

March 1, 2020

Dear Rheem Team Families,

If your weekend was anything like mine, it was full of children and children's activities. In keeping with that theme, we have a busy week at Rheem so be sure and jump right in to this week's RHEEMARKS.

This Week at Rheem:

Monday, March 2nd:

- Science Fair Draft report due

Tuesday, March 3rd:

- “Super Tuesday” – be sure to get out and vote

Wednesday, March 4th:

- 3rd grade field trip to the Oakland Zoo
- 5th grade Living History Day

Thursday, March 5th:

- 3rd grade SUBS (Speak Up Be Safe)

Friday, March 6th:

- 4th grade field trip to Sacramento
- “Alaska Huskies” - onsite 3rd grade field trip
- “Bricks for Kids” – onsite 1st grade field trip (all 1st graders early arrival)
- Variety Show Auditions (3:15-5:30 in the Frank)

School News and Highlights

- Variety Show Auditions will be held this Friday the 6th in the Frank from 3:15-5:30.
- This week a representative from Bricks for Kids will continue visiting all of our 1st graders and working with them on their engineering skills.
- Be sure to mark your calendars, there will be no school next Friday, March 13th because of Staff Development Day.

Attendance Counts – End of 2nd Trimester Update

Last Friday, 2/28, was the end of the 2nd trimester. Below is the year over year attendance rates. Daily attendance, unexcused absences and tardies have slipped from last year. With one full trimester remaining, I strongly encourage everyone to do all you can to support your student's attendance at school.

	<u>2019-20</u>	<u>2018-19</u>	<u>2017-18</u>
Absences	97.2%	97.3%	97.3%
Truants/Unexcused absences	333	328	327
Tardies	729	721	849

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:

97% respondents agreed with the statement “My child feels connected to the school – that he/she is a contributing member of the school community.”

Actual breakdown: 58% strongly agree; 39% agree; 1% disagree; 1% strongly disagree and 1% didn't know.

MSD Textbook Announcement

Moraga School District parents, students, teachers, administrators, and other community members are invited to preview new instructional materials considered for District adoption from February 21, 2020 - March 6, 2020. Materials available for preview include a 6th-8th grade Science program.

The public preview for these instructional materials will be held at the Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School library. Individuals interested in previewing these materials may review them between 8:30 a.m. and 2:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. If interested, please contact Alberta Falcone, District Textbook Coordinator, at (925) 377-4255 or afalcone@moraga.k12.ca.us to schedule an appointment. The materials will not be available for check out.

The parent preview precedes a recommendation to the MSD Governing Board on March 10, 2020, to formally approve the 6th-8th grade Science curriculum.

If you have questions about this public preview please contact Dr. Carolyn Parker, Director of Curriculum & Instruction, at (925) 376-5943 or cparker@moraga.k12.ca.us.

Moraga iKind Project

The MSD and the Moraga iKind Project are sponsoring a very special movie and panel discussion where former Japanese internees will share their personal experiences of growing up in a Japanese internment camp.

The documentary "And then they came for us" will be shown on March 18, from 7:00 PM to 8:45 PM, at the Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School auditorium. Following the showing, the panel members, now in their 80's, will speak and answer questions.

About the film: Seventy-five years ago, Executive Order 9066 paved the way to the profound violation of constitutional rights that resulted in the forced incarceration of 120,000 Japanese Americans. Featuring George Takei and many others who were incarcerated, as well as newly rediscovered photographs of Dorothea Lange, "And Then They Came for Us" brings history into the present, retelling this difficult story and following Japanese American activists as they speak out against the Muslim registry and travel ban. Knowing our history is the first step to ensuring we do not repeat it. And Then They Came for Us is a cautionary and inspiring tale for these dark times.

A link to the flyer is here:

http://moragaikind.org/images/ATTCFU_Poster_2020_03_18_2_sided.pdf

Students are encouraged to attend.

The Last Word...

When I was 18 years old my high school civics teacher (Mr. Clark) told our 6th period class, "If you want your voice to be heard, you better be sure and vote. If you want your neighbors to hear your voice be sure to knock on some doors. And if by some chance you choose not to vote or knock on doors, be sure not to complain." It's funny how some lessons never fade from our memory, but this coming Tuesday is election day in California, where there will be numerous propositions, measures, and candidates to choose from and I encourage everyone to get out and vote.

For the past 6 weeks I have had the good fortune of volunteering with some amazing and dedicated people who are committed to a local ballot measure in support of our school community. I was able to participate in precinct walks, where I connected with hundreds of Moraga residents, and telephoned hundreds more getting the word out. It was quite rewarding, particularly when I was able to connect with a Rheem family :)

With that said, I don't know what Mr. Clark is up to these days, but I'm pretty sure he'd be happy one of his former pupils took his advice and knocked on some doors to ensure his voice was heard. And now for my final push to get the word out, please be sure to vote. Every single voice makes a difference...especially yours.

There is no place like Rheem,

Mr. Sullivan