

RHEEMARKS

"Frank"ly Speaking...

January 8, 2017

Greetings from a very rainy beginning to 2017! However, be assured that not even the rain will dampen our resolve to press onward to meet bigger and brighter goals at Rheem.

This coming week, we will re-emphasize our work with Soul Shoppe – starting with a Parent Ed opportunity on Wednesday, where our consultant Amy will present **"Building Resiliency and Supporting a Growth Mindset in Our Students"** immediately following the brief PTA meeting. Then, on Friday, all students will attend **"I've Got Your Back"** workshops, where students will learn exactly what to say and do to intervene when others are being hurtful. It's all part of marinating a "big-hearted" school where all students feel safe and happy.

Add to this our continued **Readers' Workshop** implementation, our **"Math and Mindset"** focus, and our renewed interest in being **Wastebusters** (see articles on all these items below), and MORE, it is clear that we are headed toward great things in 2017!

This Week at Rheem:

Monday, January 9

- 4th/McMullen: "Walk Through California"
 - 8:30 – 11:00 in Multi-Use Room

Tuesday, January 10

- School Board Meeting, beginning at 7:00 in JM Library
 - Click [HERE](#) for agenda

Weds., January 11

- PTA Meeting in Multi-Use Room
 - 6:30 p.m. in Multi-Use Room
 - **Soul Shoppe Parent Presentation: "Building Resiliency and Supporting a Growth Mindset in Our Students"** Don't miss this informative parent presentation! The presentation will begin immediately after conducting some brief PTA business

Thurs., January 12

- Rheem National Geographic Bee
 - 9:00 a.m. in Multi-Use Room (Best of luck to our student finalists!)
- MSD Student Wellness Committee meeting
 - 6:30 p.m. at JM Library

Friday, January 13

- Soul Shoppe "I've Got Your Back" workshops
 - 4th Grade 8:30 - 9:15
 - 3rd Grade 9:20 - 10:05
 - 2nd Grade 10:10 - 10:50
 - Kindergarten 11:00 - 11:30
 - 1st Grade 1:15 - 1:50
 - 5th Grade 2:00 - 3:00

Note: Click [HERE](#) for a Parent Letter from Soul Shoppe about these workshops!

School News & Highlights:

Moraga Police Join Rheem Students for Lunch

On Thursday, Jan. 6, Moraga Police Department Officers Mooney and Craig joined Rheem students during lunch. After several excited students reported that "the police are here!" they all got a chance to settle in and chat with the officers as they rotated around the room, giving out "Junior Police Officer" badges to the students. We hope to see more of MPD's officers as they make efforts to get to know the people (adults and kids alike) that they serve.

Where Does it Go? Rheem students know!

Compost. Recycling. Trash. Rheem students are learning the differences so that they can help our school AND our planet. Prior to the Winter Break, Recycle Woman (in human form) visited Rheem School to work with our "Students Worried About Trash" (aka: SWAT team) to conduct a "waste audit" to see how we were doing with our lunchtime sorting. Click [HERE](#) for the powerpoint of what we found (featuring members of our very own SWAT team!) and [HERE](#) ("The Power of Sorting Resources" student guide") for what we are doing about it.

The Clean-Up

Last week, Rheem students reviewed the 5-step process for resolving problems and changing our future behaviors for the better. Here's how it works: When we become aware of having caused a problem, we approach the person and say:

- I know that I . . . (admit what we've done.)
- I apologize. (apologize sincerely)
- What can I do to make it right? (listen to what they need to make it better now, and what they need to do next time to avoid it happening again.)

- Next time I will . . . (make a commitment for a positive behavior we will do next time)
- Will you forgive me? (shake hands, shake it off!)

Readers Workshop Lab Sessions

A new series of Readers Workshop trainings begin this week. All Rheem teachers will be participating in these ½ day workshops, focusing on the research and inquiry skills our students develop through the reading of non-fiction texts. This work specifically aligns with our school's English and Language Arts goal. Thank you for your understanding and support as each teacher will participate in four ½ day trainings with our consultants from West Coast Literacy.

