

RHEEMARKS

"Frank"ly Speaking...

March 12, 2017

MEF's 35th Anniversary Auction & Dinner Dance, held on Saturday night at the Claremont, was a huge success! It was wonderful to see such overwhelming support out in full force for our students. I'm sure details will be coming to you soon about how much money was raised at this event, but it is certainly safe to say that the Moraga community continues to be very committed to supporting our schools now and into the future. Thank you [Moraga Education Foundation!](#)

This Week at Rheem:

Monday, March 13:

- JM Music Concert for 3rd – 5th graders
 - 9:15 – 10:00 in Multi-Use Room

Tuesday, March 14:

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

Wednesday, March 15:

- Culleton/4th: Field Trip to Oakland Museum (8:30 – 3:00)
- PTA General Association Meeting, beginning at 9:30 in the Multi-Use Room
 - Guest speaker: Superintendent Burns

Friday, March 17:

- St. Patrick's Day! Beware of leprechans!
- McMullen/4th: Field Trip to Oakland Museum (8:30 – 3:00)
- Special K Spirit Assembly at 9:40 in Multi-Use Room

"Response-Ability" Highlighted at Rheem

Soul Shoppe Workshops Inspire and Empower

It was great to see our friend, Nasi, from Soul Shoppe again this week, who reminded us that we are each "AMAZING!" and have the *ability to respond* (*Response-ability*, get it?) to others and/or situations that can help our school community be a positive place. We just need to remember:

- **You are smart!**
- **You are powerful!**
- **You have what it takes!**
- **You are important!**
- **You can have a fun and happy life!**

When we find ourselves saying things like, "I don't care" or "It's not my fault" or "I'm not good enough," we are probably forgetting one or more of the above statements. Through stories and examples, Rheem students saw how reminding ourselves (and others) of these truths can give us the ability to respond to disappointments, misunderstandings, or setbacks with true power.

Thank you, PTA, for funding our Soul Shoppe work this year. We're learning a lot!

Smile... for Rheem's Panoramic Whole School Photo!

Wednesday, March 29

We are overdue for a whole-school panoramic photo! The last time one was taken was when our current 5th graders were in kindergarten (yes, in 2011 -12). So, we're planning to gather the entire Rheem Team together on Wednesday, March 29 for a whole school photo!

Flyers will be coming home in the backpacks next week with the option to buy a 10 x 24 laminated panoramic for \$22 or a non-laminated one for \$15. One thing is for certain... time goes fast! So, don't miss this opportunity to get this wonderful keepsake to remind you always of the "good old days" at Rheem Elementary School!

Attention 5th grade Parents:

Over 13 million American kids will be bullied this year, making it the most common form of violence experienced by young people in the nation. The documentary film BULLY, directed by Sundance and Emmy-award winning filmmaker, Lee Hirsch, brings human scale to this startling statistic, offering an intimate, unflinching look at how bullying has touched five kids and their families.

The Moraga iKind Project invites you to attend a special showing of the movie "Bully" on March 22, at 7:00 PM at the JM auditorium. JM 8th grade students will share their school experiences with the audience following the movie. JM Principal Joan Danilson and Superintendent Bruce Burns will also be present to answer questions. Free pizza will be served from 6:30 to 6:55. RSVP at <http://moragaikind.eventbrite.com/>

School Climate Survey Results:

Lifeskills

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

- Respondents picked the top three lifeskills with the statement ***"I feel my child(ren) would benefit from more focus/practice of the following lifeskills"***.

Perseverance (42%), Problem Solving (38%) and Initiative (30%)

Hello From Roadrunner Club, *submitted by Eleanor Persons*

We want to inform you all that Ashley Fitzinger's last day at Roadrunner Club was Friday, March 10. We will miss Ashley so much. Ashley always had a smile on her face and gave great hugs. She is a very caring person and brought many outstanding attributes to our after-school program. We wish her the best in all of her future endeavors.

Last Word...

Recently I read the following and it made me smile: *"If you never jumped from one couch to another, to save yourself from the lava, then you didn't have a childhood."*

Last week in this space, I mentioned the [Family Dinner Project](#) and encouraged families to take advantage of dinnertime to have conversations with each other. As Rheem students and staff continue to work towards the "Recess of Their Dreams" by using Soul Shoppe tools and strategies, it is fun to imagine how recesses (and playgrounds) have changed over the years. What a fun topic for parents to explore with their children! So, what WAS your playground like? What games did you enjoy? What did you like most (and least) about recess when you were in elementary school?

I have to admit that I don't remember a lot of details about the playgrounds of my youth, but for some reason, I distinctly remember one unique piece of "equipment" that WAS the kindergarten playground of West Putnam School in Porterville, CA. I suppose there may have been other aspects to the playground, but my memory only holds one: A piece of a very large cement irrigation pipe, probably 8 feet long and at least 6 feet high (or so it seemed), plunked down right in the middle of the kindergarten play yard.

It was 1965. Naptime was still a daily event, and recess meant only one thing: the ability to scale the curved side and sit on top of the big pipe (like a miniature overlord) or the inability to make it to the top and to remain earthbound below. I, not surprisingly, was one of the latter group. But, those of us who lacked climbing skills entertained each other by chasing each other through the pipe or, on especially hot days, sitting in its shade. Through, around, above, below, within... that big pipe was the backdrop for wherever our imaginations took us – constantly morphing from a living dragon to a spherical castle to a long lost submarine to a meteor from space.

Today, that big, old, dusty grey pipe would definitely not meet the safety or aesthetic requirements of a modern-day playground committee. But, it is a great reminder of the width and breadth of our childhood imaginations. So, however ordinary your own experience may seem, take the opportunity to let your children know how you made it extraordinary. You were a kid once. I'm pretty sure you never let hot lava stop you!

I love this school!

Ms. Frank, principal