

ESPARTO MIDDLE SCHOOL

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January, 2003

Thank you ...

for joining us this week for your child's student-led conference.

We hope you find the information in this newsletter helpful and informational. If you didn't get a copy of the courses of study for your child's grade level tonight, please feel free to drop by and pick one up at the office.

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This week State Supt. of Public Instruction Jack O'Connell announced the names of the 35 California schools nominated for the federal Blue Ribbon Schools program. EMS is one of only 10 middle schools on the list. This national recognition is among the highest that can be bestowed upon a school. According to Supt. O'Connell, "These schools are proven leaders in raising student achievement and showing tremendous progress and accomplishment. They have remained focused on our vision that all children can and should exceed in school." The nomination is just the first step in a long screening process which will not conclude until September, 2004. In order to achieve even this nomination has taken the collective effort of our entire school community. To you, our parents and guardians, we offer our sincere thanks. Attending events, such as tonight's conferences, makes a positive difference in the achievement and growth of your child. Thank you for your support! Together Everyone Achieves More. Thanks for being part of our BLUE RIBBON T.E.A.M.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

(All calendar dates are subject to change. Changes are advertised in the next newsletter/and or via your child's planner)

January 12.....	Site Council Meeting—7:00 PM— Room 20
January 16.....	PTSA sponsored school dance—Hawaiian Luau
January 19.....	School Holiday (Martin Luther King Day)
January 21.....	DATE IS TENTATIVE.....District Common Plan Day—No Lunch @ EMS—Student Release—12:05
January 30.....	Trimester 2 Progress Reports (sent home with all students)
February 6.....	PTSA Dance
February 9 & February 16.....	School Holidays -Lincoln's Birthday/President's Day
February 27.....	2nd Trimester Ends
March 5.....	7th Grade Field Trip—Mondavi Center—"Chi" performance
March 16.....	7th grade STAR writing test
March 26.....	PTSA Auction
April 8.....	Districtwide Minimum Day—No Lunch @ EMS—Student Release 12:42 PM
April 9-18.....	Spring Break.....School resumes Monday, April 19
May 13.....	6th grade field trip—Jack London Park
May 14.....	EAOP 8th grade field trip—UC Davis28
May 31.....	School Holiday (Memorial Day)
June 1.....	8th grade Marine World Trip
June 2.....	Day On The Green (only for eligible students)
June 3.....	District Minimum Day—No Lunch EMS—Student Release 12:42 PM
.....	Last Day of SchoolEMS Graduation.....Dance

CAHSEE

Students in the Class of 2006 will be the first California public school students who must pass the California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE) to receive a high school diploma. This graduation requirement is mandated by state law. Students in the Class of 2004 or 2005 are no longer required to meet the requirement. The purpose of the CAHSEE is to improve student achievement in high school and ensure that students who graduate from high school can demonstrate competency in the state academic content standards for reading, writing, and mathematics. Information regarding the CAHSEE is posted on the California Department of Education Website (www.cde.ca.gov/statetests/cahsee>). If you have questions about the test, please contact Stan Dodd, EHS principal.

NEW SOCIAL STUDIES TEXT

We are in the process of adopting a new "temporary" 8th grade social studies text. The next state adoption is only two years away, but we feel we cannot wait that long without an updated book. If you are interested in reviewing the books under consideration, please contact Mrs. Hiltman immediately. We would like to go to the board of education for approval no later than the end of January. We will not be aligning exactly with the high school for this short-term update, but will consider district alignment in the next "full cycle" adoption. Our actions are a part of our involvement in a new history-social science county network and the addition of history-social science to the STAR tests.

THANK YOU

...to Judy Cordell Karlstad on behalf of Country Villa Mobile Estates who once again donated \$500 to EMS with a note, "Please use this money as you wish. We appreciate good neighbors and also feel that you are doing a good job educating your students." ...and again to John Madigan for volunteering as an assistance basketball coach for Larry Mayer.

CHARACTER PROGRAM—WORD OF THE MONTH

Congratulations to our "initiative" winner: 1st place Isabel Castro-Galvan; 2nd place Dustin Arrvalos; 3rd place Michelle Evans; 4th-8th places Roxanne Lucero, Cesar Flores, Luis Cardenas, Brittany Tunstall, and Alex Marquez.

GIFTED AND TALENTED EDUCATION UPDATE

Students have been working on a "literacy" book seminar class taught by Mrs. Warde. Now that our construction is complete, students are continuing "bat- making" from last year. We are currently working on a field trip to a River Cats game in May for all G.A.T.E. and Honor Society students.