



THE OLD MILL CREEK

2006-2007 Issue No. 6

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

January 17, 2007



The Second Grade Is Goin' Buggy!

The second graders presented a spirited version of Goin' Buggy for the school and their families this month. It was well worth the wait!



Spiritwear Winter Break Photo Contest!



Take a picture of yourself wearing your spiritwear this winter. Be silly, be wacky, and be fun! The winning photo gets a prize!!!

Photos must be posted by Jan 31 on the Spiritwear wall.

Calendar

Friday, January 19

PTA Exec. & General Meeting
8:45 a.m. Old Mill

Tuesday, January 23

School Board Meeting
7:00 p.m. District Office

Wednesday, January 24

Teacher Appreciation Lunch
12:00 p.m. Old Mill
Parent Ed—"The Write Stuff"
7:00 p.m. Old Mill

Monday, January 29

Old Mill Site Council
3:00 p.m. Old Mill Library

Thursday, February 8

Science Night
7:00 p.m. Old Mill

Tuesday, January 23

School Board Meeting
7:00 p.m. District Office

Friday, February 9

PTA Exec. & General Meeting
8:45 a.m. Old Mill

Tuesday, February 13

School Board Meeting
7:00 p.m. District Office

Thursday, February 15

Fifth Grade Cultural Night
6:00 p.m. Old Mill

Monday, February 19 to Friday, February 23

Winter Recess—No School

DROP DON'T STOP SCHEDULE:

WEEK OF JANUARY 16—ROOM 10
WEEK OF JANUARY 29—ROOM 8
WEEK OF FEBRUARY 12—ROOM 6
WEEK OF MARCH 5—ROOM 4
WEEK OF MARCH 20—ROOM 15
WEEK OF APRIL 2—ROOM 2

WEEK OF JANUARY 22—ROOM 9
WEEK OF FEBRUARY 5—ROOM 7
WEEK OF FEBRUARY 26—ROOM 5
WEEK OF MARCH 12—ROOM 3
WEEK OF MARCH 26—ROOM 14
WEEK OF APRIL 16—ROOM 1



PTA EXPRESS

By Robin Moses
and Jan Hudson



Happy New Year! We hope you all had a wonderful—and healthy—winter break and holiday season.

It was great to see the students and staff returning back to school last week looking rested and ready for January.

There are several dates in January that we hope you will note on your calendars. The first is our January PTA meeting which will be this Friday, January 19th at 8:45 am in the staff room. We would love to have more parents attend. It's a great opportunity to hear what's happening in our school community from our teacher representatives, our principal and the PTA leadership and committee chairs. Come have a cup of coffee and tell us your thoughts and ideas for Old Mill in 2007 and beyond.

Next Wednesday, January 24th at noon is our second PTA Teacher Appreciation Lunch. Please join us in the auditorium for an informal potluck lunch to appreciate our great teachers and support staff. Look for the flyers around school this week that will inform you what type of foods to provide. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend. If you cannot come but would like to provide a dish, you may bring it in to the kitchen in the auditorium Wednesday morning and we will make sure that it is brought out for lunch.

This same evening we hope to see many of you back at school for The Write Stuff. This wonderful, informative evening will be presented by two of our teachers, Linda Tanquay (5th grade) and Laura Shearer (1st and 2nd grade). This topic and their presentation promises to teach and inform all of us parents about the writing curriculum and practices that our students learn every day in their classrooms. With Mrs. Tanguay and Mrs. Shearer, we'll explore why we write, how to help our children with their writing, and what "writing" looks like at different grade levels. Please look further in the Creek for more information about this PTA-sponsored evening event (for adults only, please).

Please take a moment to look over the PTA lunch order form that has been sent home with your child. This order form is for the second half of the school year. Order forms are due back by Friday, January 19th at 3:30 pm and may be sent back with your child or brought directly to the food program box located in Virginia's office. No late orders will be accepted due to ordering deadlines, so please return your forms as soon as possible.

Thanks to our daily food coordinators who are responsible each and every week for coming and distributing the food. This is an often thankless job. Our tireless lunchtime warriors are Marla Kravatz, Christie Allen, Jon Alper, Ali Duerr and Lisa Capretta. We truly could not offer this program without their help.

