

Mt. Diablo Elementary School

The Eagle's Press

Issue 6 — April 2010

Principal's Message

Dear Mt. Diablo Elementary School Community,

Our fifth grade students recently participated in Outdoor Education at Sly Park in the El Dorado National Forest. They learned about nature, conservation, teamwork, survival skills, and perseverance. Daily activities included day and night hikes ranging from .5 to over five miles in length, rock wall climbing, arts and crafts, skits and performances, physical activities and games, learning about and caring for animals, learning about Native American Indians, "Kitchen Patrol" including food preparation and clean up, and much more. During the five day trip students adapted to weather changes including heavy rain, hail, and 10 inches of fresh powder snow! From

7:00 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. every day students were engaged in non-stop, rigorous physical and mental activities. At the end of the week students had learned and experienced a tremendous amount. They were elated to return home to their families, albeit exhausted. I am so proud of our students, high school and parent chaperones, and the teachers who graciously volunteered to facilitate this experience for our fifth grade students.

"Springtime in Paris" is just days away. Our annual Auction Night will be held at Centre Concord from 5-11:00 p.m. on Friday, April 23. There is something for everyone at Auction

(Continued on page 2)

PFC President's Perspective

"The greatest success stories were created by people who recognized a problem and turned it into an opportunity."

-Joseph Sugarman

Spring has sprung, and the campus is abuzz with activity as we enter our final trimester. The 5th graders have gone to camp and are anticipating their new lives as middle schoolers, the Kindergarteners are eager to become 1st graders, and all the kids are turning their minds to fun springtime activities. The PFC, too, is looking forward as we try to plan the best budget and set of programs we can for the school.

Do you have any ideas? Ideas for programs the kids and teachers might

enjoy? Ideas for fundraisers? Your input is vital. Teachers, parents, staff, and students need to come together to discuss which programs are essential to keeping MDE the vibrant school community it is. We are always seeking input on how existing programs might be improved, or on new programs that might be added. Your attendance at meetings, your responses to surveys, your emails and phone calls will all help drive our budget and planning process.

Attendance at PFC meetings has been terrific. It is encouraging to see the number of parents and staff that turn out to offer suggestions and questions so that we may all be better informed. At the last meeting, Board

(Continued on page 6)

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

April Life Skill

Patience

Principal

Bob Dodson

Office Manager

Karina Hemby

PFC Co-Presidents

Cathy Myers

Yolanda Kowalewski

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Joanne McCluhan

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Student Reporters

Maddie A., Karly B., Patrick D., Mack M., Logan S., Makenna P., Gabriel S., Niklas W.

Next Article Deadline

5/7/10

Principal's Message (Con't)

Night including live, silent, and "E-Auction" items. There will be live music, dancing, a delicious dinner, games, and much more. The money raised at this event will directly benefit MDES students via instructional assistants, support and enrichment programs, and materials and supplies for classrooms. Special thanks go to Kerry Seastrand, Beth Rutledge, and a host of volunteers behind the scenes who have worked tirelessly to make this event happen. Thank you all for your support and participation.

Our students recently earned over \$20,000 for our school in our annual Spell-a-thon fundraiser. All students will be treated to a Popsicle for their efforts. Students who earned \$100 or more received a gift certificate to the Yogurt Shack, the class at each grade level that raised the most money, as well as the class that scored the highest percentage correct on the spelling test, received a root beer float party, and the student who raised the most money for the school

received a Nintendo DSi. For exceeding our \$15,000 school wide goal, the grand prize was a public extreme makeover for our custodian, Mr. Biles, who was treated to a shave and a hair cut by Great Clips in Clayton and a new suit and tie from the Men's Warehouse in Walnut Creek. Thank you all for supporting our annual Spell-a-thon fundraiser.

Thank you all for your continued support during these challenging financial times. I am proud of our school community and honored to be your principal.

Sincerely,

Bob Dodson
Principal

SAVE THE DATE!

MDE's Father Daughter Dance Is Coming Back!

Grandpas and Uncles Welcome Too!

- Dance is scheduled for **June 4th from 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.** in the MUR.
- DJ will be provided and a raffle for the girls.
- Souvenir Photos will be taken.
- Tickets are \$20 a couple, \$10 each additional guest.
- Watch for the flyer in the May edition of the Eagle's Press Newsletter! For more info now email Heidi Celentano at jhcelentano@sbcglobal.net.



