

September 15, 2019

Dear Rheem Team Families,

Rheem is such an amazing place for children to grow! There are so many supports and experiences our students are afforded each and every day. I'd like you to take a moment and imagine Rheem without Art, PE, or Music; our School Counselor, Classroom Aides, Computer teacher or Librarian; our Reading Tutors, Science Aide, or Technology. Also, imagine no support or materials for innovative programs like Readers' and Writers' Workshop. Suddenly, our amazing school, which is filled with so many rich educational experiences for every student, is a very different place.

As troubling as it may seem, that is exactly what Rheem would look like without the support of the Moraga Education Foundation. And, that is why I'm urging ALL Rheem families to give to MEF. **This Wednesday, September 18th is MEF's "Day of Giving."** Please take this opportunity to show your support for your child's education and for Rheem!

Donate or pledge now by clicking [HERE](#), Thank you!

This Week at Rheem:

Monday, September 16th:

- Regularly scheduled Monday

Tuesday, September 17th:

- Constitution Day

Wednesday, September 18th:

- MEF Day of Giving
- PBIS Store Opens
- Coordinating Council Meeting from 3:30-5:00 in JM Library

Thursday, September 19th:

- Rheem Parent Social from 6:30-8:30 at the Hacienda

Friday, September 20th:

- Regularly scheduled Friday

Student and Traffic Safety:

Getting over 400 students to and from school can be a daunting task, and to do it successfully here at Rheem it takes families and staff following the [safety procedures](#) we have in place.

Please remember that Rheem's parking lots are reserved for staff during school hours. **Parking lots should not be used for drop-off or pick-up of students.**

It is also essential to be sure children and parents stay on the sidewalk and within the crosswalk when walking to and from school. **Please do not walk across the bus circle or through the parking lots.**

Did you Know?

September is Attendance Awareness Month

With nearly 15% of our school year in the books, it is important to remember that learning takes place when our children are in school and engaged in their studies. Studies on student attendance show that absences in elementary school have more of an impact on children, and their learning than any other time in their academic careers. It is during these developmental years (elementary school) where foundational skills are introduced, practiced and mastered. So please continue to do everything you can to ensure your child makes their way to school rested and ready.

Fundations Phonics Intervention

The Moraga School District is excited to offer a [Fundations](#) phonics support class for our K-2 students. This support class replaces the *Great Leaps* program offered last year. The benefit of transitioning to a *Fundations* phonics support program is the alignment to daily *Fundations* classroom instruction delivered by teachers. Students participating in the *Fundations* support program will have additional opportunities in very small groups to practice phonics skills originally introduced by their classroom teacher. Some highlights of the *Fundations* support program instruction include:

- Skills are taught explicitly and systematically.
- Instruction is cumulative and scaffolds presented skills.
- Teachers model and direct students to repeat sounds, words, and sentences.
- Frequent assessments monitor student learning and skill mastery.
- Multiple opportunities for practicing reading and spelling of isolated sounds, words, sentences, and stories.
- A focus on building fluency through the reading of real words, nonsense words, and stories.

Each *Fundations* support program session will run approximately 1-3 weeks (30-minute sessions, 3 days a week), depending on the unit length. Classroom teachers will review individual student assessments to determine student participation and how much support may be needed.

Kindergarten sessions will begin in January. We look forward to the *Fundations* support program sessions beginning the week of September 23. Should you have any questions, please contact your child's teacher or myself.

Rheem Social this Thursday

A message from the PTA President Rebecca Eirich and the Rheem Fundraising Team:

Please join the PTA for a festive kick-off to the school year at the Hacienda de las Flores-Pavilion, an authentic Spanish style property overlooking a beautiful walled garden. The Hacienda is located right down the street from Rheem Elementary. There aren't very many opportunities to get the adults together without the kids around, and this fun event is an annual Rheem tradition! As a PTA member (and as the current PTA President), I have always enjoyed meeting new parents, having the opportunity to catch up with old friends, and spending time with the Rheem Team in a more casual setting...with no carpool line to contend with!

Tickets are \$20.00 per person and includes two drink tickets, unlimited appetizers, and the opportunity to connect with grown-ups. There will be games and raffle prizes, too! Make sure to join us for the fun to find out for sure!

Visit MTK to purchase tickets: <https://rheempta.membershiptoolkit.com>.

You can also purchase your annual PTA membership, sign up for hot lunch and register for ASEP on MTK. Check it out!

Sip! Sip! Hooray (for Rheem)!

Need a Volunteer for Monday Late Arrival Supervision

We are still in search of one more volunteer to help supervise and keep students safe who arrive between 9:10-9:25 on Mondays. If you are available to help provide supervision for our students please reach out to myself or Mrs. Fitzinger (lfitzinger@moraga.k12.ca.us).

The Last Word...

A Rheem parent recently shared with me an article about the importance of family friends, and how committed friends can fill the role of family, especially when relatives are scarce. (Click [HERE](#) to read the article). As I read the article I thought about the people listed on my children's Aeries contact page in the event of an emergency. There are an equal number of family members vs friends. Over the past ten years my wife and I have been blessed to befriend members of the Moraga community whom we likely initially met through a same aged child at school or a sports team. While the original details are foggy, some wonderful adult friendships have grown out of our kids' own friendships, routed in similar values and the love of laughter. Sound familiar?

This Thursday Rheem parents have an opportunity to come together without the kids and enjoy some adult time in a beautiful setting. A rarity for some of us...but what better way to connect with other like minded families in our school community.

The old adage of “it takes a village” is never more true than it is today - and probably one of the reasons you moved to Moraga in the first place - to find your village). I look forward to seeing you all there...and who knows, you may even share a drink and a laugh with your next best friend.

There's no place like Rheem!

Mr. Sullivan