

RHEEMARKS: November 1st

November 1, 2020

Good Evening Rheem Team Families,

I saw a recent joke that suggested we boycott daylight savings time this year so as not to add another minute to 2020. With that said, we will be setting the clocks back an hour at Rheem so please don't try and log on to Zoom tomorrow at 7:25 :)

There is a lot going on at Rheem, and in the district at this time with parent teacher conferences this week, the end of the 1st Trimester this Friday, and school reopening plans continuing to unfurl. Please be sure to read below on some helpful hints on how best to navigate these upcoming events. Please dive into this week's Rheemarks.

This Week at Rheem:

Monday, November 2nd:

- Parent Teacher Conferences (see more info below)
- Cultural Proficiency Committee Meeting 3:30-5:00
- Art & Kindness Club: Art & Kindness Club: ([Zoom Link](#))

Tuesday, November 3rd:

- Parent Teacher Conferences
- Election Day – Get out to Vote
- Student Intent to Return Forms due by 5:00PM

Wednesday, November 4th:

- Coordinating Council 3:30-5:00
- Storytime Club: 12:30-1:00 ([Zoom Link](#))

Thursday, November 5th:

- Parent Teacher Conferences
- Special MSD Governing Board Meeting (6:45PM)

Friday, November 6th:

- Parent Teacher Conferences
- End of 1st Trimester
- Spirit Friday – Inside Out Day
- Fun Fridays Club 12:30-1:00 ([Zoom Link](#))

School News and Highlights

Halloween at Rheem: It was great to see so many smiling faces at last Friday's Halloween Masque-Parade. Thank you to all of our amazing staff and students who dressed as alter egos to make it a special day.

California Cookie – 4th Grade: A few weeks back, dozens of Rheem 4th graders participated in the annual “California Cookie” project. It is a time-honored tradition at Rheem to don a chef’s hat and create your own delicious cookie in the form of California. This year’s event was a virtual festivity, and to see the teachers and students create these masterpieces online was a site to behold. For a handful of students, they even took time to celebrate with each other in a socially distanced get-together at the Moraga Commons. To read more about the ten 4th graders and the California Cookie please click [this link](#) to an article in the Lamorinda Weekly.

Spirit Assemblies: Last week each grade level was able to participate in a grade level spirit assembly. We came together to sing some Rheem favorites as well as learn about the life skill “Cooperation.” We learned that we show cooperation when we: take turns; work for the good of the group or team; trust each other; and celebrate together. And to cap things off we were able to celebrate each other with Gold Slips being pulled from each class. Kudos to all the hard work our Roadrunners are putting in each and every day!

School Reopening Update

Intent to Return to In-Person Instruction or Remain in Full Distance Learning

We are two weeks away from the scheduled reopening for in-person instruction via a hybrid model for the first cohort of TK-2nd grade students. We need EVERY parent of a TK-5th grade student to complete [Intent to Return to In-Person Instruction or Remain Full Distance Learning](#) form so we can finalize cohorts and classes. If you have not yet completed the form you can access it [HERE](#). You must login/create a ParentSquare account in order to complete the form. Forms must be completed by 5:00 pm on Tuesday, November 3rd. Parents who have not completed the form will get email reminders via ParentSquare until Tuesday at 5:00. If we do not receive a response by then, your student will remain in the full distance learning model until February 26th.

Due to staffing and cohort size limitations there are situations where students may have a different teacher. However, we will do everything we can to maintain consistency for students and keep them with the same teacher.

We will finalize staffing and cohorts by Monday, November 9th, and by Tuesday, November 10th we will notify parents of students who will have a different teacher. Parents of students who will have a different teacher will have the option to switch their commitment to full distance learning.

Some parents have asked: Why is a hybrid schedule needed? In order to maintain safe environments in the classrooms where staff and students can maintain social distance guidelines students have been placed in two cohorts. Hybrid schedules are necessary so that teachers can meet the needs of both cohorts of students each day. Our hybrid

schedules will follow a “week-on/week-off” schedule where a cohort attends in person one week and engages in distance learning the next week. This schedule was recommended by the Moraga School District Task Force for Reopening Schools because it reduces the number of teacher and student contacts each day and it provides support for contact tracing.

Students in the hybrid model will continue receiving instruction in reading, writing, and math in the morning by remote synchronous instruction. This morning time will include students who remain in full distance learning. Students in the “week on” cohort will then attend in-person after lunch. Students in the “week off” cohort will engage in asynchronous work. Students who remain in the full distance learning program will continue the afternoon engaged in asynchronous work and synchronous work with a teacher focused on social studies and science. The in-person afternoon time will be focused on social emotional learning, classroom instruction and intervention work.

The structure of our hybrid schedule is a starting point for return to in-person instruction. As we have done since the spring we will be adjusting the hybrid structure and model based on feedback from staff, students, and parents along with updated guidance from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), California Department of Public Health (CDPH), and Contra Costa County Health Services (CCHS).

Reopening for In-Person Instruction Dates:

- Week of November 16 - TK-2nd Cohort A*
- Week of November 30 - TK-2nd Cohort B*
- Week of December 7 - TK-5th Cohort A*
- Week of December 14 - TK-5th Cohort B*
- Week of January 4 - TK-8th Cohort A*
- Week of January 11 - TK-8th Cohort B*

*Cohort assignment may change depending on the number of students attending in-person instruction

Parent Teacher Conferences this Week

This week teachers and families will be coming together to discuss student progress and strategies on how best to meet the needs of all students at Rheem. If you have not responded to your classroom teacher’s signup request, please be sure to do so.

The schedule for this week is as follows:

- **Monday/Tuesday/Thursday/Friday:** 8:25-11:45 live instruction with your classroom teacher

- Regularly scheduled 30-minute synchronous lessons with Art/Music/PE/Library
- 30 minutes of asynchronous lessons from our specialty teachers and librarian (Art/Music/PE/Library)
- Wednesday: Regularly scheduled day
[HERE](#) is a link to Daily asynchronous lessons

Special School Board Meeting

Thursday, November 5th at 6:45PM

This Thursday the Governing Board will receive an update from Superintendent Burns on the district's reopening plans.

The Last Word...

Like all of you, this week is parent teacher conference week in the Sullivan household. My wife and I will be meeting with our twins' 5th grade teacher to hear about the goings on in their classroom. I'm not sure what their teacher is going to share exactly but I'm pretty certain they will discuss things the twins are doing well and areas where they can improve. I can remember my oldest daughter's first parent/teacher conference and can tell you I was a bit surprised to hear of her challenges. She was doing very well socially and was establishing herself as a classroom leader, but the information shared about her reading readiness and number sense really gave my wife and I a chance to hone in and support her in a more meaningful way academically. As this will be our 9th, and final, year for parent teacher conferences I'm much more prepared for the impending news. As much as we would like to hear that our students are on track to be a Rhodes Scholar, the reality is what will help us and our children more than anything is to hear what areas we can improve upon.

With a busy week of conferences ahead of us I encourage all of you to embrace the many great things your children are doing with their teachers and classmates and look to approach any challenges they are experiencing as opportunities to make them stronger and better prepared for the future. One of my favorite quotes growing up was, "the biggest room in the world is the room for improvement." That makes plenty of room for all of us :)

There's no place like Rheem!

Mr. Sullivan