

RHEEMARKS

"Frank"ly Speaking...

February 5, 2017

The Rheem Team continues to amaze and astound! Never before have I been able to announce that students met a Read-a-thon participation goal after just one week! Students were promised a **Crazy Circus Hair Day on Thursday, Feb. 16** if they showed over 90% participation by Week 2. Well, once the tallies were in for Week 1, participation had reached over 93%! See more impressive stats under "School News and Highlights" below.

In other news, the **Annual MEF Phone-a-thon** is back! On February 7 and 8, many Moraga parents and staff members will come together to make phone calls on behalf of MEF, encouraging Moraga families to support their children's education by making a donation. **I'd like to thank all Rheem families, in advance, for supporting MEF in whatever way they can.** If you haven't pledged yet, please click [HERE](#) to show your support for Rheem and MEF. Remember, we're all in this together!

This Week at Rheem:

Monday, February 6

- Science Fair Introduction Presentations in Multi-Use Room
 - 5th grades (8:30 – 9:15)
 - 4th grades (9:15 – 10:05)
 - 3rd grades (10:25 – 11:15)
- PTA Executive Board Meeting at 9:30 in Room 25

Tuesday, February 7

- 100th Day of School!
- MEF Phone-a-thon

Wednesday, February 8

- MEF Phone-a-thon

Thursday, February 9

- Read-a-thon Week 3 Tally Sheets Due!

Friday, February 10

- Soul Shoppe: "100% You" Workshops
 - 4th grade (8:30 – 9:15)

- 3rd grade (9:20 – 10:05)
- 2nd grade (10:10 – 10:50)
- Kindergarten (11:00 – 11:30)
- 1st grade (1:15 – 1:50)
- 5th grade (2:00 – 3:00)

Note: Click [HERE](#) for a letter from Soul Shoppe about what students will be learning at this workshop

School News and Highlights

Dance Through Time Assembly

On Monday, January 30th, all Rheem students were treated to “Celebrate!” a special assembly by “Dance Through Time” of Young Audiences. Students laughed and learned as four professional dancers demonstrated the evolution of dance styles from the 1900s to the present. Period costumes illustrated past trends, as dancers showed the fancy footwork needed for the Lame Duck, the Charleston, tap, swing, rock n' roll, disco, break dancing and more. The dancers also present historical information about each era, showing how social dances reflect the attitudes of the time.

Special thanks to a few heroic teachers (Mr. Greer, Ms. Caraska, Ms. O'Connell, Ms. Strohmeyer, and Mr. Thomson) who, along with many student volunteers, impressed the crowd with their willingness to take a risk and learn a few new dance steps themselves! And, thanks to Rheem PTA for funding this entertaining and educational assembly!

Rheem Crowns 2017 Spelling Bee Champ

On Wednesday, February 1st, a representative from each 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade class competed for the title of Rheem School Spelling Bee Champion. Many multi-syllabic words later, **5th grade Nicolo Dolge was named champion, and 3rd grader, Summer Cloza, was declared runner-up.** For the full list of contestants and details about this exciting event, click [HERE](#).

Read-a-thon Update: The Greatest News on Earth

The **Greatest Read-a-thon on Earth** is already breaking records. In just one week, Rheem students logged in 2,423.5 hours of reading (355 more hours than last year's impressive Week 1 total). Also, seven classes can boast 100% participation. Those classes are:

Ms. O'Connell's 1st grade

Ms. Guidi's 2nd grade

Ms. Ralph's 3rd grade

Ms. McMullen's 4th grade

and...

All THREE 5th grade classes: Ms. Cavallero, Mr. Greer, and Ms. Gubser!

Kindergarten Registration Update

After 2 days **Kindergarten Registration** (Feb. 2 & 3), 57 kindergarteners and 5 Transitional Kindergartners had registered for next fall at Rheem! This is a healthy-sized cohort, even though these numbers are a bit lower than this time last year.

A Word About Overdue Library Books

submitted by Mrs. Gillbanks, Rheem Librarian

Rheem students love to read and that's a good thing! However, last week, overdue book notices were sent to 95 Rheem students. That's approximately 1/4 of the students on Rheem's campus! Usually, there are about 24 students or so who haven't returned their books on time, but this year, the counts have been increasing to very high numbers.

