PRINCIPAL’S MESSAGE

Dear Toro Families,

The first half of the school year has been a busy one for our students, and the coming months promise to be even more eventful. While all sorts of enriching activities are being planned — field trips, assemblies that celebrate diversity and connectedness, music and sports events, and much more — I want to take this opportunity to highlight some exciting changes happening in the classroom.

Within a few weeks, Montera will receive roughly 330 new Google Chromebooks provided by OUSD — enough for an entire grade. Though the district is giving them to us in order for our students to pilot the new CA-state, computer-based Smarter Balanced Assessment Coalition (SBAC) test in the spring, we have much bigger plans for them.

Beginning in early February, the Chromebooks will be used in all seventh grade math classes during part of the period. Loaded with a highly-regarded and engaging math software program generously provided to us free by an incoming Montera parent, the computers will allow our students to advance at their own pace while giving our teachers a more precise understanding of each student’s strengths and challenges, and of how to address them.

Which leads me to the topic of Common Core eighth grade math. Adhering to OUSD’s new math pacing recommendations, Montera’s rising eighth graders will have the option to go into either a Common Core Math 8 class or a more advanced Algebra/Common Core Math 8 class. While we will provide guidance, the final placement decision will be up to each family. We’ll send out details shortly, along with OUSD documents that detail the pacing options from middle through high school.

Finally, on behalf of our teachers, staff and administrators, I want to thank you for your ongoing support of our students and school. You make us Toro Proud!

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to me in person, by email (tina.tranzor@ousd.k12.ca.us) or phone (510.531.6070).

Warmly,
Dr. Tina Tranzor, Principal
Crab Feed & Raffle

SATURDAY
February 15, 2014
5:00 to 8:00 PM

THE CRAB SHACK
a.k.a. Montera’s Multi-Use Room
Montera Middle School
5555 Ascot Drive, Oakland
Donation: $35.00
Raffle Tickets sold at the Door
$2.00 per ticket or 3 for $5.00

A fundraiser for the 8th Grade
Class Trip to Washington DC/NYC in May 2014.
For more information and Ticket Sales: Jackie Atkins: 510-410-8329 or montera8thgrade@yahoo.com

General PTO Meeting
February 6 at 7PM (Library)

The Montera PTO would like to invite all Montera parents to come out Thursday, February 6th, 2014 at 7pm to hear about the Restorative Justice program of conflict resolution with Yari Sandel and learn more about the upcoming Challenge Day activities.

We will also elect a Nominating Committee composed of five PTO members (with up to five alternates) whose purpose is to gather candidates for next year's PTO Board positions. This Nominating Committee plays a vital role in the continuing health of Montera as these officers use their networking skills to round up a healthy slate of candidates for PTO leadership positions! This will be a very informative meeting so please join in.

Free pizza will be served.

Those interested in serving on the committee can email the PTO Board at parliamentarian@monterapto.com.

Montera Library News

Thanks to Ms. Hebert and a core group of expert volunteers, the Montera Library has been open at lunchtime for students every Tuesday and Thursday since October 29! All students are encouraged to visit us to check out books or have some quiet reading or homework time.

Using library funds from the PTO and class gifts, we’ve been working with A Great Good Place for Books to add new and current fiction into the collection, based on wish lists our students have created. Come see what’s new and let us know what books you want to see in the future!

Parents or grandparents interested in volunteering in the library can contact Maggie Rogers (magorama@att.net) or Anna Bizzack (abizzack@yahoo.com) for more details.
Extracurricular Clubs

Montera provides a range of clubs, activities and sports, before school, during lunch periods and after school. If your child is looking for something fun to do outside of class, take a look at the programs offered throughout the campus.

The calendar of classes can be found on the Montera website – http://www.monteramiddleschool.net/ – under the Resources / Extracurricular Activities section.

New classes starting this semester:

**Video Game Design** -- This semester, we are offering another session of the wildly popular Video Game Design class on Wednesdays from 1:30-3:00. The cost of the 8-week class is $190. Limited financial scholarships will be available. Registration information is available here: http://www.visiontechcamps.com/montera

**Graphic Novel & Comic Book Drawing** -- Another popular choice from the recent student survey, this class is taught by Nusku Arts and will be offered on Fridays from 3:30-4:30. The cost for this 10-week class is $162 and limited financial scholarships are available. The registration link can be found here: http://nuskuarts.org/programs/comic-book/

Coming soon:

**Beginning Spanish** -- We are planning to offer a Spanish language class this semester, if there is enough interest. This class will be designed for beginners with heavy emphasis on conversation. Please stay tuned for more information.

We also plan to offer a **Science & Technology-related, project-based class** by InventionX.org. To do this, we need to get a minimum of 15 students registered. If your child is interested, please contact academicenhance@monterapto.com

Eagle Village Montera After School Program

Eagle Village is a new partner with Montera Middle School, offering a wide range of high quality after school programming to students 5 days a week until 6pm! AC Transit buses are available at 5:15pm.

Programs include: **Hip Hop Dance Club, Architecture and Design Club, Techbridge, Restorative Justice and Homework Center** staffed by Montera teachers. Space is available in these programs, and the minimum attendance requirements (3 days/week) have been relaxed.

Please see Brenda Velasquez (brendaruelasvelasquez@gmail.com) the Site Coordinator, or call 510-482-7172 or 510-239-6965 if you are interested in enrolling your student. Applications are available in the school office and downloadable at www.monteramiddleschool.net/resources/forms/.
eBulletin Editor(s) Needed for Fall 2014!

