

# RHEEMARKS

## *"Frank"ly Speaking...*

*September 18, 2016*

It's a party and YOU are invited! I hope to see you at **Rheem Parents Back-to-School Party this Wednesday, Sept. 21 from 7:00 – 9:00 at Moraga Country Club**. If you didn't get your tickets by the deadline, feel free to "crash" the party for a \$20 per person charge. Last year's party was a BLAST, and this one promises to be great fun as well. Don't miss out on the good times, including appetizers, desserts, a cash bar, and opportunities to win some fantastic Rheem Team swag!

### **This Week at Rheem:**

Monday, Sept. 19

- The [Mobile Dairy Classroom](#) (aka "The Cow") Assemblies
  - K – 2<sup>nd</sup> (9:45 – 10:15)
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> (10:30 – 11:00)

Tuesday, Sept. 20

- Rheem's School Site Council Meeting, 3:15 – 4:00 in Rm. 25

Weds., Sept. 21

- Rheem PTA Association Meeting, beginning at 8:30 – 9:30 a.m. in the Multi-Use Room
  - Superintendent Burns and Board Member Richard Severy will attend to discuss Measure V
- MSD Coordinating Council Meeting, 3:30 – 5:00 p.m. in the JM Library.
  - Click [HERE](#) for agenda
- Rheem Parent Back-to-School Party, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. at Moraga Country Club!

Friday, Sept. 23

- BOX TOPS collected in classrooms (the first of several collections this year to see which class will win the Roadrunner Mascot)

### **Save the Dates**

### **Upcoming Parent Ed Opportunities**

- Tuesday, Sept 27: **"Parenting the Challenging Child"**
  - 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. in OUSD Board Room (8 Altarinda Road in Orinda)
  - Click [HERE](#) for flyer.
- Thursday, Oct. 20: **"Introducing Readers' Workshop"**

- 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. in JM Library

Click [HERE](#) for details

## School News and Highlights

### Rheem Activates “S.W.A.T” Team

Rheem’s “S.W.A.T.” team has its own brand of special tools: green aprons and plastic gloves are used by these brave 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students to combat food waste in the Multi-Use Room! At Rheem, SWAT stands for “**Students Worried About Trash,**” and 30 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders divide into teams of 6 to help out one day a week as follows:

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Aiden J.	Luke Y.	Nicholas L.	Gavin J.	Whitney W.
Henry J.	Emilio P	Christina M.	Maureen K.	Kadin T.
Luc N.	Cooper C.	Jonathan W.	Sienna B.	Courtney R.
Declan A.	Rex P.	Dylan W.	Phoebe K.	Olivia T.
Sydney B.	Vivi T.	Addie O.	Jack L.	Jake J.
Isabella T.	Jessie K.	Hannah B.	Dylan K.	Arnav. M.

These students oversee the clean-up process that requires ALL students to sort recycling from food waste (compost) and then put whatever remains (hopefully, very little) into the trash. Also, SWAT members are on hand to help out our youngest students in the lunchroom, and can be seen opening milk cartons, fetching water, handing out napkins, and attending to other needs. This is just another wonderful service our older students provide to keep Rheem Rockin’!

We are fortunate to have many more 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders who want to participate in SWAT. Therefore, we will rotate teams each trimester. Stay tuned for updates!

### Readers’ Workshop at Rheem

Rheem teachers (along with all MSD TK – 5th grade teachers), are immersed in rolling-out the Readers’ Workshop program to their students this year. Teachers focused on the implementation of the program at our August Staff Development Day and will continue to deepen their learning through “lab trainings” during this school year.

Similar to our Writers’ Workshop trainings these past few years, Readers’ Workshop classroom lab trainings are organized so that all district teachers at one grade level meet during a half-day session in the morning or afternoon. The training provides teachers the opportunity to observe and engage in a model lesson being taught in a classroom. In addition, during the pre- and post-observation discussions, teachers receive coaching on the components of a Readers’ Workshop program, which includes delivering a balanced literacy approach and implementing a rigorous, coherent reading curriculum.

This type of work will require your child’s teacher to be out of their classroom periodically this year. These classroom lab lessons began this last week and six additional half day trainings are planned throughout the year. We understand that substitute teachers cannot take the place of your child’s teacher, but please know that our teachers

work diligently to leave detailed lesson plans that allow for continued learning for their students. We appreciate your patience as we implement this new program. Not only are we inspired by this work, but we are confident this training will be instrumental in creating lifelong readers in our students.

