

RHEEMARKS

"Frank"ly Speaking...

February 12, 2017

I'm happy to announce that **Rheem Team spirit is alive and well** as evidenced by the students' impressive participation in **The Greatest Read-a-thon on Earth**, and their enthusiasm about celebrating the first-ever **"Crazy Circus Hair Day" this Thursday, February 16**. What a great opportunity for the kids to show that they're CRAZY about reading!

This Week at Rheem:

Monday, February 13:

- Waste Audit at Lunchtime: How are we doing as Wastebusters?

Tuesday, February 14:

-Valentine's Day!

-School Board Meeting, beginning at 7:00 p.m. at JM. Click [HERE](#) for agenda

Wednesday, February 15:

-MSD Coordinating Council meeting, beginning at 3:30 at JM

Thursday, February 16:

- Read-a-thon Week 4 tally sheets & "Feat of Daring" posters due
- CRAZY CIRCUS HAIR DAY!

Friday, February 17:

-Science Fair Applications Due

-No School in celebration of Presidents' Day Weekend

Note: No school on Monday, Feb. 20 either!

Greatest Read-a-thon on Earth News & Highlights:

- At last count, over **96%** of Rheem students are participating in the Read-a-thon!
- NINE classes can boast **100% participation** in the Read-a-thon (all students having turned in at least 1 tally sheet). Those classes are Lorie/K, Bailey/1st, O'Connell/1st, Guidi/2nd, Thomson/2nd, Ralph/3rd, McMullen/4th, Cavallero/5th, and Greer/5th!
- FOUR Rheem classes have had **100% participation for BOTH the 1st and 2nd weeks**. Those classes are:

Ms. O'Connell's 1st grade

Ms. Guidi's 2nd grade

Ms. McMullen's 4th grade

Ms. Cavallero's 5th grade

- Rheem students have earned ***Crazy Circus Hair Day on Thursday, February 16!*** 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.
- ***"Feat of Daring" posters are due this Thursday, Feb. 16!*** Students are encouraged to continue recording (and rating!) the books they read during the Read-a-thon on [this poster](#) to turn in on the LAST day of the Read-a-thon for a chance to win a prize.

The 2017 Science Fair is ON!

Science Fair Information and Applications can now be found by clicking [HERE](#) or by going on our school website under the "Resources" tab. Many thanks to our Science Fair Coordinators (all parent volunteers for introducing this opportunity to our 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders on Monday, Feb. 6.

Applications are due by Friday, February 17.

The Science Fair is scheduled for **Thursday, April 27**. Be sure to mark your calendars! It's always an inspiring evening for the whole family!

Safety First!

Late Bird Arrival

The staff parking lot is reserved staff and is not available to parents for drop-off of students. As our students use the cross walk at the entrance to the parking lot, it is important to decrease the amount of cars going into and out of the staff parking lot at drop-off times. Therefore, we will be blocking off access to the staff parking lot during Late-Bird arrival (9:10 – 9:35). Again, we ask that all parent use the drop-off zone on Laird. We are grateful to Mrs. Edita Romano for her supervision of Laird Dr. at morning drop-off, making the arrival procedure safe for all.

Similarly, please do not use the red emergency zone (bus circle) for drop-off of students. This is reserved for emergency vehicles only, unless monitored by staff (kindergarten pick-up).

We very much appreciate your understanding and cooperation. Thank you.

Job Opportunities at Rheem

- **Late Bird Supervision:** This is the perfect job for someone who is dropping off their late bird in the morning! We need someone to supervise the "late bird morning recess" from 9:10 – 9:25 each morning. Please call the Rheem Office if you are interested in this 15-minute a day job – it's not a big job, but it makes a BIG difference to the supervision of our students.
- **Assistant Secretary:** After 16 years in the Moraga School District, our wonderful assistant secretary, Linda Wu, is retiring. She will be leaving her position in March; therefore, we are looking for another organized, kind-hearted person to service in this invaluable capacity beginning next month. See [HERE](#) for the job announcement and application process.

School Climate Survey Results:

Caring Friends

In the MSD School Climate Survey given in November, 2016, 186 Rheem parents responded as follows:

-81% respondents agreed with the statement ***"My child has caring and supportive friends"***.

Actual Breakdown: 32% strongly agree; 49% agree; 15% neutral; 3% disagree; 0% strongly disagree; 2% don't know

Attention 5th grade parents, submitted by Joan Danilson, JM Principal

On **Tuesday, March 7th**, the Joaquin Moraga Math Department will be hosting an informational session about math at the middle school. We will be covering our textbook, current math pathways, the placement process and the courses that are offered in our district. We encourage all interested fifth grade parents to attend. The presentation will be held in the **JM Library from 6:30 until 7:15 PM**. We look forward to seeing you there.

Soul Shoppe News & Highlights:

On Friday, February 10, Nasi of Soul Shoppe met with all grade levels for "100% You" workshops. Discussions included:

- Recognizing the way in which we are different from each other;
- Realizing how differences make our school better, and yet, how we sometimes "judge" those differences;

- Considering how we can encourage and support each other's differences as part of a big-hearted and healthy school;
- Older students talked about the words "stereotype," "prejudice," and "discrimination" as a way of seeing how our differences can divide us; however, respect for "diversity" can make us stronger!
- ALL students learned to use the "THINK" tool to remember how to be supportive.
- The THINK tool is simple: Before you speak, ask yourself if what you will say is: **T**True, **H**elpful, **I**nviting, **N**ecessary, and **K**ind. If so, it will likely help someone feel "100% OK" (and that's always a good thing).

Parents, you can support this work by asking your child what he/she learned and how they *felt* at this workshop. Then, consider sharing your own experiences about being "100% You." Have you ever felt "different" or that people did not understand something about you? Were you ever teased for just being yourself? Talk, then listen, listen, listen. Also, be sure to reassure your child that you love them "100%!"

Many thanks to the Rheem PTA for funding our Soul Shoppe program.

Last Word...

My apologies. I'm sending out this week's Rheemarks much later than normal because I spent the day taking my 13 year-old nephew, Frankie, to see "Finding Neverland" in the city (instead of focusing on this newsletter). However, it was meant to be. What a great show – a reminder of that constant inner struggle between growing up and remaining... well, young at heart -- full of imagination and possibilities! How fitting that when shopping before the show, Frankie picked out a new men's dress shirt (size 17 ½ neck!) as well as a Batman watch at the Lego store. Perhaps we are always caught between being a grown-up and being a kid – but, it's never clearer than at age 13.

So, next week, I'll get back to more educational messages, but this week, I'm sending out a song from the show, "We're all Made of Stars," sung by the four talented young performers. It's a great song for kids, but maybe more importantly, it's an upbeat reminder of how we ALL have dreams to chase after – regardless of our age. Click [HERE](#) and enjoy!

I love this school!

Ms. Frank, Principal