

September 22, 2019

Dear Rheem Team Families,

In the event you missed it...Thursday's Rheem Back-to-School Adult Social was a HUGE success! I thoroughly enjoyed chatting with so many families and celebrating the raffle winners. Many thanks to Anjali Cargain and Grace Shim for organizing the amazing event.

Be sure to keep reading so as not to miss out on all the great things happening this week.

## **This Week at Rheem:**

### Monday, September 23rd:

- Start with Hello Week – “Hey Day”
- Spirit Assembly
  - 3rd – 5th grade 9:00-9:50
  - K – 2nd grade 10:00-10:50
- Native American Days (onsite field trip for Mrs. Ralph's class)

### Tuesday, September 24th:

- Start with Hello Week – “Connect Four Day”
- Foundations Reading intervention begins

### Wednesday, September 25th:

- Start with Hello Week – “Free to be Me Day”
- Native American Days (onsite field trip for Mrs. Dennis' class)

### Thursday, September 26th:

- Start with Hello Week – “Bucket Filling Day”
- Native American Days (onsite field trip for Mrs. Johnson's class)

### Friday, September 27th:

- Start with Hello Week – “Mix and Mingle Day”
- Progress reports go home

## **Start with Hello**

This week, September 23-27, schools throughout the Moraga School District will be taking part in the [Sandy Hook Promise's](#) “Start with Hello” program.

This is the second year Rheem will be participating and it's goal is to eliminate chronic social isolation and create a culture of inclusion and connectedness within the classroom, school and town of Moraga.

I encourage you to talk with child about the *Start with Hello* program and ask them to share what they have learned. Not only will that help you learn how to support your child identify social isolation, and reach out and connect, it also demonstrates to your child that

you can support them in their actions to create a more connected and inclusive home, school and community.

### **Monday: Hey Day!**

See how many different ways your students can say, "Hello" in different languages (for example: Bonjour, Hola, Ni hao, etc...)

### **Tuesday: Connect 4 Day!**

Connect in 4 different ways with a peer today.

### **Wednesday: Free to Be Me Day!**

Wear something that shows everyone what you love (i.e. a favorite team, favorite animal, favorite color...)

### **Thursday: Bucket Filling Day!**

Make as many people's day better by "filling their buckets."

### **Friday: Mix and Mingle Day!**

Dress in "Mix and Match" clothes today! (Mismatched socks, clothes backwards, etc...)

A special thank you to school counselor [Bess Inzeo](#) for her work surrounding this and for her commitment to supporting the social and emotional growth of each Rheem student.

## **Did you Know?**

### **Rheem Has a Lost and Found**

Has your student lost a water bottle or jacket in the first month and half of school? Be sure to swing by the lost and found racks set up just around the corner from the office. Items that are left in the Frank or on the playground are collected and brought to the racks on a daily basis. Students and families are welcome to peruse the racks in search of stray items.

*Unclaimed items will be donated to charity at the end of the first trimester.*

## **Native American Days**

This week our 3rd graders will be taking part in Rheem's "Native American Days." These lessons were created to help students appreciate and understand the impact Native Americans have had on all of us. Kudos to our third-grade teachers for sharing these lessons and shining a light on the influence of our state's ancestors.

## **Parent Member Needed to Complete 2018-19 Committee**

The purpose of Rheem School's Site Council (SSC) is to develop, support, and monitor our school goals. In recent years, the council's work has focused on supporting the

district's Strategic Plan by developing and monitoring action steps to implement the Common Core standards and the Readers' and Writers' Workshop program. Last year, specific goals were established in Mathematics and Language Arts based on CAASPP data. Traditionally, our council also develops a "School Climate" goal to promote and maintain a positive learning environment for all students.

According to Site Council bylaws, the council must consist of equal representation from the faculty and the parent community. Currently, there is an open position for parent representation on the council. The SSC meets approximately five times throughout the school year, after school on Tuesdays. Our next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 1, beginning at 3:15 in Room 20A. If interested in this worthwhile volunteer opportunity, please contact me for more information, or simply come to the meeting to find out what it's all about!

Along with myself, the current staff members on the SSC are teachers Jennifer Strohmeier, Virginia Drury, Tatiana Gessling and Shanna Dennis. Parent members are Eliza Becker, A.J. Brown, and Jill Austin.

## **The Last Word...**

Parenting is not easy, nor for the faint of heart. I can't tell you how many times I've wished I made different decisions as a father. It is important as parents and guardians that we model the behavior we want to see in our children. I read an article recently regarding that very topic ([Role Model the Behavior You Want to See From Your Kids](#)). The article refers to the Social Learning Theory which states people learn by watching others. I'm not sure anyone watches us more intently than our children.

One of the pitfalls many adults fall into is the old "do as I say, not as I do" mantra, and the article warns of accidentally role modeling bad behavior. (bullet point #7 seems to fit me well : ) Some sound advice on modeling sound life skills are:

- Live a Healthy Life
- Show Respect and Teach Empathy
- Tackle Technology Issues
- Work Hard
- Volunteer in the Community
- Demonstrate Social and Emotional Skills
- Teach New Skills

It's always important for we guardians to keep things in perspective and to remember that making mistakes is part of the job.

I love one particular point in the article that mentions how children learn important lessons from us even when we screw up. "By handling poor decisions with grace and not beating ourselves up, children will also learn to be kind to themselves when they mess up."

Thank you for all that you do for your children. Your love and hard work allow your student to see and feel the love they so much deserve.

**There's no place like Rheem!**

Mr. Sullivan