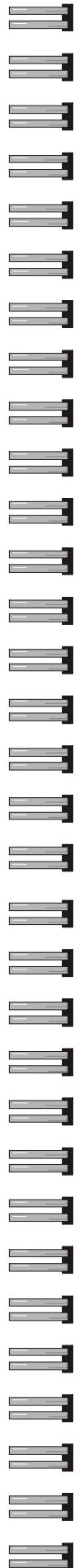
Please Note!!!

An Exclusive Dance VIP package will be available for bidding at the Auction on April 23rd!



VIP Package includes:

- Dinner for 2 at Ed's
- VIP parking
- Tickets to the Dance
- Corsage and Boutonniere



From the Library...



Many thanks to all who bought visiting author, Brandon Mull books at Clayton Books! The Harris family gave us \$300 credit toward new beautiful library books.

Mark your calendars for our annual ***Scholastic Book Fair May 10-14th***. We are looking for volunteers to work morning or afternoon shifts. Stop by the library Monday-Wednesday.

~M. Schenke

Book Buddies a Success!

A big Thank You to everyone who brought in books to share with the students at Shore Acres!!! Jennifer Graves & Kelly Tuohey had an opportunity to share a little about our collection with a couple of classes at Shore Acres. It was a pleasure to hear how excited the kids were about picking out a book of their very own to take home and "keep forever". An

extra big thank you to the Harris Family from Clayton Books who generously donated 4 full boxes of used books to this project & collected donations for Mrs. Schenke to purchase books for her libraries.



Parent Patrol



Want to make school a safer place for our kids? Consider volunteering for Parent Patrol. This is a new program we are starting to assist during drop off and pick up times.

Our goal is to have enough parents to monitor

the back hill and the carline drop-off. It would only take a few minutes of your time either in the morning or afternoon, and days can be alternated with other volunteers. We would love to hear your suggestions and ideas!

Please email Rachel Levy at Levys@mac.com for more info or with your ideas.

Newsletter Editor



Still looking for a way to get involved with the PFC? We are seeking a new Editor for the Eagle's Press Newsletter for the 2010/2011 school year.

It's a great way to get involved and be flexible with your schedule! For more information please contact Joanne McCluhan at mccluhan@gmail.com.

McTeacher's Night



Join us on ***Wednesday, April 28th*** at the McDonald's on Clayton Road and you just might be served by your favorite MDE teacher! McDonald's will donate 20% of all purchases between 4 p.m. and 8 pm to our PFC, with a guaranteed mini-

imum donation of \$500. This is a really generous offer by McDonalds and several of our teachers have generously agreed to spend a couple of hours "working" to serve you. Please come out on the 28th & help support our school at this fun event!

Coupon of the Month

Page 93 of You're Invited: IHOP— Free Entree with purchase of Entree of equal value and two drinks!! Located right on our own Clayton Road!

Kids Korner - Featuring MDE's Student Reporters

The Amazing Mrs. Clary by Maddie A. and Karly B.

The amazing Mrs. Clary has two daughters named Katie and Heather and a son named Teagon. Her husband, John, is a fire fighter. Mrs. Clary has a lot of favorites: her favorite movie is Sleepless in Seattle. Her favorite color is magenta. Her favorite subject in school to teach is social studies. Her favor-

ite camping spot is Santa Cruz. Her favorite author is Kate DiCamillo and her favorite grade to teach is fourth. She has taught third, fourth, and fifth grades. She likes all her students equally. Third graders, this is the teacher you want...Mrs. Clary rocks!!!



Alice in Wonderland Word Search By Mack M.

E	C	I	L	A	W	O	N	D	E	R	L	A	N	D	Q
S	L	C	T	I	B	B	A	R	E	T	I	H	W	O	U
S	J	L	C	H	E	S	H	I	R	E	C	A	T	R	E
A	A	L	I	E	R	A	H	H	C	R	A	M	N	A	E
L	B	L	F	R	O	G	F	O	O	T	M	A	N	L	N
G	B	O	D	O	D	R	I	N	K	M	E	G	N	L	O
G	E	R	R	A	E	A	T	M	E	T	T	D	O	I	F
N	R	R	G	R	O	W	U	T	R	A	T	U	H	P	H
I	W	A	U	L	T	E	U	Q	O	R	C	C	P	R	E
K	O	C	R	E	S	U	O	I	R	U	C	H	Y	E	A
O	C	S	M	A	D	H	A	T	T	E	R	E	R	T	R
O	K	I	N	G	O	F	H	E	A	R	T	S	G	A	T
L	Y	W	N	A	F	D	O	R	M	O	U	S	E	C	S
W	A	E	E	L	T	R	U	T	K	C	O	M	B	T	I
O	O	L	N	S	S	R	A	E	T	F	O	L	O	O	P
W	O	F	F	W	I	T	H	H	E	R	H	E	A	D	L

Can You find these words related to the Alice in Wonderland Movie?

