



THE OLD MILL CREEK

www.oldmillschool.org
2008-2009 Issue No. 5

Published by the Old Mill Elementary School PTA – Mill Valley, California

January 7, 2009



There was lots of singing and dancing at Old Mill in December with chorus concerts, shows and performances. Here, the fourth and fifth graders strut their stuff with the energetic Alan Scofield. Thanks to Kiddo! and its supporters for providing music, dance and so much more.



CALENDAR

- Thursday, January 8
ITAV Speaker Event
6:30 p.m. MVMS Library
- Friday, January 9
PTA Exec. & General Meeting
8:45/9:00 a.m. Old Mill
- Wednesday, January 14
School Board Meeting
6:00 p.m. District Office
- Monday, January 19
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
No School
- Monday, January 26
Staff Development Day
No School
- Wednesday, February 4
School Board Meeting
6:00 p.m. Old Mill School
- Thursday, February 5
Science Night
7:00 p.m. Old Mill School
- Friday, February 6
PTA Exec. & General Meeting
8:45/9:00 a.m. Old Mill
- Thursday, February 12
Room 12 Cultural Celebration
5:00 p.m. Old Mill School
- Monday, February 16 to
Friday, February 20
Mid-Winter Recess
No School
- Tuesday, March 3
STAR Writing Test
Fourth Graders
- Friday, March 6
PTA Exec. & General Meeting
8:45/9:00 a.m. Old Mill

DROP DON'T STOP SCHEDULE

WEEK OF JANUARY 5
WEEK OF JANUARY 20
WEEK OF FEBRUARY 2
WEEK OF FEBRUARY 23
WEEK OF MARCH 9
WEEK OF MARCH 23

ROOM 9
ROOM 7
ROOM 5
ROOM 3
ROOM 14
ROOM 11

WEEK OF JANUARY 12
WEEK OF JANUARY 27
WEEK OF FEBRUARY 9
WEEK OF MARCH 9
WEEK OF MARCH 16
WEEK OF MARCH 30

ROOM 8
ROOM 6
ROOM 4
ROOM 15
ROOM 12
ROOM 10



PTA EXPRESS

by Leanne Hansen
& Deborah Goldman



Happy New Year 2009 and Welcome Back to Old Mill School. We remain thankful to all of you for the extraordinary semester we had this Fall: a successful lunch program, an incredibly profitable Lapathon, the passage of the Measure A Parcel Tax and the commitments for Kiddo! to reach its annual goal. These funds will allow us to continue all of our programs for this year.

Please enjoy Science Night, Author's Month, Hobby Night, our Old Mill School Art Show and our many wonderful assemblies. Please know that your teachers have the funds they need to purchase classroom supplies and curriculum supports. And with PTA funding teacher supplies & supports, Kiddo! is able to fund our classroom & library aides in addition to all of our art, dance, music, poetry and technology.

Please continue your kindness: volunteering in our classrooms and on our blacktop, driving on field trips, performing all of our PTA jobs, and continuing to buy your children lunches. Remember not everyone likes all the offerings, but my girls LOVE those Chicken Tamales, and with every lunch Old Mill School PTA gets a little bit! Try'em. Oh, and don't forget the Kiddo! Auction on Saturday, March 14th.

Again, we couldn't be more thankful for all that we have to start 2009 here at Old Mill School. We appreciate all you do. Enjoy every moment with your children.



Old Mill Artists on Display at the Mill Valley Public Library!

The Mill Valley Public Library selected works from three talented Old Mill School artists to display in the front case of the library during the month of December. Congratulations to Old Mill resident artists:

Ethan Frankel—Fifth Grade
Pim Naramore—Second Grade
Hiro Chemers—Second Grade

And thanks to all the families, businesses and other members of our community who support Kiddo! and help provide art programs in our schools.

