



EAGLE PEAK MONTESSORI SCHOOL

Serving children through Montessori Education since 2001

FRIDAY FOLDER NOTES

(ALSO ON THE WEBSITE)

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK

DECEMBER 11, 2015

EAGLE PEAK MONTESSORI SCHOOL

800 HUTCHINSON ROAD,

WALNUT CREEK, CA 94598

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



Winter Break

December 21 thru January 1st

(NO Friday Folder on December 18th)

“Preventing war is the work of politicians, establishing peace is the work of education.”

~ *Maria Montessori*



Notes from Michelle

This will be our last Friday Folder prior to the Winter Break. Hopefully, you will have time to spend with family and friends during the two weeks we are away from Eagle Peak.

There are so many things that are beautiful in our world and yet other things that need to be beautified. We can only hope that our children will be the force to help beautify those things that need it. It is important that you as their parents do not shy away from difficult conversations. It is important that they hear about acceptance and love and peace from you and understand your views. Since you made the conscious choice to provide your child with a Montessori education, which emphasizes peace and acceptance, I assume these are important to you as well.

One of the areas of our world that could use some beautification these days is the area of brotherhood and community. With everything happening in the world right now, your children, regardless of how much you may want to shelter them, will hear things that they won't understand or that could be frightening to them. It is CRUCIAL that you are open and have discussions with them about your feelings as well.



Notes from Michelle (con't)

Studies have shown that when parents don't have the difficult conversations about race and acceptance, their children tend to assume that they hold more isolationist/racist views. With all of the ways that children have to access information, I am sure you will be presented with plenty of opportunities for these discussions. An interesting article on this subject and racism vs bias etc... is

<http://www.newsweek.com/even-babies-discriminate-nurtureshock-excerpt-79233>

Remember, as Dr. Montessori said (as is on our t-shirts), “If help and salvation are to come, they can only come from the children because the children are makers of men.”

Next Friday is our annual International Day for the students. I want to thank parent/board member Laura Wagner, and teachers, Ellen Rutgers and Preeti Jha, for organizing the event and for all of the many parents who stepped up to help with this fun event. The students will travel from country to country with their campus family groups. And don't forget that the Adolescent Program students will be holding their Holiday Boutique that day!! (This mean you may want to send money with your child. ☺)

When we come back from break, we will have a parent education evening January 13th, led by Allison Lloyd our music educator. She will demonstrate for parents the various activities and learning that take place in her lively classroom.

I want to personally thank all of the families who came out to support the Barnes and Noble fundraiser. Unfortunately, it will be our last opportunity to have that event. It has been so much fun being able to read stories to the children.

My hope is that you all have a wonderful break and that if you travel, you travel safely.



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Monday Gathering

6th Grade Gathering Leaders: Andrew Michel
& Ryan Bomar

5th Grade Quotes:

Isabel Beeler:

"It's not our job to play judge or jury to determine who is worthy of our kindness and who is not. We just need to be kind, unconditionally and without ulterior motive, even-or rather, especially-when we'd prefer not to be."

~Josh Radnor

Luke Brooks:

"I prefer you to make mistakes in kindness than work miracles in unkindness."

~Mother Teresa

Kyle DeJear

"The little unremembered acts of kindness are the best parts of a person's life."

~William Wordsworth

August Underwood

"Kindness is difficult to give away because it keeps coming back."

~Unknown

AUCTION

UPDATE: The big party, aka "A Night to Remember" featuring the EPMS Auction on April 30th, 2016 is

in the works! Amazing donations are coming in already, and the classrooms have started thinking about their fabulous projects for the live auction!

Stay tuned for more details after the Winter Break and join us at the January PTLG Meeting for all the details of the event!



Notes from CFEP

Thanks for your ongoing support.

