

RHEEMARKS

"Frank"ly Speaking...

October 2, 2016

Rheem is a wonderful school! On that, most of us agree wholeheartedly. However, I'd like you to take a moment to imagine Rheem without Art, PE, or Music; our Classroom Aides, Computer teacher or Librarian; our Reading Tutors, Science Aide, or technology. Also, imagine no support or materials for innovative programs like Readers' and Writers' Workshop. Suddenly, our treasured school, which is filled with so many rich educational experiences for our students, is a very different place.

Well, that's what Rheem would look and feel like without the support of the Moraga Education Foundation. And, that is why, I'm urging ALL Rheem families to give, and give generously, to MEF. **This Wednesday, October 5 is MEF's "Day of Giving."** Please take this opportunity to show your support for your child's education and for Rheem!

Donate or pledge now by clicking [HERE](#). Thank you!

This Week at Rheem:

Monday, Oct. 3:

- Rosh Hashanah observed
- PTA Executive Board Meeting, 9:30 – 11:00 in Room 25

Tuesday, Oct. 4:

- Site Council Meeting, 3:15 – 4:30 in Room 25

Weds., Oct. 5:

- MEF Day of Giving! Click [HERE](#) to participate!
- Spirit Assemblies at 9:00 (3rd – 5th) and 10:00 (K – 2nd) in Multi-Use Room
- MSD Safety Committee Meeting, 3:30 – 5:00 at Camino Pablo School (Room 7)

Friday, Oct. 7

- 5th grade Life at Sea program in Multi-Use Room (8:30 – 12:00)

School News and Highlights:

- **Rheem's Cross-Age Tutor Program** invites older students to help and support younger students in their classrooms. This year, 23 4th grade students will be devoting some of their snack recesses to join another classroom to help both the teacher and students in a variety of ways. In about 10 – 12 weeks, other 4th graders will rotate into this program. Many thanks to **Ms. Adrienne McMullen** for organizing this program which promotes a sense of belonging and team spirit!
- **Rheem Student Leadership students endorse MEF's Day of Giving!** At their September 28th meeting, after hearing from MEF Liaison and Rheem parent, Alison Anderman, Rheem's 5th grade Student Leadership voted overwhelmingly to support MEF's efforts. As a result, they are busy making posters, designing flyers, and are encouraging the Roadrunner Mascot to make an appearance at drop-off this Wednesday.

Safety First

Moraga School District's Student Safety Committee (SSC) will meet for the first time this year on October 5, 2016 at 3:30 at Camino Pablo School in Room 7 to continue its work in ensuring a safe school environment for all students, staff, and volunteers.

Rheem is still looking for a parent representative to serve on this committee. If you are interested in school safety and would like to take part in this important work, please contact Principal Frank (376-4441) and/or simply join us this Wednesday. Rheem's teacher representative to this committee is Greg Thomson.

An important aspect of the SSC's work is to review and update the district's Comprehensive Safety Plan. The 2016-2017 Plan can be accessed [HERE](#) (from the MSD website>District>Student Safety).

Did you Know?

Excused vs. Unexcused Absences

Last week's "Did You Know" article reminded parents that schools only receive ADA funding for students who are in attendance, regardless of the reason for their absence. However, ALL absences are noted as "excused" or "unexcused" for auditing purposes. According to MSD board policy, absences are considered "**excused**" for the following reasons:

- Illness
- Family emergencies
- Justifiable personal reasons (such as funeral attendance)
- Religious holidays

Absences are considered "**unexcused**" if they do not meet one of the above-mentioned criteria. For example, missing school for vacations or "extra holidays" are unexcused. Thank you for your diligence in avoiding extended trips when school is in session.

MSD Bans Styrofoam

After hearing a well-researched presentation by JM ECO Club students (including several Rheem alumnae), the Moraga School District Governing Board voted unanimously to ban the use of polystyrene (styrofoam) at the September 13 board meeting. A copy of the approved resolution which bans the use of Styrofoam during the school day and for all groups using MSD facilities can be found [HERE](#).

The Last Word...

I said it up top, but it's worth repeating again: Rheem is a better school because of the Moraga Education Foundation (MEF). This Wednesday, on MEF's **Day of Giving**, the Rheem Team has a special opportunity to recognize and celebrate the positive impact MEF makes on every student, every day at Rheem.

Each day, I am in the very fortunate position of seeing up-close the many positive benefits that MEF brings to our school. And, YOU see MEF's impact every time your child comes home excited about a new library book, a new computer skill, a new art project, or a story about how he/she was helped by a teachers' aide, Reading Tutor, or one of the many other staff members that are funded by MEF.

Please join me in showing your gratitude and support for MEF by clicking [here](#) and making a tax-deductible donation today.

I love this school!

Ms. Frank, Principal