

RHEEMARKS

"Frank"ly Speaking...

April 16, 2017

We have an exciting week ahead: our 5th graders are off to **Science Camp**, and we are meeting and greeting next year's Kindergartners at "**Getting to Know You**" events. In addition, we are looking forward to **Earth Day** celebrations and our annual **Family Work Day** on Saturday. Full speed ahead!

This Week at Rheem:

Monday, April 17:

- 5th graders to Science Camp (overnight)!
- "Getting to Know You" program for incoming K students (by appointment 8:45 – 11:30)

Tuesday, April 18:

- 5th graders return from Science Camp in late afternoon
- "Getting to Know You" program for incoming K students (by appointment 8:45 – 11:30)

Weds., April 19:

- MSD Coordinating Council Meeting, beginning at 3:30 at CP in Room 7

Friday, April 21:

- 2nd grade Field Trip to Disney Nature Movie
 - ALL 2nd graders EARLY BIRDS (8:25 – 1:55)

Saturday, April 22:

- Family Work Day!

Show Rheem some LOVE at Family Work Day

This Saturday, April 22!

Join Rheem Teamers big and small as we all join together on Family Work Day this Saturday, April 22. Come to school anytime between **9:00 a.m. and noon** and get your Family Work Day "assignment" at the table by the flagpole in front of the school. There's plenty lots of work to be done all around campus, including in the Rheem School Garden!

C'mon... It'll be fun! Dress for "work in the dirt" and be sure to wear sunscreen. Also, be sure to bring your work gloves and any tools that would be helpful, too. See you there!

School News and Highlights

- This year's **Kindergarten Parent Orientation**, held on Thursday, April 13 was very well-attended with over 50 parents present. Many thanks to K teacher, Bess Inzeo; PTA President, Stacia Ruffolo; and Roadrunner Club Director, Eleanor Persons, who joined Principal Frank in providing an overview of the Kindergarten Program specifically and Rheem School in general.
- On Thursday, April 13, MSD School board unanimously approved the concept of **Full-Day Kindergarten**, to begin next year (2017-18). Details regarding specific arrival and dismissal times, lunchtime arrangement, and transportation concerns will be developed over the next several weeks.
- Our friend, Nasi, from Soul Shoppe, visited Rheem on Friday, April 14 to present "**Me to WE**" **workshops** for all classes. Students learned about teamwork, and how utilizing the unique talents, interests and experiences of all members of the team can make for a stronger, more dynamic team experience!
- **Rheem's Food Drive during Spirit Week** resulted in 153 pounds of food collected, equating to 128 meals for hungry families in Contra Costa Country. Thank you for your generosity!
- To celebrate "**Earth Day**," Rheem students will be working with their buddy classes for a "Campus Clean-Up." In addition to making sure our campus is free from litter, we anticipate that our buddy classes will be engaging in a few weed-pulling contests up in the garden!
- **CAASPP Practice Tests** are available on-line at www.caaspp.org or by clicking [HERE](#). Rheem 3rd – 5th grade students will be taking these annual tests during the first two weeks in May. More information about these test will be coming to 3rd – 5th grade families via email this coming week.

Save the Dates for MUSIC! *Submitted by Sara Stafford, Music Teacher*

Attention Kindergarten through 3rd grade families!

You are invited to attend an *INFORMance* in your child's music class! This is an exciting way to see your child in action up close and personal. Come check out the fun learning happening with in **room 23!** The specific *INFORMance* dates and times are listed below:

Kindergarten and 1st grade, Monday May 15th:

Kathan- 9:35-10:05

Inzeo- 10:05-10:35

Lorie- 10:40-11:10

O'Connell- 11:10-11:40

Bailey- 11:42-12:12

Strohmeier- 1:00-1:30

2nd and 3rd grades, Thursday, June 1st:

Ralph- 8:25-8:55

Berkman 9:00-9:30

Webster-9:40-10:10

Thomson- 10:20-10:50

Guidi- 11:05-11:35

Caraska- 11:40-12:10

More information to follow, but be sure to mark your calendars NOW to see music class in action!

Parent Volunteers Needed for Too Good For Drugs Program

A Great Opportunity to Get Involved!

Drug-awareness education is included in the 4th/5th grade Health Education Standards. Traditionally, parents have taken an active role in presenting these lessons to students, in coordination with the classroom teacher. Again this year, we need parent support!

We are seeking parent volunteers to present the [Too Good for Drugs \(TGF\) Curriculum](#) in our 4th and 5th grade classrooms. The curriculum is fully developed, including lesson plans and all materials. You do not

need to be a parent of a 4th or 5th grader to participate. Also, training is provided so that parents feel confident about presenting, along with management support from the classroom teacher. This is truly a great opportunity to get into the classrooms and support student learning!

The TGFDF curriculum has been recently updated to include more games, interaction, and real-life problem-solving situations (social media, peer pressure, etc.) to make the lessons more engaging for students. The curriculum consists of 8 – 10 lessons, delivered over approximately 2 weeks in individual classrooms.

If you are interested in getting involved with Rheem's TGFDF program, please contact Principal Elaine Frank at efrank@moraga.k12.ca.us by Tuesday, April 25. A parent training will be scheduled for May 2nd, so that classroom lessons can be delivered during the month of May.