## **Safety First**

Rheem held the first of many Emergency Drills this week. On Wednesday, all students practiced an "Evacuation Drill" (a.k.a Fire Drill). Once all staff and students had assembled on the field, teachers accounted for all students and used walkie-talkies to check-in to a central communication point. After the drill, teachers held class discussion about common-sense responses to when a substitute is in charge and/or when a student may be separated from his/her class during a drill. Both regular practice and thoughtful follow-up discussions are important components of our safety plan.

## **Reflections Contest: "What is Your Story?"**

*Oh the possibilities!!* In this year's PTA-sponsored Reflections Program, students can draw, paint, take a picture, write a story, compose music, create a dance, or make a video that captures and displays "their story"! Students' work will have a chance to advance to a District, State and even National level. Students can submit artwork in 6 categories:

**Visual Arts**  
**Photography**  
**Literature**  
**Dance Choreography**  
**Film Production**  
**Music Composition**

Rules and entry forms will be available in the office soon, but parents can discuss the theme with their children and start brainstorming NOW! Entries are due by Friday, Oct. 14.

Please contact Cristina Polk ([cristinajp@yahoo.com](mailto:cristinajp@yahoo.com)), Sung Choi-Hevel ([Sung.Choi-Hevel@kp.org](mailto:Sung.Choi-Hevel@kp.org)), Kim Pertel ([kimpertel@gmail.com](mailto:kimpertel@gmail.com)) or Serina Culleton ([sculleton@moraga.k12.ca.us](mailto:sculleton@moraga.k12.ca.us)) for more information.

## **Did you Know?**

**Head Lice** are not strangers to school campuses and, recently, Rheem has been visited by these pesky creatures. Although lice do not carry disease, they are tenacious, bothersome, and easily spread from one person to another. Help your children to avoid coming in contact with lice by encouraging them not to share combs, hats, hair ribbons or other personal items. Please be aware that every precaution is taken at school as well.

If lice or eggs (called "nits") are found on a student, parents are notified and the family will receive information regarding treatment. Siblings are also checked, and if two or more students from one class have lice, all students in the class are checked for infestation. Following detection of lice or nits, a notice is sent home to all students in the class alerting parents to the possibility of infestation (Ed. Code 48213) After being treated for head lice, students will be checked at re-admission to school, and again after 10 days.

While there are many opinions about alternative methods of treating and preventing lice, we strongly advocate speaking to your child's medical specialist or pharmacist. To further combat the spread of lice, all parents are

encouraged to periodically check their children for head lice. Click [HERE](#) for information from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention.

## **Out and About**

One of my favorite things to do is to take a quick "tour" around campus to see and hear all the great learning going on. This week, during about a 20-minute span of time, I saw:

**Kindergartners** practicing letters and letter sounds through a variety of "orange day" activities, while snacking on healthy orange treats, such as cheese, goldfish crackers, carrots and... oranges!

**1<sup>st</sup> graders** creating shape pictures using different sizes of pre-cut triangles and circles; then writing math equations to show how many total shapes were used!

**2<sup>nd</sup> graders** exploring doubles and doubles + 1 math facts and noting the patterns in math journals!

**3<sup>rd</sup> graders** exploring multiples of three by visualizing tricycles, triangles, and triplets!

**4<sup>th</sup> graders** discussing and labeling the different geographical features of California on a map. (The teacher allowed me to have the students put a tiny dot where Porterville, my home town, is located)

**5<sup>th</sup> graders** divided into three groups, each examining the powers and responsibilities of the 3 branches of government (executive, legislative, and judicial) and writing a "job description" for each, considering which skills and character traits are necessary for the job!

## **The Last Word**

At Rheem, we champion the idea of a "Growth Mindset," the belief that a person's abilities and intelligence can be developed through practice, hard work, dedication, and motivation. One powerful way to promote and support a growth mindset in our children is by carefully choosing the words we use when praising them. Click [HERE](#) for an in-depth and compelling look into the research behind this.

So now that we've learned NOT to say "You're so smart (awesome, talented, etc.)!" because such praise reinforces a fixed mindset, what SHOULD we say? Click [HERE](#) for a downloadable poster that provides 30 kid-friendly examples of what to say instead of "You're so smart." Once we become aware that giving feedback linked to specific efforts and process is much more motivating than non-specific praise for "fixed" attributes, our children will grow stronger and more resilient as a result.

## **I love this school!**

Ms. Frank, Principal