

Eagle Peak Montessori Celebrating 14 years of Educational Choice

FRIDAY FOLDER NOTES

(ALSO ON THE WEBSITE)

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JANUARY 9, 2015



EAGLE PEAK MONTESSORI SCHOOL

800 HUTCHINSON ROAD,

WALNUT CREEK, CA 94598

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

"Nothing will work unless you do."

-Maya Angelou



Notes from Michelle (con't)



Notes from Michelle

I hope that all of you had a wonderful winter break. One of the benefits of the two weeks away for me was the opportunity to simply reflect on the year, not doing it with the purpose of planning or changing, but simply to look back at the growth that Eagle Peak has experienced. I really pondered the Eagle Peak Virtues as those we hope our students embody when they move on from here. We have ambitious goals for the program and for each of the students who pass through our doors. The growing pains that we have experienced on the journey have allowed us to make this program a living, constantly growing and adjusting environment for our students. We have persevered as an educational community and developed strengths even we had forgotten that we possessed. Eagle Peak was not created by a group of people who simply wished for something better, and then sat back while others made it happen. They put those wishes into action and hard work. The four teachers who started here at Eagle Peak (half of whom have stayed for the full 14 years), did not come to work at an established, normalized campus. They had to create that campus and those beautifully functioning classrooms. I say all of this as a reminder that Eagle Peak has never suffered from lack of ambition or commitment whether in the parent community, board of directors, students or staff. This is an educational environment with the highest of expectations for everyone and that is also somewhat rare at times. To everyone involved in the community - you should be proud of what has been created here and I thank you for being a part of that.

Report cards will be distributed on February 7th this year. While this is a week later than expected, we have been in the process of making some changes in the report cards, which needed a little extra time to be completed by the teaching staff. Sibyl Buckner, in her capacity as curriculum advisor, has worked incredibly hard on aligning the 1st-6th grade Montessori curriculum and the Common Core standards. She then took those standards and condensed them into a report card. The structure of the report card will look familiar to you, but the content is different. I have been working on the Adolescent Program report card so that it is more reflective of the AP program itself. Together Sibyl and I have taken the Social/Emotional section of the report card to reflect the Eagle Peak Virtues and how those materialize through behavior in the classroom and during the student's time at Eagle Peak.

Soon we will be announcing our Teacher Trip excursions for the year. These trips are planned by staff members and are a fundraising effort on their part for the school. It may be a trip to San Francisco with Ms. Hammons and Ms. Amy or a Mani-Pedi with Sibyl and Linda. Who knows what fun the teachers have in store to offer this year! Please watch for those flyers soon.

Tuesday night will be the January PTLG meeting at 6:30 followed by a talk on nutrition at 7:15pm by Michelle Dwyer, Health Coach and Nutritionist. Please see the attached flyer.

Lastly- please make sure that we are following the carpool procedure by continuing past the school drive way and turning back down Hutchinson to turn into the parking lot with a left turn. This keeps the center of Hutchinson clear from our carpool line.

Have a great weekend.

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Notes from CFEP

As we kick off 2015 and continue our work into spring, I am pleased to report the following fundraising successes:

- ~ \$1,548 raised by the AP students' holiday boutique
- ~ \$ 501 generated by ShopWithScrip (gift card orders)
- ~ \$ 527 generated by Box Tops collection
- ~ \$ 890 in book store credit from Barnes & Noble

Thank you to all who participated!

Special thanks to **Kristen Revell** for coordinating ShopWithScrip, **Ann Bair** for coordinating Box Tops, and **Shelly Gillis** for coordinating our Barnes & Noble shopping event.

We also are continuing to receive more **matching gifts** from employers. Thanks to the companies that provide these programs, and to the parents and friends who have taken the time to tap these resources. Every bit helps, and we are grateful!

The Adolescent Program (AP) teachers and students continue to collaborate and contribute to fundraising efforts. Their recycling collection program is a free, easy way to help! Ask your neighbors to set aside their **cans and plastic bottles**, and bring 'em on in.