PTA Executive Board

Co-Presidents

Leanne Hansen
leannehansen@sbcglobal.net

Deborah Goldman
dmfreed@aol.com

VP Communications

Nicole Taylor
nicole@ascendquality.com

VP Events/Programs

Mary Stervinou
mstervinou@comcast.net

Maggie Woodward
mywoodward@yahoo.com

VP Fundraising

Chris Hill
chris@mackiemack.com

VPs Fundraising—Lunch Prgm

Heidi Whalen
heidi.whelen@sbcglobal.net

Molly Mercy
molly@foursquareinc.net

Auditor

Karen Meezan
kmeezan@comcast.net

Parliamentarian

Peggy Armbruster
apeggya@comcast.net

Secretary

Sarah McNeil
srmcneil@pacbell.net

Treasurer

Sue Weinswig
weinswig@gmail.com

Financial Secretary

Lisa Preger
lpreger@comcast.net

Administrative Representative

Jane McDonough
jmcdonough@mvschools.org

Faculty Representatives

Linda Tanguay
ltanguay@mvschools.org

Laura Shearer
lshearer@mvschools.org

Kiddo! Representative

Kellie Kessel
kelliek@pacbell.net

Historian

Jan Hudson
jan.hudson@comcast.net



GRIST

by Jane McDonough



Welcome back to the new/old year! Though we are suddenly nearing the end of the first decade of this millennium – seems like a short while ago we worried about Y2K! - the school year is not quite half way through. It is good to get back into the rhythm of school and schedules, after what I hope was a wonderful break for all of you. At the end of this month (January 26th) we will once again participate in an all-county staff development day. We are all looking forward to this opportunity to work together and with other schools and professionals to learn about what works for them and to share what works for us. It is exciting to see, in this collaborative work, the shift away from what doesn't work, to unearthing, sharing and refining what does work in terms of student learning. We at Old Mill are grateful for your ongoing cooperation and assistance as we strive to make learning a tangible daily experience for every child.

We will be starting the year off with an effort to combat Global Warming on a small scale. The project "Cool the Earth" will get underway with the help of Ms. Tanguay and the Student Council and the kind volunteer coordination of Stephanie Alamin. You will hear about this work from your child and from classroom communications. We are excited to kick it off with a small faculty (all volunteers!) staffed skit the first week of January. Pictures to follow.

Cold and flu season are usually with us in January and February. Please help your child help himself by keeping track of jackets sweaters and so forth so that students are attired properly for the colder weather and the lost and found doesn't turn into the colossus overnight. Proper rest and diet contribute greatly to keeping your resistance up, as do simple measures like coughing into your sleeve and hand washing.

ATTENTION FIFTH GRADE PARENTS—MVMS TOURS

Mill Valley Middle School offers tours for parents of fifth graders who will be starting at the Middle School next fall. The tours last about one hour and they are for parents only (students will have an opportunity to visit the Middle School with their classmates in the spring). Call 389-7711 extension 2800 to sign up for one of the following tour times:

Tuesday, February 24 th	8:45 a.m.
Wednesday, March 25 th	7:00 p.m. (this is the only evening tour)
Tuesday, April 21 st	8:45 a.m.
Thursday, May 7 th	8:45 a.m.
Thursday, May 28 th	8:45 a.m.

The tours fill up quickly so call now to make your tour reservation.



Get Ready for the 2009 Season—Mill Valley Girls Softball

There is still time to sign up to play softball this year—Mill Valley Girls Softball welcomes all girls from kindergarten through eighth grade to come out and play! You can register online by going to the MVGS website www.millvalleygirlssoftball.org and then click on the link to access the registration form. While you are on the website, check out the nifty new video. 2008 was a great season and MVGS hopes to have even more girls playing this year.

A Word from Kiddo! . . .

Congratulations! 2008 Annual Giving Campaign Meets Fundraising Goal

Thank you to all of the wonderful parents, grandparents, local businesses, and community members who helped us reach our \$1.6 million* 2008 Annual Campaign fundraising goal for the 2008-09 school year. In these difficult economic times, it is heartening to see our community continue to invest in one of our most valuable assets, our children's education. We recorded over 70% family participation, district-wide, and we look forward to increasing our participation rate in 2009. Working together, we will continue to provide the vital arts programs and classroom teaching support our students deserve.

*If your family has an outstanding pledge for the 2008 campaign, we still need your payment to meet our commitment to the District to pay for our programs and teachers.

SAVE THE DATE: Kiddo! Spring Gala – March 14, 2009

Mark your calendars for the Kiddo! Spring Gala on March 14 at the Mill Valley Community Center. This is one of the best events in town, so please join us for a fun night of dining and dancing to the fantastic band, "The Unauthorized Rolling Stones." We will also have a live auction, a silent auction and an on-line auction. All proceeds from the Spring Gala benefit the Kiddo! Endowment. The Auction Committee is busy gathering wonderful items for the Auction, but we need the help of the entire parent community. Can you help with any of the following?

