

RHEEMARKS

"Frank"ly Speaking...

September 5, 2016

Special thanks to all Rheem Team families for attending **Back-to-School Night** last Thursday. Hopefully, parents gained important insights about the goals and procedures of the school and your children's classrooms. We look forward to your continued involvement and open communication throughout the school year.

This Week at Rheem:

Monday, Sept. 5: Labor Day Holiday

Tuesday, Sept. 6:

- PICTURE DAY! Smile!
- Hot Lunch Change Period starts

Thurs., Sept. 8:

- Parent Volunteer Presentation, 8:30 – 9:30 a.m. in the Multi-Use Room

Friday, Sept. 9:

- Early/Late placement assignments will be sent home in the backpacks with all K – 2nd graders.

School News and Highlights!

Attention Volunteers! This Thursday's Parent Volunteer Presentation is especially designed for Kindergarten parents; however, parents of new students at any grade level, or parents who would simply like a refresher on how to make the volunteer experience as rewarding as possible, are encouraged to attend. Kindergarten teacher Bess Inzeo, parent Becky Maher, and Principal Frank will be there to present information. Remember, *if you are new to Rheem or did not complete the Volunteer Clearance Process in prior years*, please make sure you do. Click [HERE](#) for instructions.

5th Grade Student Leadership Team Elected: This year, Rheem School has a record number of elected 5th grade students (41!) serving on the Student Leadership Council. Members of Student Leadership will participate in rotating duties such as school recycling, delivering messages, managing recess equipment, changing the marquee sign, raising and lowering of the flag, planning Spirit Days, and approving fund-raising activities and expenditures. 5th grade teacher, Ms. Cavallero, supervises the Student Council, with accounting assistance from Ms. Fitzinger. The Student Leadership Team holds frequent meetings and consists of the following student members:

From Ms. Gubser's class: Will B., Nolan C., Calista E., Noah H., Alexis L., Vivi M., Audrey S., Drew W.

From Ms. Cavallero's class: Cale A., Parker B., Nino C., Nicolò D., Katie F., Michael L., Ali M., Christina M., Caroline O., Mateo P., Matthew R., Emily S., Ben T., Alex T.

From Mr. Greer's class: Darius A., Callen B., Samantha D., Charlotte E., Grace G., Madison G., Nate H., Gavin J., Maureen K., Andy M., Daisy P., Max P., Jake R., Jason R., Rylan S., Pinkie S., Kadin T., Serge V., Whitney W.

Friday Freeze is Back! Students may purchase a frozen treat during lunch recess on Fridays. Juice bars, yoghurt push-ups, and ice cream sandwiches all meet the Nutritional Guidelines required by Ed Code. Friday Freeze treats sell for just \$1.00 each, and all proceeds support the Student Leadership Fund.

Did You Know? *A weekly feature highlighting Rheem rules and/or procedures*

Rheem Dress Code: Please remember to use good judgment when choosing appropriate clothes for your child to wear to school. Students' clothing should be safe for themselves and for the children around them. Therefore, the following guidelines should be considered:

- Casual, loose clothing that allows children to move and play comfortably is recommended.
- Shoes should be safe and appropriate for recess and PE. Close-toed shoes are best for school and are required for "PE days." Flip-flops, shoes without a heel strap, boots, "wheelies," dress shoes or shoes with high heels are not safe.
- Clothing which displays vulgar language or symbols or promotes drugs, alcohol or other inappropriate or illegal messages are not permitted.
- Bracelets and other dangling jewelry can tangle in play equipment and cause injury.

Before your child walks out the door, please make sure he/she is wearing appropriate clothing for an elementary school. Students may be sent home to change clothing if their attire is inappropriate or disruptive to the educational setting.

Party Invitations: Parents and students are not allowed to bring party invitations to school and/or distribute them through the backpacks. This rule not only protects the feelings of students not invited to parties, but also insures that our office and communication systems are used exclusively for educational purposes. Also, the office cannot provide student's addresses or phone numbers to parents or students. Each year, a directory may be purchased through the PTA with this information.

News from the Computer Lab *submitted by Jennifer Johnson, Rheem's new computer teacher*

This past week I have had the pleasure of meeting your children in the computer lab for their weekly lesson. I am the new technology coordinator at Rheem, replacing Mrs. O'Connell who is now teaching first grade. I am familiar with both the position and the school: I formerly worked at Camino Pablo as the technology coordinator, and have two boys who graduated from Rheem and now attend Joaquin Moraga Middle School. I have some exciting plans for this year that emphasize using technology for creativity, education, and of course, fun. If you ever want to check in on what we are learning, you can visit the [Rheem Tech Lab Website](#).

I will continue stressing the importance of proper ergonomic typing skills during lab time for grades 2nd-5th. However, practicing keyboarding only for a short time each week during school will not cultivate good technique.

Students will bring home a letter this week that contains a website and login information for them to practice typing at home. As a parent, the most important thing you can do is to encourage them to practice for 10 to 15 minute sessions, around three times a week. Speed is not important, but proper hand position and 'eyes up' should be supported. Students who complete 5 lessons with 5 stars will receive a hand token for their efforts (5 fingers for 5 stars in 5 lessons). If you have any questions, please feel free to email me any time. I am looking forward to the year!

Hello from Roadrunner Club! *submitted by Eleanor Persons, RR Club Supervisor*

Our second week of school is already over; things are starting to settle down into a routine. We are experiencing a staffing shortage so we are only accepting a limited amount of drop-ins every day. We are hoping that once our Saint Mary's and DVC students are back at school our staffing issue will ease up. If you are interested in applying for a part time position (am or pm) at Roadrunner Club, please contact Eleanor Persons at [925-376-3012](tel:925-376-3012).

The early/late schedule for K – 2nd graders begins Monday September 12th. The school office gives us your child's information, and we will make the changes automatically for you. Please feel free to call us with any questions at any time

The Last Word...

Last Thursday, at Back-to-School Night, I presented two ½ hour talks, simply entitled "**Big Ideas at Rheem.**" I did not review test scores; nor did I present the newest curriculum or discuss teaching methodology. Instead, I focused on what I consider to be the foundation of a positive educational experience: **creating a learning environment in which kids feel safe and happy.**

The presentation touched on several tools, programs, and even "mantras" we use at Rheem to support this goal. "**We're All in This Together**" is the first reminder that school staff, parents, all bring unique personalities and experiences to the Rheem Team. Therefore, empathy, compassion, and the willingness to slow down enough to understand different perspectives are paramount to successful working (and learning!) relationships.

We also discussed the power of developing a **Growth Mindset**, the brain research supporting **Mindfulness** practices in the classrooms, the tools presented through **Soul Shoppe assemblies** throughout the year, and even the job of a student who does not get his/her gold slip picked at a **Spirit Assembly!** Finally, we wrapped up the evening with the notion that it makes good sense to reduce, not increase, stressful home situations; therefore, **homework** should also include time for **PDF: Playtime, Downtime, and Family time.**

Several parents asked for a copy of the presentation, so I've posted it on the website, and you can access it by clicking [HERE](#). Although, the PowerPoint lacks a narrative, the visuals are meant to be thought-provoking, and you might enjoy seeing what your children already know about these messages.

Oh, and one more Big Idea: **Communication!** Remember, we're all in this together, so let us know how we can best support your child and your family.

I love this school!

Ms. Frank, Rheem Principal