



# Summer Newsletter

**August 2017**

- **Bridge Week**  
for incoming  
students—  
**AUGUST 14-18.**

- **Registration**  
packet pick up  
**AUGUST 14-18 8:00am-5:00pm**

- **Campus Clean Up Day**  
**AUGUST 26 8am-12pm**

- **Elementary Back To School Orientation** August 28  
**5:30-8:00pm**

- **Adolescent Program Back to School Orientation**  
August 29  
**6:00-8:00**

- **FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL**  
**August 30**

## Is it SERIOUSLY AUGUST???

Two years ago the AP students made decorated cigar boxes for the auction project and I purchased one that sits in my office. On the cover is a surfer and his board looking off at the ocean. Inside is this quote, "You can't stop the waves BUT you can learn to Surf." I have decided that this is my quote for the year....There will always be waves that seem too high, or insurmountable... but we just have to learn to surf. With determination, we can simply ride the waves.

I hope that your summer has been full of adventure, fun and restorative activity as individuals and families. Life slows down a bit in the summer at Eagle Peak, but does not come to a stop. We have a few updates for you as a product of the non-stop summer.

As you may know we have a larger Upper Elementary group than the past year, and as a result we have added back a 3rd Upper Elementary Classroom. Before you ask, "Where is the new building?" I'll share, "Well, its coming". We have been planning for growth for a few years, but when the Northgate CAPS concern arose, we had to put some things on hold. For example, if we were to build additional brick and mortar building on campus, and then were forced to move, how would that affect the financial bottom line? So we are in a position of moving forward with a temporary fix, which is to add another modular building to the campus. Unfortunately, the construction for that additional space will not be completed by school starting. This means that our Multiple Purpose building will show us once again, why it is the "multiple" purpose space and will turn into our 3rd UE classroom. Art, Music and Environmental Ed will be held outside of that room. Hopefully, this will only be until January and we will of course keep you updated.

The new classroom brings the happy news of a new staff member. Ran Wang will join Denise May in the third UE classroom. Ran worked previously in the UE classroom at Golden Oak Montessori but recently moved to Pleasant Hill and we are very lucky to have her join our staff. Please look at the updated Parent Handbook (in your registration packet) for more information on Ran. As mentioned in the last Friday Folder for the year, Denise has graciously agreed to return to Upper Elementary to help out with our larger group of students. Denise has taught in every age of Montessori classrooms (toddler through adolescent), we are so fortunate to have her experience and expertise at Eagle Peak.

We also want to welcome two more new staff members. Leslie Brown (Van Sickle) is the new addition to our office staff. Amy Nelson has moved into Sondra's position as office manager and Leslie will be joining us as the secretary extraordinaire. Leslie's three children all attended Eagle Peak. In fact her son Chase and I started at Eagle Peak the same year. Our other new staff member is also a long time member of the Eagle Peak family. Gaby George will join us for the first half of the year as a teacher in room 401, while Sara Kagan-Real is on maternity leave, then in the spring, Gaby will start our first Spanish instruction classes. Gaby's two children, Romina and John, both attended Eagle Peak as well. We are very excited to have two long time Eagle Peakers join us!!! Please read more about them in the Parent Handbook.

With sadness I also have to announce that Sheila Hill has decided not to return to Eagle Peak after 6 years. We wish Sheila all the best and thank her for the important work she has done for the students of Eagle Peak throughout her time here.

We will continue to keep you updated on happenings at the school! Enjoy the last couple of weeks of summer!

PLEASE SEND ANY UPDATED EMAIL ADDRESSES ETC... to the office at eaglepeak-montessori@gmail.com.

## Eagle Peak Montessori School

800 Hutchinson Rd.  
Walnut Creek, CA 94598

Phone: 925-946-0994  
Fax: 925-946-9409  
E-mail:



### EPMS Board News

This summer the board held its annual retreat to work on governance and future planning. We also held our Annual Meeting in July. New board officers were elected during this meeting. After many years as Board President, Tina Segrove will be moving into the Vice President role, as Laura Wagner assumes the role of Board President. Vin Mahraj has joined the board and was voted in as Board Treasurer. If that last name seems familiar it is

because Vin is Sondra's husband. So while we may have lost Sondra to retirement, we have not lost the family being involved. Vin is also connected to Eagle Peak through his great niece who attended Eagle Peak many years ago from 1st-5th grade and who currently attend Cal Berkeley. Emily Pollard, formally Emily McDonald, also joined the board as a community member. Emily is a former Eagle Peak teacher who worked with Linda Chan-

dlee in the Lower Elementary classroom. We welcome both of our new Board Members.

Northgate CAPS update, Mel Bearns, one of our Board Directors has prepared a letter which can be used by members of the Eagle Peak community to send to the county regarding our position on this issue. We emailed out this letter to our families earlier in July. If you did not receive this, please let us know.



*Serving children through PUBLIC  
Montessori Education since 2001.*

[www.eaglepeakmontessori.org](http://www.eaglepeakmontessori.org)