School Climate Survey Results: Behavioral Expectations

In mid-November, MSD asked all parents of elementary school students to provide feedback in a survey about "School Climate." In the next several issues of [Rheemarks](#), we will feature one survey question and how the 186 Rheem parents who responded answered:

- 90% respondents agreed with the statement ***"The school's behavioral expectations are clear, consistent, and conducive to learning."***

Actual Breakdown: 53% strongly agree; 37% agree; 5% neutral; 1% disagree; 1% strongly disagree; 2% don't know

Rheem Team Cares

School-Wide Efforts Support those Nearby and Around the World

Each year, Rheem students and staff focus practice the Lifeskill of Caring and Friendship by helping others. This year, Rheem's efforts provided support to three different organizations: The Berkeley Women's Daytime Drop-In Center, Heifer International, and Make a Wish Foundation. Whether helping those locally or on the other side of the globe, it always feels good to reach out and make a positive difference. See below for the details of each specific effort.

K – 3rd grade Students Bring Cheer to Women and Children in Berkeley

Rheem School has enjoyed a long tradition of being part of the holiday celebration at the Berkeley Women's Daytime Drop-In Center. This year, Rheem families were able to purchase toys for the children and gift cards for the mothers who frequent this shelter. Angie Guidi organized this effort for our school and was again overwhelmed by the generosity of Rheem's students and parents. Likewise, the smiles on the faces of the moms and kids who were the recipients of these gifts brought true meaning to the Lifeskills of Caring and Friendship.

4th Graders Support Heifer International

by MarcAnthony Paolieri Della Monica and Arnav Misra

Each year Rheem School's fourth grade classes raise money to donate to [Heifer International](#). What Heifer basically is, is an organization to help the poor. The organization has lifted 25 million families out of poverty. Heifer's goal is to

help the remaining **1 Billion** people out of poverty. What Heifer does is it gives people animals (instead of money), and teaches them how to use the animals properly and not eat them. But unlike money, animals don't run out.

This year Ms. McMullen's class raised \$265 and bought a llama, flock of hope, and honey bees. Ms. McMullen's class also gave the gift of a boost of nutrition. Mrs. Drury's class raised \$306 and bought a flock of hope, boost of nutrition, sheep, honey bees, and an earth gift basket. The last class, Mrs. Culleton's class, raised in \$266.61 and bought a llama, 3 shares of a pigs, a share of a water buffalo, a flock of hope, and chickens. A nutrition boost contains vitamins and protein and a head start on fighting off hunger. A flock of hope contains chicks, ducks, and geese. A share is when you donate a little bit of money and when the people that collect the money reach enough money to buy that animal they buy whatever animal you donated the money towards.

5th Graders Support Make A Wish Foundation

By Christina McDonnell, Ali Maguy and Caroline Obsitnik

Each year Rheem School's fifth grade class donates money to a different foundation. This year we chose the [*Make A Wish*](#) Foundation which grants the wish of every child with a life-threatening medical condition. We wanted sick kids to have the opportunity to feel normal, get a break from their treatments and have fun. In the United States, about **1 wish** is granted **every 35 minutes**.

Many kids have made the wish to meet someone famous like: Roger Federer, a famous tennis player, Selena Gomez or Bethany Hamilton. Some other kids wish to go to many places such as Hawaii, Disney World and Los Angeles. Some of the money raised helps pay for families to go on trips with their children.

All of the classes each donated a certain amount of money and together we earned \$473.37! Hopefully that will help make more wishes come true. Many parents and children are grateful for the Make A Wish foundation, and so are we!

Teachers (and Principal) Go to School!

