



EAGLE PEAK MONTESSORI SCHOOL

Serving children through Montessori Education since 2001

FRIDAY FOLDER NOTES

(ALSO ON THE WEBSITE)

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK

SEPTEMBER 9, 2016

EAGLE PEAK MONTESSORI SCHOOL

800 HUTCHINSON ROAD,

WALNUT CREEK, CA 94598

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

"It is true that we cannot make a genius. We can only give to each child the chance to fulfill his potential possibilities."

-Dr. Maria Montessori

"Never help a child with a task at which he feels he can succeed."

-Dr. Maria Montessori



Notes from Michelle (con't)

much assistance it becomes a hindrance. You may hear us say to them, if we see you carrying their backpack, "Isn't that your backpack, Joni?" We are not trying to be disrespectful to you, but simply reminding the student that at school, they are expected to take on even the smallest responsibility. This does not mean we never communicate with parents or we don't give them guidance. We do. But we also give them the freedom to be responsible.

I was excited to read through the topics that you, the parent community, requested for Parent Ed nights. Part of that excitement was to see that the parents and the school were thinking along similar lines when considering Parent Education. The topics suggested by parents covered a variety of crucially important topics such as helping your child understand racial and social justice issues to helping children develop empathy, internet safety to internet avoidance, from how to handle specific behavioral issues to how to be more "Montessori" at home, and of course Montessori instruction-from incorporating outside programs such as Lucy Calkins to the basics of the Montessori philosophy and instruction. We are excited that our first Parent Education on Tuesday evening, addresses one of these topics already- Montessori Philosophy. Please see the attached flyer for more information on Tuesday night's discussion!

This year the staff and I discussed the importance of communication between the classroom and home. Email has become a vital tool in this partnership. However, as we all know, email is not a perfect tool. Often, when we are in an emotional place, we can project tone into an email which may or may not be



Notes from Michelle

I know that parents do not always understand why we do things a certain way at Eagle Peak. However, the truth is that almost every decision from how we guide the students' learning to the expectations we have for them, for the community and for ourselves, come from our training and belief in the teachings and philosophy of Dr. Maria Montessori. There are so many times that we start to make a decision as a staff, and we stop and really ask ourselves, "Does that follow what we know to be true based on our observations, on our teaching and on our philosophical beliefs?" We try to limit the outside programs that we integrate into our classrooms, because we do not want to water down in ANY way the Montessori curriculum or the opportunities the child has for exploring in the classroom. There are many public Montessori schools that try to be everything to everyone and in the process they lose their identity as a true Montessori school. The teachers and I work very hard not to lose that as the core of everything we implement at Eagle Peak. Please understand that we appreciate your thoughts and your suggestions, but we also ask that you understand when we have to say "no".

One of the crucial concepts that we strive for the students to understand is RESPONSIBILITY. This is why they are the responsible party for their backpacks and their belongings. If we, as the adult, provide too



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intended. Keeping this in mind, we ask that when you email the teachers, you give them 24 hours to respond during the week. If you email your child's teacher on Friday afternoon, they will respond to you by Monday afternoon. (We do not expect our staff to respond to emails on the weekend.) If either party feels that email communication is not resolving the question or concern, please make an appointment during the teacher's office hours to meet in person. Each classroom has shared with their community which day and time they reserve to have as office hours for meetings. Thank you in advance for your help in this matter.

Also, if you need to leave a message for your child during the school day, we will make sure that prior to dismissal your child receives your message. However, please do not ask to be transferred to your child's classroom in order to talk with them during the day. It is not beneficial to the child's instructional process to receive phone calls during their work day. If there is a change in who is picking them up or arrangements for afterschool, we will make sure that they get that message prior to leaving.

Friday, September 23rd, I will hold my first "Principal Coffee and Chat" of the year, at the Peet's on Oak Grove Road. If the weather is pleasant I will be sitting outside if any of you would like to join me to ask questions about Eagle Peak or just to enjoy a cup together. My goal will be to be at Peet's by 8:30 and I will be there for about an hour. I hope to see you there!!!

Have a great weekend. Michelle



PTLG Quick Notes

Hello EPMS community,

Welcome to the start of a tremendous school year. We want to welcome new families to EPMS and thank all the families that brought breakfast goodies to the Welcome Back breakfast. It was a success thanks to your amazing community spirit!

Our team has been working hard with all the groups on campus to plan an outstanding year. Your PTLG team includes

- Rachel Diggins-Beeler (rdwiggins@yahoo.com)
- Leah Karson (leah2bfit@hotmail.com)
- Zulay Loftin (zulayloftin@yahoo.com)
- Akiko Noguchi (glasguchi@gmail.com)
- Brandan Ricks (brandan.ricks@icloud.com)
- Jennifer Torres (teamtortes2005@gmail.com)

Please feel free to contact any of us regarding EPMS community events and volunteer opportunities.

