

# RHEEMARKS

## *"Frank"ly Speaking...*

*January 15, 2017*

We enjoyed a busy week at Rheem! In addition to the excitement of heavy rains, we held our school's National Geo Bee (always a nail-biter) and attended inspiring Soul Shoppe "I've Got Your Back" workshops.

Meanwhile, we are eagerly anticipating the beginning of our annual **Rheem Read-a-thon** on Thursday, January 18. You'll soon discover that there why this year's Read-a-thon is destined to be "The Greatest Read-a-thon on Earth!" Information will be coming home in the backpacks on Wednesday after our kick-off Spirit Assembly. The kids can start readying and tallying their Read-a-thon hours on Thursday.

### **This Week at Rheem:**

#### Monday, January 16:

- School Holiday in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

#### Tuesday, January 17:

- School Site Council Meeting – 3:15 in Room 25

#### Wednesday, January 18:

- Spirit Assemblies in Multi-Use Room: 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> at 9:00; K – 2<sup>nd</sup> at 10:00

#### Thursday, January 19:

- Read-a-thon Begins!
- 3<sup>rd</sup> grade Stand Up, Be Safe lessons in classrooms:
  - 9:15 - 10:00 Caraska; 10:30 - 11:15 Ralph; 1:00 - 1:45 Berkman

### **School News and Highlights**

- "We need to do this every month!" was what one parent commented after attending the **"Soul Shoppe Parent Ed Night" on Wednesday evening, January 11**. After a very brief PTA meeting, Amy from Soul Shoppe led the assembled parents through a series of exercises and examples of how to be supportive and

effective when those inevitable conflicts arise. Thank you PTA for sponsoring this Parent Ed presentation as well as this year's Soul Shoppe workshop series for our students.

- On Thursday, January 12, twelve 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders competed for the title of Rheem School's **National Geographic Champion 2017!** At the end of the impressive and intense hour-long competition, 5<sup>th</sup> grader **Andy Moon**, was named champion, and 5<sup>th</sup> grader **Kadin True**, was declared runner-up. For the full list of contestants and details about this exciting event, click [HERE](#).
- On Friday, January 13, students and staff met Ms. Nasi from Soul Shoppe for **"I've Got Your Back" workshops**. Through stories and role play, she helped the students recognize when and how they can be an "ally" – not only to a person being mistreated, but also to the person who may be experiencing a "leaky balloon." Students discovered that questions such as "Are you OK?" and "How Can I Help?" can be used to create the "Recess of Our Dreams!"
- Rheem School recently received a \$619.90 check from **General Mills**, representing our **Box Tops** collection from March, 2016 – November, 2016. Visit [www.btfe.com](http://www.btfe.com) to track our school's earnings throughout the year and also to find more ways to earn. Bonuses can really add up!

## Kindergarten & Transitional Kindergarten Registration

### *Welcome '17-'18 kindergarteners!*

Rheem will hold registration for next year's Kindergarten and Transitional Kindergarten (TK) students on **Thursday and Friday, February 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>**. Registration will take place at Rheem from 9:00am – 2:00 pm on both days.

To be eligible for kindergarten, the child must turn 5 years of age by September 1, 2017. To be eligible for Transitional Kindergarten, the child must have their 5<sup>th</sup> birthday between Sept. 2 and Dec. 2, 2017.

For detailed information about on-line registration, immunization requirements, and what documents to bring on registration days, click [HERE](#).

Parents of incoming kindergartners should bring their calendars to registration, as we will need to schedule incoming Kindergarten students for our "Getting to Know You" appointment, which will take place in April.

## The Cost of Student Absences

### *And, by the way, we've improved!*

This space has often been used to remind parents that all absences (whether excused or unexcused) have a financial impact on our school budget. For example, last year, I reported that Rheem had a total of 2,136 absences in 14-15, representing \$83,000 in lost revenue. I'm pleased to let you know that during the 15-16 school year, we reduced our total absences to 1,725. Although, this still represents a hefty cost (\$67,000) we are definitely moving in the right direction.

Certainly, we do not want sick children coming to school. However, it is important to consider the necessity or appropriateness of an unexcused absences. Of last year's 1,725 absences, 523 were "unexcused." These unexcused absences represent over \$20,000 in lost revenue for Rheem School alone.

There are ways to mitigate financial loss due to unexcused absences. One is by completing an Independent Study for absences of five days or more. Another is by providing reimbursement to the district for unexcused absences. For the 2016-2017 school year, the average daily attendance (ADA) rate is **\$40.63**. A check payable to

the Moraga School District can be sent directly to the school to cover the cost of lost revenue due to extended family vacations or "extra" holidays. Thank you!

## **Safety First**

### ***Supervision Before and After School***

It's important that students are well supervised at all times. Supervision *before* school begins at 8:10 (9:10 for late birds) and extends 15 minutes after dismissal. It's important to be aware of these limits so that your child is always adequately supervised. Unless your child is enrolled in Roadrunner Club, please your child does not before 8:10 in the morning; also, make sure that your child is picked up by 3:20.

Students who arrive on campus before or after we provide supervision, may be asked to report to Roadrunner Club and a resulting fee will be charged. Thank you for your cooperation.

## **School Climate Survey Results**

### ***Rewarding Positive Behavior***

In the MSD School Climate Survey given in November, 2016, 186 Rheem parents responded as follows:

- 92% respondents agreed with the statement ***"The school has systems in place to encourage and reward positive behavior and contribution"***.

Actual Breakdown: 52% strongly agree; 40% agree; 4% neutral; 2% disagree; 1% strongly disagree; 1% don't know

## **Hello From Roadrunner Club, *submitted by Eleanor Persons, RRC Director***

We are really celebrating this weather! We have painted cloudy stormy skies, we have had soup and hot apple cider. We had a cool science project making snow with baking soda and hair conditioner. The kids made the coolest snow men! We had snow bridges with long trains, we had melted snow men, and we had the best time ever! The kids were up to their elbows in "snow!" What a mess, but what a blast!

A gentle reminder: A drop in reservation is permanent for that day and time. If you cancel, you are still responsible for the fees of that day.

Enjoy the Rain! It is doing so much good.

## **The Last Word...**

I was delighted to receive this short film (only 8 minutes long) in my email recently, and am even more delighted to share it with you all now. It is lovely and nonsensical and funny and wise. Most important, it reminds me of the insightful consciousness of children, and how through their playful imaginings, we can find profound comfort (if we listen closely). Click [HERE](#) to watch and hear lessons on overcoming fear and self-doubt, and then, always remember, **"Scared is scared of all the things you like..."**

## **I love this school!**

Ms. Frank, principal