

RHEEMARKS

December 10, 2017

With only one week left before Winter Break there is a lot to read in this week's RHEEMARKS, so do please dive right in.

This Week at Rheem:

Monday, December 11th:

- Regularly scheduled day

Tuesday, December 12th:

- Mrs. Bailey's 1st grade class field trip to Lawrence Hall of Science
- School Board Meeting at JM (from 7:00-10:00)

Wednesday, December 13th:

- International Winter Party - 2nd grade

Thursday, December 14th:

- Mrs. Strohmeier's and O'Connell's 1st grade classes on field trip to Lawrence Hall of Science

Friday, December 15th:

- Minimum Day: 8:25-12:12 (early arrival for all classes)

MSD Elementary School Climate Survey

Please take a moment to fill out this year's [Climate Survey](#). (it should take you less than 5 minutes) Your vital feedback gives teachers, staff, administrators and the district important information about your student's current school experience. Survey information is used to monitor progress and develop future areas to improve upon via school plans and the District's [Local Control Accountability Plan](#).

Rheem families are renowned for their participation in the annual survey and I hope this year you are able to continue the tradition.

National Geographic Bee Finalists Announced - *Submitted by our beloved Ms. Frank*

We are very proud of the SIXTY-TWO 4th and 5th graders who participated in the Preliminary Round of this year's National Geographic Bee. On November 29 and 30, these students took a rigorous 35-question quiz to determine who would compete in the final competition. The ten qualifying students (all 5th graders this year) are listed below:

Arnav M.

Brandon L.

Cooper C.

Declan A.

Emma A.

Hannah B.

Luc N.

Luka V.

Mia H.

Sienna B.

The Final National Geographic Bee Competition will be held on **Monday, January 8 at 9:00 in Roadrunner Hall**. This contest will be similar to a Spelling Bee where contestants orally answer questions about geography until one champion is selected to represent the school! We are looking forward to this exciting annual event!

School News and Highlights

- 2nd grade's field trip to the Contra Costa Food Bank was a great lesson in teamwork. Not only did the 2nd graders help bag over 9,000 pounds of apples, potatoes, oranges, and kiwis but they also donated over 100 pounds of food to the less fortunate of Contra Costa County. Thank you, Mrs. Webster, Ms. Guidi, Mr. Thomson and all 2nd grade families for enriching the lives of our students in so many ways.
- It was great to see so many families were able to attend Thursday's 4th/5th grade Winter Concert. The choir, orchestra, band and music teachers came ready to perform and gave us a show to remember.

Fun Math Competition at Camino Pablo E.S.

CP will be hosting a math competition for 1st-5th graders in March. Registration is open now and there is an "early bird special" that ends this Friday the 15th. Please click [here](#) for more information.

MEF Phone-a-thon

Mark your calendars for the annual MEF Phone-a-thon taking place on Tuesday, February 6th and Wednesday, February 7th from 6:30- 8:30 pm. MEF is looking for Rheem parent volunteers to call families and members of our community to boost MEF donations. Last year, the phone-a-thon raised over \$80,000, helping fund critical staff and programs that benefit every student, every day. Look for a Sign Up Genius in January or contact Joan Vattuone (mjvattuone@hotmail.com) with any questions.

Box Tops - Support Rheem with your everyday purchases

Do you collect Box Tops? You can find Box Tops on many different items ranging from food, juices and Ziplock bags. Even family members can join the fun! Click [HERE](#) to see a list of participating products. If items you purchase have Box Tops, please clip them out and send them into school!

Lost and Found Clothing – *as submitted by Mrs. Fitzinger*

Our Lost and Found is overflowing! Please be sure to check the Lost and Found clothing racks in front of Wing #3 as there are jackets, sweatshirts, sweaters and other odds & ends just waiting to be claimed. Most parents are surprised to find items that they didn't even realize were missing! We have clothing items from companies such as Columbia, Nike, and Gap. We have spirit wear from school and local youth teams. Rheem Leadership students check the lost and found weekly for any items that are labeled with student names. Please make sure to clearly mark your child's clothing, lunchbox, hats, etc. with your child's name. ***The current Lost and Found will be on display through Friday, December 15th at 12:00 p.m. At that time, all unclaimed items will then be donated to a local charity.***

Reminder: Family signs for afternoon pick-up

Thank you to those who have used the family signs on your dashboard during afternoon pick-up, and for those who have not used them yet please look to do so in the coming weeks and months. The easier it is to identify cars and the children they are picking up will make it easier to move traffic along at a safe and steady pace.

**If you have any questions or did not receive a sign please contact casey.sproul@gmail.com.

Hello from Roadrunner Club!!!

Just a few administrative reminders: if you have a change in your child's schedule for the day (example: if you are going to be later or earlier, or if someone else is picking up your child) please e-mail us that information. We are not always able to get to the phone when it rings, we may have parents or children at the desk, therefore it is always best to e-mail.

We would also appreciate you sending a pencil in your child's backpack for homework at Roadrunner Club. We started out at the beginning of the school

year with hundreds of pencils and now we are down to none. If they just kept a pencil in the bottom of their backpack, they would always have one.

Schedule changes are due this Tuesday, December 12th, and will be effective on January 2nd (the first day back from holiday break). If there is a change due to ASEP classes ending, now is your chance to make that change.

Have a great Holiday,

Eleanor

Rheem Cares Program – due this Tuesday (12/12)

There is still time for your student to take part in the “Rheem Cares Program” where they help support those less fortunate. Gifts and gift cards are due this Tuesday, December 12th.

The Last Word:

This time of year, brings many things into the lives of our children: gifts, extended family, travel, and time with friends away from school, to name just a few. These moments provide memories that enrich our lives and those of our family. But what personifies the season more than anything else is when I hear comments like the one I did on Friday from a 2nd grader upon her return from the Contra Costa Food Bank. As we were waiting on Laird for afternoon pick-up I asked how the field trip was, and her response was, “It was GREAT!!! We made a difference today Mr. Sullivan.” I had to smile hearing her reply and agree whole heartedly, our kids are a making a difference.

I know I’m preaching to the choir when I say Rheem is a very special place, but it’s true. The enthusiasm and joy your children bring to school each day is infectious, and in a world where we hear, and see, so much of the negative, it’s a breath of fresh air to be a part of something so hopeful and genuine.

Respect, friendship and empathy towards all, are all life-skills we will continue to value, teach, and practice at Rheem over the weeks, months and years to come so as to ensure our children continue to make a difference.

I wish you a Happy Holiday season and peace and goodwill to all.

There is no place like Rheem,

Mr. Sullivan