I want to extend appreciation to all the volunteers that helped make our Barnes & Noble Book fair (B&N) and CPK dine & donate a success. Many EPMS students represented our school at the gift wrap table, teacher wish list table and at CPK. It was fun to see them engage in conversations about books and to share background about Eagle Peak with the community.

I'm very excited to report that Eagle Peak exceeded our \$10,000 goal in purchases at B&N and because of the huge support for this event, EPMS will receive over \$2,000 from B&N to help fund future books for our classrooms. Thank you to everyone that donated time and participated. I also want to acknowledge the leadership and focus of Anne Marie Wickstrom and Michelle Scattergood. There is a lot of time and energy that goes into the preparation of our fundraising events and without the leadership from parents, these important events wouldn't happen.

As we approach the end of the year, I'd like to send a final year-end reminder for Annual Giving. Donations to CFEP are tax deductible and may lower your tax bill, but a pledge is not deductible until you actually make your payment. If you are planning to make a 2015 gift to CFEP for the benefit of Eagle Peak, you can make that payment online at www.cfep.us

Shelly Gillis, CFEP Co-Chair



Holiday Boutique is Back!!!!

December 18th: Parent welcome from 3:30 – 4 pm in Room 701.



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PTLG Quick Notes

Hello EPMS community,

Thank you to Anne Marie Wickstrom and all the families that volunteered/supported the Barnes and Noble/California Pizza Kitchen event. It takes a village to support the growing school and your energy and thoughtfulness is greatly appreciated. We are going to have robust libraries in each classroom!

*** All photographers that have taken pictures at the various school events... The Memory Book team needs your photos. Please put photos on a USB or burn to a CD with your name on it and put the USB/CD in the Memory Book mailbox located in the school office. If you have any questions, contact Ms. Prudence (AP teacher).

Upcoming events.....

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. We need one more classroom volunteer!!! If you signed-up to volunteer but haven't heard from anyone, please, contact Laura right away.

Jan 13: **Parent Ed Night.** Come and learn about the music program at EPMS. Ms. Allison will discuss music philosophy and review the various activities that students are working on with her. Contact Ms. Allison for further information about this educational evening.



PTLG Quick Notes

Jan. 28: **PTLG Meeting** at 6:30 pm at EPMS. We will discuss our largest fundraiser of the year, the EPMS auction, as well as address your questions. Teachers at each level (Lower EI, Upper EI, and AP), Room parents, CFEP, board members, Ms. Hammons, and upcoming event coordinators will be in attendance. Please email Rachel Beeler (rdwiggins@yahoo.com) with any questions. Childcare provided!!!

Stay tuned for Spring events: EPMS auction, EPMS Science Fair, Talent Show, End of Year Picnic, fieldtrips, and others:)

Did you know: Holidays and vacations can refuel the soul if you take a little time to be "present". Try to take a brief moment in between social gatherings, shopping, and all the craziness of the season to take a breath. This can be a lost activity when we have so much on our plate but will be the best present you receive all season.

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

Cheers, *PTLG Team*

Rachel Beeler
Eme Tatsumi

Leah Karson
Zulay Loftin

Jennifer Torres
Akiko Noguchi



New Lunch Order

Begins Tuesday, December 15. If you turn your form in on Monday, December 14th, you will not be able to purchase lunches for the 1st week.



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Music Notes from Ms. Allison

Reminder: Mark your calendars for the Parent Education Night on January 13th, 2016 at 7pm when I will present details about the music education program. Parents only.

UPPER EL: We have 60% participation in turning in the parent-and-student-signed "Recorder Responsibility Pledge" that was placed in your child's Friday Folder. They were due this week. More copies are available in the office. This is the first step in showing me that you all will respect the instrument, use the backpack rule and return the folders and recorders to class every Wed. Recorders will not be allowed to go home for practice until the signed pledge is turned in. Thank you for your attention to this important detail.

