

## Mt. Diablo Elementary School

# The Eagle's Press

Issue 7 — May / June 2010

## Principal's Message

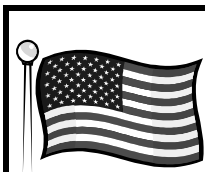
Dear Mt. Diablo Elementary School Community,

The MDES faculty and staff were spoiled by you during Teacher and Staff Appreciation Week the week of May 3. Perks included a continental breakfast, Peet's coffee coupons, lottery cards, a superb luncheon with raffle prizes, "souper" Thursday, and desserts and tasty treats that were enjoyed by all. While you appreciate us, we thoroughly appreciate your support, which is immeasurable. Special thanks go to Eugenie Tsao and many other parent volunteers for implementing a

fabulous week of appreciation.

STAR testing continues through Wednesday, May 19, for students in grades 2-5. Our teachers, support staff, and students have worked hard this year, and we are confident that students will do 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

*(Continued on page 2)*



For Information about Measure C on the June Ballot visit: [www.ProtectOurLocalSchools.org](http://www.ProtectOurLocalSchools.org)

**Remember to Vote on June 8th!**

## PFC President's Perspective

It's certainly hard to believe that we are down to counting days, instead of months, toward the end of school. What a year it's been. From class size increases, sweeping budget reductions from the district and an almost bankrupt state, it has never before been more clear, the importance of our PFC. You see, our PFC picks up where our school district leaves off. While our teachers have the "bare essentials" to teach our kids, we kick it up a notch. Our collective fundraising efforts, and through the efforts of the PFC, we support our school in many important ways. Here are just a few:

We provide an **Instructional Assistant (Aide) in every classroom**. This started in response to the increasing class sizes a couple of years ago for Kindergarten, now it is across all grades. We fund

**technology upgrades, enhancements and a specialized Instructional Computer Lab Aide** so our students can learn the latest programs and key skills that will carry them for the rest of their lives. We fund **Yard Duty support**, key to providing relief for our teachers working so hard every day. We fund a **Kaleidoscope reading assistance program**, and have on our proposed budget for next year to expand that program even further. We provide funds to the **GATE program** in an effort to supplement what the district has taken away. We fund **PEP (Parent Educator Program)** about drugs, alcohol, peer pressure and conflict resolution). We provide the teachers with monies towards **classroom supplies and other necessities** to make their classrooms complete. We work

*(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

### May Life Skill

Curiosity

### June Life Skill

Common Sense

### Principal

Bob Dodson

### Office Manager

Karina Hemby

### PFC Co-Presidents

Cathy Myers

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### Student Reporters

Floyd M, Mack M,

Logan S, Niklas W

## Principal's Message (Con't)

the California Department of Education's website around that time, as well. Please don't hesitate to contact the school if you have any questions or need assistance interpreting the results of the STAR test.

Our school implements the BEST (Building Effective Schools Together) program including students earning Eagle Pride and Pat on the Back coupons for being Safe, Responsible, and Respectful. For kindergarten and first grade students who have earned 50 Pat on the Back coupons for outstanding behavior and citizenship, they will enjoy a pizza luncheon with me on May 21 or June 4. Your child's teacher will inform you of the date your child may be having lunch with the principal.

Observing students learn and grow, watching them play on the playground, and spending time with them, are the highlights of my job. Words cannot express how proud I am of the students of Mt. Diablo Elementary. Their academic, physical, interpersonal, and extracurricular skills are unsurpassed. You must be proud of your children and feel good

about the job you are doing raising them.

While state budget shortfalls have forced our school district to make additional budget cuts, 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 incredible community.

Thank you all for your continued support and hard work this year. The PFC Board and members, School Site Council, parent and community volunteers, faculty and staff have done an amazing job supporting our students. I wish everyone a pleasant end of the school year and a happy, restful summer break.

Sincerely,

Bob Dodson  
Principal

**Last Day of School is Monday, June 14th**  
 Dismissal time for grades 1-5 is at 12:00 p.m.  
All Kinders arrive at 8:00 a.m. & are released at 11:15 that day.  
 Have a Safe and Fun Summer Break!!

