

MPA April 2009

PEEK AT THE PEAKS



April 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20 8:15AM - All Lower El 3rd Grade-Day in Denver 3:15PM - Taekwondo	21 3PM - 6th Grade Art Project 3PM - Jump Bunch 3:05PM - Choir 3:15PM - Spanish Adv/Beg 3:15PM - 3rd&4th Grade Art 3:15PM - Hippity Hop 6PM - Board Meeting	22 3PM - 6th Grade Art Project 3:15PM - Taekwondo 6:30PM - Choir Concert	23 2:45PM - Boy Scout Assembly in Gym 3:05PM - Guitar 3:15PM - Hip Hop 3:15PM - Spanish Beg/Adv 3:15PM - 5th & 6th Grade Art	24 3:10PM - Kidstage 3:15PM - Taekwondo 3:15PM - Ballet 7PM - Kidstage Performance	25
26	27 3:15PM - Taekwondo 6PM - Science Fair	28 3:05PM - Choir 3:15PM - Spanish Beg/Adv 3:15PM - Hippity Hop 3:15PM - 3rd & 4th Grade Art 3:30PM - Jump Bunch 6PM - Special Persons Night-Gwen/Dianne	29 11:45AM - Dianne&Gwen-Steele Elem "K" only 3PM - 6th Grade Art Project 3:15PM - Taekwondo 6:15PM - Boy Scout Pack Mtg	30 3PM - 6th Grade Art Project 3:05PM - Guitar 3:15PM - Spanish Beg/Adv 3:15PM - Hip Hop 3:15PM - 5th & 6th Grade Art 5:30PM - 6th Grade Trip - Meeting 6PM - Darcy-Special Persons Tea Open House		

April Showers bring May Flowers!



Highlights of WHAT'S INSIDE

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***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.



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

VOLUNTEERS MAKE IT HAPPEN AT MPA

MPA and other charter schools depend on volunteer help to keep the program running. There are many ways parents can and will help us this year. Here are just a few:

- The Board of Directors. Our Board is made up of parents who volunteer their time to be part of the group who represents parents and governs the school. The Board election was this week, so watch your Friday Folders for results.
- Friday Folders. A steadfast group of mothers with their children who are too little to attend MPA come to the school each Friday to sort many announcements and papers and stuff them into the Friday folders. Thanks to the organization and consistent presence of these volunteers, communication happens on a regular basis at MPA.
- Field Trips. Buses are expensive and chaperones are necessary to take our students to the wonderful places that will enhance our educational program. Parents drive our students on short (a local park) and long (YMCA of the Rockies at Winter Park) trips and take off from work to be available as chaperones.
- Fundraising. Parents work with the school and the PTA to help us earn extra money for the various projects that we could not afford without their help. The Silent Auction, Campbell's soup labels and box tops, and the PTA Fall Fundraiser are just a few examples of how parents raise money for our school.
- Hot Lunch. Our hot lunch program was started with one school employee (Ms. Shannon) and an array of parent volunteers to serve food and keep records.
- Outdoor projects. Neighborhood schools have the District Landscaping Department to help them keep the school grounds in good shape. Charter schools do not have that luxury. We have to use our small staff of one (Gary Monaco) to shovel snow, chop ice, mow, trim, sweep, kill weeds, plant, and generally do what it takes to make our school look good on the outside. We appreciate the parents who love to work outdoors and will join Gary in keeping the outside environment look as good as the inside.

- Classroom help. From substitute teaching to reading with children to helping with parties, our parents are willing to come to school and help with the day-to-day work. This also includes parents who help us from home by calling, making materials, and donating needed items for the classes.
- PTA and committees. The school's PTA and committees help the school in various ways—fundraising, fun-raising, and supporting the school's educational program, including literacy. The parents who work on these projects spend lots of time and energy.
- Special events and clubs. The Volunteer Appreciation Dinner, the Book Fair, Applebee's Pancake Breakfasts, SpringFest, and the Silent Auction are a few examples of the special events that are fun for grownups and kids and happen because of the initiative, time and energy of our parents. Parents also take on scout groups and Destination Imagination groups because there is a need and the kids enjoy participating.
- Even this newsletter is a result of the talent and energy of parents. Rick and Melanie Escobedo work each month to take the MPA news and turn it into this attractive and readable newsletter. Rick and Melanie have been editors of the Peek at the Peaks for three years, and we appreciate each and every word they format for us.

