

Mt. Diablo Elementary School

The Eagle's Press

Issue 5 — March 2010

Principal's Message



Dear Mt. Diablo Elementary School Community,

As we approach the springtime and warmer weather, many great things are in store for our students and school community.

Our students recently took their Spell-a-thon spelling test, and we are in the process of collecting and counting the pledges they have obtained. All students will enjoy a Popsicle as a reward for their efforts related to this fundraiser. The class at each grade level that submits the most money will be rewarded with a root beer float party, and the individual who submits the largest amount of money will win a Nintendo DSI. If our students raise over \$15,000 total our wonderful head custodian, Bob Biles, has graciously

volunteered for a public "Extreme Makeover", complete with a shave and a hair cut by Great Clips in Clayton and a new suit and tie from the Men's Wearhouse in Walnut Creek! Stay tuned for the outcome of our Spell-a-thon, and thank you all for your generous support.

Our PFC is planning an amazing evening on Friday, April 23. Springtime in Paris will feature dinner, live music and dancing, and both live and silent auctions. This is our most profitable single-day (evening) fundraiser of the school year, and the money raised will directly and positively impact our students in the way of instructional

(Continued on page 2)

PFC President's Perspective

It's March Madness time! No, not the basketball games, but rather as parents, we start to enter some of the busiest months of the school year! Spring is almost here, and with spring comes some exciting milestones for our school year, and for our children. From spring sports starting, spell-a-thon, 5th grade camp, spring break, musicals, concerts, STAR testing and our annual auction all coming in the next few weeks, we all start to feel the pressures of "not enough hours in the day." With so many important events and activities coming up, it's time for our annual reminder to **check your student's backpack.** We don't want you to miss anything, and some vital information and reminders will be

coming home over the next couple of months. Backpack diving really should be an Olympic Sport!

Additionally, as we mentioned last month, this is a busy time for our PFC. We're finalizing surveys that will go out to all of you. We want your input and we need your help to shape our budget and our priorities for next school year. Please plan to attend the upcoming PFC meetings (always third Tuesday of each month), as we will be utilizing these meetings to discuss and introduce the survey, as well as to elicit input on our budget and priority list for our spending.

We have one of the most involved

(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

March Life Skill

Effort and Perseverance

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Logan S., Makenna P.,
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Next Article Deadline

3/26/10

Principal's Message (Con't)

programs, assistants, and materials and supplies. I look forward to seeing you this springtime in Paris, and thank you in advance for your generous support and participation. Special thanks go to Kerry Sealand and Beth Rutledge, event coordinators, and all of our volunteers behind the scenes to make it happen.

Unfortunately the state budget crisis is impacting public education in an unprecedented manner. Our school district has already cut some 30 million dollars from its budget over the past three years, and it will make an additional 30 million dollars in budget cuts over the next three years in order to maintain a balanced budget. Our new superintendent, Dr. Steven Lawrence, met with the Clayton Valley High School feeder pattern community on February 16 to discuss the budget crisis and solicit input from the community. State budget cuts have impacted our school with increased class sizes, reduced administrative and

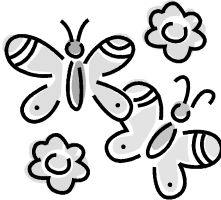
custodial support, and less funding for materials, supplies, and programs for students. Further cuts will have additional ramifications.

The good news in all of this is that we are a very strong school community. We have a quality teaching and support staff, an involved and supportive parent community, and our students are unflappable. We will endure this difficult budget time and do right by our students through our collective efforts.


Thank you all for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Bob Dodson
Principal



Spring Break!
No Classes the Week of April 5th
All Classes Resume on Monday, April 12
Happy Spring!



From the Library...



To celebrate literacy this month, bring a gently used book for Mrs. Tuohey's book collection. These books will be given to students at Shore Acres. Be a book buddy!

Thank you Clayton Books for bringing Brandon Mull to our school Friday, March 26th. His 5th and final book in the popular Fablehaven series will be available for sale and autographing.

Read 20 minutes every day!

~ M. Schenke

Book Buddies for Shore Acres Elementary

In celebration of Dr. Seuss' birthday, MDE families will be donating new and gently used books to students & families at Shore Acres Elementary in Bay Point (Mrs. Schenke's other school). We will be collecting books through **Friday, March 12th**, both in the Library and in front of the Multi-Use Room.

