

September 29, 2019

Dear Rheem Team Families,

Fall goes into full swing in the coming months...can you believe October arrives on Tuesday? With many activities coming our way be sure to mark your calendars as well as catch up on some of the highlights from last week.

## **This Week at Rheem:**

### Monday, September 30th:

- Regularly scheduled Monday

### Tuesday, September 1st:

- School Site Council meeting 3:15-4:30 (Room 20A)

### Wednesday, September 2nd:

- PBIS Store open

### Thursday, September 3rd:

- Regularly scheduled Thursday

### Friday, September 4th:

- Regularly scheduled Friday

## **School News and Highlights**

**Spirit Assembly:** Spirit Assemblies bring the entire Rheem Team together to celebrate accomplishments, focus on school-wide goals, and simply enjoy singing and laughing together. The highlights of the Spirit Assembly held on Monday, September 23rd included:

- Highlighting and practicing our Start with Hello themes: greeting each other, being able to express ourselves freely, connecting with peers, mixing it up and sharing compliments.
- Celebrating students who participated in the Summer Reading Program. Each were given certificates and prizes.
- Picking gold slips for 36 lucky students who spun the wheel for a prize.
- Singing our school songs: "Rheem Team," "Rheem Rocks," and "Roadrunner Pride!"

**Native American Days:** 3rd graders were busy this week taking part in the Native American Days. Thank you, Mrs. Ralph, Mrs. Johnson, Mrs. Dennis, and the many parent volunteers for guiding our 3rd graders through a fun filled day of Native American culture.

**Second grade's – Apple Day:** Second graders were able to celebrate Johnny Appleseed's birthday with some great STEAM activities. Classes spent an hour and half in stations: observing apples in the garden; taking part in apple tasting; measuring the circumference and weight of apples; hypothesizing if an apple will sink or swim; building apple towers with toothpicks; balancing apples using clothes pins as counter weights; estimating how many seeds are in each apple; and last but not least baking apple pizzas. Thank you Ms. Guidi, Mrs. Webster and Mr. Thomson and all the family volunteers for making Johnny's birthday a memorable one.

## **Did you Know? Excused vs. Unexcused Absences**

Did you know that ALL absences are noted as “excused” or “unexcused” for auditing purposes? According to MSD board policy, absences are considered “excused” for the following reasons:

- Illness
- Family emergencies
- Justifiable personal reasons (such as funeral attendance)
- Religious holidays

Absences are considered “unexcused” if they do not meet one of the above-mentioned criteria. For example, missing school for vacations or extended weekends are unexcused. By definition of California Education Code, “a student who has an unexcused absence of more than 30 minutes on three different days, or more, is considered truant.”

## **Coming Soon – Rheem's Fall Carnival and Cake Walk**

***Friday, October 11th from 4:30pm – 7:00pm***

Step right up and get your tickets for Rheem's legendary Fall Carnival and Cake Walk!! Games, prizes, inflatable fun, a rock climbing wall, raffle, food trucks and more awaits you at this annual fundraiser for our school, and the whole family is welcome!

Get your tickets at: <https://rheempta.membershiptoolkit.com/packet/19480>

Don't miss out on this super fun celebration and Rheem tradition!

## **Start with Hello Recap**

This week throughout the district students took part in the Sandy Hook Promise “Start with Hello” program. It focuses on children being their best selves as well as being part of an inclusive community. Bess Inzeo (district counselor and Rheem parent of Annabel) organized all the activities for the week and shared with teachers a fantastic video in regards to kindness (click [HERE](#) to see for yourself). The message rings true for people of all ages. “real kindness is when you are ready to give up something that you need yourself.”

A big thank you to Bess and staff members for all their hard work, and Kim Anderson for helping organize students each morning. The entire Rheem Team shined that much brighter this week because of their efforts.

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

Ten years ago, my wife, Kelly and I moved our 3 children from San Francisco to Moraga. We came here for the scenery, safety and schools. We looked long and hard at different communities in the bay area but came to the realization that Moraga would provide our children with every opportunity to thrive. We could not be more pleased with our decision, and a big part of that has to do with our schools.

I know I have made mention of it in previous communications, but I am so grateful to witness the benefits MEF provides the children of Rheem (and the rest of the Moraga School District) each and every day. Please join me and my family in showing your support for MEF by click [HERE](#) and making a tax-deductible donation today.

**There’s no place like Rheem!**

Mr. Sullivan