

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

FRIDAY FOLDER NOTES
(ALSO ON THE WEBSITE)
DECEMBER 11, 2009

When we feel love and kindness toward others, it not only makes others feel loved and cared for, but it helps us also to develop inner happiness and peace.

~H.H. the Dalai Lama:

I do not want the peace that passeth understanding. I want the understanding which bringeth peace.

~Helen Keller:

Acceptance Speech for the Nobel Peace Prize: "Only a just peace based upon the inherent rights and dignity of every individual can truly be lasting. ...if human rights are not protected, peace is a hollow promise."

~President Barak Obama



Notes from Michelle

I have a very personal thank you to send out to the anonymous person who purchased the hose reel for the front sidewalk!!! Every morning when I walk up the sidewalk I have seen that hose laying there. We even went to the hardware store and purchased one only to find it was too small. However, as time goes by and other priorities arose, we never returned to purchase the larger reel!!! So to whomever purchased the lovely hose reel- THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU!

This is the last Friday Folder note before the holidays. We don't want anyone to feel burdened by having to remember where the folder is over the two week break.

We are looking forward to our first International Day Celebration next Friday. The students, staff and parent volunteers are gearing up to make this a very memorable experience. Thank you ahead of time to the Student Government, Wendy (Upper El teacher), and Judy Baker (parent volunteer) for organizing this huge undertaking.

One procedural reminder: Please remember to call the school when your child is going to be absent. If we do not hear from you, your child will be marked as unexcused. This is different from your child missing for being sick or on independent study. Three unexcused absences equal truancy. Please make sure that you call Amy or the office and let us know if your child will not be in school – each day that they are out. (If you have requested an Independent Study, you do not need to call each day.)

I wish you all health, happiness and peace for the New Year! Have a wonderful winter break! For those who are traveling- safe travels and send postcards.



Note from CFEP

The CFEP Board Members would like to wish all our Eagle Peak families a Happy Holiday Season. We would like to thank all families who have donated to this year's Annual Giving Campaign.

If you have not had a chance to participate in the Annual Giving Campaign, we urge you to contribute what you can as soon as you can. ANY amount you can give makes a difference for our school and is very much appreciated and much needed. Due to the state and local budget crisis, our school will be dipping in to our reserves in order to maintain our amazing programs and offerings. The school needs your help to minimize the impact on our bank account.

Please give what you can so that Eagle Peak can continue to provide our children with the exceptional Montessori education that they deserve. All donations are tax deductible as a charitable donation. Make your donation this year, and you can receive the benefits when you file your 2009 income tax return. To donate to our Annual Giving Campaign, please fill out the CFEP Annual Giving Pledge form, located in the office. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me: gundi.younger@gmail.com

Happy Holidays, Gundi Younger, CFEP-President



Doing On-Line Christmas Shopping Helps EPMS

If you are going to be doing on-line Christmas shopping remember to start at www.eScrip.com. Whether you are looking for toys, clothes, electronics, flowers or driver's ed classes you will find links to popular websites and Eagle Peak will receive a percentage of what you spend. While you are there download AutoEARN and then anytime to shop at a participating merchant EPMS will earn money.



Read-a-thon Wrap Up

Thank you to all the participants in this year's EPMS Read-a-thon. You helped raise over \$2,000! Half Price Books Gift Cards are in your Friday Folder this week. Happy Book Shopping! Please contact Theresa Hurley at 674-9073 if you have any questions.

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Season's Greetings from PTLG

Here we are, folks: the last Friday Folder of 2009! Next Friday 12/18 is our International Celebration and the last day before Winter Break. There will be no Friday Market on 12/18.

The next **PTLG meeting** will be **Tuesday, January 5th** at 7:00 pm in the Multi-Use Room. This is immediately after we return from break. We will discuss the Talent Show, Parent Ed, auction projects and more.

After the new year, we will be looking at PTLG positions for 2010-2011. Before Spring rolls around, we'd like to ascertain which of our valued Committee Chairs, Coordinators and PTLG Liaisons plan to continue in their positions. Meanwhile, if you are interested in trying on a leadership role, now is a good time to start thinking about it. Feel free to contact us with any questions.

Fall 2009 has come and gone quickly and rather quietly! Thanks to all volunteers and staff who have helped everything run so smoothly. Warmest wishes to all of you.

Kris Harwood and Annie Rodriguez, PTLG Co-Chair



Holiday Adopt-a-Family

Thank You Eagle Peak Community!
We did it! Ten families will have a wonderful Christmas because of the generosity of the parents, staff and teachers of Eagle Peak. In fact, this year we were able to double our support of the Monument Crisis Center's Adopt a Family Program. Many children enjoyed shopping with their parents and it was a positive experience for all. So THANK YOU for the donations of new clothing, cookware, toys, grocery store gift cards, and more.

And a special thanks to the following stores: Pegasus Bicycle Works, Danville (and the Rodriguez family) and the Ross store at Broadway Plaza. This year I was able to get boxes from both businesses which saved me a lot of time, money and effort!

