

# The Eagle's Press

Issue 8 — May / June 2009

## Principal's Message

Dear Mt. Diablo Elementary School Community,


MDES faculty and staff appreciate you appreciating us. We were spoiled by you the week of May 4. Perks included a continental breakfast, lottery cards, a superb luncheon with raffle prizes, soup, chili, dessert, food and drink for the staff lounge, and "Thanks a lattes" at the end of the week. While you appreciate us, we thoroughly appreciate your support, which is immeasurable. Special thanks go to Sharon McNulty and Ann Kinney for implementing a fabulous week of pampering.

STAR testing is now complete for students in grades 2-5. Our students worked hard, and we are confident that they did well on this standardized assessment in English/Language Arts,

Mathematics, and Science (5<sup>th</sup> grade only). Student results will be mailed to parents in August, and school, district, and statewide results will be posted on the California Department of Education's website around that time, as well. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or need assistance interpreting the results of the STAR test.

Four Fridays in May I have and will be having pizza for lunch with kindergarten and first grade students who have earned 50 Pats on the Back for outstanding behavior and citizenship. Observing students in classrooms, watching them play on the playground, and spending time with students in such activities are the highlights of my job. Words cannot express how proud

*(Continued on page 2)*



Measure D can mean 7 million dollars in local funds for our district.  
 Measure D may restore VP's, high school sports, 4th grade music, librarians and more.  
**Remember to Vote on May 19th.**

## PFC President's Perspective

Hello everyone,  
 We're in the home stretch. Despite the tough economic times we find ourselves in, it still managed to be a tremendous year from both a fundraising and support perspective. We are tracking to hit our annual fundraising targets and the contribution of your time

and energy has been simply amazing. The auction was a huge success, bringing in over \$50,000.00.

Once again - a special thanks to the auction committee for rolling up your sleeves, working sometimes very long hours (in addition to your day-to-

*(Continued on page 4)*

### Our Mission

Mt. Diablo Elementary School is a learning community that strives to educate the mind and to encourage the heart and spirit of every individual

### May Life Skill

Curiosity

### June Life Skill

Common Sense

### Principal

Bob Dodson

### Vice Principal

Anne Eggleston

### Office Manager

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# Principal's Message (Con't)

*(Continued from page 1)*

I am of the students at Mt. Diablo Elementary. Their academic, physical, interpersonal, and extra-curricular skills are unsurpassed. You can be proud of your children and the great job you are doing raising them.

Recently MDUSD Board member, Linda Mayo, and Assistant Superintendent, Rose Lock, toured Mt. Diablo Elementary School and were very complimentary. They visited every classroom and saw various activities in all subject areas, including student presentations and the very special kindergarten Mother's Day Tea. Rose Lock sent a follow up message stating, "MDES has a very positive learning environment with some very talented teachers."

This school year has flown by, with peaks and valleys along the way. It is one that will stand out and be remembered for many years to come. In October our school community experienced and responded admirably to the tragic incident at the corner of our school. In November our country elected its first African American president, with the hope of a brighter tomorrow. We are in the middle of an economic crisis, the magnitude of

which our country has not experienced since the Great Depression. State budget shortfalls have forced our school district to make a flurry of budget cuts resulting in the loss of elementary school vice principals, fourth grade music, library assistants, and less custodial support next school year.

In spite of these challenges, we continue to provide the quality care and education that our students and school community deserve. I am humbled to be surrounded by so many talented, capable, and caring people every day at Mt. Diablo Elementary School. It is my honor to serve this great community.

Thank you all for your continued support and hard work (PFC, Site Council, volunteers, etc, etc.), and I wish everyone a pleasant end of the school year and a happy, restful summer vacation.

Sincerely,

Bob Dodson  
Principal

We would like to thank Elegant Occasions for returning as our catering sponsor for the MDES Benefit Auction!



