

Emerson Eaglet

October, 2018



Principal's Message

Thank you for getting this school year off to a great start. I believe we are all finally settling into a nice rhythm at Emerson. **Thanks to our wonderful PTA and everyone who donated to the Emerson Walk-a-Thon.** Money raised during this event goes right back to the classrooms to support student learning. The event was a huge success and students and teachers had a fun morning full of physical activity, and music. Our DJ was amazing. I didn't know that Emerson students were such amazing dancers... impressive!

On October 15th and 16th, Emerson will be conducting our fall SEP conferences and Scholastic Book Fair. We look forward to meeting with each of our students and their families to talk about academic progress and to set goals for this school year. While you are here, stop in the library for the book fair. I hear the suckers are best sellers.

Save the date for our annual **Dia de los Muertos (Day of the Dead) celebration that will take place on November 2nd from 5:30-8:00.** This is a huge community cultural event. You won't want to miss it!

Finally, thank **YOU** for all of the parental support you provide to our students and teachers. It is what make Emerson Elementary so awesome. Ms. Reynolds

Book Fair

The Scholastic Enchanted Forest Book Fair is coming and will soon turn the Library into our very own bookstore. Mark your calendar for a spellbinding visit on **October 15, 2018 from 2:30 - 7:30 p.m., October 16, 2018 from 12:30 - 7:30 p.m., and October 17, 2018 from 12:30 - 2:00 p.m.**



Walk-a-thon Thank You!

The primary PTA school fundraiser was the September Walk-a-thon. **This year we raised \$10,014 for the PTA and our school,** down from \$13,000 in past years. The money raised goes to support field trips, teacher appreciation, school supplies and community building activities. Thanks to everyone who contributed and participated. **Specific thanks go out to Smith, Harmons and Fresh Value** for donations of fruit snacks to support everyone who walked, danced, skipped and hopped!

Calendar

October

- 10 - SCC meeting (5:30pm library)
- 11 - Vision Screening
- 15 - 16 - SEP conferences
- 15 - 17 - Book Fair
- 16 - 17 - 1/2 day school
- 18 - 22 - No School (UEA)
- 26 - Halloween parade (am)

November

- 2 - Dia de los Muertos fiesta
- 7 - PTA meeting (6:30 library)
- 9 - Rico Friday

Day of Dead Preparation Events:

- Friday October the 12th potluck prep night 6-7pm at Emerson cafeteria...[volunteers are needed!!!!](#)

- Parents will be visiting classrooms from Oct15th-Nov2nd to learn about this celebration, make traditional day of Dead decoration with students, help make Nichos and set up Alters. You don't have to already know how to make it. [Sign up link.](#)

- We'll have a Catrina/Catrin contest during the celebration night. Categories will be Family, individual Catrina and individual Catrin.

- 9th Day of the Dead Celebration at Emerson will be on Friday November the 2nd starting to serve food by 5:30 and event at the gym/cafeteria having free crafts, facepainting, music and dances from 6-8pm. Like in the past well have bakery sale and photo booth to support next year event. [Volunteers Sign up link!!!!](#)

You make this event happen!!!

Emerson's Library is an amazing place where learning, books, and technology all come together. The curriculum for the library includes three strands: **Information Literacy, Literature and Media Literacy.**

The Information Literacy strand is the ability to access, evaluate and apply information in a variety of formats. The Literature strand is to enrich a student's life by encouraging reading for pleasure, enrichment, and information. The Media Literacy strand helps students make healthy and wise choices as a consumer of media.



The Library Learning Centers in the Salt Lake School District exist to provide informational resources for teachers and students, assist

students in developing literacy and research skills, and offer recreational reading opportunities. **Our goal is to have a current, engaging, relevant, and diverse collection, providing information on a wide variety of topics geared to the ages of our students.** When selecting books, we consider the needs of the core curriculum and the interests of our students. We strive to keep current informational materials and recreational reading titles as our budgets allow.

Parents are encouraged to take an active interest in their child's reading materials. They should have discussions with their child about what is, and what is not, appropriate for their child. Our library serves a broad age and interest range. Parents and students should realize that not every book in the library will be appropriate for each child in school. If a title does not work for a particular student, he or she is encouraged to return it for a book that is a better fit. I am happy to help your child find an appropriate book that meets his or her interests.

Thank you for supporting Emerson and the library.

Donations to the Emerson PTA can be made online through PayPal. Help us support the school, the teachers and the kids. Click the image below.



