

RHEEMARKS: May 1st

Good Evening Rheem Team Families,

I hope you had a wonderful weekend. The first week of May is another busy one with teacher appreciation week, the beginning of Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month, and state testing (more info below).

[CAASPP Testing](#) begins this week for 3rd–5th graders and continues through Friday, May 13. Individual schedules vary by class, but our students will take tests in the areas of English/Language Arts and Math during these two weeks. Remember, the best at-home preparations for these tests are a good night's sleep, a healthy breakfast, and a good attitude.

Please keep reading to see what else is happening at Rheem this week.

This Week at Rheem:

Monday, May 2:

- Teacher Appreciation Week
- Spirit Assemblies: K - 2nd and 3rd – 5th graders
- Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month begins
- CAASPP Testing begins

Tuesday, May 3:

- National Teacher Appreciation Day
- Lunchtime Dance Club hosted by Ms. Seli (during recess)

Wednesday, May 4:

- Rheem Store Open
- Lunchtime Garden Club hosted by Ms. Inzeo (during recess)

Thursday, May 5:

- Cinco de Mayo – Teacher Appreciation luncheon

Friday, May 6:

- Regularly scheduled Friday

School News and Highlights

Variety Show: What a SHOW!!! From the opening act of her majesty's "We Will Rock You" to the next Billy Joe's rendition of "Good Riddance" and the coup d'état "Rheem Team Song," friends and families alike were kept on the edge of their seats cheering for more. With over 25 acts ranging from singing, dancing, acrobats, comedy skits, musical instruments, playing, jump roping, and more. The Rheem Team never looked as creative and talented as Friday Night. A Special thanks to co-chairs Courtney Pickering (mother of Elliott) and Jill Balazs (mother of Brahm and Meirabella); backstage director Meredith Henning (mother of Donovan); and all the for their tireless work, and all the other amazing volunteers for helping to make this year's Variety Show one for the ages.

Science Fair: Thursday night saw scientists galore assemble in the Frank. Their experiments consisted of biology, physics, organic chemistry, chemistry, and behavioral science. I was blown away by over sixty 3rd through 5th-grade participants this year. That is roughly 30% of all eligible students (only third, fourth and fifth graders are eligible for the science). Their presentations and projects were Rheemarkable. Also, a big shout out to our Science Fair Committee members: Barbora Chindarkarova (Nella's mom); Amy Chen Yee (Darren's mom), Tina Bentel (Josie's mom), Cori Constantine (Rylan and Dalton's mom), Flora Shin (Clara's mom), Emily Trieu (Wesley's mom), and our co-chairs Doris Chen (Ari's mom) and Salome Sallehy (Atlas's mom). Without their endless support, the Science Fair would not be possible. Congrats again to all of our budding scientists and their accomplishments.

Butterfly Parade: Mesmerizing doesn't even begin to describe the journey our kindergartners took us on last Friday. For the past 46 years, Rheem Kindergarteners have had a special bond with the Monarch Butterfly. From their science lessons on eggs, caterpillars, pupas (chrysalis), and butterflies, the kindergartners participated in every stage of the Monarch's metamorphosis culminating with a sea of students in winged costumes taking flight in front of the teachers, 5th-grade buddies, and loved ones. Thank you, Ms. Gessling, Ms. Kathan, Mrs. Lorie, and the entire Kindergarten Team for their hard work making this year's parade so magical.

Rheem Book Fair: This year’s book fair was a rousing success. Thank you to Mrs. Gillbanks and all parent volunteers for hosting such a wonderful week of the written word. Reading is such an important undertaking, and in the words of George R.R. Martin, “A reader lives a thousand lives before they die. The person who never reads only one.”

School Climate Survey Results

I jumped the gun last week when I mentioned the “final installment” of the Elementary Parent Climate Survey results. As luck would have it, we have two more responses to share, and they are as follows:

95% of all respondents agreed with the statement; *My child enjoys going to school.*

<p>Breakdown of all responses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 50.4% strongly agree ● 44.7% agree ● 4.1% disagree ● 0.8% strongly disagree ● 0% didn’t know. 	<p>...African American responses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 66.7% strongly agree ● 33.3% agree ● 0% disagree ● 0% strongly disagree ● 0% didn’t know
<p>...Latino or Hispanic responses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 35.7% strongly agree ● 64.3% agree ● 0% disagree ● 0% strongly disagree ● 0% didn’t know 	<p>...Asian responses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 73.3% strongly agree ● 20% agree ● 6.7% disagree ● 0% strongly disagree ● 0% didn’t know
<p>...Two or More races:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 49.1% strongly agree ● 45.3% agree ● 3.8% disagree ● 1.9% strongly disagree ● 0% didn’t know 	<p>...Caucasian responses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 46.6% strongly agree ● 48.3% agree ● 4.2% disagree ● 0.9% strongly disagree ● 0% didn’t know

