



Anchored in Enrichment

Dorris-Eaton Parents' Association

Newsletter

June 2019

Message from the Board

By Steve Diekmann, *DEPA President*

Greetings from the DEPA Board! We trust that the 2018-19 academic year has been one of growth, learning, and fun for the students here at Dorris-Eaton. The DEPA Board, our committee chairpersons, and many volunteers have all worked hard to-

- Enhance the educational experience of students.
- Celebrate and appreciate our teachers and staff.
- Provide opportunities for Dorris-Eaton families to experience and strengthen a sense of community.
- Plan some great parties and social events!
- Plan and host parent enrichment events.

We kicked the year off with a Friday Movie Night and followed that later in September with a well-attended, Hawaiian-themed Fall Fest. In addition, DEPA volunteers hosted a New Family Reception. Finally, we wrapped up the social calendar with a Family Picnic at Rancho San Ramon Park on April 27 - attendees (150+) enjoyed various activities like balloon animals and face painters as well as excellent food from a taco truck (and don't forget the Shaved Ice!). This year's Cultural Enrichment activities ranged from the fine arts (music/theater) to visits from the fire and police departments, to science mysteries, to etiquette lessons, even to the extra-terrestrial (SETI)! Beyond that, DEPA

hosted three wonderful Teacher Luncheons throughout the year, as well as the always popular Teacher Appreciation Week in mid-May. I'll stop there - you get the idea!

Finally, I'd like to personally thank this year's Board of Directors. They've been a joy to work with, each showing tremendous generosity and dedication in volunteering their time to improve the educational experience and lives of all of our children, while also supporting our wonderful teachers and staff. The entire group has been on the board or has chaired a major committee for at least two years. Thank you!

Treasurer: Catherine Schweiger
VP, Information Technology: Ming Zhang
VP, Cultural Enrichment: Jenny Jacq
Co-VP, Membership: Anthony Kim
Co-VP, Room Parent Coordinator: Jennifer Calico
Secretary: Melissa Toh
Parliamentarian: Susan Moser
Alamo Representative: Jenny Krause

Signing off,

Steve Diekmann
DEPA President, 2017-19

San Ramon Campus

Vietnam Veterans

By Anthony Kim, *DEPA Board Member*



DEPA hosted Vietnam Veterans of Diablo Valley on November 8 for middle school students. Presenters were Mike Martin of the U.S. Navy and Bill Green of the U.S. Army.

Mr. Martin started the presentation with the history of the Vietnam war. The conflict started during the Eisenhower administration and over 2 million service members served in country. 58,000 American troops were killed during the war. Contrary to movies and popular belief, only 25% who served were conscripts. Most were volunteers. Also contrary to popular belief, most draftees were not minorities.

Mr. Martin was drafted when he was a freshman in college. He wanted to be an officer so he enlisted in the Navy Reserve with a promise that he would be accepted into Officer Candidate School. He completed OCS after college and was commissioned as an ensign as a supply officer in Vietnam. He was 22 years old.

After serving in Vietnam, he returned home. When he landed at LA Airport, a protester called him a “baby killer” and spat on his face. Most other service members returning home were also mistreated.

Mr. Green grew up in San Francisco and served in the Army as a volunteer infantry soldier. Being a light infantryman, he had to carry

everything he needed. He explained his job as a point man responsible for navigation and looking for booby-traps.

He eventually became a unit leader and was responsible for a group of other infantry soldiers. The hardest thing he had to endure was losing two of his soldiers due to ambush and a booby-trap. He talked about his pet mongoose which was great for alerting the troops to snakes in the jungle.



Students listened attentively and the assembly ended with a question and answer session.

Thank you Mr. Martin and Mr. Green for your service and sacrifices.