Can you lend a hand for the auction effort? Contact Diana Lauritsen or epmsauction2015@gmail.com. This is a fun group of people and a *really* fun event. This year's theme is "Magic is Something You Make." It nods to the Montessori magic in the classrooms, and the magic of our community to come together and make it all happen. Join us!

Our next CFEP meeting is this **Monday 1/12 at 7:00 pm** in the MU room. Fresh faces are needed for next year, so come observe a meeting and see what we do!

Kris Harwood, President



PTLG Announcements

Happy New Year! Hope everyone had a wonderful and restful holiday break. Speaking of holidays, a round of applause goes to Leah Karson for organizing the Cookie Exchange and the Romp'n Skate. Great fun was had for those who came to Civic Park. Stay tuned: More social events are planned for the new year.

As always, with deepest gratitude to all of the volunteers who braved the cold rain to be at the school representing different countries, to bring in the yummy food for the kids to taste, and to provide the supplies necessary for the crafts for International Day. THANK YOU to the co-chairs, Wendy Helms, Laura Lisy-Wagner, and Ray Valero for the successful event.

- 1/13/15 (Tue): 6:30 - 8:00: PTLG meeting and Parent Education forum. The topic will be nutrition.
- 1/30/15 (Fri): 8:45-2:30: Upper EI field trip to Tech Museum in San Jose.



Notes from Childcare

Childcare payments for the month of January 2015 are now past due. If you have not already submitted payment, any hours incurred will be charged at the drop-in rate and **will be billed at the end of the month.**

Drop-In charges for the month(s) of December, 2014 (or any past due charges) is in this week's Friday Folder. Please remember to bring your accounts up-to-date. **Failure to bring your account current may jeopardize future use of Childcare.**

See Mrs. Mahraj or Jason if you have questions regarding hours used.

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Music Notes from Miss Allison

This week in all grade levels, we practiced improvising rhythms over a 4-beat measure using the words "Happy New Year" and keeping the beat steady as we shared around the circle. We also learned a processional style of dance called the Polonaise (French for "Polish"). Elegance and restraint are the major characteristics, almost pompous in demeanor (while showing off individuals fine clothing and accessories), weaving graceful figures across the floor. It originated as a peasant dance in Poland and was recorded as early as the 15th Century. It quickly gained in popularity across European nobility and townspeople alike. Typically, it is in a waltz like tempo of 3/4; however, we used the 4/4 music of the Shenanigans folk dance group. Our version included defining the rectangular dance floor, splitting it in two, crossing it diagonally, weaving the lines of dancers, rejoining partners, creating a tunnel and passing under, creating groups of 4s and 8s, and ending in a circle using grape-vine steps. Search Polonaise Ball on YouTube (with title "The American Institute of Polish Culture, Pinellas County Florida") to see a similar choreography to ours. The students have an opportunity to learn quite a few things from this activity such as pacing their steps, walking with partners, recognizing patterns and how they individually "play a part in the whole," as well as remembering the sequence of movements. In upper el classes, I took it a step further by having them observe dance notation (using dots and arrows) to recognize the dance floor patterns. 4th and 5th years drew the patterns and even had to create one of their own for the tunnel.



Music Notes (con't)

In most of the classes, we also started working on the New Year's Processional from Taiwan. This piece is comprised of many elements which we will be focusing on in the coming weeks: learning melody in solfege, in letter names, on barred Orff instruments, on recorder (4th/5ths), on ukulele (6ths), learning accompaniment options using drones and ostinati (some of these composed by students based on their Happy New Year improvised rhythms from the beginning of class), and adding a wooden spoon game using patterns of tapping, clicking, flipping and tossing with partners. Upper El will be exploring the written notation of this piece and learning about scores, systems, measures and how to follow their assigned line in a score.

Happy New Year to all the Eagle Peak families!
Miss Allison



Tax Time is Around the Corner

Please contact Mrs. Mahraj in the office or email her at epofcmgr@mdusd.org if you would like a summary of your Childcare Expense for the year ending 12/31/14. Avoid any last minute requests or there may be delays. EPMS' Tax ID No. is 94-3349426.

