

March 8, 2020

Dear Rheem Team Families,

It's the daylight savings edition of RHEEMARKS...be sure to spring forward and set your clocks up an hour. Without further ado, please see what's happening this week and beyond at Rheem.

This Week at Rheem:

Monday, March 9th:

- Regularly scheduled Monday

Tuesday, March 10th:

- School Board meeting from 7:00-10:00 in the JM Library

Wednesday, March 11th:

- Rheem Store open

Thursday, March 12th:

- 2nd trimester report cards go home

Friday, March 13th:

- NO SCHOOL: Staff Development Day

Upcoming Dates

- There is **NO SCHOOL** this Friday, March 13th because of a staff development day.
- As part of our emergency preparedness, Rheem will continue to work on drills that keep us mindful and ready in the event of an emergency. On **Wednesday, March 18th** there will be a family reunification drill at Rheem. School will still be from 8:25-1:50 (Wednesday schedule) but if you are picking your child up on Laird or Ascot you will have them escorted to you by a staff member from the cafeteria. The drill will begin at 1:30 and we are planning on having everyone in their cars or handed off to their parents between 1:50-2:07. (If your child is taking the bus or is going to Roadrunner Club after school on Wednesday, there is no need for you to alter your plans, they will make their way to Roadrunner and the bus once the drill has commenced)
- Family Work Day will be on **Saturday, March 21st** from 9:00AM - 12:00PM. There will be plenty of work to do in the Rheem Garden as well as the Bus Loop, where we will be removing the juniper bushes.

NO SCHOOL: This Friday, March 13th

Be sure and mark your calendars for this coming Friday the 13th as there is a staff development day for teachers and staff but no students.

ATTENDANCE REMINDER:

Be sure to call the attendance line if you child is not able to make it to school.

Science Fair Update

As submitted by Brent Levenfeld – Science Fair Chairperson

Science Fair is in full swing. Students have completed some initial research of the topic they chose for their experiment and submitted their draft reports. If your team has not submitted a draft report, please email it to rheemsf@gmail.com promptly. Reminder, the Science Fair report template is available from the Rheem school website to download. Please look under the PTA tab then [Science Fair](#). Final reports with completed experiments are due March 30th.

We wish all teams success with their experiments!

Rheem Science Fair Committee

The Last Word...

The daily news cycle is filled with updates and information about Covid 19 (or the coronavirus). As a parent of three school age children, I can tell you two of my children are not as anxious about the news that is being bandied about. The following New York Times article "[How to Talk to Kids About Coronavirus](#)" gives some really good tips on what a discussion might look like with you and your child(ren).

The article speaks to six talking points and I encourage you to give it a quick read.

1. Assess what your child knows: Asking your child what they have heard about the virus.
2. Process your own anxiety first: Make sure you are not panicking in their presence around the topic.

3. Don't dismiss your child's fears: Fear is real and it's important that we don't dismiss a child's fear. A good thing to say to a child describing their fear is. "That sounds pretty scary, I can see it in your face." And follow it up with an anecdote from your childhood about a time when you were scared.
4. Talk at an age-appropriate level: Make mention of common colds and the seasonal flu that many people experience and then let them know the coronavirus is new so we don't know as much about it but there a lot of really smart people working hard to make sure it doesn't spread and to treat people who are sick.
5. Emphasize good hygiene – washing hands for at least 20 seconds (sing happy birthday twice to make sure they washed long enough – handwashing is preferable to hand sanitizer for all ages)
6. Frame potential disruptions to their routines as a positive.

With new information coming by the bushelful these days I encourage you to remain calm and informed by visiting the following websites.

[Center for Disease Control](#)

[Contra Costa Health Services](#)

Thank you for taking the time to read RHEEMARKS and for all that you do to support your children. And if you ever have questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact me.

There is no place like Rheem,

Mr. Sullivan