



EAGLE PEAK MONTESSORI SCHOOL

Serving children through Montessori Education since 2001

FRIDAY FOLDER NOTES

(ALSO ON THE WEBSITE)

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK

NOVEMBER 18, 2016

EAGLE PEAK MONTESSORI SCHOOL

800 HUTCHINSON ROAD,

WALNUT CREEK, CA 94598

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



No School November 21st thru 25th

“An education capable of saving humanity is no small undertaking; it involves the spiritual development of man, the enhancement of his value as an individual, and the preparation of young people to understand the times in which they live.”

~Dr. Maria Montessori

“Education today, in this particular social period, is assuming truly unlimited importance. And the increased emphasis on its practical value can be summed up in one sentence: education is the best weapon for peace.”

~Dr. Maria Montessori



Notes from Michelle

As we head into the week of rest and celebration, I would like to express my gratitude to work within a community of cooperation, acceptance, respect and compassion. I have included quotes by Dr. Montessori today which express why I am also so thankful to have found my way into Montessori education. Dr. Maria Montessori did not simply envision an educational methodology. She created a movement. A movement that believes education can change the world. She lived in Italy during one of the darker moments of history and stood up for what she believed even when it cost her the ability to stay in her native country. She saw education as a way to change the world. I am grateful for her vision and for the charge that those of us in the Montessori community (Montessori educators, Montessori students and Montessori parents) have to do our best to create understanding and peace through



Notes from Michelle (con't)

caring for others. Dr. Montessori believed we were global citizens and had a cosmic task to take care of our motherland (the earth and its people). Thank you all for supporting and helping this educational model be so vibrant, even over 100 years since its conception.

I have included a letter from State Superintendent Tom Torlakson, regarding protecting our students throughout the state. He also lists resources at the end of his letter.

We had a special guest speaker in the classrooms today. Adria Benehashemi is a cross cultural educator and parent at the school. She came to discuss the history of Thanksgiving. Please see this note from her, “Today in addition to celebrating a Thanksgiving feast at Eagle Peak, each classroom participated in a discussion of the holiday’s history. We talked about how this holiday can be a powerful unifying experience (the main reason Abraham Lincoln had for starting the national Thanksgiving holiday in 1863). Eating a meal together is such an important human experience. And practicing gratitude or thankfulness has been proven scientifically to be very healthy for our brains and emotions! In addition to the very positive aspects of this holiday, we also discussed why some people feel sad about it...namely American Indians whose ancestors lost so much land and life as a result of European immigration to this continent and the subsequent policies and practices of the US government. The goal of these discussions today was to start to find a balance between appreciation for the positives of Thanksgiving, along with an acknowledgment of the difficult experiences of indigenous people. To continue this learning process, I’ve included some information about the present-day Wampanoag people (the tribe whose members participated in the original Thanksgiving) as a handout. Thank you, and have a great holiday! - Adria Banihashemi (Kai, 302).



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Notes from Michelle (con't)

As we get into the holiday season and will be celebrating our International Day in December, we are reminded of the variety of cultures that make up Eagle Peak and the country itself. In order to increase our understanding and appreciation of those cultures, we are forming a Cultural Awareness Committee. Please contact me at Michelle@eaglepeak.org if you would like to join with us in this new committee. We know that there are many holidays that bring about a study of a culture, but we would like to have a way to extend that study to include more than just a one day or one month of awareness. For example, Chinese New Year may lead to a discussion on the weeks or days surrounding the event, but we are looking to be able to work towards a larger understanding of the cultures that celebrate that day. Again, please email me if you have questions or would like to help out.

We hope that all of you have a peaceful and rest-filled week with friends and family.



Notes from Childcare

1. **December, 2016 Childcare:** Due to Thanksgiving Break next week, December's Childcare Registration forms are going out in this week's Friday Folder. Don't forget to return by December 5th. Auto credit card payments will be charged during the 1st week of December.
2. Drop-in charges for November will hopefully be sent out in the December 9th Friday Folder or mailed. Please clear up any outstanding balances ASAP.

If you have any questions please Mrs. Mahraj.



Annual Giving Update from CFEP

To date, we have received a little over \$58,000. Thanks to all that have donated to the Annual Giving campaign! In order to reach our \$100,000 goal, we are asking for 100% participation. Please consider donating what you can!

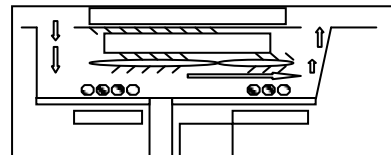
Enrichment programs, such as Environmental Education, Music, and PE, are funded through Annual Giving donations. We also supplement field trip costs and fund additional training for our EPMS teachers! 100% of all donations to DIRECTLY to the school.

