

May 12, 2019

Dear Rheem Team Families,

I hope this finds you enjoying a magnificent Mother's Day.

We are halfway done with our [CAASPP Testing](#) and with the memory of a fun-filled Spring Picnic fresh in our minds, we are heading into the final weeks of school...time sure flies when you're having fun.

## **This Week at Rheem:**

### Monday, May 13th:

- CAASPP testing continues
- Vision screening

### Tuesday, May 14th:

- Vision screening continues
- MSD School Board Meeting at JM from 7:00-10:00

### Wednesday, May 15th:

- Mrs. Ralph and Mrs. Johnson's classes perform the "Biome Play" in the Frank from 10:30-11:30

### Thursday, May 16th:

- Kindergarten Field Trip to Smith Family Farm (All Kinders arrive early at 8:25 and are released at 1:55)
- Fiscal Advisory Committee meeting at JM from 3:40-5:10

### Friday, May 17th:

- Spirit Assembly:
  - 3rd – 5th grades 9:00-9:50
  - K – 2nd grades 10:00-10:50
- 1st grade participates in SUBS (Speak Up Be Safe)

## **School News and Highlights**

- Last week nine classes took part in field trips at Rheem. 4th grade classes visited the Oakland Museum for some California History. 3rd graders went on the Moraga History Tour. And 2nd grade had an on-site field trip where the Marine Mammal Center presented the magical world of life beneath the sea.

- *Thank you, PTA and families, for your generous support of our field trip programs. Without it we wouldn't be able to share such wonderful experiences with our students.*

## **Spring Picnic and Art Show**

The Rheem Team enjoyed a really entertaining Spring Picnic and Art Show on Friday, May 10th. Many thanks to this year's Spring Picnic Chair, Dan Lenhart (Reina's dad), for organizing a fun-filled event for our entire school community. Also, many thanks to Art Teacher, Larysa Larson, for sharing her classroom this year while putting together another impressive display of Rheem student art.

This year's highlights included the rock-climbing wall, giant inflatables, carnival games, delicious food, and fabulous music. And it wouldn't be a Spring Picnic without Rheem's annual jump rope contest, led by the irrepressible, Mr. John Flynn with musical support from D.J. Markie C. Kudos to all the participants and congrats to the grade level winners.

## **CAASPP Testing continues this week**

[CAASPP Testing](#) continues this week for 3rd, 4th & 5th graders. As a reminder, please keep in mind that the best at-home preparations for these tests are a good night's sleep, a healthy breakfast, and a good attitude.

## **Order Your 2019-20 School Supply Kits Now**

Rheem students can now order their school supplies for next year! To purchase online please visit [www.sydney Paige.org/rheem](http://www.sydney Paige.org/rheem) and follow the easy steps.

The kits will be available for pick-up at Roadrunner Day, Monday, August 12th (the day before school begins). Picking up kits on Roadrunner Day is OPTIONAL. Kits not picked-up will be delivered directly to your child's class for the first day of class.

Ordering window closes Friday, June 7th, so don't delay, order yours today! For more detailed information about the Sydney Paige Company, please click [HERE](#).

## **Student Medication Pick Up**

A parent must pick up current medications(s) from the school office by noon on the last day of school, Friday June 7th. Any medication(s) or supplies left in the school office after June 14th will be discarded (thrown away).

If you need to bring in medication for your child next year, please complete the appropriate form(s) for prescription medications or over-the-counter medications. Prescription medication forms must be signed by the student's physician. A separate form is required for more than one medication.

Appropriate forms can be downloaded from the Rheem website. Go to the Resources link, and then click on Forms. ([Over the Counter](#), [Prescription](#))

Medication(s) and completed forms may be brought in to the school office after August 6, 2019, prior to the beginning of school on August 13th.

If your 5th grade student is moving on to JM and will need to have medication kept in the JM office, please contact the JM office at 376-7206 for forms and procedures.

## **PTA Survey – Survey closes this Wednesday, May 15th**

PTA would like your insight and feedback as they plan for next year. Please take a minute or two to fill out this quick and easy survey.

<https://forms.gle/Mh2sWgkj7gc2oJ13A>

## **The Last Word...**

I did a Google search recently of the word strength and came up with the following:

- 1) the quality or state of being physically strong.
- 2) the capacity of an object or substance to withstand great force or pressure.

Interestingly, the reason I was in search of the official definition of “strength” had to do with a note I was writing to my mom in a Mother's Day card. And even though I would not describe her as being physically strong (granted she did give birth to three large babies) or describe her as an object or substance (other than an object of my affection) my mother, like many of yours, embodies strength more so than any of the aforementioned definitions.

My mom was born in the early 40s and has lived a very full life. She married my dad when she was 21 and the two of them raised three somewhat normal children. My earliest memories of my mom had to do with the two of us grocery shopping, going to the park, baking cookies, and playing hide and seek. I also remember watching her as she effortlessly did all (and I mean all) of the household chores. When me or my siblings were sick, hurt or in tears she was always there for us. It's funny how I can't remember my dad

drying our tears or applying a band aid and a hug (I'm sure he did once or twice : ). It was also my mom who took the brunt of our complaining and whining. We would dare not talk back to my father, but my mom seemed to be the one we would challenge the most. As much as we may have complained and challenged her, she wasn't one to give into our childish demands. And as busy as my mom was managing the household she still had time to work part time to help with the family finances. Even though we didn't know it at the time, she was a modern-day super hero...her work was never done.

As charming as her husband and children were : ), my mom was no stranger to adversity. She lost my dad when she was in her 40s, had quintuple bypass surgery in her 50s, and survived breast cancer in her 60s. Through it all she has never lost her sense of purpose or sense of humor. When asked recently how she's managed as well as she has through life she responded, "I've never stopped learning. Whether it be from my family, friends or my mistakes. Every day brings a new opportunity for me to learn new things." We should all be so fortunate. To say mothers have strength is an understatement. Push-ups and sit-ups don't build character, and objects and substances have yet to endure the force or pressure of children in distress, human loss, and sickness.

Here is to all the mom's at Rheem. Your strength is what keeps your children safe and your courage is what makes them strong.

There's no place like Rheem,  
Mr. Sullivan