

# RHEEMARKS

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

*October 9, 2016*

It's hard to believe that we are well into October – one of the most exciting and event-filled months at Rheem School. I'm looking forward to all the "home-grown" events in store: the Kindergarten Butterfly Parade (Oct.14), the Fall Family Picnic and Cake Walk (Oct. 21), the FUN(d) Run (Oct. 26), and, of course, the not-to-be-missed Halloween Parade (Oct. 31). Can't wait!

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

Monday, Oct. 10

- Staff Development Day – ***no school for students!***

Tuesday, Oct. 11

- Yom Kippur begins at sundown (School Board Meeting moved to Thursday)

Weds., Oct. 12

- Yom Kippur observed

Thursday, Oct. 13

- Stand Up, Be Safe Lesson: 5<sup>th</sup>/Cavallero (1:15 – 2:15)
- School Board Meeting, beginning at 7:00 in the JM Library.

Friday, Oct. 14

- Kindergarten Butterfly Parade: 11:00 a.m. on K blacktop
- Stand Up, Be Safe Lesson: 5<sup>th</sup>/Greer (1:15 – 2:15)
- Reflections Entries Due!

### **School News and Highlights**

- **MEF's Day of Giving** was held on Wednesday, October 5. To help celebrate, four Rheem musicians (Callen B, trumpet; Emily S., clarinet; Audrey S., flute; and Isaac Jai, saxophone, provided entertainment in the bus circle that morning, while enthusiastic students held signs and waved to those arriving. If you didn't get a chance to donate yet, it's not too late; just click [HERE](#).

- **The Rheem Hummers** have raised \$1,625 so far this year for habitat restoration! Who are the Rheem Hummers? Read the full article below by 4<sup>th</sup> grade Isabella Tritto.
- **October is National Bullying Prevention Month.** Rheem will recognize this important effort by continuing our discussions and quickly intervening whenever a student feels unsafe at school. To read Resolution 17-11, adopted by the MSD Governing Board in support of Bullying Prevention, click [HERE](#).
- **Desperately Seeking Funky!** The Rheem Team is in need of a large pumpkin to be the focus of our October Estimation Contest. Classic pumpkin beauty is not a prerequisite, and misshapen and/or "unique" qualities are welcome. However, shy pumpkins need not apply since this year's "Funky" will be receiving a creative make-over before being the center of attention as the Grand Marshall of this year's Halloween Parade! Please let us know if you discover this year's "Funky Pumpkin" by calling the school office: 376-4441.
- **Readers' Workshop** is being implemented in ALL Rheem classrooms. To learn more about this engaging, research-based program, please attend the Oct. 20 Parent Education Night on the topic. Click [HERE](#) for details.

## Spirit Assembly Report

Spirit Assemblies bring the entire Rheem Team together to celebrate accomplishments, focus on school-wide goals, and simply enjoy singing and laughing together. The highlights of the Spirit Assembly held on Wednesday, Oct. 5 included:

