

ESPARTO MIDDLE SCHOOL

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March, 2004

WYORCA

This non-profit group provides recreational activities for all our youth and adults. Its ultimate goal is to secure land for a recreation center and pool. EMS voluntarily declined to participate in the Raley's scrip program as to not deter from the worthwhile work of this group. As a member of the WYORCA board I encourage every parent to become a member of WYORCA and to sign up for their Raley's scrip program. You can do this by contacting me, Claire Haag (787-3603), Hilda Fernandez (666-6529) or Trini Campbell (796-3802) Thank you Carole Hiltman

COMMUNITY SERVICE DUE

April 1 is the deadline for students to return their community service forms to the office. About four to five hours minimum is required for promotion. The staff meets in April to determine if students are to be promoted; therefore, it's essential students meet this deadline. If you would like to organize a community litter pick-up for a group of students, these hours would count. Call Mrs. Hiltman if you are interested.



REPORT CARDS/RETENTION/SUMMER SCHOOL

Second trimester report cards are enclosed. The second trimester 6th grade reading level scores (district assessment) are based on your child's Accelerated Reader level which is a different assessment than we used first trimester. Therefore, the scores are generally higher. Your child's growth will be more accurately determined when making a comparison between 2nd and 3rd trimesters. Please note the promotion criteria and review your child's test results and progress to determine if s/he is meeting the criteria. 8th graders who fail to meet criteria and/or are recommended for retention may not participate in any 8th grade activities including graduation ceremonies. One factor that students don't consider is attendance. When a student misses more than 12 days of school for any reason the criteria has not been met. Student below grade level (1's or 2's on report card) are "required" to attend summer school which runs from mid-June through July. Students may miss no more than one day of summer school and cannot be excused for "camps, vacations, etc."

8TH GRADE (EHS ORIENTATION)

Your child has already had an orientation and received materials from Alexis Kersting, EHS counselor. She will begin individual scheduling meetings with every 8th grader on March 19 and March 23. You are welcome to attend your child's meeting. Students need to bring the completed registration materials with them to the meetings. Questions can be directed to Alexis at EHS.

SITE COUNCIL NOMINATIONS

There will be three vacant seats on site council next year. If you would like to nominate yourself or someone, contact Council President, Teresa Warde or Carole Hiltman no later than April 2. The council always welcomes the involvement of new 6th grade parents. If you know someone who would be interested, let them know. Should there be more candidates than vacant positions, an election will be held on May 12 at our "Student Celebration Night." This celebration is replacing our traditional Open House. Parents are welcome to drop in to see displays of student work including projects for the science & art fairs. Individual classrooms will not be open. Our April newsletter will contain more specific details, but be sure to mark your calendar now.

SCHOOL EVALUATION PROCESS

In your April newsletter you will receive a "survey" asking your opinion about all aspects of our school. We encourage everyone to complete and return the survey prior to school's end. Your input, along with that of students, staff, and our various visiting teams will help site council revise next year's single site plan for school improvement. This year's plan was approved by site council and the EUSD governing board this month. Copies of the plan and the 2003 School Accountability Report Card are now available in the school office. School Accountability report cards will be mailed with the April newsletter. Please help up in our efforts to develop meaningful new goals and to evaluate our progress by returning your survey when it arrives.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March 19.....EMS St. Pats Dance—EES Cafeteria—6:00-8:30 PM
 March 19 & March 23...8th grade individual scheduling meetings (Parents welcome) Students need registration materials
 March 23.....6th grade vision screening
 March 26.....Progress reports sent home with all students
 March 30.....PTSA Meeting
 April 1.....Community Service Completion Forms due in the office for all students
 April 2.....8th Grade Blue & Grey Ball—6:30-8:30—EES Cafeteria
 April 2-April 20.....STAR State Testing ALL students.....very important.....be in school, on time, and rested
 April 6.....English Language Advisory Committee Meeting—6:00 PM—Room 19—EES
 April 8.....Districtwide Minimum Day—No Lunch @ EMS—Student Release 12:05 PM
 April 9-18.....Spring Break.....School resumes Monday, April 19
 April 16.....Migrant Center reopens—Students register April 19-20 and return to school April 21
 April 23.....Club Live Dance -6:00-8:30 PM—Permission slips required
PTSA Auction
 May 3.....Staff Appreciation Week. Why not thank someone who has really helped your child
 May 5.....District common plan day—Minimum Day—Student Release 12:05
 May 7.....2nd progress report send home with all students
 May 12.....EMS Educational Celebration—Science & Art Faire—2nd tri honor roll awards—6:00—7:30 PM
 May 13.....6th grade field trip—Jack London Park
 May 14.....EAOP 8th grade field trip—UC Davis
 May 17.....Last Site Council meeting of the year—Room 20—3:30 PM
 May 18 & 19 ... 5th grade student EMS orientation—Mrs. Hiltman & former EES students visit 5th grade classes—12:45
 May 18...5th Grade Parent EMS Orientation “Myths & Legends Night” (English & Spanish)—7:00 PM—EMS Cafeteria
 May 28.....TENTATIVE DATE.....8th grade career day field trip
 May 31.....School Holiday (Memorial Day)
 June 1.....8th grade Marine World Trip for 8th graders who qualify
 June 2.....Day on the Green—Grades hand carried home by students
 June 3.....Districtwide Contract Minimum Day—Last day of school. Student release approx 12:45
Promotion Practice 8-12:00—Students must attend
EMS Promotion Exercises - 7:00 PM - EHS Stadium
Promotion Dance 8-10:00 PM - EES Cafeteria

SPORTS PROGRAM...GET PHYSICALS NOW—The interscholastic traveling soccer and softball programs were cancelled once again this year because there were not enough students signed up who had completed physicals. **A physical is required for any student to even “try-out” on a sports team.** Physicals are good for “one year.” Students who get physicals right now may participate in all school sports teams NEXT YEAR!

BEHAVIOR REMINDER

Typically students tend to be more frisky this time of year. Students with more than 10 referrals for the entire year or 3 referrals and/or 1 suspension during 3rd trimester will lose end-of-year privileges. A referral is any time a student is sent to the office for breaking a teacher, class, or school rule (including 3 or more tardies). Students will lose their dances, Day on the Green, Marine World Trip, and/or promotional exercise ceremony. Commonly, this is a “progressive” restriction, but a severe incident or one incident for a child with multiple suspension/referrals could mean loss of several activities based on one referral. School expectations are printed in the student planner. Students are to keep their hands and feet to themselves at all times. Students who physically confront or harass other students may be visited by a local sheriff deputy (since we no longer have a school resource officer). Depending on the situation, a student could be cited.

STAR LUNCH STUDENTS—Congratulations to Brittany White, Erika Salazar, Victor Torres, Nicole Drew, Martin Zavala, Victoria Puebla, Jesus Rivera, Laura Mayer, Rebecka Gaither, Alejandro Lopez, Jesse Keeton, John Kay, Carlos Montes, Cinthia Guillen, Marco Duran, Monica Aparicio, Marissa Harmon, Jeffrey Gillham, Kara Perez, Laura Heredia, Sonny Gallegos, and Kyle Slauch.

DISTRICT CALENDAR-The EUSD Governing Board is considering a change in the school calendar beginning next fall. School would start on August 17 and end prior to Memorial Day weekend. This would mean an end to the 8th grade evening promotion ceremony. Many schools across the state are moving to an earlier release calendar and most middle schools stopped holding evening graduation ceremonies some time ago. This practice is in line with the philosophy that academic emphasis towards graduation should be at the 12th grade. In lieu of graduation EMS would have a day time class recognition event.