Dear Montera Community,

We are excited to be moving successfully through our 2012-2013 school year. We have reached the end of our second marking period and are thrilled with our progress!

Our 6th graders are happily enjoying the growth that comes with being in middle school. They have settled into the year and have enjoyed their first school dance. They are thriving during their separate lunch period and have developed lunchtime intramural football games. Academically, our 6th graders are making gains in their learning as they are moving through proportional reasoning in math, and they have completed the district wide writing prompt regarding the issue of “graffiti is it vandalism or art?”

Our 7th graders have been thriving in all areas. They too have enjoyed their first dance of the year. They have played volleyball and basketball with many wins! Our 7th graders tend to enjoy their lunchtime socializing in the courtyard area and walking back and forth in the breezeway for social entertainment. Academically, our 7th graders have just completed the district wide writing prompt regarding the issue of “graffiti is it vandalism or art?” They are also studying bacteria and viruses, West African civilization, unit rates and proportions, and using informational text. Some of our 7th graders will be making a shift in their teachers as Dr. Bledsoe is retiring as of December 21, 2012. We are excited to announce that Mr. Lau, a long-term substitute teacher for Montera, has been hired to replace Dr. Bledsoe. I have arranged for Mr. Lau to co-teach with Dr. Bledsoe for the next three weeks as the transition is being made. Mr. Lau will fully engage the students as their permanent teacher on January 7, 2012! Please join me in welcoming Mr. Lau to our Montera family.

Our 8th graders have enjoyed their first cake walk with delicious treats as a reward for great behavior. They too are enjoying their separate lunchtime and tend to all migrate to the “blue table” area after quickly eating in the MUR. They are looking forward to getting the basketball hoops in place to enhance their lunchtime play. Academically, our 8th graders are also participating in the district wide writing prompt regarding the issue of “graffiti is it vandalism or art?” Also, they are studying linear relationships and in science they just floated through their buoyancy lesson projects!

Our Administrative Team is working to keep all of our community members connected! We are collaborating with parents to look for creative ways to serve the diverse needs of our children with some fantastic success. We have made a great shift in our Advisory period to Advisory Clubs. Each teacher is leading a club that is based on the teacher’s personal interest. We look forward to input regarding lunchtime activities for our students. We are looking forward to having the library open at lunchtime. We are excited to partner with our PTO to bring new afterschool programs to Montera that include music, hip-hop dance and drama. We will enjoy a crafts fair sponsored by our teacher-leaders during the month of December.

Thank you for your continued support as we transition with new teachers, new administration, and new students. The environment at the school is upbeat and we are putting processes in place to continue the momentum of this great year. Please don’t hesitate to reach out to me, Mr. Packman or Ms. Charlesworth any time.

In Partnership for our children, Dr. Tranzor
And Now a Word From our PTO Presidents!

Thank you for showing up for your kids to the Fall Fest and Auction...both events were community building and helped with fundraising. Our children are luckier than they know!

The Montera Middle School PTO in partnership with the teachers, administrators and students have had a great Fall 2012! The PTO board has been very engaged with the administration as well as the District office for the betterment of Montera. We have had informative General PTO meetings, from hosting an evening with speakers from our local high schools to launching a survey to seek to better serve you — our parent community!

Your donations fund some outstanding after school programs, including Techbridge, Math Club, sports programs and more. We are looking to add a drama program and to operate the library again in the very near future. You have seen campus safety improve with the addition of a new parent engagement model during lunch, surveillance system, teachers supporting students and the addition of Mrs. Charlesworth, Mr. Packman and our wonderful leader, Principal Tranzor, engaging students on a daily basis.

Next time you’re on campus, be sure to check out the profiles of each teacher, administrator and staff displayed all over the campus. Put together by a team of volunteers, they’re an engaging and informative way for our students and families to get to know the background of our Montera campus family.

We would like to wish everyone a great rest of the 2012 year and in 2013 please join us by participating in PTO activities to assist in making Montera the school we envision for our children!

Warmest regards for a healthy and happy 2013,

Debe Rapson and John Wade
Co-Presidents, Montera PTO

Common Core Math Standards Discussion
Wednesday, December 12th 6 – 7:30PM

OUSD’s Learning Curriculum & Instruction Department is sponsoring a Parent Night to discuss Common Core State Standards in Mathematics. Join in on December 12th from 6 – 7:30pm. This is an important conversation and all are encouraged to attend.

How will teaching change? How about testing? Which courses and grade levels are most impacted? Contact Tasha Russell to R.S.V.P. or ask questions at 510-336-7561 or Joanna.sperber@ousd.k12.ca.us

Meeting Location: OUSD Educational Center, 4551 Steele Street, Oakland at the Tilden campus in the auditorium

OMG! The Montera Crab Feed is Just a Few Months Away! SAVE THE DATE: February 9th

Ready for some good food, great music, and crabs of fun? Well then, edit that little Google calendar of yours and save the date. Join us for the Third annual Crab Feed Fundraiser.

This festive event supports the 8th grade class field trip to Washington DC. Join us on Saturday February 9th 2013 at the Montera MUR Crab Shack from 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM. Donation amount $40.00.

Questions? Jackie Atkins: lafamiliaeatkins@yahoo.com

Holiday Crafts Fair

Handmade creations by local artisans are yours for the admiring and buying...