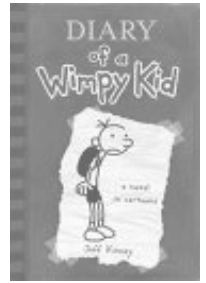
- | | | | | |
|-------------------|---------------|-----------------|----------------|---------------|
| ALICE | CAT | CATERPILLAR | CHESHIRE | CROQUET |
| CURIOUSER | DODO | DORMOUSE | DRINK ME | DUCHESS |
| EAT ME | FAN | FOOTMAN | FROG | GROW |
| GRYPHON | HARE | JABBERWOCKY | KING OF HEARTS | LEWIS CARROLL |
| LOBSTER QUADRILLE | LOOKING GLASS | MAD HATTER | MARCH | MOCK |
| OFF WITH HER HEAD | POOL OF TEARS | QUEEN OF HEARTS | TART | TEA |
| TURTLE | WHITE RABBIT | WONDERLAND | WOW | |

Diary of a Wimpy Kid

A Book Review By
By Gabriel S.

This hilarious book, written by Jeff Kinney, is about a middle school aged kid named Greg Heffley who just plain hates school. Hey, guess what? He's just another kid who thinks he will get rich and famous. Greg has an older brother named Rodrick, and Rodrick's main pleasure in life is to torture Greg. He has a friend Rowley, and he does not listen

to Greg about ANY of Greg's "popularity" lectures. The lectures haven't been doing much to help him or Rowley. The only result of the lectures is Rowley ending up with a broken arm. But, there is a little surprise at the end with him and Rowley. Actually, there are tons of surprises in this story! Read this book about Greg Heffley's **insane** middle school life! You won't regret it!



Yummy Crepes Recipe by Makenna P.

Crepes are fun to make whenever you have some free time. Here's what you'll need:

- 4 eggs
- 1 cup milk
- ½ cup flour
- one teaspoon of sugar
- pinch salt

First crack 4 eggs into a bowl. Add the milk, flour, sugar, and pinch of salt. Next, put it all in the blender for 30 seconds. Then put it in the fridge for 1 hour. After an hour remove and mix it one last time.



Next grease your pan over medium heat.. Then pour in 1/4 cup of the batter into the pan. Cook it for 45 seconds. Flip it over for 15 seconds, and your done. Keep stacking them on top of each other for warmth. Keep doing this process until all the batter is gone. Put in any filling you want. I like them with butter and syrup. Some other favorites are jelly and whip cream. Then roll it up like a burrito. Enjoy your crepes!

An Amazing Transformation by Niklas W.



After

Who is this handsome young fellow cleaning our school? It is Mr. Bob! Our school had a spell-a-thon and we raised over \$19,000. As a reward we had a special assembly and witnessed an amazing transformation. Mr. Bob had his beard and mustache shaved off by Great Clips. He then hid

behind a school bus and when all the kids screamed "Move that bus!" the bus moved and Mr. Bob appeared in a brand-new suit and hat (donated by Men's Wearhouse). I never knew he would look like a completely new person. Mr. Bob was very surprised when he looked at himself in the mirror. He himself said that he looked much

younger now. Mr. Bob had not shaved his beard in 15 years and he had never shaved off his mustache. The day after his amazing transformation, Mr. Bob went on vacation to Disneyland with his granddaughter. Mr. Bob is a great custodian and I hope he will keep on shaving his face.



Before



The Trim

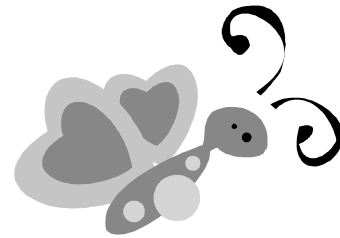
PFC President's Message (Con't)

member Gary Eberhart and Principal Dodson both presented the latest news regarding cuts for next year. The district is facing even more drastic cuts over the next few years, and there really isn't much we can say to make that news positive. We need to pull together now more than ever to stay informed, brainstorm, fundraise, and put programs into place that ensure all our children have the quality education they deserve.

