group headquarters located at 1683 Walnut Grove Avenue in Rosemead, where students from Janson Elementary School will enjoy carnival-themed booths created by Panda Associates that range from face-painting to snowball bowling. Students will be greeted by a life-size Panda Express Panda Bear, treated to a delicious Panda Express lunch, and will receive gifts donated by Mattel.

The Leader in Me is a school program inspired by Stephen Covey’s book, “The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People,” that integrates timeless leadership principles with practical character and life skills relevant to today’s challenges. By building self-confidence, interpersonal skills, elevating student achievement, and reducing school-wide discipline problems, this program helps children become leaders in their field of interest. “Lighthouse School” is the top designation available through *The Leader in Me* program and Janson Elementary, the first school in California to earn this designation, took three years to reach this status.

Through Panda Cares, Panda Restaurant Group sponsors *The Leader in Me* program at over 400 schools throughout the country. The mission of Panda Cares is to support the health and educational needs of underserved children and believes that by cultivating future leaders, this will help bring hope to children in need. Panda Cares is committed to bringing leadership curriculum to schools nationwide, including developing future leaders right in its own backyard.

“We are proud to bring leadership development to schools nationwide,” said Peggy Cherng, co-chairman of Panda Restaurant Group. “Through this program, each child has the opportunity to become insightful and confident leaders who will contribute to their communities.”

About Panda Restaurant Group

Founded in Southern California in 1973, Panda Restaurant Group Inc. is the world leader in Asian dining experiences with more than 1,700 locations in 46 states along with stores in Mexico, Guam, Korea, Puerto Rico, and Dubai. The privately held chain of fast casual, full service and quick service restaurant concepts includes Panda Express, Panda Inn, and Hibachi-San. For more information visit www.pandaexpress.com, or become a fan on [Facebook](#).

About Panda Cares

Panda Cares' mission is to bring hope to children in need. Our purpose is to promote the spirit of Giving within Panda by directly serving the health and education needs of underserved children. Learn more at www.pandacares.org.