

# RHEEMARKS

## *"Frank"ly Speaking...*

*March 26, 2017*

**This next week is our last before Spring Break** and, as such, it has been declared "**Spirit Week**" by our 5<sup>th</sup> grade Student Council. Each day we will have "dress-up" opportunities to show our school spirit, leading up to our well-earned school-wide **Pajama Day and Read-In on Friday, March 31<sup>st</sup>**. We will also celebrate with Spirit Assemblies on Friday and will announce how much money we've collected in Read-a-thon donations at that time, so make sure you've sent yours in to be counted!

Also, please note that Friday, **March 31, is a minimum day**. School will start at 8:25 for all students (including K – 2<sup>nd</sup> grade late birds) on that day. Kindergarten students will be dismissed at 11:50, while 1<sup>st</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> graders will have a 12:12 dismissal time.

### **This Week at Rheem is SPIRIT WEEK!**

Rheem Roadrunners can show their school spirit by following these dress-up day ideas:

**Monday: Rheem Spirit Wear Day!** Wear Spirit Wear or Blue and Gold to celebrate Rheem!

**Tuesday: SPORTS Day** -- wear something to show off your favorite sport or sports team!

**Wednesday: RAINBOW DAY!\*** – This is also PANORMIC PICTURE DAY so we are going to turn the whole school into one, big rainbow for this photo op! Be sure to wear the following colors by grade level:

Kindergarten = **PURPLE**

1<sup>st</sup> grade = **BLUE**

2<sup>nd</sup> grade = **GREEN**

3<sup>rd</sup> grade = **YELLOW**

4<sup>th</sup> grade = **ORANGE**

5<sup>th</sup> grade = **RED**

*\*if you happen to have an extra shirt in the color for your grade level, please bring it to school in case a classmate forgets... it's the Rheem Team way!*

**Thursday: Wackadoodle Day!** – wear crazy patterns/colors together; inside out; backwards, etc.

**Friday: PAJAMA DAY** – wear your jammies to school! On this day, we will also celebrate our successful Read-a-thon by having a Read-In. Pajamas and books... what could be better?

### **Also, this week... 5<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade Music Concerts!**

Prepare to be impressed. This week, 5<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade Moraga musicians from all three elementary schools, JM Intermediate School, and Campo High School will gather together to perform for the community. All concerts are **FREE** and will be held at the **Campolindo High School Performing Arts Center**, beginning at **7:00 p.m.** Attend one or more as follows:

- **Tuesday, March 28 – Choir Night**
- **Wednesday, March 29 – Strings Night**
- **Thursday, March 30 – Band Night**

The finales of these epic concerts are not to be missed as the musicians from all 5 schools will perform together!

### **Rheem's First Annual Variety Show a HUGE Success!**

A new Rheem tradition was born on Friday evening when a standing-room-only audience was entertained by amazing student talent at the first-ever **Rheem Variety Show!** Musicians, singers, gymnasts, dancers, magicians, comedians (and more!) delighted young and old. It was a great display of Rheem Team creativity, fun, and collaboration!

Rheem owes a huge thank you to parent **Courtney Pickering**, who came to PTA with the idea of a Variety Show last spring, and volunteered her energy and creativity ever since to make it happen. She was supported by several other parent volunteers, including Emcee **Elaine Cable**, who kept the show moving, and the amazing sound team expertise of **Erin and Damon Nyhan** along with **Richard Herd**.

This event capped off "**Family Week**" – a week devoted to good old-fashioned family fun. It certainly hit the mark!

### **School News and Highlights**

- **Rheem's Whole School Panoramic Photo is scheduled for this Wednesday, March 29.** Order forms went home in the backpacks, but can be also downloaded [HERE](#) and returned to school with payment *before* Wednesday, March 29. Don't miss this opportunity to own this unique piece of Rheem memorabilia.

- **Read-a-thon donations are due Friday, March 31.** Thanks you to the families who have already sent in their donations. Our students did a great job reading (over 12,000 hours); let's show them our support!

## **Volunteer Help Needed**, submitted by Rheem Hot Lunch Team

Our Hot Lunch program is our biggest fundraiser for our amazing school. It continues to be successful because of parent volunteers during the lunch hour. We could really use some help to bring us to the end the year.

