

# Eagle Peak Montessori Celebrating 13 years of Educational Choice

## FRIDAY FOLDER NOTES

(ALSO ON THE WEBSITE)  
FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK  
OCTOBER 24, 2014



**EAGLE PEAK MONTESSORI SCHOOL**  
800 HUTCHINSON ROAD,  
WALNUT CREEK, CA 94598  
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"Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much."  
-Helen Keller



### Notes from Michelle

It is sometimes hard to believe that this is our 11<sup>th</sup> year on this campus. There are still a few of us around who remember the campus with the parking lot for a playground and bathrooms located in a portable building on the end of that parking lot. Electric pumps that had to be reset every day and no place to have private meetings. Parents called it the drive through school because there really was no way to park and walk into the campus. However, everyone could clearly see the needs and it seemed as though every volunteer understood how essential they were to the process.

Now we have a beautiful campus. We do not need parents to sit for hours simply to monitor the parking lot so that the students can freely walk back and forth to the restroom. From all appearances we are an established school that has fewer needs and where volunteers are simply a luxury. That IS NOT the case. Eagle Peak will always be a small school with great needs. Our entire organization is built on volunteers running programs and being on campus. CFEP, PTLG, and the EPMS Board are all run by volunteers. The spelling tests, reading groups, field trips, and so many more school functions depend on parents being involved. We are incredibly fortunate that we have so many deeply involved parents who make the program run seamlessly.

Don't be discouraged if we can't run with every idea or project. Your passion and energy are appreciated, regardless. I just want to remind everyone that EACH of you has contributions to make in volunteering. You looked for the best school for your child and your family. Giving back, both with your time as well as financially, helps to ensure it continues forward for children who come after yours.

The 7<sup>th</sup> grade students will be off campus next week for their first Pedagogy of Place. They have gone to Westminster Woods each year since they were in 4<sup>th</sup> grade, but through this experience they will have daily "field studies" in the local community. They will research and learn about the area on a myriad of levels with the culminating dinner taking place at the historic Union Hotel. We will miss them on campus but look forward to hearing about their experience upon their return. Included in this week's Friday Folder is a copy of the Individual Learning Plan (ILP) that you will go over with your child's teachers during conferences. We ask that you create goals for your child in the areas to share with the teachers. The teachers will have created goals as well. This allows a partnership to develop between you and the teachers in working with your child. Also, the conferences are a reflection on the whole child, and not focused solely on academics. The academic progress your child is making is merely one facet of their experience at Eagle Peak. We hope that these conferences are a time to reflect on the experience as a whole.

HISTORICAL HALLOWEEN is next Friday. Please keep in mind the following once again:

- When you attend, please do not plan to take your child from school until 11:30. We need for all of our historical figures to remain in the timeline for the entire event.
- If you are going to take your child with you at 11:30, they will be dismissed from the classroom, so that the teachers can be assured that they are leaving with you.
- All of the children are eager to share their research with you, so if you see that possibly someone is not having many adults stop and ask questions, please help to make sure they have an audience as well. ☺
- While you are walking along the timeline, please do not pull children out for photos. While photographs are permitted, please take the

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pictures in the timeline. Please do not pull out the children to take pictures with friends or siblings who might be at a different point on the timeline. Those pictures may be taken after school.

- If you are coming from work, and you are planning to wear a Halloween costume, please make sure that you do not wear frightening or gory costumes to campus.
- Remember, please do not post images of any students, other than your own child, on any social media sites. Thank you!

Don't forget the first Eagle Peak Family Chili Cook Off will be held on campus Sunday, November 2, from 1pm-4pm. This will be a fun casual, family event where you can spend time getting to know new people!



## Music Notes from Miss Allison

In all our grade levels, we have been exploring five specific elements of music (rhythm/beat, pitch, dynamics, tempo and timbre) by applying them in creative ways to a variety of texts or poems. We are also learning how to read music notation. Lower el students are exploring a chant about a pumpkin patch, how to read and clap a 4-beat rhythm and find others with the matching rhythm in the classroom just by listening and observing as four different rhythms are being clapped. It is a challenge, but very fun. Students get to play their rhythm on percussion instruments while they chant. They then apply these rhythms as ostinati (repeated patterns) by adding pitch using the Orff xylophones.

