

RHEEMARKS

"Frank"ly Speaking...

September 25, 2016

The reviews are in... and Wednesday's **Rheem Team Back-to-School Parent Party** was a GREAT success! I thoroughly enjoyed greeting both new and "experienced" Rheem parents at the event. Many thanks to **Serina Culleton**, Rheem teacher and parent, for organizing the event. In case you haven't heard, "Mingle Bingo" got everyone mixing it up, and winners got to spin the famous Rheem Team wheel for exciting prizes such as stuffed Roadrunners and FridayFreeze coupons!

This Week at Rheem:

Monday, Sept. 26:

- Native American Days – 3rd/Berkman (8:30 – 2:00)

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.

Weds., Sept. 28:

- Native American Days – 3rd/Caraska (8:30 – 1:50)

Friday, Sept. 30:

- Native American Days – 3rd/Ralph (8:30 – 2:00)

School News and Highlights

- **Buttercup (a full-grown Holstein) and Oreo (a two-month old calf)** charmed the students of Rheem School when they visited last Monday. Students learned a lot about cows, dairy farming, and dairy products, and even more can be learned at the [Mobile Dairy Classroom website!](#)
- **Readers' Workshop is being introduced in all classrooms at Rheem.** During the past two weeks, all Rheem teachers have participated in Readers' Workshop Lab sessions to learn about how to most effectively launch a Readers' Workshop program and integrate it into the existing Writers' Workshop lessons. Parents are invited to learn about his curriculum shift at the upcoming **Parent Education Evening** –

"Introducing Readers' Workshop" on Oct. 20, beginning at 6:30 in the JM Library. We hope you can attend. Click [HERE](#) for details.

- **BOX TOPS** were collected in the classrooms last Friday for the first of several collections during the school year, so don't stop clipping! Did you know there is even a Box Tops app that can help you earn more \$\$ for Rheem? Click [HERE](#) to learn all about it!

Introducing Rheem's New Art Teacher

We are delighted that Larysa Larson has joined the Rheem Team as our Art Teacher. Ms. Larson is at Rheem on Thursdays and Fridays in Room 24. 4th and 5th grade students receive weekly 1-hour art lessons, and 1st – 3rd graders attend Art class on a rotational basis (once every 3 weeks). Read Ms. Larson's introductory letter to you below:

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I am so pleased to be teaching your child art this year. I have taken this opportunity to let you know a little about myself and to invite you to contact me if I may be of any assistance to you with regard to your child.

I teach from the perspective that each student is unique. I strive to create a classroom environment where students feel encouraged, supported and inspired.

Through my individualized instruction, I nurture and guide each student to his or her highest artistic potential.

A little about myself: I received my B.F.A in Painting and Drawing from California College of the Arts and my M.F.A from SFSU also in Painting and Drawing.

I have previous teaching experience at elementary school level, and this is my fourteenth year teaching art to a young audience.

My hope for this school year is to engage students in creating art with meaning and value. We will develop skills in creativity and problem solving through art. 5th graders are currently working on String Art project which is a part of a unit on 'Creating Sense of Motion in Art'. In this project students use their math skills to solve a key for their string pattern designs.

Fourth graders are creating PopArt self-portraits inspired by the art of Andy Warhol and Roy Lichtenstein. Third graders are exploring beauty of the autumn colors and creating an abstract art compositions using fallen leaves. Second graders are reviewing warm and cold colors and collaging landscapes using construction paper. Finally, the first graders are celebrating approaching holiday season with orange and black color paper cutouts arranging them into a whimsical family of cats.

Each grade will explore a joy of working with clay, painting with watercolors, tempera and acrylics, drawing with oil and chalk pastels, color pencils and markers. In October we will discover the art of printmaking and stamping while creating memorable and one of a kind prints of animals and cartoon characters.

Your child is important to me. I look forward to working in partnership with you through the upcoming year and I am confident that together we can provide the support and encouragement needed to help your child excel. If you have any questions do not hesitate to contact me at llarson@moraga.k12.ca.us

*Sincerely,
Larysa Larson
Art Teacher*

Ascot Drive Parking and Traffic Alert!