There is a real need for books for 4th & 5th graders, but donations for any ages will be gratefully accepted!



Kids Korner Featuring MDE's Student Reporters

A Practical Guide to Monsters

A Book Review

By Patrick D.

If you liked the Percy Jackson series you might want to consider reading *A Practical Guide to Monsters* by Nina Hess. It is a guide about monsters from all around the world, including: most of the Greek monsters from Percy Jackson, vampires, werewolves, and other monsters. It also tells about different types of weapons, armor, and how to defeat

the monsters. My favorite monster was the vampire because there were lots of interesting facts about it. For example, vampires keep beds in their homes to impress guests, but they really sleep in a coffin kept in their basement. I would recommend this book for everyone who liked the Percy Jackson books.



Welcome Baseball Season! By Tyler B.



Baseball season is starting! The weather will start to turn from cold to warm soon, solicits to equinox, and Football to Baseball. Which also means it's getting closer to SPRING, by the way spring=break. So back to baseball, instead of pads and a football you'll have a bat, glove, and a baseball. Clayton Valley Little League is an option for playing. There

is also JOBL (Junior Optimist Baseball League), which is what I currently play for. You can find more out on their web sites. Baseball is the all American sport. It is a great way to get your Dad or Mom to hang out with you. Playing catch, going to the batting cages, or what my family likes to do is play a little version of baseball in our backyard (if the weather is good). You can also look out for the professional games on TV, and it's really fun to go to a game.

Play Ball (as they say) and enjoy the season!

Winter Olympics Quiz By Niklas W.

Are you a true Winter Olympics fan? Take this quiz and check out page 4 To see if you deserve a medal!

1. When did the first Winter Olympics take place? a.) 1804 b.) 1924 c.) 1900 d.) 776 B.C.

2. Where were the games played?

- a.) Norway b.) Greece
- c.) France d.) Canada

3. Before the Winter Olympics, figure skating and ice hockey were official events at the Summer Olympics.

- a.) True b.) False

4. Which country has won the most medals in Winter Olympic history?

- a.) United States b.) Norway
- c.) Canada d.) Austria

5. Where will the next Winter Olympics take place?

- a.) Squaw Valley, CA
- b.) Sochi, Russia
- c.) Trondheim, Norway
- d.) Zermat, Switzerland

6. When did snowboarding become an official Olympic event?

- a.) 1960 b.) 1998 c.) 2006 d.) 1896

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.

An Irish Recipe By Floyd M.

I am half-Irish and my mother is all Irish. This is a sweet version of a traditional recipe that people all around Ireland and America can enjoy.

SWEET IRISH BREAD

- 4 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 cup white sugar
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 3 eggs
- 2 cups sour cream
- 1 cup raisins (optional)

Directions:

1. Preheat oven to 325 degrees. Grease two 8X4 inch loaf pans
2. Mix the flour, sugar, baking soda, baking powder and salt. Add the eggs, sour cream and raisins and mix until just combined. Distribute batter evenly between the two pans.
3. Bake loaves at 325 degrees for 1 hour.



Happy St. Patrick's Day!

Olympics Challenge

Here are the answers to the page 3 quiz!

1. **B**, 1924. Called the "International Winter Sports Week," the following year the International Olympic Committee voted to have a separate Olympics for winter sports, declaring the 1924 sports week as the first Winter Olympics.
2. **C**, Chamonix, France
3. True, and no we don't know what kept the ice from melting.
4. **B**, Norway, with 280 and counting. The United States has won 216, Austria 185, and Canada 119
5. **B**, the winter games will be held in Sochi, Russia.

