

Eagle Peak Montessori Celebrating 14 years of Educational Choice

FRIDAY FOLDER NOTES

(ALSO ON THE WEBSITE)
FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK
MARCH 6, 2015



EAGLE PEAK MONTESSORI SCHOOL
800 HUTCHINSON ROAD,
WALNUT CREEK, CA 94598
P 925-946-0994 / F 925-946-9409

“Humans aren’t as good as we should be in our capacity to empathize with feelings and thoughts of others, be they humans or other animals on Earth. So maybe part of our formal education should be training in empathy. Imagine how different the world would be if, in fact, that were ‘reading, writing, arithmetic, empathy.’”
~ Neil deGrasse Tyson



Notes from Michelle

STATE OF THE SCHOOL meeting dates have been moved to April. We will be discussing a variety of topics, but also offering a less formal meeting design, so that parents have the opportunity for questions and discussion with the board of directors.

The school calendar will be released after March 17. MDUSD just released their calendar last week; I will present the proposed calendar to the Eagle Peak board at our next meeting. Thank you for your patience while we go through the process.

TUESDAY NIGHT PTLG/PARENT ED: In addition to the opportunity to participate in the PTLG meeting at 6:30, we have some VERY exciting informational sessions planned for Tuesday night. Ellen Rutgers, (Upper Elementary teacher) is presenting at the American Montessori Conference on March 14th and will present to parents her presentation on writing in the Montessori classroom. The Lower Elementary teachers will be presenting on language as well. Adolescent Program parents will get to learn the details and expectations for their children’s trip to NYC scheduled for this month! There is truly something for EVERYONE! See you there! (Childcare will be provided for a fee, please see the attached flyer.)



Notes from Michelle

We need 6th grade parents to chaperone our trip to Yosemite. The way the accommodations are arranged, we need almost a 1:4 ratio. Parents will not necessarily be required to go out on the hikes and adventures with the students during the day, and can enjoy quiet time on their own during that time. If you are interested, please contact Annie Rodriguez.



Notes from CFEP

Are you interested in sustaining Eagle Peak’s programs? Do you value the work of our teachers?

Your contributions to the school are very much appreciated. With the State’s Local Control Funding Formula, we need to continue fundraising and be forward-thinking for the years to come. All of us need to continue participating to keep EPMS going and retain our talented teachers.

We depend on the Auction and other fundraising events to help accomplish this.

This year’s Auction venue was designed to try something new and attract more people from the community. We set high goals for revenue, and are providing outstanding food and features to make the event enjoyable for all. Please plan to attend, and invite adult friends and family members for a nice evening out to benefit the school.

Auction tickets can be purchased by check payable to CFEP, or via PayPal at www.cfep.us. Questions? Contact Diana Lauritsen at epmsauction2015@gmail.com.

Our next CFEP meeting will be this **Monday, March 9th** at 7:00pm in the Multi-Use Room. Please join us!
Kris Harwood, Community Foundation for Eagle Peak

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PTLG Announcements

Calling all PTLG Coordinators and Liaisons, 1st year and all parents: PTLG would like to invite you to join us in looking ahead to plan for next year's activities and to check out volunteer opportunities. When you ask? Conveniently, there's one coming up on Tuesday 3/10/15 at 6:30-- see below.

3/10/15 (Tue) 6:30 PM: PTLG meeting followed by Parent Ed. This month will be Language in the Montessori class, led by the teachers. Come join us for the evening!

Mark your calendars for these upcoming events:

SAVE-THE-DATE:

4/1/15 (Wed): Yoga/Playdate at Heather Farm
1:15 - 2:45 PM

4/17/15 (Fri): Stargazing at EPMS
7:30 - 9:00 PM



Field Trips - Upper El

The next contribution for Upper El Field Trips is coming due March 18th. If you haven't contacted Ms. Hammons regarding your contribution or at least indicated that your child will or won't be attending either at Westminster woods (4-5) or Nature Bridge (6th) in the 1st week of June, please do so as soon as possible. A headcount is necessary for planning transportation and cabin assignments.

Thank you.



Teachers Trips

Thank you all again for your sign ups. Notification has begun for those who were awarded a spot. Your payment for the trip will be due to the office by noon on Tuesday March 17th.