Grit and Resilience

By Anthony Kim, *DEPA Board Member*

DEPA hosted Teen Esteem for students on March 14. Presenter Tim started the presentation with questions to students: “Who’s your favorite teacher?” “What are good things about school?” “What are bad things about school?” Students replied that friends and recess were good things while responsibility and stress were bad. Tim explained meanings of “grit” and “resilience.” Grit is the ability to continue on in the face of hardship, and resilience is the ability to bounce back from failure. Tim stressed that failure is not “fatal.” When students were asked if they’ve ever failed

and all students raised their hands. Tim then asked how they dealt with failure or stress. Students replied, “playing with my pet,” “playing video games,” or “talking to friends.” When students were asked what causes stress, they replied:

- Not enough sleep
- Wrong friends
- Criticism
- Failure
- Rejection
- Being ignored



Tim explained that there are positive ways to deal with stress and that students should avoid unhealthy ways, such as isolation, obsessive behavior, or drugs. His objective of the presentation was not to tell students what to do but rather explore ways that students could respond to negative experiences and apply grit and resilience to choose positive responses.

The assembly was an interactive presentation to assist students to become self-aware, confident young men and women.

DEPA Student Enrichments

By Jenny Jacq, *DEPA Board Member*

DEPA sponsors a variety of assemblies throughout the year which enhance and complement the learning that occurs in the classrooms. This year started off with visits from the fire department, police department (K-9 unit), and the Vietnam Veterans. Students were entertained by stories and interesting facts but also learned more about the men and women who serve and protect us.



Just before the holiday season, students engaged in a lesson on social etiquette with a Junior Manners assembly. Students learned that good manners include not talking behind people's backs or gossiping as well as having practical skills such as greeting someone, thanking the host at a party when leaving, writing thank you cards, and dining etiquette.

January brought an entertaining but educational assembly entitled the “Magic of Science” with tricks that appeared to be magical but were grounded in scientific principles. Some highlights included students trying to figure out how the magician was able to catch a ping pong ball on the end of his nose (a type of glue had been applied to the ball as well as his nose beforehand) as well as why a student volunteer wasn't able to lift a box with a feather inside (the power of a vacuum).



Lorraine Temple, a Bay Area native turned Alaskan musher, and her two former mushing dogs visited students in grades 2-4 as the second graders were starting their study of the Iditarod Race, which also aligned with the start of the 2019 Iditarod Race. This brought to life and added another dimension to the class material being studied. Not only were her experiences presented on the screen through pictures of the beautiful Alaskan landscapes, but there was a demonstration of hooking up the musher dogs to the sled with one of our 2nd grade teachers, Ms. Kline. She suited up in full musher gear for the demonstration.

Springtime brought an additional four assemblies for our students. The middle school students had an assembly on Building Grit and Resilience presented by Teen Esteem's Tim Barley. Facing an increasingly fast-paced and competitive school environment and world, students were given tools to develop ways to cope with stress and failure.

The world of opera was opened to students in grades K-5 with a visit from two performers from the San Francisco Opera. The students were not only entranced by the story of Papageno's and Prince Tamino's quest to rescue Pamina, but they also actively participated as characters and were chorus members in the SF Opera's version of Mozart's Magic Flute.

Students in grades 3-8 experienced a different kind of storytelling with a visit from a mime. The morning assembly consisted of a series of pantomime performances. The students then had time to write their own stories, some of which were then incorporated into pantomime performances for the afternoon assembly. Who would have thought so much could be said without words?

Finally, students in grades 6-8 took an adventure beyond the earth with a visit from UC Berkeley's chief scientist of the SETI program,



Dan Werthimer. In the quest to answer the question of whether we are alone in this universe, many discoveries have been made including a planet composed almost entirely of diamond (too far to harvest). There is also a global ocean of salty water under one of Jupiter's moons' icy crust which could have harbored or may still harbor some form of life. More amazing was that many discoveries are made as the result of people using their home computers to gather data via the SETI@home project.

All of these DEPA-sponsored assemblies were only possible with the membership dues paid by DEPA members. Thank you to all DEPA members for supporting the education of our students. Please let us know if there are other

topics or presenters that should be included for our assemblies next year.