*Elegant Occasions*  
Catering & Event Planning

[www.elegantoccasionscatering.com](http://www.elegantoccasionscatering.com)

## Are You Cyber Safe?

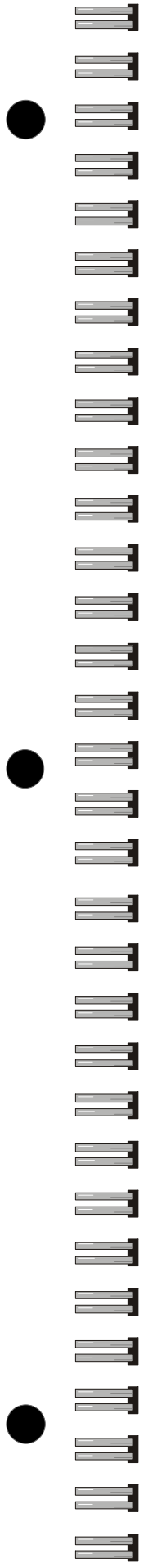
The internet is virtual; the dangers can be **REAL!** Parents are really under the gun with trying to keep up with their children's technology. The California Technology Assistance Program, CTAP is one place that parents can get help.

The website is: [www.ctap4.org/cybersafety/](http://www.ctap4.org/cybersafety/) There are six strands on this website that deal with Personal information, Social networks, Cyber predators, Piracy, Inappropriate content and Cyberbullying. These have information for both parents and kids, as well as suggestions for starting

the conversation.

This is a whole new area of possibilities, some positive and others negative. Sites are coming on-line daily and it is almost impossible for any of us to keep up with them. Even if we do not know or understand the workings of these communication sites, we need to instill in our children the knowledge of how to be safe using this impressive tool. It's not going away, so we need to meet it head on!

~Anne Eggleston, Vice Principal





# Messages From The Office

## Ordering Lunches for Last Day of School

If your child would like a bag lunch on the last day of school they will need to let the cafeteria know no later than **June 1, 2009** as Ms. Granfors needs to order the lunches ahead of time.

This includes all students: year pass students, students who pay cash, students who are free and reduced, and any student who would like a lunch on the last day of school! Everyone needs order their lunch by June 1<sup>st</sup>!

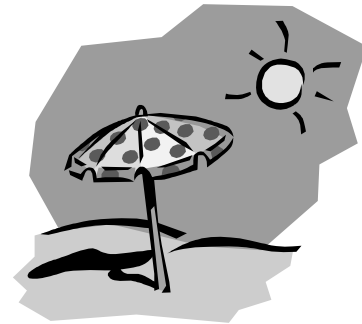
## Some Things to Work on Over the Summer...

Over the summer students often lose an edge to their academic knowledge and skills. Some of the activities that will help them maintain that edge are as follows:

- Read, read, read, and read some more.
- Write a weekly letter to a relative or a journal entry each day about their experiences.
- Make a shopping list for your weekly trip to the market.
- Cook or bake in order to work on measurement.
- During your travels, have students look at a map of where you are going or have been.
- Talk and have conversations where there is give and take.

Another activity is to teach them how to open any of the prepackaged lunch items they bring to school. This new independence will assist the noon supervisors during the lunch times next school year.

Have a great summer!



## Teaching Your Children About Fire Danger

As the summer approaches and the temperatures rise, so does the fire danger in the surrounding area. Clayton is unique in that there are a limited number of escape routes. With many parents working outside the area, children may need some instruction in what they should do if there is a fire (or any disaster for that matter).

In order to prepare our children for dangers, it is always good to talk to them about escape routes from your home and neighborhood; set up a meeting place to join the whole family; who the children

should call to report their whereabouts and condition, etc.

One of the things that we at school do not drill for that would be good for a home drill is "STOP-DROP-Roll." If your clothes are on fire, the person should drop to the ground and roll to extinguish the flames.

Anytime there is a fire, call 911 after you get everyone out and to a safe place.

The school community hopes you all have a safe, enjoyable and restful summer vacation.

**Last Day of School is Wednesday, June 10th**

Dismissal time for grades 1-5 is at 12:30 p.m.

All Kinders arrive at 8:00 a.m. and are released at 11:15 that day.



**A NOTE OF THANKS!**

Many thanks to **Sharon McNulty** and **Ann Kinney** for chairing the events of Teacher /Staff Appreciation Week.

Nowhere can you see brighter smiles than on "bring a flower for your teacher day" The students carry each flower proudly and greet their teachers with this token of thanks and huge smiles. Each day during the week here at Mt. Diablo there were surprises for our wonderful staff to let them know how much we value them.

We would also like to thank all volunteers, parents, and students for each and every contribution in making the week a special one!

