



The Monarch Memo

Monterey Ridge Elementary School PTA Newsletter

Volume 3 :: Issue 9

April 1, 2009

Newman's Notes

~Dr. Rich Newman~
Principal

Excerpts from this weeks (e)mail

BREAKFAST OF CHAMPIONS

On Friday, April 3 we will be honoring our Character Counts Students of the Month at our Student Council led Breakfast of Champions before Friday Flag. Our commitment to character education is strong. We want to celebrate students who exhibit the behaviors of the Pillar of Character we emphasize each month. Over the course of the school year we celebrate the six Pillars (Trustworthiness, Respect, Responsibility, Fairness, Caring, and Citizenship) to help us bring character education alive and provide a barometer to help guide our students' decision making. On Friday, we will be honoring those students who exemplified the pillar of Caring. Thanks again for joining us in helping build the minds and characters of our students.

STAR TESTING – WEBSITE FOR 2nd – 5th GRADE RELEASE QUESTIONS

STAR testing is just around the corner. In fact, all 2nd – 5th graders will be taking the state standardized test beginning April 20th. The state has a website with examples of the type of questions, passages and problems students will see on the language arts, math and science sections of the test. Please visit <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/sr/css05rtq.asp>

Most importantly, please make sure that your child gets a good night sleep, eats a healthy breakfast, and arrives at school on time. Don't forget to put the test in context and build your child's confidence.

PTA News



~ Evi Haux~
PTA President

My son just reminded me that there are only 45 more school days this year. I thought it was an April Fools' Day joke, but it's not. Just 45 more days!

There's one thing I know for sure, those 45 days will be packed with learning, activities and fun. Sure, we'll be busy doing homework and reading each night but the learning he does during the day in his classroom is much more interesting and amazing.

I can imagine a similar situation happening in every home with students at Monterey Ridge. There's a "count-down" to Spring Break (only 3 more days!), then another "count-down" to summer after that.

Well, whatever you're counting down... Make sure you're not missing the moments that happen during the *count down*.

www.mrespta.org

~Principal's Coffee~

Discussion to be held April 24th in the MPR after Friday Flag. Be ready for some fun activities to help us grow as parents.

~Upcoming Dates to Note~

April 3 – Monarch Math Marathon in MPR

April 6 – April 10 – Spring Break (no school/ESS open 4/6 – 4/9)

April 16 – Recycling (AM) and Dine out

April 18th – 9 to 1 PM Pancake Breakfast, E-Waste & home goods pick-up at MRE (Community Project)

April 20 – May 1 – STAR Testing window

April 24 – Principal's Coffee Chat and final PTA Association Meeting (budget pre-approval for 2009-2010)

May 10 – Mother's Day

~Kindergarten Information~

The school's website is your best bet for keeping up to date with the latest news about the Kindergarten program at MRE. Visit www.powayusd.com/pusdmres/.

Registration for Kindergarten and PEPP will begin on Wednesday, May 13, 2009. It will take place from 2:00 – 5:00 p.m. and will continue each day thereafter in the office between 9:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

~Butterfly Tree~



You might have noticed the new and improved Butterfly Tree... It's an easy way to support the needs at Monterey Ridge. Choose a butterfly and write a check ~ it's easy and the money will go directly to the program or activity listed on the butterfly. Use the clipboard to log the item description and your contact information. Checks should be made payable to "MRE Foundation" and turned in to the front desk.

Ice Cream Sales



Mary Still ~ PTA Chair

As the weather heats up, don't forget to join us every Wednesday after school for a treat. Ice Cream is 75 cents each and the profits help support PTA programs.

Recycle Cans and Bottles



Save your empty and rinsed cans and bottles for the next Recycle Collection Day at the Flag Pole.

Thursday, April 16th

~Dine-out on April 16~

Don't miss the next MRE Foundation Dine Out on **April 16**. **Brett's BBQ** will donate a portion of sales to MRE Foundation!!! Please note the date on your calendar now and we'll see you there for dinner.

Yearbook ~ The Metamorphosis

Kelly Gechoff ~ PTA Chair

Order your yearbook while supplies last. The cost is still only \$25 and the book will provide a keepsake for your child to enjoy for years to come. The yearbook will be comprised of 84 pages of student portraits, class group shots, candid shots of students at work learning and playing, and at special events throughout the school year. Order one for each child now! Room parents – consider ordering one for the classroom to sign at the end of the year.