Can you step up and volunteer to be an editor next year for Montera’s electronic newsletter, the eBulletin? This job is a great way to contribute to Montera; it is a really manageable number of hours a month, done from a computer at a time that works for you.

The current eBulletin team has 3 editors who rotate the task. We are all mom’s of 8th graders, so we are moving on. Help keep information about school activities and upcoming opportunities flowing to the parent community.

For more information, please email ebulletin@monterapto.com or call Cindy Hunt 282-9334 (cell).

Attention 8th Grade Parents!

Save these dates and please consider donating your time and money to make our kid’s last days at Montera special!

8th Grade Picnic: Roberts Park, Friday, May 30th, 10:30AM-2PM Co-Chairs: Wendy Harcarik pennyharc@gmail.com, Sarah Coulthurst sarahcoulthurst@comcast.net

8th Grade Dinner/Dance Montera MUR, Saturday June 7th, 7:00PM Co-Chairs: Laura Post Laurahpost@earthlink.net, Anne Hassett anne.hassett@gmail.com

8th Grade Promotion: Mormon Temple Auditorium, Tuesday, June 10th, 2:30PM Chair: Ayata Colbert ayata2004@yahoo.com

8th Grade Trip: to Six Flags or Great America: Tentative Date: April 25th, All Day Chair: Trina Moore justalittlemoore@gmail.com

Fundraising: Chair: Arthurnelle Wade wade.arthurnelle@gene.com

We estimate the cost of these events to be approximately $8,000 and are asking families to contribute $40 to help cover these costs. Please make checks payable to: Montera PTO and write 8th grade on the memo line. You can also donate via Pay Pal on the website under “Get Involved”: Click on 8th grade activities.

If you would like to help with any of these activities or with fundraising, contact the co-chair(s) listed above. Thanks for your support!

Sign Up for the eBulletin

Would you like Montera’s newsletter emailed to you weekly? Sign up on the Montera website monteramiddleschool.net home page (right side, almost at the bottom). Or if you prefer, send an email request directly to ebulletin@monterapto.com and give us your email address.
CHALLENGE DAY IS COMING TO MONTERA’S 7th GRADERS
IN FEBRUARY AND MARCH!!
We need LOTS of parent volunteers to make it happen!

Challenge Day's vision is that every child lives in a world where they feel safe, loved, and celebrated.

Montera’s 7th grade parents, students, and staff have been invited to attend the award-winning Challenge Day Program. This program is made possible through funding from OUSD and only a few select schools will participate.

Montera’s 7th grade Challenge Days: Feb 18th, 20th, and March 4th

A Challenge Day is a powerful, high-energy day of experiential activities in which participants explore challenging community issues such as violence, teasing, social oppression, racism, harassment, conflict management, suicide, peer pressure, alcohol and drugs. The goals of the program are to increase personal power and self-esteem, to shift dangerous peer pressure to positive peer support and to eliminate the acceptability of teasing, violence and all forms of oppression. Challenge Day programs unite the members of the school community. During the program, youth are given several opportunities to speak out about what’s really going on for them, and what they need from one another. At the conclusion of the program, the majority of youth leave feeling bonded, empowered and committed to making a positive difference.

Since 1987, the Challenge Day programs have touched the lives of hundreds of thousands of teens and adults nationwide. The Challenge Day Program has received numerous awards from the juvenile justice system, government officials and many school districts and cities throughout the nation. The program was also featured in the book Chicken Soup for the Teenage Soul and the Emmy Award-winning documentary Teen Files: Surviving High School.

We need parent volunteers!

7th Grade Parent/Guardian Volunteers Needed! We need approximately 25 parent volunteers to participate along with our students throughout each Challenge Day. All together, that means we need 75 total 7th grade parent volunteers. That’s a lot of parents! Please consider volunteering for this empowering opportunity.

Parent volunteers will need to be available for one full day from 8:30am to 3:45pm on one of the Challenge Day dates, Feb 18th, 20th, or March 4th.

To sign-up as a parent volunteer, contact Laura Post, PTO Volunteer Coordinator at volunteercoord@monterapto.com.

For additional information or questions about Challenge Day at Montera, contact the Montera Challenge Day Coordinator, Yari Sandel (our Peer Restorative Justice Program Coordinator) at yari.ojedasandel@ousd.k12.ca.us
Enjoy a Day of Good Food, Friends, and A's Baseball

at the

Oakland Coliseum

Hello baseball fans! Planning on going to an A’s game this year? You will soon have the chance to purchase tickets at a discounted price. Even better, Montera receives 50% of the ticket price from the A’s for each purchase! Game date details, including the online order form, are coming soon - watch the website. Save the Montera game dates:

- Saturday, April 5 - 1:05 game vs. Seattle Mariners – *Fleece Blanket Giveaway*
- Saturday, April 19 – 1:05 game vs. Houston Astros – *Josh Donaldson Bobblehead Giveaway*
- Sunday, May 11 – 1:05 game vs. Washington Nationals – *Breast Cancer Awareness Day*
- Monday, May 26 – 1:05 game vs. Detroit Tigers – *Memorial Day*
- Thursday, June 19 – 7:05 game vs. Boston Red Sox
- Sunday, August 3 – 1:05 game vs. Kansas City Royals – *Postgame Kids Run the Bases!*

![Oakland Athletics Logo](image)