



PROMONTORY NEWS

PROMONTORY SCHOOL OF EXPEDITIONARY LEARNING • MARCH 2013 NEWSLETTER

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

"Not everything that can be counted counts, and not everything that counts can be counted." Albert Einstein

Education is rife with intangibles. Critical factors that define success, and in far too many cases, failure, cannot be measured through standardized testing or other means. Many of you seeking such intangibles chose to bring your students to Promontory. For me, as a parent and as an educator, one of those intangibles is confidence. If you would indulge me this month, I would like to share one of my favorite experiences of watching confidence blossom.

For several years, I ran a summer program for incoming sixth graders. One highlight was an overnight backpack trip over Mount Naomi, the highest peak in the Bear River range. Our primary objective was improving academics, namely reading and writing, not specifically building confidence. Hopefully, as a Promontory parent, that makes sense to you; for many, it was a foreign concept. One

of my favorite experiences occurred on my first trip with eleven-year-olds.

When Angela initially shouldered her pack at trailhead, she was gushing with excitement. Mile one gained elevation slowly, a good introductory mile for novice backpackers. We stopped at our first stream crossing and filtered water to top off our water bottles. We broke out the book we were reading, *Wolf Stalker*, and wrote in our journals. Our students were restless to press on.

Mile two also gained elevation slowly. We made a couple of stream crossings and stopped for another good rest, reading, and writing. When it was time to shoulder those packs again and face mile three, Angela was visibly less enthusiastic. A collective groan ran through our group, including from Angela.

We were now into some serious and rugged elevation gain. It was rocky; it was dusty, and it was steep. No reprieve was in sight. After more than a mile of this incessant ascent, we finally stopped for a welcomed rest.

We used this time to physically and emotionally recharge because the last two miles would be the hardest yet.

Angela was tired. The sparkle in her eyes had faded, and probably, somewhere in the back of her thoughts was a seed of doubt and a wish that she were somewhere else - anywhere but here. This is not an unusual feeling at this point, but one of the unique things about this experience is that when the kids wish they had a way to quit, there is no exit. The only way out at this point is to finish.

This final ascent was filled with an interesting combination of anticipation, drudgery, and in some cases, pure agony. We dug deep for the strength to go on, and at this point, Angela was done. . . done, but unfortunately, not finished. She began to fall farther and farther behind. She felt defeated. Her enthusiasm was dashed. That is a lonely, helpless place, especially when you're only eleven. She was trying not to cry. She was trying to be brave. The others were far up the trail by now,

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Spring Family Fundraiser 5k • Family Picnic • Silent Auction Saturday, April 27

Funds raised will benefit school playground.

All family, friends, and neighbors welcome!

Watch your email for more information.

Willing to help with planning and set-up? [CLICK HERE!!](#)



MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

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so I turned to her and said, "Can I carry your pack for a while?"

A little snuffle preceded a weak smile and a weary nod. I threw her pack over the top of mine, and we again trudged up the trail. I looked back and said, "Let me know when you want this back."

We hiked a quarter mile when she said she was ready. As we crested the ridge and saw the lake, literally a stone's throw away, a smile broke across Angela's weary face, and she pronounced one of the most memorable things I have ever heard a student say. She drew in a deep breath of relief and renewed life, let it out with her original enthusiasm, and said, "That wasn't so bad!"

The next day we had to shoulder those packs again, ascend another mile and a half to the summit of Mount Naomi, and then finish this second day with a three-and-a-half-mile descent to Tony Grove Lake where our bus ride home awaited.

The truly remarkable part was that Angela, the full-of-enthusiasm Angela we saw at trailhead and now a full-of-renewed confidence Angela, was right on the leader's heels the whole five miles. She discovered abilities and inner strength she never knew she had. She was stronger, not just on the outside, but on the inside. In fact, she was stronger than she had ever imagined she could be.

One of my joys at Promontory is watching our students, your children, not only grow in their academic abilities, but also watching them grow in that intangible trait of confidence. It's often slow, sometimes almost imperceptible. It is analogous to trudging up Angela's trail. Confidence is a variable that, in my experience, spells the difference for not only academic success but also life success. It is an intangible that all of us at Promontory wish for, strive for, and want to nurture in all our students. 🌟

Please join us for a Town Meeting
Thursday, March 28, 7:00 PM in the Library

FIELDWORK CREW

Thanks so much parent drivers! We couldn't do this without you. If you have not had the chance to go on fieldwork, talk with your teachers to find out about opportunities that may work for you.

To help with setting up fieldwork, contact Misty Biesinger, mbiesinger@promontoryschool.org.

