



THE OLD MILL CREEK

www.oldmillschool.org
2008-2009 Issue No. 1

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September 10, 2008

Calling All Spy Kids! Thrills! Chills! Excitement! Cool Gadgets!



Old Mill Movie Night is Coming!
Friday, September 26th

Potluck Dinner 6:30 p.m.
Cartoons 7:30 p.m.
Movie 8:00 p.m.

Family Contributions for Potluck Based on Last Name

DESSERT – A to M
SIDE DISH – N to R
MAIN DISH – S to Z

On Friday, September 26, Old Mill PTA will present the movie *Spy Kids*. Students Carmen and Juni think their parents are boring. Little do they know that Gregorio and Ingrid Cortez were top secret agents before giving up their dangerous careers to raise their children. The disappearances of several former colleagues prompt the Cortez parents to come out of retirement to investigate. What they didn't count on was Carmen and Juni joining the family business! "They're real spies...only smaller!" (Rated PG for action sequences and peril.)

The PTA will supply beverages, its famous popcorn, and a very SPECIAL TREAT! Parking will be available on the lower yard. To ensure everyone's safety, please keep dogs, scooters, and bikes at home. There will be no playing on the playground after the movie starts at 7 pm! Thanks in advance for your cooperation.

Volunteers are still needed. Please call Dawn (383-8991) or Suzanne (383-2860) if you can help. Please remember that this is a family event, and a parent or responsible adult must accompany all students and their siblings. Please make sure your children are not on the lower yard.

**BRING YOUR BLANKETS, LOW CHAIRS, AND A
POTLUCK DISH – SEE YOU THERE!**

CALENDAR

Wednesday, September 10
School Board Meeting
6:00 p.m. District Office

Wednesday, September 17
Teacher Appreciation Lunch
12:00 p.m. Old Mill

Wednesday, September 24
PTA Lunch Payments Due for
October-November Orders

Friday, September 26
Old Mill Movie Night
6:30 p.m. Upper Yard

Wednesday, October 1
School Board Meeting
6:00 p.m. Edna Maguire

Friday, October 3
PTA Exec. & General Meeting
8:45/9:00 a.m. Old Mill

Wednesday, October 8
Int'l Walk to School Day

Friday, October 10
Staff Development Day
No School

Sunday, October 19
Lapathon & Book Fair
11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Monday, October 20 to
Friday, October 24
Old Mill Book Fair
8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Wednesday, October 22
Book Fair Ice Cream Social
6:00 p.m. Old Mill

MVSD Disaster Drill
12:40 p.m. Old Mill

DROP DON'T STOP SCHEDULE

WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 15	ROOM 11	WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 22	ROOM 10
WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 29	ROOM 9	WEEK OF OCTOBER 6	ROOM 8
WEEK OF OCTOBER 13	ROOM 7	WEEK OF OCTOBER 20	ROOM 6
WEEK OF OCTOBER 27	ROOM 5	WEEK OF NOVEMBER 3	ROOM 4
WEEK OF NOVEMBER 10	ROOM 3	WEEK OF NOVEMBER 17	ROOM 15



PTA EXPRESS

by Leanne Hansen
& Deborah Goldman



Welcome back to Old Mill! What great fun to see our children arriving at school with eager faces and lots of happy energy. Thanks to all of you, too, for bringing your enthusiasm for our school and community to campus every day!

So many volunteers offered up time and talent over the summer to get our school programs up and running. For their efforts with phone numbers, databases, and the Kindergarten Welcome party, the PTA would like to thank **Hope Timberlake** and **Cindi Frame**. They were busy at work in mid-August to make sure our new families feel connected to our community.

Our Lunch Program chairs, **Heidi Whalen** and **Molly Mercy**, were hard at work during the month of August to bring a new lunch program from Revolution Foods to our school. We are very excited about the prospect of the fresh, healthy offerings from Revolution! Our lunch program is one of two major fundraisers for Old Mill, so if you are looking for a way to get involved and help to raise money for the school, contact Heidi or Molly!

Communication is one of the most challenging aspects of running a successful volunteer organization, and we would like to thank **Nicole Taylor** for all of her hours of work in developing our new e-mail communication program. If you have not done so already, please log onto our website at www.oldmillschool.org and enter your email address so that you can stay on top of what is happening at the school.

We would also like to thank **Dale Rice** for her monthly contribution as The Creek Editor. Our newsletter is one of the best ways to stay in touch with what is happening at the school, and Dale continues to produce a beautiful on-line edition, complete with lots of photographs of our children at work and play.

