



# THE OLD MILL CREEK

www.oldmillschool.org  
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## SAVE THE DATE FOR LAPATHON 2009! OCTOBER 25, 2009 11:00-3:00

Mark your calendars for Lapathon 2009, the best party in town! Students and volunteers will wear a t-shirt designed by an Old Mill fifth grader as they raise money by doing laps around the school. Parents can help out by counting laps, doling out water, staffing the barbeque grill and many other fun tasks. Everyone spends the day listening to great music, feasting on great food and enjoying the Old Mill community. You can help by volunteering – you don't have to do any work until after summer vacation, but you can email us to put your name on the list. Or sign up when the new school year begins – check your "first day packet."

Lapathon is the primary fundraiser for the Old Mill PTA and accounts for more than half of the annual budget. The money is used for programs and events, teacher stipends, grants, supplies, repairs and updates. It is used to replace worn out furniture, equipment and fixtures. With the current budget woes, Lapathon funds will be more important than ever to support the remarkable education our fantastic teachers provide for our children. We are counting on 100% participation from all our walkers, their parents and other family members and friends!

We look forward to seeing you at LAPATHON 2009 and thank you in advance for supporting our PTA! Feel free to call or email Lapathon co-chairs Kara Roche (kararoch@mac.com or 383-1581) or Jenny Terry (jenny.terry@comcast.net or 388-8361) with any questions.

### CALENDAR

#### Wednesday, June 3

Open House Night  
7:00 p.m. Old Mill

#### Wednesday, June 10

PTA Executive Board Retreat  
8:45 a.m. Old Mill

School Board Meeting  
6:00 p.m. District Office

#### Tuesday, June 16

School Board Meeting  
(budget to be adopted)  
6:00 p.m. District Office

#### Wednesday, June 17

Fifth Grade Graduation  
9:00 a.m. Old Mill

Last Day of School  
Early Release 12:45 p.m.

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### DON'T FORGET . . .

If your child has medicines stored in the school office, pick up any extra by the end of the school year.

If your child is not a graduating fifth grader but will not be returning to Old Mill in the fall, please stop in the office and tell us.

School starts again on Thursday, August 27, 2009

Back-to-School Night is on September 2, 2009.

Lapathon is Coming Again October 25, 2009.

Have a Great Summer!

**BEST WISHES TO  
ALL OF THE OLD  
MILL GRADUATING  
FIFTH GRADE  
STUDENTS!!**



## DROP DON'T STOP SCHEDULE

**WEEK OF JUNE 1  
WEEK OF JUNE 15**

**ROOM 15  
DDS COMMITTEE (LAST DAY OF SCHOOL IS JUNE 17<sup>TH</sup>)**

**WEEK OF JUNE 8**

**ROOM 14**



# PTA EXPRESS

by Leanne Hansen  
& Deborah Goldman



Happy End of Year! Please to take a moment to appreciate this extraordinary year before you head off for your summer! We want to take this opportunity to say THANK YOU to everyone who volunteered time and energy this school year.

Thanks go to: Sue Weinswig & Lis Preger for keeping over \$100,000 in funds in order every year; Mary Stervinou & Maggie Woodward for leading Events and Programs; Chris Hill for Fundraising & the Book Fair leadership; Sarah McNeil for her tireless note-taking; Kellie Kessel as KIDDO! liaison; Peg Armbruster, Karen Meezan & Jan Hudson for helping steer the PTA Executive Board in the right direction; Mrs. Shearer & Mrs. Tanguay for their endless PTA support; Laura & Brian for communications pieces, bulletin boards, book fair and the almost-new book sale; with the book fair and almost new book sale; retiring Lapathon co-chairs Heather Kearney & Jules Campfield; Communications VP Nicole Taylor for our new email communications system; retiring Creek editor Dale Rice; Myron, our website maven; Paul Belza, who spent the entire year as photographer, designer and producer for our new digital yearbook; the chairs of our lunch program, Heidi Whalen and Molly Mercy, who along with Maeve Walsh moved us to Revolution Foods; the lunch coordinators who made it happen day after day, Stephanie Alamin, Christy Allen, Laura Diecks, Karen Meezan, Liz Berg & Annika Miller along with Celeste Tang, Nishie Ranasinghe, Sue Weinswig, Megan Shannon & Heidi Connelly.