## From the Library...



How can words express the gratitude we feel for the extraordinary contribution to literacy *Joel and Christy Harris* have given our students? From staging huge

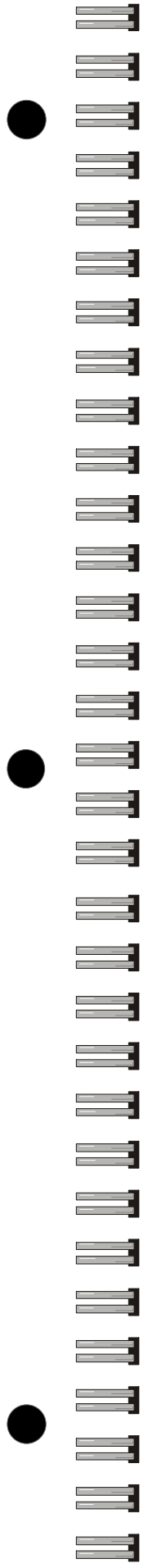
Author/Illustrator Fairs in the multi-use room and providing author assemblies to our district schools, to discounting and gifting books to our district libraries...they are truly champions for literacy.

~M. Schenke

## You're Invited To A Fun Evening With The Magnetics!

For those that loved the band at the dinner auction....here is your opportunity to see them again! The "Dad Band" (a.k.a. *The Magnetics*) will be performing at an MDE parent's home on Saturday, July 17th. Tickets cost only \$30 which includes dinner and a drink. All ticket sales benefit MDES. To

purchase tickets please visit our auction website at <http://mdes.maestroweb.com> and click on 'Parent Parties' on the left side of the screen. Hope to see you there!



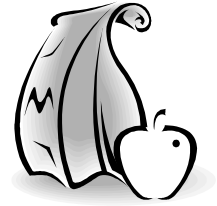
## Ordering Lunches for Last Day of School

If your child would like a bag lunch on the last day of school, please notify the cafeteria no later than **May 28, 2010** 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 Friday, May 28th!



## Fifth Grade Parents (Lunches)

Please make sure that your child's lunch account is paid in full by the end of the school year. Report

cards will be held until your account is current. Thank you!

### Going to a New School?

If you are not returning to Mt. Diablo Elementary for the school year 2010 – 2011, please notify the school office. Thank you!

## 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](mailto:Levys@mac.com) for more info or with your ideas.

## McTeacher's Night Full of Fun!



A great big thank you to everyone who participated in McTeacher's Night. We appreciate all of the teachers that gave their time to work the evening at the McDonald's on Clayton Road! And thanks to every-

one who came out to see their teachers & have some fun with their friends. We raised \$885 during those 4 hours which is more than the total we've raised for all of our other Dine & Donate events so far this year combined! Thank you!



Our Teachers Hard at Work!  
Ms. Baker, Mrs. Graser, Mrs. Fuller



Mr. Dodson Takes A Break to Visit  
With First Grader, Olivia Y



Ms. Vogensen Makes Sure There  
Are Fries With That.

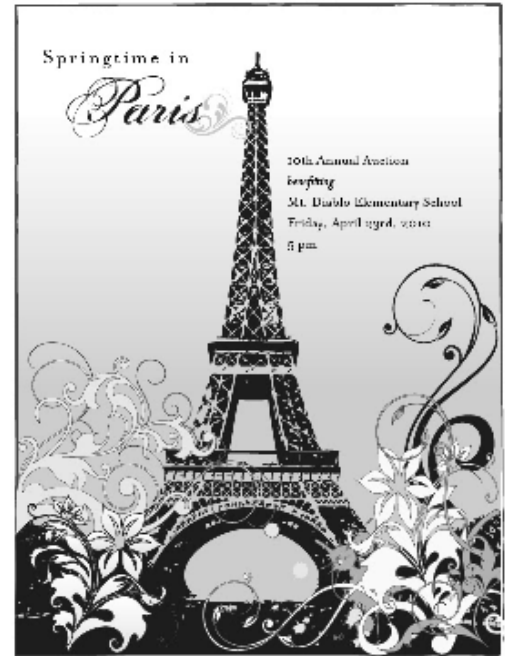
## WE DID IT!!!

On behalf of the Auction Committee, we would like to thank our donors, sponsors, MDES families, volunteers, teachers and staff for making Springtime in Paris! the BIGGEST and very successful fundraising event at MDE.

It is with great pleasure and honor to announce that we raised over \$70,000 (still preliminary) last month!!

Thank you all for taking the time to support Mt. Diablo Elementary School PFC. Congratulations to everyone who placed a winning bid, generously donated an item for auction, and who invited family, friends and the community to make their bid to offer a better education for our children.