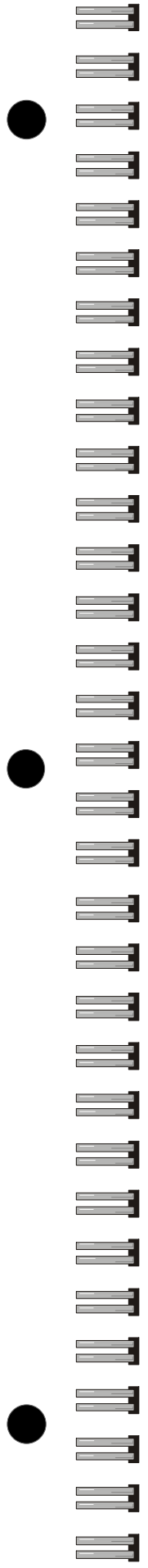
6. **B**, This fledgling sport, which combines skateboarding and surfing, originated in the United States in the '1960s. It became an official event at the 1998 Nagano Games



Scoring:

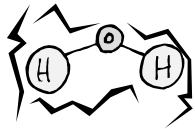
- 6 points – gold medal
- 4-5 points – silver medal
- 2-3 points – bronze medal
- 0-1 points – you just missed the podium!

I hope you had fun taking this quiz!



Kids' Korner Continued

Science Night at MDC By Logan S.

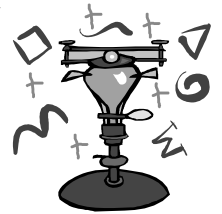


Chemistry! Electricity! Space! That's right. All of this and more could be seen at MDE's own science fair. On February 25, in our own MUR, all kinds of fascinating science experiments were on display as students from our school presented their projects in all different areas of science. Students chose an area of science that interests them, then following the scientific method, tested their own hypothesis about what would happen. Then, each student created a display board to show how the experiment was done and what was learned through the procedures of the experiment. The judges then looked at the projects and displays. They also asked students questions to learn more about the projects. Two projects were

selected from each grade from third, fourth, and fifth grades from our school to represent MDE at the district science fair.

At both our school's science fair and the district science fair there are adult scientists that demonstrate some really neat science experiments. This year some of the highlights were a glowing pickle and some awesome smoke rings.

This year many of the projects focused on science in the workplace. I learned a lot by doing my project and it was really fun. If you didn't enter this year, you should think about doing it next year, because you might learn something cool!



Remember to Spring Forward!

Clocks spring forward an hour at 2:00 a.m.
on Sunday March 14th!



The Jungle Book

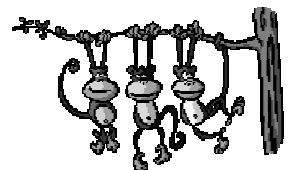
This year Mr. Hanna is directing the school play *The Jungle Book*. Everyone is doing a great job on his or her part and here is the list of them:

Mowgli: Matt Hyland
Baloo: Cameron Martin
Bagheera: Haileigh Sherman
King Louie: Bryden Connel
Shere Kahn: Niklas Weigelt
Colonel Hathi: Makenna Peterson
Kaa 1: Carolyn Tarantino
Kaa 2: Alli Moody
Kaa 3: Julia Urteaga
Kaa 4: Natalie Johnson
Kaa 5: Alison Mitchel
Kaa 6: Celina Chand
Shanti/Coconut Tree: Katie Sovik
Baby Elephant: Karly Beitch

Old Monkey: Tyler Llacuna
Monkey 1: Kim Wade
Monkey 2: Skylar Hellstrom
Monkey 3: Zach Diaz
Vulture 1: Tyler Adams
Vulture 2: Hannah Kommer

There are also many other students in the Jungle Chorus. The play is different from the movie. We took out a few parts and didn't do all of the songs. It is a great show that everyone will enjoy. The play will be on May 20th and 21st at 7:00 pm in the MUR. All students will be able to see the play as an assembly and the families can see it on the 20th and 21st. Now I have to go practice my part for the play. Bye!

~Makenna P.,
Student Reporter



PFC President's Message (Con't)

and most generous parent communities around, but we can always do more. We thank you for your participation in our fundraising, for your time at events and for your generosity in becoming an Eagle Sponsor. Every little bit helps. We are trying very hard to provide a variety of opportunities to support our school. We also work hard to educate our parent community in just how crucial your support is - though we do still hear from time to time that some are surprised we're always doing fundraising. If you've asked that yourself, please take the time and look at our budget (it's available on the PFC page at our website) and see where your money and efforts go. Just imagine our school without the things we support (Classroom Aides, Computer Lab Assistant, extra Library days, Psych Intern, Kaleidoscope, PEP, Science Night, Red Ribbon Week, Yard Duty Support, ongoing technology enhancements, and more). These are just a few examples, as we also provide support and supplies to the computer lab, library, classrooms, grade levels and teachers. This is why we do what we do . . . because it is needed in this eco-

nomie climate as we face unprecedented budget cuts to education. As a community, and as partners in our children's education, we want to maintain the high standards and quality of programs at MDE. Our kids deserve it.