Many Rheem students and parents use the Ascot Court "stairs" to enter or leave school. Although this area is not school-district property and is not supervised by school personnel (the "official" school entrance and exit is Laird Drive), we understand that the Ascot Drive stairs are conveniently located for access to Roadrunner Club.

However, both the Rheem School Office and the Moraga Police Department have received many complaints from our neighbors on Ascot Drive regarding parking and traffic issues resulting from this access area. Please be advised that police department will give citations for speeding and/or illegal parking (double-parking, parking in private driveways, etc.) on Ascot Drive.

Please be aware that supervision is provided both before and after school at the loading zones at the top of Laird Drive. Although parking is tight, it is more readily available along Laird Drive than on Ascot. Further, systems are in place to bring students to the office if parents are running late at pick up time. For everyone's safety, families are encouraged to use the Laird Drive entrance and exit to school.

Let's all continue to be good neighbors who follow all safety and traffic guidelines.

Did You Know?

Attendance Counts (and Costs)

Did you know that the Moraga School District only receives funding for students that are "in their seats," regardless of the reason for their absence? That's right, the state does not distinguish between "excused" and "unexcused" absences for revenue purposes. However, parents can help mitigate the loss of funding by choosing to complete an Independent Study or providing an Attendance Reimbursement (see below).

Independent Study

An "Independent Study" can be developed for a student who will be absent a **minimum of five days** to a maximum of eight weeks. Independent Study forms can be obtained by the child's teacher or in the front office and require the signature of the teacher, parent, and principal. The district receives attendance reimbursement for successfully completed Independent Studies.

Attendance Reimbursement

Some parents choose to reimburse the district for revenue lost due to unexcused absences. For the 2016-17 school year, the average daily attendance (ADA) rate is **\$40.02**. A check payable to the Moraga School District can be sent directly to the school to cover the cost of lost revenue due to extended family vacations or "extra" holidays.

Safety First!

Parking, Sidewalks, and Crosswalks...

Rheem's **parking lots** are reserved for staff during school hours and/or volunteers/visitors who are on campus for an extended period of time. ***Parking lots are not for drop-off or pick up of students.***

Parents and children are to stay on the **sidewalks and within crosswalk lines** when walking to and from school. ***Do not walk through the parking lots or across the bus circle.***

To get more than 400 students to and from school safely, Rheem relies on all families understanding and following procedures. Thank you for your cooperation!

Rheem Site Council Wants YOU!

Parent Member Needed to Complete 2016-2017 Committee

The purpose of Rheem School's Site Council (SSC) is to develop, support, and monitor our school goals. In recent years, the council's work has focused on supporting the district's Strategic Plan by developing and monitoring actions steps to implement the Common Core standards and the Writers' Workshop program. Last year, specific goals were established in Mathematics and Language Arts based on CAASPP data. Traditionally, our council also develops a "School Climate" goal to promote and maintain a positive learning environment for all students.

According to Site Council by-laws, the council must consist of equal representation from the faculty and the parent community. **Currently, there are THREE open positions for parent representation on the council.** The SSC meets approximately six times throughout the school year, after school on Tuesdays. Our next meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, October 4, beginning at 3:15 in Room 19.** If interested in this worthwhile volunteer opportunity, please contact Principal Elaine Frank (376-4441) for more information, or simply come to the meeting to find out what it's all about!

Along with Principal Frank, the current staff members on the SSC are teachers Sekai Greer, Amanda Lorie, Angie Guidi, and Virginia Drury. Parent members are Kim Pertel and Jill Austin.

The Last Word...

Every once in a while, I come across irrefutable evidence that our children have much to teach us. That's certainly what I felt this week when I heard of the 6-year old boy that wrote President Obama about his concern for the 5-year-old Syrian ["boy in the ambulance."](#) Day after day, if we have ears to hear, we will notice that our young children's first response to pain and unfairness is often one of compassion and support. Please take a moment (just one and 1/2 minutes) to be inspired by the words of one such little boy. Click [HERE](#) to watch the video of this simple, yet powerful gesture from one boy to another. Then, let's all commit to listening for the simple answers our children give us.

I love this school!

Ms. Frank, Principal