An event like this takes months and months of planning, organizing, and soliciting - a lot of hard work and a lot of time by our Committee and volunteers. Please give this group of Super Moms a BIG HUG:



*Chairperson* ~ Beth Rutledge

*Solicitations* ~ Jessica Moraes ~ Cyndi Moise

*Database* ~ Nancy Kelly ~ Rhonda Woodling ~ Dara Dunn

*Solicitations/Online Auction* ~ Katie Hall

*Logistics/Online Auction* ~ Kerry Seastrand

*Class Basket/Project Liaison* ~ Amy Miller

*Thank You* ~ Tiffany Welker

*Program Design/Production* ~ Kristin Callison

*Event Registration* ~ Sharon Degener

*Decoration Committee* ~ Sara Skow ~ Monica Stellini ~ Alicia Nuchols



Thank you to the Golden Girl with the Golden Tickets - thanks Mary"



In addition to our Committee, this event was made possible by volunteers who contributed their time and talents at every level. While there are too many to list in this space, Thank you to all you fabulous individuals who helped with the baskets and who lent us a hand on auction day!

Even though our auction has ended, our mission has not. We would greatly appreciate your continued support in terms of time, effort and funding. Please come to our PFC meetings to learn about the different ways you can help with our fundraising and participate in getting these funds to the right programs that will fully benefit our children's education. Sign up to volunteer to do a small task or help plan for next year's auction - GET INVOLVED ... MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

# Kids Korner - Featuring MDE's Student Reporters

## If You Like Harry Potter...Then Try Fablehaven



A Book Review By Floyd M

In these exciting stories, two kids named Kendra and Seth discover that their grandpa is a caretaker of a magical preserve called Fablehaven. At the preserve there are other people there, they are Warren, Dale, Coulter, Vanessa, and Tanu. In this story the good may be the bad, things can you least expect will happen. With Fablehaven always at the risk of falling, Kendra and Seth need to save it. A group called the Society of the

Evening Star tries to get key that if they put them together they can unlock a place called Zzyxx. Another group called the Knights of Dawn fight the Evening Star. Can Kendra and Seth stay at Fablehaven when their parents try to get them back? Will Fablehaven fall? Read Brandon Mull's Fablehaven books to find out!

- Fablehaven
- Rise of the Evening Star
- Grip of the Shadows Plague
- Secret of the Dragon Sanctuary
- Keys to the Demon Prison

## Dive In! By Logan S



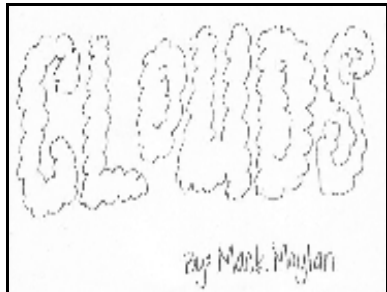
Get your goggles on because swim season has started! You can join one of several local swim teams. After many weeks of practicing almost every day, you will be ready to compete at swim meets.

Swim meets are exciting. You race against several other swimmers from your team, and one or more other teams in different lanes. There are four strokes you might compete in; breast, butterfly, free-

style, and back. Butterfly is my favorite stroke. One of my favorite races at swimming meets is the relay. Along with three other swimmers, you swim one of the strokes mentioned earlier for the medley relay, or all four swimmers will swim freestyle for the free relay. It is really fun to be part of the relay and cheer on your team.

Swim team is lots of fun and you can earn lots of ribbons, medals, and trophies. I hope to see you in the pool!

## Break for Laughter With Mack M



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

with local organizations to bring in **after school enrichment**. We provide funding to support **Recess, PE Support and Peaceful Playground** supplies. We **support the Library** with extra funding for **books and supplies**. We paid for **extra librarian time** when the district cut our time so that all students in the school could enjoy our fabulous library. We fund **Red Ribbon Week**, our drug awareness week. There is so much to do. You can see from the partial list above, without the PFC & YOUR efforts in volunteering & fundraising, MDE wouldn't have any of these things.

For next year, we're looking at ways to enhance learning even more. We're looking at bringing in more **technology support** so our lab runs smoothly. We will be running a **copy room program** to help the teachers. We're looking at an **Art Program** and **Music Enrichment**. What about **math support and a science lab**? **Odyssey of the Mind**, anyone? Well, we're looking at ways to make that happen too. But we need people to make all these ideas a reality. Can you help?

