

January 20, 2020

Dear Rheem Team Families,

At last week's spirit assembly, we discovered the Read-a-thon was about to begin and that our theme this year goes hand in hand with our construction site, "Minds at Work." I hope you all had a restful and family-filled holiday weekend, and please take a look at the rest of the week.

This Week at Rheem:

Monday, January 21st:

- NO SCHOOL: Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

Tuesday, January 22nd:

- Regularly scheduled Tuesday

Wednesday, January 23rd:

- 3rd grade on-site presentations with the SCOCO Schools "Water Wizards"

Thursday, January 24th:

- Regularly scheduled Thursday

Friday, January 25th:

- Math Night at Rheem (from 5:00-7:00 in the Frank)

National Geographic Bee

4th grader, Matthew Morelli, takes Top Honors in Annual Competition

On Monday, January 13, Rheem's 3rd – 5th grade students watched an impressive battle of wits and knowledge at the school's annual National Geographic Bee. Fifty minutes into the competition, only two students remained: 5th grader Adam Shedd and 4th grader Andrew Morelli. Finally, Matthew was named school champion after answering two of the three Championship questions correctly.

Eleven 4th and 5th grade students (listed below in the random order of their appearance on stage) took part in the final competition:

Tiago G.

Anton K.

Siggy N.

Drew K.

Zayden B.

Adele C.

Riley O.

Adam S.

Samuel H.

Michelle R.

Matthew M.

The above listed students qualified as finalists after being the top scorers in a preliminary written test that was given to all 4th and 5th graders in December. All finalists gave an impressive performance and received a certificate and ribbon acknowledging their accomplishment as well as a National Geographic Bee pencil to commemorate the occasion.

The contest consisted of several rounds of questions, which challenged the finalists' knowledge of U.S. cities and states, continents and world geography. After several rounds of questions, the field of finalists was reduced to four: Zayden, Adele, Adam, and Matthew; then, finally, just two: Adam and Matthew. The Championship round consisted of the two

boys simultaneously writing their answers (Jeopardy-Style) on a small white board. After both Adam and Matthew had answered one of the two questions correctly, the winner was declared when the third question was answered correctly by Matthew.

As school champion, Matthew received a gold medal, a championship certificate, and the thrill of taking yet another test (!) to see if he will be eligible to compete in the state Bee in April. Also, Matthew received a copy of How to Ace the National Geographic Beeto support his future studies, and Adam took home Quiz Whiz: 1000 Super Fun Mind-Bending Totally Awesome Trivia Questions. Congratulations!

As an extra bonus, a raffle was held for all 4th and 5th graders who tried out for the bee, whether or not they became finalists. The lucky winner of a “Weird, But True” geography game was won by 4th grader Finley Brown.

Again this year, Ms. Frank returned to be the MC of the Geo Bee, and she brought with her two other recent Rheem retirees, Ms. Wu and Ms. Caraska, who served as the official scorekeepers along with 4th grade teacher, Ms. Culleton.

Anyone can brush up on geography by visiting the “Study Corner” at www.nationalgeographic.com/geobee. Check it out to find lots of interesting games and quizzes to test your skills and increase your knowledge!

School Climate Survey Results

Over the next several weeks, I will be including results from the 2019-20 Climate Survey that was sent out in December, 2019. 167 Rheem families responded as follows:

98% respondents agreed with the statement “The school has systems in place to encourage and reward positive behavior and contributions.”

Actual breakdown: 72% strongly agree; 26% agree; 1% disagree; 0% strongly disagree and 1% didn’t know.

Minds at Work – Rheem’s Read-a-thon

You’re entering the Reading Zone!!! Last Thursday marked the opening of Rheem’s Read-a-thon. The Read-a-thon lasts four weeks and goes through Thursday, February 13th. I’ll be reminding you each week to enter your child’s reading hours online. In addition to home hours, your child’s teacher will enter how many classroom hours reading hours your student has achieved. The goal of this year’s Read-a-thon is 100% participation. The emphasis is reading for fun! The Read-a-thon is Rheem’s annual literacy program that also raises funds for our school. Happy reading!

The Last Word...

Did you know that 83% of students 6-17 years of age stated that being read to was something they loved or liked? When I first saw that stat, it made me wonder how many 17-year old’s still have their parents read to them. I would have to assume there are few and far between high school students who still have the great fortune of being read to, however how many of us still read to our children? A recent study showed that only 17% percent of families still read to their 9-11-year-old children. The expectation has always been for us to read to our children until they are capable of reading independently in a fluent and comprehensive manner. Research shows that when we continue to read to our children they: enjoy stories more; strengthen their fluency; have an expanded vocabulary; have access to new authors and genres more readily; are made more aware and empathetic; and improve their long-term reading success.

With that said, the Read-a-thon is a great chance for us to pick (back) up a book and share a good story with our children. It will not only bring you closer to your child but just as importantly it will help strengthen their love of literature.

There is no place like Rheem,

Mr. Sullivan