Spring is here. Help us celebrate the sense of renewal it brings by attending our largest fundraiser of the year, the benefit auction on April 23rd. This year the auction theme is, appropriately enough, Springtime in Paris. This fun event is not only a great fundraising opportunity, it's a night of fine food, mu-

sic, and dancing that really brings the community together in support of a fabulous cause. So grab your checkbook and dancing shoes and let's celebrate the joy and promise of Spring!

Yolanda Kowalewski
Cathy Myers
PFC Co-Presidents



The Auction Decoration Committee Needs Volunteers !
Friday Morning on April 23rd. Please come to Centre Concord at 9 a.m.
Many Hands Make Light Work—Thank You!!

Life Skill for the Month of April:

Patience



During April, all of Mt. Diablo Elementary School will be focusing on the

Life Skill of Patience. In the classrooms, teachers will be working with students on what Patience is and how to be patient. Students will learn self-control, taking turns, how to utilize waiting time, and listening to instructions.

Patience is a Life Skill that requires practice and self-control. Children who learn to wait for what they want have a chance to develop patience and tolerance. To teach children patience, you must give them practice in waiting as well as directions on what they can do while waiting. Below are a few suggested activities that can assist children in developing skills in patience.

Teach your child "goal setting". Have your child think of one thing they would like to do.

Help them figure out how they can achieve their goal and how much time it will require. Discuss the life skill of patience and tell them they may need to use patience while waiting and working on their goal. Usually things worth doing are worth waiting for.

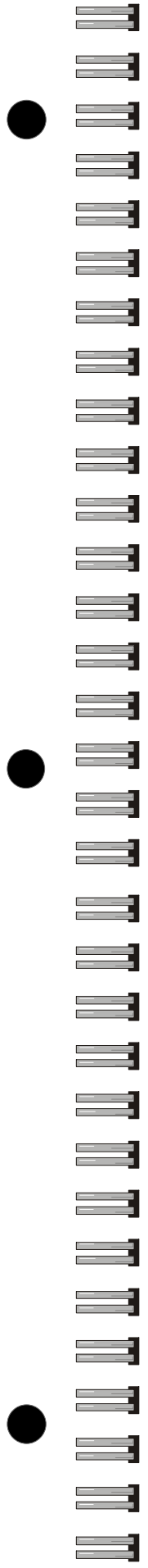
As a family, discuss the strategies used to foster patience. Strategies such as taking a deep breath, focusing on something else, reading a book while waiting, are just a few that children can practice. Parents and children can practice these strategies for a week or more to really make the behavior a habit.

Play a board game with your family. This game should be one in which players need to take turns. Tell family members that when you play a game with other people you need to wait your turn and be patient. Playing games can help children to practice patience as well as enhance relationships

among family members.

As a family, discuss times when people need to be patient at home, the community and at school. For example: waiting for mom to finish a phone call, waiting in line at the grocery store, or waiting for your sister to finish practice. You may even ask your children to draw the situations.

Parents can instill patience in children by not responding to impatient behavior. Parents can ask children to wait patiently before getting that cookie or glass of milk, playing that game of catch or installing the new computer game. Children can learn by your example. Say things like, "I have to finish this e-mail to my boss. When I'm done, I can install that program for you. I like to get the things that I have to do done first so I can enjoy doing the things I like to do."



Gift Card Scrip

Thanks to everyone who has ordered gift cards to support our new fundraising program. This is a great way to help MDE earn lots of money to support our children at no additional cost to you. Pre-purchased gift cards can be used just like cash for shopping you are already planning to do. Hundreds of merchants, including Safeway, Target, Macy's, Lucky's, Costco, and more, offer us a % profit on the gift cards you purchase. To see the order form and view the hundreds of gift cards available, visit the MDE website or www.glscrip.com.

We'll be collecting orders at the

end of each month and will have your gift cards available at the following PFC meeting. All orders turned in last month will be available for pick up at the April 20th PFC meeting. I'll also put in a special order Teacher Appreciation week - any orders received by April 15th will be available by the last week of April (also in time for Mother's Day & Graduation parties).

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Kelly Tuohey at ktuohey@pacbell.net or call her at 673-9070.

