

RHEEMARKS: December 6th

December 6, 2020

Good Evening Rheem Team Families,

I hope you were able to spend time with your family and get out and enjoy some of this weekend's amazing weather. Please be sure to dive right in to this week's Rheemarks.

This Week at Rheem:

Monday, December 7th:

- Full Distance Learning continues for all K – 5th grade students
- [code.org](#)'s "Hour of Code" begins
- Art & Kindness Club: Art & Kindness Club: ([Zoom Link](#))

Tuesday, December 8th:

- Regularly scheduled Tuesday
- Monthly MSD Governing Board Meeting (5:30-8:30PM)

Wednesday, December 9th:

- Regularly scheduled Wednesday
- Storytime Club: 12:30-1:00 ([Zoom Link](#))

Thursday, December 10th:

- Regularly scheduled Thursday

Friday, December 11th:

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

School News and Highlights

Rheem's Mrs. Drury – Teacher of the Month: Congratulations to 4th grade teacher Virginia Drury for being recognized by the Moraga Rotary Club as MSD's November "Teacher of the Month." Mrs. Drury was honored last Tuesday afternoon in a virtual ceremony that had some 40+ attendees which included many of her students. Kudos to Mrs. Drury for all your hard work and the well deserved recognition.

Hour of Code: Over the next two weeks Rheem students will have the chance to participate in [code.org's](#) "Hour of Code" program. Rheem's technology coordinator, Mrs. Ross will be leading the charge for this opportunity and anyone who would like to participate can join her Monday-Thursday during her office hours between 3:00-4:00pm by clicking this [LINK](#).

Contra Costa County Stay at Home Order

At 10:00 tonight Contra Costa County will enact a Stay at Home Order. This will not impact our current distance learning operations.

- Staff can continue to live stream from their classrooms if they choose.
- We will continue our "Friday Folder" pick-up.
- Custodians and maintenance staff will continue keeping Rheem safe and clean.

If you have any questions please don't hesitate to reach out.

Monthly MSD Governing Board Meeting

During this month's school board meeting there will be updates on: Cultural Proficiency Committee; a budget overview, 1st interim budget report, preliminary budget planning and reductions, annual facility inspection report, and a memo of understanding (MOU) between MSD and the CSEA (California School Employee Association).

There are two options for people to participate in the meeting via Zoom:

Option 1: Join Zoom Webinar using a computer and enter

<https://zoom.us/j/98834748675?pwd=OTNLNGpVcnp5MXJxUjZLTEI5VU5sQT09>

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

Mark your Calendar: Winter Break 12/19-1/4

This year's Winter Break is from Saturday, December 19th – Monday, January 4th. Student learning will resume on Tuesday, January 5th. Teachers and staff will have a professional development day on Monday, January 4th.

Rheem Cares Program

This Friday (12/11) will be the last day to donate to this year's **Rheem Cares Program**. There are blue circular tubs set up by the "Friday Folder" tables for easy drop off of any gifts and feel free to drop any gift card in your student's folder. Thank you to everyone who has been able to participate this worthwhile opportunity.

The Last Word...

2020 has been a year like no other on a societal level. Waves of shutdowns and safety protocols require society to constantly pivot and adapt, making one thing very clear...we have very little control of the status quo. I have found my own children have hit the wall when it comes to the new normal. To say they are fatigued is an understatement. As I was trying to motivate two of my three children with their studies, I realized they were tired of hearing me cajole them to do their part. So instead of preaching to them the need to finish their work, I remembered an article I read several years ago about perseverance and how it's important to share with children stories of people who have overcome great odds to succeed, and that is when I told them the story of Abebe Bikila.

"In the 1960 Olympic games, an Ethiopian marathoner by the name of Abebe Bikila wowed the sporting world by winning the gold medal, running the marathon in a record time of 2 hours, 15 minutes and 16 seconds. Bikila was not even supposed to compete in the Olympics that year, but a spot came available for him when a fellow countryman injured himself and was no longer able to run. The expectations for Bikila were nonexistent, he was a no name runner who was only there because someone else got hurt. That did not dampen his spirits though, you see Bikila grew up in poverty and did not have the same opportunities as other Olympic runners who trained with first class coaches and traveled the world competing, so he was used to working hard to little, if any, fanfare. Bikila had never left Ethiopia prior to the 1960 Rome Olympics and arrived in "The Eternal City" with only one pair of worn out running shoes. Reporters and fans mocked him as he lined up to start the race and many made the prediction he wouldn't be able to finish. History would prove those people wrong. Not only did Bikila become the first Sub-Saharan African to win an Olympic gold medal -- he achieved this tremendous feat barefoot. After winning the race, he was asked why he had run without shoes, he replied: "I wanted the world to know that my country, Ethiopia, has always won with determination and heroism." Bikila would go on to win another Olympic gold at the 1964 Games, becoming the first athlete in history to win the Olympic marathon twice. Abebe Bikila did not listen to critics who said he couldn't do something, he instead relied on his sheer will and determination to show everyone he was destined for greatness. We should always remember to give our best effort and not listen to those naysayers who choose to question our ability. Winning lies inside all of us."

The article I had read about perseverance spoke about three ways to help children build grit and perseverance:

- 1) sharing stories with them of others who persevered
- 2) using language with them that conveys the importance of effort over achievement
- 3) help children set goals for themselves.

These concepts are in line with the growth mindset model we focus on at Rheem and another great way to help support our children in becoming the best they can possibly be. I know it can be a challenge to see our children struggle but in the big picture it's their ability to deal with challenges and setbacks that will determine how successful they will become.

Thanks, as always, for indulging me.

There's no place like Rheem!

Mr. Sullivan