Thank you to **Kristy Smith** for an engaging Science Night and to **Heidi Celentano** for a wonderfully successful Mother-Son dance. Everyone had a wonderful time at this 1st Annual event. Also, stay tuned for news of our upcoming "Springtime in Paris" themed Auction Night on April 23rd, we hope you can help – and definitely plan to attend with your friends, families and neighbors! Also check our website for all the details to help provide books for the other school **Mrs. Schenke** works at in Bay Point. What a great way to give back to our community and one of our neighboring schools.

Cathy Myers
Yolanda Kowalewski
PFC Co-Presidents

Yearbook

The Yearbook Committee has been working diligently all year to create a beautiful collection of MDE memories! Be sure to order your copy soon!

Questions? Contact Christiane Brinkerhoff at 672-6712 or montehoff@yahoo.com.

Order Your YEARBOOK!

This year's book will be in FULL COLOR and will include memorable articles written by Mt. Diablo Elementary students!!!

Order your 2009-2010 yearbook now for \$25.

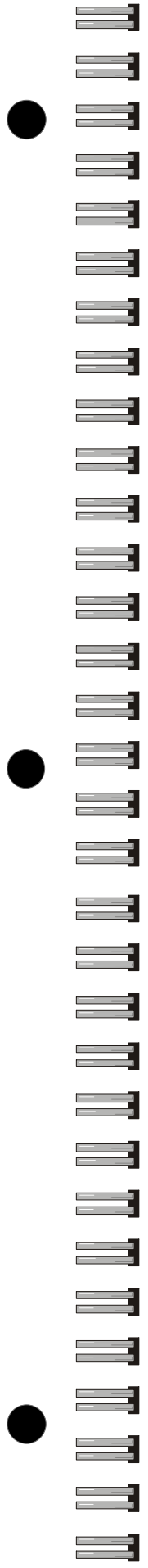
Place your order HERE! Cost \$25.00 per Yearbook. (Payable to MDE PFC).

Student Name: _____ Grade: _____ Teacher: _____

Student Name: _____ Grade: _____ Teacher: _____

Student Name: _____ Grade: _____ Teacher: _____

Quantity: _____ Amount Enclosed: _____



A Message From The Office: Signing Our Students Early

When requesting your child out of class during school hours, please come into the office and sign out your child, school personnel will then call the classroom for your child. Office policy is to not interrupt the classroom instructional time until the parent is physically here in the office to call a student out of class.

In emergency circumstances you may call in advance. Thank you for your continued support!



Gift Card Scrip

Support our new scrip fundraising program and help MDE earn lots of money for our children's classrooms 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. You can visit our website to see the order form, or to view the hundreds of gift cards that are available visit

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. So, turn in an order by March 31st to the office or your child's teacher, and we'll have your cards for you at the April 19th PFC meeting (in plenty of time for Teacher Appreciation Week!). If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Kelly Tuohey at ktuohey@pacbell.net or 673-9070.

You're Invited Online

Enjoy saving money? You're Invited has posted new offers on their website from local restaurants. Remember, you can always go back to previous month's coupons and print them too. Here's what you need to do to save:

- 1) Go to www.youreinvitedca.com.
- 2) Click on Coupon of the Month at the bottom of the page.
- 3) Enter the password: cotm10
- 4) Click on February 2010
- 5) Enjoy!

Building Our Pathway to Success



Families still have an opportunity to purchase a brick for our Pathway to Success 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. Please contact Kelly Tuohey ktuohey@pacbell.net or 673-9070 if you have any questions.

Coupon of the Month

Page 163 of You're Invited coupon book: Fudruckers: Free kids meal when you purchase an adult Entree. Free shake with purchase of 1/2 pound specialty burger.

Life Skill for the Month of March: Effort & Perseverance



During March, all of Mt. Diablo Elementary School will be focusing on the Life Skills – Effort & Perseverance.

