



EAGLE PEAK MONTESSORI SCHOOL

Serving children through Montessori Education since 2001

FRIDAY FOLDER NOTES

(ALSO ON THE WEBSITE)

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK

NOVEMBER 20, 2015

EAGLE PEAK MONTESSORI SCHOOL

800 HUTCHINSON ROAD,

WALNUT CREEK, CA 94598

PHONE: 925-946-0994 / FAX: 925-946-9409



No School November 23rd thru 27th

"Feeling gratitude and not expressing it is like wrapping a present and not giving it."

~ William Arthur Ward

"At times, our own light goes out and is rekindled by a spark from another person. Each of us has cause to think with deep gratitude of those who have lighted the flame within us."~

~ Albert Schweitzer



Notes from Michelle

Let's start this week with a huge statement of gratitude for the parents who put in all the work and hours to provide an entire school of 249 students, 16 teachers and another 15 other staff, a wonderful Thanksgiving Dinner. ☺ It was lovely as always!

Communication, as we know, is such a huge part of every relationship. This includes the communication with your child's teachers. I met with the staff Wednesday and we have agreed to move forward with some protocols that we hope will improve communication all around. Hence forth, teachers will respond to your emails within 24 hours. (If you email on a Friday, however, they won't respond until Monday. The same for over the holidays: if you email during a holiday, you will receive a response within 24 hours of them returning to school.) Because Eagle Peak is unique in having teaching teams, we ask that you communicate with all members of a team. The classroom teacher teams will discuss emails before responding, so that the response is a shared response. Also, teachers are not able to respond to email during the school day. They are engaged with working with your children. I know that



Notes from Michelle (con't)

teachers have been responding at their lunch time, or planning time, but I have discouraged them from doing this, as they need time to take care of their needs during this time. Thank you for your understanding and support as we get this system working.

As we were communicating about communication (sorry couldn't resist ☺), we started a conversation regarding other practices at the school. We talk a lot in Montessori about "freedom within limits" and "logical consequences". We have also used the phrase, "if you play during your work time, you will have to work during your play time". However, we have found that this is not really addressing the issue of incomplete work. So, in lower elementary we are going to continue allowing students to finish their work plans on Friday afternoons, when there is an opportunity for additional outdoor time, but otherwise they will not be finishing work during their recess time. The upper elementary students will start bringing their overdue work and incomplete work home as homework. As we as adults know, simply not completing a job does not make that job go away. ☺

At this time of year, when we are more focused on showing and expressing gratitude, I would like to share a few things that come to mind. Of course, I am eternally grateful for my family and friends and health and simply everyday parts of life. However, I can't tell you how grateful I am that you have all chosen to share a portion of your child's world with me. Watching them every day and being able to see them grow over their time here- physically, socially, emotionally, and cognitively, is a joy and an honor that has no comparison in my world. They are always entertaining, inspiring and even at those times when they are a bit frustrating- they are awesome in the truest sense of the word. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to get to know each and every one of them. Have a wonderful Thanksgiving break with your family and friends and safe travels.



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Thanksgiving Gathering

6th Grade Leaders - Ian Birmingham &
Samantha Veis

5th Grade Quotes-

Hannah Annison

"Feeling gratitude and not expressing it is like wrapping a present and not giving it."- William Arthur Ward

Iris Balcazar

"Gratitude is the fairest blossom which springs from the soul." Henry Ward Beecher

Isabel Beeler

"Gratitude unlocks the fullness of life. It turns what we have into enough, and more. IT turns denial into acceptance, chaos to order, confusion to clarity. It can turn a meal into a feast a house into a home a stranger into a friend."-Melody Beatie

Ellen Oh

"Joy is the simplest form of gratitude."- Kari Barth

Tobias Riley

"When we give cheerfully and accept gratefully, everyone is blessed."- Maya Angelou



PTLG Quick Notes

A big thank you to Lena Takahashi and all the parents that helped make the Thanksgiving feast an amazing success. It takes so many hands and energy to make an event a success. Thank you to all of you!!!

- Nov. 20: Thanksgiving Feast. Lena Takahashi will lead this event. All families will be asked to bring a dish or supplies to this school-wide feast. You may have already received the Sign-up Genius email from your Room Parent. Parents are asked not to attend the event unless they are volunteering.



PTLG Quick Notes (con't)

Contact Lena Takahashi or your Room Parent with questions but details regarding the schedule, volunteer opportunities, and dish/supplies.

- Dec. 6-7: Barnes and Noble Event and California Pizza Kitchen. We ask that you shop at Barnes and Noble in person or online during this event. Be sure to note that you are with EPMS so that the school will receive a portion of the proceeds. Also, come to California Pizza Kitchen for dinner. EPMS will receive a portion of the proceeds from your delicious meal. This is a tremendous opportunity to kick-start the holiday celebration and the school benefits as well. Contact Anne Marie Wickstrom with any questions.
- Dec. 18: International Day. Laura Lisey-Wagner and Upper EI teachers, Preeti and Ellen, will coordinate this event. Contact these folks if you are interested in cooking, crafts, and/or assisting with this event. Be sure to volunteer to bring food, craft supplies, and/or help at the event. Be sure to contact Laura and/or your Room parents with questions.

