

RHEEMARKS

"Frank"ly Speaking...

October 16, 2016

Not even the rain could dampen the Rheem Team Spirit on Friday, when our kindergartners donned bright orange and black butterfly wings and marched around the Multi-Use Room to the delight of family, friends, and their 5th grade buddies at Rheem's 41st Annual Butterfly Parade. Just pure cuteness and joy!

And this Friday, October 21, everyone can bask in our special school spirit at our **Annual Fall Family Picnic and Cake Walk**, from 4:30 – 7:00 p.m. Yet another opportunity to enjoy good, old-fashioned fun with carnival games, giant inflatables, raffle-prizes, good food, the hula-hoop contest, and the biggest collection of colorful and crazy cakes in Moraga! Buy your tickets now by clicking [HERE](#).

This Week at Rheem:

Monday, Oct. 17:

- Balclutha Overnight (Ms. Cavallero's 5th grade)

Tuesday, Oct. 18:

- Balclutha Overnight (Mr. Greer's 5th grade)
- Stand Up, Be Safe Lesson: 5th/Gubser (1:00 – 2:00)
- Rheem School Site Council Meeting: 3:15 in Room 19

Weds., Oct. 19:

- 3rd graders to Oakland Zoo (8:30 – 2:00 p.m.)
- Free Movie Presentation: [The Mask You Live In](#) sponsored by Moraga iKind Project
 - JM Auditorium at 7:00 p.m.

- The movie is appropriate for parents and middle school students age 13+. Students younger than 13 should be accompanied by a parent.
- A student panel discussion will follow the movie

Thurs., Oct. 20:

- Photo Make-Up Day (for students who were absent or want a re-take)
 - For re-takes – be sure to return your original portraits on re-take day
 - www.inter-state.com/order (Rheem Order Code is **08305W**)
- Parent Ed Presentation: Readers' Workshop
 - JM Auditorium, 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.
 - For more information, click [HERE](#)

Friday, Oct. 21:

- Drop off Cake Walk cakes, starting at 8 a.m.!
 - The classes that bring in the most cakes will win the Roadrunner Mascot!
- [Rheem's Annual Fall Family Picnic & Cake Walk!](#)
 - 4:30 – 7:00 p.m.

Volunteers Needed for Fall Family Picnic!

Did you know that events like the Fall Picnic are 100% planned and staffed by volunteers? It takes a village to put on an event of this magnitude, and we still need a lot of helpers to make it a success for our kids (middle school and high school kids can help too and get credit for volunteer hours!). If you could give just an hour of your time before, during, or after the picnic, the kids will thank you (and so will we!). Click here to sign up (we especially need help with set up and break down): <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0f45afae2aa3fa7-rheem>

It's Digital Citizenship Week, *submitted by Adrienne DeWolfe, MSD Director of Technology*

It's [Digital Citizenship Week!](#) In our MSD community, we will be discussing how we can be kind online over the next few weeks. This week we will focus on what it means to be a good digital citizen. We are surveying our MSD community to find out our educational needs for students and parents. **Please take a moment to complete our [parent survey](#).**

All classroom teachers have access to video and discussion activities on this important topic. The videos are linked below in case you'd like to view too and be able to discuss at home. Each week we will send you a tip sheet or other resource to help facilitate a conversation at home and extend your child's learning. On Dec. 6, we will host a [parent education night](#) at JMIS for all K-8 parents, so mark your calendars.

Focus for Week 1, Oct. 17-21:

- What does it mean to be a digital citizen? Here's a [grownup definition](#), but ask your child to come up with a kid-friendly definition.

- Classroom video for K-3rd graders: [Video: My Online Neighborhood](#) and 4-5th graders: [Video: BrainPoP Digital Netiquette](#).
- Use this [Parent Tip Sheet](#) to further the discussion with your child.

We hope all Rheem families will take advantage of Digital Citizenship Week to discuss this important topic.

Teachers Go To School!

