



EAGLE PEAK MONTESSORI SCHOOL

Serving children through Montessori Education since 2001

FRIDAY FOLDER NOTES

(ALSO ON THE WEBSITE)

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK

APRIL 8, 2016

EAGLE PEAK MONTESSORI SCHOOL

800 HUTCHINSON ROAD,

WALNUT CREEK, CA 94598

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

“If you are neutral in situations of injustice, you have chosen the side of the oppressor.”

~ Desmond Tutu

“The function of education is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically. Intelligence plus character - that is the goal of true education.”

~ Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



Notes from Michelle

For parents of Upper Elementary and Adolescent Program students, you will be happy to know that a national educational periodical (ASCD-Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development), reprinted an article on student led conferences. The article originally ran in The Atlantic, and discusses the many skills that students develop when they lead the conference and reflect on their work with their parents. Of course this article focuses on a school in New Hampshire which is developing “new” methods of student centered learning in order to turn around a poor performing school. It constantly amazes, and yes, perhaps frustrates me, when traditional educators think they have discovered something new and unique, rather than learning more about Montessori and seeing that we have been practicing “student-centered” learning for over 100 years..... and guess what... IT WORKS. ☺

Some days are those peaceful days on campus when I can look out of my window and see up to 20 students working in the courtyard without an adult in sight and all of them are on task and doing their work. Today (Thursday) was one of those days. It just reaffirms that children are capable of more when we expect more. I have been speaking to the Upper Elementary students about this idea of “when you know better, you do better”. Part of this discussion with the students is for them to take on the responsibility of standing up for what is right. If they



Notes from Michelle (con't)

see someone being unkind or disrespectful, they should say something. If their friends are laughing about something that might be hurtful to another student, they need to say something. Part of the cosmic task that Dr. Montessori believed we as humans have, is for us to take care of each other, taking a stand against disrespect or unkind behavior is a core part of taking care of each other.

Last week I received a letter from one of our parents about the differences she sees when she works on other campuses in the area as compared to ours. She commented that our students engage with the adults on campus and say hello and hold doors for others. These moments and reflections are such a welcome reminder on those days when we stop seeing the beautiful Montessori forest for the rare but sometimes distracting foliage. (Did I stretch the metaphor too far?)

The lottery for next year’s students is rapidly approaching. Please make sure that if you intend for your child’s sibling to attend next year, your application must be submitted by **FRIDAY, APRIL 15th at 5 pm**. Siblings **MUST** go through the lottery in order to be accepted.



Board News

We are fortunate to have our own Board of Directors and Foundation, (CFEP). The school would not exist if not for these two organizations. As a charter school we are required to have our own Board of Directors. Through CFEP we are able to raise funds to help close the gap between what we receive from State funding and what it costs to run the type of program we want for our children. Both of these organizations



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Board News (con't)

are staffed by volunteers. The EPMS Board is a prescribed combination of staff, parents and community members as stated in our By-Laws. CFEP is a less structured Board made up of parents but community members are welcome too. We need parents to fill some existing and upcoming vacancies on both Boards. A bit of information about both Boards:

EPMS Board

- The official governing Board of the school.
- Responsibility of the Board is to oversee governance issue of EPMS.
- Business experience is helpful as the school is a "business".
- Time commitment varies but you can count on one Board meeting each month along with a sprinkling of misc. meetings throughout the year.
- Board members are appointed by a formal application process.

CFEP Board

- Exists so we have maximum flexibility with funds we raise.
- Ensures major fundraisers are executed.
- CFEP and PTLG work together in recruiting volunteers for the various fundraisers.
- Usually only one meeting a month.
- Just show up to a meeting!

If you are interested in learning more about volunteering for one of these Boards, please contact the following:

- Tina Segrove, President/EPMS Board
tsegrove@msn.com
- Gundi Younger, VP/EPMS Board
gundi.younger@gmail.com
- Michelle Hammons, Principal
mshammons@yahoo.com
- Shelly Gillis, President/CFEP Board
shellygillis@gmail.com



Board News (con't)

I sincerely hope you will take a moment to consider this opportunity to not only support the Eagle Peak of today, but to help create the Eagle Peak of tomorrow.

Thank you in advance for your consideration,

Tina



PTLG Quick Notes

Welcome back from Spring Break!!!!

Volunteer Needs

April 30: EPMS Auction

Contact Jennifer Torres (teamtorres2005@gmail.com) to help with the auction volunteer needs:

- Set-Up:** Starting at noon, 4-6 volunteers to help set-up decorations, auction items, generally help beautify the room under the decoration team's supervision
- Check-Out:** Volunteers at the end of the evening to distribute receipts, direct checkout traffic, prep work for cashiers, bring items to the bid winners, etc.
- Spotters:** 2 spotters that help the professional auctioneer.
- Bar:** 1 helper that can bring ice chests and ice to cool drinks
- Prize Wheel:** 2-3 helpers to man the prize wheel until live auction starts
- Clean-Up:** As many helpers as possible to clean up after the party is over.