Thanks also go to our room parents and classroom volunteers who serve wherever and whenever you are needed. There is no substitute for the value that you add to our learning community every single day. And a special thanks to Lynn Frazier, who is not actually a volunteer, but who volunteers to help out every day with whatever is needed. You are the anchor in our lives, and it is always a pleasure to walk in the door and see your smile.

Special thanks also go to Co-President of the PTA, Deborah Goldman for her tireless support. She is an extraordinary fundraiser who supports Old Mill and the school district in many ways, also serving on the Boards for Kiddo! and It Takes a Village. Next year she will be joined by Ingrid Tolson, who has been an active leader at Lapathon, with our Assembly Program, and with our Walk to School Program.

Last but not least, a very big thank you to Leanne Hansen, our outgoing PTA President who served two years as president and many years before that as Secretary. We did so much with Leanne's help and leadership. Thank you for the Mural Project, the Upper Playground, the transition to the new lunch program, your work on the Master Facilities Plan and all the other many activities the PTA President helps execute at the school and throughout the District. And of course, thanks for the great Wednesday morning coffees. Leanne will continue to be active next year as the PTA Historian and at various events and assemblies.

Have a Great Summer! We will see you again on August 27<sup>th</sup>!

## PTA Executive Board

### Co-Presidents

Leanne Hansen  
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### Historian

Jan Hudson  
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# GRIST

by Jane McDonough



Here we are at the end of another school year, tired but happy with the enormous growth we all see in front of us as we look at the children we share. June will fly by, and once again we will say goodbye to our current group of 5<sup>th</sup> grade students who have brought us all such joy and who have, and I really mean this, made us all better by their attention to the importance of the environment and our part in improving it through small but vitally important steps. We will say our goodbyes at graduation on the 17<sup>th</sup>, but it is always a measure of a group when we can say they left us better than they found us, and this lovely group of kids has done that, so thank you!

In thinking out loud about this last Grist with Site Council members this last month, they thought it might be helpful for me to remind people of the impact that transition has on all of us, and how these last days can be made smoother by considering that and maybe talking with your children about it.

Some of the things that people get anxious about at this time in the year are making new friends next year, losing the close connection they have made with their current teacher, not knowing what it will be like in the new group they will come to learn in the coming grade, and in some cases, other significant changes that are part of living and of summer; a new family member arriving, a trip to another relative, or a great family reunion coming up. Even happy things create feelings of anticipation and sometimes anxiety that can be healthy but can also cloud our ability to be careful and peaceful in the here and now. As you plan for the future keep routine and regular events in place to the extent that you can, reassure your child that your bedtime reading together time or other special time you share will not be compromised even though the school schedule is going to be changed. If camp, or other trips are to be expected, know that even happy changes can create some worry, and just talk about those feelings as well as the happy expectation that is also present.

For us at school sometimes these last days seem to have kids spinning into tight circles, and sometimes reverting to behaviors that were no longer regular patterns, things like teasing and even physical reactions flare up occasionally, and we have to be ready for them as we were in the past, remembering that human development is never an even climb, but more of a jagged upward line, loaded with ups and downs even as the overall picture is growth. You can help us with these issues by maintaining your home's standards for performance and after school routines right up to the last day, and by assisting with the notion of stress that accompanies transition.

Who knows? You may even feel a little stressed yourself! Wondering what next year will look like, will my child be happy with the new group of classmates, will the work be manageable, etc. Remember not to share these thoughts and feelings with your child, as these are worries without solutions or actions that can be applied. Don't spin your wheels on things that can't be controlled, and don't let your child waste good summer (or pre summer) energy on worrying in similar ways!

In short, anticipate a certain amount of stress with the onset of the various transitions we are all about to experience, process that in a calm and matter of fact way with your child, and maintain a settled routine as we go through the remaining days of June and everyone will have a better end of the school year!

Meanwhile it is also my pleasure to say thanks and goodbye to so many families who have been with us for the last six years but are moving on and up with their graduates, to our beloved PTA leadership, this year Leanne Hansen will move on from the co-president role, and we will all miss her energetic infusion of positive, wise, measured leadership as we go forward. Thanks to Deb Goldman and Ingrid Tolson who take the new mantle up together, and who will no doubt continue the astoundingly capable PTA leadership that has been the habit we all depend on at Old Mill. Thanks to Andy Mercy who took on the Site Council leadership this year, and to all the Site Council members who have worked through the year

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**GRIST** (continued from page 3):

to make our work meaningful and student centered, thanks to Dale Rice who has managed to help me get this message out to you each month, and to the millions of hands and minds that help us move through every special event, website action, email bank, etc., etc etc. Old Mill is an amazing machine! Thanks to the faculty as a whole, who are the best professional team I have ever had the pleasure to work with. Thanks to Lynn Frazier who makes my job easy, and who brings an attitude of support, love for everybody and a can-do spirit that is getting to be rare in the world. Thanks to all of our wonderful classified staff for all they do every day to help us and help our students, and of course, most of all, thanks to our students for bringing those faces front and center to remind us of what really counts.

