

October 20, 2019

Dear Rheem Team Families,

From all reports, last Friday's 44th Annual Butterfly Parade was a flying success. Nothing seems to warm the heart (and wings) more than 72 kindergartners dressed in orange and black floating around the playground. And if floating 5-year-olds wasn't enough, be sure to strap on your sneakers extra tight so as to not miss out on this Wednesday's annual Fun(d) Run.

I sure do love this time of year at Rheem, with carnivals, parades and runs bringing families and friends together.

This Week at Rheem:

Monday, October 21st:

- Regularly scheduled Monday

Tuesday, October 22nd:

- Regularly scheduled Tuesday

Wednesday, October 23rd:

- Fun(d) Run

Thursday, October 24th:

- St. Mary's College Men's Basketball Team visiting/reading in classrooms
- Picnic Day

Friday, October 25th:

- Regularly scheduled Friday
- Picnic Day

Fun(d) Run this Wednesday, October 23rd

Excitement is running high with anticipation for this year's Fun(d) Run. A couple of quick reminders to keep in mind:

- Be sure to send your student with the proper shoes and running attire
- Have your child bring a reusable water bottle to stay hydrated
- Volunteers and spectators will want to check in at the office before heading out to the field

School News and Highlights

Great Rheem Shake-Out Drill: Last Tuesday students and staff took part in an earthquake preparedness drill. The drill took place in the morning and found students

anywhere from their regular classrooms to recess on the play structure. Students worked on: stopping, dropping, covering and holding on, not necessarily a common practice for any of us. I was very proud of their effort and as we practice other emergency drills in the coming weeks and months we will look to build on our success.

Did you Know?

Professional Development

Moraga School District teachers and staff take part in many professional development opportunities each year. Some of our more recent PD and training involve: Reader's and Writer's Workshop; NGSS (Next Generation Science Standards); supporting students with ADHD; Silicon Valley Math Initiative (SVMI); Schoolwide Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports (PBIS), mandated reporter training; and more.

On Friday, November 1st Rheem staff will be participating in another Professional Development Day in conjunction with the Anti-Defamation League (ADL). This training is in line with many of the other social and emotional trainings we've done in the past with a pointed emphasis on recognizing bias and the harm it inflicts on individuals and society as well as building an understanding of the value and benefits of diversity and confronting all forms of bigotry.

I look forward to another informative and collaborative professional development experience where staff and I will have a chance to learn and grow in ways to better support each and every one of Rheem's students.

Safety First:

Especially during Halloween...

Rheem's Halloween Parade is right around the corner and the following guidelines are designed to ensure that all our students enjoy a safe and happy Halloween at school:

- "Accessories" resembling weapons such as guns, knives, swords, etc. are inappropriate and never allowed at school (CA Ed Code. 48915). Such items will be removed from students and returned to parents at a later time.
- Students will not be allowed to skateboard or roller blade during the parade (feet power only, please!).
- We also appreciate students being considerate of those who get easily frightened by keeping "blood and gore" to a minimum.

Keep in mind that Halloween can be confusing to some children -- why would anybody do something scary on purpose? Therefore, frightening masks, elaborate face paint, and creepy costumes and sounds can terrify some children, no matter how quickly the scary masks are removed to reveal friendly, familiar faces. Our goal is to provide our students with fun, not fear and anxiety on Halloween at Rheem. Thank you for your understanding

Lost and Found: Update

A month ago, I made mention of our “Lost and Found.” The racks, which are set up just around the corner from the office, are overflowing and in many cases knocked off their hangers and laying on the ground. 1st grade teacher Jennifer Strohmeyer took it upon herself to wash all the clothing this weekend, and we will be displaying items on tables set up on the cafeteria stage Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of this week. I encourage you to ask your student(s) to look through the freshly washed clothing for any missing items.

All unclaimed items will be donated at the end of this week. Moving forward, Lost and Found items will be donated once a month.

Thank you MEF Donors

I can't thank you enough for your support of MEF. Through your generous donations students benefit each and every day. Rheem would be a completely different place without your support.

For more information on all that your MEF donations support please click [HERE](#).

The Last Word...

I made mention of the district and staff's commitment to professional development and growing as educators, well this past week I traveled to a Literacy and Leadership Training at Teachers College. The three-day training brought together 200+ school and district leaders from across the country, to help train and support them in their work with Readers and Writers Workshop. (Moraga SD uses the readers and writer workshop model for its literacy curriculum).

I felt the training was exceptional and found myself growing more inspired with each seminar. There was a total of 17 seminars I was able to attend (along with and one visit to observe an elementary school doing the same work as Rheem) and I took away dozens of helpful suggestions regarding strategies and best practices to support readers and writers curriculum. Below are just a handful of things I took away as a parent:

- Never underestimate what kids can do in reading and writing.
- In order to accelerate people's learning it takes good feedback.
- Create a learning life for yourself.
- Our work as educators (and parents) is to build independence for all students. Students need to be taught skills and strategies to allow them to become as independent as possible.
- Anxiety and perception are inversely correlated.
- 85% of high school seniors surveyed said they did not plan on reading for enjoyment when they were done with their schooling. We need to put books in kids' hands that they enjoy reading at all ages.

- Always validate someone's writing no matter how well their piece is coming along – growth for a writer comes out of the work they've done and their willingness to continue.

When we create a learning life for ourselves, we open our minds to new ways of thinking. Whether as a principal, teacher, parent or student it's important to remember that each day is an opportunity to learn from yesterday's experiences and make the most of today's opportunities.

There's no place like Rheem!

Mr. Sullivan