



Thanks!

Thank you to Mary Reynolds, our Night Janitor! How we appreciate her keeping our bathrooms and classrooms clean and spotless! Thank you to all the friends and supporters of Starting Gate not mentioned and not forgotten. Thank you to our friends and supporters: Howard and Kay Cupples

Mr. & Mrs. Nate	Mr. Fitzgerald	Mrs. Kerr
Mr. & Mrs. Reinold	Mr. Ken Mitchell	Mr. Collins
Mr. & Mrs. Vlach	Mr. & Mrs. Carter	Mr. Mayfield
Mr. & Mrs. Crowley	Mr. & Mrs. Black	Mr. White
Mr. & Mrs. Arzadon	Mr. Sanchez	Mr. P. Wilson
Ms. A. Jackson	Ms. L. Wilson	Ms. Reynolds
Mrs. G. Robinson	Mr. & Mrs. Pigg	Ms. Shaw
Mrs. Kay Jackson	Mrs. Loudermilk	C&T Cabinets
Mr. & Mrs. Weins	Mr. J. Hopkins	Mr. & Mrs. Cowherd
Mr. & Mrs. T. Hopkins	Howard & Kay Cupples	Zagaria Family

Parents Dane Collins and Justin Keating for their donation of time and materials by completing repair work to school water main in front of the school.

The Encarnacion family contributed computers desks, tables, and an additional basketball hoop to the school playground.

The mascot for Starting Gate School is the American Bald Eagle, which is now represented by a statue in the school lobby, donated by Mary Reynolds.

The Silverman Family - for office chairs and supplies.

Back to School Night

Thank you for participating in Back to School Night last month. We had an incredible 85% turn out for parents. If you were unable to attend, please remember that you may schedule a classroom visit or conference with your child's teacher.

The students at Starting Gate are very proud of their patriotism and invite parents to join in with them during the morning flag ceremony.

Flag Pole

Starting Gate School is non-profit organization that is currently looking for a flag pole that will enable students to raise and lower the flag each day. If you would like to donate a flag pole, or to find out what type or size is needed, please speak with Mr. Steven Reignierd.

Recycling

As mentioned at parent night, recycling is a great way to show support for our school. Please send in recyclable items i.e. plastic water bottles, and aluminum cans. Recycling is an active part of our school program. Students are taught the value of caring for the earth as well as seeing their school benefit from the proceeds that improve the school grounds through new plants.

Columbus Day

Monday, October 12, 2009 is a school holiday. We will be closed in observation of Columbus Day.

Fire Safety Awareness Month

October is Fire Safety Awareness Month. Starting Gate School is required to have four fire drills per school year. Fire drills are held once per month with several random unannounced drills throughout the school year.

Preschool

Picture Day

Thursday, October 8th is Picture Day with Fredrick Geiser. These are pictures that will remain a keepsake in your family for many years to come. Due to the individual nature of these professional personalized photographs, this will be a free dress day for all preschoolers. Uniforms will not be required on this Picture Day. Dress up clothes with an extra change is acceptable. Parent volunteer assistance makes a big difference on this day as the photo session can sometimes be tedious for the children.

Loma Vista Farm

On Wednesday, October 28th the preschoolers will be taking a field trip to Loma Vista Farm. Please see Teacher Dorothy or your child's instructor for details as the scheduled date approaches. Parent chaperones are invited and needed for this learning experience as we will be traveling on the Vallejo City Bus Line.

Halloween Parade

Friday, October 30th will be our Halloween Parade and potluck party. PARENTS: please remember not to send your child to school in cumbersome costumes, or ones that cover the face or are scary to the point of frightening other children. Loose fitting, easy to manage costumes are best, and help to maintain the spirit of fun on this unforgettable day.

Straw Hat Pizza Lunches

For a limited time, in conjunction with Straw Hat Pizza, preschoolers may purchase a hot lunch that includes a vegetable and drink with their meal for \$2.50 per lunch on Thursdays of this month. Please note the dates: Oct. 15, Oct. 22 and Oct. 29. If this trial period is successful, it is possible that it will be incorporated into the preschool program.

