



monthly - September

Projects: bridges - gliders - windmills

First Ever MESA Dance a HUGE Success!

The back-to-school dance has come and gone, and immediate feedback received from students gave our dance *rave reviews*. Numbers have yet to come in as to the dollar amount raised to support RJJH MESA, but preliminary estimates are very strong. Your students did a *great job* of publicizing the dance, creating decorations, and serving as great “dance ambassadors” in promoting the event. A whopping 230 tickets were sold!

This event definitely could *not have happened* without the support of **you**, the countless parent volunteers...from our concessions experts, to chaperones, cupcake bakers, pizza runner, decorators, food and drink donators, and many more. A heartfelt **thank you** for your support of this program and dedication to your student’s education. Great job, and *go team MESA!* What a privilege to work with you all!

Parent Meeting

I wish to offer another big **thank you** to parents who attended the MESA parent meeting immediately following Rafer’s Get Acquainted Night. We were able to discuss upcoming events, such as College Night (**tomorrow night – 9/9/09 from 5:15 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.**), the four Saturday Academy dates scheduled for this school year, as well as the *mandatory MESA Day Preliminary* competition scheduled for **Saturday, March 13, 2010**. Parents were asked to submit student interest in particular dates, so students could submit their online enrollment for these events as they become available. If you have not yet done this for your student, please do this as soon as possible, as the registration for our first Saturday Academy *opens this week!*

In addition to these upcoming dates, we discussed general grading policies, as well as our first project due date, ABI grade checks, and our RJJH MESA blog site, upon which students will

very soon be submitting their journal entries.

If you have any questions regarding RJJH MESA, please do not hesitate to contact me (e-mail is generally best) at ddedini@kingsburg-elem.k12.ca.us.

Another great place to find the most up-to-date information and links to MESA news is on my website: www.mrsdedini.com. A quick link to our forthcoming blog page is also included on this site, for your convenience.

Quarter Project

Our first *quarter project* choices have been announced: **wind energy design (windmills), balsawood gliders, and bridges**. The *due date* for the first project is **October 22, 2009**. Students will begin researching their choice of *one* of these three projects and working through the **Design-Build-Test** cycle over the next month and a half. Please encourage and assist your student as they begin their work, and contact me with any questions.

Catalina Reminder for 8th Grade MESA Students!

I need to get a *commitment* from students wishing to attend the **Catalina Island Marine Institute** trip by Friday, **September 11, 2009**. Only seven spaces are available, and priority will be given to 1. *Second year MESA students*, 2. *Students in good academic and disciplinary standing*, and 3. *Students who will commit to pre-arranging work for the missed school days*. After this, all interested *current and qualified 8th grade MESA elective students* will be given the opportunity to fill any empty spaces through random drawing, as they become available.

---- CIMI will take place from November 4 – 6, 2009 ----