
The Monarch Grove Flyer

A 2003 National Blue Ribbon School

March 12, 2008

phone: 805.534.2844

SCHOOL CALENDAR

March 6–14: Conferences

Early Dismissal grades 1-6 - 1:00 pm

Kindergarten 8:25 – 12:00pm

March 14: All Family Lunch

Recess Grades 1-3: 12:00

Lunch Grades 4-6: 12:05

Lunch Grades 1-3: 12:20

End of Lunch period (all) 12:45

March 15: MG GARDEN Workday

March 20- 9 AM - Assembly: MBHS Dance Team

March 20- 1 PM- Grade 4-6 Awards Assembly

March 21–30: Spring Break

March 31- School Site Council

Principal's Message:

I hope your conferences are going well and that everyone has either already had an appointment or will before the end of the week. Communication with your child's teacher is a crucial element of student success.

Collaboration Day Ballots - Last week I wrote about the Monarch Grove staff proposal to start school five minutes earlier every day in order to have school end at 1 PM on one designated Friday per month. This week there is a 'ballot' attached to the school newsletter. I am hoping that you will give us your input (and support) on this plan. If you missed the explanation you can check out the March 5th newsletter at mg.slcsd.org and then click on the link to 'newsletters'.

The plan now under consideration is to adjust the school day and week calendar starting in mid April. The adjustment at Monarch Grove would mean that school would begin five minutes (8:20 AM) earlier every day. With the amount of minutes added to each

day we would have ONE day per month where school was dismissed at 1 PM, which would be FRIDAY (and eventually occur on ALL FAMILY LUNCH dates, although perhaps not for these two trial dates). There would be two such Friday's before the end of the school year—and we would tell you the dates well in advance. The shortened school day afternoons would be the formal time for teacher collaboration and meeting. In addition, this brief trial period would help us to work out any bugs in the system.

Please return the attached one question survey to the school ASAP – Friday, March 14th would be great!

PLAYGROUND Re-design. Our playground consultant (Dave Bang Associates) submitted a re-design of the upper grade play structure based on student and adult input. The structure now includes seven of the most popular elements as determined by student vote. You can see the redesign in the office or your child's classroom.

WE CARE ABOUT KIDS

Driving. Drop Off and Pick Up by Car. If you are using private vehicles to transport your child to and from school *please use the parking lot off of Los Osos Valley Road.* The **NUMBER ONE** suggestion for dropping off and picking up students by car in order to keep your child, and others safe, and even more so if you plan to leave your **vehicle unattended** is: **please park your car in our lot and walk to meet your child.** Be sure to make arrangements with your child to meet in or near the parking lot or at another designated location on campus. In addition, **PLEASE drive slowly and carefully at all times in the parking lot and all around the school.** Children are present and may not be watching out for you!!!

MORE IMPORTANT INFO: Traffic flows much more easily and safely when everyone is going in the same direction. Therefore, **Doris Avenue is a one-way southbound only street during drop off and pick up times 8:00 am – 9:00 am and 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm.** And in case you did not know how to properly get there--- turn right on Pecho (if you are approaching from ‘downtown’ Los Osos) right on Rosina and then right on Doris!

FINALLY, Please **DO NOT double park — anywhere ---** I am sorry to say I have seen some parents double park in the middle of the street or parking lot pick up zone and then wave for their child to walk out between two parked cars (while there is other traffic moving!!!) —**this is a very dangerous habit to teach your child!!!!** U-turns and parking in red curbed zones in the areas around campus is dangerous, illegal and is **subject to ticketing by SLO County Sheriffs.**

Missing Equipment.

Our school playground equipment has gone missing—we are specifically missing soccer balls and footballs. If you notice that your children are playing with a soccer ball or football and you don’t know where it came from, you might want to check it out. Thanks.



Bike Safety Classes. On Monday, March 17th and Tuesday March 18th during the lunch period, we will conduct a FREE BIKE SAFETY class for students. Monday will be ‘safety instruction and discussion’ inside the MPR, but on Tuesday, it will be outside and students will need a bike (and a helmet). On the second day kids will ride in a straight line and practice scanning & signaling--either on the playground or in the parking lot. Please encourage your student bike riders to attend – this seems MOST important for certain fifth graders but all bike riders are welcome (there will be a class during the primary lunch as well). I would like to thank parent, Danny Levine, for bringing me this idea and putting me in touch with the League of American Bicyclists and their certified Bicycle Instructors.

As always, if you have any questions, comments or friendly advice please do not hesitate to call or e-mail me!

James Scoolis Ed.D.
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PTA News

TALENT SHOW. Our annual school talent show has been produced and directed by Mr. A, Mr. G, Mrs. G and Mr. Nichols—all of who are retiring. So we are looking for some parents to step up and learn how to produce and direct this annual event. Right now, we have Otis Carter and Denise McDonald who are willing to learn and take a leadership role. But, there is a lot to learn, a lot to do and it is not as easy as it looks. Denise and Otis can not do it without assistants and would like to hold an organizational meeting- please contact Denise at: denisemacdonald@sbdglobal.net to volunteer. We need parent power to make this one happen.

Popcorn Fundraiser Camp Rancho Allegre! The 5th grade class will be selling popcorn for 25 cents on Fridays after lunch on the playground. Kindergarteners can order in the morning and it will be delivered to their classes before they go home.

GARDEN NEWS:

This Saturday, March 15th, from 10am until 1pm is a garden workday. Please come for an hour or two to help weed, rebuild the Native Garden Path, and prepare the beds for spring planting. Refreshments will be served!

"What a wonderful goal it is to have a garden in every school ... for as we know, there is a school in every garden!"

-A.G. Kawamura, CA Department of Food and Agriculture

MARCH 14th

‘ALL FAMILY LUNCH’

The March ‘All Family Lunch’ schedule will be adjusted 15 minutes later to better accommodate the 1 PM conference dismissal schedule. The March 14th schedule then is:

Recess Grades 1-3:	12:00
Lunch Grades 4-6:	12:05
Lunch Grades 1-3:	12:20
End of Lunch period (all)	12:45