

# Montera Monitor



Montera Middle School 5555 Ascot Drive 510-531-6070  
June 11, 2015

## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Montera Students & Families,

*"Things that matter most should never be at the mercy of things that matter least." - Goethe*

Many of us are busy both personally and professionally, and I thought a reflection on the never-ending dimension of time would be relevant. As we go about our lives there just doesn't seem to be enough time to accomplish all that we desire. Time has always lapsed and continues to lapse for each of us from minute to minute, class period to class period, sunrise to sunset, throughout our lifetime. Do you ever feel stretched for time? I do! Do you leave loose ends at the end of the day? Wonder how you are going to get it all done?

After 15 years working in public education, I have come to the realization that time constraints will always be present and that I will never get it all done. I know that we all strive to be the best people that we can be, but in order to be our best it is important to take care of ourselves. So what can we do to manage all of our life activities, both professionally and personally? In his book *"Don't Sweat the Small Stuff—And It's All Small Stuff"* Richard Carlson states that we should "learn to live in the Present Moment."

I once attend a seminar and the presenter preformed a demonstration called "Put the Big Rocks First." The presenter pulled out a wide mouth gallon jar and placed it next to a pile of fist sized rocks. After filling the jar to the top with rocks, he asked, "Is the jar full?" The group replied, "Yes." He then got some gravel from under the table and added it to the jar. The speaker jiggled the jar until the gravel filled the spaces between the rocks. Again, he asked, "Is the jar full?" "Yes!" we shouted. Finally, the speaker filled the jar to the brim with water and asked the group the point of this illustration. Someone replied that you could always fit more things into your life if you really worked at it. "No," countered the speaker. "The point is, if you didn't put the big rocks in first, would you have ever gotten them in?"

What are my big rocks this summer? I will be completing the application process for Montera to become an International Baccalaureate® school. The International Baccalaureate program is an internationally recognized comprehensive curriculum that meets international standards. Students will develop the knowledge and skills needed to meet the challenges of living and working in an increasingly interdependent and globalized society.

That is my big rock. What are the big rocks of your summer? What ever they may be, put them first. Can't wait to see everyone next school year.

Thank you,  
Darren L Avent, Principal

## DATES TO REMEMBER

**Aug 17, 1pm – 6 pm:**  
Mandatory Registration,  
New Students

**Aug 18, 9 am – 2 pm:**  
Mandatory Registration,  
Returning Students

**Aug 19, 1 pm – 6 pm:**  
Mandatory Registration,  
Returning Students

**Aug. 17-19:** Registration

**Aug 24:** First Day of School

**Every Wednesday is a  
Minimum Day.**



## Message From the Montera PTO President

It's June, do you know where the school year went? In the blink of an eye, we are looking back on 2014-2015 at Montera. It's been quite a year for the Montera community. We've seen incredible community support for our great teachers. We've watched Principal Avent establish himself as an effective leader with a vision of where he wants to take the school. Our students, the reason we are all committed to this community, have thrived under sometimes challenging circumstances.

The Montera PTO has had a transitional year. Setting out with a largely new team, the Board experienced some attrition, leaving us without team members in some important roles. Nonetheless, the PTO raised funds and organized volunteers to support the community. Highlights include:

- Funding numerous teacher "mini grants," including support for our new greenhouses
- Providing scholarships and other funding support for the 8th grade DC/NYC trip
- Buying oogy things like animal eyeballs for 7th grade life sciences
- Helping with 8th grade graduation
- Holding Warriors and Raiders luxury-suite ticket raffles, generously supported by our current and former City Council reps, Annie Campbell Washington and Libby Schaaf
- Organizing a great Halloween Fall Festival.

Next year, we have some ambitious goals, including funding additional Chromebook computers. Our vision is to provide a Chromebook for every student in every classroom. We will be working closely with Eagle Village and Principal Avent to raise the bar on after-school programs. We have a strong team, but there remain a few important positions to fill. **Most critically, we need to find a PTO Treasurer and a Volunteer Coordinator.** If you might be interested in getting involved, or know someone whom we might recruit, please contact me:

[presidentspencer@monterapto.com](mailto:presidentspencer@monterapto.com).