**4th years** are working on creating a gentle tone on their soprano recorders and learning a few notes well (C-A-G-E). They are learning how to recognize and name pitches on the Treble staff and the following pieces: Cuckoo in the Clock, Jenny One Note, and Strawberry Shortcake. The

**5th years** are learning how to read a score and play "Innocencia" (from Bolivia) on soprano and alto recorders as well as a drum accompaniment. The **6th years** are getting the hang of a few strumming patterns on the ukulele and finger placement for C, F and G chords which allows us to accompany ourselves as we sing My Dog Has Fleas, Lime in the Coconut, Shortening Bread, and a variety of folk tunes. This week, 6ths learned the melody and accompaniment for "Somebody I Used To Know" by Gotye, using alto recorders, and Orff xylophones. (No, we will not sing the lyrics!)

I am allowing the recorders and folders to go home for all upper el students. Most 5ths & 6ths are doing well with the "back-pack rule" and getting these important items to music class on Wed. and Thurs. **If they forget them, please do NOT bring them in for the student.** This does not allow them the full responsibility for their instrument and they instead learn to rely on their parent(s) to solve their problems. This lesson is invaluable for self-sufficiency and organization! The students are still able to learn the pieces without having a recorder. Plus, we do not use the recorders in every session. Friendly reminders on Tues night and Wed morning are encouraged however!

Thank you. Ms. Allison



## PTLG Announcements

- 10/31 (Fri): Time for another hike/walk after drop off. Meet at EPMS parking lot.
- 11/2 (Sun) 1 - 4 PM: C'mon down to the PTLG Chili cook off at EPMS. Thank you to our 15 entries for the chili cook-off, we've certainly got dinner covered! Come one come all to support these families and taste the different types of chili with all the fixin's. Games for the kids including

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(but not limited to) kick ball, kick back, badminton, volleyball, and corn hole. This is an event for the whole family and sure not to miss. Please RSVP to make sure we have enough spoons to go around. To RSVP or have questions, contact Angie Elgazzar [sunshine7787@hotmail.com](mailto:sunshine7787@hotmail.com).

➤ 11/13 (Thu) 6:30 PM: PTLG



## EE News



Save the date for the next Garden Work Day: Nov 1<sup>st</sup> from 9-12. See you there. Ms. Sheila



## Office Notes

### Calendared Events

- Oct 27-31 Classroom Observations
- Oct 31 Early Dismiss 1 pm
- Nov 1 Garden Work Day 9-12
- Nov 2 Chili Cook-Off 1-4
- Nov 3 CFEP 7 pm
- Nov 5, 6,7 Parent/Teacher Conferences  
Early Dismiss – All 3 days
- Nov 10-11 Veteran's Day & Holiday
- Nov 13 PTLG 7 pm
- Nov 19 Board Mtg 6:30
- Nov 24-28 Thanksgiving Break - Off



## Attachments this Week

- Barnes & Noble Bookfair
- Individual Learning Plan (ILP)
- Yoga – Session II

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## OCTOBER 2014 School Calendar

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
26	27	28	29	30	31	Nov 1
<p>Adolescent Program – Westminster Woods Overnighter</p> <p>----- Parent Observations -----</p> <p>October 27 thru October 31st</p>						<p>Garden Work Day 9 am – 12</p> <p><b>Daylight Savings (Fall Back)</b> Sun at 2 am</p>
		 PPM 6:30 -7:30 pm			<p>Historical Halloween 11 am</p> <p>Early Dismiss - 1 pm</p>	

## NOVEMBER, 2014 School Calendar

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
<p><b>1<sup>st</sup> Annual Chili Cook-Off</b></p>  1 - 4 pm	<p>CFEP 7 pm</p>		<p><b>Parent / Teacher Conferences</b> November 5, 6 &amp; 7 Early Dismissal - 1 PM - All 3 Days</p>		<p>PPM 6:30 – 7:30 pm</p>	
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
	<p><b>VETERAN'S DAY</b></p>  NO SCHOOL	<p><b>VETERAN'S DAY HOLIDAY</b></p> NO SCHOOL		<p><b>LE Only</b> Bonnies Safari</p> <p>PTLG 7 pm</p>	<p><b>FRIDAY MARKET</b></p>	<p>PPM 9:30-10:30</p>
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
		 Board Mtg 6:30 pm			<p><b>FRIDAY MARKET</b></p>	
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
<p><b>Thanksgiving Holiday - No School</b></p>						
				 8 am - Civic Park		