We have the best volunteers at MDE! Thank you to **Beth Rutledge, Kerry Seastrand, Katie Hall, Dara Dunn, Jessica Moraes** and their committees – our Auction earned over \$70,000 for our school. Thank you to **Katie Hanson and Emily Schoffstall** for their efforts with our spell-a-thon, over \$20,000 was raised. Thank you to **Eugenie Tsao** for making Teacher Appreciation Week so special for our teachers and staff.

Thank you and welcome to our new PFC Executive Board members for 2011!

**Michelle Eberhart**, Co-President  
**Heidi Celentano**, VP School Events  
**Marcie Covalt and Karen Amos**, VP Fundraising  
**Jennifer Lauricella**, Corresponding Secretary

And, on a personal note, it has been an incredible time serving on the PFC these past 2 years. I have worked with some of the finest, most incredible, volunteers on the face of this planet. I've learned so much from all of you, and admire each and every one of you for the time you all dedicate to our school, and for all the children. Our volunteers are critical to the school, and if I could say one last thing it would be to just jump in. I didn't know anyone when I came on as Co-President (literally) as we were new to the school. My Co-President now, and the President before me, were Kindergarten moms when they stepped up. It is simply the best way to meet people and to help where it matters most – for the kids. See you in middle school!

Cathy Myers  
 PFC Co-President

## Quiz! FIFA World Cup Trivia by Niklas W

Are you ready for this year's World Cup? Every four years, the best teams from around the globe compete in the greatest sports event in the world. The World Cup kicks off on June 11th. Let's find out if you are ready. Put on your cleats and shin guards and have fun taking this amazing quiz.

- Which country has won the most World Cups?  
 A) Brazil                      B) Germany  
 C) Italy                              D) USA
- Which of these countries has never won the FIFA World Cup?  
 A) Holland                      B) France  
 C) Argentina                      D) England
- What U.S. city hosted the World Cup Final game in 1994?  
 A) New York                      B) Concord  
 C) Miami                              D) Los Angeles
- What African country will host the 2010 FIFA World Cup?  
 A) South Africa                      B) Kenya  
 C) Egypt                              D) Swaziland
- Which Brazilian star led the 2002 FIFA World Cup with eight goals?  
 A) Ronaldo                      B) Ronaldinho  
 C) Kaka                              D) Pele
- What trophy is awarded to the player who scores the most goals at the World Cup?  
 A) Golden Ball                      B) Golden Boot  
 C) Silver Ball                      D) Yellow Jersey
- How old was the youngest player ever to score a goal at a World Cup?  
 A) 14                              B) 12  
 C) 17                              D) 21
- What player led the USA in scoring at the 2002 FIFA World Cup?  
 A) Landon Donovan                      B) Bob Dodson  
 C) Daniel Butrago D) Michael Hannah
- When and where was the first World Cup held?  
 A) 1922, Mexico    B) 1926, Spain  
 C) 1930, Uruguay    D) 1934, Italy

*Check Your Answers and Find Our Your Score  
 On Page 7!*

## You're Invited



Thank you everyone who purchased the "You're Invited" coupon books. Remember to use them during the summer vacation, and be ready to be

among the first to have the 2011 Edition!

Thank you **Eugenie Tsao**, our new Chair for this wonderful fundraiser for 2011!

Have a great summer everyone!

## Gift Cards and eScrip

Don't forget to earn money for MDE while you shop over the summer. Make sure that your Safeway & debit/credit cards are registered with eScrip so that you earn money every time you shop. Please visit eScrip's online mall before shopping online where hundreds of merchants will donate a % of your purchase back to our school. You can find a link to the online mall on our school's website. We earn over \$15,000 through eScrip each year and about 85% of that comes from Safeway, so please make sure that your Safeway card is registered! Consider asking grandparents, aunts, uncles and friends too! If you can't remember your Safeway card #, you can call 877-723-3929 to get your number.

Think about stocking up on gift cards before the summer vacation starts. There are hundreds of mer-

chants to choose from and MDE earns a % of the face value for each gift card you buy. Gift cards can be used just like cash whenever you shop. Order forms can be found on the school website. To receive your cards before the summer break, please submit your orders no later than Thursday May 27th. You can send your order in with your child or drop it off in the office.

Thank you for supporting these no-sell fundraising programs which help earn money for our school while you do your regular shopping. They don't cost you anything extra and have the potential to raise LOTS of money for our school!