Saturday, December 15, 10am – 4pm
Sunday, December 16, 11am – 3pm

Location: Multi-Use Room, Montera Middle School

Find the perfect gift on tables piled high with beautiful, one-of-a-kind cards, charming wood shop projects, delightful custom-made tutus, hair decorations, original paintings and SO MUCH more.

Want to sell at the fair? FABULOUS!

We're happy to share space with community members and outside vendors. The fee for a space to sell is $50. You keep the money you make. You must provide your own table (chairs will be provided.)

Please contact Mrs. Marshall at mrs.marshall.woodshop@gmail.com for more information.
Special PTO Meeting: Principal Selection Discussion
Tuesday, Dec. 18th 7 PM

All Montera families are invited to be part of an important conversation regarding the principal selection process on Tuesday, December 18, from 7 – 8:30 pm, in the school library. Hosted by the Montera PTO, this is an opportunity for the entire community to weigh options, consider recommendations, explore the search process and timeline, and understand the views of parents and the needs of Montera. We want everyone’s voice to be heard in the shaping of Montera’s future — yours included! We look forward to seeing you.

Washington DC Trip Meeting, Thursday, December 13th 6:30 PM

The next Washington DC meeting will be Thursday, December 13th in the school Library. All parents whose students are attending the trip are asked to please be present!

Toro Gear: Yes, Indeed, The Perfect Gift!

Looking for that special gift this season? Well look no further. We’ve got your super-cozy, incredibly rugged Toro Gear right here, right now! Check out all the offerings at: http://monteramiddleschool.net/buy-toro-gear/.

We have goodies galore to please every taste and budget, from t-shirts to hoodies. Even lunch paks and pens.

Toro Gear may purchased at the MonTORO store in the MUR on Thursdays during all lunch periods and at Montera’s Winter Concert on December 20. Pay by cash or check (made out to Montera PTO.)

All The News You Can Use!

There are more ways then one to stay up to date on the HAPS at Montera Middle School. But a good place to start is right here:

monteramiddleschool.net

Volunteer Jane Nylund and Toro Gear chair Cheryl Silveira

Minimum Day Dates, At Your Service

Slap these babies on your calendars so that you can keep tabs on your middle schoolers.

We want to make triple-ly sure that everyone is aware of the minimum days scheduled for the remainder of the year, besides Wednesdays.

And, yes, AC Transit has confirmed with the school that buses will be here at 1:35pm.

January 25th - end of the semester
March 8th - end of the marking period
March 21st and 22nd - parent teacher conferences
April 26th - end of the marking period
May 9th - CST testing
June 11, 12, 13th - end of the year
WHAT?! A NO-COST way to donate to Montera? No way!

Oh but it’s true. Say it with me now, **BOXTOPS**! Montera receives 10 cents for every boxtop that you turn in. DO IT, do it, do it. It’s so dang EASY. Here’s what you need to do:

- Look for the BoxTops symbol on groceries or office supplies you’ve already purchased.
- Clip the BoxTop symbols.
- Put them in a bag or envelope.
- Do a little dance
- Send the BoxTops to the Montera school office.

Here’s a quick list of 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. Show us the money! Some of the BoxTops expire at the end of 2012, so be sure to turn yours in soon.

Questions? Email Karen Katz: KareKatz@aol.com

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### Montera Winter Concert

**Thursday, December 20th - 7 PM**

Let’s Celebrate! Join us for some festive tunes at Montera’s Winter Concert. We’ll be featuring our Advanced Band, Orchestra and Choir for your listening pleasure. Thursday, the 20th at 7 PM in the MUR.

Bring your enthusiasm, clapping hands and desire to support our hardworking students and dedicated music teacher, Ms. Davis.

Performers need to arrive at 6:30 PM sharp, dressed in their Montera Music t-shirt, black pants/skirt, black socks and black shoes.

See you there!

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### Teacher/Staff Appreciation Luncheon on December 19th - Help needed!

Student and Parent Volunteers Needed to help with the TEACHER / STAFF APPRECIATION LUNCHEON ON WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 19th.

Parents are needed to donate food items and help setup / cleanup. Students are needed to help decorate and serve food to the staff and teachers during the event. Please email Marci Riley, mgriley@berkeley.edu 510-336-1242 if you or your student would like to help out.

This is a great way to show our thanks to the many people who teach and care for our children every day. Please consider contributing in any way that you can.

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### OUSD Options Enrollment Window Now Open

If you have an incoming sixth grader, or an outgoing 8th grader, or any other child who needs a new school for the 2012-13 school year, you must submit an OUSD Options Form application between December 3, 2012 and January 18, 2013 at 3pm.

Fifth and eighth graders who currently attend OUSD schools will be given personalized applications for selecting their middle and high schools, respectively. This includes Montera’s 8th graders. Completed forms should be returned to their current schools.

For more information, please call the Student Assignment Office at (510) 273-1600. You can also find information online, including Options Forms and Brochures at www.ousd.k12.ca.us/enroll.

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### The Annual Giving Drive Is ...

so, so, SO very close to meeting its goal of $40,000. We are pushing the $35,000 mark from just 120 families!

Any amount you can give is MUCH appreciated. And dang, it’s TAX DEDUCTABLE.

We’re shooting for 100% participation so please remember to give whatever amount you can as soon as possible. The PTO spends $300 per student to run the programs and provide the services that make a difference for our entire school. Donate via Paypal button located on the Montera homepage or if you prefer to donate by check or cash, please send or bring it to the front office.

Make sure that it is clearly marked for the Annual Giving Drive. Please help us enter 2013 strong!