**PFC President's Message (Con't)**

*(Continued from page 1)*

day lives) and showing the kind of commitment that made the success of the auction a reality. As for our first ever Spell-a-thon, we also appear to be on the way to rapidly exceeding our goals. Ironically, the Spell-a-thon, was not in the original plans for the year. Motivated by a projected shortfall from other events, it was the creative mind of my Co-President, Cathy Myers that brought it to life, mobilized resources, and ran with it. Her efforts are truly appreciated. As of press time, the Spell-a-thon has raised over \$20,000!

I wanted to take this opportunity to welcome the following new board-members for next year.

**Yolanda Kowalewski**

Co-President

**Natalie Cline**

1st VP Education

**Jennifer Claunch**

2nd VP of Operations

**Susan Halliday**

Co-Treasurer

**Mitzi Hyland**

Parliamentarian

**Laura Taylor**

Recording Secretary

I'm sure they will do a fantastic job. We have two PFC Board meetings left for the 2008-2009 school year. The remaining Board meetings are on Tuesday, May 19, and Thursday, June 4, both at 7:00 pm, in the library. If you have never attended a meeting before, these might be good ones to attend - as we will be making decisions on next year's budget. Complimentary child-care will be available.

On a personal note, it's been a wonderful experience working with the PFC. The opportunity to work side-by-side with such quality people to achieve the objectives of the PFC, has been both rewarding and fun. I appreciate each and every one of you who have devoted so much of your time, your resources and your passion - all in an effort to make for a truly great and memorable school year for our children.

Have a wonderful summer!

Susan Sovik  
PFC Co-President



**Going to a New School?**

If you are not returning to Mt. Diablo Elementary for the school year 2009 – 2010, please notify the school office. Thank you!

**Tom Legault,  
Kropa Realty**



**New Walnut Creek Location**

Tom Legault Team  
3093 Citrus Circle, Suite 175  
Walnut Creek, CA 94598  
(925) 937-8181

## From the Library...

By the time you read this, we will have enjoyed our annual *Scholastic Book Fair* May 11<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup>. Its dual purpose was to place books in the hands of our students and generate funds to buy new books for our library collection. Thank you all for your generous support.

As the year draws to a close, please note the **last day of check outs** is Friday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>. All books will then be due back to the library Tuesday,

May 26<sup>th</sup>. Bills will be generated at that time for lost items.

Please encourage your students to participate in the public library's summer reading program. Make a visit to the library a weekly activity, and make reading a daily one.

~ M. Schenke



## Fifth Grade Promotion

Soon the students of the MDE "Class of '09" will be ending their elementary school years and heading off to middle school. Our Fifth Grade Promotion Committee is planning a fabulous send-off to celebrate our fifth graders achievements while at Mt. Diablo Elementary. Special thanks to Kim Lally, Allison Rideau, Elisa Dud-

ley, and Deb Meylan for organizing this event. They

have a host of wonderful volunteers working with them to create a memorable promotion celebration for our out-going fifth graders. Best Wishes to our Fifth Grade Class!



## Mt. Diablo Idol

The kids are rehearsing and polishing their acts for MDE's very own talent show, Mt. Diablo Idol! All families are invited to attend this event to celebrate the many talents of our students. Dinner is also being provided by Cinco de Mayo. Preorders for dinner are now being taken and cost \$8.00 per plate. Order forms are available on the school website and in the office.

This fantastic line up is sure to be talked about for years! Mt. Diablo Idol will include ethnic dance, music, singing and a few potential American Idol contestants! The show will be professionally videographed for purchase after the show. Raffles, Great entertainment and great food! For more information or to help with this event please contact Lisa York at [lisyork@comcast.net](mailto:lisyork@comcast.net).

## Prep Day Help Needed

Prep Day for the 2009/2010 school year will be on **Wednesday August 26th from 4 pm -8 pm**. We need volunteers for 2 shifts: 3:30 to 6:00 pm and 6:00 to 8:30 pm. What a great opportunity to visit with friends,

catch up on your summer, and be the first to get your child's assignment!

Please contact Natalie Cline at [nr\\_cline@yahoo.com](mailto:nr_cline@yahoo.com) for more information or to volunteer.

