

March 3, 2019

Dear Rheem Team Families,

Can you believe this Friday marks the end of the 2nd Trimester at Rheem? With nearly two (trimesters) down and one to go, it doesn't mean it'll be any less exciting around here, so be sure to keep reading about all the happenings at Rheem (and in the district) this week.

(Be sure to note there is no school next Monday, March 11th)

This Week at Rheem:

Monday, March 4th:

- Read-a-thon Spirit Assembly in the Frank
 - 9:00-9:50AM (3rd-5th)
 - 10:00-10:50AM (K-2nd)

Tuesday, March 5th:

- 1st Grade Seed Secrets onsite field trip
- Moraga School District Presentation: "Class Sizes in Our Schools" (6:30-8:00PM in JM Library)

Wednesday, March 6th:

- Regularly scheduled Wednesday (8:25-1:50)

Thursday, March 7th:

- JM Open House from 6:30-7:30PM

Friday, March 8th:

- 4th Grade field trip to Sacramento (buses leave at 7:45AM)
- Variety Show Auditions in the Frank (3:15-5:30PM)
- End of 2nd Trimester

March, March 11th:

- NO SCHOOL – Staff Development Day

School News and Highlights

- Variety Show Auditions will be held this Friday the 8th in the Frank from 3:15-5:30PM.
- Last Friday saw 3rd graders take part in the onsite field trip “Spirit of Alaska.” They learned all about the Iditarod and the amazing animals (and fortitude) it takes to be a part of “The Last Great Race.” Thank you, Mrs. Berkman, Mrs. Johnson and Mrs. Ralph, for bringing this unique learning opportunity to our students.
- This week a representative from Heather Farms will be visiting all of our 1st graders and teaching them about the “secrets of seeds.”
- Be sure to mark your calendars, there will be no school next Monday, March 11th because of Staff Development Day.

JM Open House – Thursday, March 7th

This Thursday is Joaquin Moraga Intermediate's Open House. I encourage all 5th grade families to make it a point to attend this event from 6:30-7:30PM. It is a great way to see what your student's classrooms will look like next year and the expectations for all 6th graders.

Did You Know?

Rheem's PTA will provide nearly \$50,000 in support to our Roadrunners this year. From subsidizing the costs of field trips, to providing curricular supplies in each classroom (and computer lab), from purchasing recess equipment, to garden supplies, a day doesn't go by without students feeling the direct impact of your support of PTA. This year's big capital expense is \$12,000 towards grade level libraries. Teachers are purchasing both fiction and non-fiction titles to ensure their classroom libraries meet the needs of all students.

Thank you PTA, and thank you parents for supporting all the wonderful programs like the: Fun(d) Run, Read-a-thon, Fall Carnival, Spring Picnic, Hot Lunch, and PTA memberships. Rheem would look drastically different without your support.

In the event you have not yet signed up for PTA and would like to join (it's \$35 for the initial family member and \$15 for any additional family member) please click the following link. https://rheempta.membershiptoolkit.com/login?r=%2Fopen_forms

School Climate Survey Results

Here is the final installment of the results from this year's Climate Survey that was sent out in November, 2018. 168 Rheem families responded as follows:

94% respondents agreed with the statement “My child feels connected to the school (protected from verbal and/or physical harassment).”

Actual breakdown: 54% strongly agree; 40% agree; 3% disagree; 0% strongly disagree and 3% didn't know.

Parent Ed Opportunity – MSD Class Size Presentation

The Moraga School District will hold an informational meeting about class size on Tuesday, March 5th from 6:30 PM to 8:00 PM in the JM Library. Topics include: History of Class Size Reduction, Current Class Size Requirements, Current and Projected Class Sizes, Class Size Opportunities.

Phantom of the Opera

Presented by Campolindo High School

You won't want to miss out on Campolindo Music Department's Production of The Phantom of the Opera from March 15th to 17th, and March 22nd to the 24th! Buy your tickets at <http://www.campochoir.com/tickets/>

The Last Word...

When's the last time your child asked you a really tough question? I recently read an article by Cory Turner and Anya Kamenetz called, [“When Kids Ask \(Really\) Tough Questions: A Quick Guide.”](#) It is an easy read that highlights five strategies to use when addressing tough questions.

1) When you get a tough question, listen for what the child is *really* asking.

- Don't rush to answer
- Ask for clarification, you'll be surprised to find out often times your answer may be to the wrong question

2) Give them facts, but at a pace they can manage.

- Children process information a little bit at a time
- Be prepared to revisit the topic
- A young child can move on fairly quickly from heavy topics

3) “That's a great question. Let's find out more together.”

- Parents don't have to give the perfect answer in the moment

- In the event you don't like an answer you may have given, this is a great way to revisit a tough topic and ask for a do-over

4) Reassure them that they are safe and loved.

- In the event they are showing anxiety around school safety, talk to them about everything the adults in their lives are doing to keep them safe
- In the event of a divorce, children need to hear that both parents will always love them and the divorce is not their fault
- In the event of a death of a loved one, children need to know that there are many people in their lives who love them and they will always be cared for

5) Take care of yourself, and don't be afraid to share your emotions.

- Adults need to have their own support system to help deal with hard times
- It's ok to show/share your emotions with children (just be sure to let them know why you may be crying, "I'm sad because I miss Grandma.")
- It is beneficial for a child's emotional functioning for a parent to show their emotions and label them appropriately

I hope these strategies help in the event you see the need. I know it can be awkward, or anxiety provoking, to answer tough questions so I leave you with this light-hearted father/son exchange about making sure your answering the right question from your child.

A little boy asks, "Dad, where does poo come from?"

"Well, son," his dad says, "food passes down the esophagus by peristalsis. It enters the stomach, where digestive enzymes induce a probiotic reaction in the alimentary canal. This contracts the protein before waste enters the colon. Water is absorbed, whereupon it enters the rectum finally to emerge as poo."

"Wow," the boy says. "So where does Tigger come from?"

There is no place like Rheem,
Mr. Sullivan