I hope that everyone has a happy, healthy and restful summer, and we look forward to seeing you for another new school year on August 27<sup>th</sup>.

**OLD MILL IS REALLY COOL!**

Congratulations to the Old Mill Community for exceeding our goal for actions to reduce global warming. Since January the school has been participating in the Cool the Earth Program. To date, students and their families have taken nearly 1,000 actions to reduce carbon emissions. Many families were already reducing carbon in various ways with a total of 362 existing actions taken.

Large numbers of students and their families were also spurred to action through the program with a whopping 612 new actions. GREAT JOB OLD MILL!

Thank to all those who participated in this important program. A special thanks to the Cool the Earth Student Sub-Committee and Mrs. Tanguay for their leadership and enthusiasm. Keep up the good work and keep the earth cool.



**HAVE A GREAT SUMMER!**

## **A Word from Kiddo! . . .**

### **Kiddo! Kick Off 2009 Annual Giving Campaign**

Thank you to everyone who participated in Donation Day and to all the school families who have already made their 2009 Kiddo! contribution! We have made a good start to raising the \$1.9 million needed to save library and classroom aides from budget cuts, as well as fund our award-winning art, music, drama, dance and poetry programs for the 2009-10 school year. For the school families who have not yet donated, please note that follow-up phone calls are on the way – donating now will help Kiddo! save time and money so more funding can go to the kids. Thanks in advance for your generous support in these difficult financial times for our schools. Don't forget to:

DROP your donation in the Kiddo! box at your school

CLICK on [www.kiddo.org](http://www.kiddo.org) and make your donation online

MAIL your donation to Kiddo! at 409 Sycamore Avenue

### **A Giant Thank You!**

Thank you to the more than 800 Mill Valley families who came out to watch the MVMS 8th Grade Chorus sing the National Anthem and support Kiddo! at the Giants game on Sunday, May 17th. We raised more than \$6,000 for next year's programs and services! Go Team!

### **Special Kiddo! Music Programs for Grades 3, 4 and 5**

Thanks to your generous donations to Kiddo!, there are special musical opportunities for students in 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade. Please go to [http://kiddo.org/wp-content/uploads/2009/05/music-flyer\\_grades-3-5.pdf](http://kiddo.org/wp-content/uploads/2009/05/music-flyer_grades-3-5.pdf) for a description of your child's musical options for the coming year. These programs are offered in addition to regularly scheduled Kiddo! music classes. NOTE SCHEDULE CHANGE: beginning next year, 5<sup>th</sup> grade band will meet at MVMS twice a week - one rehearsal before school (7:30am - 8:15am) and one after school on Wednesdays (2:15pm - 3:00pm). Look for sign-up sheets for all of these great programs in September.

### **New MVMS Band Programs**

Band students at Mill Valley Middle School have some exciting new musical opportunities beginning in the 2009-2010 school year. Band Director Cayce Carnahan will offer several new programs and has revamped the existing band curriculum to include more musical diversity and opportunity for advancement. As always, it is thanks to your generous donations to Kiddo! that our students receive a well-rounded education rich in the arts. Go to [http://kiddo.org/wp-content/uploads/2009/05/band-programs\\_0910.pdf](http://kiddo.org/wp-content/uploads/2009/05/band-programs_0910.pdf) for more information and feel free to contact Cayce Carnahan at [ccarnahan@mvschools.org](mailto:ccarnahan@mvschools.org) with any specific questions. Thank you!

### **MVMS Students Have Dance Fever**

Dance fever has swept Mill Valley Middle School as 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders begin a unique five-week dance course taught by local dance coach and choreographer Cynthia Glinka of Larkspur. Thanks to the State Arts Fund and coordination by Kiddo!, Cynthia Glinka has begun teaching nearly 700 students the SWING, FOX TROT, RUMBA, TANGO and a DISCO-choreographed line dance. Check out our website [www.kiddo.org](http://www.kiddo.org) for a fun photo. Dances classes will continue daily through June 15<sup>th</sup>. The program will culminate with the entire school performing a DISCO line dance routine on the outdoor court, followed by a lunch-hour dance in the Gym featuring the ballroom dances students learned and music provided by the Mill Valley Middle School Jazz Band.

