

Director's Newsletter

Important Dates:

- **April 16**

Progress Reports: Ask your teen for a copy

- **April 19-30**

State Testing: Please arrive on time, well rested, well fed daily

- **April 29,**

Ice Skating, 12-2pm

- **May 1, Sat 9-1**

Parent Volunteer Day

Please call our office to volunteer

- **May 12 5:30-7:30pm**

Spring Showcase Renaissance Faire

Drama, Music and Guitar performances, rooms open

- **May 14 11:30—3 pm**

Honor Roll Trip

Chaperones needed

- **May 17, 7:30am-5pm**

8th Grade Trip: Academy of Sciences, San Francisco

- **May 24-26 M-W**

Finals Week, 8-12:30

School out at 12:30 study hall available if needed M/T

*SEE PERMISSION SLIP P.2

- **May 26 8am-12:30**

Last day of School :

No study hall this afternoon

2 pm 8th gr. Promotion

MW Gym, Semi-Formal

*SEE DRESS CODE to right

- **First Week of June**

Final Report Cards Mailed

Home Call if you have any questions, office open until June 11th.

April 14, 2010

Final Few Volunteer Opportunities...is Your Commitment Complete? MWCS Needs our Parents

Your teen may act like s/he wishes you would disappear sometimes. But when it comes to school success, middle graders still need their parents around whether they realize it or not.

Why?

When parents get involved in learning, student achievement soars. Children score higher on tests, turn in better projects, and participate more in class if they know their parents care about education.

When? *Adults needed...

- *T, Th, F from 2:10-3:10 pm to help in Drama class. No acting skill required, just watching kids not in the current scene
- **April 19-30** Send in healthy snacks for test weeks. Students love it!
- *Volunteer Work day **May 1st**, 9 am—1 pm
- Field Trip Chaperones **May 29** 12-2 Ice Skating All students invited
- **May 14** Honor Roll Trip 11:30 am-3 pm

- **May 17**, 8th grade, Academy of Sciences, San Francisco, all day
- Shopping for Renaissance Faire and 8th grade promotion events
- Supervise activity **May 12** 5-7 pm Renaissance Fair
- Shop, cook, or serve food **May 12** at Ren. Faire
- **May 12**, Open House Help set up 4 pm Or clean up 7:30 pm
- **May 24-25** Help with study Hall 12:30-3 pm
- **May 26** Help with 8th grade Promotion events

A Word From MWCS Board of Directors

8th Grade Promotion

We hold a very nice ceremony for our 8th graders transitioning to high school each year. This year's ceremony is scheduled for **Wed., May 26th at 2 pm in the Mark West Elementary Gym.** Students are to **dress semi-formal.** **Girls** are asked to have dresses be fingertip length with wide straps (3 finger widths if sleeveless). Dresses too low cut, or with spaghetti straps will need to be covered. There are many cute jackets, wraps and light sweaters. Students will not be allowed on stage out of dress code!

Boys are to wear dress pants and a button down shirt with a tie. We have lots of ties at school if students wish to borrow. Jackets are nice, but not required. Do not feel you need to buy something new. Talk to Mrs. Carpenter if you don't have dress clothes. We can work out a compromise, or find some to borrow if you like. As in regular dress code, pants must be an appropriate size, not baggy or low waists. Again, **students will not be allowed on stage out of dress code. Please respect**

the dress code requests to maintain the integrity of our event. Some local middle schools have had to go to "graduation type gowns" for their events at extra cost to families because the dress code is not respected. We believe MWCS families do not need that level of control and will make appropriate choices for this school event, but unfortunately have a few every year who do not. **Dinner/Dance 7-9 pm** Back at MWCS there will be a dinner and dance for students to enjoy a last activity with their classmates before high school

Spring Extravaganza

Pennies for Patients

Update:

Mr. Longnecker's class raised the most money with \$338 and the school raised \$656.27.

Thank you to all who donated!!

This year the Spring Extravaganza is being organized by the Mark West Education Foundation of which all parents are members. Spring Extravaganza is the largest fundraising event in the district. The funds raised are used for PE instruction and materials, music programs, technology improvement and other programs throughout the district.

This year the event is being held at Legends Restaurant at the Bennett Valley Gold Course from 5:30pm-11:30pm. Tickets cost \$70 each and you can reserve a table of 8 for \$560. Your ticket price includes 1 hour of an

open bar, dinner, dancing and a fabulous silent and live auction which will include packages from the Charter teachers and a very special one from Mrs. Carpenter that will include priority seating at our 8th grade promotion ceremony for either this year or the year your student will be promoted.

Attached please find an order form to purchase tickets. Please complete the form and return it to the school office as soon as possible. If you would like to send a teacher to the event, you can send any amount of money to help purchase a ticket for a teacher. As always volunteer hours will be given accordingly. **Thanks for your support!**

Parent Volunteer Opportunities

"Act as if what you do makes a difference.

It does!"

*-William James
American Psychologist
and Philosopher*

The end of the year is nearing and I notice several parents still need hours. The good news is there is a LOT to do in the next 6 weeks! We will need all the volunteers we can get.

Please choose one of the following options or call our office to offer an idea of your own.

Thanks for your assistance.

Having parents involved in our school makes it the BEST it can be. You do make a difference!

