

# MPA September 2008

## Monthly Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 NO SCHOOL Labor Day	2	3 Arts and Cultural Committee 3:30pm Andrea's Room	4 Literacy Committee 6pm	5 Fall Fundraiser Starts	6
7	8	9 CRT Meeting 6pm	10 Cub Scouts Planning Meeting 6:15pm	11	12 FAMILY GAME NIGHT 6-8pm In the Gym Snacks provided.	13
14	15	16 Board Meeting 6pm	17	18 Parent Information Meeting Gifted and Talented 7pm-8pm Library	19 NO SCHOOL Staff Inservice Full Day Camp Offered	20
21	22 Fall Fundraiser Order Forms are Due	23	24 Boy Scout Pack Meeting 6:15pm	25	26	27
28	29 Second Grade Testing Begins	30				



# Peek

at the Peaks  
SEPTEMBER 2008

### Welcome Back to School!

We are off to a great start for the 2008-09 school year. Here are some new things for this year:

- New faces - Jill Daniels has joined the Primary staff. Sara Creed, Shannon deSpirlet, and Darcy Darby have joined Lower El. Beth Anderson has joined Upper El. New assistants are Tammy Sanchez and Shevaun Moody in Primary, Jennifer Parker and Linda Wright in Lower El, and Ann Johnston in Upper El. Gary Monaco has replaced David Lee as Facilities Manager.
- New roles -Kira Green was a paraprofessional with Special Needs, and is now a Special Ed teacher. Heather Walter, our part-time librarian, is now full time. Kathleen Rust, speech pathologist, is now full time, assuming the role of academic coach and helping with administrative tasks.
- New outdoor additions -The elementary playground has been improved. We have added new swings, a large new climber, and four spinners. We have taken out the old blacktop and put in a new blacktop area with two basketball hoops. Also we just had synthetic grass installed.
- New program - The elementary classes will begin implementing a new reading series, Imagine It!, starting after Labor Day. The school has purchased the literature-based reading books for grades 2 through 6.

**We would like to welcome everyone back to school and welcome all the new families to MPA. It is great to see such smiling faces again!**

We would like to tell you a little bit about the MPA Volunteering and how it works. Here at MPA we require every two-parent family to do 50 hours of community service at MPA and single parent families to do 25 hours of community service at MPA for the year. This can be donating an item that a teacher or the school needs, donation of money towards a classroom or school need, volunteering your time to spend in the classroom either as a parent sub, listen to students, reading to students, chaperone a field trip or class party, attending committee meetings, working on committee projects, and take home project a teacher needs or a committee needs done (example: such as making signs, doing laundry, grading papers, etc.)

If any donation is given, we ask that you make a copy of your receipt and staple it to the volunteer hour log on the back of your child's Friday Folder. As well as log the volunteer donation amount and/or volunteer hours completed on the volunteer hours log. The volunteer log is for the parents and students to log their volunteer hours for each quarter and each student and parent both have their own volunteer log. Please make sure you record on the right volunteer sheet to avoid error when the volunteer logs are collected every quarter and tallied.

After every quarter we will collect the volunteer log sheets for parents and students and enter them in to the PTO Manager Website for parents to view their total hours, contact information and student information.

### WHAT'S INSIDE?

- 2 • General Information continued
- Arts and Culture
- Recycle the Rainforest .....
- 3 • Carpool Update
- Parent Information .....
- 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 [ceweaver@jeffco.k12.co.us](mailto:ceweaver@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](http://escobedodesigngroup.com) 

Monthly Newsletter of  
Montessori Peaks Academy  
9904 W. Capri Avenue  
Littleton, CO 80123  
Main Line: 303.972.2627  
Website: [www.mpeaks.net](http://www.mpeaks.net)



## Fall Fast Approaching!



We input all student records in the PTO Manager Website as well and keep a log of their hours but will only be viewable on a print out which is kept in the office and will be available by request only.

You will only be able to view the PTO Manger Website if we have received Volunteer Questionnaire and you have been added as a volunteer into the system. If we do not have your email and contact information, the volunteer hours will also be printed and sent home in your child's Friday Folders one month after they have been collected at the end of each quarter.

When parents reach their required hours, MPA and Community Relations Committee will invite them to a Volunteer Recognition dinner for all their hard work they put in for the year. However, this dinner will not be taking place until the following school year.

When students reach a total of 50 volunteer hours either completed in the local area community or at MPA, they too will be recognized for their hard work as well. They will receive a letter of recognition from the President of the United States along with a Medallion and a Certificate of Accomplishment. The volunteer hour requirement for the Presidential Awards is that all volunteer time done must not include any donation or money of any kind for the volunteer project or volunteer. The students who reach the 50-hour requirement will be awarded for the Presidential Service Award at the Springfest family carnival at the end of the school year in May. The Student Presidential Service Award information is also located in the back of you child's Friday Folder.

Also, if you filled out the Volunteer Questionnaire (that was sent home and due back to school by Friday August 29, 2008) and your contact information is complete, we will not give out any of you personal contact information with out your consent. However, we may call you or email Volunteer Opportunities as they arise at MPA. Volunteer Opportunities will also be posted in our Peek at the Peaks monthly newsletter or the Sneek Peek Weekly Newsletter as they arise.

Another way we like to recognize all of our volunteers is randomly select a handful of volunteers and have their picture posted in the Atrium next to the huge quilt, up stairs in a picture frame with a little information about themselves and how they get their volunteer time completed. So stop by and check it out every month when you get a

chance. You never know who will be our next Volunteer of the Month.