- Congratulating ALL students for showing their awareness of the "One Word and Three Rules" that guide us at Rheem: RESPECT: Be safe; Be kind, and Think!
- Learning how taking a moment to "just breathe" can help calm us when we are upset or stressed. The short video, [Just Breathe](#), inspired our discussion on the topic. Ask your child how imagining a cup of hot cocoa can help with deep breaths!
- Students who participated in the Summer Reading and Math programs were given certificates and prizes.
- Awarding the Roadrunner Mascot to the classes who brought in the most BOX TOPS: Ms. McMullen's 4<sup>th</sup> grade class who brought in 1,192 Box Tops and Ms. Guidi's 2<sup>nd</sup> grade class with 648 Box Tops!
- Listening to Ms. Culleton encourage participation in the PTA Reflections Contest. Click [HERE](#) for information and inspiration regarding this year's theme: "What's Your Story?"
- Announcing the winners of the recent Roadrunner Coloring Contest:
  - *1st Grade: 1st Pl- Linn A., 2nd Pl- Ayush S., 3rd Pl- Jocelyn L.*
  - *2nd Grade: 1st Pl- Kaitlyn Y., 2<sup>nd</sup> Pl- Molly H., 3<sup>rd</sup> Pl- Cayley C.*
  - *3rd Grade: 1st Pl- Adison S., 2nd Pl- Cassidy W., 3rd Pl- Grace C.*
  - *4th Grade: 1st Pl- Sofia G., 2nd Pl- Emma A., 3rd Pl- Cooper C.*
  - *5th Grade: tie- 1st Pl- Whitney W. and Drew W., 2nd Pl- Vivyanh L., Emily S.*
- Picking gold slips for a chance to spin the wheel for a prize. The lucky winners were:
  - *Kindergarten: Mitchell p, Sadie G., Flynn M., Kahlán C., Andrew M., Reese K.*
  - *1<sup>st</sup> Grade: Ella E., Kaden M., Matthew M., Avie S., Hudson O., Tong Q.*
  - *2<sup>nd</sup> Grade: Zoe L., Nate A., Marley T., Zoya C., Dylan F., Rocco B.*
  - *3<sup>rd</sup> Grade: Henry F., Zack S., Grace C., Anthony K., Talis S., Sophia G.*
  - *4<sup>th</sup> Grade: Sara H., Diego H., Hannah B., Gregory H., MarcAnthony P., Brayden C.*
  - *5<sup>th</sup> Grade: Audrey S., Tyler N., Henry H., Samantha D., Mateo P., Emily S.*
- Singing our school songs: "Rheem Team," "Rheem ROCKS," and "Roadrunner Pride!"

Parents are always welcome to attend Rheem Spirit Assemblies. Our next Spirit Assemblies are scheduled for Friday, November 18 at 8:30 (K – 2<sup>nd</sup>) and 10:30 (3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup>). Come join the fun!

## The Rheem Hummers, Point Blue, and the Bird-a-thon

*By Isabella Tritto, 4<sup>th</sup> grader*

On the first of October, many students in Mrs. Culleton's fourth grade class came to the Valle Vista Staging Area for this year's **Bird-A-Thon**. So thank you to Kirill, Natalie, Cooper, Rex, Brooke, and Jessie for helping with this great cause with me.

**Point Blue**, a conservation organization, has coordinated an event called the Bird-A-Thon every year. Many teams of people gather to watch birds or listen for distinctive calls. Each team asks for donations. Our team, the **Rheem Hummers**, has a special donor who offers ten dollars per each species sighted in an eco-friendly way. So, thanks to our twenty five team members this year, we sighted a total number of thirty-three species and raised **\$330** in two hours. You can donate, too. To see a photo of our team and to donate, just click [her](#).

Point Blue celebrated its fiftieth anniversary during the spring of 2015 with over one hundred forty scientists, many environmental educators, and a growing number of habitat restoration specialists. Our donations, along with the donor's contribution, help this group continue to do great work.

At the Bird-A-Thon, our group walked on a path near Canyon that led into a wide stretch of trees where we spotted birds resting and chirping. At the end of the path we found a reservoir, and saw some birds, like King Fishers and Egrets, fishing and bathing.

Thank you to our community volunteers and we hope you can join us next year to help us donate money to this organization that helps preserve our wildlife.

## **Safety First**

Are you aware of the MANY Student Safety Resources that are available on the Moraga School District website? Click [HERE](#) for tips and information on a variety of important topics including biking and walking to school, being home alone, cell phones, on-line safety, and cyber-bullying.

## **Did You Know?**

### **Student Tardies**

Students are required to pick-up a "**Pass to Class**" from the front office if they arrive late to school. And, if arriving more than 30 minutes late, a parent must accompany the child to "check in" for the school day.

Of course, the best situation is to arrive on time to school every day. Our teachers use the first few minutes of the school day to complete necessary routines, give essential directions, and provide review and/or enrichment activities to stimulate thinking and creativity.

