

RHEEMARKS

"Frank"ly Speaking...

November 13, 2016

This next week is **Parent Conference Week!** I hope you have your ["Rheem Team Family Challenge"](#) posted prominently to help you keep track of the different schedules each day. Please note that Tuesday, Thursday and Friday will be *shortened minimum days* with an 11:45 dismissal for all 1st – 5th grade students. Wednesday will follow the regular schedule, but remember; Wednesday is *always* an early dismissal day at 1:50 for 1st – 5th graders. All kindergartners will arrive as "early birds" every day this week.

Make sure you review the ["Tips for a Successful Parent Conference"](#) so that you can make the most of this important meeting. It's our hope that by working together, we can make this the most successful year possible for every student.

While you're at school for your Parent Conference, be sure to stop by the **Book Fair**, which will be held in the Library beginning tomorrow (Monday). Proceeds from this event will go to support our school library. All classes will be visiting the Book Fair during the school day in the coming week; however open shopping hours are as follows:

Book Fair Shopping Hours:

Monday, Nov. 14th: 3:00 – 5:00 pm

Tuesday, Nov. 15th: 8 – 9 am & 11:30 – 2pm

Wednesday, Nov. 16th: 8 - 9 am & 1:30 – 3:30 pm

Thursday, Nov. 17th: 8 – 8:30 am & 11:30 – 5pm

This Week at Rheem:

Monday – Friday (Nov. 14 – 18):

- Parent Conference Week and Book Fair!

Monday, Nov. 14

- Recycling Assemblies with Recycle Woman!

- 9:00 – 9:30 3rd – 5th graders
- 10:00 – 10:30 K – 2nd graders

Tuesday, Nov. 15

- MSD Wellness Committee
 - 7:00 p.m. in JM Library

Thursday, Nov. 17

- 2nd grade Nor-Cal Bats presentations in Rm #25
 - Guidi (8:25 – 9:25) Webster (9:25 – 10:25) Thomson (10:35 – 11:35)
- 3rd grade Native American Feast in Multi-Use Room

Friday, Nov. 18:

- Spirit Assemblies!
 - K – 2nd (8:30 – 9:15) 3rd – 5th (10:30 – 11:20)

MSD’s School Climate Survey Wants YOUR Feedback

Children learn best when they feel safe and secure at school. The Moraga School District’s Elementary School Climate Survey provides an opportunity for parents to give important feedback to teachers and administrators about their child(ren)’s experience in this regard.

We hope ALL Rheem parents will take part in this survey, which should take no more than 5 minutes to complete. The survey can be accessed by clicking [HERE](#) or through this link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/5V2T9WP>. **This survey will be open until Friday, Nov. 18**, so please don’t hesitate to give us your thoughts. Thank you for taking the time to provide us with this valuable information!

2nd Trimester S.W.A.T Team Announced

Because we have so many 4th and 5th graders who want to help out our school as S.W.A.T. (Students Worried About Trash) team members, we rotate in a new group of students each trimester. We are grateful for the service of our new 2nd trimester team:

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Mateo P.	Nicholas L.	Jake R.	Drew W.	Nick B.
Tristyn R.	Preston W.	Grace G.	Noah H.	Brayden C.
Owen L.	Diego H.	Analise G.	Sophia P.	Mitchell H.
Sara H.	Isabella G.	Danielle L.	Luke D.	Mari C.

Brooke M.	Amarise G.	Luke B.	Mia H.	Carly R.
Sofia G.	Leyni L.	Cameron A.	Finley C.	Abby R-G

These students oversee the clean-up process that requires ALL students to sort recycling from food waste (compost) and then put whatever remains (hopefully, very little) into the trash. Also, SWAT members are on hand to help out our youngest students in the lunchroom, and can be seen opening milk cartons, fetching water, handing out napkins, and attending to other needs. This is just another wonderful service our older students provide to keep Rheem Rockin'!

Rheem's National Geographic Bee Coming Soon

Calling all Rheem 4th & 5th grade Geography Buffs! **Rheem's Annual National Geographic Bee** will be taking place this winter. The preliminary competition to select 8 – 12 school finalists will take place in the form of a written test in the classrooms during the week of Nov. 28. Then, when we return from the Winter Break, the school finalists will participate in the final competition, scheduled for **Thursday January 12 at 9:00 in the Multi-Use Room**. The National Geographic Bee is an exciting contest similar to a spelling bee where contestants orally answer questions about geography until one champion is selected to represent the school! So, brush off those atlases, and join the fun!

