

September 23, 2018

Dear Rheem Team Families,

I hope everyone had an enjoyable weekend and was able to spend some quality time with family and friends. Please take a read to see what Rheem has in store this week.

This Week at Rheem:

Monday, September 24th:

- Cultural Proficiency Committee meeting (3:30-5:00 at Los Perales Elementary)
- Native American Days – 3rd grade onsite field trip (Ms. Johnson's class)
- 2nd and 3rd grade teachers

Tuesday, September 25th:

- Regularly scheduled Tuesday
- Parent Ed - Enrollment and Class Size Presentation and Workshop in the JM Library at 7:00 PM

Wednesday, September 26th:

- MEF Day of Giving
- Life at Sea – 5th grade onsite field trip
- Native American Days – 3rd grade onsite field trip (Ms. Berkman's class)
- Picnic Day – students will be eating lunch with their classes outside

Thursday, September 27th:

- Regularly scheduled Thursday
- Student Wellness Committee from 3:30-5:00 at JM

Friday, September 28th:

- Spirit Assembly in the Frank
 - 3rd– 5th grades 9:00 - 9:45
 - K – 2nd grades 10:00 - 10:45
- Native American Days – 3rd grade onsite field trip (Ms. Ralph's class)

School News and Highlights

Box Tops are being collected in each of the classrooms and this Friday we will see which class has brought in the most to date. The top class will be rewarded at this Friday's Spirit Assembly with the coveted Roadrunner (to be displayed in their classroom with pride). Remember, every time you clip a Box Top and turn it in to the school we earn money so please continue to clip away. And for anyone with a Smartphone, please click [HERE](#) to see how the Box Top app can earn even more money for our school.

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.

Did you Know?

Attendance Counts

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. A recent study on student attendance showed that absences in elementary school has more of an impact on children, and their learning than any other time in their academic careers. The study stated that it is during these developmental years (elementary school) where the foundational skills necessary to be successful 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.

Start with Hello Week

This week, September 24-28, your child will be taking part in the *Start with Hello Week* at Rheem.

Start With Hello teaches students the skills they need to reach out and to include those who may be dealing with chronic social isolation and create a culture of inclusion and connectedness within their classroom, school and the town of Moraga. And to kick the week off on a high note we have a very special surprise for students as they arrive on campus tomorrow morning.

I encourage you to talk to your 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, 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, classroom, school and community.

Here is Rheem' *Start with Hello* Schedule

Monday will be "Start with Hello Day!"

Tuesday will be "Smile Day!"

Wednesday will be "Give a Compliment Day!"

Thursday will be "Mix It Up Day!"

Friday will be "Random Acts of Kindness Day!"

Volunteer Needed for District Cultural Proficiency Committee

Rheem is in search of a volunteer who is willing to participate on the district's Cultural Proficiency Committee. The Committee's goal is to identify cultural proficiency standards, measures MSD can test/evaluate against these standards and then develop plans to improve our cultural proficiency where there are gaps. Please contact me if you are interested and I would be happy to discuss all that being a committee member entails.

Parent Member Needed to Complete 2018-2019 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 actions steps to implement the Common Core standards and the 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 2, beginning at 3:15 in Room 19. 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 Tanja Gubser, Gillian O'Connell, Jennifer Johnson, and Jennifer Strohmeyer. Parent members are Eliza Becker, A.J. Brown, Elaine Cable, Jon Nickens and Kim Pertel.

Enrollment and Class Size Presentation and Workshop

The District will hold two evening programs addressing enrollment protocols and class size. On September 25, 2018, at 7:00 PM at the JM library, information will be presented on enrollment and registration systems and class size. On October 11 at 7:00 PM at the JM library, a workshop will be facilitated seeking input from parents to improve enrollment and registration systems and communication, and discuss ideas to reduce class size.

The Last Word...

With the social and emotional needs of students so essential for their success in our world, I am thankful that District Counselor Bess Inzeo has taken the lead in bringing the *Start with Hello* program to Rheem. *Start with Hello* was created by families of the Sandy Hook Promise with the goal of preventing social isolation by creating a closer, more connected and inclusive classroom, school and community.

We are all social creatures and crave the connectivity that goes with living in a community. For many, that connectedness can be confounding and elusive, but by making a conscious effort to share a greeting, smile, compliment and act of kindness this week, our students will have no choice but to feel more included and connected.

Several years ago, I saw a powerful video sharing the story of a young man whose unselfish attitude and kind gesture changed the culture of an entire school. Please take a few minutes by clicking [HERE](#) to watch how a little thing can make such a big difference.

There's no place like Rheem!

Mr. Sullivan