

Principal's Message

Dear Families,

We have quite a few individuals and organizations here at school that truly make a difference for our students, staff and the school in general. It is one of the joys of my work to be able to interact with these groups and people on a daily basis. One of those groups is our very own Mission Estancia Dad's Club. Made up of parents who have students here at Mission Estancia these gentlemen (and ladies) plan activities throughout the school year that benefit our students and their families. We've had campouts, school barbecues, guest speakers, field trips, and pancake breakfasts. The mission of the Dad's Club is to promote fun, fellowship and support here at Mission Estancia. After reading a recent Sports Illustrated article by Rick Reilly, it was reinforced to me how the parents of our school community go the extra mile for our students. When it comes to our kids, our love knows no boundaries. The following story highlights a very special Dad. In our school community we too have a ton of Dads and Moms just like him doing great things for our children every day.

So here's Rick Reilly and his story entitled, "Trumpeting the Father of the Year"

Question: *What has four wheels, four feet, two eyes and one horn?*

Answer: *Trumpet position number 7 in the Louisville marching band.*

Meet Patrick Henry Hughes and his dad, Patrick John Hughes, the only two-person marching band member in college football. Patrick Henry, 18, who was born with a rare genetic disorder that left him without eyes and with arms and legs that won't

straighten-plays the trumpet from his wheelchair. Patrick John, 45, pushes the wheelchair. You can watch them roll during the halftime show at Cardinals home games. "I was a little worried about the endurance factor at first," says band director Greg Byrne. "Not Patrick's. His dad's."

You think it's easy pushing a 165-pound man, in full uniform, around a spongy artificial-turf field, trying to keep up with 213 other band members and get to your spot in the A in CARDS and the L in U OF L, while not getting slammed by the person marching behind you-all on four hours' sleep because you work the graveyard shift loading planes for UPS? You try it.

"My job is just to get, say, to the 32 1/2-yard line at the exact right time," says the older Patrick, who doesn't wear the band uniform. "Every now and then I'll take a mellophone in the back, but mostly it's been a blast!" "He hasn't dumped me yet," young Patrick says grinning.

Dad also pushes his son to classes, sits with him and whispers anything written on the blackboard. After band practice they go home and eat dinner, and then Dad goes to work at 11 p.m., gets off at 5 a.m., sleeps a little and gets up at 11 for breakfast, classes and band. If this guy isn't Father of the Year, I'm Liberace.

Patrick John and Patricia Hughes, a sales assistant in a brokerage firm, have been going full-Patrick ahead since he was born. "My wife and I were sort of devastated at first," the

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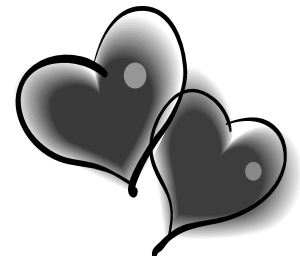
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President's Message

Dear Mission Estancia Parents:

The school year is almost half over.

Perhaps no parents are more shocked by this realization than those of Kindergarteners and 6th graders for it was only "yesterday" that they delivered their young, impressionable children to the front of the 400 building for their first full day of school. Yet, they have changed and grown so much since then. And they have so much more in front of them.

Like you, the PTA board, chairwomen and chairmen are also reeling with the winds of change just a little. So many programs and events have occurred with so many yet to be completed.

Looking towards the future, please get ready for MARE and Spring Fling (an EEF event).

M.A.R.E. which stands for: Marine Activities Resources and Education, is one of those programs that makes proud to sponsor. It is a 2 week long education program with grade level specific curriculum. The kids love it and usually become more educated about ocean life and its environs than most of us. Field trips, assemblies, art and hands-on experimentation are just some of the events. Kelly Clayton is working hard with 6th grade teacher, Mrs. Masterson and several parent and volunteers to coordinate MARE for the whole school. Your child's teacher also puts extra effort in to this program. If you can be of assistance please contact them.