Please note: spots are secured with payment

If you missed the sign ups, it's not too late! There are still spots available on certain trips. Please look at the updated flier and consider signing up your child.

Please either sign your child up in the office or by emailing Kennisha at kennisha727@sbcglobal.net

This has historically been a wonderful fundraiser for Eagle Peak, enjoyed by teachers and students alike. Please look over the latest Teacher Trips flyer to see which trip/s interest your child/children!



Music Notes from Ms. Allison

Lower El: We continue to work with the 16 brown boxes- please see previous Fri Folder descriptions. We sang "Who's that Knocking on My Window" while playing a listening game that trains the ear to listen for qualities of sounds of 16 different instruments. Two students hide behind the wall of boxes built while singing John Kanaka. They each choose one of the 16 instruments which are hidden behind the boxes and play them in time to our song and using the rhythms that are on the side of boxes facing them. We alter the song to use their names. The rest of the students get to guess what the students are playing. They have some help because the instruments are written on the side of boxes facing the audience: hand drum, glockenspiel, finger cymbals, guiro, claves, egg shakers, triangle, rhythm sticks, castanets, maracas, bass drum, sand blocks, wood block, etc. (con't)

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Music Notes (con't)

Upper EI: The last few classes we are focusing on rhythm and melodic composition. First we explore feeling rhythm in our bodies using a sustained bell ring to indicate a 2-beat stretch or "painting" continuous motion, and contrasting with walking quarter notes and quick step or running eighth notes indicated by the wood block. A variety of games are played until they come into their bodies and gain self-control. They are allowed to create their own 16 beat repeated pattern, and eventually we settle on a group composition or a piece we will learn on recorder and Orff barred instruments. For example, "Hot Cross Buns" rhythm is "Walk-walk paint, walk-walk paint, running-running-running-running, walk-walk paint." For melodic composition, we are using the colored domes from PE to indicate pitch. First we use our set pattern to compose a two note melody using sol and mi, slowly adding re, do and la. They worked in groups two weeks ago, and this week we played recorders as different students conducted their compositions by pointing to the the different colored dots.

6th years: We are learning how to play a C Major scale on the ukuleles - one note at a time, using different frets and strings. They are learning how to sound out different melodies using that C-scale.

I am encouraging the recorder students to wash their instruments this month by soaking the parts in a lasagna pan of water with 1 Tbsp of hydrogen peroxide for 5 minutes and then letting them dry overnight. We continue to have some students coming to class without their instruments. Please help them remember to use the backpack rule. They are welcome to leave the instrument in the classroom as well.



Office Notes

Calendared Events

- Mar 9 CFEP 7 pm
- Mar 10 Field Trip Training 6 pm
- Mar 10 PTLG / Parent Ed. 6:30 - 8:30 pm
Language in Montessori
- Mar 17 Board Mtg. 6:30 pm
- Mar 23-27 Parent Observations
- Mar 27 Early Dismissal 1 pm
- Apr 1-3 Parent/Teacher Conferences
Dismissal all 3 days - 1 pm
- Apr 3 Panoramic Pictures
- Apr 6-10 Spring Break
- April 17 Spring Pictures



Attachments this Week

- Teacher Trip Descriptions
- Parent Ed 3/10: Childcare Reservation

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March, 2015 School Calendar

8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Daylight Savings 	CFEP 7 pm	 Field Trip Training 6 pm PTLG / Parent Ed: Language in Montessori 6:30 – 8:30			FRIDAY MARKET	
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
		<u>LE Only</u> Dean Leshner 8 – 11 am  Board Mtg 6:30 pm			FRIDAY MARKET	
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
<----- Parent Observations -----> (Look for Sign-up sheets on Classroom Doors sometime mid- March)						
					EARLY DISMISS 1 pm	
AP Program – Montessori Model UN Road Trip: March 24 thru 30th						

April, 2015 School Calendar

29	30	31	1	2	3	4
					 Panoramic	
			Parent / Teacher Conferences April 1, 2 & 3 Early Dismissal - 1 PM - All 3 Days			
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
SPRING BREAK: 6th thru 10th						