

January 31, 2021

Good Evening Rheem Team Families,

So long January, and hello February. As we move into the shortest month of the year, and (fingers crossed) Covid-19 numbers continue to decrease, we are preparing for Moraga schools to reopen in the coming weeks. This past Friday, Moraga School District submitted our [COVID-19 Safety Plan \(CSP\)](#) to the Contra Costa Health Services and Contra Costa County Office of Education, and on Monday we will submit the plan to the state. This week we will also finalize our hybrid models and send out a commitment survey to parents. Please be on the lookout for emails updating you on our status.

There is a lot in this week's Rheemarks so please jump right in.

This Week at Rheem:

Monday, February 1st:

- One District, One Book Begins
- February is Black History Month
- Parent Q&A w/ Superintendent Burns and Board Members (6:00-7:00 [Zoom Link](#))
- Art & Kindness Club: ([Zoom Link](#))

Tuesday, February 2nd:

- Special Board Meeting on the Reopening of Schools 6:00PM ([Zoom link](#))
- K-5 Assessment Day: Asynchronous Lessons
- Kids on the Run Club 12:30-1:00 ([Zoom link](#))

Wednesday, February 3rd:

- PTA Nominating Committee Meeting (11AM-12:00PM)
- Storytime Club 12:30-1:00 ([Zoom link](#))

Thursday, February 4th:

- Rheem's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Group Mtg (7:30-8:30 [Zoom link](#))
- Keep Calm & Dance On Club 12:30-1:00 ([Zoom link](#))

Friday, February 5th:

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

School News and Highlights

Spelling Bee Winner: Congratulations to 5th grader Adelaide C. for winning the Rheem Spelling Bee with a perfect score. Adelaide will now move on to compete in the Regional Championship in the coming weeks.

Q & A with MSD Superintendent Burns and Board Representatives this Monday

Superintendent Burns, Board President Chng and Board Member Davis will hold a question and answer forum for parents on Monday, February 1, 2021, from 6:00 PM to 7:00 PM. Superintendent Burns will open the forum with an update on plans to reopen school for in-person instruction. Attendees will be able to orally ask questions via the Zoom "raise hand" feature. If you are not able to make it to the meeting, please don't hesitate to contact me with any of your questions.

To Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://zoom.us/j/95635989790?pwd=UDZNSFlzRnBIYTluQWdiQWZiZFNhZz09>

Meeting ID: 956 3598 9790

Passcode: 417391

Dial by your location +1 669 900 6833

TK-5thFebruary Asynchronous Assessment Days

This Tuesday, February 2nd and next Tuesday, February 9th K-5th grade students will be completing most of their work asynchronously in order to provide teachers the necessary time to assess students for second trimester progress in learning/report cards.

- 1.Synchronous (live on Zoom) class meetings will be held from 8:25-8:45.
- 2.Attendance will be taken during class meetings.

3. After class meetings students will be assigned asynchronous work for the remainder of the instructional day.

4. Art, Music, PE and Library schedules will remain the same.

Special Board Meeting – Reopening of Schools

There will be another special Governing Board meeting this Tuesday at 6:00pm to discuss the reopening of schools and decide which hybrid model the school will be reopening in.

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=OTNLNGpVcnp5MXJxUjZLTEl5VU5sQT09>

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

One District, One Book – *Finding Langston*

This week starts the district wide program “One Book, One District.”

With the One District, One Book program, we aim to build a community of readers across the Moraga School District. In addition, we hope to provide meaningful opportunities for discussion and learning as a community. Everyone - students, parents, staff, and administrative staff - may participate, and we can all reap the many benefits. For more information please click [HERE](#).

Rheem PTA’s Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Group (DEIG) meeting this Thursday

Please join us this Thursday at 7:30PM for Rheem’s Diversity Equity and Inclusion Group meeting, where we discuss and plan how best to promote and practice an appreciation of the diversity within our school community and larger society.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://moraga-k12-ca-us.zoom.us/j/89965985112>

Rheem 2021 Science Fair is Powering On!!!

Submitted by Science Fair Chair Doris Chen

It's that glorious time of year again where Rheem students get to think, create, question, explore, observe, investigate, analyze, share, and become young scientists! This year marks the Science Fair's 34th anniversary. Over the past three decades, our young scientists at Rheem have experimented with separating pigment dyes in M&Ms, making edible slime, swabbing different spots around school for germs, and many more fun projects.

This year will look a bit different with distance learning. The Science Fair is still open to students in 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade, but young scientists will need to work by themselves or with a sibling in the same household that is also in any of the grades listed above. Students will use the Scientific Method of Investigation to work on a safe, non-hazardous, hands-on project. Each student will create one report and a video to post online. The Science Fair Committee will be available to advise and guide our fearless young scientists along the way.

Online applications are paperless again this year and will be available on the Rheem website under the Science Fair section starting on February 5, 2021. Students will receive more information in their folders on that date and will participate in an intro to the Science Fair (via Zoom) with their classmates later this week.

Got questions? Please email rheemsf@gmail.com. Get your science on...distance learning style!

Global Art and Culture Event

Second Annual Global Art & Culture Event

"*In diversity there is beauty and there is strength.*" - Maya Angelou. Rheem's multicultural event is an opportunity to explore and share art and culture around the world. This year, our event will consist of take home packets filled with fun art projects and activities. The packets will be provided in Friday Folders on February 26, 2021. We will need parent volunteers to help with preparing the activities and assembly materials into Friday folders.

Sign up [here](#) to assist with the event! Questions? Please contact Anjuli Cargain at (anjuli.cargain@gmail.com)

MEF's Annual Survey is Live

Thank you again for your continued support of MEF. To get a better understanding of how you would like to see your MEF donation dollars put to use, please take a moment to fill out this short, anonymous [survey](#). The survey will be open until Sunday, February 7th.

We value your opinion!

The Last Word...

Last week saw a lot of really cool things with the Great Kindness Challenge. Whether it was Hudson in Mrs. Lorie's class putting his kindness posters on the front porch so delivery people and mail carriers could see his words of encouragement, or Mrs. Cavallero's class creating signs thanking their principal for his work. I'm always blown away at how students have a knack for taking an opportunity to be kind and run with it.

As I mentioned in last week's Rheemarks, acts of kindness build more than just goodwill. It is one of the best ways to build self-esteem and independence in our children. So, with that I encourage you to seek opportunities for you to join with your children in acts of kindness. Even though we are stuck at a distance there are plenty of things we can do to nurture that opportunity. And if you are looking for a few ideas please consider the following:

- Make a hygiene kit to donate to a homeless/at risk person seeking help from the Bay Area Rescue Mission in Richmond (for more info contact Rheem parent Rosalind Bassett at rbassett@mvpctoday.org)
- Shop for the Food Bank ([Contra Costa Food Bank](#))
- Host a warm coat drive ([One Warm Coat](#))
- Grocery Shop for a neighbor/family in need
- ...just to name a few

As we continue to maneuver through these challenging times, creating an environment of kindness and generosity for our children will last far longer than any pandemic.

I know I may sound like a broken record, but thank you again for all that you do to enrich the lives of your children...it is no small feat and one that makes the world that much better.

There's no place like Rheem!

Mr. Sullivan