

January 3, 2021

Good Evening Rheem Team Families,

Happy New Year! I hope your winter break gave you a chance to rest, rejuvenate and spend time with your loved ones...even if it was from a distance. I look forward to a better year in 2021, one that sees us gradually returning back to normal. Each New Year brings with it new hopes and goals, and with all the challenges we've faced this past year I'm optimistic that our struggles will become our strengths for years to come.

Reminder: tomorrow is a "Staff Development Day" and distance learning will resume on Tuesday, January 5th at 8:25 am.

This Week at Rheem:

Monday, January 4th:

- NO SCHOOL: Staff Development Day
- Special MSD Governing Board Meeting (10:00AM)

Tuesday, January 5th:

- Full Distance Learning continues for all K – 5th grade students

Wednesday, January 6th:

- Regularly scheduled Wednesday
- Storytime Club: 12:30-1:00 ([Zoom Link](#))

Thursday, January 7th:

- Regularly scheduled Thursday
- Rheem's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Group – inaugural meeting at 7:30PM ([Zoom Link](#))

Friday, January 8th:

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

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Group

In conjunction with the Moraga School District's Cultural Proficiency Committee ("CPC") initiatives, we have established a diversity, equity and inclusion group for Rheem parents,

teachers, and staff. The group is intended to serve as a platform to express interests, ideas and concerns focused on cultivating diversity, equity, awareness and inclusion in our Rheem community. Our first meeting will be held this Thursday, January 7th at 7:30 pm.

Click [here](#) to join our zoom discussion!

“Friday Folders” Available this Monday, January 4th

If you were unable to pick up your student’s “Friday Folder,” on the Friday before Winter Break, please be sure to scoop it up in front of the office tomorrow between 8:00am – 5:00pm.

MSD Governing Board Meeting

There will be a Special Governing Board meeting this Monday morning starting at 10:00am to nominate a delegate to the California School Board Association (CSBA) Assembly.

There are two options members of the public can use to participate in the open 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...

There are many Rheem traditions I’ve been fortunate to inherit, and two of the most recognizable traditions are our spirit assemblies and buddy classes. They are great opportunities for us to build school spirit while also: teach important life-skills; provide mentoring opportunities for our older students; while creating friendships throughout the entire school. They can be described as “win, win” opportunities with plenty of celebrations to boot.

The week before break we held several “Buddy Spirit Assemblies” and were able to come together to learn more about the life-skill “perseverance” as well as celebrate the accomplishments of classmates by pulling Gold Slips. Students learned that we show perseverance when we: try our best; work hard at something that is difficult; take responsibility for our own success; and don’t give up. We also watched [THIS](#) short video about a guide dog in training called “[Pip](#)” and how perseverance may not always provide you with immediate success but will undoubtedly prepare you for future successes. (If you have four minutes I encourage you to give it a watch.)

This past year has been one like no other and I’ve found the skill of perseverance is definitely something we’ve all had to practice more than usual. What better way to hone a skill than to practice it with others, and to that extent you have modeled this task exceptionally well for your children. Rheem students never cease to amaze me with their aptitude for growth, kindness, perseverance and school spirit. Kudos to each and every one of them for all they’ve done to support their friends, peers and families in 2020. Here’s to a brighter 2021 as we and our students reap the rewards of persevering through these challenging times.

There’s no place like Rheem!

Mr. Sullivan