
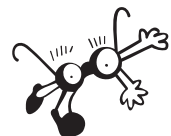


MPA October 2008

Monthly Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 Picture Day	3 All Lower EL Arvada Center 9:15am	4
5	6 Authors Festival	7 Authors Festival	8 Authors Festival PTA 5:45 Accountability 6:30	9 Authors Festival	10 Authors Festival	11
12	13 Authors Festival	14 Authors Festival	15 Authors Festival	16 Authors Festival	17 Authors Festival	18 Applebees Breakfast CRC 7:30am
19	20	21 Board Legal Training	22	23 NOON Dismissal 12pm	24 No School Parent Conference	25
26	27 Todd, Beth, Patty Young Ameritowne Field Trip 8:30am	28	29 Board Meeting 6pm	30 Delivery of Fall Fundraiser	31 Happy Halloween 	



Watch for changing leaves!



Peek
at the Peaks
SEPTEMBER 2008

What's an Inservice Day?

Some parents have asked about staff inservice days and what we do on them. The short answer is—it's a training day for school staff.

The long answer is that we need time without students in school to update and train our school staff. Some trainings center on assessment and testing techniques required by the District, while other trainings allow staff to learn about new and useful information for staff to assist them in dealing with the needs of their students. The September 19th, 2008 inservice training was titled "Boys and Girls Learn Differently". Given by Kathleen Rust, MPA Speech Pathologist and Educational Coach, the workshop was designed to help staff understand the newest research on learning styles of boys and girls and how to maximize the classroom experience for both genders. Kathleen attended a Jefferson County Schools Coaches' Training in June during which Michael Gurian spoke on the subject of gender differences in children and had members of his staff give a multi-day workshop. Our inservice day at MPA was useful and gave a variety of ideas and strategies for staff. All levels of the school attended, including teachers, assistants, and support staff. We were also able to buy the classes books which give further reading and ideas for "brain breaks" to help students learn more effectively. The cost of the workshop, refreshments, and books was covered by a Title II Federal Teacher Improvement Grant.

Lost and Found Beginning to Get Full

Please check the Lost and Found, located near the front door upstairs and near the elevator downstairs. There are a few little jackets and other clothing.

PLEASE NOTE:

TO HAVE ARTICLES PRINTED IN UPCOMING NEWSLETTERS:

Article Due Dates

Nov 3rd
Dec 1st
Jan 5th
Feb 2nd
Mar 2nd
April 6th
May 4th

Newsletter Sent Home

November 7th
December 5th
January 9th
February 6th
March 6th
April 10th
May 8th

HIGHLIGHTS OF WHAT'S INSIDE?

- 2** • Board Briefs
• Literacy Committee
.....
- 3** • Literacy Committee
• Volunteer Committee
.....
- 4** • Calendar
.....

***Deadline for Peek ARTICLES*
contributions are due by the 1st
Monday of the month by 5:00pm.**

Please email article text in the message section of an email to: Char Weaver at cweaver@jeffco.k12.co.us. Please avoid attaching files to your email message. Please deliver photos and other contributions to the office.

Newsletter Design
Rick Escobedo
escobedodesigngroup.com 

Monthly Newsletter of
Montessori Peaks Academy
9904 W. Capri Avenue
Littleton, CO 80123
Main Line: 303.972.2627
Website: www.mpeaks.net

News from the Board As representatives of the parents, students and staff, the MPA Board of Directors is responsible for making governance choices and policy decisions to ensure as a school community we fulfill our charter school contract with the District. During the summer, MPA's board of directors and staff worked on several projects on behalf of the school, and we'd like to bring you up to date.

In May and June, the Board reviewed staff plans to improve the elementary playground and expand staff parking. Many thanks to MPA Administrator Char Weaver and MPA Business Manager Donna Kane for bringing this project from idea to reality!

In July we finalized and approved MPA's budget for the 2009 fiscal school year. Also in July, the Board completed work on an initial draft version of a new MPA Policy Manual and accepted the document for initial review & comment. We encourage interested members of the school community to take a look at the draft Policy Manual and offer your recommendations for improvement. The Policy Manual is available electronically on the MPA website, www.mpeaks.net, and a hard copy is available for review in the MPA office by contacting Donna Kane. The Board also completed work on a Board of Directors Handbook as a useful reference for existing and future Board members.

Following the departure of Board members Mark Scruggs, Irene Perez-Law and Jill Kroog, the Board appointed new members **Scott Davenport** and **Todd Howerter**. The Board continues to receive letters of interest from other MPA parents to fill the remaining vacancy, and is in the process of talking with candidates.

The Board continues work on two projects from last year: an update to the MPA Strategic Plan, and a revamping of the process for conducting the Administrator's annual performance evaluation. On July 30, the Board conducted an annual working session/retreat to generate discussion and ideas for updated strategic goals, objectives, and actions for the 2009 school year. A draft of the 2009 MPA Strategic Plan will be available soon for review and comment.

