

RHEEMARKS

"Frank"ly Speaking...

May 21, 2017

Rheem's "can't miss" event – our annual **Open House** is coming this week. On Thursday, May 25 all classrooms will open at 7:00 for families to see student work on display. Don't forget to visit the **Rheem Garden**, the **Library**, and the **Computer Lab** in addition to your children's classrooms. There's lots to see!

Please keep in mind that Open House is not an appropriate time for an impromptu parent conference or to interview a potential teacher about his/her educational philosophy. Teachers will be focused on helping their current students celebrate their accomplishments. Thank you for your understanding!

For your convenience, and as a way to avoid traffic and parking congestion, a **shuttle bus** will run to and from the Rheem Shopping Center (by Starbucks), beginning at 6:45 through 8:30.

Please remember that Open House Day will be a **minimum day** for all students. Kindergarten students will be dismissed at 11:50 and 1st through 5th graders at 12:12. There is no lunch served on minimum days.

This Week at Rheem:

Monday, May 22:

- [FORE Our Schools Golf Tournament](#) benefiting MEF
 - Registration Opens at 9:00; Reception at 5:00 p.m.
 - There's still room! Come out and play!

Weds., May 24:

- Recycle Woman visit Rheem Students at Lunchtime!

Thurs., May 25:

- Minimum Day!
- Open House! All classrooms open 7:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Friday, May 26:

- Spirit Assemblies: 3rd – 5th at 8:40; K – 2nd at 10:05
- Open House "Tour" – all students visit all classrooms (9:40 – 10:00)

Rotary Field Day Results

The results are in, and we are very proud of the 114 Rheem 3rd – 5th graders who participated in this annual track and field event on Wednesday, May 10. It was a beautiful day, and all students demonstrated great cooperation and sportsmanship. Here are some of the highlights:

- A total of **367 students from 4 area schools** participated.
- **Two Rheem students TIED for High-Point Girl!** Grace Charles (3rd grader in Ms. Berkman's class) and Natalie Rane (4th grader in Ms. Drury's class). WOW!
- **Two of the three high point classes were from Rheem.** Those classes are:
 - **Ms. Drury's 4th grade with 24 points**
 - **Ms. Berkman's 3rd grade with 18 points**
- **Congratulations to our friends at Camino Pablo:** Most Participation, High Point School, and High Point Classroom awards went to Camino Pablo. The High Point Boy was also a CP student.

Thank you to the **Moraga Rotary Club** (especially Field Day Chairman and Rheem grandpa, **Tony Schoemehl**) for organizing this eagerly anticipated day, and thanks also to the **St. Mary's coaches and athletes** who helped in judge the various events!

Thinking About Next Year...

Read the articles below for information and news about the 17-18 school year!

Full-Day Kindergarten

On April 13, 2017, the Moraga School District Governing Board approved a full-day kindergarten program, commencing the 2017-2018 school year. The District is pleased to offer this additional time for increased student learning and social development, as well as more time for singing, reading, outdoor activities, and exploration. A longer school day will also provide more opportunities for students to develop pro-social behavioral skills, including self-regulation, attentiveness, and self-confidence.

2017-2018 kindergartners will follow the first grade early/late bird, parent conference and minimum day schedule. School begins at 8:25 AM for early birds and ends at 1:55 PM. School begins at 9:25 AM for late birds and ends at 3:05 PM.

K - 3rd Graders "All Early" for 17-18 School Start

All Moraga School District Kindergarten through 3rd grade students will follow an 8:25 AM to 1:55 PM instructional schedule for the first three weeks of school, **August 21 through September 8.**

This three-week early release period provides teachers time to individually assess their student's reading and math levels to provide differentiated learning experiences for all students as well as to identify students who may be eligible for additional support.

K – 3rd grade teachers will contact parents to schedule dates and times for individual student assessment appointments. We thank you in advance for your understanding and flexibility regarding this “early bird” schedule.

Order School Supplies for 2017-2018

Rheem students can now order their school supplies for next year! Follow the easy steps below:

- Purchase on line at www.shoptkits.com
- Enter Rheem’s account # 44569

- Click on the grade level. Remember to use next year’s grade level!
- Click “view kit” to see the kit’s contents. (If you choose NOT to purchase the kit, please reference this list for requested materials).
- Proceed to checkout and pay.