Did you know? The auction team is in full force. They are looking for donations of goods and/or services. These donations could come from your business or a business you frequent. Contact Gundi Younger (gundi.younger@gmail.com) with your donation items. Thank you for your continued support.

If have questions about volunteer opportunities and/or events... we are here to help!

Cheers, *PTLG Team*

Rachel Beeler Leah Karson Jennifer Torres
Eme Tatsumi Zulay Loftin Akiko Noguchi



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Notes from CFEP

Our annual auction is a wonderful event for parents and it provides much needed financial support for Eagle Peak.

We need volunteers to engage in auction planning efforts, in some way, large or small. Please reach out and let us know how you can contribute to this important event.

A current priority is donations and the good news is there are so many ways you can help this team and a lot can be done without having to make cold calls. We need volunteers to help procure auction items by entering data online, print letters, stuff envelopes, send emails, drivers to pick up items.

Let us know how you can help support the auction planning efforts. Email gundi.younger@gmail.com or shellygillis@gmail.com to convey your interest.

CFEP really values the contributions and commitments that have been made by our community. Thank you to everyone that has donated time and resources to Eagle Peak. Happy Thanksgiving and hope to see you at the Annual Turkey Trot (see attached flyer)



Field Trips

Upper EI: Contribution #2 due: Nov. 30th

4/5th Yrs \$104.50

6th Yrs \$165.50

Credit Card payments will be charged on Monday, Nov. 30th. If you are using PayPal please make your payment in a timely fashion.

AP: Select Option if you haven't already done so and send in initial payment.

Look for reminder in Friday folder if this applies.



UPDATE: Volunteers Needed!

"A Night to Remember"

We are still looking for at least 2 more team members. Please consider being part of this fun, but also VERY IMPORTANT event in our calendar. If you have any questions regarding the event, please email auction chair Gundi Younger gundi.younger@gmail.com

The EPMS Annual Auction "A Night to Remember" needs a Co-Chair and Donations Coordinator. Please consider taking this on and help make this a fun and successful event, benefitting all students of EPMS. Please contact Auction Chair Gundi Younger gundi.younger@gmail.com

Donations Coordinator

- Determine procurement goal.
- Maintains master donor database.
- Reviews donor list and identifies potential new donors.
- Designates committee members to various solicitation areas:
 - Tracks progress.
 - Logs all items.



Notes from Childcare

1. **December, 2015 Childcare:** Due to Thanksgiving Break next week, December's Childcare Registration forms are going out in this week's Friday Folder. Don't forget to return by December 4th. Auto credit card payments will be charged during the 1st week of December.
2. Drop-in charges for November will hopefully be sent out in the December 11th Friday Folder. Please clear up any outstanding balances ASAP.

If you have any questions please Mrs. Mahraj.



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Become a Basementeer!

Our longtime partner, Sports Basement, is spinning the traditional "loyalty" program into a win-win for their loyal customers and our community. Basementeer's receive 10% and give 10%:

- 10% off every item every day
- 10% of profits back to your favorite local charity or school- like Eagle Peak Montessori

While there is a \$25 fee to join the program, Eagle Peak Montessori families can waive that fee if they register by December 31, 2015.

Don't want to join? No problem, but please note the ongoing partner and school discounts will be phased out as we switch over to the Basementeers Program.

So, on your next visit to Sports Basement, register as a Basementeer and select Eagle Peak Montessori as your beneficiary!



Notes from the Office

Calendared Events

- Nov 23-27 Thanksgiving Break
- Dec 4 Friday Market
- Dec 6-7 Barnes & Noble Bookfair
- Dec 7 Dine & Donate: CPK
- Dec 11 Friday Market
- Dec 15 Board Mtg. – 6:30 pm
- Dec 18 International Day
- Dec 21 – Jan 1, 2015 - Winter Break
- Jan 4 School Resumes



Attachments this Week

- December Childcare Registration
- PEAK Turkey Trot
- Music Notes from Ms. Alison
- UE Only: Equipment Pledge

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NOVEMBER 2015 School Calendar

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
<i>Thanksgiving Holiday - No School</i>						
				 8 am Civic Park		

DECEMBER 2015 School Calendar

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
29	30	1	2	3	4	5
		PPM 6:30-7:30 am			FRIDAY MARKET	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Barnes & Noble Bookfair	 Dine & Donate				<u>All LE</u> Nutcracker 12-3	 Garden Work Day 9 am - 12 PPM 9:30-10:30 am
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
		Board Mtg 6:30 pm			 International Day Holiday Bazaar Room 701	
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
	<i>Winter Holiday - No School: 12/21/15 - 1/1/16</i>					
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday		