

Meadows Elementary School
A California Distinguished School
www.meadowsschool.org

Principal's Newsletter to Parents

An information Only Publication, Not for Response

September 6, 2010

Dear Parents,

FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL AT MEADOWS

We had a very sparkly opening day at Meadows on Wednesday, with our kids all very happy to be back, beautiful blue skies, a gorgeously groomed campus (thanks to our Pride Day) and the launching of our learning-packed programs. We're welcoming nearly 100 new students this year (80 of them kindergartners) and I've heard from many of the older ones how happy they are to be at Meadows. We're all extremely lucky to be part of the Meadows Family. ♥

PRIDE DAY—THANK YOU, PARENTS AND KIDS!

The spirit of excitement for the new school year began well before the first day of school and was very much in evidence at our Pride Day/Class Postings on Saturday. Combining these two longtime events made this Saturday even more spectacular and fun than usual! Ginny Sogomonian, Beautification Chair, worked for weeks prior to Pride Day to organize the jobs, coordinate with our Maintenance and Operations Department, gather the materials and supplies and arrange for our muralist. Thanks, Ginny! And thanks to PTA for the funding!

It really added to the excitement of the first day of school to see little flowers peeking out here and there, the sparkling, groomed flower beds, the vanished weeds and the unfolding reveal of the Meadows Mustangs mural on the north wall of the kindergarten. The topiary of circus animals on the kindergarten hedge was delineated again by our District grounds crew. In a time of severe budget cuts, it amazes me that this topiary is prioritized each year for our youngest students. (When I was first hired in the MBUSD, the superintendent was taking me on a tour of Meadows and I saw the topiary. I knew right then that I had accepted a job in a very special school district. That was only a portent of things to come.)

FENG SHUI IN THE MEADOWS OFFICE

Staff and parents got into a feng shui frenzy beginning in June, when energy is normally at its lowest ebb. Not among the Meadows Mustangs, obviously. They tossed, culled and organized, creating a sparkly clean, low maintenance, easy-to-use workroom. Now our PTA parents have moved into the actual office, accomplishing same. We all love these two spaces! Thanks so much to all who contributed to the transformation.

COMPUTER REFRESH THROUGHOUT MEADOWS

I'm thrilled to report that, due to the efforts of Mike Barrett, Meadows parent and employee of Hewlett Packard, we were able to replace all the computers in our Computer Lab, as well

as all teacher computers, *for ¼ of the cost* that our Tech Committee projected. This amazing feat occurred through the HP Gift Program and we are all extremely grateful for Mike's efforts, for the participation of Alex Pan, Meadows parent and HP employee, for the guidance of Gordon Dressler, chair of our Tech Committee, and to all of you for your donations to PTA, which funded this computer purchase.

The computers have been received at the District Office and will be installed soon. Replacing the low-power teacher computers poises our staff to be able to incorporate the SmartBoard technology that is currently being implemented throughout our school district, as well as to ensure that their computers don't crash while implementing the ELMO document cameras currently in use.

Stay tuned for updates and for your invitation to our Thank You Party!

HELP MAINTAIN TEACHER PLANNING TIME BEFORE SCHOOL

A reminder that we request parents and children to arrive no earlier than 7:55 am to wait by the classroom door (not by the sliding doors). Please be aware that the our teachers need this private time before school to prepare for your children's lessons that day. Your child's teacher will be happy to conference with you at a scheduled time. Please email him/her to set up this appointment. The staff email addresses correspond to my email address: charrington@mbusd.org. except with teacher first initial and last name.

I am re-posting this reminder on all teacher doors. Thanks for your understanding of this procedure and for your cooperation.

PARKING ON MEADOWS AVENUE

Oh, it is HARD to remember where you can park on Meadows Ave. and for how long. Here's the hard-to-remember scoop:

- The Turn In Lane: Driver must remain in car at all times. Children may be dropped off and picked up. They must walk out to meet driver.
- East side of Meadows Ave. from caf to 17th Street: 30 minutes parking between 9:15 am and 1:00 pm. No parking at any other times: drop off or pick up only.
- West side of Meadows during school hours: no parking. After school is out, parking resumes on the west side of Meadows, mainly for the residents.

PUT MEADOWS ON THE MAP WITH MEADOWS AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAM (MAP)

MAP classes will begin September 27. Check your child's backpack on September 7 for the fall flyer containing class schedules and registration information. Online registration (preferred) will begin at psmanhattan.org on September 7. Review the course descriptions online and enroll your child in one or more of the exciting opportunities! Some classes have limited capacity, so early enrollment is strongly recommended. Classes are offered for all grade levels. All classes are dependent on sufficient enrollment. Confirmation information will be posted at psmanhattan.org prior to the beginning of the session. For questions or concerns during the registration process, please contact the onsite

coordinator, Marina Trachy, at (310) 947-2078 or mbtrachy@yahoo.com or Nancy Rosenburg, Program Director at 376-6115 or nsrosenb@aol.com.

VISITOR BADGES

A reminder that all visitors to the Meadows campus must pick up a badge in the office. Even if we've known you for many years. Thanks for cooperating with this safety request.

LEMONADE STANDS

Thanks to the following kids for hosting a lemonade stand during the weeks before the start of school. They earned \$27.25 for Meadows. The participants: Kailee Silver, Aidan Silver, Emma Kittay, Clay Gerrans, Natasha Karlin, Audrey Karlin, Elena Olsen, the Weiss family, the Hong family and the Ozawa family.

The Reynolds kids also hosted a lemonade stand for several days before school started. I'm very grateful to both groups and love to see how tied in our kids are to helping our school!

GRADES 1 – 5 BACK-TO-SCHOOL NIGHT—SEPTEMBER 16 GRADES K – 5 MINIMUM DAY

Please mark this date on your calendars and be sure to attend this very important school event. Your child's teacher will share information about the grade level program and curriculum, classroom procedures and rules and tips related to that grade level. S/he will answer any questions that you have related to the classroom. This event is always very exciting because it's fun to see our parents marvel at what their children will learn during the coming school year and to swoon over how awesome our teachers are!

Times of the presentations on the 16th will be:

Grades 1 – 3: 6:15 – 7:00 pm
Grades 4 – 5: 7:00 – 7:45 pm

Students will attend school on the 16th on our minimum day schedule:

All Grade K	8:00 – 11:20 am	(AM and PM) (Even though their BTS Night was August 31)
Grades 1 – 5	8:05 am – 12:30 pm	