



EAGLE PEAK MONTESSORI SCHOOL

Serving children through Montessori Education since 2001

FRIDAY FOLDER NOTES

(ALSO ON THE WEBSITE)

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK

OCTOBER 21, 2016

EAGLE PEAK MONTESSORI SCHOOL

800 HUTCHINSON ROAD,

WALNUT CREEK, CA 94598

P 925-946-0994 / F 925-946-9409

“The consciousness of knowing how to make oneself useful, how to help mankind in many ways, fills the soul with noble confidence.”

~ Dr. Maria Montessori



Notes from Michelle

Parents - I have made a promise to the teachers that more than 90% of you WILL complete your Parent Input section for the Individual Learning Plan (ILP) form. These forms are used during the discussion at your parent /teacher conference in November. We have included a copy in your Friday Folder, and there will be blank copies available for you outside of the classrooms as you sign up for conferences. These forms may look intimidating, but they are simply a place for you to share with the teacher what you would like to see in each of the areas. If you have questions, bring those questions with you to the conference, but also bring your completed form. We use these meetings to help build a partnership between the parents and the teachers. In upper elementary, the children work towards becoming part of that process also. The Individual Learning Plan is based on the outcomes outlined in our charter as the attributes we hope to see our children acquire at Eagle Peak Montessori. One suggestion might be to bring the form with you to the observation you have scheduled to watch your child in class. You can make notes on the things you observe on the form which can help you to formulate your goals later. By bringing your forms with goals you have for your child, it gives you the opportunity to be an even greater part of your child's educational experience.

The Board of Directors has a very important message below, I encourage you to read it through in its entirety.

Have a great weekend.



Board Update

The Board met on Tuesday, October 18, and had a great meeting. Students from the Adolescent Program came and talked to us about their success so far this year with Friday Market and about a consciousness-raising presentation and volunteer experience with the Contra Costa Food Bank. Each month I am so impressed at the poise and public speaking abilities of our AP students!

Many of you are aware of the movement within the neighborhood around the school to create a new school district that would be separate from Mt. Diablo schools. This group (called Northgate CAPS) in theory would have a right to our property, since all current MDUSD property that currently is geographically within their newly envisioned Northgate School District would become that new district's property. The EPMS Board has been monitoring their activities since they began advocating for this change over a number of years but seemed to be re-energized about a year ago. When this latest reboot of the group appeared, we invited their representatives to speak with the Board and explain what they had in mind. Our lawyer was present at this meeting, so that she could also hear what claims they are making. After talking with their representatives, we decided that their proposed new district is opposed to our mission statement to provide access to Montessori learning to students from a diversity of cultural and socioeconomic backgrounds. Our hope is that they do not succeed in creating their new district.

At our Board Meeting on Tuesday, we discussed them again, noticing that they have proceeded to the stage where they are soliciting signatures to get on the ballot. This is the next step they need to become a new district, though there are still several steps that follow if they do



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Board Update (con't)

succeed. We understand that people are justifiably feeling a lot of uncertainty and fear about what might happen to our school if they were to succeed. Would we lose our campus? Would we join the new district? What would happen to our current students who do not live in the Northgate district?

Currently, our plan is to watch, wait, and talk with the Mt. Diablo district about possible contingencies. Even setting aside issues of larger social justice, it would be a substantial risk to our current students if we were to try to join up with a new Northgate district. The individuals who are organizing the Northgate CAPS effort promise that they would continue to allow students from outside the district to attend Eagle Peak, but they can actually make no such promises. If they were to succeed in setting up a new district, it would be up to the new school board and new superintendent to decide what the terms of our charter would be. We would have to rewrite and reapply for our charter with the new district. We can have no guarantee that they would welcome the students to Eagle Peak that they set up a whole new district to try and exclude. The majority of our students do not live in the Northgate neighborhood, and it is our responsibility as a Board to protect and advocate for all of our students and to act as stewards for the mission of our school.

In the upcoming months and years, this may mean that we will face some very difficult decisions. Please know that we are following the situation very closely, and feel empowered in the knowledge that we will always act in the spirit of our mission statement and in the best interests of our students.

If you have any questions about any of the above issues or about what is going on with the school, please come



Board Update (con't)

on by and visit a Board Meeting! They are the third Tuesday of every month at 6:30 and are open to the public. There is a period at the beginning of the meeting reserved for people to tell the Board what is on their mind. The agenda is always posted on the office doors the Friday before the meeting. I would also be happy to talk with folks – either stop me in the quad or E-mail me at lwagner@eaglepeak.org.