You will find more detailed information about the following events inside this month's edition of The Creek:

- Teacher Appreciation Lunch Wednesday, September 17th
- Movie Night & Potluck Friday, September 26th
- Lapathon Sunday, October 19th
- Book Fair Sunday, October 19th–Friday, October 24th

Please join us at our next PTA meeting –Friday October 3 – our District Librarian Jane Ritter will review her favorite children's books.

PTA Executive Board

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The Coffee Cart Is Back!

Join us on Wednesday mornings in the Old Mill Courtyard from 8:30 to 9:00 a.m. for coffee. It's a chance to meet new parents and catch up with old firends.

Courtesy of the Old Mill School PTA





GRIST

by Jane McDonough



The school year starts! Again this year all sorts of teams have worked diligently to prepare our campus and it looks fabulous! By the time you read this, the teachers will have worked their amazing magic transforming empty spaces into inviting learning environments, and the children will be enticed into this year's adventures of the mind. Thanks to Lynn Frazier in the front office, and the hardworking PTA leaders Leanne Hansen and Deborah Goldman for all the efforts that go into getting our PTA year off to a great start. We have some changes in our food program in the district this year and our PTA has been incredibly on top of every requirement and need to make it run smoothly for all of us. Once again new families have "buddies" assigned to them to help them get their questions answered and to assist in getting to know the ins and outs of Old Mill and PTA. There is so much that goes into that moment before the first bell rings, but after it does, the real fun- learning!- starts. I look forward to sharing that fun with all of you this year!

Welcome to Lauren Silver! Lauren is a long time educator (and the daughter of an educator) who graduated from the University of the Pacific with an MA in Education Curriculum and Instruction, where she was selected for the Multiple Teaching Credential Candidate of the Year. Lauren is in the midst of moving to Mill Valley- she can join our walk to school efforts- with her new husband (the wedding was September 6th!), David. She has worked in the San Mateo/Foster City School District since 2001, where she taught 4th grade and where she served in multiple teacher leader roles, including Grade Level Chair. Lauren has also taught 1st grade and combination classes of 4th/5th in the past. In addition to all her preparation and experience, Lauren volunteers for SF AIDS Foundation, was a mentor for the City of Dreams Foundation, and was a scholar athlete in Cross Country. We are so excited to have her join our stellar faculty. Lauren will be with her second graders in Room 15 so say hello and welcome!

REMINDER: When parents congregate around and about outside the school at pick up and drop off times we ask that you keep a distance from classroom windows and doorways so that there is no interruption to instructional time- particularly as we start the year and try to establish good habits of starting on time, coming to class promptly and in an orderly manner. For the Kindergarten parents who have that extra ten minutes in the morning, use the basketball court area so that conversation noises are reduced. For all other areas of the school please be considerate of the teachers' need for starting up the class. We thank you for your consideration of this in the past.

As one of six schools in our district, it is important for you to know that Mill Valley School Board meetings are held each month and deal with all aspects of the district's operation. All meetings are open to the public and we post the agendas in the front hallway of the school. Board materials and information are always posted on the web at www.mvschools.org. The district board faces many significant issues this year, so it is an important year to be a contributing member of the community, to be informed and aware, so that you can support your school district, and the children of Mill Valley.

Simon Says:

1. Drop everything (including this issue of The Creek)
2. Run to your computer (are you there yet?)
3. Log on to www.oldmillschool.org
4. Enter your email address where it says "Join Our Email List"

We need every family to be reachable via our new email list to receive important information from Ms. McDonough, the school office, and the PTA. This is now the primary means for Old Mill School to communicate with you, our school families, so please make sure we can reach you! Don't miss: Principal's messages, emergency notifications, school office updates, event notification, lunch program information, performance schedules, PTA news, grade-specific news and information, etc. Hip, hip, hooray to the **289** parents who have already subscribed – thank you!

Simon says you may now continue reading The Creek.



IT'S THE OLD MILL OLYMPICS AT THE ANNUAL LAPATHON

Mark your calendars for **October 19 from 11-3 o'clock** as Old Mill School once again throws the **best party in town!** This year our annual **Lapathon** fundraiser will celebrate the athlete in every kid. You've yelled for Michael Phelps and marveled at Usain Bolt, now come cheer on your child as he or she breaks

records running, walking, or somersaulting around Old Mill School.

If you're new to our community, Lapathon is the PTA's main fundraiser for the year. Three weeks before the Lapathon, students will receive pledge forms with which they will solicit sponsors to pledge based on the number of laps the student walks around the school. Parents volunteer to count laps, dole out water, staff the barbecue grill, and perform many other incredibly helpful functions. Everyone spends the day listening to great music, feasting at the BBQ, and just generally chilling out and having a great time.

