

February 10, 2019

Dear Rheem Team Families,

We are ready for the final week of our Read-a-Thon Journey. Students will find out tomorrow during lunch that we have garnered enough participation to gain a third straight year of "Crazy Hair Day." (This Thursday, February 14th) I can't wait to see how CRAZY these kids are about reading!!

This Week at Rheem:

Monday, February 11th:

- JM Band and Chorus traveling concert from 10:30-11:15ish in the Frank

Tuesday, February 12th:

- School Board meeting from 7:00-10:00 in the JM Library

Wednesday, February 13th:

- MEF Thank-a-Thon
- Safety Committee meeting at CP from 3:30-5:00

Thursday, February 14th:

- Crazy Hair Day
- Read-a-thon ends
- Valentine's Day

Friday, February 15th:

- NO SCHOOL: President's Day

Monday, February 18th:

- NO SCHOOL: President's Day

School News and Highlights

Rheem sent seven amazing artists' work to the Art Ambassadors Show at the Orinda Library Gallery. Congratulations to 1st graders: Teagan D., Madilyn P, Alessia P; 2nd

grader Emery S and 4th graders Zoya C, Lils M and Samantha M for their remarkable masterpieces. If you have not done so already, be sure to visit the Orinda Library between now and this Wednesday as the show closes on the 13th.

Did you Know?

The Moraga Education Foundation (MEF) grant to our elementary schools is \$960,000, funding critical staff and programs that benefit **all** students. Rheem is a better place from all your support.

Read-a-thon Update

At last count, over 99% of Rheem students are participating in the Read-a-thon!

14 classes can boast 100% participation in the Read-a-thon (all students having recorded at least one week of reading time). And

6 Rheem classes have had 100% participation for the 1st three weeks of the Read-a-Thon.

Rheem students have earned Crazy Circus Hair Day for this Thursday, February 14th! On this day, Rheem students and staff are encouraged to be VERY creative with their hairstyles! As always, Spirit Wear or school colors (blue and gold) are always good options on these special days as well.

There is still time to submit [sponsor sheets](#). Simply drop them in the basket located in the front office. As a reminder, this year's Read-a-thon proceeds will go directly towards improving classroom libraries.

Any questions? Please contact the Read-a-thon chairs: Karen Jaworski (karen@kjaworski.com) | Zheni Nikolova (zheninikolova@gmail.com)

Rheem's 2019 Science Fair is ON!!

as submitted by Doris Chen: Science Fair Co-Chair

It's that glorious time of year again where Rheem students get to think, create, question, explore, observe, investigate, analyze, share, and become young scientists! This year marks the Science Fair's 32nd anniversary. Over the past three decades, our young scientists at Rheem have experimented with separating pigment dyes in M&Ms, making

edible slime, swabbing different spots around school for germs, and many more fun projects.

The Science Fair is open to students in 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade. Young scientists will gather in groups of up to three students from any combination of these grades and use the Scientific Method of Investigation to work on a safe, non-hazardous, hands-on project. Each group will create one report and poster board to present to fellow classmates, parents, and the rest of the school. The Science Fair Committee will be available to advise and guide our fearless young scientists along the way.

Online applications are paperless again this year, available on the Rheem website under the [Science Fair 2019](#) link. Rules, draft submissions, and more information are also available online.

Important dates to remember:

Feb 1: Science Fair Presentation. Submit applications online at the Rheem website, [Science Fair 2019](#) link. Create your group and submit your idea for a science experiment.

Feb 15: Deadline to submit applications. Start working on your experiment.

Feb 23: Application feedback due, start draft reports

March 4: Science fair draft reports due

March 11: Start final reports

March 29: Final reports due

April 12: Young scientists receive poster board for displaying their science project

April 25: Science Fair presentations to each class in M/U Room

April 25: Science Fair in M/U Room, 5:30 – 7pm

April 26: Science Fair Walkthrough (open to all grades), 8:30 – 10am

Got questions? Email rheemsf@gmail.com. Special thanks to the Rheem Science Fair Committee: Jennifer Chen-Speckman, Amy Chen-Yee, Barbora Chindarkarova, Anna Lim, Flora Shin, Rich Souza, David Yee, and co-chairs Doris Chen & Brent Levenfeld.

Get your science on!!

School Climate Survey Results

Over the past several weeks, I have included results from the 2018-19 Climate Survey that was sent out in November, 2018. 168 Rheem families responded as follows:

In this week's addition we note that 93% respondents agreed with the statement "My child has caring and supportive friends."

Actual breakdown: 38% strongly agree; 55% agree; 4% disagree; 0% strongly disagree and 3% didn't know.

The Last Word...

How many times have you thought you'd like to be a fly on the wall? I mean how great would it be to witness something that you rarely, if ever, get to see. Well put on your wings and hold the wall tight as you witness what your children has seen in the last several days at Rheem.

If you happened to be a fly in the library you would have heard Mrs. Gillbanks reading to the kindergartners two amazing stories. "My Day is Ruined" which talks about flexible thinking and strategies to help students self-regulate, and also "Do Not Lick This Book: It's Full of Germs" which lets children know all about the tiny microbes they can't see, even though they're all around them. (pretty ironic that you, as a fly, were in the library hearing about all of the germs you happen to spread :)

If you were a fly in the Art Room you would have seen 1st graders sketching and working with clay to make pottery. And if you stayed for lunch in the Art Room, you would have seen dozens of children come in to play with clay, paints, markers and more as Ms. Larson always keeps her room open on Thursdays and Fridays during lunch to encourage and nurture children's creative sides.

If you were a fly on the play structure you would have seen 2nd graders playing Lily Pad, badminton, paddle-ball and more during P.E. with Mr. Studebaker. Rain or shine Mr. Studebaker and Ms. Peterson make P.E. active and fun.

A fly in the Music Room would have seen 3rd graders playing the drums and xylophones. Every week Mr. Jent, Ms. Avindan and Mr. Noel help students learn to read scales/notes, sing, play instruments and prepare themselves for a life full of music.

A 4th grader may not notice you in the Science Room but as you sit alongside them captivated by Mrs. Healy and her magnetism lesson, you realize that opposites do attract

when it comes to learning more about science and magnetic fields and forces. That is until Mrs. Culleton sees you and looks to shoo you away.

And in the event, you decided to hang out with 5th graders in the Computer Lab with Mrs. Ross you would learn all about Adobe Spark, a graphic design app that helps students transform their ideas into visual stories. The creativity and tech savviness of 5th graders would make your wings buzz.

I know I have mentioned on numerous occasions the impact MEF has on each and every student, each and every day at Rheem, but what you've just read are things your children have witnessed and experienced in just 5 short days. Add that up over the course of a year and experiences like them will create a deeper, more meaningful appreciation for learning.

February 13th is MEF's new Thank-a-thon. This is an opportunity for our community to focus on giving and the positive impact your donations to MEF have on every student, every day at Rheem.

Every day, I see the positive benefits of your MEF donations at our school. I am grateful for your ongoing support. Through community-wide involvement, you have truly made Rheem a special place. Thank you for all that you do and please join me in showing your support of MEF by making a donation today, or during the Thank-a-thon by clicking [here](#).

There is no place like Rheem,
Mr. Sullivan