

State of the School



EAGLE PEAK MONTESSORI

Last year, we brought the parent body information on the state budget and how cuts at the state level were affecting Eagle Peak. The parent body responded by donating the largest amount of fundraising we have had to date. We are so fortunate to have such a response and responsible parent community.

The community spoke very clearly to the EPMS board, in that they want us to be clear in what we are asking for from them. If we need \$1000/student, then we should make that clear and ask for \$1000/student. So... here it goes.....

WE NEED \$1000 per student. If you can give above that, please do so. We know that all of our families cannot give that amount, but we know that some families can give more. However, it comes about, Eagle Peak is dependent on raising \$155,000 in fundraising from its families every year. This is not over and above our budget, this is simply to meet our budget.

As we have discussed in the past, the cuts at the state level have reduced the amount that Eagle Peak receives per student almost back to 2006 rates in funding. However, the costs of operations have not been able to be reduced. Almost 90% of our budget is committed to ongoing costs that cannot be reduced without serious changes to the program we offer. The remaining budget items are relatively inconsequential individually as far as costs are concerned. Simply put, our budget does not leave much room for flexibility. So when the state cuts come, we are forced to turn to the parents to make up that difference.

The board takes great pride in their ability to be wise stewards of the money that has been donated to the school. Over the 11 years we have been in operation, we have been able to accrue a healthy reserve. However, when the district looks at our yearly operating budget, we cannot show dependence on that reserve simply to survive. We must show a positive balance for each year. This is especially important going into renewal in 2014. The district must see that we are fiscally sound in order to renew the charter. The years leading up to the renewal and of course, the forecast for the 5 years covered by the charter, must demonstrate a positive balance. The only way this is possible is with your continued financial support.

So..... the next step is up to you! Help Eagle Peak soar!!!

How Can You Help?

- Attendance (Importance of Independent Study)

While it is important your child attend school daily to receive all the benefits of the wonderful Montessori curriculum offered here at EPMS, your child's daily attendance is what our General Purpose Grant is generated from. They do not pay the school based on how many students are enrolled, but rather on the average attendance rate for those students. For example– we have 185 student enrolled. If 18 students miss 10.5 days each, we are only funded for 184 students. This is called Average Daily Attendance. If your child is absent, we do not receive funding for that absence.

Independent study packets are extremely important to the schools budget. These packets of work, are designed to equal a day of work for your child. When they complete this work it is given the same credit as being at school, both for them on their attendance record and for the school. Every time a student completes one of these packets when they are absent, it helps our attendance rate and thus our funding for the year.

One day absent is equal to approximately \$35. A 4% increase in ADA can equal almost \$40,000.

- Fundraising

Annual Giving: Each EPMS family is requested to make an annual contribution of \$1000 per child per year. To date, 65% of the EPMS families have contributed to Annual Giving for a total of \$65,000.

EPMS Wine and Cheese Reception & Auction– April 28,2012:The EPMS Wine and Cheese Reception & Auction is our largest fundraiser each year and raises approximately \$20,000. (Last year this even raised a phenomenal \$40,000).

Raffle: Last year Eagle Peak held its first raffle. We raised over \$20,000 by encouraging families to sell these tickets OUTSIDE of the Eagle Peak community. Watch for information coming soon on this exciting fundraiser.

Ongoing Fundraising: Friday Market, E-scrip, Box Tops, and Dining Out Nights

YEAR TO DATE your efforts have brought in close to \$90,000 this year. We still need to raise another \$65,000 to make our budget for the 2011-2012 school year! Please find a way that YOU can help!!