Spring Fling is an Encinitas Educational Foundation event and is Mission Estancia's primary fundraiser for the funding of consultants (art, dance, music, technology, or others in the future) as well as mobile technology support. This year an exciting change is being introduced as the event will be an evening event instead of a luncheon! The hope is that both parents and couples can enjoy the event. Guys; break out the aftershave and the hair gel-this is your date night!

Kidding aside, there is a tremendous amount of work behind and ahead of the Spring Fling Team headed by Kimberly Lanasa and Rebecca Mitchell. If you can offer even a couple of hours to help, please contact them.

So we're first and 10 from the 50 yard line. Quarterback Sonken has his team lined up and ready to block, run, cut, lateral and go deep. It will take all of those on the field, on the sidelines and in the stands to make the team a success.

Thanks.

Mike Ontiveros, ontiveros4@sbcglobal.net

Wendy Goad, Beachgoads@adelphia.net

PTA Co-Presidents

It's Time for M.A.R.E.

We are anxious to kick off our school-wide MARE studies (Marine Activities, Research and Education) at the end of this month! The two-week MARE program begins on January 22 and runs through February 3. There are many great programs planned both inside and outside of the classrooms. Aniamania will be on campus for several days, allowing students to experience real-life tide pools and aquatic life. The teachers are planning some great activities including field trips, marine-life observation/dissection and classroom adoption of dolphins and sea lions.

Students can also look forward to some informative presentations from guest speakers, including some local parents and a volunteer from the Surfrider foundation. Our two weeks of activity will culminate in a Saturday beach clean-up for ME students and their families – giving everyone the opportunity to help preserve and improve our own local marine areas!

We look forward to your support in making these weeks fun, educational, and memorable for our kids. We are also looking for any parents willing to donate cases of bottled water and snack bars to have on hand for the beach clean-up.



Cartridges for Kids

Mission Estancia school participates in the Cartridges for Kids program. This is an innovative recycling program that pays Mission Estancia cash for empty inkjet, laser, fax and copier cartridges as well as used cell phones. There is no cost to our school to participate. This is a very simple program. If you have any items to recycle simply bring them into the school to the office. There is a container on the table to place your items in. If you work for a company who doesn't have a recycling program in place, bring in their empty cartridges as well. We will take it all! If you have any questions about this program please call Michele Chappuis at 760.436.2718.



WORD ON THE STREET



With Valentine's Day right around the corner, I'd like to talk about the color RED. I hate to sound like I have no heart, but, the curbs that are painted RED are not for stopping and loading or unloading passengers! If you don't want to sit through the whole line until you reach the front of the school,

please park in the neighborhood across the street or in any of the areas along Calle Barcelona that are not RED. If you are picking up in the line, please direct your children to wait in FRONT of the school.

When cars stop in the RED zones and allow their kids to get in or out of the car, they are holding up everyone else's ability to move forward. I have small windows of opportunity to get cars moving, I need to be able to utilize those moments.

Again, this process only works if everyone works together! We need to think of others especially during this time of year. (The rainy, cold, everyone is driving time of year).

Please be patient, please take turns, please understand that EVERYONE is in the same boat. And please remember, your crossing guard loves you!!

Judy Gregg – M.E. Crossing Guard

Save The Date!
EEF Spring Fling Night-Time Event
March 3, 2007 at 5:00 p.m.
Hosted by:
Morgan Run Country Club

Save the date, because this years Spring Fling is going to be unlike any other. It will be a fun filled Italian night. Come to enjoy your friends, and stay for the outstanding auction items including, turf club tickets, Padres dug out tickets, hotel and restaurant gift certificates, class baskets, mother's and father's day packages and so much more.

Look for invitations in the mail or pick up tickets in the office. Two bottles of wine will be donated to those tables that sign up early with a group of ten friends or five couples. Priority seating will be given on a first reply basis. It will be a great night, and best of all it goes to benefit our school!

