

# RHEEMARKS

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

*January 22, 2017*

At our Spirit Assemblies on Wednesday, we discovered that we are about to embark on **"The GREATEST Read-a-thon on Earth!"** This year, our annual Read-a-thon has taken on a whimsical circus theme, challenging our students set goals to READ READ READ! Information packets came home in the backpacks on Wednesday (including an optional assignment for students to complete a "Feat of Daring" poster for a chance to win a prize). You can find all the information and forms regarding our annual Read-a-thon by clicking [HERE](#) or looking under the "Quick Links" tab on our [website homepage](#). Tally sheets for the 1<sup>st</sup> week of reading are due on **Thursday, January 23<sup>rd</sup>**.

We hope our students will take advantage of a 3-day weekend to start tallying their reading hours. There is **no school for students on Monday, January 23** as it is a Staff Development Day for teachers.

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

Monday, January 23:

- Staff Development Day – no school for students

Tuesday, January 24:

- 5<sup>th</sup> grade/Cavallero Field Trip to Martinez Courthouse (9:00 – 2:00)

Thurs., January 26:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Week Read-a-thon Tally Sheets Due!
- 5<sup>th</sup> grade/Greer Field Trip to Martinez Courthouse (9:00 – 2:00)

### **School News and Highlights**

#### ***Greatest Read-a-thon on Earth***

Click [HERE](#) to see the presentation Rheem students saw on Wednesday to Kick-off this year's Read-a-thon. (Note: a powerpoint version is attached if the Google sheets link doesn't work). The presentation includes a photo of the

inspiring "Rheem Circus" from Halloween, instructions on completing the double-sided "Feat of Daring" poster, a goal-setting video, and information about the rewards that are in store for a successful Read-a-thon.

### ***THANK YOU Read-a-thon Committee***

This year's Read-a-thon was made possible by the leadership of Read-a-thon Chairperson, **Diane Johnson** and her talented committee, including **Sally Salay, Michele Kong, and Jennifer Blau**. Also, thanks in advance to the dozens of parent volunteers who will be helping tallying student hours read.

### ***Where is the Roadrunner Now?***

The Roadrunner mascots enjoy traveling from class to class as our many friendly class competitions send them all around the school!

January 13<sup>th</sup> Spirit Assembly, the Roadrunner mascots were awarded to the classes that brought in the most neatly-trimmed Box Tops. Here are those results:

#### *K – 2<sup>nd</sup> category:*

*3<sup>rd</sup> place: Ms. Strohmeier's 1<sup>st</sup> grade class with 119 Box Tops*

*2<sup>nd</sup> place: Ms. Guidi's 2<sup>nd</sup> grade class with 143 Box Tops*

***1<sup>st</sup> place: Ms. Webster's 2<sup>nd</sup> grade class with 170 Box Tops!***

#### *3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> category:*

*3<sup>rd</sup> place: Ms. Cavallero's 5<sup>th</sup> grade class with 201 Box Tops*

*2<sup>nd</sup> place: Ms. Ralph's 3<sup>rd</sup> grade class with 493 Box Tops*

***1<sup>st</sup> place: Mr. Greer's 1<sup>st</sup> grade class with 522 Box Tops!***

Next, our mascots will travel to the classes who show the highest, most consistent participation during the Read-a-thon!

### **Teachers Go to School!**

At the **Staff Development Day on Monday, January 23**, all MSD K – 5<sup>th</sup> grade teachers will meet with MSD Writers' Workshop Consultants in the morning to norm and calibrate student "on demand" writing as a way to provide differentiated, targeted instruction. In the afternoon, teachers will choose from a menu of workshops

presented by specialists on such topics as "Handwriting and Fine Motor Interventions" to "Assistive Technology Tools for Writers in the Classroom." We are looking forward to a full day of learning!

## **School Climate Survey Results**

### ***Correcting Inappropriate Behavior***

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

- 71% respondents agreed with the statement ***"The school has systems in place to correct inappropriate behavior that include opportunities to learn from consequences"***.

Actual Breakdown: 26% strongly agree; 45% agree; 14% neutral; 2% disagree; 1% strongly disagree; 13% don't know

Although the positive response to this statement increased from 69% last year, Rheem's Site Council and staff has noted that this is the only question on our survey that fell below our hoped-for 80% positive-response benchmark. It's worth noting that this question had a much larger "neutral" and "don't know" response than any others, which may indicate that a relatively low percentage of our student population actually has "inappropriate behavior" that requires specific correction. However, to support communication in this regard, this week's "Did You Know" article (below) focuses on our school's Gold and Blue Slip system.

## **Did You Know?**

### ***Rheem's Gold and Blue Slip System is Almost 20 years old!***

In an effort to acknowledge and encourage positive behavior as well as to promote consistency in dealing with inappropriate behaviors, a Gold Slip/Blue Slip system was introduced to Rheem students in 1997. Ever since, Rheem students who are "caught being good" by a school adult are given a Gold Slip. Gold Slips are collected in the classrooms until two are chosen at random at a monthly Spirit Assembly for a chance to "spin the wheel" and win a prize.

Conversely, students receive blue slips when a school rule is broken. Blue Slips are reviewed by the principal and dealt with according to the individual infraction and circumstance with parent cooperation and support. Oftentimes, students complete an "Incident Reflection" after receiving a blue slip as an opportunity to think through which Lifeskills could have been helpful and/or how to best "clean-up" the situation.

Our goal is for all students to recognize that they are part of a team and their contributions matter!

## **Tickets on Sale NOW!**

### ***Don't Miss MEF 35th ANNIVERSARY AUCTION & DINNER DANCE***

The Moraga Education Foundation (MEF) is celebrating its 35th year of supporting excellence in education for all Moraga public school students. In honor of this anniversary, you are invited to ***Under the City Lights***, a community wide event on Saturday, March 11, 2017, at the Claremont Hotel in Berkeley. The evening will include silent and live auctions, dinner and dancing. Tickets and VIP tables are limited and on sale now at [www.MEF35th.com](http://www.MEF35th.com).

Auction donations are still welcome. Nothing is too small as donations can be packaged together. This celebration is a separate fundraising event from MEF's 2016-2017 annual campaign as proceeds will specifically benefit the MEF Endowment Fund to help provide a long-term, stable source of funding. We look forward to seeing you there! Questions? Email [mefspecialevents@gmail.com](mailto:mefspecialevents@gmail.com).

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

This next week, January 23 – 27, is [The Great Kindness Challenge Week](#). All California public schools have been encouraged to participate, and yes, Rheem School is signed up! The goal of this week is simple – just spread kindness! I can't imagine better timing.

Our school uses the word "RESPECT" as its cornerstone. As a result, kindness is always valued. Kindness is a sign of strength and imparts power to both the giver and the receiver.

Click [HERE](#) to download a 50-item checklist of Kindness examples OR create your own. As a family, see how many acts of kindness YOU can achieve. At Rheem, we will continue to look for ways to recognize and celebrate kindness – through thoughts, words, and deeds – every day of the school year. Why? Because *we're all in this together*, and kindness MATTERS!

### **I love this school!**

Ms. Frank, Principal

[Readathon 2017.pptx](#)