

# RHEEMARKS

## "Frank"ly Speaking...

October 30, 2016

Prepare to be amazed and delighted at one of the most eagerly anticipated events of the year – the not-to-be-missed **Rheem School Halloween Parade on Monday, October 31 at 12:15**. This year's Funky Pumpkin is ready for his close-up, and we are looking forward to seeing all the "alter egos" of students and staff emerge at this year's big event. Hope to see you there!

### This Week at Rheem:

#### Monday, Oct. 31:

- K – 5 Halloween Parade at 12:15 on front blacktop
  - Note: To accommodate the parade schedule, all K students will be "late birds" (9:25 – 1:02) and all 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> graders will be "early birds" (8:25 – 1:55) on Monday

#### Tuesday, Nov. 1:

- Read, Relax, and RECHARGE Day at Rheem!
  - The Rheem Team will enjoy a low-stress day in an effort to *re-cover* from Halloween and to *re-charge* for all the learning yet to come!
- Free Movie Presentation: [Screenagers](#)
  - 7:00 p.m. at Campolino Performing Arts Center
  - RSVP and more information [HERE](#)

#### Wednesday, Nov. 2:

- [County-Wide Shelter in Place Drill](#)

#### Thursday, Nov. 3:

- Stand-Up Be Safe lessons in 5<sup>th</sup> grade classrooms:
  - Greer: 9:00 - 10:00; Cavallero: 10:30 – 11:30; Gubser: 1:15 – 12:15
- Vision Screening (5<sup>th</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade)

#### Friday, Nov. 4:

- End of First Trimester!

## **Halloween Parade Concessions**

Be sure to bring a dollar or two to the Halloween parade and stop at the 5<sup>th</sup> grade concession stand to purchase a refreshing beverage and glow stick necklaces. All proceeds help fund our 5<sup>th</sup> grade end-of-the year activities!

## **School News and Highlights:**

**Rheem's FUN(d) Run** took place on Wednesday, October 26 – an exceptionally beautiful fall day. The combination of perfect weather and contagious school spirit inspired our students to run an impressive 8,256 laps at the event. Also, Rheem staff was out in full force and ran 411 laps total. Thank you to PE teacher, John Studebaker, for making sure young and old(er) were warmed up and “on their marks” for the 15-minute run. Many thanks as well to FUN(d) Run parent organizer Kim Thompson (Olivia’s mom) and her team of lap-counting volunteers.

## **Thank YOU!**

Thank you to all of the Rheem families who made a donation to MEF during this year's Day of Giving. MEF raised over \$200,000 because of YOUR generosity which will help fund critical staff and programs at our school.

Right now, MEF is 40% of the way toward their goal of raising \$2.2 million this annual campaign. The Day of Giving was a huge success; however we still have a long way to go, and we want all Rheem families to be part of, and proud of, the education our students are receiving. Every donation is important!

Please help our school maintain the amazing staff and programs that make it so unique and allows the Moraga School District to be one of the best in the state of California by making a donation to MEF today at [www.moragaeducation.org](http://www.moragaeducation.org). Together we can make a difference for every student, every day.

## **Did You Know?**

### ***Truancy***

A student is considered “truant” when the student has an unexcused absence of more than 30 minutes on three or more days during a school year. Since extended family vacations and other non-essential reasons for missing school are not considered “excused,” Rheem’s truancy rate is higher than you might think. During the 2015-2016 school year, 91 Rheem students were considered truant, based on this criterion. That’s almost 23% of Rheem students! You can help reduce this statistic by scheduling family trips on non-instructional days and by making sure that students arrive *on time* and stay in school for the *full day*. Thank you!

## **Volunteers Needed**

## ***Vision Screening***

Grades 2 and 5 are scheduled for Vision Screening on Thursday, November 3rd, 2016. The school is in need of parent helpers that day. Parent assistants will bring children to and from the screening room and/or help record results. The assistants are essential for the program to take place. Two parent helpers are needed at each or both of the following times:

**8:30am – 10:30am**

**10:15am – 12:15pm**

If you are able to help, please contact Mrs. Wu in the Rheem office at 377-4135 or email her at [lwu@moraga.k12.ca.us](mailto:lwu@moraga.k12.ca.us)

## **Save the Dates for "Evenings with the Experts"**

The newly formed group "POEMS" (Parents of Exceptional Moraga Students) & MSD will be hosting a series of parent education evenings this school year. All evening events will take place in the JM Library from 7:00 p.m. – 8:30. Please make a note of these informative evenings on your calendars!

- December 5, 2016 : **Sensory Processing**, Presenter Janet Alexander, OTR-L, Occupational Therapist
- January 31, 2017: **Executive Functioning and Supporting Independence at Home**, Presenter Olivia Flint, LEP, Psychologist
- February 28, 2017: **IEP Basics**, Presenter Laraine Domenico, Contra Costa SELPA Program Coordinator
- March 28, 2017: **Building Bridges: Positive Behavior Support Across School & Home**, Presenter Teri Jasman, Behaviorist

Click [HERE](#) to download a flyer regarding these presentations.

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

It's likely that your family enjoys some "unique" traditions: routines and expectations that were born from something silly or unexpected that was so memorable it simply had to be repeated. These traditions might not make a lot of sense to someone watching from the sidelines and not "in" on the joke. Rheem has a few "unique" traditions all its own, and you'll view some at tomorrow's Halloween Parade:

- Many, many years ago, a very large, misshapen pumpkin was donated to our school, and it seemed only fitting that we embrace its uniqueness and name it "Funky." At tomorrow's Halloween Parade, the

20<sup>th</sup> "Funky Pumpkin" will preside as our Grand Marshall, after being transformed by the good humor and creativity of select staff members.

- Did you know that the traditional 5<sup>th</sup> graders "Ghostbusters Dance" was first taught to a different group of 5<sup>th</sup> graders about three music teachers ago? It was a hit, and it stuck!
- The stadium anthem, "Who Let the Dogs Out?" has been reserved for the 5<sup>th</sup> graders trip around the parade route ever since it was released by the BaHa Men in 2000.
- Teachers and staff closely guard their collaborative "theme" for the parade (even from their own children) to the delight and surprise of all who attend. What will it be this year?

And, admittedly, I will be in my own traditionally flurry, ridiculously anxious about the sound system failing or the pages of my piano music flying away in the breeze. Of course, I wouldn't have it any other way. It's Halloween at Rheem!

**I love this school!**

Ms. Frank, principal