

October 21, 2018

Dear Rheem Team Families,

Rheem Team Spirit was in full effect on Friday, when our kindergartners donned bright orange and black butterfly wings and marched around the kindergarten playground to the delight of family, friends, and their 5th grade buddies. Rheem's 43rd Annual Butterfly Parade was a huge success and one that oozed with happiness and joy.

For more of what's on tap at Rheem please keep reading.

This Week at Rheem:

Monday, October 22nd:

- Mr. Greer's class on an overnight fieldtrip on the C.A. Thayer

Tuesday, October 23rd:

- Ms. McMullen's class and half of Mrs. Culleton's class on the 4th grade Mission fieldtrip.

Wednesday, October 24th:

- Make-up Picture Day
- iKind Community Workshop: Stopping Bullying and Harassment (7:00PM in the JM Library)

Thursday, October 25th:

- Student Wellness Committee meeting from 3:30-5:00 at Rheem
- ELL Family Potluck from 5:00-6:30 at Los Perales Elementary, Room 4

Friday, October 26th:

- PTA's Emergency Preparedness student supplies due. (Click [HERE](#) for more details on what each student is requested to bring)

School News and Highlights

St. Mary's College Men's Basketball players visited Rheem on Thursday morning, October 18th to read to students in several of our classrooms. They answered student questions as well. By all accounts, the players were kind, good spirited, good readers, and some may even say literary GIANTS!!

Rheem Adult Social: Rheem families enjoyed each other's company last Thursday night at the Rheem Adult Social at MCC. There were close to 50

parents who came together for drinks, good food and good company. A special thank you to Serina Culleton and Mark Chiarucci for all their hard work in putting together such a great night.

Great California ShakeOut Drill: Last Thursday students and staff alike took part in a statewide 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 did a great job of: stopping, dropping, covering and holding on. We will be practicing more emergency drills in the coming weeks to build on our preparedness.

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 rollerblade 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 this year. Thank you for your understanding

International Potluck Night – Thursday, October 25th

All MSD families of ELL students are cordially invited to attend this year's International Potluck Night at Los Perales Elementary from 5:00-6:30 on

Thursday, October 25th in Room 4. It is an evening full of fine food and great culture. Please bring a food dish to share.

Make Up Picture Day - This Wednesday 10/24

In the event you missed picture day in September, or didn't particularly like the one they took of your beautiful cherub, this Wednesday is your opportunity to have your student's picture taken/re-taken. Dorian Photographers will be on campus in the morning. For more info please reach out to Mrs. Fitzinger at lfitzniger@moraga.k12.ca.us.

Parent Ed Opportunity

Moraga's iKind Project presents – *Stop Bullying (and Harassment) Now*

Please join other MSD parents and guardians at 7:00 pm in the JM Library this Wednesday, October 24th for a community workshop focusing on how to stop bullying and harassment. The discussion will be centered around the differences between bullying and other forms of peer harassment, as well as methods adults can use to help. There will also be a discussion about the importance of creating a welcoming and safe environment for everyone.

Parents, high school students, scout and youth group leaders, service group leaders, coaches, and civic and religious leaders are welcome to come and share their insights.

The Last Word...

As I mentioned above in *School News/Highlights*, this past Thursday the entire school took part in an earthquake preparedness drill. I visited several classrooms prior to the drill and discussed with them the importance of practicing certain drills here at school in the event of an emergency. I have to say in my 27 years of education, students tend to appreciate an emergency drill. It gives them a chance to get out of class and do something different. Here at Rheem we practice a variety of different safety drills to familiarize ourselves with the procedures put in place to keep us safe. With that said, when was the last time you discussed your family's emergency preparedness?

FEMA (the Federal Emergency Management Agency) has a wealth of resources and advice on how best to prepare for an emergency. They recommend the following seven things:

- Have an [emergency supply kit](#) ready. Make sure you have enough water, food and medications for yourself and your service animal (if you have one) to last at least three days. Think about other items you may need as well - extra eyeglasses, batteries for hearing aids, medical supplies, etc.
- [Have an emergency communication plan in place](#). How will you contact your family members if something happens and you're separated? Share your emergency plan with neighbors, friends and relatives so they know how to contact you if the power goes out.
- Develop a map of resources around where you live and work. Do members of your support network who are unfamiliar with your neighborhood can find and get what you need. You may want to include nearby places to buy food and water. Also, include fire, police, other city agencies and local apartment/commercial buildings with their own sources of power should the citywide/town-wide power be out. Consider adding taxi stands/bus stops/subway stations, and parking regulations/parking lots, etc.
- Ask others about what they will do to support you in an emergency. If you are a person who relies on dialysis, what will your provider do if there is an emergency? If you rely on home care or deliveries, such as Meals on Wheels, ask about emergency notifications and their plan to maintain services. If you use paratransit, find out their plans for providing service in an emergency. If you use oxygen or other life-sustaining medical equipment, show friends how to use these devices so they can move you or help you evacuate, if needed. Practice your plan with the people in your personal support network.
- Keep assistive devices and equipment charged and ready to go. Consider having an extra battery on a trickle charger if you use a power wheelchair or scooter. If available, have a lightweight manual wheelchair for backup and extra chargers and charging cables for all assistive devices.
- Make sure you have access to important documents. Collect and safeguard critical documents. Store electronic copies of your important documents on a password-protected thumb drive and in the "[cloud](#)," and if you feel comfortable doing so, give a copy to a trusted relative or friend outside your area. This way, you'll have a record of critical identification documents; medical information including where and how to get life-saving supplies and medications; financial and legal documents; and insurance information as well as important phone numbers, instructions and email addresses.
- Keep an updated version in your "[go bag](#)." Go to [Ready.gov](#), [Be Smart. Protect Your Critical Documents and Valuables](#) or the [Emergency Financial First Aid Kit](#) for more information and a checklist.

We know that our number one job at Rheem is to keep children safe, and it is something we take very seriously. Please help us to be even more prepared by sending to school the [student supply bag](#) requested by PTA. Every little thing we do adds up to a significant step toward preparedness.

FEMA says, “being prepared is a 365-day-a-year activity. Take charge and take control to be as prepared as possible.”

There’s no place like Rheem!

Mr. Sullivan