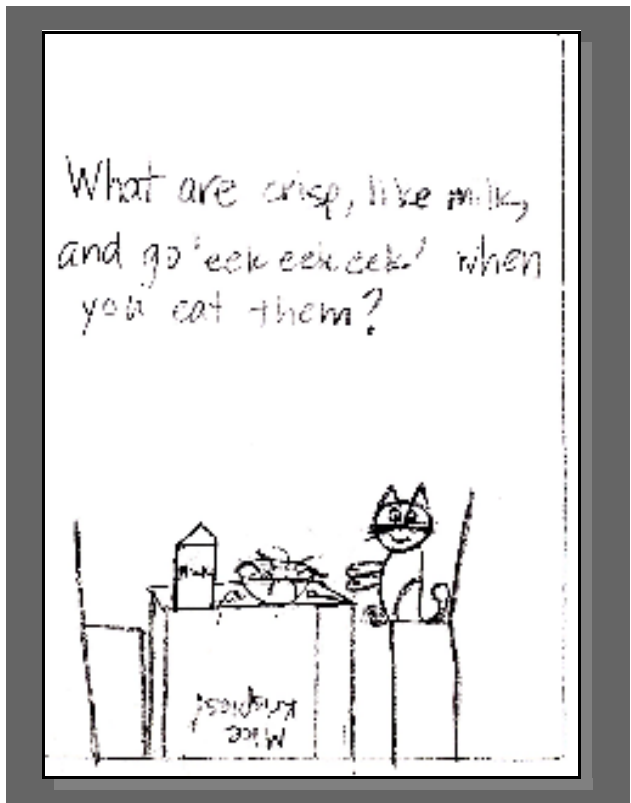
Building Our Pathway to Success



Families still have an opportunity to purchase a brick for our Pathway to Success. Please consider purchasing a brick for your children, a favorite teacher, or an alumni you'd like to remember. What a unique gift!

Brick orders need to be submitted no later than April 30th.

Order forms are available on the school's website and prices begin at \$55. If you have any questions please contact Michelle Curry at michelle-jcurry@sbcglobal.net or 672-1257.



SAVE THE DATE!

PFC Meetings

4/20 at 7:00 p.m.
5/18 at 7:00 p.m

Annual Auction

4/23

McTeacher's Night

4/28

Open House

Grades K and 2
4/29

Teacher Appreciation Week

5/3 to 5/7

STAR Testing

5/3 to 5/14

Book Fair

5/10 to 5/14

Open House

(Grades 1,3,4, and 5)
5/27

Memorial Day Holiday

5/31

Last Day of School

6/14

Our Fabulous Teachers!



Teacher Appreciation week will be the week of May 3 through Friday, May 7, 2010. We once again have the opportunity to show our teachers and staff how much they mean to us. If you'd like to help or for more information please send an email Eugenie Tsao at eugenict@aol.com.

We Need Your Talent!

Our kids love having the opportunity to showcase their talents!

We are still in need of someone to organize our annual talent show/family dinner event which usually takes place in May.

Please consider showing off your own talents by helping organize this event. Resources will be avail-

able to help you make this a wonderful evening for our talented children and their families.

Please contact Mary Del Monte at marydm64@yahoo.com if you would like to help keep this night on the calendar.



Auction Tents Needed

Our Auction committee is busy preparing for the big April 23rd event! They are in need of a loan of few extra easy up tents.

If you have one available to borrow please contact Monica Stellini at monica.stellini@gmail.com. Thanks!

Laughter Break

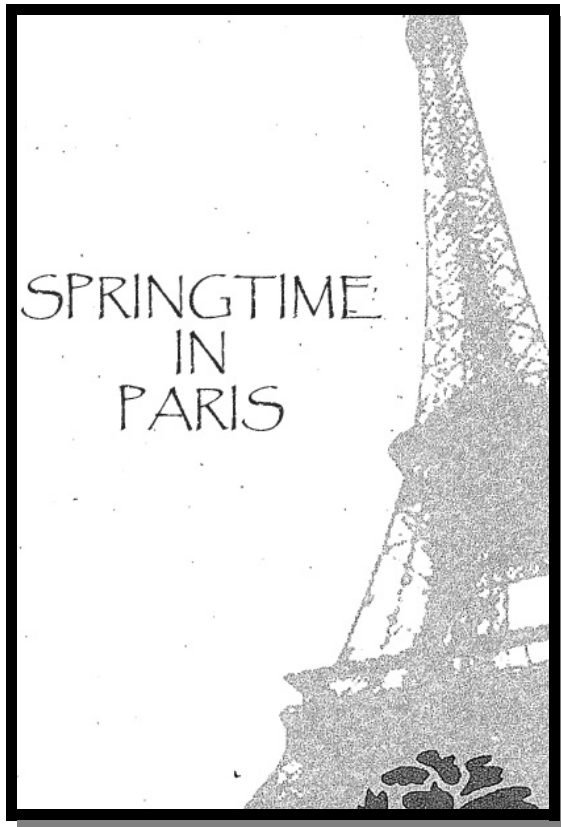
By
Logan S.