The kits will be available for pick-up at Roadrunner Day, Friday, August 18 (the Friday 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.

Ordering window closes Friday, June 9, so don’t delay, order yours today! For more detailed information about this program, please click [HERE](#).

2017-2018 MSD Instructional Calendar

Click [HERE](#) to download and print the 2017-2018 MSD calendar. It’s the first step to make sure that your home and school calendars are “synced” to ensure good attendance for the next school year. This calendar also notes events such as Parent Conference Weeks, Back-to-School Night, Open House, Minimum Days, and School Holidays! Thank you for planning ahead.

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

It’s been a fun couple of weeks at Roadrunners! We played musical chairs and made Churros for our cooking project to celebrate Cinco de Mayo. We planted tomato plants and made beautiful cards in observance of Mothers’ Day. We made lemonade from real lemons donated by Wendy, and we also did a lesson about coconuts and learned everything coconut!

We want to remind everybody it’s starting to get warm. Please include a water bottle in your child’s backpack.

Roadrunner Club registration begins June 1st for the 2017-2018 school year; please remember registration is done all on-line. Just click on the [Roadrunner Club Tab](#) on the Rheem School website for information. I want to remind everybody that parents who did not register until the last minute were not able to come to Roadrunner Club the first week of school. Please allow 48 hours for your registration to be processed.

The Last Word...

I never liked that book, The Giving Tree. It had always bothered me that the tree gives and gives and gives some more, without once hearing a please or a thank you, without ever being acknowledged or rewarded for its generosity and hard work. In the story, the tree never reminds the little boy, who has benefitted from its shade and comfort, of all she has sacrificed. The tree just stoically accepts the fate of its own diminishment throughout the book until it is all used up, until all that's left is a stump! And, the sense I got was that we were supposed to be OK about that. It just didn't seem right.

But, after working with the Rheem PTA for the past 20 years, I think I get it now. Those PTA board members and chairpersons are the TREE. They give and give and give. No keeping score. No exhausted sighs or subtle jabs. It's just giving for giving's sake. Without expectation of acknowledgment or reward. Because there's work to be done and someone has to do it. Those PTA parents sign on to give countless hours to programs that make Rheem such a special place. Just think: The Read-a-thon, Hot Lunch, The Science Fair, The FUN(d) Run, The Fall and Spring Picnics... The list goes on and on. It's the PTA that makes these things happen. Year after year after year.

Without a doubt, working alongside the Rheem PTA "movers and shakers" has been one of the great pleasures of this job. The PTA presidents, the Executive boards, and the Committee Chairpersons are some of the smartest, most organized, positive, focused, and generous people I've known. And, instead of running large corporations or governments, instead of using their creativity for fame and fortune, instead of spending extra free time indulging in any number of luxuries, they give, give and give some more. Because there's work to be done.

One of my favorite poems is titled "To be of use." I don't know if it's considered a great poem or not, but I really like how it elevates good, honest, hard work to the level of awe-inspiring art. How it reminds us that people are at their very best when engaged in "work that is real." At Wednesday's PTA meeting, I read it aloud to the PTA members gathered there that evening. I remarked that it might as well be titled, "Ode to the Rheem PTA." I've reprinted it below, in honor of all the PTA members I've known over the years, who have worked so hard to support our school. I admire you more than I can say (and maybe that's why there are poets).

To be of use

By Marge Piercy

The people I love the best

jump into work head first

without dallying in the shallows

and swim off with sure strokes almost out of sight.

They seem to become natives of that element,
the black sleek heads of seals
bouncing like half-submerged balls.

I love people who harness themselves, an ox to a heavy cart,
who pull like water buffalo, with massive patience,
who strain in the mud and the muck to move things forward,
who do what has to be done, again and again.

I want to be with people who submerge
in the task, who go into the fields to harvest
and work in a row and pass the bags along,
who are not parlor generals and field deserters
but move in a common rhythm
when the food must come in or the fire be put out.

The work of the world is common as mud.
Botched, it smears the hands, crumbles to dust.
But the thing worth doing well done
has a shape that satisfies, clean and evident.
Greek amphoras for wine or oil,
Hopi vases that held corn, are put in museums
but you know they were made to be used.
The pitcher cries for water to carry
and a person for work that is real.

I love this school!

Ms. Frank, principal