

January 27, 2019

Dear Rheem Team Families,

It's been an exciting first week on our Read-a-thon "Journey." All students are encouraged to keep reading, reading, and reading – in addition to logging all their reading hours online on Thursdays. Although 100% participation is our primary goal, students may also get sponsors to support and encourage their efforts. Monies raised help sponsor this year's PTA capital project of \$12,000 toward grade level libraries (\$2,000 per grade level). Read-a-thon Sponsor sheets are due this Thursday, January 31st along with Week 2 tally sheets. (Click [HERE](#) for access to more information on this year's Read-a-thon)

## **This Week at Rheem:**

### Monday, January 28th:

- Great Kindness Challenge begins "Accept the Challenge Day"
- Cultural Proficiency Committee meeting at LP from 3:30-5:00

### Tuesday, January 29th:

- Great Kindness Challenge "Be a Buddy Day"
- Moraga All School concert at JM's Gymnasium from 7:00-8:00 PM

### Wednesday, January 30th:

- Great Kindness Challenge "Hats off to Kindness Day"
- Spelling Bee in the Frank from 9:00am-10:00ish

### Thursday, January 31st:

- Great Kindness Challenge "High Fives and Hug Day"
- 3rd Graders take part in SUBS

### Friday, February 1st:

- Great Kindness Challenge "Team Kindness Day"
- Kindergarten and 1st Grade Field trip to St. Mary's Theater
- Science Fair Orientation for 3rd-5th graders in the Frank

**THANK YOU Read-a-thon Committee**

This year's Read-a-thon was made possible by the leadership of committee members Karen Jaworski, Zheni Nikolova and Jen Blau. Thank you for all your hard work and dedication to the Rheem Team.

## **Did you Know?**

Translation services are made available by the district for any family who requires them. In the event you feel the need to meet with a teacher or staff member and require a translator in your native language please reach out to Mrs. Fitzinger ([lfintzinger@moraga.k12.ca.us](mailto:lfintzinger@moraga.k12.ca.us)) or myself ([bsullivan@moraga.k12.ca.us](mailto:bsullivan@moraga.k12.ca.us)) and we will be sure to schedule one accordingly.

## **“Reading Takes You Places” Read-a-thon**

Please remember to enter your child's week two, (Thursday, January 24 - Wednesday, January 30), home reading **hours** by following these 3 simple steps:

Step 1: click this link

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSe9muoBhBBc\\_Ak\\_PpqhCFV8jQbAzlaWGrCnC\\_EyVAtjL0\\_CuA/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSe9muoBhBBc_Ak_PpqhCFV8jQbAzlaWGrCnC_EyVAtjL0_CuA/viewform)

Step 2: Select your child's teacher and hit NEXT

Step 3: Select your student and enter the **hours** (rounded to the nearest 15 minutes) they've read this week (Thurs Jan 24 - Wed Jan 30) hit SUBMIT

Read-a-Thon sponsor sheets are due this week (Thursday, January 31). Please turn in the sponsor sheet to your child's teacher or to the front office by Thursday.

Happy travels (reading :)

## **Science Fair Orientation this Week**

Rheem's 2019 Science Fair is on! The Science Fair is open to students in 3rd, 4th and 5th grade (participation optional). Young scientists will gather in

groups of up to three students from any combination of these grades and use the Scientific Method of Investigation to work on a safe, non-hazardous, hands-on project. Each group will create one report and poster board to present to fellow classmates, parents, and the rest of the school. The Science Fair Committee will be available to advise and guide our fearless young scientists along the way. Online applications can be submitted Feb 1-15 (link will be available starting Feb 1st). More info at the presentation this Friday in the MUR. Email [rheemsf@gmail.com](mailto:rheemsf@gmail.com) for more info.

## **School Climate Survey Results**

Over the next several weeks, I will be including results from the 2018-19 Climate Survey that was sent out in November, 2018. 168 Rheem families responded as follows:

86% respondents agreed with the statement “The school has systems in place to correct inappropriate behavior that include opportunities to learn from consequences.”

Actual breakdown: 42% strongly agree; 44% agree; 2% disagree; 2% strongly disagree and 10% didn't know.

## **iKind Movie Presentation – *Wednesday, January 30th***

"**The Mask You Live In**" will be shown this Wednesday at 7:00 PM in the JM Auditorium. This youth version of the film is appropriate for Middle School Students (Age 13+). Parents, students and all community members are invited to attend. The movie will be followed by a Student Discussion Panel.

About the film: *The Mask You Live In* follows boys and young men as they struggle to stay true to themselves while negotiating America's narrow definition of masculinity. Pressured by the media, their peer group, and even the adults in their lives, our protagonists confront messages encouraging them to disconnect from their emotions, devalue authentic friendships, objectify and degrade women, and resolve conflicts through violence. These gender stereotypes interconnect with race, class, and circumstance, creating a maze of identity issues boys and young men must navigate to become “real” men.

Experts in neuroscience, psychology, sociology, sports, education, and media also weigh in, offering empirical evidence of the “boy crisis” and tactics to combat it. *The Mask You Live In* ultimately illustrates how we, as a society, can raise a healthier generation of boys and young men.

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

Have you sat with your child during math homework and tried to explain to them how they can solve a problem? Maybe you used an old trick you learned in the 90’s (or if you’re my age the 70’s and 80’s). There is a certain sense of satisfaction that comes with helping a child understand something they didn’t quite get before. Just this week, I was asked by my son to help him with a math problem. As we sat down and figured it out together that same sense of satisfaction came over me until he said, “Thanks Dad. Now can you help me explain my thinking in a sentence?” “Huh! Isn’t that what the answer does?” I asked him. “Kinda, but I also need to be able to show my thinking, and be able to explain how I came to an answer.” My initial thought was to have him write, “Because my dad said so.” But I realized when it comes to showing your work in math these days, you have to be able to explain your thinking. A lot has changed in the way our students learn. The California State Common Core Standards are all about building critical thinking skills, something that is entirely new to someone my age.

As much as things have changed academically, some still remain the same. Take for example "kindness." It is a universal act that transcends generations and has been practiced since the beginning of time, and its effects have a way of creating hope and inspiration in the masses. This week, January 28-February 1, is the Great Kindness Challenge, and every Rheem student and staff member will be participating once again. Our goal is to spread kindness by using small but meaningful actions and words.

Did you know that practicing kindness is the best way of building lasting self-esteem in children. Acts of kindness have a way of solidifying the way

children feel about themselves. By being kind to others, a child learns that the world is a better place (and it's that way because of their actions). If you have a moment please read this great little article from HealthyPlace.com "[Random Acts of Kindness Boost Your Self-Esteem.](#)" It talks about how doing random acts of kindness reinforces your self-worth and solidifies one's value.

So, with that said, please join your child in the Great Kindness Challenge? It's a great way of making the world a better place and building self-esteem in things that matter the most...our children. Click [here](#) to download the 50-item "Kindness Challenge" checklist. (and you'll find that after completing an act of kindness you probably won't have to explain your thinking...you can save that for math)

There is no place like Rheem,  
Mr. Sullivan