


MARCH 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 8AM - CSAP 5th Grade Science	3 8AM - CSAP Writing Grades 3-6 5th Grade Science 8AM - NAEP Test 4th Grade only	4 NO TOURS Due to CSAP Testing 8AM - CSAP Writing Grades 3-6	5 8AM - CSAP Reading Grades 4-6 Science 5th Grade	6 8AM - CSAP Reading Grades 4-6	7
8 DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS SPRING FORWARD!	9 8AM - CSAP Writing Grades 4-6 3:10PM - Kidstage 3:15PM - Arts and Cultural	10 8AM - CSAP Reading Grades 4-6	11 • NO TOURS-Due to CSAP Testing 8AM - CSAP Math Grades 3-6 3PM - DI MacNicholas 3PM - DI Sebring 5:45PM - PTA Mtg 6PM - Wolf Cubs	12 8AM - CSAP Math Grades 3-6 3PM - DI Bush	13 8AM - CSAP Math Grades 4-6 3:10PM - Kidstage	14
15	16 3:10PM - Kidstage	17 6PM - MPA Board Mtg 	18	19	20 3:10PM - Kidstage	21
22	23 3:10PM - Kidstage	24	25 9AM - Lower El Arvada Ctr 6:15PM - Cub Scout Pack Mtg	26 12PM NOON DISMISSAL	27 NO SCHOOL Parent Conferences	28 Pancake Breakfast Applebee's Restaurant 7:30-9:30am
29	30 • Spring Break	31 • Spring Break	1 • Spring Break	2 • Spring Break	3 • Spring Break	4



Hope for Luck of the Irish!




Montessori Peaks Academy - Peek at the Peaks

HIGHLIGHTS OF What's Inside?

- 2 • Board News continued...
- 2 • International Women's Day
- 3 • Health Clinic News
- 3 • ADHD Support Group
- 3 • Library Lowdown
- 4 • PTA Corner
- 5 • Art News
- 5 • Spring Fest
- 5 • Asbestos Notification
- 5 • Yearbook Needs
- 6 • Calendar

NEWS FROM THE BOARD

In January and February, the MPA board of directors welcomed newly appointed member Herbert Merk to fill a midterm vacancy, and continued work on a number of projects of interest to the school community. Here are the highlights.

A board committee has been working diligently to revise MPA's Strategic Plan. After soliciting feedback from school staff, they presented a final draft to the full board in January for review. On February 24, the board discussed and approved the Strategic Plan. Many thanks to the committee members and others who participated in this project! The MPA Strategic Plan will be published on the school website soon, and hard copies will be available to any interested community members on the bulletin board and in the school office.

Another board committee has been working with Administrator Char Weaver to revamp the process for conducting the administrator's annual performance review. At the February 24 meeting, the board disseminated a new draft evaluation format, discussed changes to the evaluation process and timeline, and asked the administrator to review and provide feedback on the proposed process during our next board meeting in March.

Char Weaver, Business Manager Donna Kane, and Board Treasurer Peter Shaw met in February to draft MPA's budget for next year. They expect to present the proposed budget for approval at the next board meeting on March 17.

And finally, April is the time of year when the school community conducts an election for open seats on the MPA board of directors. This year, four board seats are up for election, and three of the incumbents have expressed an interest in running again. Any parent of a student in the school is eligible to serve as a candidate for the open board positions. This volunteer position has a term of 2 years, during which a member is expected to attend monthly board meetings and participate in a variety of tasks with members of the board and school staff, as well as other community representatives.

Interested parties are encouraged to submit a brief letter of interest and bio to Board Vice President Phyllis Glawe or to Char Weaver no later than March 17. Interested candidates also are encouraged to attend the March 17 board meeting (6 p.m. in the school library), just to observe the typical work of the board. On March 18, we'll put out

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

Photos and Images should be in JPG Format, 300 dpi.

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BOARD NEWS CONTINUED...

a notice or posters describing the board candidates, so members of the school community can learn more about them. Ballots and proxy forms will be available at the school starting the week of March 23. Completed ballots or proxies must be received by Thursday, April 16 before 6 p.m. to be counted. Please contact Phyllis Glawe via email at pcglawe@comcast.net if you have questions or need more information about the upcoming election in April.

MARCH 8TH INTERNATIONAL WOMAN'S DAY

Being an immigrant in the U.S.A. has brought many challenges to my life. Getting married and moving here was like being born again. Starting a new life without any relatives close by, no job, no friends and no lifetime neighbors. Though overall I had the conviction that I had married the right guy and that I would make it work no matter what. Here I am 9 years later with two kids and still the same guy. I've been getting used to many things in North America. By now I know that revolving doors don't eat people, that you need to put soap in the dishwasher and turn it on to make it work and that if the washer shakes, the fire alarm won't go off.

