

RHEEMARKS

"Frank"ly Speaking...

November 6, 2016

The Ringleader of the Rheem Circus, Monsieur Franc, declared it so on Monday, October 31; therefore, it must be true: **The Rheem Halloween Parade was the Greatest Show on Earth!**

This year's Halloween parade began with our Grand Marshall, **Funky Pumpkin** (transformed into a very friendly clown) leading the way. Students and parents were then treated to the **Parade of the Circus Performers** (otherwise known as Rheem teachers and staff) as they marched along the parade route to "Entry of the Gladiators." Then, the music shifted to more traditional Halloween melodies as each grade level, dressed as silly and spooky characters of all shapes and sizes, paraded as the crowd cheered. All in all, it was a great show of Rheem Team spirit!

Highlights included the students singing the "Rheem Team Song" and "Roadrunner Pride," accompanied by Monsieur Franc at the piano, the traditional 5th grade "Ghostbusters" dance, and the announcement of the "Mr. Funky Pumpkin" guessing contest winners (see below). Also, the Roadrunner mascots were awarded to Ms. Webster's 2nd grade and Ms. Cavallero's 5th grade for running the most laps at the recent FUN(d) run.

This Week at Rheem:

Monday, Nov. 7:

- PTA Executive Board Meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, Nov. 8:

- Election Day – Be sure to VOTE!

Wednesday, Nov. 9:

- School Board Meeting, beginning at 7:00 p.m. at JM Library

Friday, Nov. 11:

- Veteran's Day Holiday – No School!

More Halloween Highlights

Mr. Funky Pumpkin Guessing Contest Results:

Each year, Rheem students stretch their estimation muscles by trying to guess the weight, circumference, and number of seeds inside Funky. Here are this year's results:

-Funky weighed in at a hefty 208 lbs. The closest guess came from 2nd grader **Karisma Sarkar** at 206 lbs!

-Funky's circumference measured 84 inches! Not one, but *two* 5th graders, **Paige Brockmeyer and Drew Wilkalis** guessed the exact circumference of 84 inches!

-Funky yielded 616 seeds. Two students, 2nd grader **Samantha Mohr** and 3rd grader **Aria Valiyee** had the closest guesses at 603 seeds!

The above named students each received a goody-bag filled with Rheem Team surprises and the admiration and applause of the crowd at the Halloween Parade when their names were announced!

It Takes a Village to Make a Circus...

Here's to:

-**Mr. Dave** for scooping out all the pumpkin gunk inside Funky Pumpkin, and for his assistance with parade and audio set-up!

-**The Rheem PTA** for purchasing this year's Funky and to Mr. Fitzinger (yep, Mrs. Fitzinger's husband) for driving all the way to Castro Valley to pick him up!

-**Maureen Gala and Theresa Needs** for costume and set design to transform Funky into our Happy Clown!

-**Sara Stafford** for her ready assistance with the music for the parade!

-**Lisa Fitzinger** for having the good sense to wear roller skates and use them like a champ to be the best personal assistant to the ringmaster that any circus could hope for!

-**The entire Rheem staff** for their creativity and collaboration as Circus Performers! Trained seals, tamed lions (and their trainers and tamers), fortune tellers, magicians, fancy ladies riding elephants, bearded ladies, plate spinners, balloon sellers, and, of course, poop scoopers!

Newest Rheem Teamers

We are happy to welcome two new staff members to Rheem!

- **Zack Barbieri** (or "Mr. Zack" as he's known to the students) is MSD's new and very enthusiastic 4th/5th grade Choir teacher. He is a recent St. Mary's graduate and enjoys playing the guitar and piano. When he's not teaching, he enjoys rock climbing, swing dancing, and playing keyboard for his band "The Skunkadelics."
- **Justine Dolan** is the new Speech and Language Therapist, serving Rheem students on Monday afternoons, and all day Tuesdays and Wednesdays. She was an undergraduate at Sarah Lawrence College and earned her graduate SLP degree from Southern Connecticut State University. Her interests are history, hiking, and spending time with her son, Damian, a 4th grader at Rheem!

Digital Citizenship Focus Continues, submitted by Adrienne DeWolfe, MSD Director of Technology

We continue to discuss digital citizenship this week in Moraga SD. This week's focus is: How can we be mindful in a busy, technology-rich world? Linked below are some resources to help facilitate a conversation at home and extend your child's learning.