Ongoing Jobs:

- Volunteer in the office
- Supervise break or student store 9:50-10:10
- Help with lunch 11:30
- Assist in Drama T, TH, F (just supervise students)
- Take a group to community service Wed at 1:30
- Help a teacher (call-email)
- Help with 8th grade promotion Wed., May 26 (decorations, food, chaperone)

Short term jobs:

- Saturday work day
May 1, 9-1
- **Donate paint for work day...really needed now!** (call our office for details)
- Work on Spring Extravaganza Fundraiser Chaperone Field Trips Ice Skating (April 29) 8th grade trip (May 17) Honor Roll (May 14) **Really needed sign up now!** School # 524-2711



The Human Race

Are you looking for a new community service project? Here's a great idea that lets you work on your fitness level at the same time you raise money for your choice of non-profit groups.

Dr. Pappas is the leader of the group and will meet with students on Wednesday afternoons

at 1:30 to start training. Meet him by the picnic tables in front of our office **starting next Sat., May 8th.** The group will start with walking and work up to jogging. Anyone can participate, don't worry about your fitness level, you can work at your own pace. It will be fun

and help your community too! A sign up sheet is in the office. **You will need to attend the actual "Human Race" event on May 8th to get credit for your community service,** so please be ready to commit to finishing the project if you decide to sign up. See you there!

Spring Testing Tips

- State standardized testing (STAR Test) this spring will be taking place the **next two weeks of school**. Parents can help their teen succeed by making sure s/he is in school each day those weeks. It is also important that the teens:
- are well rested, limit evening events these weeks
- have had a good breakfast
- bring a substantial morning snack during testing
- arrive at school on time to be relaxed and suc-

If you are willing to send in snacks for your teen's home-room class, that makes it more fun. Please call to let Mrs. Cameron know you can help and send healthy snacks to the office any of the testing days.

Some **strategies** that may help your teen are listed below:

True/False Questions

If any part of the statement is untrue, the question should be answered false. Suggest your teen look for words like "all, none, always, or never". These are often clues that the answer is false. Words like "often, may, or many" usually signal

that the statement is true.

Multiple Choice

With these questions, it's important that your teen reads every choice before choosing an answer. This allows him/her to rule out answers s/he knows is wrong. Using this strategy, your teen may have only two options to pick from instead of five, which increases the chance of selecting the correct answer. Go with your first instinct if you're not sure of an answer, it is more likely to be correct.

Essay

Encourage your teen to read each question at least twice before answering. Making an outline will help organize thoughts, so the writing is clear and flows smoothly. When finished, check spelling, capitalization, and punctuation carefully. Also look at subject-verb agreement and be sure interesting, descriptive language has been used as much as possible.

This last editing can be the difference between passing and powerful writing. Al-

Handbook Rule

Reminders:

One of the most valuable things a student can do in middle school is develop strong study skills. It will ensure success now and is critical to being well prepared for high school. To this end: *MWCS students write all assignments in their planners. They need to have a set study time each day after school. All work is complete and in on time. When absent, teens call a friend to get the assignments that were missed. A friend who has been in the class can also discuss the lessons learned and activities done in class that day*

MWCS Student Behavior

As spring approaches, we often need support from home with reviewing the dress code. If you're not sure, check the front of your teen's planner, or call us. Typically for girls, shorts or skirts are too short, tops are too bare. For boys pants or shorts are too big and baggy showing underwear. Please remember underwear of any kind needs to be completely covered. Both girls and boys need to be careful that t-shirts have appropriate words and pictures. **Please take a look at what your teen is wearing each morning this spring and support our dress code as the weather warms.**

Thank you!

Community Service

Part of being a student at Mark West Charter is being an active participant in a community service project. There is a grade on the report card showing whether your teen is participating at an acceptable level. An hour a week is asked of teens and they have a short day on Wednesday to give them time. Parent support is sometimes needed for transportation, but there are many

people willing to help. If your teen is not fully involved, please help them find an interesting project.

We have just started the

Human Race Team for our school. Practices are Wed. 1:30 at our school. Anyone can join. The actual race will be held on May 8th. **Come join the fun!**

MWCS is Filling up for Next Year!

All seventh and eighth grade classes are almost full for next school year. If you know of anyone who would like to attend MWCS next year, please ask them to call our school office soon. We will need to start waiting lists soon and hope to accommodate as many local students as possible. Thanks for your help!

For 7th Graders...we have space to open another class, but will need to fill it before we hire a teacher. We will only hire if we can do so early and get the best possible person on our staff, so really encourage any incoming seventh graders to check in with us soon.

Board Positions Open

CALLING ALL FAMILIES We have a great opportunity to help set the direction of our school. Two board positions will be open for next school year. Meetings are the last Monday of each month. If you are interested, come watch our meeting on April 26th or May 17th at 7 pm in our school office.



Mark West Charter School

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For attendance please call the school office
or E-mail: mcameron@mwcharter.org

We're on the Web!
www.mwcharter.org

END of Year Finals Week:

When students enter secondary school, most classes have “finals” or cumulative tests at the end of the class. To give students extra time to study, schools have early release days. MWCS will have Finals on M-W May 24-26th. Regular classes will be held from 8-12:30, then students will be released early to go home to study OR stay at the study hall provided on campus. Study hall is provided Mon and Tues. only. Wednesday is 8th grade promotion so all students go home early

Since this varies from our regular schedule we ask that parents inform us of their preference. Students who do not return this form will be required to stay for the study hall and return home at the regular time May 24-25. All students will leave school at 12:30 on Wed. May 26th.

PLEASE MARK AND RETURN THE BOTTOM HALF OF THIS PAGE. Thank you!

Student's Name _____

Choices for Mon-Wed. **May 24-25h**

_____ **I would prefer my student come home to study M/T
May 25-26th. I will pick up or s/he will walk at 12:30**

_____ **I would prefer that my student stays at the school for Study
Hall on Mon/Tue May 25-26th. I will pick up or s/he will
Walk or ride the bus at 3:10 pm.**

 X _____