The Literacy Committee is proud to present **THE AUTHOR'S FESTIVAL for 2008**. We have the privilege of bringing four author's to MPA from October 6th through October 17th. We encourage parents to purchase visiting authors' books prior to their visit so as to be familiar with their published works. Authors' will be talking about their books during their presentations. The primary goal of running this event is to encourage our students to write and produce their own written works. It's so exciting to meet a real live author! We are happy to announce:

Authors will be visiting on the following dates:

OCTOBER 9, 2008 - **Candice Popiel**, author of **"Discovery of Glow"** (\$12.95) will be visiting our Third Grade students.

OCTOBER 10, 2008 - **Todd Mitchell**, author of **"The Traitor King"** (\$16.99) will be visiting our Upper Elementary students (grades 4-6)

OCTOBER 14, 2008 - **One of our very own MPA Moms! -" Lisa Hawker "** and co-author **Deirdre Byerly**, authors of **"Follow That Germ"** (\$12.95) will be visiting our Primary and Kindergarten students.

OCTOBER 16, 2008 - **Chris Kauflin**, author of **"Smiletown's Upside Down"** (\$14.95) will be visiting our First and Second Grade students.

Please check with your student's teachers on times of events if you wish to sit in on their presentations. All presentations will be held in the MPA Library.

ALL visiting author's books will be available for sale in the atrium (inside opposite the primary playground) on the following days and times:

Book Sales, Dates and Times

OCTOBER 7th, 8th and 9th, 2008 (Tuesday thru Thursday) 7:45am - 8:15am, 10:45am - 11:15am, 2:45pm - 3:15pm

OCTOBER 14th, 15th and 16th (Tuesday thru Thursday) 7:45am - 8:15, 10:45am - 11:15am, 2:45pm - 3:15pm

We encourage all to be supportive of the visiting authors to get the most out of their visits. We hope you enjoy the Authors' Festival - thanks to all our wonderful contributors-financial and time wise.

The Literacy Committee thanks you. Happy reading and writing!

The Literacy Committee 2nd Annual Writer's Workshop

The Literacy Committee is excited to announce the 2nd Annual Writer's Workshop in conjunction with the Author's Festival. The Writer's Workshop is an after school program in which students write, illustrate, and publish their very own hardbound book. The Writer's Workshop will run for seven Thursdays beginning on Oct. 16 and continuing through Dec. 11. Workshops run from 3:15 to 4:30. The Workshop is available to 15 first and second graders and 40 third, fourth, fifth, and sixth graders. Sign-up is on a first come first serve basis. Three Writer's Workshops are taught by Roselle Janus, Kathi Smith, and Christine Prieto, three MPA mothers who are certified teachers. A fee of \$20 covers the cost of materials and the publishing of the children's books. To register, complete the Writer's Workshop flyer found in this weeks Friday folder and return to the office by Friday, Oct. 10.

Yearbook Fun!

We are going color this year. For the first time we will be printing an all color yearbook. We need your help making the best yearbook yet! We need PICTURES-LOTS & LOTS OF PICTURES! If you would like to be part of the Yearbook committee we will be having a Yearbook meeting on Thursday Oct 9, 5:30pm at MPA. We need pictures of each classroom activities. Please don't hesitate to provide us with pictures you take and put time towards volunteer hours. Turn pictures into the office with labels and we will make sure to get them in the Yearbook. We prefer image files on CD, but we can also scan pictures. If you have any questions call Tina at 303-933-1888.

Volunteer Committee

We would like to just send out a few reminders of upcoming events and needs at MPA.

First and foremost we would like to congratulate the **Cutone-Dion Family** for being the Volunteer of the Month for the Month of September. Congratulations!

Watch for next months Volunteer of the Month starting the first week of October. The Volunteer of the Month Frame is located in the atrium, come and check it out. You could be next.

Volunteer Information

- 1) PTA is Looking for two parents from every classroom to help distribute the perishable goods that were purchased from the Fall Fundraiser at carpool on Thursday October 30,2008. Please Contact Stacy Altman at 720-379-3985 if you are able to help.
- 2) CRC Volunteer Committee is reminding you that the upcoming Pancake Breakfast is scheduled on Saturday, October 18, 2008. Ticket order forms are due back to school on no later than Monday October 6, 2008. Tickets will be coming home on Friday October 10, 2008. This event helps raise funds for the Family Nights and Volunteer Recognition.
- 3) CRC Volunteer Committee is looking for parents and kids to come and volunteer some time on Saturday, October 18, 2008 at the Pancake Breakfast at Applebee's. We need help with seating guests, serving food and beverages, clean up, taking orders, and dish washing. Volunteers are needed from 7:15am to 10am. Volunteering can be done in 30 minute increments, so you can do it after you eat breakfast. Please help us out so no one has to be stuck at one job for to long. If you would like to help out or have any question please contact Jen Skinner at jlskinner11@msn.com or 303-972-8459. Everyone is welcome (including parents) to come in their Halloween costumes for the Pancake Breakfast. Please do not bring any weapons or scary masks to the breakfast. We hope everyone is having a great first semester of school and hope to see you there volunteering.

Fall Fundraiser Update

The PTA wishes to thank everyone for participating in the Fall Fundraiser! Orders will be sent home on Thursday, October 30th during carpool. All perishable orders must go home on this day! Please mark your calendars and plan to be there.