Thanks!

Laura Lisy-Wagner, EPMS Board Vice-President



Notes from CFEP Treasurer

- For those of you who chose to pay your monthly Annual Given donation by credit card we will be running the October auto-payment shortly. If you have new credit card information please contact cfeptreasurer@gmail.com with that info.
- If you had indicated that you were paying any fee by PalPal please make sure that payment has been made or submit another form of payment. You can use the following link to make a PayPal payment:
<https://www.paypal.com/donate/?token=-DGEYWM9QgVH0m7-W6gWHCHhxYlr14kC08r-cFUrXyr35SB8DCYxQFnHQSlyH42pdyMln0>
- We have a few Memory Book orders (\$30 for 1 Book, \$35 for Book/Shout Out) that have no name and/or payment attached. If you did not get a receipt for your Memory Book order you should send an email to cfeptreasurer@gmail.com to confirm your order.



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PTLG Quick Notes

Want to know what is happening at EPMS? Want to feel more plugged-in? Attend EPMS Board meetings or CFEP meetings and definitely a PTLG meeting! Also, volunteering is a great way to get know parents, students, faculty, and staff. See below of for a list of activities and volunteer opportunities.

Upcoming Events

Brick Day Lego Show on Oct 29 from 10-5:00pm at Heather Farms Park. Bring the flyer in this week's Friday Folder and \$1 of your admission fee will be donated back to EPMS.

- **Historical Halloween** on Oct 31. Children will come to school dressed as their historical figure and ready to share information about their person. Parents you are welcome to attend the historical timeline event when all the children in the school lineup based on the birthdate of their historical figure.

- **Thanksgiving Feast** on Nov 18. Children will sit in their family groups and enjoy a delicious feast.

Current Volunteer Positions

- **Help on the day of the Thanksgiving Feast:** We need a volunteer/s to work on the day of the feast, Nov 18th. The activities include managing food drop off, decorating for the event, and serving food. Contact Ms. Hammons or Rachel Beeler (rdwiggins@yahoo.com) if you are interested in volunteering for this event.



International Day

On December 16, the last day of school before Winter Break, we will be having our annual International Day celebration. This is a wonderful day – a great opportunity for the kids to learn about and celebrate the diverse



International Day (con't)

cultures of our world and a great opportunity for parents to get together, pitch in, and make it happen! All day, the kids go from classroom to classroom, learning about a variety of nations and languages, playing games, making crafts, and eating food from around the globe.

There are four ways that you can help, some during the day and some outside of school hours! We need parent volunteers to lead classroom activities (you must be fingerprinted with the district to volunteer in the classroom), to serve food, to contribute food, and to help purchase supplies. We are including a volunteer interest form in this Friday Folder, or you can volunteer by sending an E-mail to lwagner@eaglepeak.org.



Uvidíme se na Mezinárodní Den!
Laura Lisy-Wagner, on behalf of
the International Day Committee



Field Trip Reminder

Lower EI: Contribution Form & Permission Slips (MDUSD & EPMS) are due (and signed) in the office no later than October 24th. Additional copies of the forms are located in the office. Check should be made payable to CFEP

Upper EI: 1st contribution past due; reminders in FF.

AP: Forms and 1st contribution dues November 7.



Attachments this Week

- UE Only: Photo Release Permission Slip
- Yoga Session II Sign-up
- Parent Input Form

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OCTOBER 2016 School Calendar

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
	Erdkinder/Adolescent Program – Hidden Villa					
		PPM 6:30-7:30			No Friday Mkt <u>LE Only</u> Marine Science Inst. 8:30 – 1:30 On Campus	

OCT/NOVEMBER 2016 School Calendar

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
30	31	1	2	3	4	5
	Historical Halloween Timeline 11 am Early Dismissal 1:00 pm	----- Parent Observations ----- <i>November 1 thru 4th and 7th</i>				PPM 9:30–10:30 am
					Friday Market	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
<i>Daylight Savings (Fall Back)</i> Sun at 2 am	Parent Observations PPM 6:30-7:30	-- Parent/Teacher Conferences -- <i>November 8, 9 and 10</i> <i>Early Dismiss at 1 PM all 3 Days</i>			VETERAN'S DAY  NO SCHOOL	
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
	CFEP 7pm	Make-up Pictures Board Mtg 6:30 pm		AP MMUN Info Night 6:30-7:30	Thanksgiving Feast 	
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
<i>Thanksgiving Holiday - No School</i>						
27	28	29	30			
		PTLG 6:30 pm				