I have given up a little bit of what I used to be (still have my Latin Temper and my disciplinarian style). Though one of the things I have kept and would like to share is the celebration of INTERNATIONAL WORKING WOMAN'S DAY (IWD), in my country, we call it "INTERNATIONAL WOMAN'S DAY" and it is a tradition, where you get spoiled just because you are a woman, you don't need to be a mom, don't need to work, don't need to have a college degree, don't need to be a teacher, a nurse or a dentist, just need to be a woman. Still to this day I find it very funny that we celebrate "GROUNDHOG DAY" but not INTERNATIONAL WOMAN'S DAY.

International Working Woman's Day (IWD) is marked on March 8 every year. It is a major day of global celebration for the economic, political and social achievements of women. Started as a political event, the holiday blended in the culture of many countries. In some celebrations, the day lost its politi-

cal flavor, and became simply an occasion for men to express their love to the women around them in a way somewhat similar to Mother's Day and St Valentine's Day mixed together. In others, however, the political and human rights theme as designated by the United Nations runs strong, and political and social awareness of the struggles of women worldwide are brought out and examined in a hopeful manner. The IWD is also celebrated as the first spring holiday, as in the listed countries the first day of March is considered the first day of the spring season. (From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia)

But don't worry guys since we love you so much and celebrate you sometimes by cooking, doing the laundry, being the "handy lady", cleaning the house, taking care of the kids and taking care of you when you get so sick due to a cold. I did some research and find out you have your day too. Here is some info.

International Men's Day is an international event celebrated on November 19 every year. It was inaugurated in 1999 in Trinidad and Tobago and was supported by the United Nations, and received in principal, support from men's groups in USA, Europe, Africa, Asia, and the Caribbean. Speaking on behalf of UNESCO, Director of Women and Culture of Peace Ms. Ingeborg Breines said of IMD: "This is an excellent idea and would give some gender balance." The objectives of celebrating an International Men's Day include focusing on men's and boy's health, improving gender relations, promoting gender equality, and highlighting positive male role models. It is an occasion for men to highlight discrimination against them and to celebrate their achievements and contributions, in particular for their contributions to community, family, marriage, and child care. (From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia)

So take a minute on March 8th, and give some love to all the women on your life, just a hug, a kiss or an "I love you" will brighten their day. And on November 19th you guys will have your turn.

Happy INTERNATIONAL WOMAN'S DAY from Claudia Ramirez

SUPPORT THE ARTS AND ARTISTS AT MPA!

The 28th Annual Jefferson County Elementary Art Show is now on display at Red Rocks Community College. The opening celebration will be this Friday, March 6th from 5:00-8:00pm. This show is open to the public and runs through March 26th. Come check out the artwork from elementary schools all around Jefferson County. Congratulations to the following MPA students that are representing our school!

- Brayden Sorrells, Grade 1
- Hannah Ciani-Calomeris, Grade 2
- Dobbin Pine, Grade 3
- Kristi Dobbins, Grade 3
- Elizabeth LeJeune, Grade 3
- Mikaila Cutone-Dion, Grade 3
- Zoe Logan, Grade 4

- Hannah Buenrostro, Grade 5
- Madelynn Butler, Grade 5
- Meaghan Holbrook, Grade 5
- Ashlyln Maher, Grade 6
- Anna Peters, Grade 6
- Miles Rhoades, Grade 6



RECYCLE DRINK POUCHES

Thanks to MPA parent Rachel Gerle, we are now going to recycle "DRINK POUCHES" but not juice boxes. A large black trash can will be placed downstairs next to the elevator to collect the pouches and sent to the "TerraCycle" program for recycling. The great news is MPA will receive a donation from TerraCycle of 2 cents per pouch for Capri Sun and Honest Kids Brands and 1 cent for all other brands. Also we do not have to pay postage for sending in the pouches and they do not end up in a land fill. So please feel free to bring your pouches from home, just make sure to remove the straw and make sure they are completely empty.

SPRINGFEST

MPA's annual year end celebration we call "Springfest" is scheduled for Sunday May 17th from Noon to 3:00pm. This is great time to come and visit with other MPA Families, bid on items at the silent auction, have some lunch and let the children play some fun carnival games. This year the "Taste of Philly" restaurant will be selling Philly cheese steak sandwiches for a food option this year. Thanks to the Logan family for this generous offer. So mark your calendars for this fun-filled event, so far mother nature has always given us a beautiful day.



ASBESTOS NOTIFICATION

Per the state health and environment department we are required to inform all parents and staff here at MPA that no materials or manufactured products used in the construction of the building and/or the addition contain asbestos. Letters from both construction contractors are on file in the office.

YEARBOOKS! YEARBOOKS! YEARBOOKS!

It is that time of year again, time to order your yearbook. Order forms are going home today. Please complete your form and return to the office before March 26th for your yearbook to be ordered. Make checks payable to MPA-PTA for \$16.00 per yearbook. This year we found a vendor to print them in COLOR and still keep the price reasonable. Yearbooks will be handed out the last week of school. We will not have as many extras as we did last year, so please order NOW to avoid missing out on one.

