

Dear Rheem Team Families,

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

Please note that **Friday, December 21 is a minimum day for all students.** On Friday, all students arrive at 8:25. And will be dismissed at 12:12. Remember, there is no lunch served on minimum days.

This Week at Rheem:

Monday, December 17th:

- Regularly scheduled Monday

Tuesday, December 18th:

- 5th graders take part in SUBS (Speak Up Be Safe) program

Wednesday, December 19th:

- Regularly scheduled Wednesday

Thursday, December 20th:

- 5th/4th grade Winter Concert in the Frank from 2:00-3:00

Friday, December 21st:

- Minimum Day: All students begin school at 8:25 and get out at 12:12 (no lunch at school)

MSD Elementary School Climate Survey

To date, ninety-two families have participated in 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](#).

The Climate Survey closes on December 19th, and my hope is that as many Rheem families participate as possible. (Last year we had over 120 families participate and it would be great if we could get at least that same amount again this year.) Thank you to all who have taken the survey and please consider taking a few minutes to include your vital feedback.

Survey link:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScNF40GSXeYPI8DypAtDGL42B6_bG9ZpXg5rfLY5muWXR00A/viewform?usp=sf_link

School News and Highlights

2nd grade International Celebrations: This week, each 2nd grade class will be hosting an International Party to celebrate all the work they have done on their Holiday Units. It is a great opportunity for students to experience different games, activities and foods from cultures around the world. Kudos Mr. Thomson, Mrs. Webster and Ms. Guidi for sharing so many cultures and traditions with our students.

5th/4th grade Winter Concert Thursday: Be sure to mark your calendars and make your way to the Frank this Thursday at 2:00 for a concert worth the price of admission. There will be horns, strings and voices filling the Frank with music to our ears. See you there.

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 7,000 pounds of produce 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.

National Geographic Bee Finalists Announced - Submitted by Ms. Frank

We are very proud of the FIFTY-FOUR 4th and 5th graders who participated in the Preliminary Round of this year's National Geographic Bee. On December 11 and 12, these students took a rigorous 20-question quiz to determine who would compete in the final competition. The nine qualifying students are listed below:

4th grade finalists

Adam S.
Anton K.
Drew K.
Kai P.
Zayden B.
Zoya C.

5th grade finalists

Cassidy W.
Matt J.
Will M.

The Final National Geographic Bee Competition will be held on **Monday, January 14 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!

Rheem Cares Gifts – due this Tuesday (12/18)

There is still time for your student to take part in the “Rheem Cares Program” where all gifts and donations help support those less fortunate. Gifts and gift cards are due this Tuesday, December 18th.

In Case You Missed It

Click [HERE](#) to see a story that aired Monday, December 10th on KTVU Channel 2 News highlighting the work of Angie Guidi, Courtney Brockmeyer, and Rheem’s staff and students. It is a heartwarming story of how the work of the Rheem Team can make a lasting impact on so many children in need.

Did you Know?

Kindergarten Registration Opens in January

Please be sure to click [HERE](#) for specific dates and instructions regarding kindergarten registration.

Our Lost & 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. Parents are often surprised to find items that they didn't even realize were missing!

Rheem Leadership students check the lost and found regularly 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 21st until 12:30 p.m. At that time all unclaimed items will then be donated to a local charity.

Save the Date:

MEF's Rev Up For Education

Each year, the Moraga Education Foundation (MEF) supports excellence in education for *every student, every day* with grants to the Moraga School District and Campolindo High School.

MEF is excited to announce the 2019 Auction Gala: ***Rev Up For Education*** happening on **Saturday, March 16, 2019 at the Blackhawk Museum** in Danville. The evening will include silent and live auctions, dinner and dancing. Please join us for this community-wide event; tickets are limited and will go on sale January 22, 2019. For more information and to visit the auction website, click [here](#).

The entire community can show their support for our schools through an online auction featuring over 100 items. The online auction will run from **March 5 through March 14, 2019.**

The Last Word...

I woke up extra early yesterday morning and ended up turning on the television. After surfing around a bit, I found myself watching an [acceptance speech on ESPN by Craig Sager](#) for the Jimmy V award. Every year ESPN

presents the Jimmy Valvano award to “a member of the sporting world who has overcome great obstacles through perseverance and determination.” Craig Sager was a TV sports analyst for decades whose flashy outfits and sideline reporting were renowned in the NBA. He received the award to recognize his courageous battle against cancer. His speech was very poignant and I loved his message regarding time. He said, “Time is something that cannot be bought, cannot be wagered with God, and it is not in endless supply. Time is simply how you live your life.”

With Winter Break and the holiday season upon us, hopefully we have the opportunity to spend more time with family and friends, and it is important for us to sit back and appreciate all of the blessings we have in our life, most notably our children. And with that, I wish to thank all of you for the countless hours you spend nurturing and supporting your children. It is always time well spent and a way in which all of you have chosen to live your lives.

Happy holidays and peace and goodwill to all.

There is no place like Rheem,
Mr. Sullivan