

## **RHEEMARKS: October 31st - HALLOWEEN EDITION**

Dear Rheem Team Families,

This year's Halloween parade began with our teachers taking center stage. Students and parents were treated to a Parade of Characters "Across the Decades" (otherwise known as Rheem teachers and staff) as they circled the parade route to "Get Ready for This." Then, the music shifted to more traditional Halloween classics as each grade level, dressed as silly, super, and spooky characters of all shapes and sizes, paraded as the crowd cheered. It was great to have families back on campus providing so much energy and excitement. It was a great show of Rheem Team spirit!

Highlights included the students and families singing the "Rheem Team Song," the traditional 5th-grade "Ghostbusters" dance, and the presentation of the Roadrunner to Mr. Thomson's 2nd-grade class and Mr. Greer's 5th-grade class for running the most laps at the recent FUN(d) run. The entire Rheem Team was in full effect!!

For this week's Rheemarks, it will be short and straight to the point, as you will have some candy to hand out and children to chaperone in the coming hours.

***REMINDER: No school tomorrow for students. It is a professional development day for teachers and staff.***

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

#### Monday, November 1:

- NO SCHOOL: PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY

#### Tuesday, November 2:

- Lunchtime Dance Club hosted by Ms. Seli (during recess)

#### Wednesday, November 3:

- Wednesday Schedule (All K-5th grade students 8:25 – 1:50)
- Lunchtime Garden Club hosted by Ms. Inzeo (during recess)
- Rheem Store open for students
- Coordinating Council Meeting 3:30-5:00 at JM Library

#### Thursday, November 4:

- Earthquake Preparedness Drill

#### Friday, November 5:

- Regularly scheduled Friday

### **School News and Highlights**

**Halloween Parade:** It was great to see so many families at last Friday's Halloween Parade. Students and staff were excited to show off their costumes on the parade route, and the crowd brought the energy to make it a special day. Thank you for all you do to support your children!

### **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

### **Did you Know?**

#### **Professional Development**

Moraga School District teachers and staff take part in many professional development opportunities each year. Some of our more recent PD and training involve TCI (Teachers Curriculum Institute) social studies adoption, Math Genius training by Shannon Kiebler, Social Justice Standards, and more.

On Monday, November 1, Rheem staff will participate in another Professional Development Day in conjunction with our work around connecting the curriculum to social justice standards. This training is in line with many of the other social and emotional pieces of training we have done in the past, with a pointed emphasis on creating culturally sensitive lessons and supporting the needs of all students.

I look forward to another informative and collaborative professional development experience where staff and I will have a chance to learn and grow to better support each of Rheem's students.

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

I made mention of the district and staff's commitment to professional development and growing as educators. A couple of years ago, I traveled to a Literacy and Leadership Training at Teachers College In New York City. The three-day training brought together 200+ school and district leaders from across the country to help train and support them in their work with Readers and Writers Workshop. (Moraga SD uses the readers and writer workshop model for its literacy curriculum).

I felt the training was exceptional and found myself growing more inspired with each seminar. There were 17 seminars I was able to attend (along with one visit to observe an elementary school doing the same work as Rheem). I took away dozens of helpful suggestions regarding strategies and best practices to support readers and writers' curriculum. Below are just a handful of things I took away as a principal and parent:

- Never underestimate what kids can do in reading and writing.
- To accelerate people's learning, it takes good feedback.
- Create a learning life for yourself.
- Our work as educators (and parents) is to build independence for all students. Students need to be taught skills and strategies to allow them to become as independent as possible.
- Anxiety and perception are inversely correlated.

- 85% of high school seniors surveyed said they did not plan on reading for enjoyment when they were done with their schooling. We need to put books in kids' hands that they enjoy reading at all ages.
- Always validate someone's writing no matter how well their piece is coming along – a writer's growth comes from the work they have done and their willingness to continue.

I have found that when we create a learning life for ourselves, we open our minds to new ways of thinking. Whether as a principal, teacher, parent, or student, it is essential to remember that each day is an opportunity to learn from yesterday's experiences and make the most of today's opportunities.

**There's no place like Rheem!**

Mr. Sullivan