- **Wine collectors!** Consider donating a wine vertical, a big bottle or a specially engraved bottle to the Kiddo! Auction.
- **Food Lovers!** We're looking for families with connections to restaurants or chefs who can help us put together dining gift certificates, a private dining experience for a group of people with a (known) chef, a cooking class for a group, or any other fun food experience.
- **Travelers!** Have some miles to use up, or maybe an available vacation home or timeshare, or a hotel contact?
- **Sports Fans!** Do you or your friends have access to sporting event tickets, luxury boxes, or sports memorabilia?
- **Connections!** Do you know someone in the movie industry, TV or radio? People love to bid on the behind the scenes tours or autographed items.

A copy of the Auction Donation Form is posted on our website, www.kiddo.org. If you or anyone you know can help us with these items, please submit the auction donor form, or contact one of our Silent Auction chairs: Kelly Reade (383-8886 ksreade@comcast.net) or Ahtossa Fullerton (380-1803 ahtossa@hotmail.com). Thank you and see you at the Spring Gala!

Michael Thompson, PhD to speak in Mill Valley, February 4th

Mark your calendars for February 4th to hear world-renowned author and child psychologist, Michael Thompson, PhD. A dedicated speaker and traveler, Dr. Thompson has spoken at or consulted to more than 500 schools in the U.S. and abroad. He has appeared on the Today Show, the Oprah Winfrey Show, ABC 20/20 and CBS 60 Minutes. He was the co-author, host and narrator of a two-hour PBS documentary entitled "Raising Cain: Focus on Boys" which aired in January of 2006. For more information about Michael Thompson go to his website: www.michaelthompson-phd.com. The free event is sponsored by Fidelity Investments. In addition, Fidelity will donate \$50 to Kiddo! for anyone who goes in for a complimentary portfolio review by April 15, 2009.

Dr. Thompson's Mill Valley topic, "The Pressured Child," will be held February 4th at 7:00 p.m. in the Park School Auditorium. He will also be speaking earlier in the day in Kentfield (11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Bacich Community Center, 699 Sir Francis Drake Blvd) and Larkspur (3:00-4:30 p.m. at Hall Middle School Library, 200 Doherty Drive). Michael's books will be available for sale and for Michael to sign (personal checks and cash only please). Please call Janet McKinley at Fidelity Investments for questions: 415-925-9155 ext 53590.

PTA LUNCH PROGRAM FUNDRAISER WITH REVOLUTION FOODS

We are really happy with the effort that Revolution Foods is putting forth to serve healthy lunches to our students. There are now a number of new entrees available that meet high standards of excellence for nutrition and big effort is made to please a wide variety of tastes.

Revolution Foods recently facilitated a student focus group composed of approximately 20 students who gave feedback on three new entrees as well as general input regarding the lunches served daily. Some of the changes that students recommended have already been implemented and they continue to respond to feedback that you give on-line. The new menu items added in December have been very popular, especially the warm soups. In addition to the popular **Chicken Tortilla Soup and Chicken Noodle Soup**, two new soups have been added to the January menu: **All Natural Clam Chowder and Creamy Tomato Soup with a Sourdough Roll**. Here are a few quotes from some Old Mill student:

"The mac & cheese is my favorite. It is really cheesy and yummy!"—*Grace, 1st Grade*

"I love the Chicken Noodle Soup and the roll that comes with it is super good!"—*Thomas, 3rd Grade*

TIMELINE FOR LUNCH ORDERS AND PAYMENTS

<u>Menu Posted</u>	<u>Term</u>	<u>Payment Due</u>
January 1	February/March	January 28
March 1	April/May	March 25
May 1	June	May 27

Make your check payable to Old Mill PTA and drop it off in the envelope outside the office before 3pm on the due date listed above. To avoid cancellation of your orders, payment must be made by the due date.

Psychologically Speaking by Claudia Trinklein-Engman

Within the academic environment, teachers are constantly asking children to "take risks" and try new things. Sounding out new words, predicting and estimating math answers, giving speeches in front of the class all take a degree of risk. We tell youngsters to ask for help and to have directions repeated if they do not know how to proceed. If a child has difficulty giving themselves permission to self-advocate or to attempt new challenges, this may be hugely problematic.

Socially and emotionally, children are also asked to "take chances." Introducing oneself to a new friend, asking to join a game, even telling others how you feel are often seen as "risk-taking" behavior. Kids feel a certain amount of trepidation at doing all of the above and at times become immobilized because of their timidity.

We, as adults and parents, need to foster in our children the concept of "mastering the unknown." It is extremely important for children to feel that they should and can embrace new challenges, both academically as well as socially. Preparing a child to take risks at home or under your supervision makes it easier to take appropriate risks within their academic and social environment.