Any questions please contact your EEF Reps:
Rebecca Mitchell rebeemitchl@sbcglobal.net or
Kimberly LaNasa Kimberly@thegillisgroup.net

Back by Popular Demand

4th Annual

EEF Comedy Night

February 3rd, 2007

6:00 pm

Hosted by Sage Grill

Come join us for a very exciting evening of a five course dinner (finest in Encinitas), Comedy Show, Silent and Live Auction sponsored by your Encinitas Educational Foundation. This event will benefit the Technology Van and Consultant that services all computers that our students use in each of the nine elementary schools of EUSD. This service alone saves our schools over \$130,000 in maintenance costs.

Do not hesitate to reserve your seats today. Each reserved seat is \$100. There are a limited amount of tickets available and this event will sell out. We are also requesting for donations of items for our auctions as well as event sponsorship. Your donation is tax deductible. Please contact your EEF School Representative for more information.

Mission Estancia: Rebecca Mitchell (942-4048)

You Can Win BIG!...50 Inches BIG!

We will also be having our Opportunity Drawing of a SAMSUNG 50" Plasma HDTV give away during the evening of the event. The Raffle Ticket is only \$20 and you do not need to attend the Comedy Night event to enter in the drawing or to **WIN!** You can purchase your raffle ticket now! More Raffle Tickets you purchase, the better chances of you winning. Contact your EEF Representative for additional raffle tickets.



We hope to see
you laughing at
Comedy Night!





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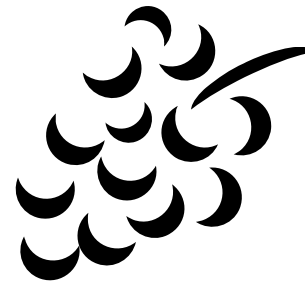


Boxtops For Mission Estancia

Parents, students and staff: clip box tops from hundreds of your favorite General Mills products found throughout our local grocery stores. Each box top is worth .10 for our school. This may not seem like much to you but our school has earned over \$3,200 since enrolling in this program.

It is easy to do. You can find Box Tops for Education labels on hundreds of items: General Mills cereals and fruit snacks, Pillsbury breads, refrigerated and frozen products, Pop Secret popcorn, Chex Mix, Bugles and Nature Valley Granola Bars, Hamburger Helper dinner mixes, Betty Crocker products, Old El Paso products, Totino's frozen products, Yoplait multi-pack products, Bisquick and Gold Medal products, Ziploc bags and containers, Kleenex, Cottonelle, Scott and Viva paper goods.

Clip out the Box Tops (they are usually pink, yellow and white and have a .10 symbol on it) and turn them into the school. HAVE YOUR CHILD TURN THEM INTO THEIR TEACHER OR DROP THEM OFF IN THE OFFICE. We will then submit them to General Mills. Twice a year our school is sent a check worth .10 for each Box Top sent in. It's quick, it's easy and most of all it helps our school to be able to provide the programs our kids deserve. Any questions, call Michele Chappuis 760.436.2718.



Health & Wellness

In the month of November, our school kicked off our nutrition theme for Health and Wellness. Mission Estancia is going 'bananas' about good nutrition! Everyone is excited about taking better care of their bodies. When we do this, we feel better, we think better, and we can live better! During the assembly we shared some ideas for building a *better* breakfast. For more ideas visit our school website (mepta.org) and click on "Good Health Begins with ME". ME stands for Mission Estancia. There you will find more ideas on "Building a Better Breakfast" and "Serious Snacking" that you can enjoy with your whole family. Ask your children about the cheer we learned from a gorilla who came and visited our school!

For the first months of the coming year our Health and Wellness theme will be fitness. We want to help the children develop habits of regular exercise. In order to encourage peer participation and to enjoy this in a unified way, we want to start a Mission Estancia Running Club. We are excited to use the new track. All students will be invited to be a part of this at any level. Watch for more details in a future flyer. To make this a success, we will need parent volunteers to be additional trainers. No experience necessary, just enthusiasm and a pair of sneakers!