Happy Holidays to all!



Notes from Childcare

1. Childcare payments for the month of December 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.** Take advantage of a price break by signing up for prepaid hourly packages.
2. **Please clear up any outstanding balances before the end-of-the year.** If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Sibyl (hours) or Mrs. Mahraj (payment).
3. **January 2010 Payments.** Due to the holidays and no Friday Folder going out on 12/18, payment slips for January will be sent out in the January 8th Friday Folder. Payments will be due the following Monday, January 11th.



International Celebration **A Fun Volunteer Opportunity!**



On Friday, 12/18, we'll be having our first-ever, school-wide International Celebration. Students will work in small groups and will travel from classroom to classroom or "continent to continent", experiencing international food and activities. The celebration will facilitate teamwork and a community spirit by providing an opportunity for our upper el and lower el students to work together.

Each classroom represents a continent, but you are welcome to help out anywhere:

Australia - RM 301
South America - RM 302
Africa - RM 401
Europe - RM 201
Asia - RM 202

Please contact Judy Baker at judyemc2@comcast.net or Wendy if you'd like to be part of this first-ever, festive event!

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Music Notes

This week in Lower EI music classes Group A, I introduced the Kodaly hand symbols for the solfege system of singing a major scale. You know, solfege: Do (a dear, a female dear), Re... Mi... Fa So Las Ti Do. (Yes, we simply had to sing the Sound of Music song.) Ask your child if they can build the solfege house for you while singing the pitches, and to show you how to play "Warm, hands, warm. The farmer's gone to plow. If you want to warm your hands, warm your hands now." Group B will have their lesson Monday 14th. Last week, I assessed Group B for tonal competence and played the game, "Son Macaron" in which the person tapped last gets to pick an instrument to play along with the song.

I also tested out some musical activities as ideas for the up-coming International Celebration. Both Upper and Lower EI worked on rhythmic spoon games and accompaniment music from Taiwan. Upper EI used soprano recorders and soprano, alto and bass xylophones. Other song/games included Culebra and El Capitan. Upper EI also learned a dance to the tune "Tis the Gift to be Simple" by Elder Joseph, a Shaker from 1848.

We discussed that the simple gift of respect and spending time with those you love are better than any monetary gift during this season of excess. Here's one of my favorite lines in the non-Shaker verses added later: "'Tis the gift to be taught and a richer gift to learn. 'Tis the gift to think of others, not to only think of 'me'."

Last week in Upper EI, we started work on a piece about a sleigh ride using un-pitched percussion, tone blocks, jingle bells, triangles, xylophones, recorders, and drums. I am choosing pieces to add to the repertoire which will inspire the students to contribute to an ensemble performance at the February Talent Show at whatever level each feels comfortable.

At this rate, I believe Eagle Peak students could collectively learn 100 songs this year!! I'll start to track our progress toward this milestone!



Last Garden Party of the Year **Saturday, December 19th**

Hope to see you next Saturday (12/19) between 8 am -12 and help get the garden winterized. Please bring your own garden tools, gloves and water. If you have any questions please contact Jessica Bates at eaglepeakgarden@gmail.com or Raul Ruiz at reruizr@yahoo.com



Lost and Found

Year end clearance on all Lost and Found items!! Please take a moment to check the racks by December 18th or they will be donated. If you have any questions please contact Maura Krieger at 925-519-4641.



Volunteer/Help Wanted

1. Talent Show

Talent Show volunteers needed now. Great way to get in hours outside of the workday! We need an emcee coordinator, refreshments coordinator, visual artist coordinator, professional videographer, help with set up and clean up, and 2-3 assistants to help out during the show. Jenn Hartmann, 925-708-2128 or jenofun@hotmail.com.

2. Afternoon Carhops - Volunteer Needed:

Volunteers are needed to assist in after school carpool on Mondays and Tuesdays (3:30-3:45 pm). Please note a one month commitment is requested. If you can assist, please contact Mayra Garcia at 639-6358 or email: mayrag79gmail.com







Attachments this Week

- Pacific Chess Academy: Sign Up 1/5 - 3/9/10



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DECEMBER SCHOOL CALENDAR

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
		Parent Ed. Montessori Language 6:30 - 8:30	Lower EI - 301 MOCHA 		Lunch Order Due Friday Market	Prospective Parents Mtg. 9:30 -10:30 am
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
	CFEP 7:00 pm	EPMS Board Mtg 7:00 pm	Lower EI - 401 MOCHA 		International  Celebration	 Garden Work Party 8 am - 12
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
<i>Winter Break - No School</i>						Day
27	28	29	30	31		
<i>Winter Break - No School</i>						

JANUARY 2010 SCHOOL CALENDAR

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
						
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	Classes Resume	PTLG 7:00 pm		Prospective Parents Mtg. 7 - 8 pm	Friday Market	