Safety First

Rheem Supports District Safety Plan by Involving Moraga Police in Emergency Drill

On Tuesday, April 11, Rheem students and staff practiced "Lockdown" procedures with the support and observations of three members of the Moraga Police Department. This was an unannounced drill, and as a result, information was learned that can further enhance our emergency response effectiveness.

The day prior to the drill, Lt. Brian South met with Principal Frank to review current practice and protocols. Also, a campus "audit" was conducted to ensure that all rooms and building could be quickly secured (without keys) in the case of an emergency.

The Moraga Police Department gave Rheem School high marks for efficient and appropriate drill response – both by staff and students. Next steps include having additional "unannounced" drills at different times of day and with different "what if" limitations considered.

Did You Know?

Safety Locks on ALL DOORS at Rheem

All building and classroom doors at Rheem can be locked quickly from the inside – without needing a key! All classroom doors have a quick one-button locking mechanism, and double doors (such as the ones leading into hallways, the library, and the Multi-Use Room) have a "bar latch" that can be quickly used to secure them.

The more people that know how to use these locks, the better, so next time you're volunteering, please ask a staff member to show you how to use these locks. It will just take a second (and that's the point!).

Hello From Roadrunner Club, *submitted by Eleanor Persons, RRC Director*

Registration for the 2017-2018 school year begins on June 1st, 2017. The registration fee is \$35 dollars thru Sunday August 6th, then it goes up to our normal fee of \$50 beginning Monday, August 7th.

Registration for Roadrunner Club is done completely on line. Please do not wait until the last minute; last year we were inundated with late registrations and many of them could not be accommodated for the first week of school.

We encourage e-mails for communication at Roadrunner Club. However, we are often busy with children, parents, snack, and ASEP classes so we don't always have an opportunity to check our e-mails. Please consider giving us as much advance notice as possible.

We have had a great week of art projects. Our theme was Sea creatures. We talked about and made Jelly Fish out of recycled materials. We made a beautiful Mural with seaweed and various colored fish which was amazingly beautiful. We have to remember that sometimes the simplest projects are the very best projects.

Out & About

Chariot Races in the Computer Lab

It's hard to find the right word to describe how I felt during a recent visit to Rheem's Computer Lab...Impressed? Amazed? Delighted? Intrigued? ... *Blown away?*

I watched 4th graders grapple with the following challenge: Build a chariot for a [Sphero robot](#) that could carry a Lego man safely through a course designed by other 4th grade students. *Uh, what???*

4th grade "Chariot Teams" had to program the Sphero prior to race day, knowing only the course measurements and angle of the turn. Teams had to brainstorm designs, construct them out of cardboard, measure each piece, and then re-create their cardboard creation on the computer in 3D (according to the measurements). Then, they "printed" the chariot – yes, using the 3-D printer! Teams "bought" print jobs, pipe cleaners, yarn, and other supplies with a

budget they were required to manage. After they had a working design, they ran tests to see how far it would go in 1 second--they needed that information to know how many seconds to program their Sphero to run.

4th grade "Course Design Teams" had to figure out how to code a computer program that would count seconds and tenth of seconds once the timer began, and how to stop the timer. Next, they need to research how switches worked and build a switch that would conduct electricity and complete a circuit (turn on) once the switch was activated. They also had to manage a budget and buy supplies. They hooked up their switch to their computer program via a [Makey Makey](#), and tested it to ensure when the switch was hit the timer started, and when the end switch was hit it stopped. They had to create the course and provide measurements to the race teams, and then recreate the same course on race day. Some groups even added music, ramps, flags, all sorts of fun things to enhance the course.

Students were eager to note some of the things they learned through this process:

- **how circumference is related to diameter,**
- **how to measure angles with a protractor,**
- **how to "drag" or slow down objects,**
- **the relationship between speed, time and distance traveled,**
- **how annoying managing budgets can be,**
- **how group work can be both hard and rewarding,**
- **and how important good measurements are.**

Jennifer Johnson, our intrepid computer teacher, was the "coach" throughout the problem-solving process – allowing students to experience the frustrations and rewards of trial and error. In reflecting on their learning experience, she commented, "I was very impressed that every group had major failure along the way. Only one group out of all classes really got defeated by it and needed a pep talk. All others went back to the drawing board immediately. As one student said to me, 'this required a lot of perseverance Mrs. Johnson!' It certainly did, and I am super proud of them!"

This experience was a perfect example of a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) experience. Many thanks to the Rheem PTA for supporting the purchase of our 3-D printer, Sphero robots, and Makey Makeys to make this project possible!

The Last Word...

I was thrilled to receive the news that Brian Sullivan, current assistant principal at Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School, will be recommended to the MSD Governing Board to be the next principal of Rheem Elementary School.

I have worked with Mr. Sullivan this year on our Leadership Team and have been consistently impressed by his friendly, approachable demeanor, his common-sense way of developing solutions to problems, and his compassionate commitment to providing quality education for all students.

Mr. Sullivan has expressed a keen interest in attending Rheem events this spring and getting to know staff, students, and parents before he officially takes the reins in August. I will look forward to introducing him to the Rheem Team, and working closely with him to ensure an effective and smooth transition.

Thank you for welcoming and supporting our newest (and very tall) Roadrunner, "**Principal Sullivan.**" It's the Rheem Team way!

I love this school!

Ms. Frank, Principal