Please call or email if you can help out: Jill Broberg 760 632-1238; jbroberg@adelphia.net



Wanted! Treasurer of Encinitas Educational Foundation



The Encinitas Educational Foundation is a public non-profit fundraising organization that benefits the needs of the students in Encinitas Union School District. We are seeking a volunteer to immediately fill our Treasurer's position to provide accounting support for our District-wide Foundation. Primary responsibilities include managing accounting of a \$1 million budget, process expenses and reimbursements, develop monthly reports to the Foundation Board and work with the Financial Secretary. This position is ideal for someone that is currently not working, retired or working part-time who may have accounting experience, or a student working towards a degree in accounting. Position would require 1 to 5 hours per week. Please contact Kelley Anderson at 760.634.3193 or by email at beachgoers@yahoo.com.



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the rules. We worked hard. Why us?" But then they started finding out "why" them. Dad, a violinist and pianist, found that he could calm his baby boy by laying him on top of the piano and tickling the ivories. By nine months young Patrick was taping keys on the piano, mimicking his dad in a listen-and-play exercise. By two years old he was playing *Sesame Street* songs.

Now the kid's a killer pianist and a monster trumpet player. Even though people have tried to stop him - like the ones at a performing-arts school in Louisville who discouraged the Hugheses from even applying - he has done nothing but succeed. He was all-state in band and chorus at Atherton High. Had a 3.99 GPA. Sang a duet with Pam Tillis at the Grand Ole Opry. Played piano at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. Put out a CD of 23 songs.

So when he enrolled at the university, young Patrick asked to join the pep band, which guaranteed a precious seat at Cardinals basketball games. But director Byrne crossed him up. He asked him "Why don't you join the marching band?"

Next thing you know, the teenager and his father were at band summer camp - 12 hour days with only 90-minute breaks for lunch and dinner. Dad pushed like crazy, and young Patrick played the theme from *Superman* while being whirled around in his own giddy darkness. It about killed Pop. "I was whipped," he says. So he took the chair to a mechanic friend, who rigged it with bigger, wider wheels. That helped them get through the triple Axel of marching band maneuvers: the dreaded Diamond. Two battalions of marchers come at each other in full stride, intersect, reverse, then split apart again. To pull it off, Dad has to pop a wheelie, spin the chair, try not to wipe out the entire wind section, then peel off the other way. "It takes everything I've got to make sure I'm in step," the older Patrick says. "If I don't get there quick enough, or cut quick enough, I'm the lone cowboy out at the end of this thing. I don't want people to remember us as the kid in the wheelchair whose dad couldn't keep up."

"I'm so jealous," says Byrne. "My father-son time with my dad is golf, twice a year. Patrick gets to be with his dad all the time."

Don't you love pushy parents?

Life with this kid just keeps getting more fun. "We still say, Why us?" says the father. "But now it's, Why us - how'd we get so lucky?"

I asked young Patrick what he thought his dad looked like, this man who's devoting his life to him. "Tall, skinny, muscular and bald," he said, laughing.

Yeah, there are lots of ways to play Superman.

Happy New Year!

Sincerely,
Gregg Sonken, *Principal*

January

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8 School Resumes	9	10	11	12	13
14	15 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	16	17	18	19 "Caring" Awards Assembly 8:15am K-3 9:00am 4-6	20
21	22 MARE Week	23	24	25	26	27
28	29 MARE Week	30	31			

February

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3 EEF Comedy Night
4	5	6	7 Open House 6:30-7:30pm	8	9	10
11	12	13	14 Valentine's Day	15 Grandparent's Day	16 President's Day No School	17
18	19 President's Day No School	20	21	22	23 "Citizenship" Awards Assembly 8:15am K-3 9:00am 4-6	24
25	26	27	28			