### 2015-2016 Registration!

**Aug 17-19: Mandatory Registration Required For ALL Montera students**

**Monday, August 17th: 1PM-6PM (New Students)**

**Tuesday, August 18th: 9AM-2PM (Returning Students)**

**Wednesday, August 19th: 1PM-6PM (Returning Students)**

All students, both new and returning, must register EACH YEAR at their school site. For new students, please be sure to bring a copy of complete immunization records. Any 7th graders missing proof of their Tdap booster shot must provide this record or risk being excluded from attending school by State law.

Back to School



### THANK YOU to our volunteers!

Montera could not function without all of our wonderful volunteers. Thank you to all of the amazing dedicated volunteers who have pitched in to: help at school functions, coordinate events, participate in Challenge Day, coach a team, volunteer in the classroom, clean up the campus, show up to PTO meetings, bake/cook or donate towards teacher/staff breakfast and luncheons, work in the library, sell Toro gear, send out emails and eBulletins, support a teacher, speak at career day, serve on the PTO Board, staple/stuff envelopes, coordinate trips, etc.! You are all much appreciated. Thanks again to all of you to make great things happen at Montera. Have a great summer!

# Montera Sports News

## Boys Baseball

The Montera Toros baseball team, the defending champions of the East Bay Middle School Baseball League, just wrapped up another successful season. The Toros won the first nine games of the season, extending its winning streak to 19 games dating back to last season. With a regular season record of 9-1, the Toros earned the top seed in the playoffs and a first round bye. For the third straight year, the Toros played in the championship game, though the team came up just short, losing 5-4 to Head Royce. In twelve total games, the Toros outscored opponents 101-38, establishing the squad as a perennial favorite.

The East Bay Middle School Baseball League is comprised of teams from Oakland (Montera, Head Royce, and Claremont) and Berkeley (MLK, Longfellow, and Willard). Montera joined the league in 2011 behind parent volunteers Steve Miller and Cyril Suszckiewicz. Parent volunteer Hutch Quintella has taken over the role of head coach. He is helped by parents Steve Miller and Steve Paltiel and Montera teacher Tom Holmes.

With 22 players on the team, the baseball program is stronger than ever. A strong core of eleven eighth graders led the team both on and off the field. Their contributions during their time at Montera will serve them well in high school, and set a great example for the younger players. A talented group of sixth and seventh graders will return next year to take their place and reclaim the league title.

A special thank you goes out to all of the players, parents, coaches, and volunteers whose time and energy continue to make the Montera Toros baseball program one of the top middle school programs in the Bay Area.

Montera Toros 2015 team members: Aidan Barroso, Myles Davis, Henry Quintella, Ben Rapson, Nick Zelinka, Jordan Cobbs, Nicole Hammoude, Clay Henderson, Cal Gibbon, Takumi Crombie, Alex Arriola, Dylan Hughes, Matthew Justice, Dylan Moore, Thomas Richardson, Ben Isola, Jalen Jones, Cameron Bonzell, Aidan Young, Tyler Hunter, Mikey Paltiel, Julian Riga

Go Toros!

## Montera Soccer

Montera Soccer Boys and Girls teams have made it to the Oakland Middle School Soccer Play-offs. All teams have done tremendously well!

**Montera Girls Soccer team Black wins the Oakland Middle School Soccer Championship** with a decisive 8-0 win against CCPA gold team. The team is undefeated in 13 games including the Championship. The Montera Girls also received recognition as the best offensive and best defensive Oakland middle school soccer team. Way to go Team!