We want to extend a special thanks to Ali Duerr and Heidi Whalen who oversee this program as part of their responsibilities as the co-vice presidents of fundraising here at Old Mill. Ali and Heidi put in many hours throughout the school year to ensure that the food program runs efficiently and economically.

See you around school and at the Wednesday coffee cart!

PTA Executive Board

Co-President

Robin Moses
robinmoses@sbcglobal.net

Co-President

Jan Hudson
jan.hudson@comcast.net

VP Communications

Maggie Woodward
mywoodward@yahoo.com

VP Events

Peggy Armbruster
rick.schulze@comcast.net

VPS Fundraising

Ali Duerr
ali_duerr@yahoo.com
Heidi Whalen
heidi.whalen@sbcglobal.net

VP Programs

Mary Stervinou
mstervinou@comcast.net

Auditor

Maeve Walsh
maevew@pacbell.net

Parliamentarian

Karen Betzner
kabetzner@yahoo.com

Secretary

Leanne Hanson
leannehansen@sbcglobal.net

Treasurer

Deborah Goldman
dmfreed@aol.com

Financial Secretary

Tori Herzog
herzog@earthlink.net

Administrative Rep.

Jane McDonough
jMcDonough@marin.k12.ca.us

Faculty Rep.

Linda Tanguay
ltanguay@marin.k12.ca.us

Faculty Rep.

Laura Shearer
lshearer@marin.k12.ca.us

Kiddo! Rep.

Susan Shumway
susanshumway@aol.com

Historian

Lisa Capretta
lisa@capretta.com



GRIST

By Jane McDonough



Happy New Year! Academic work gets underway at this point with focus and energy. After our little (!) bout of shared illness and the winter break we look forward to this time to get our school day rhythm going again. I urge you to confine any family breaks to the many long weekends and the mid-winter break we already have available to us, so that we can accomplish what we have in mind for our students in the coming weeks.

Please also help us continue our efforts with germ reduction as we come back indoors and experience the sometimes rainy weather. If you are in doubt, refer to the guidelines on when to keep your child at home on our website (oldmillschool.org) and remind your child to be responsible about **washing hands** etc. so we all stay well.

This month brings us 2nd Grade's *Goin' Buggy* after all, and the 4th -5th Grade dance performance. On January 12th, our teachers worked together again in teams and in grade levels to develop their areas of curriculum and we had a chance for all of us to review team goals and progress. Our district TLC (Teaching and Learning Collaborative) meets on January 23rd to continue their important work in the four key areas of standards, assessment, intervention and professional development. This month, we also enjoyed an assembly from the Ballet Folklorico thanks to the generosity of the Old Mill PTA. On January 29th, the Site Council will review the revised Action Plan for Old Mill School. We urge you to continue to use the school website and to provide feedback on what you like or still wish to see.

Over the break Old Mill was entirely re-wired for data. The old wiring was removed and CAT6 and fiber optic cable was installed. These changes will make our network much more reliable and robust. When the district completes its transition to fiber optic we anticipate stronger service and greater capacity from our network. It is exciting to see such great progress!

Some reminders:

If, for a doctor's appointment or some other reason, you need to pick up your child during the school day, please try to give the teacher notice that this will be occurring, and be sure to **sign your child out at the office and wait there for your child**. Ms. Virginia can either call to the classroom or go to pick up the child, which provides the least disruption to the classes.

The hallways are not areas for waiting and socializing. It is fine if you are interested in viewing a hallway display occasionally, but as you know, students often do work in the hallway with teachers or volunteers. In general, the tone of the hallways needs to signal that important work is in progress or is about to begin. We all love to see you and exchange greetings, but students and parents are to wait outside—or in the auditorium if it is raining—before school starts and during the day. Thanks for respecting our learning environment.

Children are taller (!) and they are smarter in every way come January. We will work carefully to make sure we are maximizing their learning across the board. Thanks for all you do every day to help that happen.

