

EL DORADO MIDDLE SCHOOL - TOROS NEWS FACTS

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PRINCIPAL'S NEWS

Dear El Dorado Families,

We have almost reached the halfway point of the school year. The 1st semester (2nd quarter) ends on January 27th. This is an excellent time to reflect on your student's progress and to make goals for the remainder of the year. This is also when we begin looking at students for possible retention. We will be sending letters home to those students in the near future. I know this is not a "happy topic" but it is real.

As we continue the year, I want to share with you that we are in the process of discussing a possible change to our bell schedule for next year. While this is a decision that is voted upon by classroom teachers, your input is always welcomed. I will share more details at our upcoming PFC, Site Council and ELAC meetings. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Additionally, we are in the process of hiring a bi-lingual (speaking Spanish and English fluently) Community Relations person for El Dorado. Gidget Duran will be on campus from 7:45 am to 3:45 pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays. She will translate all of our publications into Spanish and she is available to provide translating services for our Spanish-Speaking families formally (i.e. SSTs, IEPs, parent meetings) and informally (facilitating conversations in the office, etc.). This is a much needed service at El Dorado and I am pleased that we are finally putting this in place.

Thank you for your continued support of El Dorado.

Respectfully,

Robert Humphrey

PFC News

Happy new year to all El Dorado families!

It's hard to believe, but we are just months away from the end of the school year, and your student promoting to the next grade level! It's time to start planning for spring events. Stay tuned for school messengers via phone call on planning meetings for 6th, 7th, and 8th grade events that will be taking place this spring.

It is a great time to make an appointment with the district office regarding fingerprinting. Please remember that you must be fingerprinted and TB tested in order to chaperone a field trip, or volunteer on campus during school hours. El Dorado would love your help, so please contact the district office at (925) 682-8000 extension 4153, and inquire about the fingerprinting process to schedule an appointment soon. We need your help, and want your help, so get fingerprinted today!

*Together we can
make a
difference*

El Toro Spiritwear is available for purchase. Order forms are available in the office and are filled on a weekly basis. T's are \$10 and Hoodies are \$20... Help promote El Dorado school spirit by purchasing spiritwear for your students.

Keep saving those pink box tops! Look for information from Harumi Waren, our new Box Tops Committee Chair. You just need a pair of scissors to cut and clip the pink label from the products you purchase everyday! The next turn in date is at the end of February. Read on to find specific details on box tops in this newsletter.

We are looking for donations of granola/breakfast bars for students who miss breakfast before school. If you would like to donate packaged breakfast items, please drop by the office and they will distribute to students in need. Thank you for taking care of El Dorado students!

Thanks for your help,

Sheila Bergum PFC President skbergs@astound.net

Attention All Volunteers!!

The California State Education Code requires that ALL volunteers who work with students, even for only one time, MUST be fingerprinted and have TB clearance. Fingerprinting may be done at our District Office for a fee of \$32; please call 682-8000, ext. 4153 to set up an appointment.

We do not want to cancel field trips or other student activities due to lack of chaperones or volunteers. If you have not already done so, please sign up now.

Upcoming Events:

School Site Council Meeting: Our School Site Council Meets on the third Tuesday of every month from 3:30 pm – 5:00 pm in the Conference Room. The next School Site Council Meeting is on Tuesday, 2/21. School Site Council meetings are Open to the public and all are invited to attend!

PFC Meeting: The next PFC Meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 8th, at 7:00pm in the Staff Lunchroom.

English Language Advisory Committee Meeting: Our English Language Advisory Committee Meeting will be held on Thursday, February 2nd and 23rd from 6:00-7:30pm in the Library.

WE'RE ON THE WEB!
www.mdusd.k12.ca.us/El
Dorado Middle School

The purpose of this committee is to serve the needs of our English Learner students. This meeting is open to the public and all are invited to attend. If you have any questions or if you need further information, you may contact Mr. Ramirez at 925-682-5700.

Upcoming Activities/Events by Our Leadership Classes:

We are starting a Pet Bed Drive and asking for donations of clean, but used towels, blankets, sheets, dog/cat beds, anything that would more comfortable than sleeping on pavement. The Leaderships classes will be donating all items to Martinez Shelter and other local rescues. It's nearing the holidays and unfortunately the shelters are overcrowded.

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Our children need nutritious food to learn. Free and reduced lunch applications are available in the office. Please fill one out if your family is in need of assistance. No child should go hungry during the school day. It is a very simple application and it takes about ten business days to process the application and it is all confidential!

### **Box Tops for Education Program**

El Dorado's next Box Tops for Education submission will be at the end of February. We are asking that Box Tops be turned in by Friday, February 24<sup>th</sup>. For your convenience Box Tops can now be turned in throughout the year. Deposit them in the Box Tops for Education box located in the school office or turn them into your student's first period teacher.

El Dorado has approximately 1150 students. Did you know that if each student turned in just 10 Box Tops during the school year, we would earn \$1150 to help support programs at El Dorado? Each Box Tops for Education is worth 10 cents, so the amount of money we could earn is endless! Just think how much money could be earned if all students turned in 10 Box Tops per month...  $1150 \text{ students} \times 10 \text{ Box Tops} \times 9 \text{ months} = \$10,350!!!!$  This example is attainable. *Awareness* is the key. Just be sure to check all your boxes, bottles and packages before you discard or recycle them. Box Tops can be found on literally hundreds of products at your grocery store.

To take full advantage of the Box Tops for Education program, be sure to register at [www.btfe.com](http://www.btfe.com). On this website you can print coupons, enter Box Tops sweepstakes, check our school's progress and even earn Box Tops online just by watching short 1-2 minute product videos!

Another exciting program just introduced is 2ways2earn. Register at [www.2ways2earn.com](http://www.2ways2earn.com), link your Safeway Club Card number and you'll be on your way to earning additional eBoxTops. El Dorado will earn FREE money each time someone registers!

These are wonderful, easy programs to help our school earn **FREE MONEY**. Please take a moment to register at these sites and help support El Dorado Middle School. If you have any questions please feel free to call Harumi Waren 925-825-1787.

**El Dorado Spirit Wear for Sale!**  
T's \$10 Hoodies \$20  
Order forms available in Office

**ABSENCE REPORTING:**

School attendance is a very important component of a child's education. However, we understand there are times when your child will be unable to attend school. In such a case, Please call our attendance line at 682-8000 ext. 7627.

**eScrip News:**

*Did you know that Safeway is our school's biggest contributor through the eScrip program? When you sign up your Safeway card at [www.escrip.com](http://www.escrip.com) you will help to support our school. Every time you use your Safeway card, they will donate up to 4% to our school. You can support up to 3 schools/organizations. Please consider registering your Safeway card with escrip.*

*Visit [www.escrip.com](http://www.escrip.com) and click Sign Up. Our ID # is: 137963203 (El Dorado Middle School). Forms are also available in the office if you don't have internet access, or contact Jennifer Wallig ([mrswallig@aol.com](mailto:mrswallig@aol.com)) (925) 969-7537 and I'd be happy to get you connected.*

**Homelink:**

Being aware of your child's homework, class work, test performance and attendance is at your fingertips. Just click on Homelink on the MDUSD.org website and log in with your student's username and password to check up on the progress of your child's grades and attendance. If you do not have the username and password, please stop by our office and pick up your username and password. Please give two weeks of time for teachers to grade work and enter it in the system. In some cases it may take longer than two weeks due to the volume of work turned in by the students.

**Important Note:**

**Second Quarter Report Cards will be mailed home on Friday, February 3<sup>rd</sup> by the District Office.**