- [Help Kids Develop Good Media Habits.](#)
- [Family Dinner Project:](#) Provides recipes and tech discussion topics for family dinners. Take the pledge!

Have you taken our [Parent Survey?](#) Help us know what technology issues are most important to YOU!

Safety First

Rheem is Prepared!

On Wednesday, Nov. 2, Rheem participated in the **"15th Annual Countywide Schools Shelter in Place Day,"** by holding a special emergency drill. A "Shelter in Place" or "Lockdown" drill differs from a fire or earthquake drill in that we practice how to protect ourselves inside of the building from something outside (be that a person, an animal or a chemical we don't want to breathe in).

Students learned that in a "Shelter in Place" situation, teaching and learning could continue in the classrooms; however, during a "Lockdown" we would take different precautions, including being as quiet as possible. Teachers followed-up Wednesday's drill with discussions about what to do if a child were outside of the classroom and heard a "Shelter in Place" or "Lockdown" announcement. Ask your child if he/she knows what to do in the case of an emergency. It's always a good idea to be prepared.

Did You Know?

Supervision Before and After School

It's important that students are well supervised at all times. Supervision *before* school begins at 8:10 (9:10 for late birds) and extends 15 minutes after dismissal. It's important to be aware of these limits so that your child is always adequately supervised. Unless your child is enrolled in Roadrunner Club, please make sure your child does not arrive before 8:10 in the morning; also, make sure that your child is picked up by 3:20.

Students who arrive on campus before or remain after we provide supervision, may be asked to report to Roadrunner Club and a resulting fee will be charged. Thank you for your cooperation.

Plan Ahead for Parent Conferences

This year, parent-teacher conferences will be held for all K through 5th grade students during **"Conference Week," November 14 - 18**. We strongly encourage that you schedule a conference with your child's teacher on these days, since the teachers have these days set aside to focus on the invaluable school-home connection.

As you know, the conference offers a special opportunity for parents and teacher to share information about the child. The best conferences end with both the parents and teacher feeling they have learned something about the child. Be sure to read "[Tips for a Successful Parent Teacher Conference](#)" to make the most of this important opportunity.

Also, it's not too early to make arrangements for the changes to the bell schedule to accommodate Conference Week. Click [HERE](#) to download the specific schedule (also known as the "Rheem Team Family Challenge") that includes three "shortened minimum days" on Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday of Conference Week.

Plan Ahead for the Scholastic Book Fair, Submitted by Sharon Gillbanks, Rheem Librarian

Rheem's annual Book Fair, benefiting our school library, will be during conference week, November 14 – 17. Each class will have a specific time to visit the fair during school hours. Students can shop, spend their Summer Reading Program \$5 Coupons, or make their wish lists (if you do not wish your child to spend money during the fair).

Allowing your child to shop during the class time is entirely optional, although shopping independently will help your child practice math, decision making, and time management skills. Specific instructions and a flyer were sent home in students' backpacks last week. I highly encourage you to visit the book fair with your child prior to his/her class visit to help him/her choose books and make a wish list to bring to the fair to help your child have a successful class visit. You are also more than welcome to shop with your child during his/her class visit!

The fair will also be open before and after school for you to shop with/for your child/children.

Thank you in advance for helping make the Scholastic Book Fair a winner for the library!

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

Volunteers Needed!

Sign up at: (you can view your child's class visit times here too)

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c044aadad23a1f49-scholastic>

Can't Make it?

Online Book Fair site with even more books available:

<http://onlinebookfairs.scholastic.com/default.aspx?f=3614277>

The Last Word...

This year's Halloween theme provided the opportunity for my alter-ego, Monsieur Frank, the ringmaster of the Rheem Circus, to unabashedly declare the following:

"Step right up! Come one, come all! Prepare to be impressed with the skillful juggling that IS a school year up close! At Rheem, we invite children of ALL ages to experience the wonder, the glory, the breathtaking drama that occurs when teachers, parents, and students work together to perform spectacular, awe-inspiring feats of daring! Be amazed as they accept challenges with bravery and determination! Marvel as they accomplish reality-defying feats with persistence and flair! Applaud as they reach goals never-before imagined! Circus performs work together to make magic happen; at Rheem, we work together to make learning happen! Combined with fun and a sense of belonging, we help and support one another. We embrace the unique and celebrate the unusual. We are proud of being AMAZING! Thanks to EVERYONE on the Rheem Team for their own special contributions to The Greatest SCHOOL on Earth!"

I love this school!

Ms. Frank, principal