EL CORNER

*Expeditionary Learning has **five core practices**: learning expeditions, active pedagogy, culture and character, leadership and school improvement, and school structures.*

Learning Expeditions

These challenging, interdisciplinary, real-world projects and in-depth studies act as the principal curriculum units in Expeditionary Learning schools. Learning Expeditions support central academic standards of content, while promoting character development and fostering a service ethic.

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT EXPEDITIONARY LEARNING BY CLICKING HERE.



Bike Rodeo

A Bike and Road Safety Event

Friday, April 26

THINGS TO BRING TO SCHOOL

☐ Helmet
☐ Bike*

* a couple of extra bikes will be available for children that are unable to bring one

HELP WANTED!

Need Volunteer Hours?
Check out these great opportunities!

- * YEARBOOK Assistants
- * BIKE RODEO Wranglers
- * CROSSING GUARDS

No experience required!

[CLICK HERE TO VOLUNTEER!](#)
(Please include your preference in your email.)

BOOKMOBILE
Monday, Apr 1
Monday, Apr 15
Monday, Apr 29

Remember to send!



Community Emergency Response Team

GO KITS
for each of your students

Include in a Ziploc Bag Labeled with Student Name

- ☐ Parents' names & contact info
- ☐ Out of area family/friend contact information
- ☐ Medication list
- ☐ Unopened water bottle
- ☐ Packaged snacks
- ☐ Small game
- ☐ Stuffed animal

Q & A

- Q:** What is the Parent Advisory Crew (PAC)?
- A:** A group of parents who organize our parent volunteer crews and help keep the school and families connected.

Q: Who is part of PAC Crew?

- A:** Crew Members are
- Shallen Sorenson
 - GayLynn Stevens
 - Misty Biesinger
 - Tressa Johnston
 - Angela Flint
 - You? [CLICK HERE IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN JOINING THE PAC](http://promontoryschool.org/for_parents/staff_directory)

Q: What is the Parent Liaison?

- A:** The Parent Liaison is a non-voting member of the board. His/Her job includes:
- Being a parent advocate and voice at board meetings.
 - Planning and holding Parent Advisory Crew meetings.

Q: How does the PAC help you?

- A:** Board meetings are always open to the public. You are welcome to come and voice your concerns and/or successes during public comment. If you are unable to do this, you may contact the Parent Liaison.

Q: Who is the Parent Liaison?

- A:** Shallen Sorenson,
ssorenson@promontoryschool.org



LET'S COMMUNICATE!



We encourage you to talk to your student's teacher.

Ask them questions about your child, tell them what's going on at home, and find out about their learning targets.

Email is an excellent way to communicate questions, concerns, compliments, and appreciation to your child's teacher.

Below is a list of teacher's email addresses. Find a copy online at http://promontoryschool.org/for_parents/staff_directory.

Director	Bryce Passey	bpassey@promontoryschool.org
Head Secretary	Shawna Ulm	sulm@promontoryschool.org
Kindergarten	Mindy Espinoza	mespinoza@promontoryschool.org
1st, 2nd Grade	Cindy Wells	cwells@promontoryschool.org
	Tiffany Conger	tconger@promontoryschool.org
	Tina McMullin	tmcmullin@promontoryschool.org
	Glenna Petersen	gpetersen@promontoryschool.org
3rd, 4th Grade	Dana Durney	ddurney@promontoryschool.org
	Lynette Reeder	lreeder@promontoryschool.org
	Nina Guzzetti	nguzzetti@promontoryschool.org
	Dot Ross	dross@promontoryschool.org
5th, 6th Grade	Lindsay Walter	lwalter@promontoryschool.org
	Nancy Smith	nsmith@promontoryschool.org
	Dorothy Dobson	ddobson@promontoryschool.org
	Heidi Heil	hheil@promontoryschool.org
7th, 8th Grade		
Math	Rob Christensen	rchristensen@promontoryschool.org
Science	Tracy Davidson	tdavidson@promontoryschool.org
History	Sean Wallis	swallis@promontoryschool.org
English	Mary Beth Farrer	mfarrer@promontoryschool.org
Adventure Coordinator	Tia Cornelius	tcornelius@promontoryschool.org
Music and Art		
Arts Coordinator	Gayle Mansfield	gmansfield@promontoryschool.org
K-4 Choir Teacher	Janni Richards	jrichards@promontoryschool.org
5-8 Choir Teacher	Camille McClurg	cmccclurg@promontoryschool.org
Strings Specialist	Diane Austin	daustin@promontoryschool.org
Nutrition Director	Megan Quitberg	mquitberg@promontoryschool.org
Special Education	Sherry Christensen	schristensen@promontoryschool.org
	Laura Sage	lsage@promontoryschool.org

Check out our new website!!

(Be sure to delete your browser history if the website doesn't load properly.)