Book Fair

By Jenny Krause, *DEPA Board Member*



Book Fair 2019 was a grand success! Students from preschool all the way to 8th grade flocked through the PR doors daily to browse the shelves for books and treasures. Congratulations to our Dinosaur Egg Guessing Game winner, Kevin Raj (G8), who correctly guessed 472 eggs! And a huge thank you to the many parent volunteers who helped with setup and take down of the Fair, as well as managing the cash registers and supporting students as they shopped. Our annual Scholastic Book Fair provides an exciting event for the students, as well as directly supports the Alamo and San Ramon libraries.



Special shout-out to Ms. Taylor Blank for enduring hours in a dog costume entertaining our students!

DEPA Spring Family Picnic

By Anthony Kim, *DEPA Board Member*

On April 27, DEPA hosted a picnic for members and families at Rancho San Ramon



Park. The weather was perfect for DEPA families to meet other families and get to know each other better. Approximately 160 guests attended, and they enjoyed catered



fountain play area, but they managed to squeeze in a blind chocolate pudding eating contest and a plank race. It was a

lunch, shaved ice, balloon sculptures, face painting, and nail coloring. Young ones were fairly busy with water pistol fights and running around the



great opportunity for DEPA community building and to show appreciation for its members. Big thank you to Jenny Krause, Jennifer Calico, Nancy Lam, and others who helped organize the event.

Teacher Appreciation Week

By Anthony Kim, *DEPA Board Member*



During the week of May 20, DEPA hosted Teacher Appreciation Week. Teachers were treated to the Sweet and Mellow Truck, serving various drinks and pastries. They received daily reminders of how appreciated they are. This year's theme was "Destination Appreciation" organized by Jennifer Calico.

Dorris-Eaton teachers are the best!



THANK YOU!

By DEPA Board of Directors

The DEPA Board of Directors would like to say a big "THANK YOU" to all volunteers and families who donated time and money to the association. We have completed another successful school year and we could not have done it without your involvement and generosity.

DEPA Donors

Maggie Ma & Bo Gao – K, G4
Jenny & Tom Krause – PK, K, G3, G6
Mark Wang & Gigi Chen – G5, G8
Caroline & Nelson Chang – K, G5
Nancy Li & Gordon Gu – PK

DEPA Volunteers

Beth Fehr – G5, G7
Caroline Chang – K, G5
Chialin (Carrie) Kan – G1
Christine Beinke – G2, G3
Clarice Baur – G7
Courtney Sepic - P
Davina Kwon – G5
Flora Ting – K, G8
Heather Bennett - P
Jeannie Kim – G1
Jen Guglielmi – P
Karrie Heneman – P
Kristin Martin – G6
Kristy Crowell – P
Neesha Merani – G1, G2
Nicole Ketroser – G1
Rimi Miyasaki – G5
Rukmini Reddy – K
Sasha Pappageorge – P
Sheena Kodavaluru – K
Sunhee Kang – G8
Ying Zhang – G2
Yuanhui Wang – G8

Student Council

Student Council Community Service Committee Report

By Brady Chua, Andrew Cravens, Alexander Wang



Community Service Committee Officers

With the school year coming to a close, Student Council would like to reflect upon the many amazing events that we have hosted. In the beginning of March, Student Council started the 3rd quarter by throwing a Western-styled dance for students in the junior high. It was a certainly a “ride to remember,” as described by the Activities Committee. Then, we hosted our annual Movie Night, where we played *Hotel Transylvania 3* for K-2 students and *Spiderman: Into the Spider-Verse* for grades 3-5 students. Free popcorn, cotton candy, and refreshments were provided. Soon after, we celebrated St. Patrick's Day with our Leprechaun Trap Contest, where the students from kindergarten to the 5th grade tested their creative abilities and competed to build the best leprechaun trap.

As March came to a close and April began, the Community Service Committee held a Food Drive for the Contra Costa & Solano County Food Bank. We collected 690 pounds of food which equated to 575 meals, and we, along with the food banks, are grateful for all donations that we received. Thank you for all of the support.