Certainly, we understand that unavoidable situations may arise causing lateness. However, if tardiness becomes a *chronic* problem, it will be important to examine what plans can be put in place to correct the situation. At the elementary level, getting to school on time is a joint responsibility of parents and students. Thank you for your support!

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

ASEP classes have started. Just a gentle reminder that we need an Activity Release form for each activity for each child. Note that if your child is in an ASEP class and returns to Roadrunners after the class please pack a little extra snack for them to have after their class ends. Some of the children return as late as 430pm and are hungry.

Do you want to make a positive impression on a child's life while making a little bit of \$\$.? We have several shifts available at Roadrunner Club. If you are interested, please contact me at Roadrunner Club [\(925\) 376-3012](tel:9253763012) or [Roadrunnerclub@moraga.k12.ca.us](mailto:Roadrunnerclub@moraga.k12.ca.us)

## **Last Word...**

When I was a 2<sup>nd</sup> grade teacher in the 90's, my students and I enjoyed learning about what was happening in the world through a daily "Current Events" routine. Students would bring in newspaper clippings (remember newspapers?) to share with the class. It was a great way to have meaningful conversations about real events. As each year went along, we found we could rely on certain kids for certain types of news. I fondly remember one student who always brought in the weather page. And, of course, there were our sports and entertainment fans who would keep us updated on the play-offs and the current box-office hits. Most students seemed to focus on local happenings, but if a major world event took place, it was guaranteed that more than one student would come to school with the same front page headline. I didn't always understand the nuances like I thought I should (I remember relying on a precocious 8-year old to help me understand stock market fluctuations), but it was a way to bring the real world into the classroom and feel connected to real events.

I can distinctly remember my discomfort when the Bill Clinton-Monica Lewinsky scandal broke. How could I possibly hold THAT discussion? Suddenly, I wasn't so sure that it made sense to have a "Current Events" routine, and I seriously thought about scrapping the whole thing. Even though we had previously discussed "Mad Cow disease" and had the names of Benjamin Netanyahu and Madeline Albright on our Word Wall, this was an altogether new level of difficulty. Yet somehow, with the help and understanding of my students' parents, we navigated those troubled waters together.

In my early days as principal of Rheem, we dealt with the horrors of 9/11 and its aftermath. Since then, it seems that we are all too frequently worrying about how to help our students cope with unimaginable situations. It seems that a new crisis is as predictable as the old-fashioned weather page.

And, here we are again. Faced with possibly explaining words we can't bring ourselves to say out loud, grappling with whether "locker room talk" is as benign as some would suggest it should be, wondering how to come to terms with the words and actions of presidential candidates that would no doubt require a trip to the principal's office (or much worse) if said or done by an elementary school student.

Before watching the 2<sup>nd</sup> presidential debate last night, my stomach was in knots. Not because I was nervous for the big people on stage, but because I was worried for all the little people, our children, who might also be watching or, at the very least, would be dealing with the fall out. What will they hear? What will they be faced with knowing? What is my responsibility as an education leader to protect AND educate them? I'm sure many of you asked the same questions.

Recently, a very well-intended parent exclaimed to me, "I can't believe that we have to arm our young children to responses to this type of language." Believe it or not, the parent was NOT referring to the current political discourse. But, as we grappled with the issue, we both came to understand that, of COURSE, we have to arm our children with responses. It is our primary job, after all. There's no hiding from it. It's right there on their screens (or their friends' screens). They are listening, and they look to us to make sense of it all. And, yes, we have to be mindful of their age and maturity level so as not to overwhelm or frighten them. But, we absolutely cannot ignore them or the situation they find themselves in.

It's not easy, and the "perfect" discussion starter cannot be Googled (I know, because I've tried). However, I've found that the right words come when it's important enough. And, the most important thing is that we help our children to listen, think, and develop integrity. **So, take a deep breath and start the conversation.** No matter how "awkward" the topic. We owe them our support and they deserve our attention.

**I love this school!**

Ms. Frank, principal