

June 9, 2019

Dear Rheem Team Families,

Summer is HERE!!! Please take a moment to catch up on what happened during the last week of school and see what opportunities students have to get in some summer practice.

## **This Week at Rheem:**

Monday, June 3rd – Friday, August 9th

- **CAMPUS CLOSED:** Measure V Construction

## **School News and Highlights**

- Kindergartners had a special Spirit Assembly on Monday where Ms. Gessling, Ms. Kathan and Mrs. Lorie were able to recognize students for their hard work and over nearly 10 Gold Slips. The Wheel of Prizes was spinning like a top. Kudos to all those Kinders for working so hard and getting their Gold Slip pulled.
- The staff vs. 5th grade Kickball game was a big hit on Wednesday. The staff jumped out to an early lead but each inning the 5th graders came back to keep it close. Congratulations to students and staff alike for their great energy and sportsmanship.

## **5th Grade Celebration**

Thursday was a very special day for our 5th graders and their families as we celebrated them in our final Spirit Assembly. For the second year in a row, we were treated to an amazing video by Meghan Herring that captured the spirit of each 5th grader. We also acknowledged all of our 5th graders, as well as gave special recognition to those taking part in S.W.A.T., the Hello Crew, and Student Council. In true Rheem fashion, there was lots of singing (led by our very special musical guest Ms. Frank), smiles and laughter with the highlights

coming from the Kindergartners' song to their buddies and a rousing rendition of "The Hills of Moraga" performed by our graduating class.

## **Summer Success!!**

It is essential for all Rheem families to enjoy the relaxation and fun that comes with summer vacation. I hope that families will also take advantage of four programs that are designed to keep academic skills fresh over the summer months.

## **Reading**

Did you know, students who read independently for just 15 minutes a day can expose themselves to more than a million words of text in a single year?

**Rheem's Summer Reading Program "Camp Read S'More!"**– It's simple! It's easy! It's FUN! Simply read, read, read (a favorite summer activity anyway!) and log what you read on the Summer Reading forms linked [HERE](#). Return this form in the fall to receive acknowledgement at a Spirit Assembly AND a coupon to spend at the annual Book Fair in November.

**Moraga Library Presents** – Summer Reading for All Ages. June 8- August 8, 2019. All Contra Costa County Libraries: Adventure awaits with Contra Costa County Library's Summer Reading program. Readers of all ages can visit [ccclib.org/summer](http://ccclib.org/summer) for activities and challenges to feed the imagination and explore new skills. Visit any of the 26 Contra Costa County library locations for free and fun happenings all summer. Every completed entry is eligible for a free book and a raffle entry to win prizes. Contact: Geneva Moss, Community Library Manager, Moraga Library, 1500 St. Mary's Road, Moraga, CA 94556, [gmoss@ccclib.org](mailto:gmoss@ccclib.org), 925.376.6852.

**Raz-Kids**– And that's not ALL! Keep in mind that students who have used "Raz-Kids" during the school year will have access over the summer as well. Enjoy!

## **Math**

Studies show that if you want to be good at math, you have to practice all different kinds of mathematics.

**DreamBox**- the online interactive math program is designed to support students' individual needs. I know screen time can be a concern, and challenge to reign in during the summer, but this program provides great practice in essential math skills.

## **Thank you Rheem PTA**

I would like to take a moment to once again thank Rheem's PTA for all that they do to improve our school and provide opportunities for learning and fun. This year our PTA:

- Provided \$12,000 for grade level libraries
- Donated \$17,000 for class field trips
- Hosted Rheem's legendary Fall Carnival, Spring Picnic and the can't miss Variety Show
- Put on the Fun(d) Run, and Read-a-thon
- Published our yearbook
- Hosted our Science Fair
- Hosted our Parent Social at MCC
- Provided ASEP (After School Enrichment Programs)
- Put on the Reflections writing and art contest
- Sponsored our Wheels of Freestyle assembly
- Hosted Roadrunner Day and distributed student supply kits
- Provided emergency supply kits for every classroom
- Provided our hot lunch program

Along with these programs and events came the thousands of volunteer hours by the PTA Executive Board, committee chairpersons and other volunteers. It is safe to say that Rheem would not look the same without all of their time and effort.

Please keep your eye out for PTA news that will come later in the summer and we look forward to seeing everyone on Roadrunner Day (Monday, August 12th).

## **Yearbook Acknowledgement**

### ***Thank you Molly Devinger and Casey Sproul***

Last week I gave a special thank you to Casey Sproul for all her hard work putting this year's yearbook together, however I neglected to mention Molly Devinger who worked equally as hard on gathering all the pictures, and information necessary to make this year's book so amazing. So in keeping with my father's motto of you can never thank those who help you enough, thank you Casey and Molly!!!

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

I have to admit, when I sit down each Sunday to write Rheem's weekly RHEEMARKS, the part that takes me the most time is *The Last Word*. There are a few reasons why. One, I am not necessarily a quick writer. Two, I can get off track in my thinking and end up spending too much time editing. However, I think it takes me the longest because this is a rare opportunity to speak to each of you individually. So, if you don't mind indulging me one last time for this school year...

I've had the good fortune of working in five other wonderful schools before coming to Rheem, and if there is one thing I can say for certain...Rheem is a very special place. There is a spirit here that connects children, staff and families which is palatable. At last Thursday's spirit assembly, we came together to celebrate our 5th graders, as we said goodbye to them before they make their way to middle school. It was a joyous occasion that had plenty of singing, smiles and laughter...to go along with a few tears. During the assembly I spoke of friendship, and that it entails several key components: honesty, acceptance, loyalty, respect and trustworthiness. I made mention that when children come to school as kindergartners they think of everyone at school as their friend. They associate a familiar face with friendship which leads to contagious acts of kindness. It is one of the many things that make

5-year old's so great. What better lesson can we take from these children than to do the same in our own busy lives, each day.

Thank you again for indulging me as you wrap up your Sunday evening, and I wish each of you a marvelous summer and hope you have plenty of time to enjoy family and friends, new and old.

Your friend,  
Mr. Sullivan