In the classrooms, teachers will be working with students on what Effort and Perseverance are and how to try your hardest and keep trying until you succeed. Students will learn about commitment, participation, courage and will try to meet challenges. Students will be practicing how to complete projects, build interest, increase self-esteem, and have determination. Effort is a life skill many children have but do not realize. Unfortunately, many children may not fully utilize this life skill. Sometimes children believe they have tried their best when they really haven't.

We can help children know first what effort is, and second how it can be measured. We can assist children to develop a standard of effort and we can demonstrate the effort standard we, as parents, have for our children. Below are suggested activities to assist parents in teaching children about the value of effort.

Effort is “going the extra mile” or doing more than the minimum. Ask each family member to share a time when they went the “extra mile.” How did it feel? How did other people respond? Discuss the importance of effort together.

Together, check the newspaper or watch the news to identify people who demonstrate the importance of effort. Discuss these people's efforts and the outcome they have achieved as a result.

You may want to talk about

times when a person has made an effort and things did not turn out the way he or she expected. Unfortunately, even if you make a heroic effort, things may not always turn out well. A person can try their best and still not do well on a test or make the team. Discuss how it feels to make an effort and be disappointed with results. Was it worth making the effort anyway?

As a family, choose an activity to do together. You may want to clean up the house, wash the car, make cookies for relatives, etc. While you are working, agree that each person will try their BEST during the activity. After the job is done discuss how it felt to try your best. How did you feel about one another? How did you know if someone was or wasn't making a good effort?

Perseverance is to keep working until the job is done, in spite of difficulties. When a person perseveres, he tries his best and doesn't give up. To instill perseverance in children we need to support them in working on task through completion. Many times, when things get difficult, children give up. It is our role as adults to help children see the importance of completing a job and following through. Perseverance is the difference between those people who try and those who succeed. We can reward and acknowledge children for following through and finishing a job so they will value perseverance as well. Below are some suggested activities that can assist parents in teaching perseverance to their children.

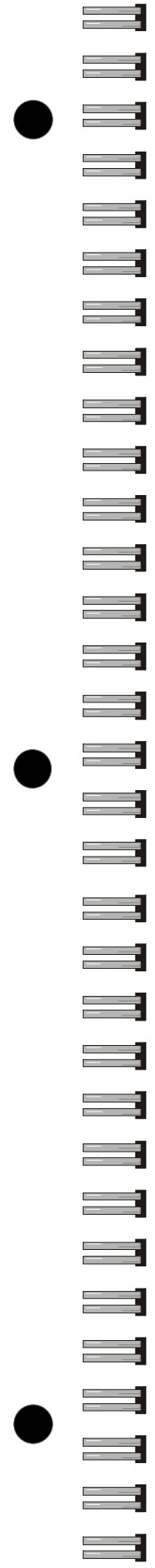
As a family, decide on one goal for each person to complete

by the end of the month. Discuss how the goal might be approached and provide helpful hints for completing the goal. Identify where, what or who they could go to for assistance. How will the family help one another persevere when a family member gets tired of trying? Make a list to refer to when needed.

Play Charades with your family. One person acts out a person, place or thing without talking. The observers share to try to figure out the mimed clues. Once the role is figured out, switch roles and have the person who figured out the charade to then act out another role. At the end of the game discuss how each person had to use perseverance when playing the game.

When things get difficult, help your children learn perseverance by saying, “Press on – you're doing great, you're going to make it. We are proud of you for hanging in there.” To be really good at something takes practice and a commitment to keep working, even when frustrated. Recommend your child divide tasks into smaller parts and then encourage them to take a break in between parts.

Look in the newspaper or on television for people who demonstrate perseverance and who did not give up. For example: an athlete who made it to the Olympics, a little boy who escaped from a burning building. Discuss how these people used perseverance. What do you think helped them to accomplish their goals? What do you think they were thinking?



Fifth Grade Camp Update



A special thank you to the parent and adult volunteers, high school volunteers, and the teachers who have graciously stepped up to attend the outdoor education week with our 5th graders.

Outdoor education week will be from Monday, March 29th through Friday, April 2nd. We are look-

ing forward to a wonderful Outdoor Education experience for our fifth grade students this year. Go to the school notes page for MDE Outdoor Ed. Updates daily from March 29th to April 2nd. There will be daily updates to read!

