

RHEEMARKS

"Frank"ly Speaking...

January 2, 2017

I hope this "Happy New Year" edition finds all Rheem Teamers energized for all the learning and growing that awaits us in 2017. Each New Year brings with it new hopes and goals, but one thing remains constant: "We're all in this together!" Let's keep our famous spirit of collaboration (a.k.a. "Roadrunner Pride") strong as we enjoy the good times as well as face the inevitable challenges ahead. We can do this!

*P.S. And, I can't think of another group of people I'd rather do it WITH... *BeepBeep**

This Week at Rheem:

Monday, January 2:

- HOLIDAY – No school!

Tuesday, January 3:

- Winter Hot Lunch Change/Add-on Period closes
 - <https://rheempta.membershiptoolkit.com/>.

Thurs., January 5:

Stand Up Be Safe lessons in 3rd grade classrooms

- 9:15 - 10:00 Caraska; 10:30 - 11:15 Ralph; 1:00 - 1:45 Berkman

School News & Highlights

2017-2018 Calendar Approved

At the December 13 school board meeting, the Instructional Calendar for NEXT school year (2017-18) was approved. Download your copy by clicking [HERE](#) and make sure to note the start of school and school holidays. Although the specifics of Back-to-School Night and Open House haven't been finalized yet, you'll have important information for planning.

Rheem Parent Elected School Board President

On December 13, 2016, Moraga School Board member, Jon Nickens, was elected to serve as Board President. Mr. Nickens was elected to the Board in 2014 and most recently served as the Board's vice president. President Nickens is well known to those of us at Rheem. He is a frequent volunteer, working in his children's classrooms and helping out at events like the FUN(d) Run and even on Picture Day! He has previously held the office of Treasurer on the Rheem PTA Executive Board as treasurer and has also served on Rheem's School Site Council.

Support MEF by supporting MEF Business and Civic Sponsors

These days, most people are choosing to spend their money with businesses that support like-minded causes. Are you aware which local businesses support the Moraga Education Foundation? Click [HERE](#) to view the list of MEF's business and civic sponsors. As you make spending decisions in 2017, please consider supporting these businesses and organizations, and be sure to let them know their contribution and support of quality education is very much appreciated!

True Stories...

When you know your teachers need a vacation...

During the last school week before the break, a Rheem teacher asked me about my holiday plans. I shared that I would see my mother at Christmas this year. When the teacher asked me how old my mom was, I proudly reported that she was 89 years old. Her response: "Wow! That's... well, that's... that's 8 TENS and 9 ONES!!!"

Get Involved in 2017! *Submitted by Bruce Burns, MSD Superintendent*

Looking for a New Year's Resolution that will make a difference for both your child and the entire school community? Consider joining a district-level committee. There are a variety of opportunities to lend your voice to make a long-lasting impact. Parent input is needed on all of the following committees:

Cultural Proficiency Committee: This new MSD committee will explore what it means to be a "culturally proficient school" and will outline our district's strengths and areas for improvement in making sure our schools provide equal access to all students. Actions will be developed to make sure students from all backgrounds feel included and valued.

Coordinating Council: This long-standing MSD committee has evolved from reviewing supplemental district programs to developing and overseeing the implementation of the LCAP (Local Control Accountability Plan), the District's road map to the future. In other words, this committee decides the overarching direction and focus for our schools.

School Safety Committee: This committee has had a great influence state-wide on the way safety concerns (specifically child-abuse reporting) are handled at the school level. Currently, the Safety Committee develops and monitors MSD's Comprehensive Student Safety Plan, which includes issues such as emergency preparedness, digital citizenship and campus security.

Student Wellness: This committee was established in the fall of 2016 and is charged with ensuring that schools are in compliance with our district's "Wellness" board policy. Anticipated work of this committee will include how we address the physical, social, and emotional health of our students.

If you have an interest in any of the above topics, please contact your school principal or Camille Santi, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent ([925-377-4101](tel:925-377-4101)), to find out more! Our schools' success depends on the involvement and collaboration of all stakeholders. Please join our efforts!

The Last Word...

Rheem School is in its 4th year of working with [Soul Shoppe](#) to promote a safe, happy, and "big-hearted" school environment. We look forward to kicking-off this year's efforts in earnest in January.

I hope that all Rheem parents have marked their calendars to attend the PTA-sponsored upcoming **Soul Shoppe Parent Night, scheduled for Wednesday, January 11 at 6:30 p.m. in the Multi-Use Room.** There you will meet Amy MacClain, who will be working with Rheem students and staff throughout this spring. For this Parent Night, Amy will discuss ways that parents can support a "growth mindset" in their children – helping them to foster resilience, persevere through challenges, and be open-minded to new ideas and opportunities. And, isn't that what we want most for our children?

Our goal in continuing our work with Soul Shoppe is to maintain and strengthen our previously-learned communication and coping skills (I-Message, Clean-Up, Emptying Our Balloons, etc.), while growing in ways that can make our classrooms and playground as happy and safe as possible! The four student workshops already scheduled for this spring include:

- "I've Got Your Back" on January 13, 2017
- "100% You" on February 10, 2017
- "Response-Ability" on March 10, 2017
- "Me to We" on April 14, 2017

[These workshops](#) are designed to promote empathy and compassion, while teaching students how to communicate with respect and confidence. These skills will support our student in building strong, healthy relationships in school and beyond.

Parents will receive information both before and after each workshop to reinforce these messages at home. The school home partnership will be important to our success. Let's start off this New Year by reaffirming our commitment to work together as a school community in the best interest of our children – starting with attending the **Parent Night on Wednesday, January 11.** See you there!

I love this school!

Ms. Frank, principal