A big "Thank You" to all the parent (and grandparent) volunteers who have helped the school so far this year. Also thanks to all our families who will help during this busy spring season. There is still so much to do. We couldn't do it without you!

Donations Needed

1.) MPA's Silent Auction is coming up fast and we need your help! If you would like to donate any of the following items, you can take them as your volunteer hours. All funds raised will benefit the MPA kids.

ITEMS NEEDED ARE: Antiques, Artwork, Entertainment, Family Activities, Fitness Goods and Services, Gourmet Gifts, Handbags, Jewelry, Lodging, Paintings, Photographs, Quilts, Recreation Equipment, Restaurants Gift Cards, Sculptures, Shopping Certificates, Spas, Sporting Events, Travel, Vacation Rentals, Wine.

If you are interested in donating or helping with the auction, please contact Kate Simpson, MPA Auction Chair at 303-907-9700 or simpsonkathleen@msn.com

2.) Ms. Mary Stringer is in need of volunteers and donations for the spring Choir Concert that will take place on April 22, 2009 (note the date change). The following is a list of costumes needed and volunteer work needed for each project:

A.) 4 costumes that are similar to cave people, like a brown toga with cut fringe at the bottom and maybe some crazy brown wigs. This can be bought or made if one knows how to sew. Ms. Mary has the fabric. If you can sew this would be a great volunteer hour project.

B.) Items and costumes that would remind the audience of Elvis. About 4 costumes would be needed, maybe something with sparkles on it and maybe some wigs if possible.

C.) Beach related such as floral leis, hula skirts, straw hats.

D.) 5-8 wild colored wigs are also needed.

E.) We also need parents to run the bake sale and to make goodies for the bake sale at the night of the Choir Concert on April 22. If you can help, the projects are needed about a week before the concert on April 22 and the baked goods on the night of the concert.

If you have any questions or would like to help with any of this please let Ms. Mary know at 303-972-2627 and please leave a message on voice mail so she can call you back.

2.) Darcy's class is going to be carding and cleaning fleece. She needs as many carding brushes or wire dog brushes with a flat, rectangular head as she can find by the end of THIS WEEK! (They are starting to use them this coming Friday). She would love to have some purchased for the classroom, but would also be grateful for any she could borrow for the rest of the month. If people want to loan them

to her, they should label their brushes and make it clear that they want them back.

B) The class could also use donations of yarn in natural earth-tones. Darcy would prefer wool yarn or very thick textured yarn for their class weaving.

C) She is also looking for ribbon and scraps of fabric - once again earthy-tones would be best. Other kinds of natural fiber materials would also be great - anything their class might be able to weave into their project.

These last two items are things that could be donated any time during this month. It's only the brushes she needs ASAP. If people have questions please contact Darcy or Heather Walter in the library.

REMINDER

For every \$10 spent or donated you can take 1 hour of volunteer time. Please attach a copy of the receipt for purchased items to the volunteer sheet for verification.

SHADE SHELTERS NEEDED

Please contact Donna in the office if you have a shade shelter or large umbrella with stand to use during Springfest. It is usually a very warm day and the shade is appreciated by the volunteers.

A BIG THANK-YOU TO THE SHIRVAN FAMILY

As the 6th graders continue to work on their sculpture project they needed some help to get the area out by the new parking lot prepared. So MPA THANKS the Shirvan family who purchased ground cloth, pins, and lots and lots of Gray River Rock. This purchase helped Gary to prep and beautify the area, so when the sculptures are finished we can display them for the community. The Shirvan family felt this was the best way for them to help with the project and are looking forward to seeing the sculptures that the children create with the help of Ms. Andrea and Mr. Gary.

CONGRATULATIONS! We would like to say congratulations to the Coffman Family for being the Volunteer of the Month for the month of April. When asked how they fulfill their volunteer hours, Terri Coffman said, "We love being involved with our school by going on field trips, helping in the classrooms, providing a sound system for performances, and doing decorative painting in the school." Their picture and information will also be hung in the Volunteer of the Month frame in the Atrium, so stop by and check it out.

SPRINGFEST-HOW CAN I HELP?

Springfest will be happening this year on May 17th from noon to 3:00pm. If you would like to help and get in some more volunteer hours Donna will be putting out sign up sheets the week of April 27th in the school lobby. All the different positions for volunteers will be listed along with time slots, so you can help part of the time and play the part of the time.

