

January 12, 2020

Dear Rheem Team Families,

I hope everyone had a good first week back after break. The students and staff alike were excited to get back to work. It always amazes me how students and teachers alike hit the ground running after an extended break and get right back into the groove.

We have a busy week on tap at Rheem. Monday, we have the **Geo Bee** and Thursday's **Spirit Assembly** kicks off the **Read-a-thon**. Be sure to mark your calendars as there is no school **next** Monday, January 20th is a holiday.

This Week at Rheem:

Monday, January 13th:

- Geo Bee in the Frank from 9:00-10:00
- Vision Screening

Tuesday, January 14th:

- Mr. Greer's class on a field trip to Martinez Courthouse
- MSD School Board meeting 7:00-10:00 at JM Library

Wednesday, January 15th:

- Mrs. Drury's Class onsite field trip: Walk Through California

Thursday, January 16th:

- Read-a-thon Begins
- Read-a-thon kick off" Spirit Assembly
 - 9:00-9:45: 3rd – 5th grades
 - 10:00-10:45: K – 2nd grades
- Mrs. Gubser's class on a field trip to Martinez Courthouse

Friday, January 17th:

- Vision screening

Monday, January 20th:

- NO SCHOOL: Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

School News and Highlights

Geo Bee Contest Monday, January 14th: The Rheemarkable Ms. Frank will be back on stage at Rheem this Monday starting at 9:00 AM as the MC for this year's Geo Bee.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day: There is **NO SCHOOL** next Monday, January 20th. The holiday celebrates the life and accomplishments of Dr. King.

HELP NEEDED: Vision Screening Volunteers

As submitted by Rheem Secretary Erica Smith

Flying by the seat of our pants these days. Happy New Year!

We are in desperate need of a few volunteers to help with vision screenings, (tomorrow) Monday the 13th. Your responsibilities are to bring students from their classrooms to Room 28, and then return them when they're finished. It is quick and easy work and the time just flies. If you can help, please come to the office, now in room 1, and check in as usual. We will give you a schedule. Thank you for your time and please email me if you have any questions or need additional info. (bsullivan@moraga.k12.ca.us)

Please click [HERE](#) to add your name to the sign-up genius.

Attendance Counts – Rheem’s Mid-year Update

Last Friday, 1/10, was the half-way point in the school year. Below is the year over year attendance rates. Daily attendance, unexcused absences and tardies have slid from last year, so please be sure to do all you can to support your student’s attendance at school. Countless studies have shown attendance is the number one indicator of student growth and progress.

Thank you for all you do and I look forward to seeing you on time, and on Laird :)

	<u>2019-20</u>	<u>2018-19</u>	<u>2017-18</u>
Absences	97.5%	97.7%	97.5%
Truants/Unexcused absences	261	209	250
Tardies	550	501	633

Did you Know?

School Climate Survey Results

Over the next several weeks, I will be including results from the 2019-20 Climate Survey that was sent out in December, 2019. 167 Rheem families responded as follows:

95% respondents agreed with the statement “The school’s behavioral expectations are clear, consistent, and conducive to learning.”

Actual breakdown: 59% strongly agree; 37% agree; 3% disagree; 0.5% strongly disagree and 0.5% don’t know.

Math Night at Rheem – January 24th

Be sure to mark your calendars for Friday, January 24th, as Rheem's PTA is hosting a Family Math Night from 5:00-7:00 in the Frank. There will be fun math games and activities for all ages and grade levels. A special thank you to St. Mary's College professor Chris Jones, parent of 1st grader Owen, who not only put together the evening's activities but has even enlisted the help of several of his SMC students to help out with the games and fun. Thank you to Chris, and I look forward to seeing you and your families there.

PTA is in search of a handful of volunteers to help set up and take down the event. Please click [HERE](#) to sign up and find out more information.

Rheem's Read-a-thon Set to Kick-Off this Week

I'm happy to announce that Rheem's annual literacy program, the Read-a-Thon, is almost here! During the four weeks starting this Thursday, January 16th, students will read as much as they can while raising funds for school enrichment programs such as:

- Classroom Books and Resources
- Recess Equipment
- Schoolwide PBIS Incentives; Student Assemblies
- Field Trips
- School-wide Technology
- The Laird Drive Capital Improvement Project

As part of this program, we need your help to track your student's weekly reading time and solicit sponsorships in support of your reader. Please check your students folder this week for a parent timeline, reading log and other important details about the Read-A-Thon.

The Last Word...

I read an interesting article recently ([This Year, My Parenting Resolution Is To Do Less](#)) that discussed the importance of quality time vs. quantity of time when it comes to child rearing. The author suggests the best way to achieve more while parenting is by doing less and making the most of your time with your child(ren). A great quote from the article says, "Research shows that what kids want is not more time with their parents, but less-stressed parents." How many of us have been guilty of playing a game with our kids and then stop to check a work text or email on our phone? I know I'm guilty as charged. There is an expectation on today's parent to do more with your child and spend more time, but the article notes that today's parent spends more time with their children than parents in the 60s and 70s did.

So why do we have this intense belief we need to do more? Whatever the reason, the article recommends we don't get bogged down with the amount of time we are spending

but rather to engage our children in a happy and healthy manner when we are with them and that requires us to be less stressed. So, whatever your goals are for the new year, I recommend you put at the top a few for self-care and wellness. And when you are spending time with your children do your best to be present, happy and healthy.

There is no place like Rheem,

Mr. Sullivan