## SAVE THE DATE!

**PFC Meeting**  
Tues. 5/19 at 7:00 pm  
Thurs. 6/4 at 7:00 pm

**Open House**  
**Grades 1,3,4,5**  
5/21  
7:00 – 8:00 p.m.

**MDE Idol**  
**Talent Show/Dinner**  
5/22

**Memorial Day**  
**Holiday**  
5/26

**Father/Daughter**  
**Dance**  
5/29

**Order for School**  
**Lunch on Last Day**  
**Due**  
6/1

**Last Day of School**  
6/10

**Prep Day**  
8/26 4:00 – 8:00 pm.

The District Calendar  
for 2009/2010 Year  
Is Attached

## Lost & Found

Please take a moment to check the lost and found for any missing clothing articles. All items will be donated at the end of the school year.

# FUNDRAISING CORNER

## Dine & Donate – Jamba Juice Promotion!

Visit our local Jamba Juice in the Clayton Valley Shopping Center between May 25-29 or June 1-5, and they will donate 20% of your purchase to the Mt. Diablo Elementary PFC. Keep an eye out for the flyer that will be coming home in Monday Mail – you must have the flyer with you in order for the PFC to receive the donation. Please make copies of the flyer for all of your friends, family, sports teams – you do not have to attend MDE to have your purchase benefit our PFC! Please contact Debbie Yoshii at [debbieyo@gmail.com](mailto:debbieyo@gmail.com) with any questions.



### Coupon of the Month

You're Invited Coupon book page: 141-- Ed's Mudville Grill--- lunch or dinner menu item free with the purchase of a lunch or dinner menu item!!!

## Fundraisers Needed for 2009 / 2010 School Year

These following fundraisers offer great profit potential for our school but we need your help to get them going! Sign up with a friend or come and meet other warm helpful people like yourself! Please contact Mary Del Monte at [marydm64@yahoo.com](mailto:marydm64@yahoo.com) if you are willing to organize or participate with one of the following the projects:

- 1 **Gift Wrap** – We are looking for one or two parents who would like to be the leaders of the gift wrap sale next fall. (company to be used will be chosen soon)
- 2 **Dinner a Month** – Looking for one or two parents who would like to take charge of a dinner a month fundraiser! This has the potential to be great fun and a great fundraiser all year long! Coordinate different local locations to donate back to our school..
- 3 **You're Invited Coupon Book**– Looking for someone to co-chair this event with Mary Del Monte this year, with the intention of leading this sale the following year (2010/2011). This is a very profitable fundraiser with little work!

## Spell-A-Thon A Huge Success!

Mt. Diablo Elementary is proud to have so many wonderful spellers! Our fundraiser brought in more than \$20,000! Wow! Thank you to all of the families that participated in this successful event. The students will be enjoying a well deserved popsicle party with Mr. Dodson in the near future – thank you!

## Teacher & Staff Appreciation Week Was a Huge Success

We want to thank all of our room parents for getting the word out to their classes and making our teachers and staff feel so loved and appreciated. Thank you to all the parents, families, and business who contributed with food, drinks, raffle prizes and their time.

Our theme of the week was "You're the heart of our school". It definitely showed by all the cards, flowers, and signs that filled the school campus. Thank you again to everyone and to our staff. We love and appreciate all the love, time, and energy you put into our school and children! Thanks again! ~Sharon McNulty and Ann Kinney



## DO YOU KNOW WHERE YOUR EAGLE SPONSOR DONATIONS GO?

Thank you to all of the generous families who have supported our PFC programs through Eagle Sponsor donations. It's hard to believe, but many parents out there are still unaware that many of the aides/programs/campus improvements are paid for out of the PFC budget – and that means money that is raised through fundraising programs like Eagle Sponsor. If we don't have parent support for these fundraisers and don't meet our fundraising goals, we simply don't have the money to pay for these programs that we now take for granted. Do we want to see our school lose the Kindergarten aides that made a big difference in easing the transition from 20 students per class to 32 students per class? On a hot day, are you happy that your child is in an air-conditioned classroom? Do you want your child to have up to date textbooks and computer equipment? If your child is having reading difficulties, do you want them to be able to benefit from the Kaleidoscope reading assistance program? All of these are only possible through parent donations, and when these donations fall short, our only choice is to eliminate some of these programs.

