

October 13, 2019

Dear Rheem Team Families,

RHEEMARKABLE is the only way I can describe last Friday's Fall Carnival and Cake Walk. With hundreds of families enjoying fun games, fine food and good company, Rheem's legendary Spirit was in full display. There were over 200 cakes filling the Frank that eventually made their way home to a sweet tooth or two, and the two enormous inflatables got kids jumping for joy. MANY thanks to Fall Carnival Chairperson Liz Colhoun (Wells's mom) and her team of amazing volunteers for putting on a marvelous night filled with family, friends and fun.

There is no time to blink as this week brings another great thing unique to Rheem...the Kindergarten Butterfly Parade is this Friday. Please be sure to keep reading for more info.

This Week at Rheem:

Monday, October 14th:

- Regularly scheduled Monday
- School is in session for all MSD schools

Tuesday, October 15th:

- PBIS Store open
- School Board meeting at JM from 7:00-10:00 PM
- Great "Rheem" Shakeout drill

Wednesday, October 16th:

- Life at Sea: onsite 5thgrade field trip

Thursday, October 17th:

- Regularly scheduled Thursday

Friday, October 18th:

- Kindergarten "Butterfly Parade" from 12:50-1:10
- Picnic Day

There is school on Monday, October 14th

I have heard through the grapevine that some people are unsure if there is school tomorrow. School is in session at all MSD schools (however Campolindo HS and all of Acalanes UHSD will not be in session). It is a good idea to check the [District calendar](#) from time to time to be sure of school holidays and professional development days.

FYI...there is no school on Friday, November 1st, staff will have a professional development day.

Did you Know? Safety First – Great Rheem Shakeout Drill

This week students and staff at Rheem School will be among millions of Californians who will participate in earthquake preparedness. ([The Great California Shake Out](#))

The purpose of the Shake Out is to practice how to protect ourselves during earthquakes, so that we can be prepared in the event of the real thing. Students and staff will practice “Drop, Cover and Hold On” before evacuating the classrooms to the fields.

Now would be the perfect time to review your own earthquake preparedness at home. Please consider reviewing the “[Seven Steps to Earthquake Safety](#)” so that your family is well-prepared.

Moraga iKind Presents: *Wonder*

There will be a free community screening of the movie “*Wonder*” on Wednesday, October 16th starting at 7:00 PM. Click [HERE](#) for more information on the movie and night. I really love the message of this movie and think it goes hand in hand with October’s ***Bully Prevention*** theme.

Fun(d) Run Volunteers Still Needed

PTA is still looking for more volunteers to help pin bibs on the students’ shirts before their run time. Please see the sign up genius below for slots, or contact Jill Austin if you have any questions (jillaustin@gmail.com).

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0C4DAAAAA2AA6F85-rheem>

The Last Word...

Early Thursday morning my wife Kelly shook my shoulder and said, “Get up! There’s a fire at St. Mary’s College and we have to evacuate.” I can tell you I have been jolted from a dead sleep many times in my life but never have I been woken up to such alarming news. I went into my children’s rooms and told them they needed to get up and get their shoes on. When they asked why, I told them there was a fire over the hill and we needed to be safe and get out of our house. Everyone was up and dressed in less than a minute and making their way to the car. I then went to our 80-year-old neighbor’s house and banged on her door and told her of the ensuing fire and asked her to come with us. She grabbed her coat and purse and was out the door in less than a minute as well. As we were piling into our cars a Moraga police car drove by instructing everyone on their speaker to evacuate to St. Monica Church. We drove down our street toward the church and made the decision we were going to keep going (Kelly had a few choice words about being stuck in a church parking lot). As we made our way toward Canyon Rd. all I could envision was

throng of traffic and cars trying to get out of town. To my surprise, and gratitude, the road was not that busy and we drove down Moraga Way unobstructed to the freeway in Orinda. Many neighbors and friends went to the St. Monica and Safeway parking lots, and a handful more made their way down to the BevMo lot in Orinda or out of Lamorinda altogether. We drove to my mother's in Concord and my children ended up sleeping the rest of the morning there.

As Kelly and I reflected on the morning events we were thankful of our fast departure and as we watched the news unravel even more thankful no people were injured or structures damaged. Every day I consider myself lucky to have such an amazing wife but, on this day, I couldn't help feeling more thankful for her attention to detail and emergency preparedness. We grabbed our "go bags" and several jugs of emergency water and were out the door in under two minutes.

Our conversation has since turned to reviewing our plans in the event of an emergency where we are not together (I'm sure Kelly will be fine...and well hydrated). I encourage all of you to take some time to go over your family's emergency plans and figure how this recent incident in Moraga might help in your plans (a couple of big things we learned):

- Keep a phone by your bed that is charging and on (Kelly received a call from a close friend who lived near the fire telling us we needed to get out)
- Communication can be spotty. Take the information you know and do what is safest for your family
- During "Red Flag Warning" times be more aware and check on your "Go Bags" and even duffle bags for each child
- We should have put an "X" on our front door to let emergency personnel and neighbors know we had evacuated
- In the event there is a scheduled power outage be sure to get some extra cash from your bank's ATM

There are more things to consider while building your emergency preparedness plans, and below are some good links for you to consider.

[Make a plan/ready.gov](#)

[Make a plan/Red Cross](#)

Kudos to all of our first responders for their amazing response and thank goodness all is still safe in Moraga. And with that said, let's do all we can to keep our families (and neighbors) feeling that same way.

There's no place like Rheem!

Mr. Sullivan