91% of all respondents agreed with the statement; *My child has at least one trusted adult at school they can look to for help and support.*

<p>Breakdown of all responses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 52.2% strongly agree • 38.9% agree • 2.0% disagree • 0.8% strongly disagree • 6.1% didn't know. 	<p>...African American responses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 22.2% strongly agree • 55.6% agree • 11.1% disagree • 0% strongly disagree • 11.1% didn't know
<p>...Latino or Hispanic responses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 42.9% strongly agree • 42.9% agree • 0% disagree • 0% strongly disagree • 7.2% didn't know 	<p>...Asian responses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 53.3% strongly agree • 36.8% agree • 3.3% disagree • 3.3% strongly disagree • 3.3% didn't know
<p>...Two or More races:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 56.5% strongly agree • 34% agree • 3.8% disagree • 1.9% strongly disagree • 3.8% didn't know 	<p>...Caucasian responses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 55.5% strongly agree • 37% agree • 0% disagree • 0% strongly disagree • 7.5% didn't know

Please click [HERE](#) to view results broken down by ethnicity from all of the survey questions.

Did you know?

Building trust with all stakeholders is essential to our success. Being transparent and open in our communication and welcoming every student and their family is vital to making Rheem a place for everyone.

To achieve this goal, we have action steps to help students enjoy their school experience and feel connected, cared for, and engaged in meaningful ways.

Action Steps;

- Second Step Curriculum
- Engaging curriculum that is inclusive
- Increased counseling supports
- Classroom meetings
- Increased lunch clubs
 - Dance Party Club
 - Garden Club
 - Respect All Differences (RAD) Club
- Implement the [Social Justice Standards](#)
- PBIS
 - Rheem Bucks
 - Gold Slips
 - The Rheem Store
 - Spirit Assemblies
- PTA sponsored events that bring our school community together
 - Global Art, Food and Tradition Night
 - Science Fair
 - Variety Show
 - Spring Carnival (Friday, May 20)

Next year, we look forward to continued school and community engagements to improve student and family experiences at Rheem.

Thinking About Next Year

As May approaches, parents and teachers begin to think about class placements for next year. I want to take this opportunity to outline the process we use at Rheem to ensure that the best interests of all students are considered.

First, I can assure you that this process will be completed very carefully. Current Rheem teachers and I will be involved in a team effort to create balanced, heterogeneous classes at every grade level. This process begins with grade-level placement meetings in which

teachers divide their classes into as many groups as there are projected classes at the next grade level for the following year. Each new class is balanced in boys and girls, special needs students, academic abilities, peer relationships, and social behavior. Many factors are considered through this process.

The teachers and I place students very carefully, and no parent input is expected or required. However, parents who feel they need to give input to this process may do so by writing a letter that addresses their child's special needs. In such a letter, parents should include their perspective of how their child learns best and any other information related to increasing their child's potential for academic success. This information will be considered in the complicated process of making up classes for next year.

Requesting a particular teacher for your child is not appropriate. Too often, these requests are based upon suggestions and talk within the community about specific teachers. I suggest that you ignore this talk. The entire teaching staff at Rheem School is composed of dedicated and qualified professionals, and one child's experience (good or bad) in a given classroom may not be predictive of another child's experience.

Furthermore, changes in teaching assignments and/or reorganization of existing classes can be made right up to the opening of school depending on enrollment, so having only a teacher's name does not tell us what is essential to know about your child. Tell me about your child's needs and learning style and how you expect an educational program to serve those needs best if you choose to write to me. Parent letters must be received in our office by Monday, May 9, as our placement meetings will begin shortly thereafter.

The Rheem staff is committed to working in the best interests of all our students. Thank you in advance for your understanding and support of our placement procedure; it is a critical factor in this effort.

Stay tuned for information about ordering School Kits for the 2022-23 school year!

The Last Word...

On a daily basis, families help their children in various ways. From the essentials of food, shelter, and clothing to providing opportunities for our children to grow as all-around

people. (i.e., arts, athletics, and more) One of the things I find most challenging is how best to support my own children with stress and anxiety. The idea that children live a carefree life with little to stress about is a misnomer, and we need to help support them in dealing with it. Dr. Amy Przeworski has [12 Tips to Reduce Your Child's Stress and Anxiety](#). Her tips range from helping your child face their fears to practicing relaxation exercises with them and helping them to problem-solve. I strongly recommend you take a few minutes and give it a read to see how you can help your child be even healthier.

There is no place like Rheem,
Mr. Sullivan