The Student Council has also made two investments for future generations of Dorris-Eaton students: a tripod for the bulletin board where upcoming events are posted next to the lunchroom and a bubble machine for the dances. Finally, we had a “Summer Fun” dance that was run by the 7th graders. An origami contest and the Raffle Basket Fundraiser proceeds were split between the Children's Health Fund, an organization that provides healthcare to children across the country, and the Agape Villages Foster Family Agency, which helps foster children and troubled youth in the Bay Area. Overall, we hope you have enjoyed all of the events and activities that we have provided. On behalf of the 2018-19 Student Council, thank you, and we wish you a wonderful 2019-20.

Around the Campus

DES Students Place in Local Writing Competitions

By Tanvi Chichilli, 8th Grade



Each year at Dorris-Eaton, our talented writers enter competitions to display their wide range of writing expertise. Using the writing process and working diligently while demonstrating their advanced analytical

abilities, students are able to excel in these competitions. Several students every year have had the acknowledgment of winning an award and attending a dinner with the other winners. However, every student, whether they received an award or not, is able to demonstrate their mastery of countless skills they have acquired throughout the years in writing classes. They

demonstrate those abilities in their essays and stories.

The California Writers Club is one of the oldest writing clubs that continuously encourages aspiring authors to push the boundaries of their abilities and grow as writers. This active literary campaign was founded in 1909 and grew out of the Oakland Hills in the early 20th century. We, at DES, participate in their annual writing competition, and this year students won in various genres of creative writing.

Grade 7

Poetry

Joshua Yang, 2nd Place, "The Swim"

Braden Ou, 3rd Place, "Rewinding Time"

Short Story

Isabelle Jiang, Honorable Mention, "Secrets of a Fallen Bird"

Michelle Pan, Honorable Mention, "Replaced"

Grade 8

Poetry

Eva Zhao, Honorable Mention, "An Endless Movie"

Short Story

Vivian Chang, 2nd Place, "Serengeti Struggle"

Aebby Lee, Honorable Mention, "Mine"

The Mt. Diablo Peace and Justice Center's purpose is to work for a culture of peace through education, advocacy, and community building. Each year, they host a competition which asks students to address a problem that is facing our community and ways to solve this problem. Students can write essays, short stories, or poems to convey their message of a peaceful and just community. DES students have greatly succeeded in this competition and have shown immense understanding about problems that plague our world today.

Middle School Essay

Luca Dovichi, grade 8, 1st Place, "Our Responsibility"

Middle School Creative Writing

Braeden Chen, grade 8, 2nd Place, "One Change, Two Endings"

Middle School Poem

Alan Huang, grade 8, Honorable Mention, "Dark Trapped Under a Light"

Middle School Grand Prize Winner

Vincent Zhang, grade 8, 1st Place Essay, "The Truest Liberation"



The Elks' mission is to promote the welfare and enhance the happiness of its members and to encourage American patriotism, and cultivate good fellowship. Each year, this organization hosts a

competition that encourages students to write about American patriotism and what that word means to them. At DES, students have submitted short essays that convey their messages of patriotism.

Local Winners

Isabel Lim, grade 5

Blythe Shutes, grade 6

Andrew Zweiback, grade 5

Vince Zhang, grade 8

Lance Zneimer, grade 7

Dorris-Eaton Theatre Troupe

By Vivian Chang (G8), Taryn Murphy (G8),
Ashley Zhou (G8)



This year The Dorris-Eaton Theater Troupe pulled off yet another outstanding performance with *Goldilocks on Trial*, directed by Mrs. Dickens. The play is a fun spin-off on three classic fairy tales: “Goldilocks and the Three Bears,” “Jack and the Beanstalk,” and “Snow White,” featuring characters from these well-known stories with their distinct and quirky personalities. The original script, written by Stuart L. Sheely, was edited and rewritten by three eighth graders who tailored the plot to fully engage and be interactive with their DES peers. To pull all of this off, an extremely talented cast, consisting of fourteen members and a DJ, rehearsed for two quarters during elective periods. The young actors and actresses worked hard to practice the show, and their efforts shone at the performances on April 23 and 25. Elementary school as well as junior high students, parents, and staff members laughed and applauded the cast. The play was a success, and the troupe was glad that it had the chance to share this amazing show with everybody.