A Word from the Old Mill Student Council

The Student Council meets weekly in Room 12 with their advisor, Ms. Tanguay. Lately the group has been working on issues that have been brought forward by students. We wanted to remind everyone that school rules apply after, before AND during school. In addition, some students have felt excluded from games or clubs on the playground and students are interested in helping problem solve about that. The Council is sponsoring Crazy Day on February 16th. On Crazy Day, students are invited to dress or wear hair, shoes, etc., that might be considered a bit on the zany side. However, the Council reminds students that behavior and attitude may NOT be crazy on Crazy Day.



Empties for Cash

Earn money for Old Mill by recycling your printer ink cartridges. Just drop your used cartridges in the "Empties

for Cash" box outside Virginia's office. We made \$225 last year from this program—it cost us nothing and promoted recycling!

Advice from Dear Shirley

by Abby, Carla, Jessica & Zoe

Dear Shirley,

I have a problem that I hope you can help me with. I feel like I don't have enough friends. I have three friends and they are all great friends. It just feels like no else likes me. This is starting to make me feel really, really bad. What do you think I should do?

Signed, L

Dear L,

Really, a lot of people feel like they want more friends at some time. Other people think three good friends is the perfect amount. Your letter said that you feel that there are people that don't like you. Is there evidence that they don't like you or is it just a feeling? What is the feeling based on? You might be able to tell they don't like you if they treat you rudely or ignore you, but you didn't mention that specifically. If they are ignoring you, live your life with your three friends and just forget about it.

If you want to have more friends, you probably have to take the first step. There are a lot of ways you can do this. If your friends are playing with their other friends, you could join in with them. Chances are that you will like each other too. Maybe the people that you think don't like you actually do like you, but they just need you to take the first step. If you want to make friends, say something like, "Hi! Can I eat lunch with you guys?" Then you can get into conversations with new people. A lot of times this works out. Sometimes it doesn't and you just need to try again.

Making new friends can be a little scary but, as you know, a good friend is worth it!

Have fun, Shirley

Dear Shirley,

I am having some trouble with my best friend. We have been best friends for a long time. Right now, though, she doesn't feel like my best friend. In fact, she doesn't feel like a friend at all. She doesn't want to play with me at lunch or at recess. And now she only wants to spend time with a new friend that she just met. She won't let me play or talk with them when they are together, and it seems like they are ALWAYS together. I like my best friend and I want to spend time with her. I just don't know what to do.

Signed, X

Dear X,

From what you have told us so far, it sounds like your friend is not the best friend in the world. Or maybe you need to take a break from each other if she is not able to play with you **and** her other friend. Have you and this person gotten into fights that last a long time in the past? If so, then maybe she just disagrees with you and thinks she should spend some time away from you until—in her mind—the argument is over. She may just need a little break.

It is normal to disagree and take breaks in a friendship, and the longer you are friends then that is bound to happen. You need to be the friend that you want to have. You need to be sure that your friend understands your point of view. Maybe your friend wants you to be friends with her other friend. Maybe this is a chance for you to make more friends. Then you and your new friends can include your old friend, too. That way everyone has more fun.

From, Shirley

Old Mill Top Ten Candies

by Mia, help from Aja, Alyssa & Anna-Sofie

Final Top 10 Candy Results

1. Chocolate
2. Nerds
3. Lollipops
4. Skittles & Jolly Ranchers (tie)
5. Gum
6. Gummy Candies
7. M&Ms
8. Reese's
9. Hershey's Chocolates & Tootsie Rolls (tie)
10. Jaw Breakers and Snickers (tie)

Time to Vote for the Top Ten Mill Valley Hot Spots

Vote for your favorite Mill Valley hot spot. Ballots are in the office.

Attention All Fifth Grade Parents

The Mill Valley Middle School PTA is having an evening meeting on Thursday, January 18th at 7:00 p.m. in the MVMS Library. Principal Matt Huxley will be delivering a "State of the School" address and then there will be an update on technology in the district.

Also, if you missed earlier announcements and have a child starting sixth grade next year, the Mill Valley Middle School offers tours (for parents only) that last approximately one hour. Please note that the tours fill up quickly so call 389-7711 X2800 ASAP to make a reservation. The MVMS is offering tours on the evenings of January 18th, February 6th, March 22nd and April 19th.

The MVMS also will be hosting a parent and student information night from 7:00 t 8:00 p.m. on March 5th at MVMS.

A Word from Kiddo! . . .