Encourage your child to do "new" things. Sports, after-school classes, meeting new people all help a child explore new frontiers. But having them retrieve the dry cleaning while you wait in the car, asking someone at the grocery store where the milk is and THEN getting it for you, returning videos, taking on the responsibility of care-taking a neighbor's dog or cat, all demand that a child try things that aren't necessarily completely comfortable the first time around. Of paramount importance is helping a child master new tasks, try new things, survive the experience, (for better or worse,) and hopefully in its accomplishment feel proud of the results.

Even though these suggestions are not academic or peer-related social skills per se, if a child can take a chance in an unrelated sphere and feel successful, that pride and self-confidence can transfer into his/her school environment as well. Children need to practice not only mastering self-confidence, but also failing a bit along the way. None of us get it right the first time around all the time. If you help your child process their inevitable inability to always master a new challenge the first time they attempt it, and if it feels like it is ok for them to continue trying, our youngsters will do so much better both academically and socially. Risk-taking then becomes part of a positive, productive life.

Happy New Year from the Mill Valley Public Library

What great books will you read in 2009? We add new books to the children's collection almost every week, so you'll always have plenty of hot-off-the-press titles to choose from, as well as all your old favorites. Don't forget to check out **100% Hand-Picked** at <http://millvalleylibrary.org> to see what's new.

Speaking of great books, do you need help deciding which books are right for you? If you're in grade 5-8, sign up for **PeRP**, our **Personalized Reading Program**. Meet with a librarian and get a customized list of just-right books for you. (For Mill Valley residents only.)

Got homework? Check out **Live Homework Help**, our fabulous, FREE online tutoring service. It's better than ever now that students from grades K through college can use it. All you need is a library card, a computer (if you don't have one, come to the library and use ours), and homework. (For Mill Valley residents only.) Find it on our website: <http://millvalleylibrary.org>

Coming February 12 at 3:30 pm: a very special Valentine's program for kids of all ages. Watch our website for details. Call 415-389-4292 x106 for information about all of our programs and services.



It Takes a Village Special Education PTA

Please check our website out to learn how we can help you and your child. We are at www.itavmv.org. Information about our speaker events (including speaker notes and handouts), parent coffees, and playgroups is posted.

“Encouraging an Engaged Learning Style: A Developmental Look at Executive Functioning”

Thursday, January 8th, 6:30-8:00 pm at MVMS Library

Karen Seekamp and Patricia Holden will speak on one of our most popular topics of the year. Join us for this interactive presentation which will help parents understand Executive Functioning needs from elementary through high school. Executive Functioning issues include difficulty with planning, organizing, and managing time and space. They also affect one's ability to pay attention to and remember details. While the brain continues to mature and develop connections well into adulthood, many students can benefit from strategies that can be implemented now. Karen and Patricia will discuss these strategies and more! (This educational program is provided in collaboration with the Mill Valley PTA District Council and It Takes a Village Special Education PTA.)

Parent Coffee—Friday, January 16th, 9:00-11:00 a.m. at 186 Corte Madera Drive

Parents of children with learning differences face many challenges. These coffees provide a chance for parents to share information and support each other. Please join us at the home of Tam Valley parent Erica Kelly. If you have questions, please contact Erica at 381-8866 or erica.kelly@gmail.com.

Thanks to Dedication to Special Education!

Dedication to Special Education is an organization that raises money for special education in Marin County. It recently announced grants to Colleen Cavin, a District occupational therapist, for handwriting materials and to Teri Hagan, an Edna resource teacher, for a computer and software. Congratulations to Colleen and Teri. Also, check out Dedication to Special Education's raffle on www.specialed.org. Tickets are \$20 each and the grand prize is a Toyota Prius!

Shop Mill Valley Market and Support It Takes a Village!

Mill Valley Market has offered to donate a portion of its proceeds from your grocery shopping to It Takes a Village. When you check out, give the Market the number **7093**. It couldn't be easier to support our kids!

Old Mill Creek Deadlines

Submit any Creek articles by email to drice@cov.com by the deadlines below (no pdf files please):

Articles Due	Published	Articles Due	Published	Articles Due	Published
December 21 st	January 7 th	February 22 nd	March 4 th	April 26 th	May 6 th
January 25 th	February 4 th	March 22 nd	April 1 st	May 24 th	June 3 rd

If you want to see your child in The Creek, please submit photos of school events as jpeg files. Dale Rice, Editor