

RHEEMARKS

"Frank"ly Speaking...

March 5, 2017

At Rheem, we try to use our Lifeskills to help us enjoy and succeed in everything we do. Our recent Read-a-thon is a prime example. Although the academic focus was on *reading*, we used the Circus Theme to remind us that we all have unique talents to contribute, and that such diversity is to be admired! Also, we talked about goal setting, and we learned that through focused teamwork we can make amazing progress. For examples of our recent successes, see the Read-a-thon and Wastebuters articles below. Rheem really ROCKed it!

This Week at Rheem:

Monday, March 6

- Profession Day: no school for students!

Tuesday, March 7

- Last day to order Hot Lunch for Spring Trimester (starts Monday, March 13)
 - Click on this link to order: <https://rheempta.membershiptoolkit.com>
- Math at JM Information Night, 6:30 – 7:15 p.m. at JM Library

Wednesday, March 8

- Science Fair drafts returned to students
- Seed Secrets in 1st grade classrooms
 - O'Connell (8:30 – 9:30); Strohmeyer (9:40 – 10:40); Bailey (11:05 – 12:05)
- Coordinating Council Meeting at CP/Rm 7 (3:30 – 5:00p.m.)

Friday, March 10

- Soul Shoppe: "Response-ability" 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

- Last Day of Winter Hot Lunch
- End of 2nd Trimester

- Variety Show Auditions (4:00 – 6:00 p.m.) in Multi-Use Room

Read-a-thon Success Celebrated at Spirit Assembly

It really WAS "The Greatest Read-a-thon on Earth!"

On Monday, February 27, Rheem students and staff gathered to learn the details of this year's Read-a-thon. We knew we all had a great time, but we were very excited to discover that Rheem's grand total of reading hours continues to grow each year, and this year, broke the 12,000 hour barrier! Take a look:

2012 = 9,282 hours

2013 = 9,497 hours

2014 = 10,749 hours

2015 = 10,974 hours!

2016 = 11,671 hours (which was incredible...)

2017 = 12,864 hours! (What??? Unbelievable!)

Also, once all the tally sheets were counted, we realized that **98%** of our students participated! A total of 13 classes had 100% participation (every student turning in at least 1 tally sheet). The Roadrunner Mascots were awarded to the four classes that can boast **100% participation for each week** of the 4-week Read-a-thon. Congratulations to: **Ms. O'Connell's 1st grade, Ms. Guidi's 2nd grade, Ms. McMullen's 4th grade, and Ms. Cavallero's 5th grade.**

With such amazing results, it's no surprise that our students earned themselves a **Read-In and Pajama Day on Friday, March 31 (the Friday before Spring Break)**. We are all looking forward to a comfy, cozy day of reading to celebrate!

Drawings were held from the many, many **"Feat of Daring"** posters that were completed by students. **Winners of a set of circus-themed juggling balls** were kindergartner, Henry L., 1st grader, Amelia W., 2nd grader, Drew K. 3rd grader Zack S., 4th grader Abby R., and 5th grader Carolyn O. **Winners of a \$20 gift certificate to Bel and Bunna bookstore** in Lafayette were 1st grader Ayush S., and 4th grader, Brayden C. These lucky winners also had the honor of leading the school in the "Rheem Rocks" song at the assembly.

The annual Read-a-Thon also brings in generous donations from sponsors. On Friday, March 3, **sponsor sheets for collections went home in the backpacks**, along with a "Circus Duck" to commemorate the students' terrific efforts. Please help your child collect his or her pledges to send back to school on or before **Friday March 31** (Read-In Day). If you haven't completed a sponsor sheet but would still like to honor your child's efforts, you can simply write a check to "Rheem PTA" with "Read-a-Thon" on the memo line and send it to school.

Many thanks to all members of the Rheem Team for supporting this year's Read-a-thon, especially Parent Coordinator **Diane Johnson** and her supportive team, including **Sally Salay, Michele Kong, and Jen Blau** and all the parents who added together miles of tally sheets!

Gold Slip Winners

At the February 27th Spirit Assembly, the following students had their gold slips chosen to spin the wheel for a prize! Congratulations to:

Kindergarten: Avery Z., Matias C., Ziya S., Jake C., Kyden B., Audrey K

1st Grade: Zoe B., Kaio D., Linn A., Kaden M., Chase N., Estela S.

2nd Grade: Ben B., Eloise G., Brooke R., Daniel B., Angad D., LeeAnn A.

3rd Grade: Xael S., Nathan F., Isabella K., Matilda H., Sophia G., Sivani M

4th Grade: Hannah B., Justin N., Cooper C., Sara H., Jake J., Yvonne G.

5th Grade: Emily S., Mateo P., Gavin J., Lorenzo C., Soyoon P., Audrey S.

Wastebuster 2017 Goals Met!

Recycle Woman is PROUD of Rheem

Recycle Woman recently wrote the following note to the students of Rheem:

I am so happy to share with you the waste audit results. Donald Rheem is doing an amazing job, and I am proud of all the students! You have met and surpassed your Wastebuster goals for this year! Thank you for helping take care of the planet!

