

# RHEEMARKS

February 19, 2018

I hope you have all had an opportunity to enjoy the long weekend and spend some extra time together as a family.

The holiday weekend came just in time to help commemorate the end of this year's **DRheem Team** Read-a-thon, and what better way for our students and staff to celebrate than by taking part in **Crazy Hair Day**. The DRheem Team really showed their school spirit with their unique and colorful hairstyles.

I am very proud of our students' efforts over this 4-week focus on reading, and I look forward to sharing the total hours read and grand prize winners at the March 30<sup>th</sup> Spirit Assembly. Thank you to all the parent volunteers who helped make this year's Read-a-thon a DRheem come true, and a special thanks goes to Leslie Muldoon (Noah and Gwen's mom) and Sally Salay (Julia and Sophia's mom) for organizing this year's Read-a-thon.

## **This Week at Rheem:**

### Monday, February 19th:

- NO SCHOOL: Presidents Day

### Tuesday, February 20th:

- School Site Council meeting: 3:15-4:30 (Room 19)

### Wednesday, February 21st:

- Wastebusters Kindergarten presentations and lunchtime waste audit
- Student Safety Committee meeting: 3:30-5:00 at CP (Room 7)
- iKind Project presents – *He Named Me Malala* (7:00PM in the JM Auditorium)

Thursday, February 22nd:

- Regularly scheduled Thursday

Friday, February 23rd:

- Regularly scheduled Friday

## **School News and Highlights.**

- Rheem's School Site Improvement Plan was approved by the Moraga School Board at the February 13 meeting. This plan is developed and monitored by our School Site Council, and it features specific goals and action items in the areas of Math, English/Language Arts, and School Climate. This year's School Site Plan can be downloaded from the "Quick Links" section of our website. Future issues of RHEEMARKS will provide updates on stated goals.
- Jessica from "Wastebusters" will be on campus this Wednesday presenting to our Kindergartners about the importance of composting and recycling. She will also be working with our SWAT Team (Students Worried About Trash) to conduct a second waste audit. It will be interesting to see if Rheem has reduced our overall contributions to local landfills.

## **The DRheem Team Read-a-thon**

The read-a-thon online link will be closed this Friday (Feb. 23). Please be sure to go online and enter any outstanding hours from the last four weeks at <https://goo.gl/forms/RvPPGBGPLmZ5jzZg2>

Read-a-thon donations are due Friday, March 30. Pledge sheets will be returned to you this week indicating pledge totals for your student.

To make a payment online, go to <https://rheempta.membershiptoolkit.com/home> You can also make a donation by cash or check, (payable to "Rheem PTA") and leave it in the office or give it to your child's teacher.

Thank you for supporting the 2018 DRheem Team read-a-thon.

## **Did You Know? - Attendance Counts!**

There are many factors that affect student learning; attitude, work ethic, ability, confidence are all critical elements of learning. However, studies show the MOST important thing is ATTENDANCE. Seems pretty logical when you think about it, if children are absent from the classroom, learning cannot occur. Our three main measures of attendance are tardy, absences, and truant.

**Tardy:** Is your child(ren) on time? Our teachers use the first few minutes of the school day to complete necessary routines, give essential directions, and provide review and/or enrichment activities to stimulate thinking and creativity. If your child is late they not only miss out on these important tasks but can disrupt their teacher and other children from completing them.

**Absent or present:** As mentioned above the single biggest indicator for student achievement is attendance.

**Truancy/Unexcused absences:** A student is considered truant when the student has an unexcused absence of more than 30 minutes on three or more days during the school year. Since extended family vacations and other non-essential reasons for missing school are not considered "excused," Rheem's truancy rate is higher than you might think. During the 2016-17 school year, 93 Rheem students were considered truant, based on this criterion. That's over 23% of Rheem. This year our truancy rate is on pace to be even higher. You can help reduce this statistic by scheduling family trips on non-instructional days and by making sure that students arrive on time and stay in school for the full day.

Thank you for doing all you can to make sure your children are present, on time and ready to learn.

## **School Climate Survey Results:**

In the MSD Climate Survey given in November, 2017, 122 Rheem parents responded as follows: 95% respondents agreed with the statement "My child enjoys going to school."

Actual breakdown: 47.5% strongly agree; 47.5% agree; 4.2% disagree; 0.8% strongly disagree.

## **Moraga iKind Project presents – *He Named Me Malala***

This extraordinary film presents the young Pakistani female activist and Nobel Peace Prize laureate Malala Yousafzai, who has spoken out for the rights of girls, especially the right to education, since she was a young child. The film also recounts how she miraculously survived and has become even more eloquent in her quest after being hunted down by a Taliban as part of the organization's violent opposition to girls' education. The title refers to the Afghani folk hero Malalai of Maiwand, after whom her father named her. A powerful film for everyone! Event details: February 21 at 7:00 PM at JM's Auditorium, followed by a student panel.

## **The Last Word:**

We are deeply saddened by last week's tragic news from Florida. As educators and as parents, it is difficult to comprehend such catastrophic events. We feel connected to the children, staff, families and community who were so devastated by the loss of innocent lives.

I want to reassure you that we take school safety and security very seriously at Rheem. This past Friday Superintendent Burns shared a newsletter with the community detailing some of the safety procedures and current work of the District's Student Safety Committee, and future safety initiatives. (click [here](#) for the entire newsletter) When it comes to student safety we are all in this together.

If you are asking, “how can I make a difference,” I would ask that everyone follow these school protocols and suggestions, that can help keep our students, staff and families safe.

- Be certain to check in with the office and retain your volunteer or visitor badge when helping out on campus. If you do this every time you are on campus it will set an example and an expectation for everyone.
- Always sign your child in, or out, of school from the main office when leaving early or arriving late.
- Familiarize yourself with the classroom and campus when volunteering. (i.e. exits, light switches, door locks, fire alarms, etc.) In the event of an emergency (i.e. fire, earthquake, intruder) be prepared to follow a staff member’s instructions to help maintain safety.
- Be vigilant. If you see something that doesn’t look right, or suspicious please be sure and let the office or a staff member know.

Please talk to your children and let them know they are safe at school. Every adult on campus is dedicated to their safety - The Principal, Teachers, and entire staff. And should they ever want to talk to us about their safety, they shouldn’t hesitate to do so.

There’s no place like Rheem,

Mr. Sullivan