If you would not like to be contacted about Volunteer Opportunities by phone or email, or have any questions about volunteering or about MPA in general please, let us know via email at jlskinner11@msn.com or call the office and speak to any staff member at 303-972-2627.

Thank you in advance for all of the time and energy you spend helping our students and MPA. Our volunteer program and your commitment help our students thrive and make MPA the great school it is today!

### FALL FUNDRAISER STARTS TODAY



The annual PTA Fall Fundraiser starts today. Please check your Friday folder for the brochure and catalog.

### Interested in becoming a MPA Sub?

If you have a flexible schedule and are interested in becoming a substitute for MPA, please contact Donna in the office. We love to have our own parents working in the rooms, so we do not use Jeffco's Sub System. A teacher's license or Montessori Training is not required, because there will always be a trained staff member in the room. You can specify what age group you prefer and will receive on the job training. Most calls from staff are late in the evening or early in the morning, so subs are called as soon as a need arises. If you think this sounds like the job for you, please contact us as soon as possible.

### Volunteer Opportunitees

Veronica needs help changing the outdoor sign weekly. If interested please see her in the office.

### Box Tops/Campbells Labels

Yes, MPA does participate in the "Box Tops for Education Program" as well as the "Campbells Labels for Education". There is a collection box in the lobby so keep collecting and turn your labels in throughout the year. If you are interested in counting and sorting labels to earn volunteer hours, please see Donna in the office.

### Recycle the rainforest

Help our school or organization raise money b y recycling! Bring in your old empty inkjet or laser cartridges for recycling. If you bring in the larger laser cartridges try to make sure they are the original manufacturers, HP, Lexmark, Canon, Dell, and Brother. You can tell if they are original because they will have the original logo on them and not a remanufacturer label and they even may say remanufactured. Also bring in used cell phones, I-Pods, video games and accessories for I-pods and laptops! Just think we get paid to help the environment. It's a win win for everyone. You can collect these items from home, the office and from friends and relatives. Start a drive or post something at work or church too!

### Carpool going Well!

Congratulations and thank you from the carpool staff! Even with the piles of bark in our driveway area, carpool was very successful. Please continue throughout the school year to keep your carpool name tags showing, pull all the way up, no cell phones or backing up, and watch for staff directions. We have carpool down to 12 minutes with safe children.

**JUST AS REMINDERS – All primary-kindergarten parents must enter the school from the Kipling and Capri side** of the school and turn into the right lane and turn right immediately into the parking lot of the kindergarten sidewalk pick-up. We will be placing cones in the right lane to guide primary parents into the parking lot. **Elementary parents must enter the school from the Jellison and Bowles** side of the school and turn left into the school to proceed to the two lanes of sidewalk pick-up. Parents who enter in the wrong way will be required to drive through the property following the above pattern.

Another reminder—**no cell phones in the car line!** This is for the safety of the students. We ask for your focus as you drive on the school property. Teachers will be reminding parents to end cell phone calls during the carpool line. Please respect our request—it's about your children.

Last reminder—**don't back up during the sidewalk pick-up.** Wait for the line to move forward. When you back up, you can't see small people behind you. Since small people are most of the population at MPA, we want to protect them.

Family off Pleasant Park/Deer Creek Rd. (East of Conifer) looking for another carpool family. Please call Kim: 303 697 5031

### Parent Information Meeting for Gifted and Talented

Parents of MPA students, ages kindergarten and up, who are interested in the Gifted and Talented program at MPA are welcome to come to a meeting on Thursday, September 18. This is an opportunity to learn about the educational enrichment offered at MPA, testing and identification and characteristics of young gifted children. Patty Dwyer will present a short program and discuss "Creative Enrichment" at MPA. The meeting will be held in the library from 7:00 - 8:00 p.m. (There will be no child care.)



### Second Grade Testing - September 29 - October 2

All MPA second grade students will be tested with the Cognitive Abilities Test the week of September 29 - October 2. This is a nationally normed test that reliably assesses students learning strengths and styles. It is also a qualifier for the Creative Enrichment/Gifted and Talented program at MPA. Results will be sent home in early November.

### Parent Information Meeting - Transitioning from Montessori to Middle School and Beyond...

October 16, 7:00 in the Library. Patty Dwyer will be hosting a panel meeting featuring former MPA students who are now in middle school, high school and college. These students will discuss how Montessori has affected their lives and the transition to the big grades beyond. (There will be no child care.)

### Morning Drop-Off Reminder

Students being dropped off in the morning circle need to get out of the car on their own. If you need to turn off your car and unbuckle your child you are welcome to pull forward at the end of the circle to do so. Alternatively you can park and walk your child to the entrance of the school. Cars need to flow smoothly through the circle area at morning drop off or a backup occurs. Thanks for your help with this matter.

### Seeking Accountability Chairperson

Our School Accountability Committee Chairperson from the past two years is unable to continue in her role this year, although is able to help on the committee. We are looking for someone who would like to assume the leadership for this important committee. The Accountability Committee works with the principal and the Board of Directors on setting goals for the school's Accreditation Plan, as well as administering surveys to parents and staff and reviewing all survey results. The Accountability Chair makes a report to the Board each month, discussing activities of the committee and presenting results from surveys and other instruments. The person who assumes this role should have some experience with elementary schools as well as a comfort level with the computer. If you are interested, please call or email Char Weaver at 303-972-2627 or ceweaver@jeffco.k12.co.us.

### Planning an after school play date?

Please be sure to send a note to the teacher or email the teacher or Veronica in the office vbotcher@jeffco.k12.co.us. We cannot send your child with anyone but your pre-arranged pick-up person.