Want to get a head start on studying? Check out the many quizzes and activities found on the [Study Corner](http://nationalgeographic.org/bee) of the National Geographic Bee website: <http://nationalgeographic.org/bee>

Rheem Computer Lab becomes Rheem Tech Lab!

Exciting, New Technology Added

Thanks to the generosity of our PTA, the Rheem Computer Lab is now the Rheem Technology Lab! It is outfitted with a state-of-the-art 3D printer, a few iPad Airs for projects, and Sphero robots, in addition to its existing desktop computers and Activeboard. In the new year, be on the lookout for new STEM lessons in the lab, designed to maximize cross-curricular learning while sharpening 21st Century skills. For a video of our 3D printer in action, click [here](#).

Did you Know?

Chronic absenteeism

(missing 10% or more of school days) can cause students to suffer academically. That's why, at Rheem, we make it a practice to alert parents when their child's absences and/or tardies exceed 10%.

As of Friday, November 4 (the end of the first trimester), we had been in school for 54 days. Therefore, parents whose children have been tardy and/or absent more than 6 days will receive a letter from the school, with the attendance record attached. This letter is meant to raise awareness as well as to offer support to help reduce chronic absence.

Why is reducing chronic absence so important?

- Students suffer academically if they miss 10% or more of school days.
- Studies show that children who miss too many days in kindergarten and 1st grade often have trouble mastering reading by the end of 3rd grade. Attending school regularly helps children feel better about school—and themselves.
- When children are absent, schools get fewer resources from the state, resulting in less funding to pay for teachers and books. Chronic absence in kindergarten predicts chronic absence the following year, so even the attendance patterns of our youngest students affect funding down the road.
- For every day of missed school, it takes three days to make up what was missed.
- By the 6th grade, if a student continues to be chronically absent, it is a leading indicator of whether he or she will drop out of high school.
- In the 9th grade, chronic absences are a better indicator than test scores of a student's likelihood to graduate from high school.

Hello from Roadrunner Club, *submitted by Eleanor Persons, RRC Director*

This week we have Conference days Tuesday, Nov. 15th, Thursday, Nov 17th, and Friday, November 18th. If your child comes to Roadrunner Club normally on those days, we will expect them at their time of release and expect them to stay for their permanent daily schedule. We are open from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. on conference days, as usual. Please let us know if you are altering your regular reservation.

We had a wonderful fun- filled week! We have discovered thru the democratic process that the children have chosen pasta as their favorite snack. We gave them a lesson in the importance of our democratic process, by having secret ballots, voting for your favorite choice and seeing the results at the end of the process.

Please Note: if a child does not attend school, they cannot attend Roadrunner Club. Also, children must come directly to Roadrunner Club from the class room. They may not leave campus and come back to Roadrunner Club.

Just a friendly reminder, bills are due the 13th of every month. Thank you for your attention to making on-time payments.

The Last Word...

Regardless of political affiliation, we all woke up on Wednesday morning surprised at the result of Tuesday's presidential election. Given the most recent polls, we just didn't expect the outcome. As children often reflect the emotions of the adults in their lives, many Rheem students came to school with anxiety about what this election "meant." They had heard what their parents had interpreted as either hopeful promises or dangerous threats, and were eager to figure out how this news would impact their daily lives.

Even before school started on Wednesday, a few parents had sent me an on-line article "[What Do We Tell the Children?](#)" Several other parents had emailed me with questions about how to communicate with their children or about how the news might be handled in the classrooms.

Again, as parents and educators, we find ourselves venturing into conversations we would prefer to avoid. And again, and as always, we are called upon to bring our best, most confident, and hopeful selves forward in order to support our kids.

Each Wednesday, I write a "Kids' Bulletin" to the students – it's my way of communicating directly to them about upcoming events or school-wide programs and goals. But, on Wednesday, we had to discuss what was on everyone's mind. Click [HERE](#) for a copy of the Kids Bulletin, dated Wednesday, Nov. 9, 2016.

I love this school!

Ms. Frank