

RHEEMARKS: March 13th

Good Evening Rheem Team Families,

It seems the older I get, the more that one hour of lost time knocks me for a loop, but just like the old saying goes, “There’s no rest for the weary.” This week has a lot going on at Rheem, with the Rheem Store and a PTA Association meeting on Wednesday, an emergency drill on Thursday, and a Staff Development day on Friday. ***Please remember there is no school for students this Friday.***

And lastly, this Monday marks a new chapter in how we go about our lives in the pandemic. With the lifting of mask mandates in the classroom, families will have the opportunity to decide if their student(s) will continue to wear a mask or not when they are at school. Dr. Parks messaged families on Monday, and I did as well on Thursday, letting everyone know of the updated guidelines and how we will continue to follow the health department's recommendations to provide a safe, healthy environment for all students and staff.

Here are the rest of this week’s Rheemarks.

This Week at Rheem:

Monday, March 14:

- 10-minute assembly
 - 3rd – 5th grades 8:25-8:35
 - K – 2nd grades 9:35 – 9:45

Tuesday, March 15:

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

Wednesday, March 16:

- Rheem Store
- Lunchtime Garden Club hosted by Ms. Inzeo (during recess)
- PTA Association Meeting 8:45-10:15

Thursday, March 17:

- Abridged Family Reunification Drill (see below for more details)

Friday, March 18:

- Professional Development Day: NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS

School News and Highlights

Governing Board visit: Last Wednesday, the Moraga School District Governing Board spent the morning at Rheem observing classes and speaking with students and staff. This yearly tradition is a highlight for the Governing Board and us here at Rheem. A big thank you to Board President Richard, Severy, Vice President Larry Jacobs, and Board Members Janelle Chng, Heather David, and Jon Nickens for all they do to support the needs of all our stakeholders.

Report Cards went home Friday: This past Friday, 2nd-trimester report cards went home in your student's backpack. After giving it a read and going over it with your student, please be sure to sign the envelope and return it to your classroom teacher.

Safety First

At Rheem, we practice safety regularly with our emergency preparedness drills (i.e., Fire Drill, Earthquake Drill, Shelter in Place Drill, etc.) This coming Thursday, March 17th, we will be practicing a Shelter in Place Drill followed by an abbreviated Family Reunification Drill. The drills will occur before early release for our K – 2nd-grade students. If you are interested in more information regarding the Family Reunification portion of the drill, please email me at bsullivan@moraga.k12.ca.us, and I will provide you with more details.

School Climate Survey Results

Over the next several weeks, I will include results from the 2021-22 Climate Survey sent out earlier this month. I'll also be re-posting information in our "Did you know" section of Rheemarks to help better explain school policies and practices. 246 families responded as follows:

75% of respondents agreed with the statement, "The school has systems in place to correct inappropriate behavior that includes opportunities to learn from consequences."

Actual breakdown:

- 34.4% strongly agree
- 40.9% agree
- 6.1% disagree
- 3.2% strongly disagree
- 15.4% didn't know.

Did you know?

Support and Consequences for Inappropriate Behavior

Two weeks ago, I shared how teaching and reteaching clear and consistent behavior expectations are essential for students to access all parts of the school experience. School-wide expectations help students understand expectations in all areas on campus. When students struggle, there are many levels of support to help the child practice the expected behavior. Just like in reading and math, some students need additional support and coaching for positive behavior.

To see Rheem's behavior flowchart, please click the following link: [Behavior Flowchart](#)

PTA Association Meeting this Wednesday

On-Campus from 8:45 – 10:00

Please be sure to join us this Wednesday, March 16, for our quarterly PTA Association meeting. It is a great opportunity to connect with other families, hear how Rheem's PTA supports students across the campus, and be a part of planning future events/programs. I look forward to seeing you there.

Please stop by the office and sign in with your driver's license prior to attending the meeting.

Rheem's Fourth Annual Variety Show

Friday, April 29th in Frank Hall

Rheem's fabulous Variety Show is rapidly approaching! Entry Forms are due Wednesday, March 30th, and Auditions are Wednesday, April 13th. Informational fliers came home this week in your student's backpack but can also be found on the Rheem school website

<https://dres-msd-ca.schoolloop.com/varietyshow>

We look forward to another incredible show!

If you are interested in volunteering, don't hesitate to contact Courtney Pickering at cwpickering@gmail.com or Jill Balazs at jillbalazs@gmail.com.

The Last Word...

When's the last time your child asked you a really tough question? I read an article a while ago by Cory Turner and Anya Kamenetz called "[When Kids Ask \(Really\) Tough Questions: A Quick Guide.](#)" It is an easy read that highlights five strategies to address challenging questions.

1) When you get a tough question, listen for what the child is *really* asking.

- Don't rush to answer.
- Ask for clarification; you'll be surprised to find out often times your answer may be to the wrong question.

2) Give them facts, but at a pace, they can manage.

- Children process information a little bit at a time.
- Be prepared to revisit the topic.
- A young child can move on fairly quickly from heavy topics.

3) "That's a great question. Let's find out more together."

- Parents don't have to give the perfect answer in the moment.

- In the event you don't like the answer you may have given, this is a great way to revisit a challenging topic and ask for a do-over.

4) Reassure them that they are safe and loved.

- In the event they are showing anxiety around school safety, talk to them about everything the adults in their lives are doing to keep them safe.
- In the event of a divorce, children need to hear that both parents will always love them and the divorce is not their fault.
- In the event of a death of a loved one, children need to know that many people in their lives love them, and they will always be cared for.

5) Take care of yourself, and don't be afraid to share your emotions.

- Adults need to have their own support system to help deal with hard times.
- It's ok to show/share your emotions with children (just be sure to let them know why you may be crying, "I'm sad because I miss Grandma.").
- It is beneficial for a child's emotional functioning for a parent to show their emotions and label them appropriately.

I hope these strategies help in the event you see the need. I know it can be awkward or anxiety-provoking to answer tough questions, but I leave you with this father/son exchange about making sure you're answering the right question from your child.

A little boy asks, "Dad, where does poo come from?"

"Well, son," his dad says, "food passes down the esophagus by peristalsis. It enters the stomach, where digestive enzymes induce a probiotic reaction in the alimentary canal. This contracts the protein before waste enters the colon. Water is absorbed, whereupon it enters the rectum finally to emerge as poo."

"Wow," the boy says. "So, where does Tigger come from?"

There is no place like Rheem,

Mr. Sullivan