

RHEEMARKS

"Frank"ly Speaking...

May 14, 2017

Hope this finds you enjoying a wonderful Mothers' Day.

With most of CAASPP testing behind us and the memory of a full-filled Spring Picnic still fresh in our minds, we are heading into the final weeks of school. It's going so fast!

This Week at Rheem:

Monday, May 15:

- K and 1st grade Music INFORMances in Room 23 with Ms. Stafford

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

Strohmeyer- 1:00-1:30

Tuesday, May 16:

- Kindergarten "Wildlife Meet & Greet" presentations by Lindsey Wildlife Museum in Rm. 25
 - Lorie (10:00); Kathan (11:00); Inzeo (12:00)

Note: All of Ms. Inzeo's students are Late Birds today

Weds., May 17:

- 5th (soon to be 6th) graders visited by JM 8th grade representatives
 - Gusber (9:40); Greer (10:30); Cavallero (10:50)
- 1st grade Stand Up, Be Safe Lessons in classrooms

- Bailey (8:30 – 9:05); Strohmeyer (10:15 – 10:50); O’Connell (11:00 – 11:35)
- PTA Association Meeting, beginning at 6:30 p.m. in the Multi-Use Room
 - *Special Guest: Mr. Brian Sullivan, Rheem Principal 17-18*

Thurs., May 18:

- JM Spring Fling and Open House
 - See [JM website](#) for details

NOTE: Thursday is NOT a minimum day at Rheem (only at JM)

Friday, May 19:

- Final Box Tops Collection of the year!

Spring Picnic & Art Show a SUCCESS!

The Rheem Team enjoyed a well-attended and super-fun Spring Picnic and Art Show on Friday, May 12. Many thanks to this year’s Spring Picnic Chairperson, **Andrea O’Toole**, for organizing a fun-filled event for our entire school community. Also, many thanks to Art Teacher, **Larysa Larson**, for putting together such an impressive display of Rheem student art.

This year’s highlights included the giant inflatables, carnival games (with drawings for prizes), delicious food, and energizing music. Also, the much anticipated jump rope contest, led by the always enthusiastic, Mr. John Flynn, yielded the following grade level champions:

Kindergarten: Rylan G.

1st grade: Ryan and Aaron W. (yes, twin brothers!)

2nd grade: Cayley C.

3rd grade: Audrey S.

4th grade: Sunguk P. and Natalie R.

5th grade: Will B. and Whitney W.

In addition, the announcements of the Raffle Prize winners created a lot of enthusiasm. Winners of the “staff sponsored” prizes are listed below:

Root Beer Float Party for the class w/ Ms. Frank and the Roadrunner: Alex C. in Ms. Webster’s class

Starbucks with Ms. Frank: Rocco B. (2nd/3rd) & Christina M. (4th/5th)

PE Teachers for Your Grade: Quinn C. (K), Zoe A. (1st), Jenna C. (2nd), Matt J. (3rd), Cooper C. (4th), Caroline O. (5th)

Lunch and Makey Makey Project in Computer Lab (4th/5th): Audrey S. and Sebastian C.

Lunch and Clay Project in Art Studio (2nd/3rd): Daniela C., Maddie C., Emilie D.

Lunch and Clay Project in Art Studio (4th/5th): Emma A., Madi G., Carly R.

Ice Cream Social and Read-Aloud in Library: Riley O. (1st), Zoe L. (2nd), Mia T. (3rd)

VIP Parking: Ortland and Salvi families

We are grateful to the Rheem Team staff of offering these special events for our students. The full list of all the lucky winners will be published in this week's PTA newsletter.

Order School Supply Kits for 2017-2018

Why wait? It's easy, convenient, and cost-effective!

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](#).

Box Tops Earn \$\$ for Rheem

Recently, Rheem received a check for **\$236.20 from General Mills Box Tops** program, bringing our total earnings for the year to **\$889.80**. The average annual earnings for schools in our area is 223.11, so Rheem is doing well, ranking 42nd out of 932 Bay Area Schools that participate. Box Tops earnings fund a variety of curricular enhancements, including non-fiction news magazines for our K – 2nd grade students.

