

December 2, 2018

Dear Rheem Team Families,

I hope you had an opportunity to spend time with your family and friends this weekend, and if yours was anything like mine, you were able to check off a few things on the honey-do list.

Please take a read to see what's happening at Rheem this week.

## **This Week at Rheem:**

### Monday, December 3rd:

- 4th grade onsite field trip – Walk Through California

### Tuesday, December 4th:

- Safe Havens Subcommittee meeting at Rheem (3:30-5:00)

### Wednesday, December 5th:

- School Site Council meeting (3:25-4:30 in Room 19)

### Thursday, December 6th:

- Regularly scheduled Thursday

### Friday, December 7th:

- Regularly scheduled Friday

## **School News and Highlights**

**Town Hall Theater Assembly:** This past week actors from Town Hall Theater in Lafayette performed the storybook classic “Room on the Broom.” Their performance showed how books are for more than reading, they can be used to understand character, develop empathy and for performing. It was another way to encourage a love of books and inspire children to use their imaginations. In addition, the follow up discussion allowed our Roadrunners to explore the themes above as well as the importance of inclusion and understanding differences.

**Walk Through California:** 4th graders take part in the amazing social studies program, “Walk Through California” this week. I encourage 4th grade families

to come and watch their student's class participate in this interactive walk through history.

**BOX TOPS:** We will be making another BOX TOPS collection before the Winter Break. Please turn in all neatly-trimmed Box Tops to the classrooms by Wednesday, December 19. The classes that bring in the most Box Tops will be awarded the Roadrunner Mascots at the January Spirit Assemblies.

## **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. Click [HERE](#) to access the survey.

## **Did you Know?**

"RESILIENCE" the recycling super hero (a.k.a. Jessica Jane Robinson) was on campus this past Friday working with this year's S.W.A.T. (Students Working Against Trash) team members. Rheem students recycle and compost four times more waste than they send to landfills each day. Learning the value of reducing landfill trash is a lesson that will make all of us better off. Keep up the good work Roadrunners and thank you S.W.A.T.

## **National Geographic Bee Coming to Rheem**

*As submitted by Rheem's beloved Ms. Frank*

Calling all 4th and 5th graders! **Rheem's Annual National Geographic Bee** will take place this winter. All 4th and 5th grade students are invited to participate. This is a fun and exciting way to learn more about geography!

There will be two school competitions. The Preliminary Competition will take the form of a written test all about geography. The top scorers will move on to the Final Competition where a School Champion will be chosen.

All 4th and 5th graders are encouraged to take the Preliminary Written Test as follows:

- **4<sup>th</sup> graders** – During lunch recess on Tuesday, Dec. 11 in Room 2 (Ms. McMullen’s classroom)
- **5<sup>th</sup> graders** – During lunch recess on Wednesday, Dec. 12 in Room 21 (Ms. Cavallero’s classroom)

*Note: Students may take the test on either day – whatever suits their own schedules best (for example, a 5<sup>th</sup> grader can take the test on Tuesday if he/she has an obligation on Wednesday)*

Finalists will be announced by Monday, December 17, so there will be plenty of time to study before the **School-Wide Final Competition on Monday, January 14 at 9:00 a.m.** in the Multi-Use Room.

All students who participate in the preliminary competition will have their names included in a drawing to win a fun “Where in the World?” geography game (a \$30 value!), so *everyone* who tries out has a chance to be a winner!

If a student would like to study up for the preliminary written test, click [HERE](#) for helpful tips!

## **Hello from Roadrunner**

We hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving and some precious time with Family and Friends. Thank you for bearing with us as we had to modify our regular schedule to accommodate for the smoke. I know the kids are glad to be back to playing outside!

Projects: Before Thanksgiving break we were busy with art projects with fall themes. We made wreaths and decorated trees with fall leaves. We also measured out ingredients for soup in a bag. Hopefully some of you got to make the soup and enjoy it!

Reminders:

- All changes to January schedules are due online by Saturday, December 23rd at 4pm. This is two days before Christmas, so plan ahead!
- Friday, Dec. 21st is a minimum day. If you need to cancel your reservation for that day, please let us know one week in advance and you will not be charged.
- If your child will not be attending Road Runner due to illness, vacation etc., please remember to notify us via phone or email. If we do not hear from we are required to search for your child and you will be charged a \$25 search fee.
- We have had many families forgetting to sign out. There is a \$10 fee for missed sign-outs.

Thank you!

Eleanor

## **The Last Word...**

Did you know, Rheem students/classes take part in over 70 field trips each year? From a visit to Smith Family Farm as kindergartners to overnight trips at the S.F. Maritime Museum and Marin Headlands as 5th graders, our students are continually provided opportunities to learn outside the classroom. A recent study by the American Public Education Foundation showed that providing field trip experiences for students benefits them in multiple ways. The study noted that a student's ability to recall details from a field trip was 5 times stronger than a typical classroom experience. It also highlighted how a student's ability to think critically about the content they observed on the field trip improved. (critical thinking was measured by a student's ability to: observe, interpret, evaluate, associate, problem solve, compare, and think flexibly). The study also noted that students who participate in field trips get an opportunity to build empathy and tolerance. The study found by broadening experiences, students were imparted with greater appreciation and understanding of new things.

This week, field trip donation requests for each grade level were sent home via school messenger. I strongly encourage you to continue the tradition of

supporting these valuable experiences by donating. Click [HERE](#) for the payment link. (If you have any questions regarding the amount of money your child's grade level is requesting please let me know)

Thank you for all that you do to make your child's education a priority in your life.

There's no place like Rheem,  
Mr. Sullivan