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PTLG Quick Notes

May 2: Succession Event Planning

PTLG is hosting a meeting to discuss succession planning for events at EPMS. The meeting is at 6:30 pm at EPMS. We will discuss all events but with special focus on the school's largest fundraiser, EPMS auction. Current event coordinators, teachers in Lower EL, Upper EL and the Adolescent Program, room parents, CFEP, board members, and Ms. Hammons will attend. Please email Rachel Beeler (rdwiggins@yahoo.com) with any questions. Childcare provided!!!

May 13: EPMS Talent Show

Contact Christie Elwood (christie.elwood@gmail.com) for details and ways you can help. We still need more parents/teens to help with *setting-up/cleaning-up this event*.

May 27: End-of-the-Year Picnic & Stargazing.

Come to campus and celebrate our amazing school year at this potluck-style end-of-the-year picnic! You will also get the opportunity to learn about the stars with the guidance of the Mount Diablo Astronomical Society. These professionals will bring multiple telescopes and allow the whole family to see stars and planets! Contact Beth or Brad Hunter (bhunter736@gmail.com) regarding the Picnic or Leah Karson (Leah2bfit@hotmail.com) regarding Stargazing if you can *help with set-up/cleanup for this fun event or help with advertising this event to the EPMS community*.

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

Cheers, the PTLG Team

Rachel Beeler
Eme Tatsumi

Leah Karson
Zulay Loftin

Jennifer Torres
Akiko Noguchi

AUCTION Update

Our annual auction event "A Night to Remember" is shaping up. We have beautiful baskets up for bid with incredible donations from our community. Anything from week(end)-get-aways in Tahoe or San Francisco, to spa treatments, to (hand-made) jewelry, all the way to a fancy BBQ and pizza oven, summer-family activities.. Always wanted to fly in a beautifully restored 1947 WACO bi-plane? Or want to see the Warriors in a play-off game from a luxury suit (incl. food, beverages and VIP parking)??

Buy your tickets NOW and join us at this special night, from parents for parents. Watch out for exclusive classroom art project pre-views at the upcoming Friday Markets! These pieces are truly special, and a live-time memory.



The 6th year students worked diligently this past winter in both Art and Environmental Education to create posters for our annual Earth Day, Every Day display at the Ygnacio Valley Library in Walnut Creek. Please visit the children's area anytime during April to check out what a great job they did.



"Clay Art Class Reminder"

Limited spaces available. Class starts on Thurs., April 14th. You must have registration/payment in **no later than** the end of the school day **on Monday April 11th** as supplies need to be purchased. Forms are in the office. Class is limited to 10 students only.

Thank you. Grace-EPMS Art



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Credit Card Payments

With all the new “chip” cards coming out or cards being compromised please remember that if you have your credit card on file for future payments please make sure you inform Mrs. Mahraj and/or CFEP of any new #'s, expiration dates or new security codes. Appreciate it. Thanks.



Lost and Found

Clothes are starting to pile up on the Lost and Found rack which is located just inside the front gate. Left over articles will go into the USAgain bin so please take a moment to check for your child's favorite jacket, hat or water bottle before its' gone for good. Smaller items are sometimes turned into the office so feel free to check. Remember, it's easier (and cheaper) to put your child's name on it then replace it!!!

The next cleaning off the rack this coming: **FRIDAY, April 15th** so please check before 4:00 pm before they're gone for good. Thank you.



Notes from Childcare

Childcare payments for the month of April, 2016 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 March should be out by the end of next week.



Notes from the Office

Calendared Events

Apr 9	Garden Work Day 9-12
Apr 11	CFEP 6:30
Apr 15	LE Chabot – All Day
Apr 17	Board Mtg 6:30
Apr 18	2016-17 Lottery 6 pm
Apr 22	Panoramic Pictures
Apr 30	Auction 5:30 – 8:30 pm
May 2	PTLG Succession Event Planning 6:30
May 13	Talent Show 6 pm
May 14	Garden Workday 9-12
May 19	LE Science Fair 6:30 - 8
	UE Trading Post 6:30 - 8
May 26	PTLG 7 pm
May 27	Year-End Picnic and Stargazing
May 27	Early Dismissal – 1 pm



Attachments this Week

- Auction Ticket Order
- Parent Survey


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April, 2016 School Calendar

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
	CFEP 7 pm				LE Only Chabot Space & Science (All Day) FRIDAY MARKET	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
	2016-17 Lottery 6 pm	Talent Show Rehearsal #2 1:15 – 4:15 Rm 201 Board Mtg 6:30 pm			 Panoramic Picture EarthDay Friday Market	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
					FRIDAY MARKET	★ ★ ★ A Night to Remember EPMS Action 5:30 - 8:30 ★ ★ ★

May, 2016 School Calendar

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	PTLG Succession Event Planning 6:30 pm		Talent Show Dress Rehearsal 1:30-4:30 Walnut Acres		FRIDAY MARKET	
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
	CFEP 7 pm				 Talent Show 6:30-8 @ Walnut Acres	 Garden Workday 9 am – 12
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
		Board Mtg 6:30 pm		 Science Fair 6:30 - 8 pm  Trading Post	FRIDAY MARKET	