

# RHEEMARKS

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

*October 23, 2016*

**WOW! WOW! WOW!** It felt great to be a part of the Rheem Team at Friday's Fall Picnic! Over 300 cakes (305 to be exact) filled the Multi-Use Room and ultimately found happy homes with Cake Walk winners. Roadrunners young and old(er) alike enjoyed carnival games, giant inflatables, good food, lively music and the Hula Hoop contest. Everyone was in good spirits as names of raffle prize winners were announced and game tickets were pulled for additional prizes. Many thanks to Fall Picnic Chairperson, **A.J. Brown** (Finley's mom) and her team of volunteers for putting on such a great party for our school community.

The Fall Family Picnic is just one of Rheem's many eagerly-anticipated October events, culminating in the non-to-be missed **Halloween Parade on Monday, October 31st at 12:15!** And, between now and then, we have this **Wednesday's FUN(d) Run** to look forward to! Stay tuned to all the communications so you and your family won't miss out on any of the excitement.

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

Monday, Oct. 24

- Balclutha Overnight (Ms. Gubser's 5<sup>th</sup> grade)

Weds., Oct. 26

- FUN(d) Run! (wear your running shoes!)

Friday, Oct. 28

- K Field Trip to Smith Family Farm (8:30 – 1:00)

### **School News & Highlights**

- **Rheem Parents ROCK!** The Rheem parents' response to MSD's Digital Citizenship Survey grew from 4% to over 50% after a notice was sent home asking for input. Way to respond! Parent feedback will help us better understand what steps are needed to educate our students on how to stay safe and appropriate online. It's not too late to let your voice be heard. Click [HERE](#) to participate.

- About 50 parents attended MSD's **Readers' Workshop Parent Night** on Thursday, October 20. Parents heard from Leslie Nash of West Coast Literacy (the consultant who is working with our teachers and students), and Rheem teachers **Amanda Lorie** and **Jen Strohmeyer**, both of who were trained in Readers' Workshop in New York this summer. If you missed this parent night, click [HERE](#) for the agenda and hand-outs!
- **St. Mary's College Men's Basketball players** visited Rheem on Friday morning, October 21 to read to students in several of our classrooms. They answered student questions as well. By all accounts, the players were friendly, good readers, and very, very TALL!
- **The Roadrunner mascots** were awarded to the classrooms that brought in the most cakes for Friday's Cake Walk (on average per student). It was a very tough competition since the Multi-Use was overflowing with cakes. However, once all 305 cakes were counted, the winners were:
  - K – 2<sup>nd</sup> grade: **Ms. Kathan's Kindergarten class**
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> grade: **Ms. Cavallero's 5<sup>th</sup> grade class** (with Ms. Culleton's 4th grade class coming in a very close 2<sup>nd</sup>)

## Safety First

### *Especially during Halloween...*

The following guidelines are designed to ensure that all our students enjoy a safe and happy Halloween at school:

- "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.

Keep in mind that Halloween can be confusing to some children -- why would anybody do something scary on purpose? Therefore, frightening masks, elaborate face paint, and creepy costumes and sounds can terrify some children, no matter how quickly the scary masks are removed to reveal friendly, familiar faces. Our goal is to provide our students with fun, not fear, and with the events of the past month still fresh in our minds, let's "dial down" the fear and anxiety on Halloween this year. Thank you for your understanding!

## Save the Date!

### *Free Movie Presentation of "ScreenAgers"*

- November 1, 2016 at Campolindo High School
- Campolindo Performing Arts Center, 7-9pm
- RSVP and More Information [HERE](#)

- Click [here](#), for movie trailer
- Hosted by: The Moraga iKind Project and the JM iKind Committee, The JM SMILE Club, The Diversity Committee of the Acalanes Union High School District, Campolindo and JM Leadership, MSD PTAs
- A student panel discussion will follow the movie.

## **Did You Know?**

### ***Dogs (and other furry friends) at school***

As a general rule, dogs and other animals are not welcome at school. Specifically, according to the state's education code, dogs are prohibited from school campuses, whether or not the dogs are leashed. Several signs posted on campus note that "Dogs are not allowed."

Therefore, if families are including a dog walk at the same time they are picking up or dropping off their child, we request that you meet or say goodbye to your child at the crosswalk on Laird, thereby not bringing the dog on campus. This precaution will help keep your pet from being overrun by well-meaning children and assure that our children are safe during the busy arrival and dismissal times. We have several students who are either afraid or allergic to certain types of pets, so this policy keeps our school environment safe and friendly.

## **Hello from Roadrunners**

Another week closer to Halloween! We have been preparing and can't wait for the big event. We are doing a different Halloween art project every day. If you haven't already registered your child for Roadrunner Club, go to the Moraga School District web site and join us for fun filled afternoons.

We are having an issue with musical instruments being left in the Roadrunner Club. Please remember when you pick up your child pick up his/her musical instrument as well. We cannot be responsible for holding on to them. We have a large number of children and not enough space to store items over night. Some (like cellos) are very cumbersome. We hesitate taking them to lost and found, so please remember to pick them up.

### ***Do you want to earn some extra Holiday spending money?***

We are still looking for a morning aide from 7:00 - 9:30. It is a great shift with the whole day ahead of you when you are done. We would love to have a parent come and join us. We are a great place to work. Ask any of us!

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

I learn a lot when I visit classrooms. Recently, when visiting a kindergarten classroom, I learned how to make a book (ANY book) an "old favorite" – one that you look forward to reading again, again, and again. The steps are simple:

- Step 1: Find a book

- Step 2: Find someone you love
- Step 3: Ask that person, "Will you read this to me, *please?*"
- Step 4: When the book is finished, say, "Will you read it to me *again?*"

Given my own experience with sharing books with young children, it seems that they come to us hard-wired with this knowledge. No doubt, you've had similar experiences, too – experiences that include asking yourself the questions, "How can I possibly read this same book one more time?" and "How can this child possibly want to hear it for the umpteenth time?" And, yet we find ourselves reading it again, and again... to the child's unwavering delight.

As a fan of the podcast [Writers' Almanac](#), I was delighted to recently hear the host, Garrison Keillor, share the poem "**Reading to My Kids**" by Kevin Carey. It seemed to sum up the experience well, as well as remind us of its importance. I've reprinted it below:

When they were little I read  
to them at night until my tongue  
got tired. They would poke me  
when I started to nod off after twenty pages  
of Harry Potter or Lemony Snicket.  
I read (to them) to get them to love reading  
but I was never sure if it was working  
or if it was just what I was supposed to do.  
But one day, my daughter (fifteen then)  
was finishing *Of Mice and Men* in the car  
on our way to basketball.  
She was at the end when I heard her say,  
*No*, in a familiar frightened voice  
and I knew right away where she was.  
*"Let's do it now," Lennie begged,*  
*"Let's get that place now."*  
*"Sure, right now. I gotta. We gotta,"*  
and she started crying, then I started crying,  
and I think I saw Steinbeck  
in the back seat nodding his head,  
and it felt right to me,  
like I'd done something right,  
and I thought to myself, *Keep going,*  
*read it to me, please, please, I can take it*

To hear Mr. Keillor read this poem, click [HERE](#).

As parents and educators, there are so many times when we wonder if what we are doing or saying is, ultimately, the "right thing." However, we should never doubt that when we are sharing a book with our children we are, indeed, doing "something right." I find that very reassuring, and I hope you do, too.

**I love this school!**

Ms. Frank, Principal