MDE Dinner And Talent Show

We are currently looking for someone to chair our talent show/family dinner event. This is a fundraiser, budgeted to earn \$2,000.00. There will be experienced help on board. The event is planned to take place in May.

Please contact Mary Del Monte at marydm64@yahoo.com if you would like to help

make it a wonderful night for our talented children to showcase their specialties and for the families to have a nice evening away from the kitchen.



Teacher Appreciation Week

This year, National Teacher Appreciation Day falls on Tuesday, **May 4, 2010**. At MDE, we have historically dedicated a full week to showing our teachers and staff how much we appreciate them. From Monday, May 3 through Friday, May 7, 2010, our school community will once again have the opportunity to show our teachers and staff how much they mean to us. This being said, there are two coinciding teacher appreciation activities in which our school community participates.

The first part of Teacher Appreciation Week falls under the direction of the Head Room Parents. A letter will be sent home with activities that your child can take part in. In the past, the Monday, Wednesday, and Friday have been dedicated to your child making cards, sending in flowers, and/or contributing to a classroom gift. These activities are decided upon by the Head Room Parents, implemented by the individual classroom moms, and are designed to encourage your child to think about their teacher's hard work, efforts, and dedication to the art of teaching.

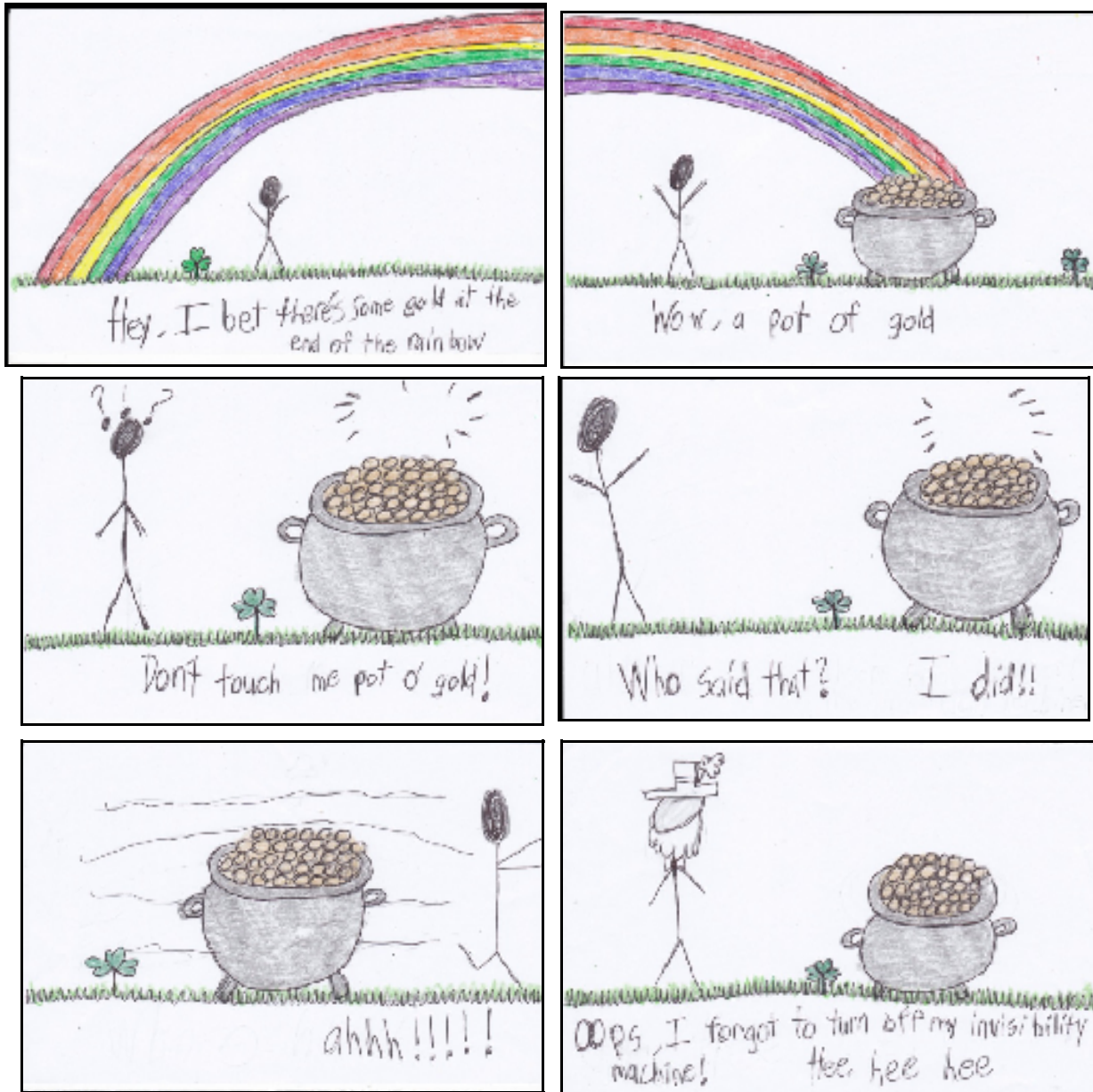
The second part of Teacher Appreciation Week falls under the Staff Appreciation Chairper-