We not only need volunteers during Springfest, but set up and break down as well. Please watch for the sign up sheets or call Donna in the office to volunteer for a time slot.

Volunteer News

1.) Ms. Judi Miller is teaching volleyball from April 7-23 and is looking for 2-5 parents that know a little bit about volleyball to help out. If you can help out with any of these dates for a few hours or during class time any day from Monday through Thursday from 8:15-11:00am and/or 12:50 to 2:50pm, that would be great. Any help is appreciated and you can call Ms. Judy at 303-972-2627 and leave a message for her to call you back.

2.) Ms. Judi Miller is also looking for volunteers to help with Jump Rope for Heart on Tuesday, April 28th from 8:15am to 2:50pm in the gym. If you can help out for 30 min to an hour, that would be great. We are looking for at least 10-20 parents to help throughout the day, so if you cannot stay the whole time, that is fine. Please contact Ms. Judi at 303-972-2627 and leave a message for her to call you back.

3.) Ms. Judy Faulder is in need of some morning volunteers to help with various class projects any time from 8.30am to about 11 am. If you would like to help out in the classroom, please feel free to either call Ms. Judy at 303-972-2627 and leave a message for her to call you back, or just come in on a day you are available.

4.) Ms. Shari Buehrer has a sign up sheet outside her classroom for parents to sign up to read to children or to listen to children read. This is a monthly need and you can sign up at any time.

Hello MPA Community!

Here we are, closing in on the end of the year and asking ourselves once again: How does the time go by so quickly?! And once again, it is time for the PTA to start planning for the 2009-2010 school year. As we look back over the PTA's many accomplishments this year, and put some goals in place for next year, one roadblock always seems to come to mind: We don't have enough people to do all the things we would like to help our school. We appreciate all of our volunteers, how people are willing to pull together when we really need you...We couldn't have achieved any of our goals without you. And for the PTA to continue to function and meet its goals, we need for people to join and take active roles. Please consider joining PTA next year. We want to focus more efforts on educational and family enrichment, but we need more people to do it!



SPRINGFEST AND THE SILENT AUCTION ARE ONLY A MONTH AWAY!

Spring is an exciting and busy time for the PTA. SpringFest and the Silent Auction will be held at the school on Sunday, May 17 from noon-3pm. Bring the family, eat lunch, play games, and bid on some unique items at the auction! Both are fun events to attend as well as great opportunities to be involved in your school community and earn volunteer hours.

PTA Officers Needed

The current PTA officers' terms will be coming to an end in 2010. We need volunteers who are willing to be an integral part of the MPA community to begin working with current officers to make an easy transition in the following positions:

President – Oversees meetings and the overall organization of the PTA. **Vice-President** – Assists the president with the overall organization of the PTA. **Treasurer** – Handles all PTA money matters, including budgets, collection and deposit of money, keeping the books, etc. **Secretary** – Records, transcribes and disperses meeting minutes, assists with other organizational duties as needed. Is being an officer of the PTA a big time commitment? Yes and no. There are monthly meetings, but a majority of the work that can be done at home. When considering helping the MPA community by becoming a PTA officer, please take into account the value of having PTA at our school: Why have a PTA at our school? The PTA is recognized by the IRS as a tax exempt organization. When functions run through PTA, they are organized by PTA members, covered by PTA insurance, and finances are kept separate from the school. All this helps keep additional responsibilities from piling up on Donna and other school staff. In these times of declining school budgets, any responsibilities that the PTA can shoulder greatly benefit our school. What would MPA be losing if the PTA no longer existed? Annually, the PTA has sponsored the Book Fair, Fall Fundraiser, SpringFest and the Silent Auction to name a few. The PTA donates time, effort and funds to school improvement, each classroom, educational and family enrichment, and various other projects.

'09 Fall Fundraiser Coordinator needed!

The Fall Fundraiser is our sale by catalog held near the beginning of each school year. There is a support crew in place, we just need someone to organize and take care of the details. Please consider helping – we would hate for MPA to loose out on this financial support.

If you are interested in volunteering for anything mentioned above, how can you get more information?

If you would like to become involved now to help organize a PTA program for next year...If you are interested in volunteering for SpringFest or the Silent Auction...If you would like more information on PTA Officer positions...Or if you are interested in coordinating the Fall Fundraiser, please contact Stacy Altman at 720-379-3985 OR stacy.altman@yahoo.com.