Although Monday, October 10 was a “no school” day for students, Rheem teachers were hard at work! The focus of the day was on mathematics. Here is a brief overview of their day’s learning:

- TK – 5 general ed teachers spent the morning reviewing math pacing guides and discussing differentiating strategies in cross-district grade-level teams
- Afternoon sessions included a “menu” of workshops for teachers to attend, including sessions taught by specialists from [Silicon Valley Mathematic Initiative](#) and Cal State East Bay, as well as the following sessions presented by Rheem staff:
 - “Hands-On Projects to Challenge Advanced Math Students,” presented by **Virginia Drury/4th grade teacher**
 - “iPads in the K-2 Math Classroom: Beyond Drill & Kill Apps,” presented by **Jennifer Johnson/RH computer teacher**
- “Specials” teachers (Art, Music, PE, etc.) spent the day in collaboration planning, including updating curriculum to meet 21st century standards.
- Special Ed staff explored best practices for differentiation, accommodations and modifications, and worked with specialists regarding student-centered grouping practices and gradual release models.

Staff Development Days are a welcome opportunity to reflect on best teaching practices and learn from the experts around us. MSD’s next Staff Development Day is scheduled for Monday, January 23.

Did You Know?

Halloween Costumes

When planning a Halloween costume for our parade on October 31st, please note the following:

- “Accessories” resembling weapons such as guns, knives, swords, etc. are inappropriate and never allowed at school (CA Ed Code. 48915). Such items will be removed from students and returned to parents at a later time.
- Students will not be allowed to skateboard or roller blade during the parade (feet power only, please!).
- We also appreciate students being considerate of those who get easily frightened by keeping “blood and gore” to a minimum.
- Finally, given recent media attention, clown costumes will NOT be allowed.

Thank you for your consideration as you plan this year’s costume. We look forward to a safe, fun-filled parade on October 31 that will be enjoyed by everyone!

Safety First

Earthquake Safety

On Thursday, Oct. 20, the students and staff at Rheem School will be among millions of Californians who will participate in the [Great California Shake Out](#).

The purpose of the "ShakeOut" is to practice how to protect ourselves during earthquakes, so that we can be prepared in the event of the real thing! Students and staff will practice "[Drop, Cover, and Hold On](#)" before evacuating the classrooms to the fields. We will also practice our "student release" procedures at that time.

Now would be the perfect time to review earthquake preparedness at home. Please consider reviewing the "[Seven Steps to Earthquake Safety](#)" so that your family is well-prepared.

Hello From Roadrunner Club, *submitted by Eleanor Persons*

A few reminders this month. We have just completed our first billing cycle. Please make sure you make checks payable to the Moraga School District. Also, make sure you sign your child in (in the a.m.) or out in the afternoon; we have had quite a few no sign fees incurred by families this month. (\$10 dollar fee).

If you are scheduled to pick up your child from the ASEP class and miss the pickup, your child will be brought over to the Roadrunner Club. At that point your child will be signed into Roadrunner and billed accordingly. Once you pick up your child from Roadrunner Club, please remember to sign them out.

We have had a large enrollment at Roadrunner Club this year, and we have not always been able to accommodate all dro- ins. Please accept our apology; we are trying to do our best making sure all children have a safe play environment.

We have had a great month of art at Roadrunner club. We went on a nature hunt and made pictures with our finds, we made sunflowers with sunflower seeds, discussed Christopher Columbus and his three ships, and today we made real slime.

The Last Word...

At the end of a long, rainy Friday, as I was directing cars around the bus circle to pick-up soggy students, one especially energetic 1st grader looked up at me as I helped him into the back seat and exclaimed, "Rheem ROCKS! Even in the rain!" Ahhhh... yes.

I hope this finds you all having enjoyed a grey, rainy weekend with equal enthusiasm – or, at the very least, with an appreciation for the chance to do something a little different. A huge opportunity awaits when the sports game gets rained out. Think PDF (Playtime, Downtime, Family Time) as noted below in an excerpt from a New York Times feature (click [HERE](#) for the full article):

There are things to be learned from playtime, downtime and family time that can't be learned in the classroom, onstage, on the field or at the rink. Our children are learning to bump up against one another and find a way to get along and to find the things that interest them enough to pull them in when time

isn't an issue. They're letting their thoughts sort themselves out, or finding support and comfort in family rituals. Maybe they'll even learn that eventually, everyone feels like they've watched enough television for one day. Mostly, they're learning to be whoever they are when no one is watching.

Our belief in the importance of taking time to "reconnect and recharge" is why we are examining our homework practices as well as banning the "b" word ("bored") at Rheem. Creativity is always an option when there's nothing to do. Perhaps it's the ONLY option. Take advantage of it.

I love this school!

Ms. Frank, Principal