

# Montera Monitor



Montera Middle School 5555 Ascot Drive 510-531-6070  
January 2013

## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Montera Community,

We have come to the end of our first semester at Montera. We are happy and excited to see our students thriving and growing on our campus. We are maintaining our academic excellence and seeing great strides in student success.

Our 6<sup>th</sup> graders are moving into their own understanding of middle school life, and have adjusted and transitioned well. They are studying India in History, and doing a book study with *The Watson's Go to Birmingham* in English Language Arts. We have just taken the District-wide Math Benchmark exams and the 6<sup>th</sup> graders are now working on a Weather unit in Science. All 6<sup>th</sup> graders have been tested using the on-line testing program called SRI to determine their Lexile score level. Our goal is for all students to have a Lexile Score of 1100 or greater! Please keep an eye out for more information from your child's English Language Arts teacher.

Our 7<sup>th</sup> graders are enjoying their new maturity and are moving along nicely as they continue to develop positive skills in social and academic interactions. They have just completed District Math Benchmark exams and are studying cell division as it relates to reproduction in Science. Our students are working on Expository writing using strong evidence in English Language Arts and they are studying Ancient China in History. All 7<sup>th</sup> graders have been tested using the on-line testing program called SRI to determine their Lexile score level. Our goal is for all students to have a Lexile Score of 1100 or greater! Please keep an eye out for more information from your child's English Language Arts teacher.

Our 8<sup>th</sup> graders have enjoyed the benefits of being 8<sup>th</sup> graders by having an 8<sup>th</sup> grade "kick-back" and they are planning an 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Valentine's Dance. They are studying Narrative Writing in English Language Arts, and Chemical Reactions in Science. Our 8<sup>th</sup> graders have just participated in the History District-wide Benchmark Assessment on the topic of "Cherokee Removal" and "the Trail of Tears." They are beginning their study of the Westward Expansion. Our students have also just taken the Math Common Core Benchmark assessment that was District-wide. All 8<sup>th</sup> graders have been tested using the on-line testing program called SRI to determine their Lexile score level. Our goal is for all students to have a Lexile Score of 1100 or greater! Please keep an eye out for more information from your child's English Language Arts teacher.

We have exciting new afterschool programs beginning and wonderful concerts planned through our Music department. Please come out and support our Toros!

We thank you for your continued support as we work for the success of Montera Middle School students! Please do not hesitate to reach out to the Administrative team for any needs, concerns or kudos!

In Partnership for Our Children,

Dr. Tranzor

## DATES TO REMEMBER

February 5th  
PTO Meeting, 7PM  
Library

February 9<sup>th</sup>  
3rd Annual Crab Feed

February 13  
SSC Meeting, Library

February 14th  
Montera "Pops" Concert  
7 - 8PM MUR

February 18<sup>th</sup>, No  
School, President's Day

February 23<sup>rd</sup>  
Montera Workday, 10  
AM to 2PM

February 28th  
Beginning Band and  
Strings Concert  
7 - 8PM, MUR

March 5<sup>th</sup>  
PTO Meeting  
7PM Library

March 8 - End of the  
Marking Period,  
Minimum Day

March 14<sup>th</sup>, Washington  
DC Trip Meeting

March 13<sup>th</sup> 2PM Talent  
Show Tryouts

March 15<sup>th</sup>  
School Dance

March 21 and 22 -  
Parent Teacher  
Conferences, 1:30 PM  
Dismissal

March 21<sup>st</sup>, 6:30PM  
Talent Show

March 25<sup>th</sup> - 29<sup>th</sup> Spring  
Break, No School

**Dear Parents! We have truly had an amazing few months at Montera with our PTO community accomplishing so many great things together:**

- Collaborating with the community on the Principal Selection Process
- School Budget Planning with Dr. Tranzor (this is a FIRST!)
- Track and field improvement
- Re-planting of the Memorial Garden
- Re-opening of the library for all lunch periods on Thursdays
- Sports programs, e.g., soccer, basketball, volleyball, running club
- Fieldtrip to Chabot Space & Science Center scheduled for all 8th graders in April

In addition, we're pleased to announce the arrival of two new and exciting after school arts programs -- Drama and Hip Hop Dance -- which are set to start in mid-February. Two scholarships will be awarded to students in the Dance program in honor of Ms. Baker's daughter, Jessica Kingeter, a young woman who loved to dance. Students interested in applying for the scholarships need to write a three-paragraph essay on why they love to dance, too! Essays must be turned into the PTO President box in the office **BEFORE FEB. 7th**.

Providing every student the opportunity to participate in extracurricular activities is something the PTO community strongly supports. If you'd like to help contribute to the effort, please click on the "donate now" button at <http://monteramiddleschool.net>

Finally, Montera needs "can do" parent leaders who can represent our diverse community by either stepping up to be, or to help recruit, PTO Board members or Committee Chairs in 2013-14. Come and find out on February 7<sup>th</sup> at 7pm in the library what you need to know about being an Officer, Committee Chair on the PTO Board as well as some of the highlights of this year's Board, e.g., Library Re-opening, Auction, FallFest, etc. Elections will be held at the April PTO meeting.

