

February 17, 2020

Dear Rheem Team Families,

I hope you all had an opportunity to enjoy the long holiday weekend and spend some extra time together as a family.

Not only did our school week end last Thursday, but so did the read-a-thon. I am very proud of our students' efforts over this 4-week focus on reading, and I look forward to sharing the total hours read and grand prize winners at the March 27th Spirit Assembly. Thank you to all the parent volunteers who helped make this year's Read-a-thon a success, and a special thank you to co-chairs Karen Jaworski (Alexandra's mom), and Jen Wen (Ethan's mom), for organizing this year's event.

This Week at Rheem:

Monday, February 17th:

- NO SCHOOL: Presidents Day

Tuesday, February 18th:

- Regularly scheduled Tuesday

Wednesday, February 19th:

- 3rd graders participate in Speak Up Be Safe (SUBS)

Thursday, February 20th:

- Parent Ed Opportunity: Technology Addiction in Special Needs Teens 6:30 at Acalanes HS Library

Friday, February 21st:

- Regularly scheduled Friday

Did you Know?

1st, 3rd and 5th graders take part in a very important program called Childhelp **Speak Up Be Safe (SUBS)** that teaches about personal safety. This child abuse and bullying

prevention program is being offered through a partnership between the Moraga School District and the Child Abuse Prevention Council of Contra Costa County (CAPC).

Childhelp Speak Up Be Safe lessons are led by a trained facilitator from CAPC who will teach students how to communicate about these very serious issues. The lessons are specifically to be age-appropriate and are based on the following 5 safety rules: 1) It's MY body; 2) Ask an adult if I am safe; 3) I have choices; 4) Tell someone; and 5) It's NEVER my fault.

Self-advocacy and self-awareness are essential to living healthy. This program introduces and reinforces great lessons to help our students live a happy and healthy life.

Science Fair Update

As submitted by Brent Levenfeld/co-chairperson

Application for 2020 Science Fair will remain open through February 19th. 50 Students are involved so far but we don't want to miss any young scientists interested in joining us!

Students who have submitted their application will be teamed up with one of our 9 Science Fair Committee Members who will review it and offer feedback. Application reviews are due back to you by February 24th, 2020. If you have not received a review of your application by February 26th, please contact Science Fair Committee at rheemsf@gmail.com.

If your project is approved by the Science Fair Committee, then go ahead, start your project and work on your draft report. The draft report does not require the results of the experiment but we would like to see the question, hypothesis, background information about the topic of your research (what you learned about the topic and some of the terminology applicable to the field of your experiment), and materials and experiment design (what you plan to do). The due date for the draft report is March 2nd. The report will have to be submitted electronically to the following address: rheemsf@gmail.com.

Here is a report template.

<http://dres-msd-ca.schoolloop.com/file/1529479467246/1486198894756/6247801488720244442.doc>

Good luck with your projects,
Rheem Science Fair Committee

School Climate Survey Results

Over the next several weeks, I will be including results from the 2019-20 Climate Survey that was sent out in December, 2019. 167 Rheem families responded as follows:

95% respondents agreed with the statement “My child enjoys going to school.”

Actual breakdown: 58% strongly agree; 37% agree; 5% disagree; 0% strongly disagree and 0% didn't know.

Parent Education Opportunities:

Vape Pens & Teens: What Adults Need to Know

Next Tuesday, February 25th Derrick Kirk will be presenting on the intersections between tobacco, vape pens, & marijuana/cannabis. The evening's presentation will be held in the JM Library from 6:00-7:30.

Technology Addiction in Special Needs Teens

This Thursday, February 20th the Acalanes Union High School District will host Dr. James Byland and his presentation on the impact technology has on special needs teens. The event will be held in the Acalanes H.S. Library at 6:30. Please visit seedlafayette.org/highschool for more details and to RSVP.

The Last Word...

Before becoming an administrator, I taught high school and middle school social studies for 17 years. You could say I've been captivated by history for most of my life. As a young

child I was drawn to history by the storytelling of my father and his family. Their recollection of events always seemed so fascinating.

I read an article recently in the Los Angeles Times that discussed how presidents are remembered. (If you are interested in taking a read please click [HERE](#)) The big takeaway I had from the article is that history is constantly changing and our perspective and perception often changes the way we view certain people and events.

As parents I encourage you to always share with our children the stories of your past and allow them to see how certain times, places and people shaped your life. And in the words of former president Harry Truman, “Do your best, history will do the rest.”

There is no place like Rheem,

Mr. Sullivan