1. What kind of plants do bunnies keep in their gardens?
2. Why did the Easter bunny fire the duck?
3. What happened to the egg when he was tickled?
4. What do you call a rabbit with fleas?
5. Why are people always tired in April?



1. Eggplants
2. He kept quacking all the eggs
3. He cracked up
4. Bugs Bunny
5. They just finished a March

Answers



The 10th Annual Mt. Diablo Elementary Benefit Auction
"Springtime in Paris"
April 23, 2010

For up to date information on this event, please visit the school website. Need not attend to bid on our wonderful items!



Help Your Employer Match Your Charitable Donations?

Does Your Employer Match?

Help them realize a tax deduction for 2010 through their matching program!

Some of the East Bay Companies with matching programs.....

3Com 3M Foundation...Ace Ina Foundation...Adobe Systems, Inc...Advanced Micro Devices...Affiliated Publications, Inc....Air Products and Chemicals...Albertson's ...Alexander & Baldwin, Inc....American Continental Insurance... American Express American International Company...American President Companies...Anheuser-Bush AON...Apple Computer...Applera Corporation...ARCO..Argonaut Group..Autodesk, Inc....AT&T...Baker & McKenzie...Bank of America...Barclays Global Investors...BD Matching Gift Program...Bechtel Group, Inc....Becton Dickinson and Company ...Matthew Bender & Company...Boeing...Borden, Inc....BP America...Brobeck, Phleger & Harrison LLP... Caterpillar...CBS Charles Schwab and Co....Chase Manhattan...ChevronTexaco...Circuit City Stores...Cisco Systems...Citigroup Foundation...The Clorox Company Foundation Employee Giving Campaign...Compaq Computer... Computer Resources Group...Corning, Inc....S.H. Cowell Corporation ...Deutsche Bank Americas...DFS Group...R. H. Donnelley...Eaton Corporation...Exxon Corporation Federated Department Stores Fireman's Fund ...Fremont Group Foundation...Arthur J. Gallagher...Gannett...Lotus Development Lucent Technologies...Macy's / Federated Department Stores...Mal Warwick & Associates, Inc....Matson Navigation Company...May Company...McGraw-Hill...Mazda McDonald's Corporation McKesson HBOC Mellon Bank Merrill Lynch Microsoft ...Mobile Oil...Monsanto Fund... Morrison & Foerster...Morton International...Mutual of America...Newhall Land and Farming Company...Nike... NORCAL Mutual Insurance Company...Northern Trust Northwest Industries...Northwestern Mutual...NYNEX Corporation...David and Lucile Packard Foundation...PE Biosystems...Pennzoil ...PepsiCo...PG&E...Philip Morris...Pitney Bowes...Pohlad Family Charities...Potlatch Corporation Provident Companies Providian Financial Prudential Ralston Purina R.H. Donnelley...Safeco Insurance Companies...Santa Fe Pacific...Sara Lee Corp. SBC...Charles Schwab & Co., Inc..Sempra Energy...So. California Gas...Joseph E. Seagram & Son...Shaklee...Siemens Silicon Graphics.. Smart Modular Technologies..SmithKline Beecham...Sony Corp...Speigel...Sprint..St. Paul Companies

Our goal is to raise \$180/child (\$1 per school day/child), however, any donation amount will help to benefit your child's education.

Complete this form and return with your check payable to MDPFC via your child's teacher, the school office, or mail to MDPFC, P.O. Box 720, Clayton, CA 94517. For further information, contact Lisa Miller, Eagle Sponsor Chair, ikmintegrity@sbcglobal.net or 925-673-3369.

I will donate **\$180 per child – one dollar for each school day** – to the PFC through the Eagle Sponsor Program:

\$180 x _____ children = _____ Other \$ _____ (any amount is appreciated!)

I will designate MDPFC as the recipient of my United Way Donation for \$ _____.

My employer will match my donation in the amount of _____.

Total amount of donation: \$ _____.

Student Name _____ Grade _____ Teacher _____

Student Name _____ Grade _____ Teacher _____

Parent/Guardian Name(s) _____ Date _____

Email _____ Phone# _____

Address _____