ONLINE HOLIDAY SHOPPERS!!!!

Go Smile.amazon.com!!! Select Eagle Peak Montessori as your charity. Every time you shop through this site to purchase, a % of your spend goes to our school! Spread the word to your family and friends now! Bk Friday weekend and Cyber Monday is just a few days away!

Want a chance to win the new Apple MacBook Pro? The Golden Ticket Raffle will kick off in 3 short weeks- GET READY!

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We all know how difficult it is to find parking at our school and unfortunately there's little we can do about it except abide by the rules and be courteous and cautious. We also would like to remind you that there are designated spaces reserved exclusively for the staff/teachers and remind you not to park in those spots in the morning even though it's only for "a minute". Teachers need to have these spots available so they can get to their classroom on time. Your attention to this would be greatly appreciated



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PTLG Quick Notes

Hello EPMS families,

The year is flying by and now is a good time to check your volunteer hours. Stop by the school office and notate the days, activities, and hours that you have volunteered thus far. If you are in need of hours, current volunteer opportunities are listed below.

Upcoming Events

- *PTLG Community Meeting* on Tuesday, Nov. 29, at EPMS at 6:30pm. The meeting will include time to get to know your Room Parents and the other parents as well as address any questions you have for PTLG, CFEP, the Board, teachers, and Ms. Hammons. You will receive volunteer hours for attending the meeting! Childcare available!!!!
- International Day is Dec 18. Please contact Laura Lisy-Wagner (lalisys@sfsu.edu) with any questions.
- Welcome Back Breakfast is Jan 3. Come and enjoy some coffee, pastries, and fruit as well as catch up with friends after the winter break. The breakfast will be right after drop-off.

Current Volunteer Positions

- Volunteers are needed to present and lead an activity related to a culture that is represented at International Day. The cultures discussed this year will be Czech Republic, Ecuador, Israel, Japan, and Mexico. Please contact Laura Lisy-Wagner (lalisys@sfsu.edu) regarding the activities, etc.
- Bring coffee, pastries, and/or fruit to the Welcome Back Breakfast on Jan 3. Please contact Rachel Beeler (rdwiggins@yahoo.com) if you are interested in this volunteer activity.



PTLG Quick Notes (con't)

- Yearbook committee has been busy brainstorming the logistics of making sure deadlines are met timely and effectively. The first deadline is in January for the yearbook cover. Reenah Chinchilla (reenah.chinchilla@gmail.com) has set up a Shutterfly account where photos can be uploaded and kept track off for the yearbook. Swetha Rao (shwe.rao@gmail.com) has been busy working on a ladder plan to help keep everyone on track. We are still in need of two key people- an accountant to keep track of sales and a page specialist. Please contact Berenice Hernandez regarding these positions (bereghernandez@icloud.com)

Cheers, the *PTLG Team*

Rachel Beeler
Brandan Ricks

Leah Karson
Zulay Loftin

Jennifer Torres
Akiko Noguchi



Office Notes

Calendared Events

- Nov 21-25 Thanksgiving Holiday – Off
- Nov 29 PTLG 6:30 pm
- Nov 30 Room 302: Borges Ranch
- Dec 10 Garden Workday
- Dec 16 International Day & Holiday Boutique
- Dec 19–Jan 2 Winter Break - Off



Attachments this Week

- Childcare Registration: December 2016
- October Childcare Drop-in Invoices
- State Superintendent of Public Education Message
- NCAI.ORG Thanksgiving Message

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NOVEMBER 2016 School Calendar

| SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT |
|---|-----|-----------------|---|---------------------|------------------|----------------------|
| 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 |
| Thanksgiving Holiday - No School | | | | | | |
| 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| | | PTLG 6:30 pm | Rm 302 Borges Ranch 8:45-11:30 | PPM 6:30-7:30 am | Friday Market | PPM 9:30-10:30 am |

DECEMBER 2016 School Calendar

| SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT |
|---|--|----------------------|-----|-----|--|---|
| 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| | | | | | Friday Market |  Garden Work Day 9 am - 12 |
| 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 |
| | | BOARD Mtg 6:30 | | |  International Day | |
| | | | | |  Holiday Boutique Rm 701 | |
| 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 |
|  | Winter Holiday - No School: 12/19/15 - 1/2/16 | | | | |  |
| 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 |

JANUARY 2017 School Calendar

| SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT |
|---|----------------------------|-----|-----|-----|------------------|-----|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 17 |
|  | New Year Holiday Off | | | | Friday Market | |