Question 1

Funding for schools disguised as a gas tax.

Utah was traditionally a state that placed a high value on education spending and ranked in the top 10 states through the 1960's, 70's and 80's. In the 1990's a steady decline in school funding began with the implementation of state tax cuts and diversion of school funding to other state projects such as transportation, healthcare and prisons. In 2007 and 2008 increases in school funding accompanied robust economic factors, but these increases were not maintained over time¹. According to a new report² Utah ranks very high (3rd) in the number of students per classroom (large number of students/class), while our faculty salaries rank at the bottom (45th), and our overall per student revenue is ranks 49th.

Our Schools Now began in 2017 to generate a ballot initiative to ask Utah voters if they wished to increase a combination of sales and income taxes in order to generate up to \$1000 per student across the state. This proposal was positive for education but wasn't a full solution. The taxes were not regressive, and taxed both high- and low-income earners equally. Nor did it pay out regressively and would have awarded high income districts (which often supplement school funding through commercial and private donations) similar funds to low income districts with none of those additional sources of revenue. Good, but certainly not equal. The proposed tax was also substantial and may have received resistance in an anti-tax political climate, despite interest in increasing school funding ranking high across the political spectrum.

Our Schools Now then partnered with the Utah legislature and Governor to instead propose a \$0.10 increase in the gas tax. This money would fund transportation and allow funds originally designated for schools to be provided back to schools. The estimate for this per pupil increase is \$150 – much less than the original \$1000.

Finally, Question 1 is non-binding. The legislation has no obligation to enact the tax, nor any obligation to spend the new tax revenue to replenish school funding. Non-the-less it is currently the only way Utah voters can register their opinion as to whether or not they wish to increase state taxes to support state funded demands, and our schools.

- Heidi Schubert

1.www.utahfoundation.org

2.NEA [Rankings And Estimates Report 2018.pdf](#)

3rd Grade Unity

The third grade is embracing the new school year with a fresh start for building healthy relationships and making kindness great again. **The team goals are to help all students feel comfortable in group activities during recess, field trips and grade level presentations.** On September 14, four combined third grade groups participated in team building/ friendship activities at Liberty Park. Students first got to know each other using name games and then engaged in four activities. A favorite activity was leading a blind-folded friend through a maze of dangerous paper plates with labels like "bullying" "tattling" "unkind words." At the end of the day, each student had made a new friend and spent some time thinking about how their actions and words affect others. We are encouraging kids to look for any student that is by himself/herself and seems to need some interaction.

Later that week **Thanksgiving Point** joined Emerson to discuss living and non-living science curriculum. Students were taught how to plant tulip bulbs and observed the life cycle of a mealworm. Throughout the year, all third-grade students will be attending educational field trips, performing in performances like the Veteran's Day celebration and participating in various activities together.



Anne Schosteck was on Wheel of Fortune

On September 14th our very own Ms Schosteck joined two other national teachers for a special school-focused Wheel of Fortune. The three competed to identify phrases like “patience is a virtue”, “parent-teacher conference” and “be true to your school.” **Thanks to Ms Schosteck for reminding us to ylpa itwh rdows!**



Correction:

Last month we wrote here about the need for a new **Food Recovery Coordinator**. For the past two years the PTA and SCC have supported a food recovery program inside Emerson. Unopened milk, fruit and sides have been recovered from the lunchroom. This food is donated to the **Crossroads Urban Center**. Work by volunteers and students has recovered 9,337 items totaling 1,945 meals and saving 1,167 lbs of CO2 landfill production. Please let us know if you value this program and can help a few hours on Friday afternoons. Emerson.pta01@gmail.com



Walk-a-thon fun!

Ms Cologna (2nd grade) has posted a Donors Choose project to obtain new recess equipment.

