

RHEEMARKS

"Frank"ly Speaking...

March 19, 2017

This Week at Rheem ... is FAMILY WEEK!

All Rheem families are encouraged to set aside time this coming week -- Monday, March 20 through Friday, March 24 -- to simply have some fun together! To support this effort, Rheem teachers have agreed to greatly reduce homework for the week, with the intention of creating "extra" TIME to enjoy an activity as a family.

And, what a better way to celebrate the end of Family Week than by attending **Rheem's First Annual Variety Show on Friday, March 24, beginning at 6:00 p.m. in the Multi-Use Room.**

Family Week is also a time to consider families in need. A week-long food drive to benefit the Contra Costa County Food Bank will be held, and collection barrels will be available at the Variety Show for your donations.

Click [HERE](#) to download a Family Week recording sheet (a hard-copy was sent home in the backpacks). Students who return photos and/or drawings of their family's activities will see their work displayed on a Family Week Mural in the Multi-Use Room.

Monday, March 20:

- Vision Screening for 3rd graders

Wednesday, March 22:

- Moraga School Board Visits Rheem!
- Seed Secrets in 1st grade classrooms
 - O'Connell (8:30 – 9:30); Strohmeyer (9:40 – 10:40); Bailey (11:05 – 12:05)
- Parent Ed: Stand Up Be Safe (SUBS) meeting for 1st grade parents
 - 3:30 – 4:30 p.m. at Lafayette School District Office
 - Click [HERE](#) for informational flyer

Thursday, March 23:

- 4th grade/Drury field trip to Oakland Museum (8:30 – 3:00)

Friday, March 24:

- 2nd grade field trip to AT&T Park (8:45 – 1:00)
- Rheem's first annual Variety Show (6 – 7:30 p.m.) in the Multi-Use Room
 - Price of Admission: Bring a non-perishable food item for the Contra Costa Food Bank!

School News and Highlights

- **JM's Symphonic Orchestra, Concert Band, and Choir** visited Rheem on Monday, March 13, showcasing their instrumental and vocal talents for Rheem's 3rd – 5th graders. It was an inspiring event that was fully enjoyed by all! Thank you, Mr. Noel for making this concert possible.
- Order forms for **Rheem's Whole School Panoramic Photo** went home in the backpacks this past week. This whole-school photo will be taken on Wednesday, March 29. If families would like to purchase a panoramic photo, simply return the order form along with payment any time BEFORE Wednesday, March 29.
- Many thanks to Rheem families who have already sent in **Read-a-thon donations, which are due Friday, March 31**. Our students did a great job reading (over 12,000 hours); let's show them our support!
- **MEF's 35th Auction & Dinner Dance** was a huge success, raising over \$200,000 to benefit the MEF Endowment Fund! The final numbers are still being calculated and will be announced when available.

Safety First

When Sharing is NOT allowed...

Yes, at Rheem we strongly believe in friendship, caring, and cooperation, but we have also made it clear that there are times when "sharing" is not allowed. One example is at lunchtime. Rheem kids know that many students have allergies, dietary restrictions, or even family "preferences" that make sharing food an unwise and, sometimes, unsafe choice. We ask our students to respect what each individual has packed or ordered for lunch and not ask or give "samples" to others. Thank you for reminding your child of this important safety rule.

Did You Know?

Every School Day Counts

Starting in kindergarten, too many absences can cause children to fall behind in school.

- Missing 10% can make it harder to learn to read.
- Students can still fall behind if they miss just a day or two days every few weeks

- Being late to school may lead to poor attendance.
- Absences can affect the whole classroom if the teacher has to slow down learning to help children catch up.

Attending school regularly helps children feel better about school and themselves! It's important to build the habit of regular on-time attendance early. The impact will last a lifetime. Good attendance will help children do well in high school, college, and at work.

(adapted by Attendance Works (www.attendanceworks.org))

3rd Trimester S.W.A.T Team Announced

Because we have so many 4th and 5th graders who want to help out our school as S.W.A.T. (Students Worried About Trash) team members, we rotate in a new group of students each trimester. We are grateful for the service of our new 3rd trimester team:

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Alex T.	Nicolo D.	Whitney W.	Jake R.	Charlotte E.
Nicholas L.	Gavin J.	Pinkie S.	Rylen S.	Daisy P.
Devan A.	Preston W.	Justin N.	Sienna B.	Olivia T.
Cooper C.	Isabella T.	Damian D.	Phoebe K.	Tristan M.
Sydney B.	Addie O.	Leon Y.	Braden C.	Sanguk P.
Sofia G.	Hannah B.	Max R.	Courtney R.	Brendan K.

These students oversee the clean-up process that requires ALL students to sort recycling from food waste (compost) and then put whatever remains (hopefully, very little) into the trash. Also, SWAT members are on hand to help out our youngest students in the lunchroom, and can be seen opening milk cartons, fetching water, handing out napkins, and attending to other needs. This is just another wonderful service our older students provide to keep Rheem Rockin'!

The Last Word...

I hope all Rheem families take advantage of Rheem's first Family WEEK – Monday, March 20 – Friday, March 24. It's an opportunity and a challenge!

All Rheem families are encouraged to take advantage of "a no homework week" to simply have some fun together! It's the gift of TIME!

The choices of how to spend that time are limited only by your imagination: make a meal together; play a board game; take a walk or go for a bike ride; toss a football around; build a fort in the living room out of blankets and

cushions; make up some new dance moves to your old records, whatever strikes your fancy! Let your children see your playful side and let them enjoy the "kid" in you.

Family Week can even be a great excuse to get some of those chores done *together*: clean out a closet and make a run to the Goodwill; finally print out those photos and put them in an album; repaint that old bookcase or weed that garden patch. Feel free to use me as an excuse! Say, "Ms. Frank said so!" (I'll back you up, promise).

Whatever you do, do it in the spirit of fun and togetherness. It's the Rheem Team way!

And... A little something special for those of you who've read this far...

I was listening to one of my favorite NPR podcasts today, "Wait Wait...Don't Tell Me!" (the March 18 show), and I was delighted to hear our lovely town of MORAGA mentioned! Yes, not only is Moraga famous for its very own sinkhole, but apparently the town is even MORE famous for throwing the sinkhole a 1st birthday party last week.

You can find the full WWDTM show [HERE](#), but go to about 4:18 in the "Lightening Fill in the Blank" segment (embedded below) to hear the specific mention of Moraga.

Listeners beware, there are a few words and some content that won't be considered appropriate for little ears, but it's still fun to hear Moraga mentioned!

[20170318_waitwait_07 \(3\).mp3](#)

I love this school!

Ms. Frank, principal