

OUR MOUNTAIN EMPIRE STUDENTS

MEUSD News



BY STEVE VAN ZANT,
MEUSD SUPERINTENDENT

As we close out the year and I complete my first year here at Mountain Empire, I just wanted to share with you some of my impressions and let you know about a few things going on over the summer.

First off, of all the great things I have seen over the year, nothing compared to the senior scholarship night at the high school. It was amazing to see how hard the entire community works on behalf of students. Each community organization, each foundation, each interest group that gave out a scholarship really cared about doing something special for our students. This outpouring of support was inspirational – not only in the generosity of funds, but in the effort that many of you put into giving our students the best chance possible to succeed in whatever they choose to do.

In over 25 years in education, I have never seen the level of genuine support for students that I saw that night. On a per capita basis, the monetary value of those scholarships far outweighs anything I have ever seen in public education and may rival amounts given to private school students.

Since that time, I have also been approached by many of you to let me know just how impressed you were by our students as they completed applications and interviews for these scholarships. I am very proud of our students, teachers and community. You should be very proud, too, of yourselves and the efforts you make to help students in the community. This type of effort is truly uncommon and speaks volumes to the caliber of the Mountain Empire community. From all of us associated with the school – Thank you.

I also want you to know that we do have a new football coach. His name is Jim Wright and he will also be working as a counselor at Mountain Empire High School. Mr. Wright comes to us from Arizona where he has coached for many years at a variety of levels. Mr. Wright knows football and how to form a collection

of eager young men into a team. Over the summer, he will be holding workouts Monday through Thursday in the late afternoons and evenings so the boys have every opportunity to get stronger and learn more about what will be expected of them this year. We have some very talented young players that just need some attention and coaching. I am excited to have someone who has a past record of success, like Coach Wright, to help mold them into becoming an exceptional team.

At this time, Coach Wright is also looking for some help. We have several assistants lined up. However, we could use a couple more dedicated individuals to help out with coaching duties this year. If you're interested, please give us a call at (619) 473-9022.

Finally, thanks again for helping to make my first full year at Mountain Empire the most fulfilling – and fun year I have had in quite some time. I really do see greatness in our future. The excitement I feel as I travel around the district is real and the support is obvious. With your continued help and support, we will become the type of school district that we all know it can become.

Ms. Young Says Goodbye

To My Students at Mountain Empire High School,

It is hard to find the words to say "goodbye" to all of you, whose lives have touched mine in the last five years. You have been the joy and the focus of my days at Mountain Empire. I have so enjoyed watching you grow up and am so proud

of the positive changes many of you have made in your lives. The greatest joy for a teacher, and for a principal, is the success of their students. My goal for all of you is to continue to learn and grow, in whatever path you choose after high school. I will miss all of you and your families, but please know that you will

always be in my heart. I encourage you to stay in touch with me by email: dyoung@meusd.net I wish you happiness and success in your future.

With all my love,
Diane Young,
MEHS Principal

MEHS Hires New Football Coach

BY TONY NEFF

Mountain Empire has hired a new football coach; Mr. James Wright. Mr. Wright brings thirty years experience to the job, with fifteen years spent as a high school coach. Hard work and discipline is his order of the day.

Coach Couch will also return next season to work with the team after having developed a weight training

program for the student athletes. His program is patterned after the Strongman Competition. This is upper body strength training to enable the athletes to build stamina and be strong competitors at the end of each contest. Joel Couch has also been instrumental in procuring new equipment for the weight room.

There are future plans for the lower field (the dirt

bowl) which include sod, and the development of two football/soccer fields. Two new baseball diamonds and a small playground are in the mix according to Mr. Sills, the Athletic Director. He also states that plans are in the works for a marksmanship course and a girl's field hockey team. The concept according to Mr. Sills is to push the kids to higher levels of achievement.

Mountain Empire Preschools

BY COLLEEN ELLIOTT,
PROGRAM DIRECTOR

By the time this article goes to print, the Mountain Empire School District Preschools will be on Summer Vacation. However this is the ideal time for you to be gathering the documentation needed for next year's registration! More on that later.

The staffs at all three Preschools would like to thank the students and parents from last year for making the past school year a great one filled with loving memories! We have enjoyed (and learned from) all the students this year. We hope to see all the younger ones back next year and issue a directive to all parents who have children going on to kindergarten next year, to come back and visit us.

To all the parents who helped out this year, we want to send our heartfelt thanks! We truly believe that a successful school is one whereby the parents are involved and contribute to the operation of that school. Even though you may have not been able to volunteer in the classroom, you contribute to the success of the school whenever you send in a contribution, help on a field trip, or even if you fill out surveys that are sent home. All these things enable us to provide for you a well-rounded educational atmosphere for your child. This is true not only in the Preschools, but also in subsequent schools where your student attends. Stay involved in your child's school. This is especially important in their High School years.

We are anticipating a full enrollment for next year at all our sites. If you have not yet registered for next

year, or know anyone who would like to enroll for our programs, please encourage them to apply as soon as possible, before all the slots are taken. Registration will start August 3rd. As always, low-income families have first priority for enrollment, but if space is available, families may enroll their children by applying for "Preschool For All" slots (four-year olds only) or by paying the current tuition. There are many new regulations for enrollment this year. We are now required to show proof of all people living within the household as being members of the family unit. In many cases this requires copies of birth certificates of ALL children in the family unit. There are other new requirements as well, but those can be explained on a case by case basis. As always, we need proof of a month's worth of income, proof (within the last month) of residence, copy of your student's birth certificate and copy of your student's shot record. All students will need a recent (within six months) physical. If a student is new to this country, a TB (tuberculosis) test will also be required.

SOME LAST THOUGHTS FROM LAST YEAR FROM THE DIRECTOR, (Mrs. Elliott):

"It is my sincere hope that your child's experience this year has been a pleasant and educational one. It is my opinion that you made a wise decision to offer your child an early start in his/her education. Studies have proven that the child who has had a quality preschool experience, does better in school throughout their future educational learning, than those children without a preschool experience. I

hope we have been able to give your child that experience. I continue to urge you to become and stay involved in your child's schools. Parent involvement is a very powerful and educational tool in insuring a continued quality education for your child. This holds true all the way through high school and beyond. Children succeed better in school when parents are active participants!"

SOME LAST THOUGHTS FROM CAMPO'S TEACHER, (Mrs. Hart):

"I want to thank you for the special opportunity you have given me to be a part of your child's life. Each day I watch them blossom from once shy, not quite so sure of this new environment, to independent, self-confident individuals. I take great pleasure in listening as their vocabulary strengthens and grows. Each one has developed their own strategies in interacting and solving the everyday conflicts with peers. There is so much more that happens in the "magical world of preschool". Each one of my students holds a dear and special place in my heart. I am blessed they are a part of my life!"

The Preschools will start WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 26TH. This will be the start date for all other schools in the Mountain Empire School District as well. Please plan your vacations to be completed at least a day or two before that start date so ALL students will begin the new school year with perfect attendance from DAY ONE! We want this school year to be the best attendance year, district wide!

See you next year!!

Mountain Empire High School Booster Club

Spaghetti Dinner!

Everyone \$5

Pine Valley Community Center

Sat July 18

5pm-8pm

Raffle Prizes

\$25 Seau's Gift Certificate **4 Sea World Tickets**
4 Natural History Museum Tickets
6 Bahia Bell Cruise Tickets **2 Hornblower Cruise Tickets**

Come support your local high school athletic programs!