Please send \$2.50 cash in an envelope marked with your child's name on it, and present it to your child's teacher

Safety

Teacher Dorothy is currently working with the Vallejo Fire and Police Departments, and possibly our neighboring paramedic organization, to schedule a visit here. Students will learn about safety.

K – 12th

Playground

The school playground is beginning to take shape as new items are added and renovations to the school grounds are made. Hopscotch, tetherball and foursquare have been added allowing students a greater amount of physical activity during recess.

Special thanks to Starting Gate **Honorary Eagles** (a new designation recognizing Exceptional Patrons and Supporters), Mr. & Mrs. Cowherd for their donation of the new basketball hoop and backboard complete with basketballs.

Vallejo Times-Herald

Thanks to the Vallejo Times-Herald. Students in Mr. Hill's classroom remain up to date with current events while reading, reporting on, and discussing articles from the morning paper. News relating to classroom subjects are selected for a review quiz at the end of each week.

Field Trips

Plans are currently in the works for field trips to the Bay Model in Sausalito, the Gravity Free Center in Fremont, and a visit with one of Kaiser Permanente's notable surgeons. To make such events happen this semester, parent support is needed. Please leave your name with your student's teacher or the main office if you are interested in being a chaperone. You can also request to sign up for events via Office@StartingGateSchool.com

Book Donations

Thank you to Mr. Hill and an anonymous benefactor for donating many of this year's school books. For students in the upper grades, this generous donation has changed the total of your student's book bill. This matter was also one the topics discussed at the parent's meeting on Back to School Night.

We will keep you updated as to when the new vocabulary book must be purchased.

1st Grade

All but two of the first grade student books have arrived and have been distributed. Last month the 1st graders were introduced to the human body and are learning about proper care and health. Next semester they will develop their own garden from collected seeds.

Kindergarten

Kindergarten has proven to be an easy transition for this summer's former preschoolers. Reviewing shapes, sizes, & colors is only the beginning for these students. They are practicing their motor, verbal, & mental skills by being challenged with age appropriate reading, writing, arithmetic, art, music, & physical education. Parent volunteers are encouraged to participate in daily activities whenever possible.

Halloween Party

K - 12 will have a Halloween Party on Friday, October 30, following morning academics. Classes will be dismissed at lunchtime.

K – 12th

Holiday Break

Winter Holiday Break begins with no classes on Monday, December 21, 2009. School resumes on Monday, January 4, 2010. The school facility will be open for daycare during this academic break, except for Christmas Day & New Year's Day.

Electronics

Cell phones, iPhones, video games, etc. are not allowed in school. Please refer to the parent/student handbook at www.StartingGateSchool.com. If you do bring such an item to school, keep it turned off in your backpack until you leave the campus after school.

Tutoring

Tutoring for K-12 students will begin on Monday, October 19, 2009. Tutoring is on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 3:30 to 4:00 P.M. by appointment. Cost is \$17.50 per ½ hour session, & free for students enrolled in the Extended Daycare Program. Please sign your child up in the main office if you are interested.

Yard Duty Volunteers

Communication is essential for the growth and development for students at Starting Gate School to achieve their academic goals. Equally important is the ability for staff members of Starting Gate to communicate with parents and staff members.

Volunteers play an extremely important role in assisting to keep our communication open. Mr. Encarnacion has been volunteering his time one day a week for yard duty. The giving of his time provides the staff and teachers a chance to summarize the school activities and plan for future events. Yard duty serves an extremely important role to any school, and not everyone is right for the position.

If this sounds like something you would be interested in one day per week or maybe as a substitute, please inform your student's teacher or the main office.

Yearbook

We need someone computer savvy enough to assist other volunteers in creating a school yearbook in-house and sold as a fundraiser in spring of 2010. We believe Starting Gate can create an exciting memory book that will benefit both the students and school.

Picture Day

Oct. 20th will be picture day for upper grades - via Lifetouch. More details will be sent home as we near the date.