Calling all **Event Coordinators**.... Next week Jennifer Torres will email you an Excel spreadsheet that includes a list of the families that would like to volunteer for your event. If you are in need of more volunteers let us know. Thank you Jennifer!

Events

We are happy to announce that we are hosting a welcome back **Lower EI Play Date** on Sept 14 at Arbolado Park. Please come to the park after pick-up and enjoy getting to know other families while your children play at the park. All are welcome... including



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PTLG Quick Notes (con't)

siblings! Please be sure to stop by Rocco's either on your way to the park or after for our first Dine and Donate of the year. Be sure to tell your friends and family!!! Cut & paste the following and post in an email or your FB page.

Support EPMS with our 1st Dine & Donate
GO TO ROCCO'S on Sept 14th
Mention "EPMS" and we'll receive
25% donation from ROCCO'S
Thank you! and Thanks ROCCO'S!

PTLG will host the first **community meeting** of the year on Sept 27 at EPMS at 6:30pm. This meeting will include your fieldtrip training. The meeting will also include time to get to know your Room 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!!!!

Current Volunteer Needs

All Parents: If you want to volunteer to hold the stop sign at drop-off or pick-up, contact Laura Linton (thelintons@gmail.com). You will hold the sign for 15 minutes but will receive 30 minutes towards your volunteer hours.

Fall Fest & Chili Cook-off is October 9 and the team is in need of volunteers prior to and on the day of the event. If you are available to volunteer for this event, contact Erica Chinchilla (mamabruno78@live.com) for Fall Fest and Akiko Noguchi (glasguchi@gmail.com) for the Chili Cook-off.



PTLG Quick Notes (con't)

We are looking for someone to coordinate the **Golden Ticket Raffle**. This job includes creating the tickets, tracking ticket sales, and choosing the winner of the raffle. CFEP will assist the coordinator with this job.

Happy New Year EPMS community!!!!

Cheers, the *PTLG Team*

Rachel Beeler Leah Karson Jennifer Torres
Brandan Ricks Zulay Loftin Akiko Noguchi



Lunches Start Next Week

Order forms went out last week. If we do not receive your order by Monday, September 12th you cannot order lunch for the 1st week. Additional order forms can be found in the office.

Burritos **will start** on Tuesday, **September 13th** and Pizza on Friday, **September 16th**. This cycle runs 6 week period and ends on October 21st. **PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS!**



After-School Activities Schedule

Yoga	Rm 201	Th	Sept 8th	3:45-4:30
Chess	Rm 302	Tu	Sept 27th	3:45-4:45
(Free intro classes: 9/13 & 20)				



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Environmental Education



Not just 3 R's!

Our Waste Wizards work every day to make sure we Recycle everything we can at school! It's important to remind ourselves to consider the first two R's: Reduce and Reuse because its always better to make less waste to begin with (as in Refusing single use plastics). There's also Rot which diverts our food waste from the landfill to "cook" in the compost bin and eventually be returned to our garden as soil - nature's amazing Recycle program! Here's some Food for Thought: The average child in American throws away 67 pounds of lunch waste a year at school. Here are some ideas that can help reduce lunch waste, which not only helps the environment but can also save you money (and the school too because it's expensive to haul all that garbage to the landfill every week, and much of our garbage is single use plastics):

- Pack lunches in reusable lunch boxes/bags instead of single use bags
- Include reusable silverware, cloth napkins, and placemats instead of single use
- Use reusable containers instead of zip-locks or plastic wrap, which do not recycle
- Use a refillable beverage container instead of disposable water bottles or juice boxes..

EPMS students are asked to pack their leftovers back in their lunchbox so you know what they eat and what they don't (and sometimes their leftovers are perfect for an after school snack).

It's always a win-win to go green and save some green!



Office Notes

Calendared Events

- Sep 13 Parent Ed: Montessori Philosophy
- Sep 14 Rocco's Pizza: Dine & Donate
- Sep 20 Fall Picture Day
- Sep 20 Board Mtg – 6:30 pm
- Sep 27 PTLG – 6:30 pm
- Sep 27 Field Trip Training
- Oct 9 Fall Festival/Chili Cook-off
- Oct 15 Garden Work Day 9 – 12 am

Attachments this Week

- Parent Ed Childcare Sign-up
- Fall Fest Volunteer Opportunities
- Dine & Donate Flyer: Rocco's Pizza
- Lower EI: Afternoon Play-date Flyer
- Life Touch Fall Picture Order Form

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SEPTEMBER, 2016 School Calendar

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
		Lunch Starts Parent Ed: Montessori Philosophy 6:30	 Dine & Donate			
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
		 Fall Pics Board Mtg 6:30pm				
25	26	27	28	29	30	1
		PTLG & Field Trip Training 6:30 pm				

OCTOBER 2016 School Calendar

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
				PPM 6:30-7:30 am		
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
 Chili Cook-off 1 - 4		<u>Vision Testing</u> 1, 2 & 5th PPM 6:30-7:30 am				 Garden Work Day 9 am - 12