Money raised at Lapathon accounts for over half of the PTA's annual budget. It covers programs and events such as assemblies, teacher stipends, program grants, drama grants, art and science supplies, and technology repairs and updates. Additionally, there are always capital items that just make the school a better place. For example, part of last year's Lapathon funds helped pay for the new play structure in the upper yard. So, needless to say, we need abundant participation from all our walkers and their parents! In your "first day packets" you will find a Lapathon volunteer flier. We need lots of people to do lots of stuff, so please sign up and return the flier to the Lapathon box in the office. Old Mill Alumni are always welcome, so if you have an older sibling who likes to spray water on small children, sign them up too. Lapathon will coincide with the opening of our annual book fair, so be sure to bring your book wish list.

We look forward to seeing you there and thank you for supporting our PTA! If you have any questions, contact your friendly neighborhood Lapathon co-chairs Jules Campfield (381-5956) and Heather Young (388-5899).



District Advances Measure A To Fill Funding Gap

As we all know from reading the newspaper headlines, state cuts in education funding have put the Mill Valley School District in a difficult financial environment. Rising enrollment and a slumping economy have also contributed to the District budget crunch. The District was forced to cut \$600,000 from its budget this school year, including laying off staff and cutting programs and supplies. Much deeper cuts will be required in the coming years as the funding gap continues to grow. The District has placed Measure A on the November ballot to fill its growing funding gap through an amendment to the school's existing parcel tax. Measure A would increase the assessment by \$193 and extend its duration by four years, raising \$2 million annually in local funding that would be immune to state budget cuts. Community volunteers have organized a campaign committee to promote the passage of Measure A (www.KeepMVSchoolsGreat.org). While no organized opposition has emerged, it remains to be seen whether Measure A can garner the two-thirds voter approval it needs to pass in a community where 80% of voters do not have children enrolled in the school district. Mill Valley's K-8 school district is one of the ten highest-performing districts in the state. The Old Mill School PTA urges school families to become informed about how the success or failure of this important measure will affect our schools and our community. Please register, if you have not yet done so, and vote on November 4, 2008.

BLOOMATHON FALL PLANTING

Join us at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, October 18, 2008 at the Mill Valley Community Center for Bloomathon's Fall Planting. Please bring gloves and a trowel and we'll supply the plants. For more information, contact Mary Lou Ibershoff 383-5107.

OLD MILL DROP DON'T STOP

Hello to all Old Mill Parents! The Drop Don't Stop (DDS) program began on the first day of school. This self-run program, created by the PTA, is now an Old Mill tradition. Drop Don't Stop allows parents to drop off their children at the Throckmorton curbside in front of the school in a safe manner under the supervision of parent volunteers.

Each classroom will be assigned a week of Drop Don't Stop two to three times per year and the schedule will be posted on the first page of The Creek. Please volunteer to keep this program running successfully.

And please remember these safety rules when dropping off (or picking up) your children at Old Mill School:

- Kids should be buckled in their seat belts and ride in the back seat for safety.
- When dropping off your child(ren), make sure school stuff is ready and available to allow for a quick exit.
- Pull up to the front of the line to keep traffic moving.
- DO NOT bypass the Drop Don't Stop zone in front of the school (marked by cones) by pulling into the red zone or stopping in front of the zone.
- NEVER double park to let your child(ren) in or out of your car. It is very dangerous and also affects the flow of traffic.
- ONLY parents and 5th grade students are permitted to open car doors.
- Please use the crosswalks. Do not teach your child(ren) to cross in the middle of the block or road—it's dangerous.
- Please be considerate of our Drop Don't Stop volunteers and other drivers. Remember, their time is just as important as yours!

Questions? Contact Marla Kravatz at 699-3785.

TEACHER APPRECIATION LUNCHEON WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17TH, 2008

Come mingle and dine! All parents are invited to Old Mill's Teacher Appreciation Luncheon at 11:45 a.m. on Wednesday, September 17th. Everyone is invited and encouraged to bring a dish. Last names beginning with A-J please bring a salad, K-S an entrée, and T-Z a yummy dessert. If you cannot make it, please feel free to drop off your dish in the kitchen the morning of the luncheon.

This is a great way to meet our teachers and other parents. We hope to see you there!

NEW LUNCH PROGRAM FUNDRAISER WITH REVOLUTION FOODS



Our new lunch program featuring Revolution Foods started on Monday, September 8th and we look forward to this being a very positive step toward providing healthy lunches for our students. Our new lunch provider allows all schools in our district to comply with federal government standards for nutrition in our school lunch program.

We are very excited to work with Revolution Foods as they have a wonderful mission of providing nutritious lunches and make an effort to purchase local ingredients and utilize green packaging. To learn more about Revolution Foods, please log onto www.revolutionfoods.com.