On Thursday, December 12, I (Ms. Frank) attended an inspiring **"Math and Mindset"** workshop along with 5th grade teacher, Tonja Gubser and 1st grade teacher, Gillian O'Connell -- a very similar conference to one attended by 3rd grade teacher, Jackie Berkman, earlier in the year. At these workshops, Stanford Professor Jo Boaler presented empowering ideas about learning math, and gave us an opportunity to collaboratively struggle with some challenging math problems! We're excited about sharing what we've learned with our colleagues and students.

Now, YOU can know this important information, too. For a video overview, "Four Boosting Math Messages from Jo and Her Students," click [HERE](#). I encourage you to watch this 8 ½ minute video together with your child and talk about what seems surprising about these ideas and how these ideas can help when faced with a math challenge:

1. Everyone Can Learn Math at High Levels
2. Believe in Yourself!
3. Struggle and Mistakes are Really Important
4. Speed is Not Important

Parents can gain even *more* ideas about supporting a positive math experience for their children from a handout we received at the workshop, simply entitled "Advice for Parents" Click [HERE](#) for your copy.

Safety (and Nutrition) First!

Consider a truly "healthy" birthday alternative this year...

Let's face it, sometimes a frosted cupcake or a glazed doughnut really hits the spot, but too many sugary snacks can be problematic. Also, the need to be alert to a variety of food allergies as well as nutritional preferences can complicate finding the perfect "one size fits all" edible birthday treat. So, why not find an alternative (and healthier) way to celebrate your child's big day? At Rheem, it's definitely OK to consider alternative birthday treats. Some options include:

- **Have your child bring in a favorite book to share with the class.** No one is allergic to books! Ms. Carl has several special book plates that can be used if a family would like to donate a book to the class or school library in honor of a child's birthday.
- **Everyone can use a new pencil or eraser now and then.** Giving every classmate an inexpensive school tool that reflects your child's interest (dinosaurs, soccer, dance, etc.) will be a welcome and useful way for your child to be recognized.
- Did someone say **Glue Sticks**? Imagine the thrill on the teacher's face when your child presents the class with a set of brand new glue sticks (or sharpies, or colored pencils, etc.) in honor of his/her birthday! Now, THAT will put some extra spirit into the Happy Birthday song!

Get the idea? Please know that whatever a family chooses to do (or choose not to do), we will always help a child feel special on his/her birthday. We do ask that parents resist the temptation to provide elaborate goodie bags or bring in distractions like balloons or party favors. When in doubt, just ask your child's teacher – she will be happy let you know what will be most appreciated by the class in the limited time available to celebrate birthdays. Thank you!

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

Happy New Year from the Roadrunner Staff; 2017 will be the best year ever. Now that everyone is bundled up in their coats and sweaters, please remember to collect all of the extra clothing at the end of the day, including umbrellas. After-School Enrichment Classes start on Jan. 24. Please remember we need one Activity Release Form per child per class.

We have two New Years' Resolutions at Roadrunner Club. First, we are trying to encourage the children to **recycle** as much as possible. Ask your child which garbage can a certain item goes in and I bet they know the answer! Second, we have decided on a theme for Roadrunner Club this year. Our theme is **Kindness**. We have talked a lot about Kindness in circle, what it means, how we can be kind to others and how we can do an act of kindness at least once a day.

The Last Word...

Empathy. Simply understanding and caring about how someone else is feeling. It's an important concept, and one that makes a huge difference between an environment that is supportive and friendly and one that is... well... not. With Roadrunner Club's current focus on Kindness, Rheem School's upcoming "I've Got Your Back" student workshops, not to mention the concerns generated by current world events, I can't think of a better time to take a step back and remember the simple (yet powerful) meaning of the word Empathy. Click [HERE](#) for a fun review,

starring Mark Ruffalo – delivered in a way that even a pre-schooler will understand. And, here's hoping that Empathy will guide all our interactions at Rheem.

I love this school!

Ms. Frank, Principal