### **Summertime is Kiddo! Time**

Check out our website [www.kiddo.org](http://www.kiddo.org) for wonderful summer business promotions that will benefit the whole family and your local public schools. Have a great summer!

## Unplug Yourself at the Mill Valley Public Library

Summer's almost here – time to put down your Game Boy, iPod, or Xbox and run to the library for an armload of books and some good old-fashioned fun. From June 22 – August 21, we'll have our famous Reading and Read-Aloud Games, live entertainment – storytellers, magicians, musicians, and puppeteers – and other activities for kids of all ages. We'll have visits from some of your favorite authors, wild animals, hands-on art activities, folklore read-alouds, and special Little Sprouts! programs just for pre-K kids. Older kids can receive personalized summer reading lists by registering for PeRP (entering 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders) or The A-List (other middle schoolers).

And there's more: our End-of-Summer Film Festival (August 17-20) will showcase fun family films in the cool Creekside Room – popcorn and pillows included, of course. On August 21, celebrate the end of summer with a party and art show in the redwoods. Mingle with library staff and enjoy prizes, face-painting, games, entertainment, and refreshments. As always, everything is FREE!

Our five regular Story Times continue throughout the summer on Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays. What's not to love at the Mill Valley Public Library? For details and further information on all our programs, please call the Children's Room (415-389-4292 x106) or visit our website at <http://millvalleylibrary.org>.



## 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](http://www.itavmv.org). Information about our speaker events (including speaker notes and handouts), parent coffees, and playgroups is posted.

Our community is really coming together to offer sports, camps and other programs to kids who learn differently. Check out the following opportunities available this summer and next year!

**SummerAde – High School Volunteers Needed!** SummerAde pairs high school volunteers with special education kids to aid them during their week at a summer day camp. Each volunteer will serve as a camp aid or “Buddy” for a young child with disabilities, helping them adjust to the schedule, navigate activities, facilitate social interactions and enjoy all the day camp offers. (Enthusiasm, training session, home visit and parents’ consent required.) Parents choose the camp and the week that works for them and SummerAde will individually pair your child with a qualified teen volunteer. Please see [summerade.org](http://summerade.org) or contact [summerade@live.com](mailto:summerade@live.com) for more information, including a list of participating camps, as well as teen mentor and camper applications.

**Dirt Bowl Challenger League.** This summer, Mill Valley Dirt Bowl will be introducing a new community program for youth with special needs. The Challenger league is a unique opportunity for children who have developmental disabilities to participate in Dirt Bowl basketball. This league is open to any youth age Grade 2-10 (incoming grades Fall 2009) who resides in Marin County. The Challenger players wear the same uniforms as other Dirt Bowl players. Teams are supported by parents and coaches. All games will be played on Saturday mornings, 9:00 am on the outdoor courts at Mill Valley Middle School. For more information, please go to [dirtbowl.com](http://dirtbowl.com) or contact Janet Miller at 415-380-0631, [janetm@ri-net.com](mailto:janetm@ri-net.com).

**TOPSoccer.** TOPSoccer is dedicated to providing soccer opportunities for athletes with learning differences and/or physical challenges. The TOPSoccer players wear the same uniforms as other Mill Valley Soccer Club players. Registration is open for this fall's program at [www.mvsc.org](http://www.mvsc.org) (open until September with no late fee). If you have any questions, please contact Frank Bonardi at [futsal4u@hotmail.com](mailto:futsal4u@hotmail.com).

**Little League Challenger League.** Do you know the Mill Valley Little League successfully introduced a new community program for youth with special needs this year? The Challenger league is a division of Little League and is a unique opportunity for children who have developmental disabilities to participate in Little League baseball. This league is open to kids age 5-18 who resides in Marin County. The Challenger players wear the same uniforms as other Little League players. Teams are supported by coaches and by a buddy system in which young volunteers assist Challenger players when needed at bat and in the field. For more information, go to [www.millvalleyll.org](http://www.millvalleyll.org), or contact Janet Miller at 415-380-0631, [janetm@ri-net.com](mailto:janetm@ri-net.com).