

May 3, 2020

Dear Rheem Team Families,

I hope you've had an opportunity to enjoy the beautiful weather. There is some good stuff in store this week, starting with Teacher Appreciation Week. The day itself is on Tuesday, but in true Rheem fashion it goes on for a week. I also noticed while looking at the calendar that Tuesday is Cinco de Mayo...never in my life have I been in need of good Mexican Food like I am now. Growing up in California we have always been spoiled with the delicacies from our neighbors to the south...the list of things for me to do when shelter in place is over keeps growing, with a good authentic Mexican meal climbing to the top (Or a trip to Mexico!?!?)

Please enjoy the rest of this week's Rheemarks.

This Week in the Community:

Monday, May 4th:

- Teacher Appreciation Week
- [Distance Learning Monday Lessons and Activities](#)
- Mrs. Gillbanks Library [Read Alouds](#)
- Free breakfast and lunch available for children ages 18 and younger for pick at Campolindo HS from 10:30-12:30 (**Monday-Friday**)

Tuesday, May 5th:

- [Tuesday through Friday Distance Learning Lessons](#)
- Teacher Appreciation Day
- Mr. Sullivan celebrates Mrs. Sullivan on teacher appreciation day (she's a non-credentialed English teacher thrust into the role during shelter in place)

Wednesday, May 6th:

- Kindness Club: Join in via FlipGrid (password KindnessClub)
- Mr. Sullivan fakes understanding 7th grade math and steers his 13-year old to C- on her quiz.

Thursday, May 7th:

- Mr. Sullivan teaches 4th grade science to a set of twins who continue to tire of his dated teaching methods and question whether he should be working in schools.

Friday, May 8th:

- Spirit Friday: Team Day
 - Join in via FlipGrid (password SpiritFridays)
- Distance Learning [Parent Survey](#) closes
- Mr. Sullivan calls in sick and his children have to fend for themselves with school work.

Distance Learning Parent Survey

As we head into the last four weeks of distance learning please take some time to complete the second parent distance learning survey [HERE](#). Distance learning has been a major shift in how we have traditionally educated our children. We are asking you to share feedback so that we can continually improve distance learning plans. Please complete one survey for each child who currently attends a Moraga School District elementary (Joaquin Moraga will be sending out a separate survey). The survey will close on Friday, May 8th.

Mrs. Gillbanks Library Read Alouds

Distance Learning Mondays give students an opportunity to participate in all of our enrichment classes. From Art to Music and P.E. the whole child approach is fostered with this schedule. With that in mind, I strongly recommend you visit [Mrs. Gillbanks library page](#) for an excellent selection of read alouds. (Below are links to each of her read alouds)

The K-2 selection consists of:

[The Cool Bean](#); [Strictly No Elephants](#); [A Tiny Brown Monkey on the Big Blue Earth](#); [Peggy](#); [Beavers Build Lodges](#); [Birds Build Nests](#); [Orangutans Build Tree Nests](#); [Golden Domes and Silver Lanterns](#); [Dancing Hands](#); [If Not for the Cat](#); [Jack's Garden](#); [A Seed is Sleepy](#); [A Nest is Noisy](#); [Oh Say Can You Seed](#); [Please Open this Book](#); [Do Not Lick this Book](#); [Bees Make Beehives](#); [Swirl by Swirl, Spirals in Nature](#); [Captain Small Pig](#)

The 3rd-5th selection consists of:

History's Deserted City's and Places:

[Ch 1 & 2](#) [Ch 3,4](#) [Ch 5,6](#) [Ch 7,8](#)

The Wild Robot ([preview](#)):

[Ch 1-3](#); [Ch 4-6](#); [Ch 7-10](#); [Ch 11-13](#); [Ch 14-17](#); [Ch 18-21](#); [Ch 22-25](#); [Ch 26-27](#); [Ch 28-29](#); [Ch 30-34](#); [Ch 35-38](#); [Ch 39-41](#); [Ch 42-45](#); [Ch 46-48](#); [Ch 49-53](#)

Technology Support for Families

We understand that distance learning has increased your reliance on technology. If you are having distance learning technology issues, please ask your child's teacher. If your

issue is something that can't be addressed by your child's teacher, contact MSD tech support at msdtechsupport@moraga.k12.ca.us. Parents are encouraged to review the [Moraga School District Ed Tech Parent Support site](#). You can also access this site via a link at the bottom of the [MSD Distance Learning Website](#).

Wishtree: One District, One Book

I hope you have had an opportunity to participate in MSD's [One District, One Book program](#). The story of Red, Bongo, Samar and others has been wonderful. Katherine Applegate does an amazing job of connecting all the characters (animals, trees and humans) to real life issues and emotions. If you have not gotten a chance to join in yet, I hope you'll be able to. Rheem teachers and staff have recorded the novel so you don't need the book to follow along. [HERE](#) is a link to the read-aloud schedule. After listening/reading the chapters for the day, you can also respond to questions on the Wishtree [Flipgrid](#) (password = Wishtree). It has been wonderful to see so many Rheem students post their answers to the daily question(s).

What Does Next Year Look Like?

With summer just around the corner, we know families have a lot of questions about what the next school year will look like. As more guidance from the state and county health officials comes our way we will be refining what the opening of school will look like for the 20/21 school year. No one has a crystal ball, but I want to assure you we are discussing what that might look like and we will continue to communicate as information becomes available and plans are finalized. Thank you for your continued support and patience in this process.

The Last Word...

Across America, this Tuesday marks Teacher Appreciation Day. Did you know that the first public school in present day America was opened in 1635 in Boston, Massachusetts? And by the early 1800's many states were in the process of adopting the public-school model established in Massachusetts? By the early 1900s all states made it compulsory for children to attend school. I share these facts with you, not to bore you, but to let you know that for the past 100+ years never have there been more students home schooled. You as parents and guardians have taken on the role of part time teacher/tutor. It has not been easy to say the least...just look at what Wednesday and Thursday look like for the Sullivan children. But you have been a guiding light like never before in your student's education.

And so, I'd like to take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude to each and every one of you for supporting not only your children through all of this but also myself, the teachers and Rheem staff.

There is no place like Rheem,

Mr. Sullivan