Forms are online at mrespta.org under "forms".

Monterey Ridge Box Tops



Tami Dedic ~ PTA Chair

One way we earn money with Box Tops is to sign up on the box tops web site at www.boxtops4education.com. Every time someone new signs up we get FIVE FREE box tops (\$0.50)! The site has great recipes, coupons for items with box tops, and activities for the kids and ways to help our school. Please consider signing up today.

It's the easiest way we know to support our school.

Running Club



Open position ~ PTA Running Club Chair

Put on your running shoes and come out to the track at 8:30 AM on Tuesday and Thursday mornings (unless it's raining). It's a fun way to get fit and a fantastic way to start your day! March's back pack charm is a clover leaf. Earn a charm by running at least 5 miles in March.

Parents, let us know if you can help tally laps – we're done by 9:00 so it's a fun and easy way to volunteer at Monterey Ridge!

For safety reasons, please do not drop your child off before 8:30. Laps run before our volunteers arrive cannot be counted.

~Announcing the 2009 – 2010 PTA Board~

The 2008 – 2009 Monterey Ridge PTA Nominating Committee has announced the slate of officers for the 2009 – 2010 PTA Executive Board. We will vote on the slate at our next General Assembly meeting scheduled for March 20, 2009 at 9:15 am. The slate of officers is: president – Evi Haux, executive vice president – Alya Mansi, 1st vp of programs – Gigi Adaya, 2nd vp of volunteers – Judy Gerardi, 3rd vp of communications – Mily Dahlke, 4th vp of fundraising – Julie Golich, secretary – Andrea Vinson, treasurer – Kathy Gunther, financial secretary – Lynn Nakagawa, auditor – Sheila Lee and historian – Kiersten Schenk.

~Student Council Report~



**Spirit Days ~ Crazy Socks & Polka Dots
Pillar ~ Caring ~ Red**

Show your Monarch Spirit on April 24th by wearing crazy socks and polka dots.

Wear RED every Friday to show you care (Caring Pillar).

~Middle School College Readiness Fair~

PUSD and Palomar Council PTA are working together to sponsor a Middle School “College Readiness Fair” on Wednesday, April 15th at Mesa Verde Middle School. The fair will begin at 6pm in the Mesa Verde gym and end at 8pm. Students and their parents from Black Mountain Middle School, Oak Valley Middle School and Mesa Verde Middle School are invited and encouraged to attend. The fair will begin in the gym for a large group presentation and then move to classrooms for breakout sessions. A few college reps will be there to answer questions.

While many middle school students and parents attended the college fair in the fall, this middle school “College Readiness Fair” will better serve the needs of middle school students and their parents. Another college fair for high school students is being planned for the fall.

If you have any questions regarding this event, please contact College Fair Coordinator Colleen Salzetti at pusdcollegefair@san.rr.com.

Please also check out the latest information regarding this fair, which can be found on our fair’s website at www.pusdcollegefair.org and on the district’s website at www.powayusd.com.

Use Compass Learning ANY time from home!

There are enough licenses to allow unlimited access to all students. Log on *any time* at:

<http://cl.powayusd.com/childu/index.html?SSL=1>

or visit the Monterey Ridge home page and click “students” on the left hand side of the screen to see a list of options, then choose “Compass Learning Login”.

Playground Partners

Karen Hayes ~ PTA Chair

Playground Partners has been successfully received by our students! Playground Partners volunteers assist a YMCA staff member run games on our playground on Mondays and Wednesdays during the lunch periods. During the three remaining months of Playground Partners, we are in need of volunteers. If you are interested in becoming involved in Playground Partners, and are able to commit one day per month (or more) during lunch, please contact Karen at ghayes01@cox.net. You will be supported by the YMCA Playground Partners training system.

~Walk to School Wednesday~

Wednesday, April 15th



Get used to the idea of walking to school on at least one day of the month! PTA continues to support healthy lifestyles by encouraging you to walk to school. Please remind students to use sidewalks and cross walks on their way to school.

Monterey Ridge Elementary



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www.powayusd.com/pusdmres

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