KIDDO! 25TH ANNIVERSARY AUCTION AND GALA—March 24, 2007 marks the date for Kiddo! biennial auction and gala. If you have sports tickets, gift certificates, vacation homes or another fabulous idea for an auction item, please contact our office at 389-7789. Auction Donation forms are available in all school offices.

The Gala Decorations Committee also is looking for help. The committee is looking for:

- A co-chair to help with the major decorations.
- 10 to 15 volunteers interested in assisting with the planning at pre-Gala “decorating days” at Barbara’s house from 8:30-11:30 a.m. on January 24th, February 7th, March 7th and March 21st.
- Photographers to take pictures of kids engaged in Kiddo-sponsored activities.
- 20 or more volunteers to help decorate the Community Center on March 23rd and March 24th.

Please contact Barbara Hazen, chair of the committee, if you can assist and let her know your interests (388-6804 or blhazen@comcast.net). Anyone energetic enough to volunteer as co-chair should contact Barbara right away, but Barbara is also anxious to get others signed up for the planning meetings and to help get the Community Center ready for the Gala. Please join up to assist with this fun event that brings together many people in our community.

Mill Valley Public Library PeRP-etrator

Ever heard of a personal shopper for reading? We have. In fact, a Mill Valley children’s librarian practically invented the customized booklist for middle readers when she came up with **PeRP**, our **P**ersonalized **R**eadings **P**rogram. Our librarians believe that reading for pleasure is essential for developing a life-long love of reading, and we also recognize that reading is a highly personal endeavor. Based upon your reading likes and dislikes, we can create a customized list of amazing books you’re sure to love.

Mill Valley kids in grades 5 through 8 qualify for this awesome program. Call (415) 389-4292 x106 or come to the Children’s Reference Desk to schedule an appointment.

Mill Valley School District Community Technology Advisory Commission

The Mill Valley School District is seeking interested community members to serve on the Community Technology Advisory Commission (CTAC). The commission, formed over two years ago, meets monthly during the school year to advise the Superintendent on technology directions and solutions that materially, and cost effectively, improve student learning, District operations, and communications.

Applications must be received by 3:00 p.m. on Friday, January 26, 2007. The Superintendent, the Director of Technology and commission members will conduct interviews in early February. For more information, go to the Mill Valley School District website, www.mvschools.org, or call Kathy Hattner at 389-7705.



Thank you for your past generous support of It Takes a Village, Special Education PTA, Mill Valley, through your attendance at our programs, your membership, and additional contributions. We have had great success this year

with the delivery of high quality educational programs to parents. After garnering support from the District and the Mill Valley PTA Council, we also sponsored training for all of the District’s special education staff members on Michelle Garcia Winner’s highly acclaimed Social Thinking curriculum.

We are writing now for two reasons. First, we ask that you join our Special Education PTA if you have not done so already. Our dues are only \$7 per person, far below the cost of our programs. It is important to note we have a very diverse membership that includes parents of children with serious learning disabilities and others with very mild issues. In fact, many of our parents have children *without* learning disabilities but want to learn more about strategies to strengthen their children’s education. Teachers, administrators and other service providers are also a key component of our membership. Please join so that we can continue to provide much needed support and information to our community. Membership/contribution forms are available in the office and can be returned there in the It Takes a Village envelope.

Second, we are trying to reduce costs and increase the efficiency of our communications with members. We would like to rely on electronic mail in a way that preserves the confidentiality of our membership roster. Please allow us to include you in our confidential Yahoo group list serve by completing the “How Can It Takes a Village Get in Touch with Me?” portion of the membership contribution form. And thank you again for your support.

LEARNING STYLES AND MANAGING HOMEWORK

There are many different ways to learn. Join us as Diane Provo explains different learning styles and provides strategies for maximizing your child's academic experience. Diane will also provide guidance on helping your child succeed with homework.

Diane is an educational consultant who maintains an active consulting practice locally and lectures to audiences nationally. She appears regularly on KRON TV's Weekend News. Diane has taught special education classes and coordinated special education programs. She also co-authored the books "Starting Blocks" and "Kids are Great... When You Know How They Work." Diane has a BA degree in Psychology and an MS degree in Education with an emphasis in Special Education. Event sponsored by It Takes a Village Special Education. Contact Janet Miller with any questions (380-0631).

