



EAGLE PEAK MONTESSORI SCHOOL

Serving children through Montessori Education since 2001

FRIDAY FOLDER NOTES

(ALSO ON THE WEBSITE)

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK

APRIL 28, 2017

EAGLE PEAK MONTESSORI SCHOOL

800 HUTCHINSON ROAD,

WALNUT CREEK, CA 94598

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

“We shall walk together on this path of life, for all things are part of the universe and are connected with each other to form one whole unity.”

~Dr. Maria Montessori

“I think what makes us human - is our interconnectedness among people. It's our ability to form and maintain relationships. It's the barometer by which we call ourselves human.”

~Thomas Jane



Notes from Michelle

Recently, it was suggested that the founders of Eagle Peak Montessori School were simply seeking an alternative to MDUSD schools for their children by opening a charter. I want to clarify for the record that this was not their main objective. These parents specifically wanted a Montessori education for their children, and they knew that opening a charter school would allow them this option. Personally, I feel that the ideal school district would be where each school had a different educational system, and both teachers and parents sought out the one that they felt was the one they were passionate about and best suited their child. But, Eagle Peak Montessori was not created as a statement in opposition to the district, as much as it was simply wanting something outside the traditional educational route.

I say this because as I watch neighborhoods and parent groups in various parts of this county (Florida, Alabama, Walnut Creek) attempt to redraw lines or to create funding for specific schools within a district I want to make sure that everyone understands that this was not the intent behind Eagle Peak Montessori's design. We absolutely fundraise for our specific school but we want our school to serve a diverse population who are be seen as a free “private” school. We do not see seeking a Montessori



Notes from Michelle (con't)

education for their child. We are not and should not ourselves that way and we do not want that to be the reason people seek us out. We hope that our message, that we are a Montessori school first and foremost, comes across loud and clear. We know Montessori works for most children, but we are equally aware that it is not right for every family.

Montessori education is not simply an academic program. Montessori education is about helping children become independent, develop a desire to learn, and to love the process of learning. Montessori education is about serving your community and making this world a better place for **everyone**, which includes understanding social justice concerns, and discussing at an age appropriate level how our choices affect the entire global community. Montessori education strives to help children understand the interconnectedness of all ethnicities of people and all countries, and even closer, of ALL communities. We cannot fund one small group of schools differently when they exist within a larger community of schools, without it negatively affecting children. Groups who feel that because they have more, they should receive more somehow lack the understanding that even if they provide their children with more music, more art, more sports, their children will still need to live with, work with, and be neighbors with, the children who were not given these opportunities. The larger picture is that we are all connected, and separating ourselves does not simply impact us- it impacts those we have chosen to separate from, often in far greater ways. Eventually, the impacts on those we have pulled away from WILL impact us, because we are all connected.



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Monday Gathering 5/1/17

6th Grade Leaders: Ellen Oh and
Christina Vlavianos



Board Update

Thanks to all our parents and friends that emailed the Walnut Creek City Council and/or attended the City Council meeting on the 18th. This issue is now moving into the County review process and two public meetings will be held next week as follows:

- May 2nd, 6PM – Concord Senior Center (Wisteria Room) 2727 Parkside Circle, Concord
- May 3rd, 6PM – The Gardens at Heather Farms (Camellia Room) 1540 Marchbanks Drive, Walnut Creek

This is an opportunity for County staff and Board Members to hear input from the public regarding the Northgate CAPS issue. As with the City of Walnut meeting we urge our community to attend one of these meetings to voice your views on the Northgate CAPS proposal to secede from MDUSD and create their own school district. Or, simply attend the meeting wearing your Eagle Peak shirt!

A few points to keep in mind: The Northgate CAPS group has published a snapshot of Ed Code that speaks towards how a charter school *may* retain their existing charter and site when a charter school is located within the boundaries of a proposed new district. This is only a snapshot of the applicable codes and may not be as easily executable as implied. Rest assured we are in close contact with our attorney and other charter school organizations who are studying this issue and will advise us accordingly.



Board Update (con't)

While this issue certainly impacts Eagle Peak, there is a much larger social justice issue at play. NPR published a report last year titled "the 50 Most Segregating School Borders in America" citing the creation of school districts along the boundaries of more affluent neighborhoods separating the "haves" from the "have nots". I urge you to read this story and draw your own conclusions. (Link below):

<http://www.npr.org/sections/ed/2016/08/23/490513305/the-50-most-segregating-school-borders-in-america>



Notes from the CFEP



The Auction is one of our biggest fundraising events of the year. Take time to meet other parents, enjoy our wonderful EPMS community, and get a chance to bid on some amazing items!