How can you help? First, please come to the monthly PFC meetings and find out where your money is being spent. Out of approximately 640 families at MDE, there are only a handful of people who attend these meetings every month. Especially with the current state of our school district budget, we have a responsibility to be active and be informed about our children's education. Secondly, make a commitment to support fundraisers like the Eagle Sponsor program, where 100% of the donation directly benefits your child. Next year, we are hoping to reduce the number of fundraisers that we ask parents to support, but we can only do that with increased participation in the Eagle Sponsor program.

Remember, the PFC spends approximately \$150 per student each year to run all of these programs. Every student benefits from these programs and supplies. Our goal this year is 100% participation.

You can use this page as your donation form (they are also available in the office and on the school website). Complete it and return it to your teacher or the school office with your check (or mail to MDPFC, P.O. Box 720, Clayton, CA 94517. Remember to find out whether your employer participates in a matching funds program! For further information, contact Jaimee Evans, Eagle Sponsor Chair at [jevans96@gmail.com](mailto:jevans96@gmail.com) or 925-818-6212.

- 
- 1 I would like to donate the following amount to the EAGLE SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM (Suggested amount is **\$75 per child if also participating in other fundraisers and \$150 if participating in Eagle Sponsor alone.** However, any amount is appreciated!):  
           \_\_\_\_\_ \$75           \_\_\_\_\_ \$100           \_\_\_\_\_ \$150           \_\_\_\_\_ \$200           Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_
  2. I will designate MDPFC as the recipient of my United Way Donation for \_\_\_\_\_
  3. I will contribute \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to MDPFC and my employer will match this amount.

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_ Teacher \_\_\_\_\_  
 Student Name \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_ Teacher \_\_\_\_\_  
 Student Name \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_ Teacher \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Name (s) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone # \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Life Skill for the Month of May: Curiosity

During May all of Mt. Diablo Elementary School will be focusing on the Life Skill of Curiosity. In the classrooms, teachers will be working with students on what Curiosity is and how to be Curious. Students will learn how to be adventurous, to research, to explore new ideas, and about guessing games. Curiosity is a desire to learn or know about a full range of things. If we can instill the skill of curiosity in our children we have given them the skill of learning. Everyday children learn about new things. They are naturally curious beings. We need to foster and support the learner within all of us and find ways to enhance and applaud children's curiosity. Below are suggested activities that

can assist parents in encouraging curiosity and helping their children to become lifelong learners. Provide a work space for children to explore books, machinery, and nature. Show children that you think learning and curiosity are important by providing a place for them to explore. Take the time to join in their exploration. You might just have fun! Take a trip somewhere new, like a museum or a park. Discuss the things you see. Share what you like best about the place and things you would like to learn more about. Take the time to help children find more information about topics that capture their interest. Sit with your child and watch an educational video or the Discovery channel. Encourage

them to ask questions. Assist them and model how they can find the answers to their questions (in books, encyclopedias, asking other people in the field, library, the internet, etc.). Have each family member pick a subject to learn about and have them share what they learn with the rest of the family. Set up some guidelines and expectations for what needs to be done and have children and parents research and inquire about their subject. When everyone has researched their topic, share with the rest of the family. Discuss what each person learned. How did it feel to learn about something new? How did it feel to share the information?



## Life Skill for the Month of June: Common Sense

During June, all of Mt. Diablo Elementary will be focusing on Common Sense. In the classrooms, teachers will be working with students on what Common Sense is and how to make good judgments.

Students will learn decision-making skills as well as how to assess a situation and respond appropriately.

Common Sense is actually not so common. One reason children may not be using common sense is that it is not a sense we are born with. It is built through experience and practice. The best way to each common sense is to find ways to

give children practice using it. Below are suggested activities that can assist parents in creating situations where children will need to use common sense. Teach "Checking." Checking is a common-sense practice. People check a situation to make sure it is safe, or comfortable. For example: check if the door is locked before leaving, check if cars are coming before crossing the street, before going out check weather to see if you need a sweater or rain coat. When we get children in the habit of checking we help them to avoid unpleasant situations. Discuss situations in which utilizing com-

mon sense would be critical, such as in an emergency, outdoors at night, etc. Discuss what should be done and how. Children will need modeling and assistance in figuring out what is the most common sense thing to do. Remind children that they need to think before they act. "If I throw this could it hurt someone?" "If I climb on that could I break something?" "If I say this, will it hurt someone's feelings?" When we help children develop common sense they are better prepared to handle challenging situations as well as everyday occurrences.

