

January 10, 2021

Good Evening Rheem Team Families,

I hope the first week back in the virtual classroom was seamless, and your student was excited to see their teacher and friends. This week there are a few evening events to mark your calendar as well as daily opportunities for students to participate in some district wide clubs hosted by the MSD counseling and support team (info below)

Please dive in to the rest of this week's Rheemarks.

This Week at Rheem:

Monday, January 11th:

- Art & Kindness Club: ([Zoom Link](#))
- Cultural Proficiency Meeting (3:30-5:00 [Zoom Link](#))

Tuesday, January 12th:

- MSD Governing Board Meeting (6:00-9:00PM)
- Kids on the Run Club 12:30-1:00 ([Zoom link](#))

Wednesday, January 13th:

- Parent Education: Dr. Lori Watson 6:30-8:00 ([Zoom link](#))
- Storytime Club: 12:30-1:00 ([Zoom Link](#))

Thursday, January 14th:

- Keep Calm & Dance On Club 12:30-1:00 ([Zoom link](#))

Friday, January 15th:

- Fun Fridays Club 12:30-1:00 ([Zoom Link](#))

Parent Education/Community Event:

Dr. Lori Watson leads this empowering series, sponsored by the MSD and MEF.

This Wednesday at 6:30pm part two of the series *MYSELF...MY STORY*-Racial narratives and personalizing race. Participants will engage in a personal reflection about how race has impacted and continues to impact their lives. *BELIEFS/CONSCIOUSNESS* -

Conditioning. How do racial narratives get constructed and what role does consciousness play in disrupting those false narratives and how to seek out counter-narratives.

Click [HERE](#) for the Zoom link to this Wednesday's 6:30pm meeting.

Rheem Students/Families Hit the Mark with Rheem Cares

Rheem families and students once again showed their generosity by donating hundreds of holiday gifts and gift cards that were distributed to mothers and children at the Berkeley Women's Daytime Drop-In Center. Below is a note from Rheem 2nd grade teacher Ms. Guidi who has spearheaded this program for many years.

*Thank you **SO** much for the generous donations to support the mothers and children at the Berkeley Women's Daytime Drop-In Center! Your generosity, kindness, caring, love, and compassion were evident in the abundance of gifts and gift cards we received! Thank you, thank you, thank you for supporting this worthwhile organization each and every year. May your new year be filled with love, joy, and good health!*

Rheem's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Group (DEIG)

A big thank you to Anjuli Cargain, Bree Sanchez, Alicia Harper and Jeff Fry for their work in establishing Rheem's DEIG. Our first meeting this past Thursday was a success, as we learned of the groups mission and purpose to promote and practice an appreciation of the diversity within our school community and larger society.

Please be sure to mark your calendar and join us for our next meeting on Thursday, February 4th at 7:30pm.

MSD Governing Board Meeting

This Tuesday at 6:00pm is the regular monthly Governing Board meeting. With agenda items including: budget planning and reduction discussion, introduction of new citizen bond oversight committee members, parcel tax committee report and more.

There are two options for people to participate in the meeting via Zoom:

Option 1: Join Zoom Webinar using a computer and enter

<https://zoom.us/j/98834748675?pwd=OTNLNGpVcnp5MXJxUjZLTEI5VU5sQT09>

Option 2: Call in using a normal telephone; dial 1 669 900 6833 US; Webinar ID: 988 3474 8675

The Last Word...

This past winter break, Rheem parent Aras Grakauskas (father of Rheem 4th grader Cole, and step-father of Rheem alum Karl Lesterhuis) died suddenly at his home in Moraga. Mr. Grakauskas leaves behind wife Eleanor, Cole and Karl as well as many other family and friends. It is heartbreaking to think of the pain the family is feeling at this time and the emptiness that comes with the loss of a loved one. Please take a moment to lift your thoughts and prayers for the Grakauskas Family.

A special thank you to Amy Yee for her help in supporting the family with a meal train as well as family friend Andie Nyquist for setting up a GoFundMe page for Eleanor and the kids. Amy's meal train has been filled up but if you are interested in contributing to the Grakauskas Family GoFund please look to use this link <https://gofund.me/c013f1bb>.

With all that is going on in these crazy times I hope and pray that in the coming weeks and months Eleanor, Cole and Karl will begin to feel a sense of peace.

There's no place like Rheem!

Mr. Sullivan