We celebrated our Wastebuster efforts at the February 27 Spirit Assembly. Students remembered that Recycle Woman had made 3 visits to our school: one in early November for an initial Waste Audit; again in mid-November to teach us more about recycling and composting; and then for a third time in February to conduct a second Waste Audit to see if we had improved. We certainly did! The students cut 4 pounds from the landfill at just one lunch. That's a savings of 20 pounds a week and over 700 pound in a school year! WOW!

Students learned that they were doing a much better job about not including recycling or composting in the landfill collection. Click [HERE](#) for the Spirit Assembly powerpoint that includes the details!

Attention 5th grade parents, submitted by Joan Danilson, JM Principal

On **Tuesday, March 7th**, the Joaquin Moraga Math Department will be hosting an informational session about math at the middle school. We will be covering our textbook, current math pathways, the placement process and the courses that are offered in our district. We encourage all interested fifth grade parents to attend. The presentation will be held in the **JM Library from 6:30 until 7:15 PM**. We look forward to seeing you there.

Assistant Secretary Update

We are pleased to announce that Erica Smith will be Rheem's new assistant secretary, replacing Linda Wu whose last day will be this Friday, March 10. Many of you may know Ms. Smith as mom to 2nd grader Josh and 1st grader Estela. We are fortunate that Ms. Smith will be learning "at the feet of the master" as she will be working WITH Ms. Wu this coming week before completely taking over on Monday, March 13.

We are also pleased to know that Ms. Wu will be back at Rheem substituting in the front office when needed. She has served in this important position for the past 12 years, offering comfort to the students and assistance to the rest of us. Prior to working at Rheem, she was a Teaching Assistant at Los Perales, and was very involved in Parent Club and MEF when her sons Harry and Henry (now, 27 and 28, respectively) were in the Moraga School District. She will be dearly missed, but we wish her all the best in her "retirement."

Out and About

When bopping in and out of classrooms over the past week, I observed:

- Kindergartners making combinations of five by sorting spots on ladybug wings
- 1st graders practicing speaking and listening skills when sharing items from their personal "collections" as a pre-writing exercise, providing specific details about what make something a favorite.
- 2nd graders writing book reviews, being sure to integrate the phrase "for example" as a way to include details about the most important parts of the story.
- 3rd graders learning about the Iditarod, up close and personal (actually petting the huskies!) as they get ready to use math skills to track their own "mushers" during this year's race.
- 4th graders taking an Electricity and Magnetism test on individual chromebooks. Google Forms was used to provide immediate feedback to students (and the teacher!) while linking them to an explanatory video if/when a mistake was made. It was impressive to watch kids actively *learning* through an assessment!
- 5th graders simulating "colonial life" through garden activities, tin-smithing, cooking corn cakes, reel dancing, and more – all dressed in costume!

School Climate Survey Results

Lifeskills

In the MSD School Climate Survey given in November, 2016, parents were asked which of the 16 lifeskills they felt their children were most skilled at. The top three lifeskills chosen by Rheem parents were

Caring (53%), **Friendship** (42%) and **Curiosity** (39%)

Hello from Roadrunner Club, *submitted by Eleanor Persons*

We have had a fun filled week. No rain - YEAH!!! We celebrated Mardi Gras this week with beautiful glittered masks in different shapes, marble art and salt art. We made Blinis for our cooking project (fruit filled crepes) to carry out the theme. Next week we are celebrating spring with crafts like kite making.

What is better than Family Night? Family WEEK!

Rheem 3rd grade teachers organize 2017 Family Week

This year all Rheem Team families are encouraged to plan a family activities during the week of March 20 – 24. To support this focus on the family, Rheem teachers will be greatly reducing and/or cancelling homework to allow families the time to take advantage of "Family Week."

Need a few suggestions or what to do? Think about reading a book together, playing a board game, going on a walk, taking a bike ride, preparing dinner together, etc. Of course, on Friday March 24, attend the Rheem Variety Show together!

Family Week is also a time to help families in need. Consider donating to the Contra Costa Food Bank. Containers will be on campus to collect canned goods between March 20 – 24 and "at the door" of the Rheem Variety Show on Friday evening, March 24.

The Last Word

Recently I ran across these words by cultural historian, Catherine M. Wallace:

Listen earnestly to anything your children want to tell you, no matter what. If you don't listen eagerly to the little stuff when they are little, they won't tell you the big stuff when they are big, because to them all of it has always been big stuff.

Makes sense, doesn't it? However, it's not always easy to do – especially when we need to move forward, and quickly. It reminds me when I was a young teacher, and I was about to send the students off to do some work, but

first asked if there were any questions. One student earnestly raised her hand and said, "Ms. Frank, I have purple shoes."

Kids want the grown-ups in their lives to know the "big stuff," and as much as we try to help them understand the best time and place to share, it doesn't lessen the importance of what they want (and need) for us to hear.

It is in that spirit that I share with you a website that will open up opportunities for your children to share their very own "big stuff" with you. It's called "The Family Dinner Project." The concept is simple. Eat dinner together. The website not only includes research on the benefits of sharing this important time together, but provides tons of examples of conversation starters that will make this ritual fun and memorable. Try it! I hope it brings your family joy.

<http://thefamilydinnerproject.org/conversation/>

I love this school!

Ms. Frank, principal