son. This is the "eats and treats" part that happens within the teachers' lounge and office. Each day during the week, our parents actively contribute to a daily theme where food is provided on special food days and/or gifts are made and given to the teachers and staff via their office boxes. Particularly special is the Staff Luncheon that falls on the Wednesday and takes place in the Multi-purpose room.

I have been given a budget and I have been given ideas. I won't stray too far from what my wonderful predecessor has done, but what I need from you is your culinary/baking skills, your time, and/or your unique input. The week will go fast and you will experience a special satisfaction of having made our teachers happy.

I am truly excited to be organizing this year's Staff Appreciation week. If you are interested in helping me implement some great ideas, send me an email at eugeniet@aol.com. I look forward to working with those of you that I know and those of you that I have yet to meet. Thanks for your time and attention and I hope to hear from you soon.

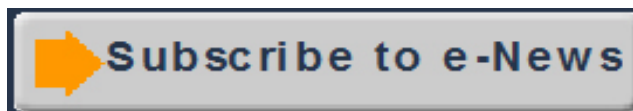
St Patty's Day Humor, By Mack Moylan



Want To Be The First To Know?

Want to get helpful reminders and news about what is going on at school right in your e-mail inbox? Subscribe to the MDES PFC e-news! ***Even if you signed up for the directory listing this year, you still need to sign up for e-news.*** Subscribing is easy. Just go to the school website: www.mdusd.k12.ca.us/mountdiabloelementary Then click on the icon on the left hand side. It will take you to the school's Constant Contact account where you can add your information. Or, you can click on the "update infor-

mation" link from the last e-news you received to update your information. In either case, be sure to click the boxes for the grades of your students. ***This is especially important if you have a 5th grader*** as there will be information on promotion parties and activities sent specifically to this group.



How to turn \$50 into \$100...



Many families maximize their donations to Mt. Diablo Elementary School's Parent Faculty Club Education Program by utilizing their employers' donation matching program.

KPMG, Fidelity Investments, Microsoft, Wells Fargo, Chevron, GAP, and PG&E are some of the employers of MDE families who are helping to support your child's education.

To start, contact your employer's human resources department to find out if they have a matching program that could benefit your child's education at Mt. Diablo Elementary. Then, help us feather our Mt. Diablo Eagle by

donating to the MDE PFC Eagle Sponsor Educational Program.

Your donation helps provide:

- Computer Lab Technology/Software
- Campus Improvements
- Computer Lab Instructional Assistants
- PEP (Parent Education Program)
- Classroom Instructional Assistants
- Expanded Library Hours & Library Books
- Expanded Yard Duty Classroom Supplies
- Kaleidoscope (reading assistance program)
- Disaster Readiness Kits

Help us feather our Eagle!

By joining the other families who have become an Eagle Sponsor you can help us reach 100% participation. Our goal is to raise \$180/child (\$1 per school day/child), however, any donation amount will help to benefit your child's education.

Use the form below to become a sponsor or to add to your sponsor recognition level! Don't forget to take advantage of this opportunity to support your school.

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, lkmintegrity@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 _____