Please click on this Signup Genius below and get involved. You do not need any prior experience; you will be working with a veteran volunteer that will explain everything to you.

Please take a look and help where you can.

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0b4badae2ea5ff2-rheem>

## **Out and About**

On Wednesday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>, three members of the Moraga School Board paid a visit to Rheem. While visiting classrooms, they made some observations about what they observed, including:

- Kindergarten students reading! *"The amount of sight words that these kids know at this age is amazing!"*
- 1<sup>st</sup> graders identifying the scientific names of seeds and recording their observations about plant growth.
- 1<sup>st</sup> graders playing "Sight Word Bingo"
- 2<sup>nd</sup> graders editing their own "letters to readers" about favorite books.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> graders solving math problems and sharing solutions with one another.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> graders excitedly discovering the answers to an interactive geometry puzzle activity
- 3<sup>rd</sup> graders anticipating the results of the Iditarod Race.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> graders exploring all types of quadrilaterals.
- 4<sup>th</sup> graders learning about area and dimensions through a math game
- 4<sup>th</sup> graders integrating research into their development of "expert books" – utilizing skills learned in Readers' and Writers' workshop.
- 4<sup>th</sup> graders working on Google Docs
- 4<sup>th</sup> graders observing the complex world of DIRT with Ms. Healy!
- 5<sup>th</sup> graders solving math problems in small groups and preparing to "teach" the rest of the class how they solved the problem.

Board members also commented on the active assistance of aides, the friendly nature of students, the beauty of the school garden (including the seedlings sprouting in the greenhouse), the library display of Roadrunner collectibles, kindergartners cleaning up after snack, and the deft, humane handling of a spider that suddenly appeared on the overhead projector. There's a lot that goes into a school day!

After visiting classrooms, they treated our teachers to lunch and had a chance to talk "up close and personal" with the Rheem Team! We very much enjoyed and appreciated their visit.

## **Hello From Roadrunner Club, *submitted by Eleanor Persons***

As you all know, Ms. Frank is retiring. I would like to take this opportunity, on behalf of the Roadrunner Club staff, to thank her from the bottom of our hearts. We have benefited from her experience and support on many occasions and will miss her terribly. We wish her well in her retirement.

We would like to welcome Ms. MaryBeth Tanner to our staff here at Roadrunner Club. Ms. Tanner brings with her many years of experience with children. She is a class-room aid at Rheem Elementary and we are very lucky to have her with us

Reminder: Bring water bottles to Roadrunner Club. It is getting warm.

## **Last Word...**

***Don't tell me what you value, tell me what you do and I'll tell you what you value***

*Source Unknown*

Over the past several months, I've participated on Moraga School District's newly formed "**Cultural Proficiency Committee**" – a group comprised of MSD educators and parents, charged with the task of exploring how our current system promotes respect and acceptance of all cultural groups. Ideally, the ultimate goal is to ensure that ALL members of the school community (students, staff and parents) feel their needs are met in order to have equal access to the same opportunities to participate, learn and grow.

One thing we've learned is that "**cultural proficiency**" is not limited to just race and religion, but to issues of family dynamics, sexual orientation, socio-economics, physical ability, and more. However, issues of race and religion can be a primary source of bias and/or discrimination. As parents and educators, we can be a powerful force in combating prejudice, but unless we actively engage in this effort, kids can pick up prejudice from society at large, the media, and others.

I was pleased to see an article recently published by the Greater Good Science Center on this very topic. The article, "[Five Ways to Reduce Racial Bias in Your Children](#)" outlines simple, yet extremely important, actions we all can take to support our children:

1. Expose kids to more positive images of other racial groups
2. Help your kids develop cross-group friendships
3. Cultivate cross-group friendships yourself
4. Talk explicitly about race and the effects of racism
5. Work to combat biases in yourself

I highly recommend you read the [full article](#) to appreciate the research and nuance of this complex topic (especially as it relates to the importance of explicitly discussing cultural differences with your children -- #4). At Rheem, we want all children to feel welcomed, valued, and appreciated for their unique contributions. As parents and educators, we need to recognize the power of our own words and actions in communicating these values.

**I love this school!**

Ms. Frank, principal