Library check out policies and class visit dates and times are listed on my website which can be found by clicking the "Rheem Team" tab on the Rheem homepage. 1st through 3rd graders check out their books for one week. 4th and 5th graders may check out their books for 2 weeks. Due dates are stamped on the backs of the books. (hint- the due date is your child's next visit date).

Please help your child remember to be responsible and return his/her books to the library on time. It is important to note that unfortunately, any student with an overdue book may not check out a new book until that book has been returned. Let's keep the books flowing by making sure library books are returned and/or renewed on time!

School Climate Survey Results

School Character Education Programs

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

- 85% respondents agreed with the statement ***"The school's character education programs have positively influenced my child's development"***.

Actual Breakdown: 36% strongly agree; 44% agree; 9% neutral; 2% disagree; 1% strongly disagree; 9% don't know

Currently, Rheem uses a multi-faceted approach to character education. In addition to overarching school and classroom procedures built around **"One Word: Three Rules" (RESPECT: Be safe, Be kind, Think!)**, Rheem students are continually reminded of the [16 Lifeskills](#) through class discussions, Kids' Bulletins, Spirit Assemblies, and frequent reflection opportunities. In addition, Rheem is fortunate to have the guidance and support of [Soul Shoppe](#), which visits Rheem throughout the year to provide student workshops, focusing on communication and friendship skills.

Did You Know...

Who is Donald Rheem?

Donald Rheem was the son of William S. Rheem, who was the President of Standard Oil Company (Chevron). Rheem transformed his Moraga home into a lavish estate where the famous were entertained. He bought many acres in Rheem Valley and built many homes and subdivided his properties. In 1925, Donald Rheem and his brother founded Rheem Manufacturing Company in Emeryville, CA. While the company has produced a number of products in its nearly 100 years of operation — including steel shipping containers, household appliances like gas ranges, semi-conductors, musical instruments and more — Rheem today is the only manufacturer in the world that produces heating, cooling, water heating, pool/spa heating and commercial refrigeration products, and it is the largest manufacturer of water heating products in North America. Now you know!

MEF 35th Anniversary Auction & Dinner Dance

Tickets on Sale Now!

The Moraga Education Foundation (MEF) is celebrating its 35th year of supporting excellence in education for all Moraga public school students. In honor of this anniversary, you are invited to *Under the City Lights*, a community wide event on Saturday, March 11, 2017, at the Claremont Hotel in Berkeley. The evening will include silent and live auctions, dinner and dancing. Tickets and VIP tables are limited and on sale now at www.MEF35th.com.

Auction donations are still welcome. Nothing is too small as donations can be packaged together. This celebration is a separate fundraising event from MEF's 2016-2017 annual campaign as proceeds will specifically benefit the MEF Endowment Fund to help provide a long-term, stable source of funding. We look forward to seeing you there! Questions? Email mefspecialevents@gmail.com.

Last Word...

If you haven't checked out the [Moraga iKind website](#) recently, I highly encourage you to do so -- if for no other reason than to watch the short video "Just Do Right: Maya Angelou's 3 Word Secret to Living Your Best Life" which is front and center on the website's homepage. Her message is so simple, yet so profound: **Just. Do. Right.**

Part of my job is to talk with students about the choices they make. In doing so, I'm always impressed by how little "teaching" I actually have to do. I've found that the great majority of students already *know* the difference between "what's right" and "what's wrong." You've taught them well. They know it's better to share than withhold; they know it's kinder to include than exclude; they know it's nicer to compliment rather than criticize. They know which action would be helpful to a situation and which action could make the situation worse.

What I've found is that poor choices are usually the result of impulsivity, impatience or expediency -- simply not thinking the situation through. That's why, at a certain point, as parents and as educators, the best advice we can give our children may be not give any advice at all! Instead, simply asking, "What do you think is right?" "What do you think would be most helpful?" "What would (fill in the blank with someone you admire) do?" "What would you tell your little buddy to do?" might be the most empowering way of have the answer present itself, sans lectures or lessons.

So, I encourage you to take the 3 ½ minutes necessary to watch Maya Angelou's words of wisdom together with your children. Click [HERE](#). And, then, consider using those three simple words as a reminder that the right answer, the right comment, the right action, is never very far from reach.

I love this school!

Ms. Frank, Principal