6TH GRADE YEARBOOK PAGE-PHOTOS NEEDED

Calling all 6th graders, please turn a baby or childhood photo into the office. We need the pictures to create our traditional "Wow Have They Grown" page. Please turn pictures into the office no later than March 20th. Also we could use other pictures of "MPA Happenings", so please mail tina.dobbins@earthlink.net if you some great classroom, field trips, or event pictures for the yearbook. Remember to give Tina some information about the picture(s), so she knows where to place them in the yearbook.

Mark Your Calendars



Parent Conferences are scheduled for March 26th and 27th. There will be a noon dismissal on March 26th and no classes on March 27th.

Spring Break runs from March 30th through April 3rd. School resumes on April 6th.

NEED VOLUNTEER HOURS? HERE'S AN FUN & EASY SOLUTION!

The Silent Auction needs items! This year's auction, to be held during Spring Fest, May 17. The auction has some wonderful items so far -- from fine art to fine wine. But we need more! Here's how you can help:

1. Available to you in the office is a letter that you can bring to your favorite local business to solicit a donation. It's a great opportunity for the community to support MPA, while gaining valuable exposure for their business.

2. Consider donating something yourself! Do you (or your business) have a talent, goods or service to offer? Here's your chance for shameless self-promotion!

All donations are tax-deductible, and count towards your volunteer hours. Best of all -- all money raised will directly benefit our MPA kids! Need ideas for donations? Some of our most popular items include:

Antiques, Artwork, Entertainment, Family Activities, Fitness Goods & Services, Gourmet Gifts, Handbags, Jewelry, Lodging, Paintings, Photography, Quilts, Recreation Equipment, Restaurant Gift Cards, Sculptures, Shopping Certificates, Spas, Sporting Events, Travel, Vacation Rentals, Wine

Please bring your item(s) to Veronica in MPA's office by Friday, May 1. If you have any questions, please contact Kate Simpson, MPA Auction Chair at 303-907-9700, or Lisa Bush at LisaBushSellsHomes@yahoo.com. Interested in other ways to help with this year's auction? Contact Kate at 303-907-9700 for more opportunities!

NEW ADHD SUPPORT GROUP FOR UPPER ELEMENTARY STUDENTS!

Does your child have a diagnosis of ADHD or ADD? How does he/she feel about it? At the request of one of our students, we are offering a four-week group for students who have been diagnosed with ADD or ADHD. This group will meet for 30 minutes during school hours one time per week, and will begin after Spring Break. Students will be able to share their experiences, what they like and don't like, and what helps. But most important, they will meet some of the other wonderful kids who, like them, have had difficulty with focus, attention, and organization. If you would like your son/daughter to participate in the group, please call and ask to speak with Kim Stevens on Tuesdays or Wednesdays, and she will send a permission slip home.

THE MPA LIBRARY LOWDOWN

Thank so much to the authors of the MPA community who visited with various classes in the library this last month and shared their stories. It was fun to hear the different experiences of writing, illustrating, re-telling, and publishing. We all learned a lot and continue to be impressed and amazed by the amount of talent we have in our MPA family.

Just a reminder: the first two weeks of March we have CSAPs going on in the library, so no volunteering should happen during that time. The second two weeks, however, we can get to it! We are still scanning books into the system, adding new stickers and removing old stickers, and we always have a need for shelving books which have been checked in. Big THANK YOUs to the library volunteers who have turned up diligently week after week to help out in the library. We couldn't do it without you!

For questions about volunteering in the library, please contact Kathleen Nixon (303-730-2860; or at brennankath@hotmail.com) or Stephanie Oberg (303-948-0366; or at obergs2@gmail.com), or stop in and talk to Heather in the library.

PTA CORNER Hello MPA Community! * * * * *

S.O.S. The terms of office for our current PTA officers will be coming to an end. 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.

When considering helping the MPA community by being an officer of the PTA, please take these thoughts into consideration:

Why have a PTA and not just a MPA committee? 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. The PTA donates time, effort and funds to school improvement as a whole, each individual classroom and projects as they come up.

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.

The PTA also needs volunteers for:

SpringFest and the Silent Auction: Spring is an exciting and busy time for the PTA. SpringFest and the Silent Auction are some of our biggest events of the year. Please watch for information about these events. Both are fun events to attend as well as great opportunities to be involved in your school community and earn volunteer hours.

Fall Fundraiser: We are looking for a coordinator for the Fall Fundraiser. The Fall Fundraiser is our sale by catalog held near the beginning of each school year. Please consider helping, we would hate for MPA to loose out on this financial support.

If you are interested in helping out with any event please contact Stacy Altman at 720-379-3985 OR stacy.altman@yahoo.com.

Want to join the PTA or just curious about what we do? The next PTA meeting will be on Wednesday, March 11th at 5:45 p.m. in the Library. Hope to see you there!

Stacy Altman
PTA President