Our community is a passionate, enthusiastic group motivated to ensure all of our children have great experiences in Oakland's public schools -- and that's something we can all feel good about!

Looking forward to seeing you at the next PTO meeting,  
Debe Rapson & John Wade,, Montera PTO Co-Presidents

### **Baked Goodies Needed for 8th Grade Cake Walk on February 5th**

Due to popular demand, the 8th grade Cake Walk is back -- and **we need you to help make it a success!** The Cake Walk is set to trot on Wednesday, February 5 and is for 8th graders who displayed positive behavior and citizenship during the 3rd marking period.

**All donations of cakes, cupcakes, cookies, or bars will be hugely appreciated!**

Items may be brought to Ms. Berger's room, Portable 15, before school on February 5. Thank you!

### **Grab A Spot at Montera's Crab Feed and Raffle, on February 9th**

Get crackin' and grab a ticket to Montera's Crab Feed & Raffle on Saturday, February 9, from 5 - 8PM. All proceeds support our 4th annual 8th grade field trip to Washington, D.C.

Suggested donation of \$40/person pays for delicious crab, spaghetti, salad, desserts and drinks. You'll also be wowed by the great sounds of a fabulous local band -- the 100% great "Not Half Bad Band", which boasts a band leader and some musicians who also happen to moonlight as Montera parents!

Tickets available at the Crab Shack door (a k a, the MUR) or by emailing [montera8thgrade@yahoo.com](mailto:montera8thgrade@yahoo.com).

### **REGISTER THIS WEEK for Drama and Hip Hop Dance After School Classes (3:30 pm-4:45 pm) starting in February - MUR**

Drama: "A Midsummer Night's Dream" 12-week theater class shall be taught by Cal Shakes starting Tuesday February 12

Dance: A Hip Hop 10-week dance class shall be taught by East Bay Dance Center starting Thursday February 14.

**Registration Deadline: February 10.** Further information is available at the Montera school office and on the Montera website at: <http://monteramiddleschool.net/2013/01/25/register-now-for-new-after-school-drama-hip-hop-classes/>

### **Montera Volunteer Workday – Saturday, February 23, 10 AM until 2 PM**

Help improve the school by tending to the overlooked and overgrown landscaping around the school grounds. The district takes care of basic maintenance but there is a lot of the school that needs more attention.

No skills needed, just parents and students willing to help

If you have any questions or want to RSVP please contact Ron Johnson [vpfacilities@monterapto.com](mailto:vpfacilities@monterapto.com)

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RAISE A GLASS FOR  
**MONTERA**  
MIDDLE SCHOOL

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**AT FARMSTEAD**

**CHEESES & WINES**

MONTCLAIR VILLAGE • ALAMEDA

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BENEFIT WINE TASTINGS

**ALL FEBRUARY**

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MONTCLAIR EVENTS

**FRIDAYS 5-7:30 & SATURDAYS 2-5**

ALAMEDA EVENTS

**THURSDAYS 5-7:30 & SATURDAYS 2-5**

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**SPECIAL TASTING!**

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 5-7:30, IN MONTCLAIR WITH  
BERTRAND AMBROISE, FAMED MAKER OF BURGUNDY WINES

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*Raise a Glass for Montera with Dr.  
Tranzor, THIS Friday, February 1*

Want a chance to have a glass of wine with Dr. Tranzor and chat about what's happening at school? Then run, do not walk, to Farmstead Cheeses & Wines this Friday, from 5-7:30 pm. Farmstead, an incredibly generous Montera neighbor, is hosting a series of wine tastings in its Montclair Village (6218 La Salle) and Alameda shops throughout the month of February -- all of which will benefit Montera.

The first tasting in Montclair this Friday, February 1, features famed Burgundy wine maker, Bertrand Ambroise, who will be pouring select samples of his work. Everyone is invited to come, have fun and raise glasses (and dollars) for our school. *Suggested donation is \$25 per couple or \$15 per individual, with all proceeds benefiting Montera, Farmstead's February's School of the Month! (Pay whatever you wish, but let's try to raise as much \$ as possible for Montera).*

Sip at either of these Farmstead Cheeses & Wines shops in February:

**Montclair Village** (6218 La Salle, Oakland 94611)  
Fridays, 5 - 7:30 PM  
Saturdays, 2 - 5PM

**Alameda**  
Thursdays, 5 - 7:30 PM  
Saturdays, 2 - 5PM

**VOLUNTEER!** Here are some great upcoming opportunities to do something for your child and your chance to "Do at least one thing for Montera" this spring!

**Co-chair the Spaghetti Dinner on April 5th** with Leslie Louie and Lisa Nash: Help plan and execute the spaghetti dinner! Leslie (dinner) and Lisa (raffle) will show you the ropes and provide you with all the things needed to make this dinner a rousing success again. We will also need lots of other help for this event, so keep an eye out for the Sign Up Genius coming up soon.

