

April 14, 2019

Dear Rheem Team Families,

There's a lot going on at Rheem this week. Our 5th graders are heading off to Science Camp, and we are meeting and greeting our 2019-20 incoming kindergartners at "Getting to Know You" events.

This Week at Rheem:

Monday, April 15th:

- 5th graders overnight field trip to the Marin Headlands
- "Getting to Know You" incoming Kindergarten students (8:45 – 11:15)

Tuesday, April 16th:

- 5th graders return from overnight field trip to the Marin Headlands
- "Getting to Know You" incoming Kindergarten students (9:00 – 11:30)
- MSD Governing School Board meeting from 7:00 – 10:00 in JM Library

Wednesday, April 17th:

- Safety Committee Meeting at CP from 3:30-5:00

Thursday, April 18th:

- Regularly scheduled Thursday

Friday, April 19th:

- 2nd grade field trip – Disney Nature Film

School News and Highlights

- Last week's Kindergarten Parent Orientation, held on Thursday, was well attended with nearly 70 parents in attendance. Many thanks to Kindergarten teacher, Amanda Lorie; PTA President, Rebecca Eirick; MEF Communications Chair, Ana Moon, and Roadrunner Club representative Bonnie Lodes who joined Mr. Sullivan in providing an overview of the Kindergarten Program specifically and Rheem School in general.
- 2nd graders had a great trip to Heather Farms where they took part in science experiments and had the opportunity to experience nature and Heather Farms amazing beauty.

- 5th graders traveled to JM last Friday to see what life will be like with Rheem in their rearview mirror. Students were able to visit classrooms, tour the grounds and have their questions answered by JM Leadership students. I'm glad they were able to go get a glimpse of what things will look like next year, but I was much happier to see them return.
- CAASPP Practice Tests are available online at www.caaspp.org or by clicking [HERE](#). Rheem 3rd through 5th grade students will be taking these annual tests during the first two weeks in May. More information about these tests will be coming to 3rd – 5th grade families via email this coming week.

Ms. Berkman to Retire this year

She's been part of the Rheem Team since 2003

Jackie Berkman started working in the Moraga school district over 18 years ago. She taught at JM for 2 and half years before making her way to Rheem. Since then, she has been an integral part of the Rheem Team with this being her 16th year here on Laird Drive.

Ms. Berkman has taught 1st, 5th and 3rd grades, but her influence goes well beyond her work in a classical classroom setting as she was instrumental in bringing the 3rd grade Native American Feast to Rheem students and her commitment to developing the whole child led her to provide performing art opportunities for all of her students (her plays are legendary). Ms. Berkman loves seeing her current and former students succeed, whether it be this year's class, the current 4th and 5th graders or the countless former students she's seen perform in various productions at JM and Campolindo (and she is a regular at Campolindo HS graduation ceremonies). Ms. Berkman truly embodies the notion of "Roadrunners for Life."

I recently asked Ms. Berkman what are some things she will remember most about Rheem and she told the story of her first day on the job when she accidentally wore two different kinds of shoes to school. To say the least she was a bit embarrassed as she was hoping to get things off on the right foot. However, the next day when she came to school her students, the staff and principal were wearing two different kinds of shoes. It was then she knew she found a home and was at a place where everyone can be comfortable being themselves no matter what. Rheem was, and still is, a place where children and staff alike come together to learn from, and support each other every day.

We will dearly miss Ms. Berkman, but like every child who has ever had the great fortune of being in her class knows, she will always be with us as she is the quintessential Roadrunner for Life.

Did You Know?

Rheem students visit the Garden on a regular basis. Whether with their class for a science experiment or with their buddy class for some time to hangout, this time of year the garden is hopping with excitement and in full bloom. Rheem's Garden is another great example of how the children are provided with experiences that go deeper than a textbook and provide them opportunities to learn and share in a place where serenity and the cycle of life come together.

Safety First

At Rheem we practice safety on a regular basis with our emergency preparedness drills (i.e. Fire Drill, Earthquake Drill, Shelter in Place Drill, etc.) This coming Wednesday, April 14th we will be practicing an Earthquake Drill to be followed by an abbreviated Family Reunification Drill. The drills will be taking place near the end of the school day and if you are interested in participating in the Family Reunification portion of the drill please email me at bsullivan@moraga.k12.ca.us and I will provide you with more details.

Last Call for Yearbook

The 2018-19 yearbook sales are coming to a close tomorrow (Monday the 15th). Don't miss out on this great opportunity to preserve a piece of your children's memories with this year's yearbook. Please click [HERE](#) for a link to PTA's membership toolkit and purchase now.

Parent Ed Opportunity

Parents, and students 10 years and older are invited see the IndieFlix presentation of "*Angst – Raising Awareness Around Anxiety*" on Tuesday, April 30th from 1:30-3:00 and Thursday, May 2nd from 7:00-8:30 at St. Perpetua Community Center in Lafayette. *Angst* is a documentary designed to raise awareness around anxiety and help people identify the symptoms of it and encourage them to reach out for help. To RSVP for Tuesday's show please click [HERE](#) and to RSVP for Thursday's show click [HERE](#).

The Last Word...

I know you've heard many times from us about the "Power of Yet" and Carol Dweck's Growth Mindset model for child (and adult) development. To instill a growth mindset in

children, parents are encouraged to praise them for their effort rather for talent or the final result. The following table includes some specific examples of what that praise looks like:

Do not say...	Do say...
You are so smart!	You work hard and it shows! (Be specific about complementing the specific process and/or effort the child demonstrates)
You are a great athlete. You could be the next (pick super athlete)!	<p>“Your focus on _____ (batting stance, dribbling, etc.) has really made a positive difference.”</p> <p>“I noticed that you pay good attention when you are on the field. “</p> <p>(If admiring another athlete, focus on the effort and/or attitude shown)</p>
You always get good grades; that makes me happy.	When you put forth effort, it really shows in your grades. You should be proud of yourself. We are proud of you!
You are a gifted musician!	You seem to really enjoy playing the piano. Keep practicing, and you will see amazing results!
Your drawing is wonderful; you are my little artist!	I see that you have been practicing your drawing; what a great improvement! Tell me about it.

So, the next time you are ready to praise your child, stop and think about how to use that opportunity to foster a growth mindset by celebrating their effort and attitude through the experience – rather than just the final accomplishment.

There’s no place like Rheem,
Mr. Sullivan