

RHEEMARKS

"Frank"ly Speaking...

December 11, 2016

It's hard to believe we have just one more week of school before our two-week Winter Break! It's an exciting time, and amidst all the hustle and bustle, I'd like to extend a friendly reminder to continue practicing our safety rules – especially when it comes to dropping-off and picking-up students on Laird Drive. Please remember not to pass waiting cars into on-coming traffic or to use the red bus circle for drop-off. Parking lots are also off-limits for pick-up and drop-off. Let's make sure our lifeskills of **Caring, Cooperation, and Patience** extend into our [parking and traffic procedures](#).

Please note that **Friday, December 16 is a minimum day for all students**. On Friday, all students arrive at 8:25. Kindergarten students will be dismissed at 11:50 and 1st – 5th graders will be dismissed at 12:12. Remember, there is no lunch served on minimum days.

This Week at Rheem:

Tuesday, Dec. 13:

- K – 3 "Rheem Cares" donations due
- 4th grade "Heifer Project" donations due
- School Board Meeting, beginning at 7:00 p.m. at JM
 - Click [HERE](#) for agenda

Weds., Dec. 14:

- BOX TOPS collection in classrooms
- 5th grade "Make a Wish Foundation" donations due

Friday, Dec. 16:

- MINIMUM DAY!
 - 8:25 arrival for All students
 - Kindergarten dismissed at 11:50
 - 1st – 5th graders dismissed at 12:12

School News & Highlights

- **Rheem's 4th and 5th grade students enlightened and entertained us with an "Inform-ance," on Thursday, December 8**, showing us how much they have learned in music class. Under the direction of Mr. Noel (strings), Ms. Stafford (band) and Mr. Zack (choir), students demonstrated the inspiring results of weekly practice. Many thanks to MEF for funding our Music Program!
- **Save the Date for MEF's event, *Under the City Lights***. It will be held on Saturday, March 11, 2017 at the Claremont Hotel in Berkeley. The evening will include silent and live auctions, dinner and dancing. Please help support MEF's 35th Anniversary event by donating an auction item. Please go to the event website MoragaEducation.ejoinme.org/mef35 for details.

Our Lost & Found is Overflowing! *Submitted by Lisa Fitzinger*

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 and return these items to their owners. 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 16th until 12:30 p.m. At that time all unclaimed items will then be donated to a local charity.

Rheem Book Fair a Success! *submitted by Sharon Gillbanks, Librarian*

The Scholastic Book Fair at Rheem was a huge success with a sales exceeding last year by \$300+. It was so exciting to have ALL the students visit the fair and to witness their enthusiasm about being able to see so many new books and participate in an independent shopping experience by either purchasing books or making their wish lists. Each and every student used their math, time management and decision making skills to make their visit a fun, educational experience.

Thank you to all the parents for reading my informational letter (it was rather long) and who followed through with the instructions for the class visits. It made the class visits go so smoothly. Thank you to all those parents who also visited the book fair to purchase books to benefit the Rheem Library and the classrooms (Teacher Wish Lists). Lastly, thank you so very much to all the parent volunteers who helped during the book fair, especially Lynette Galarza & Tohiko Barrett (my own mom!) who worked tirelessly from open to close every day of the fair! It would not have been such a success if not for all the volunteers' generous help!

Please note the following regarding Library Books over the Winter Holiday:

All Rheem Library books are due back into the library this week before Winter Break. There will be no check-outs this week, but please take your children to the Public Libraries over break! They have fun events & activities during December. (and every month): cclib.org

The Last Word...

Last week in this space, I included some true stories of Rheem students demonstrating kindness towards staff and one another. Sharing those stories prompted even more examples of consideration, including this anecdote from Mrs. Johnson, our computer teacher:

"I worked last weekend and all day Monday setting up a breakout/treasure hunt game for the kids in computer lab. I was excited, but stressed because I had underestimated how much work it would be to develop.

I was floored by how appreciative the kids were! One third grader asked how long it took. I told her I "worked on it over the weekend," and she said "Oh Mrs. Johnson, thank you so much for doing this for us!" She told her classmates, and they all came up and thanked me. It totally made it all that much more worthwhile. What a wonderful bunch of students!

When so many of us worry about the decline of civil discourse, it's gratifying to see (and hear!) that our students appreciate the efforts of others and are able to freely express their gratitude – especially, since it's been scientifically proven that a sincere "thank you" positively benefits both the giver and the receiver. Click [HERE](#) for a recent Today Show Health and Wellness post on the topic (as well as a cute video of kids explaining how gratitude works).

Civility. Appreciation. Gratitude. Empathy. These will continue to be lifekills we will value, teach, and practice at Rheem. It's especially important this time of year as we give/receive gifts and respect our varied holiday traditions. Happy Holidays and Gratitude to all!

I love this school!

Ms. Frank, principal