Thursday, January 18, 2007 6:30-8:00 p.m.
Mill Valley District Office, 411 Sycamore Avenue

AMERICA'S TOP LEARNING EXPERT SHOWS THAT EVERY CHILD CAN SUCCEED!

Mel Levine, M.D., learning expert and best-selling author, will conduct two workshops in San Francisco for parents and educators regarding development and learning issues in children and young adults. He will present an optimistic and scientifically supported approach to dealing with individual learning differences among school age children from kindergarten through college.

Friday, January 26, 2007—For All Grade Levels
All-Day Educator Workshop—8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.
\$40 per person--Pre-Registration Required
Complete the registration form available online at parentseducationnetwork.org
90-Minute Parent Workshop—7:00 pm – 8:30 pm
Free--RSVP to pen@parentseducationnetwork.org

Community Events (contact Old Mill parent Melanie Russell with any questions)

Saturday, January 20th 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.—Auditions for the San Francisco Boys Chorus, Marin Campus. Boys ages 4 and up are invited to audition by appointment at the San Francisco Boys Chorus' Marin Campus at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 1123 Court Street, San Rafael. Contact 415-861-SING x306 or erobertson@sfbcc.org.

Saturday, January 20th and February 3rd 1:30 to 3:00 p.m.—free Bay Model guided tour of two-acre operating hydraulic model of the SF Bay and Delta that demonstrates how our local waters flow and the complexity of California water issues past, present, and future. Bay Model Visitor Center, 2100 Bridgeway, Sausalito. Contact 415-332-3871.

Monday, January 22nd 7:30 to 9:00 p.m.—Free in the Creekside Room, Mill Valley Public Library—"Rabbit-Proof Fence," a 2002 movie that captures the true story of three Aboriginal girls taken in 1931 by the Australian government to be trained as servants. The girls walk 1,500 miles to get back home to Western Australia. Contact 415-389-4292 x 203 for additional information.

Monday, January 29th 7:30 to 9:00 p.m.—Free in the Creekside Room, Mill Valley Public Library—"Nowhere in Africa," a 2001 movie that tells the story of a Jewish family who flee Nazi Germany and find refuge in a remote area of Kenya. The film won an Oscar in 2003 for Best Foreign Language Film. Call 415-389-4292 x 203 for additional information.

Saturday, February 3rd 9:00 a.m. to noon—Free—Save The Bay & Marin County Open Space District for winter planting at Santa Venetia Marsh on Gallinas Creek in San Rafael. RSVP to Jocelyn at 510 452 9261 x109 or sign up at www.savesfbay.org/bayevents.

Sunday, Feb. 4th 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.—free for members, \$10 for others plus \$5 per adult for bus from parking area—visit seabirds & elephant seals at Chimney Rock (Point Reyes National Seashore) with a PRBO marine ecology biologist. Contact Missy Wipf at 707-781-2555, ext 302 or mwipf@prbo.org for information.

Desperately Seeking Yearbook Pictures . . .

Each class gets it's own page in the yearbook, but we need your photos to make each class page great. Group shots of three or more help us maximize the number of kids featured and please include only children in the class (cross-class groups can be submitted for the general Old Mill life pages though). Please identify the class for each picture. We do not return photos if we use them; if you want unused photos returned, please write your name and your child's room number on the back. You can submit copies of your photos or digital photos on a CD to the Yearbook box in the office.

If you have any questions, please call Helen Caletti (381-3786), Tori Herzog (388-4967) or Chris Hill (381-5885).

Thanks for your help!

Old Mill Creek Deadlines

The Old Mill Creek is published monthly. If you want to publicize a non-profit event or program, please submit your article by the deadline by email to dale.rice@hellerehrman.com

<u>Articles Deadline</u>	<u>Publication Date</u>
February 7, 2007	February 14, 2007
March 7, 2007	March 14, 2007
March 28, 2007	April 4, 2007
May 2, 2007	May 9, 2007
May 30, 2007	June 6, 2007

Dale Rice, Editor

To contribute photos for the Creek, please submit as jpg files by email to dale.rice@hellerehrman.com.