Junior High Science Bowl Teams

By Rimy Dhillon and Sandra Song, *DES Teachers*



What does it take for students to qualify for a Science Bowl competition? For students it is attendance at early-morning practice sessions held once a week, enrollment in the Science Bowl elective, and time spent outside of school dedicated to acquiring science-related information. Parental support is also needed to drive kids to Tuesday morning practices and periodically quiz them at home. Competition to make the team is stiff.

Dorris-Eaton’s Team A was comprised of eighth graders Luca Dovichi (team captain), Patrick Ting, Alex Wang, Vincent Zhang, and seventh grader Jacob Zweiback. Team B consisted of the eighth graders Charvi Magam, Vivian Chang, and Christina Harrah. Seventh graders Isabelle Jiang and Jonathan Lu made their debut this year working with other Team B members.

On January 26, Teams A and B participated in the Department of Energy-Sandia Regional Middle School Science Bowl held at Las Positas College in Livermore. The competition brought together 120 students from 21 schools in cities spanning from Fremont to Sacramento. The topics covered included energy, chemistry, earth and space science, physics, biology, and math.

In the morning elimination rounds, Team A competed against 5 schools and won all of the matches: DES-70 and Pleasanton-38; DES-100 and West Sierra Academy-36; DES-106 and Basis Fremont-62; DES-114 and Marina Village-34; and DES- 86 and Folsom-64. Team B also competed against 5 schools and won 3 of the matches: DES-66 and Hopkins-152; DES-112 and Stratford 38; DES-46 and Churchill-152; DES-134 and Pleasanton-12, and DES- 90 and Elkhorn-12.

Team B was eliminated during the morning rounds but placed 7th overall. Team A finished 4th place overall after their last match in the seventh round against Churchill Middle School who ultimately won the Sandia Regional Science Bowl.

Teams A and B showed strong spirit and teamwork throughout the day. Eighth graders Taryn Murphy and Emily Fu also lent support to our students by attending the matches. Team A members agreed that their solidarity helped them finish strong during a particularly challenging match against Folsom during the fifth round. Team B members commented that despite the pressure to respond quickly, they found the experience fun.

The seventh graders who participated this year and other Science Bowl hopefuls are already preparing for the next competition. Their enthusiasm and dedication continue to energize their coaches. We are looking forward to working with them next year.

Boys Basketball

By Mark Doherty, *Basketball Coach*

We just concluded another successful boys basketball season. Our 7th grade team ended the season with a 4-win and 3-loss record. In a league consisting of all 7th grade teams, this was very impressive because our team had

many 6th grade players. Strong fundamentals and an unselfish, team-first attitude gave us the edge from game-to-game.



Our 8th grade team started the year with a splash beating Orinda Intermediate School, our rival, in our opening game. That first game was just the start of what became an undefeated regular season. We played with an up-tempo style of basketball that would put all the pressure on the opposing team. The 8th grade team finished up with a gritty performance at the end-of-season tournament hosted by Piedmont Middle School. We came into the competition with a 6-0 record and the number 2 seeded team. Our team battled through the tournament playing with only 5 kids due to untimely injuries, finally losing in the quarterfinals.

Dorris-Eaton has always been recognized for its strong academics along with great MATHCOUNTS, Science Bowl, and debate teams. Over the past few years, the successes of our teams have now added boys basketball to the long list of extra-curricular activities at which Dorris-Eaton excels. Although it will be tough losing the great leadership our 8th graders, we have a strong group of 7th graders ready to take on that role. The future looks bright for boys basketball at Dorris-Eaton for years to come.