In our school, students enjoy taking a break from class time. One way is by having recess. Students need recess equipment that will allow them to play and participate in exercise while they are not in the classroom. Our current limited resources can cause conflict because they need to be shared with a large number of students. By having numerous recess equipment options students will have more opportunities to play and develop relationships with their peers. [Donate here](#)

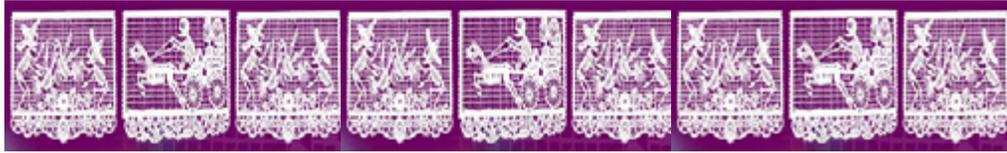


Ms Pizzaro's 2nd grade class. Ready for Fall



2018-2019 PTA Board Members:

- President: Elizabeth Veal Payne (elizveal@yahoo.com)
Vice President: Beth Jennings (bethanymjennings@gmail.com)
Secretary: Heidi Schubert (suninsaltlake@gmail.com)
Treasurer: Jeannie Winters Morris (jwintersmorriss@gmail.com)
ELP/IP Parent Coordinator: Suyin Chong (suyinchong@icloud.com)
Emerson PTA email: emerson.pta01@gmail.com



You Are Invited to Celebrate with Us 9th Día de los Muertos at EMERSON



Save the Date for
Friday, November 2nd, 2018

5:30-8:00 pm

**MUSIC & DANCING ART FREE FOOD
CATRINA/CATRIN CONTEST
ALTARS & NICHOS CLASSES CONTEST**

***GOODIES FOR SALE & PHOTO BOOTH
TO SUPPORT DAY OF DEAD 2019***

How it started A wonderful group of parent-volunteers were talking about ways to build a stronger community (specifically, ways to bring together Spanish-speaking and English-speaking families) and also increase the cultural component of our children's education. This joyful celebration seemed like a good idea and they brought it to the then-principal, Ken Jones who agreed. The first event was in 2010. It was a small party organized by dedicated volunteers who gave a lot of their time and creativity. "It's exciting to see how it has grown! What a beautiful tradition it has been for our family, too." The Scott-Graff family—founding parents.

Since then, the event has grown and grown! We now have more sponsors, more than 600 guests in attendance, traditional dances, in-class education, more Latino/a leadership and lots of families coming together to create community while they help organizing this wonderful event!

This year for our Altars Contest we will have guest judges from our community. We hope you can Join US!

SPONSORS



Happy Fall, from the Emerson School Garden!

Sadly, all open garden recesses will be postponed until further notice as we say goodbye to our AmeriCorps volunteer, Michaela Lemen. **Thank you, Michaela**, for caring for our students and our school garden during your time at Emerson! **We are actively looking for another volunteer**, and we will keep you posted!

All are welcome to the garden for fall garden cleanup on Saturday, **October 13, 2018 from 9a-12p**. Please come to work in the garden, and to enjoy the beautiful space with our school community! We will harvest any remaining garden produce (including lots of basil!), clear and clean the garden, and plant seeds for cover crops to nourish our soil over the winter growing season.

Anytime you are in the school garden, please obey and enforce all garden rules, including: keeping your feet on the ground at all times (no climbing on, in or over the raised beds, please), no running, no balls/toys/bikes/etc., no pets, and please do not harvest anything without first getting permission. Additionally, the garden gate is locked any time there is not a garden steward (another name for a teacher in the garden!) present. This is done out of respect for our amazing outdoor classroom.

Please follow the garden on **instagram: @emersongarden1** . You can check it out even if you don't have an Instagram account by searching: "emersongarden1 Instagram," and then clicking on any of the pictures for a better view and to read the comments. We have a policy of not posting pictures that show students' faces, but that doesn't mean you won't recognize many of our students spending time in our outdoor classroom! And you can always reach us via email at: emersongarden@hotmail.com

Happy Gardening!

Basic Pesto Recipe (for all of that basil!)

2 cups clean basil leaves (ok to include small stems and flowers)

2 garlic cloves

1/4 tsp salt, 1/4 tsp pepper

1/3 cup pine nuts (or walnuts, or no nuts, or other nuts ...)

1/2 cup parmesan cheese (or nutritional yeast for dairy-free)

-Grind (food processor, blender) all ingredients listed above until a coarse mixture.

-Continue grinding while slowly drizzling about 1/2 cup olive oil into the mix.

-Grind until the texture is right for you!

Optional: Basil will start to turn brown when exposed to air (like an avocado!). It is safe to eat when it turns color, and you can just mix this part into the pesto. But to minimize this oxidization, and to add a little zing of flavor, add lemon juice to taste (approximately 1 tsp, give or take). You can also minimize oxidization by blanching your basil leaves (drop them in a pot of boiling water for a few seconds, then shock them in a bowl of `ice water; dry completely before continuing with recipe) before processing.