On Wednesday this week, the 4th and 5ths discussed "respect," who and what should have our respect, and performed a folk dance that allowed us to practice a respectful bow to seven things from our list: instruments, materials, environment, teachers, each other, ourselves, "The World." 4th years practiced "Cuckoo in the Clock" using pitches C & A, a rhythmic knocking pattern and students took turns with a partner playing a cuckoo birdcall at the right time from outside the classroom door. 5th years learned "En ten tina" on both soprano and alto recorders complete with accompaniment.

6th years, last week and this Thurs., created their own section of folk dance with their partners for the sea shanty, John Kanaka. The C scale on the ukulele and how to decipher the C-scale tablature methods was our focus during the work period.

LOWER EL: Pitch is the focus for December. We reviewed the 7 letters of the musical alphabet: a,b, c, d, e, f, g, learned the Kodály hand symbols for the



Music Notes from Ms. Allison (con't)

solfege system (do, re, mi, fa, so, la ti, do) and played a singing game using So and mi pitches while matching "Lock and Key" posters. What fits a mon-lock or a don-lock? Why, a mon-key and a don-key, of course. How about a tur-lock? ... Which transitioned us nicely to a Turkish children's game about walking through a forest and holding very still on one foot. You can see a version here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xVT5XLskhC8>

Barnes & Noble

Thank you to everyone who came to the Barnes & Noble bookfair and Dine & Donate at California Pizza Kitchen. A big thanks to all the volunteers who donated their time to these events!

Eagle Peak Families and friends, relatives, co-workers can still order books online at Barnes & Noble through 12/12/15 (Saturday) using Bookfair # 11735628 at checkout under Bookfair ID # for Eagle Peak to receive credit towards our sales goals. Please consider purchasing a book for your classroom teachers from their wish list.



PEAK

Holiday good wishes and a big THANK YOU from PEAK Education Foundation to all those in our community who participated in the Macy's Charity Shopping Day and the 23rd Annual Turkey Trot. Both events were a great success! And, despite the chilly weather on Thanksgiving morning, runners and volunteers were not deterred, and the Turkey Trot had its biggest turnout ever! The fundraising results from these two events will be forthcoming in the new year but on behalf of PEAK Education Foundation, we thank you for your continued support for our schools.



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Notes from Childcare

1. **January, 2016 Payments.** Due to the holidays the January Registration form is being sent out in this week's Friday Folder, **the last Friday Folder of the year.** **Keep it safe;** payments will be due ASAP upon return from Winter Break: Monday, January 4th.

If you have scheduled automatic credit card payments they will be processed during the 1st week of January, 2016.

2. Drop-in charges for December will not be sent out until January 8th. Please clear up any outstanding balances ASAP.

If you have any questions please Mrs. Mahraj.



Attachments this Week

- Childcare Registration: January 2016



Notes from the Office

Calendared Events

- Dec 15 Board Mtg. – 6:30 pm
- Dec 18 International Day
- Dec 18 Holiday Boutique Rm 701
- Dec 21 – Jan 1, 2015 - Winter Break
- Jan 4 School Resumes
- Jan 8 Friday Market
- Jan 11 CFEP 7 pm
- Jan 13 Parent Ed: Music 7 pm
- Jan 19 Board Meeting 6:30
- Jan 28 PTLG 6:30






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DECEMBER 2015 School Calendar

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
		NEW LUNCH ORDER STARTS Board Mtg 6:30 pm			 International Day  Holiday Boutique Rm 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
	<i>Holiday</i>	<i>Holiday</i>	<i>Holiday</i>	<i>Holiday</i>		

JANUARY, 2016 School Calendar

3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	CLASSES RESUME	PPM 6:30-7:30 am			FRIDAY MARKET	
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
	CFEP 7 PM		<u>Parent Ed.</u>  Childhood Music Methods w/Ms. Allison 7 pm		FRIDAY MARKET	PPM 9:30-10:30 am
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
		Board Mtg 6:30 pm			FRIDAY MARKET	