**Montera Boys Soccer team Black**, takes 3<sup>rd</sup> place for the season.

**Montera Girls Soccer team Yellow**, made it to the semi finals.

**Montera Boys Soccer team Yellow**, made it to the semi finals.

As we get to the end of the season and the school year, the 8<sup>th</sup> grade players are being promoted to high School as well as the parent coaches. **We are losing most of the Montera Soccer coaches and need your help to continue next year. Please contact Coach Allen Todd at [monterasoccer@gmail.com](mailto:monterasoccer@gmail.com) if you are willing to step up and help with the Soccer program next year.** It cannot continue without parent support. I will be moving on but am willing to help get other parents started as a means of continuing the program that has done so well at Montera.

This year, we had over 100 Girls and Boys try out for the teams. We have 2 boys and 2 girls teams made up of some fine young athletes. Here are the 2015 Montera Soccer players.

**Girls Team Black:** Isabella Caliri, Ruby Dobbs, Gabby Evans, Ailani Price-Gallegos, Campbell Hunter, Mia Loo, Aden Lounds, Ava Marrama, Itxcia Martinez, Paloma Perez, Keziah Price, Allison Rogers, Elizabeth Todd, Isabel Turner.

**Girls Team Yellow:** Isabella Bardales, Sophia Bertoldo, Olivia Boitano, Bella Boitano, Marley Byles, Kate Gross, Lauren Halbrook, Camille Henderson, Sydney Knight, Morgan McNulty, Grace Murphy, Flynn Parkins, Lucy Quintella, Adriana Sanchez, Leah Schlageter, Nisaa Yeargin.

**Boys Team Black:** Jordan Cobbs, Adam Crampton, Jair Estrada, Corey Flournoy-Alexander, Cal Gibbon, Elijah Harrison, Gabe Katz-Savell, Carson Lang, Lucas McNulty, Alex Mintz, Jorge Morales, Henry Quintella, Edward Reyes, Duncan Sinclair, Lucas Soto, Nelson Torres, Jaiden Zak, Frank Cortes, Carlos Flores, Nick Zelinka.

**Boys Team Yellow:** Kidus Abiy, Tali Bojdak-Yates, Rudy Cordova, Lucas Eichelberger, Cornell Flournoy-Alexander, Chris Frinc, Jackson Hake, Tyler Hunter, Hans Johnson, Austin Lai, Kelvin Martin, Garbriel Plascencia, Sid Polston, Julian Riga, Mike Ross, Will Ross, Toby Weir.

**Montera Class of 2016**  
Washington, D.C. & New York City Tour



**Tour Leader: Jackie Felix-Atkins** [lafamiliadeatkins@yahoo.com](mailto:lafamiliadeatkins@yahoo.com)

**To sign up for the tour or for more information:**

- Call 1-888-333-9756 and mention tour code 1625192YP
- Online at [http://www.efexploreamerica.com/tour-website/1625192YP?utm\\_source=link&utm\\_medium=RC&utm\\_campaign=sharetrip](http://www.efexploreamerica.com/tour-website/1625192YP?utm_source=link&utm_medium=RC&utm_campaign=sharetrip)



**Montera Wellness News!**

Thank you to the Montera Wellness Council for all your hard work this year. Together with the !?WHAT?! Wellness Health Action Team of students, we have worked together with the Montera community on the following projects this year:

HEALTH SURVEY - given to students, staff, and families to focus on Montera's health and wellness - food, recycling, atmosphere - and target ways to improve our school!

MIDDLE SCHOOL CONFERENCE - our !?WHAT?! Team attended the 18th annual Oakland Unified School District Middle School Conference. This year's theme was ETHICS.

GREEN WEEK/ZERO WASTE WEEK - All students were encouraged to separate trash, pick up trash, and be conscious of making our school, our community, and the world a better place. GO MONTERA!

TRANSFORMONTERA DAY - HandsOn Bay Area and Google sent 50 volunteers to help us beautiful our school. 100 students helped throughout the day, in the Garden of Compassion, the Peace Garden, the MUR Quad, and around the Meditation Circle. In addition, we liberated the Snack Shack, which has been boarded up and stuffed with things for several years. Healthy fundraisers and conscious recycling, here we come!