Seventh grade team members included Taylor Kennedy-Cartago (7), Jonathan Lu (7), Andrew Peng (6), Yuvraj Sanghera (6), Sohhum Sinha (6), Brian Su (6), Austin Wang (6), and Charlie Watters (6).

Eighth grade team members include Aarav Aggarwal (7), Kush Arora (8), Matthew Baur (7), Matthew Diekmann (7), Matthew Fehr (7), Drew Gozelski (7), Benjamin Kang (8), and Kevin Raj (8).

Debate Team News

By Christina Harrah, 8th Grade



I have been involved with the Dorris-Eaton debate team since 6th grade. At the beginning of my debate journey, I wasn't really confident in my speaking skills. In fact, I was always a relatively reserved child, and public speech remained one of my greatest fears. However, over the course of a few years, I was able to develop many essential debating skills, including learning how to properly strengthen or refute an argument. Debate has not only allowed me to become a stronger speaker, but it has also given me the confidence to step outside of my shell and speak in front of many people.

Each week we research and study a myriad of global issues and concerns, such as affirmative action, convicted felons and their right to vote,

standardized testing, privatizing US space exploration, and more. Every team does their own research, and we debate during the elective classes in preparation for the tournaments.

This year, the Dorris-Eaton Debate Team has attended five tournaments, each located at various schools across the East Bay. After undergoing 4-6 weeks of research and practice, we would compete in a tournament against eight other local schools. Towards the end of the year, we also competed for the NorCal Cup, which pits schools from the East Bay, South Bay, and Sacramento against one another. Most tournaments start around 8 A.M. and last until 4 P.M., with students participating in four rigorous rounds of debate. At the end of each tournament, awards are presented to the top fifteen speakers and the top four teams. With something as strenuous as debate, it is important to honor the top-ranked individuals, teams, and schools. This past year, Dorris-Eaton has brought home trophies for top school, top five teams and top five speakers.

Although preparing and participating for each tournament can be extremely arduous, the skills, lessons, and memories we share among the debate team members have been unforgettable. Thank you Mr. Vogt, Mr. Ahn, and Mr. Breilein for all the contributions you have made to the Dorris-Eaton debate team!

Math Department News

By Eddie Lee, Jr. *High Math Teacher and*



MATHCOUNTS Coach

MATHCOUNTS

On Saturday, February 23, 10 of our junior high students represented Dorris-Eaton at the MATHCOUNTS Chapter Competition at Harvest Park Middle School in Pleasanton. The students prepared all year for this competition, and they all did an excellent job. The team of Vincent Zhang, Brady Chua, Isabelle Jiang, and Joshua Yang finished 4th out of the twenty participating teams. This team just missed qualifying as one of the top three teams in our Chapter Competition to advance to the State Competition at Stanford University.

Individually, 7th grader Joshua Yang placed in the top 10 out of 150 students which qualified him for the Countdown Round. Seventh grader Isabelle Jiang finished strong as well just missing the top ten overall. Our MATHCOUNTS team worked very hard this year and finished with excellent results. We are proud of both their efforts and accomplishments.

Johns Hopkins SAT

On March 9, several of our junior high students participated in the SAT through the CTY Johns Hopkins Talent Search. The SAT is usually taken by high school students. Students took

both the Math and Verbal test sections at various local high schools. The students who participated this year produced phenomenal results. Recognition is awarded to 7th grade students who score a 550 or above and 8th grade students who score a 600 or above in either subset of the test. We had 8 students achieve this honor in the Verbal section, and 10 students earned this award in the Math section. Dorris-Eaton also had 6 students score above a 700 in one of the test subsets which is a truly remarkable accomplishment for middle school students. A perfect score on each subset of the test is an 800. Of our students who participated in the test, our average Verbal score was 625, and our average Math score was 663. Congratulations to all of these middle school students for these extraordinary accolades. We are still awaiting more results from our middle school students who took the SAT on May 4.

