

RHEEMARKS: September 19th

Dear Rheem Team Families,

We have another busy week on tap at Rheem with the Sandy Hook Promise “Start with Hello” program taking place, the dance and garden clubs available, the Rheem store open for students to redeem all those Rheem Bucks burning a hole in their pockets, and the PTA parent social Tuesday night. The only thing busier than this week at Rheem is the rest of this week’s Rheemarks, so please dive right in.

This Week at Rheem:

Monday, September 20:

- · Sandy Hook Promise: Start with Hello Week Begins
- · Regularly scheduled Monday

Tuesday, September 21:

- · Start with Hello: “Promise 2 Reach Out and Help”
- · Lunchtime Dance Club hosted by Ms. Seli (during recess)
- · PTA Parent Social at Canyon Club (5:00-7:00)

Wednesday, September 22:

- · Wednesday Schedule
- o 8:25 – 1:50 (All K-5th grade students)
- · Start with Hello: “Promise 2 Connect”
- · Rheem Store Open
- · Lunchtime Garden Club hosted by Ms. Inzeo (during recess)

Thursday, September 23:

- · Start with Hello: “Promise 2 Be Kind”
- · Regularly scheduled Thursday

Friday, September 24:

- · Start with Hello: “Promise 2 Embrace Diversity”
- · Regularly scheduled Friday

Start with Hello

This week, September 20-24, schools throughout the Moraga School District will participate in the [Sandy Hook Promise's](#) "Start with Hello" program.

This is the fourth year Rheem is participating. Our goal is to eliminate chronic social isolation and create a culture of inclusion and connectedness within the classroom, school, and town of Moraga.

I encourage you to talk with your student about the *Start with Hello* program and ask them to share what they have learned. That will help you learn how to support your child in identifying social isolation, reach out and connect. It also demonstrates to your child that you can support them in their actions to create a more connected and inclusive home, school, and community.

Monday: Promise 2 Start with Hello!

How to practice gratitude

Tuesday: Promise 2 Reach Out and Help!

How to identify when someone needs help

Wednesday: Promise 2 Connect!

How to start a conversation that needs help

Thursday: Promise 2 Be Kind!

How to spread kindness

Friday: Promise 2 Embrace Diversity!

How to be inclusive with everyone

A special thank you to school counselors [Bess Inzeo](#) and Marianne Seli for their work on this and their unwavering commitment to supporting each Rheem student's social and emotional growth.

Family/Teacher Conferences

Parent/teacher conferences are still several weeks away (October 25-29), but I wanted to update everyone on how conferences will be held this year. Teachers and families will

have the opportunity to meet in person or virtually. Teachers will be sending out their sign-up forms and sharing the particulars of the days and times available with you. They may even share with you their preference for conferences this year (i.e., in person or online). I ask that you be flexible and open to their preferred choice.

In the event you are to participate in an in-person conference, we ask you to adhere to the following:

- You are fully vaccinated
- If you are feeling any COVID-19 symptoms, stay home and reschedule your conference
- Sign in at the office before entering campus (please be sure to bring your driver's license for our Raptor Safety System login and provide proof of vaccination)

Thank you, and please do not hesitate to contact me (bsullivan@moraga.k12.ca.us) if you have any questions.

Did you Know?

Rheem Has a Lost and Found

Has your student lost a water bottle or jacket in the first month and a half of school? Be sure to swing by the lost and found racks set up just outside the office. Items left in the lunch areas or on the playground are collected and brought to the racks daily. Students and families are welcome to peruse the racks in search of stray items.

Unclaimed items will be donated to charity near the end of the first trimester.

Parent Member Needed to Complete 2021-22 Committee

Rheem School's Site Council (SSC) aims to develop, support, and monitor our school goals. In recent years, the council's work has supported the district's Strategic Plan by developing and monitoring action steps to implement the Common Core standards and the Writers' Workshop program. Due to the pandemic last year, Site Council was put on hold, but we are back again to create specific curriculum goals in math and language arts. Traditionally, our council also develops a "School Climate" goal to promote and maintain a positive learning environment for all students.

According to Site Council bylaws, the council must have equal representation from the faculty and the parent community. Currently, there is an open position for parent representation on the council. The SSC meets approximately five times throughout the school year, after school on Tuesdays. Our next meeting is scheduled virtually for Tuesday, October 12, beginning at 3:20. If interested in this worthwhile volunteer opportunity, don't hesitate to contact me for more information.

Reminder: Annual Rheem Parent Social – Hosted by Rheem's PTA

Save the date: September 21 from 5:00-7:00 @ the Canyon Club

Please join us for a festive kick-off to the school year at the Canyon Club on Tuesday, September 21, from 5:00–7:00 pm. Tickets are \$25 per person and include two drink tickets, unlimited appetizers, and the opportunity to connect with other Rheem parents, staff, the PTA, and Mr. Sullivan. There will be games and raffle prizes too! Purchase tickets [HERE](#).

The Last Word...

Part of the Moraga School District's mission statement speaks to the importance of every student feeling like they belong. When it comes to social-emotional wellbeing, I'm not sure there is anything more important than this sense of belonging. Children who feel like they belong are more connected to school and their peers. This week, students will have plenty of opportunities to feel connected to school and each other. All of the activities with "Start with Hello" are geared to build togetherness and self-worth. From practicing gratitude and kindness to learning how to identify when people need help and how to give it, Rheem will be a beacon of connectivity this week.

There will also be an opportunity for parents to come together and feel connected this Tuesday evening from 5:00-7:00 on the patio of the Canyon Club. I guess you could say, what's good for the goose, is good for the gander.

A couple of years ago, Rheem parent Sarah Thayer (Grady and Owen's mom), shared an article about the importance of family friends and how committed friends can fill the role of family, especially when relatives are scarce. (Click [HERE](#) or [HERE](#) to read the article). As I read the article, I thought about the people I've befriended over the past twelve years.

The interesting thing about these friends is that almost everyone has one thing in common...our children are of the same age.

What better way to connect with other families in our school community than for the adults to hang out together with the kids safe at home. I hope to see you there

There's no place like Rheem!

Mr. Sullivan