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

### SAVE THE DATE!

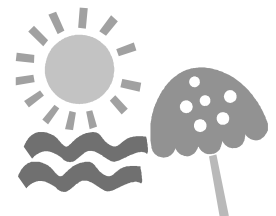
**PFC Meetings**  
5/18 at 7:00 p.m

**Open House**  
(Grades 1,3,4, and 5)  
5/27

**Memorial Day Holiday**  
5/31

**Father/Daughter Dance**  
June 4

**Last Day of School**  
6/14



## Answers To FIFA World Cup Trivia

### Answers to The Trivia Quiz on Page 6:

- |                 |                   |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1) Brazil       | 2) Holland        |
| 3) Los Angeles  | 4) South Africa   |
| 5) Ronaldo      | 6) Golden Boot    |
| 7) 17, Pele     | 8) Landon Donovan |
| 9) 1930 Uruguay |                   |

### Scores:

Now Add Up Your Scores and See How You Played:  
8-9 correct – You are a Soccer Super Star!  
6-7 – wow, impressive, you've got soccer talent  
3-5 – maybe you should watch the World Cup this summer ...  
0-2 – you definitely should stick to baseball or football!



## 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

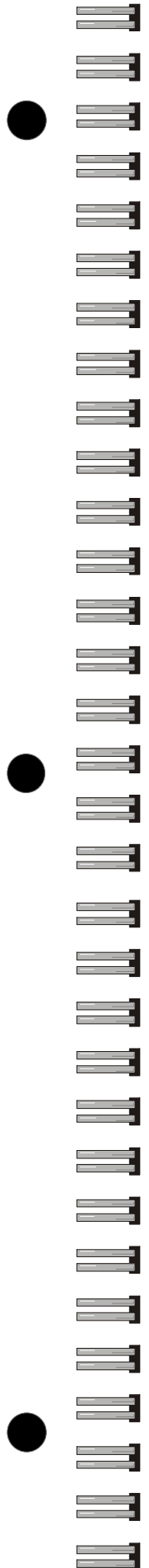
During June, all of Mt. Diablo Elementary will be focusing on Common Sense. In the classrooms, teachers will be working with students on what Common Sense is and how to make good judgments.

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.



# Thank You Families and Employers!

We want to thank the many families who donated to the Eagle Sponsor Program and who asked their employers to match their donations to Mt. Diablo Elementary School's Parent Faculty Club Education Program **KPMG, Fidelity Investments, Microsoft, Wells Fargo, Chevron, GAP, and PG&E** are some of the employers of Mt. Diablo Elementary families who helped to support your child's education this year *by raising nearly \$45,000.*

## YOUR Generous Donations Help 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



**Please come to the next PFC Meeting to help decide how to money donated to the PFC should be spent!** Are the programs above important to you or do you see other needs? We want to hear from you!

If you made an Eagle Sponsor, Spell-a-thon or other donation to the Mt. Diablo Elementary PFC this year, be sure to 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 by matching that donation.

If you would like to make a donation, please 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, [ikmintegrity@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ikmintegrity@sbcglobal.net) or 925-673-3369.*

I will donate **\$180 per child – \$1 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 \_\_\_\_\_

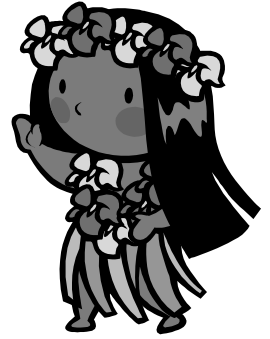
# ALOHA!

MDE PFC

Presents our 2<sup>nd</sup>

## Father ~ Daughter Dance

(Grandfathers and Uncles Welcome too!)



**When:** Friday, June 4<sup>th</sup>, from 7:00 p.m. -8:30 p.m.

**Where:** Multi Use Room

**Fee:** \$20 per couple, \$10 for each additional guest

Come and join us for the Luau! There will be DJ tunes, sweet treats, raffled items and special photos!

Pay by Friday May 28 to be entered in a drawing for VIP Parking! Admission fee will increase to \$25 per couple after May 28...so don't delay!

Submit payment with portion below to the box marked  
Father/Daughter Dance located in the office.

Guest Names \_\_\_\_\_

Student Grade and Room # \_\_\_\_\_

Email and/or phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Please circle any item you would like to donate for the dance :

Cookies, Water, Juice Boxes, Napkins

If you have any questions, please contact Heidi Celentano at

[jhcelentano@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jhcelentano@sbcglobal.net) or 673-7277