**Chaperone the 8th grade Chabot Space and Science Center Field trips** on April 17th and 24th. We need **40** chaperones for this event! Yes, **40!**

**Organize and plan a Montera family tailgate party** with other Montera A's fans at the A's game at **1:05 on Saturday, April 27**. This is a fundraiser and a great community-building event. We need folks who are willing to set up a tailgate party and organize food and drinks for families before the game.

**Co-Chair the Fall Auction**, Montera's main fundraising event. Casino Night has been a big hit the last few years under the leadership of Terri Van Hare. Terri is moving on and we need a couple of parents to take on the general organizing of this fun and profitable event. Again, you'll have lots of helpers along the way.

**Co-Chair 8th grade activities for next year's 8th grade class.** We need two current 7th grade parents to co-chair next year's 8th grade activities, the two biggest being the 8th grade graduation and dance. Get one of the best seats in the house at graduation by being one of the planners for this important event.

**Co-Chair our school carnival** (Formerly Fall Fest), which will be moving to the spring in 2013-14 under a new name. We need a couple of people willing to co-chair the **Spring Fling** for next year. It's never too early to start planning!

Interested in any of these great ways to help our school? Please contact Laura Post, Montera's Volunteer Coordinator, at [volunteercoord@monterapto.com](mailto:volunteercoord@monterapto.com)

**A NO-COST way to donate to Montera! BOX TOPS...  
We get 10 cents for every boxtop that you turn in.**

It's EASY, too. Here's what you need to do:

1. Look for the BoxTops symbol on groceries or office supplies you have already purchased.
2. Clip the BoxTop symbols.
3. Put them in a bag or envelope.
4. Send the BoxTops to the Montera school office.

Here are some of the participating brands. It's not just cereal anymore! Pillsbury, General Mills, Yoplait, Ziploc, Kleenex, Nature Valley, Tostino, Hefty, Scott, Cottonelle, Betty Crocker, Welch's, Green Giant, Avery (school/office supplies), Bisquick, Land O Lakes, Old El Paso and Progresso.

**Look for the bright orange boxes in the front office and drop in whatever you have. Let's see how much FREE money we can earn for Montera!**

Questions? Email Karen Katz at [KareKatz@aol.com](mailto:KareKatz@aol.com)

**Join Us for the Next PTO Meeting, February 5**

Learn everything you need to know about how to support your student and become a parent leader for the 2013 – 2014 year at our next PTO meeting on Tuesday, February 5, from 7 – 8:30PM, in the library.

We need "Can Do" parent leaders who can represent our diverse community by either stepping up to be, or to help recruit, PTO Board members or Committee Chairs for the upcoming school year. Please come and find out what's involved in making a difference. We'll hear some highlights from this year's Board to get ideas for next year, e.g., Library Re-opening, Auction, Fall Fest, Additional After School Offerings, Field Trips and more. PTO elections will be held at the April PTO meeting.

(Chris Chatmon, Executive Director of OUSD's African American Male Achievement program, will be our guest speaker at our March 5 PTO meeting. Stay tuned for details.)

**Support Montera While You Shop**

If you like shopping, almost everything you buy this year can benefit Montera.

If you shop at Amazon, Montera will get a portion of everything you spend.

Sign up for Escript! Not only can you link your Safeway card so that Montera gets money when you shop for groceries you can also register your credit cards so Montera gets even more. And to be sure you are sending Montera every penny you can install the Escript auto earn plugin and you will be notified when you visit websites that will make contributions to Montera. It's easy and free!

For more information on how to help Montera while you shop go to [monteramiddleschool.net/fundraising/shop-donate/](http://monteramiddleschool.net/fundraising/shop-donate/)

And don't keep these links to yourself. Share them with friends and family so everyone can get in on the action! So while you are buying gifts this year give a gift to our kids!

**Montera SHOUT! Band Performing at OUSD Jazz Festival, February 7**

Let's give a BIG shout out to Montera's very own SHOUT! Band, which is set to thrill the crowd at the OUSD Jazz Festival at Oakland Tech on Thursday, February 7 @ 6:30 PM — quite an honor for a group that just formed a few months ago. Come to cheer them on. Way to go, Shouters!

**Calling all 8th Grade Parents and Guardians!**

Planning for the promotion ceremony, the picnic, and the dance start Wednesday, February 13 at 7PM in the Montera Library. Bring your ideas and enthusiasm to make this a year to remember for our 8th graders!

Questions? Gail Widener at [gwidener@mac.com](mailto:gwidener@mac.com) or Tracey Packer at [packerdawley@att.net](mailto:packerdawley@att.net). See you then!

MONTERA  
MIDDLE  
SCHOOL  
**POPS  
CONCERT**

THURSDAY, FEB 14  
7 PM

MONTERA MULTI-USE ROOM  
5555 ASCOT DRIVE, OAKLAND

*Featuring*  
Advanced Band  
Orchestra  
HOUSE Quintet  
Choir  
Shout Band

Ms. Allison Davis, Conducting

\$3.00 / adults  
\$2.00 / seniors  
Free / children under 11  
(No one will be turned away!)

All proceeds support  
Montera's music program