We will be making one final Box Tops collection for this year, so be turn-in all BoxTops to the classrooms by this Friday, May 19. The classes that turn in the most neatly-trimmed Box Tops will win the Roadrunner Mascots at the Spirit Assemblies on May 26.

Many thanks to parent volunteer, **Shaun Paul**, for being Rheem's Box Tops chairperson. She has spent many an evening sorting, counting, and organizing Box Tops to send in for cash!

Check out www.boxtops4education.com to learn more about this program and to discover a variety of ways to earn Box Tops for Rheem.

Ms. Caraska to Retire this year

She's been part of the Rheem Team since 1989!

Joan Caraska started her career at Rheem in 1989 as a Teaching Assistant. Since then, she has always been a part of the Rheem Staff. This year, she will retire after 17 years of full-time teaching at Rheem.

What's next? With a sparkle in her eye, she responded, "I'm going to Disneyland!" And, she is. She has a trip planned to the Happiest Place on Earth this fall, accompanied by friends and family. After that, she will be spending most of her time running a family business started by her husband, and hopes to spend more quality time with her daughter, Claire.

Ms. Caraska will definitely be missed at Rheem next year. In addition to being a dedicated classroom teacher, she is always the first to volunteer to show-off her dancing skills as school assemblies! Thank you, Ms. Caraska, for sharing your talents and good humor with us for so many years.

Last Word...

I've seen a lot of changes in the Moraga School District during the 30 years I've been here. I remember that my first classroom had no air conditioning. I remember serving hot lunch (KFC! I kid you not!) to my 2nd graders, who then ate at their desks, because there was no Multi-Use Room. I remember that parents had to communicate with me through hand-written notes, because there was no voice mail system and certainly no email. I remember when overhead projectors were the "new" technology. I remember playgrounds made of wood (and splinters being a daily

occurrence). I remember when there was no such a thing as a "shortened" Wednesday. I remember the Math textbook before our current one, and the one before that, and the one before that (you get the idea...)

But, one thing that has remained constant through all those years, one thing that has had ONLY a positive impact for ALL the students I've known – those students now approaching middle age with families of their own as well as the ones that still get unbuckled from their car seats at drop off -- Just one thing that has worked and worked well, regardless of technological advancements or educational trends. That one thing is the [Moraga Education Foundation](#).

Today is Mothers' Day, so hopefully, you'll indulge this analogy: MEF is like a big-hearted, generous, common sense, knows-what's-good-for-you Mom. A good mom says "share your toys," and "eat your vegetables" because it will make you a better person in the long term. At a certain point, a good mom says "you know the right thing to do," because she realizes that all those sacrifices (the lack of sleep, the color-coded scheduling, the constant driving here and there, the strategic doling out of consequences balanced with the soothing of hurt feelings), all those investments of time, creativity, and energy, have mattered in raising strong, healthy, and happy children who make the world a better place.

Similarly, MEF asks that you invest now, sacrifice now, because it will pay off in the long run. Art and Music Programs, Science and Technology, Libraries and Physical Education, Counselors and Teaching Assistants – all these programs are not "givens" in schools anymore – they are extras. And, these extras, like encouragement and/or corrections, make the difference between an enriching experience and one that lacks what's "good for you" (as a mom would say).

As adults, we don't have our moms around as much to guide us, so for this Mothers' Day, allow me to be that caring, yet consistent, voice that says, "Share your toys," "Eat your vegetables," and "You know the right thing to do." Give to [MEF](#).

As my 30 years in education comes to an end, people sometimes ask what I want or how I'd like to celebrate. Honestly, if you're reading this, I would consider it a great honor if you would simply make a donation to MEF. Consider it a Mothers' Day gift. If you've already donated, give a bit more. If you haven't donated yet, for goodness sake, do it now. Think about it – we both care about the future of your children. Why not join forces to invest in them? Click [HERE](#). Do it for me. Do it for your mother. Do it for the future. You'll be glad you did.

I love this school!

Ms. Frank, Principal