Looking forward to seeing you this Saturday, especially at the Give to Grow Table. Your donation is 100% tax deductible!



Last Lunch Order: 5/10 thru 6/9/17

.....begins Tuesday, May 9th. If you turn your form in on Monday, May 8th, you will not be able to purchase lunches for the 1st week.

There will be no hot lunch offered the last week of school: Tuesday, June 13th. Please plan accordingly.

Field Trip Alert: All Upper EI students will be at either Westminster Woods or Nature Bridge the entire week of June 5-9th.



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PTLG Quick Notes

Hello All,

Thank you to everyone who attended the PTLG meeting on Tuesday. We learned a lot about the toxins in our body and the environment as well as ways in which to reduce the impact of such items in order to live a healthier and more energetic lifestyle. Thank you to Zulay Loftin for coordinating our guest speakers: Dr. Tommy and Dr. Vanessa Wolf with The New Health Chiropractic Center in Concord and Susan Fitterer, owner of Purehaven. If you want any of the valuable information from this meeting please contact Rachel Beeler (rdwiggins@yahoo.com).

Upcoming Events/Volunteer Activities

- **EPMS Auction:** The EPMS auction is this Saturday, April 29, at 5:00pm!!! If you have not purchased a ticket, you can purchase them at the door for \$50. Come early so you can see all the auction items..... don't miss this fun and important event for EPMS. If you are available, please stay to help cleanup.
- **Cultural Fair (LE) & Ancient Civilization Bazaar (UE)** is May 4. Details should have come home with your child.
- **End of the Year Picnic and Stargazing** is June 2. Come to EPMS ready to share a dish at this final event for the school year. Contact Brad and Beth Hunter (bethual@gmail.com) if you have any questions or want to help with this event. After the picnic you can look through telescopes and learn about the night sky. Your whole family is welcomed to attend. Contact Leah Karson (leah2bfit@hotmail.com) with any questions or if you would like to help with this event.

Rachel Beeler
Brandan Ricks

Leah Karson
Zulay Loftin

Jennifer Torres
Akiko Noguchi



Field Trips

Upper EI:

The final contribution for Upper EI Field Trips, both Westminster (4-5) and Nature's Bridge (6), were due April 10th. For those who paid by check a reminder is in this week's Friday Folder.

Credit card payments will be automatically charged unless you have indicated otherwise. If your credit information has changed please give us the updated information.

If you haven't already done so please make your contribution as soon as possible.

A/P

Final contribution will be due May 1st. Credit card payments will be automatically charged. Reminders will be forthcoming.



Notes from Childcare

The last Childcare Registration encompasses **BOTH** May & 1st half of June and is in this week's Friday Folder. Payment is due by Monday, May 1st.

The last day of school is Thursday June 15th and is a 1/2 day so please plan accordingly. There will be Childcare **available only until 5 pm** on the last day of school.

Please bring your accounts up to date.



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Boxtops for Education

The Box Tops for Education program is close to reaching its goal for the 2016 – 2017 school year! Please take time to go through your cupboards and pantries to gather all of the Box Tops labels & Labels for Education to bring to school. It's even fun to ask Grandma & Grandpa if they have some Box Tops to contribute.

Let's make this year's program a huge success! Bring your Box Tops to the school office during the month of May.



Office Notes

Calendared Events

- Apr 29 EPMS Auction 5:30-8:30 pm
- May 4 - Cultural Fair (LE) & Ancient Civilization Bazaar (UE) 6:15
- May 13 Garden Workday 9-12
- May 14 Mother's Day
- May 16 Board Meeting 6:30
- May 29 Memorial Day – Off
- May 30 PTLG 6:30



Attachments this Week

- May/June Childcare Registration
- Last Lunch Order: 5/10 – 6/9/17
- UE Bazaar Advertisements
- Teacher/Staff Appreciation Flyer

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Saturday, April 29th - 5:30 - 8:30
 (Doors open at 5 pm)
EPMS Annual Auction
 Civic Park Assembly Hall, Walnut Creek

May 2017 School Calendar

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
30	1	2	3	4	5	6
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> Teacher/Staff Appreciation Week </div>						
				LE: Cultural Fair UE: Ancient Civilization Bazaar 6:15 - 7:30	Friday Market	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
	CFEP 7 pm				Friday Market	Garden Workday 9 am - 12
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
		Board Mtg 6:30			Friday Market	
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
					Friday Market	
28	29	30	31			
	Memorial Day Off	PTLG 7 pm				