Please note this office cannot issue receipts for any monies paid to the CFEP. Please direct your requests to: cfeptreasurer@gmail.com. Thank you.

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When you have a piece of clothing that is a little too worn or stained to the point that it can't be donated to a thrift shop, what do you do with it? Starting right now, you can drop it into a secure collection bin at Eagle Peak. And if you do that, the school makes money, too. A company called USAgain is partnering with us to move a step closer to zero waste in a very convenient way. In the green and white bin **next to Room 601**, you can drop off the following:

- Shoes/boots
- Clothing
- Gloves/hats
- Linens
- Blankets
- Towels

And it is reused or recycled into:

- Insulation
- Wiping rags
- Reclaimed fiber

We will earn a few cents per pound and make our school and its families a little greener. But since USAgain is a for profit company you can't claim these donations on your taxes. So, fill a big bag now, drop it into the green and white bin, and start helping our school and our planet.

Questions? Contact John Mercurio at johnmercurio@astound.net



EE News



Happy New Year! It certainly feels like winter now, and looks like it in the garden - each season has its own charm and beauty and I am always inspired by the children's sense of wonder as they observe the changes.

EE classes take place in our outdoor classroom whenever possible, and now that the morning chill is here, many students are complaining about the cold, so please encourage your children to dress warmly in layers.

This Saturday, 1/10, will be our first garden workday of the year so please join us for all or part of the morning 9-12 for some fresh air and sunshine - and garden chores of course! The February and March workdays will both be rescheduled to the first Saturdays of the month, 2/7 and 3/7. Children are always welcome at these workdays and enjoy the chance to show you our garden.



Office Notes

Calendared Events

- Jan 10 Garden Word Day 9-12
- Jan 12 CFEP 7 pm
- Jan 13 PTLG 6:30 pm
- Jan 13 Parent Ed: Nutrition 7 pm
- Jan 16 Early Dismissal 1 pm
- Jan 19 Martin Luther King Day - Off
- Jan 20 Board Mtg 6:30 pm
- Jan 30 UE Only: Tech Museum

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Welcome back to school, parents!

I hope everyone enjoyed winter break. We received our December check from the Box Tops for Education™ program and earned \$527. Way to go! We still need your help clipping and turning in Box Tops for us to reach this year's goal of \$1,000. The next submission deadline is March 2, 2015. We will receive our last check of the school year in April. Let's finish the school year strong!

Attached, please find a Box Tops Collection sheet. Please write the student's name at the bottom and fill in the sheet with as many Box Tops as possible (separate baggies or envelopes can be submitted, too). Turn all Box Tops into the office by Friday, February 27, 2015, labeling each submission with your child's name. The student who submits the most Box Tops by the due date will win a Vivitar All Weather digital and waterproof camera. Wow! Just in time for Spring Break.

Ann Bair, BoxTop Coordinator



Attachments this Week

- Spanish Sign-up: Session 2
- BoxTop Fill-in Sheet
- Parent Ed: Childcare Signup

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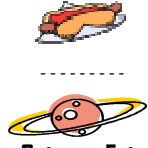



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JANUARY, 2015 School Calendar

11	12	13	14	15	16	17
	CFEP 7 pm	 PTLG & Parent Ed: "Nutrition" 6:30 pm			Early Dismissal 1 pm	
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
	 OFF	 Board Mtg 6:30 pm			FRIDAY MARKET	
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
					UE Only Tech Museum 8:30 - 3:00 FRIDAY MARKET	

FEBRUARY, 2015 School Calendar

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
					FRIDAY MARKET	 Garden Work Day 9 am - 12
*	9	10	11	12	13	14
	CFEP 7 pm	 Science Fair 6:30 - 8 pm PTLG 6:30 pm			 Lincoln's BD OFF	
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
	 OFF	 Board Mtg 6:30 pm			FRIDAY MARKET	