

RHEEMARKS: October 24th

Dear Rheem Team Families,

There are several important announcements and guidance in today's Rheemarks, with conferences happening throughout the week and the Halloween Parade taking place on Friday (updated guidance allows for families to attend the parade in person). Please dive in to read more.

This Week at Rheem:

Monday, October 25:

- Minimum Day: All students 8:25-11:45
- Parent/Teacher Conferences

Tuesday, October 26:

- Minimum Day: All students 8:25-11:45
- Parent/Teacher Conferences

Wednesday, October 27:

- Wednesday Schedule (All K-5th grade students 8:25 – 1:50)
- Lunchtime Garden Club hosted by Ms. Inzeo (during recess)

Thursday, October 28:

- Minimum Day: All students 8:25-11:45
- Parent/Teacher Conferences

Friday, October 29:

- Halloween Parade on the blacktop from 8:45 – 9:25
- Minimum Day: All students 8:25-11:45
- Parent/Teacher Conferences

Monday, November 1:

- NO SCHOOL: PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY

School News and Highlights

Fun(d) Run: Last Wednesday's Fun(d) Run was a huge success! Students and staff alike were making their way around the make-shift course on the blacktop (we needed to be flexible in where we set the course this year, as the first rain of the season came in overnight and soaked the field). A big

shout out to Ms. McMullen for helping to organize this year's schedule and the course, and for all of our volunteers helping to pin bibs on student shirts, supervise the track, and support all of our runners. A special kudos to the amazing trio of Krissy Ward, Lauren Chiang, and Meredith Henning. They were the co-chairs for this year's run, and it could not have gone any better thanks to their planning and, more importantly, their care in making it memorable for all those who participated.

New Benches at Rheem: If you have not been on campus lately or driven through the bus loop, you may not be aware of the 24 new benches installed under the overhang connecting the office and multi-use room. Rheem's PTA purchased these benches to provide seating for students during outdoor lunch, and they look amazing. Like the aforementioned Fun(d) Run, these benches would not be in place today without the help of many important volunteers, including Ms. Akbarzadeh (Melody's mom), Mr. Aguillon (Anya and Ander's dad), Mr. Sedighi (Nick's dad), Mr. Rosiak (Justin's dad), Mr. and Mrs. Ginestro (Sadie and Anna's parents), Mr. Ivarson and sons Alex and Erik, and last but not least Mr. and Mrs. Strohmyer. This week is another reminder of why we consider ourselves the Rheem Team.

Halloween Parade: This Friday from 8:45 – 9:25 on the main blacktop.

Conference Week at Rheem

This next week is Parent Conference Week! I hope you have your "[Rheem Team Family Challenge](#)" posted prominently to help you keep track of the different schedules each day. Please note that Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday will be shortened minimum days with an 11:45 dismissal for all students. Wednesday will follow the regular schedule, but remember; Wednesday is always an early dismissal day at 1:50 for everyone.

Make sure you review the "[Tips for a Successful Parent Conference](#)" so that you can make the most of this important meeting. We hope that we can make this the most successful year possible for every student by working together.

Halloween Reminders at Rheem

We will hold our annual Rheem Team Halloween parade on Friday, October 29. The parade is now available for parents to attend in person. Children should arrive at school in costume. Here are a few reminders for the parade:

- Make sure that costumes are K-5th grade school appropriate.
- No weapons.
- No scary or gory masks or costumes.
- Friday, Oct. 29, is a conference minimum day. The schedule is 8:25-11:45 for K-5.
- Monday, Nov. 1, is a professional development day for teachers. No school for students.

Halloween Costumes: Halloween should be fun for EVERY student. Here is a powerful communication about costumes taken from Rosa Parks Elementary School:

“Is The Costume Racially, Ethnically, or Culturally Based? If so, it’s probably going to make people from those racial/cultural/ethnic groups feel unsafe and/or disrespected. If you’re not sure, the manufacturers and names of the costume usually make it very clear:

- Arab Costume
- Hey Amigo Costume
- Oriental Disguise
- Afro Wig
- Native American Child Costume
- Geisha Girl/Oriental Girl
- Rastafarian Wig
- Asian wig/Oriental top-knot/braid

If your child wants to dress up as a particular person or character from a story or movie, who is not their same ethnicity/race/cultural group, think about how your child can do that without things like "ethnic" wigs, face/skin paint, or trying to change the eye-shape, but with the use of obvious props and costumes to capture the spirit of that character or person.

Further Questions to ask:

- What is the purpose of choosing to dress up as another culture, ethnicity, or race?
- What message is getting sent?
- What is the intention of wearing the costume?
- What do you think the impact might be on people who belong to the

Ethnic/Racial/Cultural group of that chosen costume?

Does Your Child Belong to That Group of People? If the answer is no, please reflect on what it means to borrow someone else's culture or race for a day-- because for many people, it's not just a costume; it's their everyday lives. Even if your child is part of the group of people the outfit is intended to represent, it is helpful to ask if the costume is perpetuating a negative stereotype or not.

If The Costume Is Meant to Be Funny, Why Is It Funny? If the costume is meant to be funny because it makes light of an ethnic or racial group, then it is most likely a caricature and inappropriate.

How Would You Feel If Your Child Wore That Costume Around That Group of People? If a Japanese family were to welcome your family into their home, would you want your child to wear a Geisha Costume? What about wearing a Hey Amigo Costume around a Latino family? An Indian

Child Costume around a Native American family? If the answer is no on any given day, then Halloween is no exception.

Mark your November Calendar:

November has several days where students have no school. Here are some important dates to mark on your calendar:

- November 1: Staff Development Day (No Students)
- November 11 & 12: Veteran's Day
- November 22 – 26: Thanksgiving Break

The Last Word...

Traditions have always been such a big part of Rheem School. Whether it's spirit assemblies or PTA-sponsored family events, Rheem has a way of coming together to celebrate one another. With updated guidance from the county health department, this year's Halloween Parade will be available to families who would like to watch in person. The parade will begin promptly at 8:45 and last till 9:25. To attend the parade this year, we ask that you wear a mask and be mindful of the spectator areas. Since it is a minimum day and we are a little pressed for time, we ask that families make their way off campus so classes can have their parties and recesses available to them when the parade ends.

I hope this updated guidance is the sign of things to come with more opportunities for us to return to normal, but for now, I look forward to seeing you and your children at the Halloween Parade.

There's no place like Rheem!

Mr. Sullivan