The program will continue to be one of our major fundraisers, coordinated by PTA volunteers, and all funds raised will remain at Old Mill School. Your support by volunteering and embracing the program is essential to its success. We cannot provide the lunch program without the help of our parent volunteers so please consider helping out. A sign-up sheet is posted outside the school office.

The ordering process is simple and quick. It's an on-line ordering system and you log onto Revolution Foods' website to place your order for two months at a time. You are then free to make changes to your lunch selections throughout the two-month payment period as long as changes are made by the Wednesday preceding the order week. You can also provide feedback on meal options on the website.

Your check is payable to Old Mill PTA and is due in the office no later than 3 p.m. on the Wednesday prior to the week your two-month food service will begin. If you haven't already signed up for the program, detailed instructions about how to order can be obtained outside the office.

We apologize for the late posting of October's menu. If you did not have a chance to order for October, please go ahead and do so. Menus for both October and November are now posted and ready for your order. Checks are due outside the office no later than Wednesday, September 24th at 3 p.m.

Please contact Heidi Whalen at 380-1883 or Molly Mercy at 388-7876 if you have questions about the PTA lunch program.

A Word from Kiddo! . . .

KIDDO! ANNUAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE! Welcome back to school! THANK YOU to the 905 families who have already donated to the 2008 Annual Campaign. Your generous contributions will help us preserve the following important programs for our students at Old Mill:

- Art with Jackie LaLanne, Nance Miller and Katie Mostert
- K-2 Music with Nora Thomas and 3-5 Music with Anna Stearns
- 3rd & 4th Grade Chorus with Nora Thomas and 5th Grade Chorus with Jessica Stewart
- 5th grade Band with Cayce Carnahan and 4th and 5th Grade Orchestra with Phoebe Dong
- 2nd Grade Drama and Poetry Specialist for 1st, 3rd, 4th and 5th Grade
- Kindergarten and 4th and 5th Grade Dance with Alan Scofield
- Library Aide Martha Lewis, Classroom Aides, School Technology Specialists, Mobile Laptop Carts, art and music supplies and Teacher Mini-Grants

Unfortunately, our family participation rate is only 52%, which means that over 800 families have not yet made their Kiddo! donation for this school year (check the updated donor list on the Kiddo! website if you are not sure whether you've made your donation yet). Help us continue to preserve important programs for our students by making your donation now. The recommended donation is \$750 or more per student. Contributions at all levels are appreciated and our goal is 100% family participation. Mail your contribution Kiddo!, 409 Sycamore Ave., Mill Valley, 94941, donate online at www.kiddo.org, or call the Kiddo! office at 389-7789 to arrange for an installment plan. Thank you for helping Mill Valley kids reach their full potential!

MILL VALLEY COMMUNITY BLOCK PARTY

Mark your calendars for Thursday, September 18 for the 11th Annual Mill Valley Community Block Party, produced by Famous4. This year's party is from 6:00-9:00 p.m. with clowns, face painting, kids games from Steve & Kate's Camps, and food treats from Small Shed and Vasco. There will also be lots of great music and very special guests! Proceeds will benefit both the Bob Griffin Children fund and Kiddo! For more information call Larry at Famous4, 415 388-2550.

MILL VALLEY FILM FESTIVAL CHILDREN'S FILMFEST

The Mill Valley Film Festival's Children's FilmFest is showcasing a unique and charming collection. Come check out films that appreciate the differences in people, reveal the power of friendship, and prove anyone is capable of anything. Plus, there's a celebration full of music, face painting and balloon twisting at the Outdoor art club on the first Saturday and an ice cream and kazoo parade on the last Sunday. After September 9th, please visit the website www.mvff.com for more details.

KIDDO! GOLF TOURNAMENT

Get your clubs ready for Kiddo!'s Fourth Annual Golf Tournament on Friday, October 24th at the San Geronimo Golf Course. The \$300 cost per player includes barbeque lunch, golf cart, prizes and contests for overall team scores, all par 3d and longest drive, dinner and awards banquet with live music and a hosted bar at the Mill Valley Outdoor Art Club. (Additional banquet tickets can be purchased for \$125.) Sponsorships are available for \$2,000 (which includes four player's registration & banquet) or \$1,000 without golfers and party.

For registration forms and sponsorship information, please contact Louis Stervinou at lstervinou@eastdilsecured.com. Registration forms are also available at the school offices.

Space is limited so sign up today!

KIDDO! – WE WANT TO BE NUMBER ONE

Kiddo! is the second highest recipient of eScrip funds in the nation thanks to participating Mill Valley families. We raise over **\$100,000** a year through eScrip and grocery rebate programs for the essential arts, music, poetry, dance and drama programs that enrich our children's education at no cost to you.

Please take a couple of minutes at the beginning of the year and earn \$\$\$\$\$ all year long for our children. Fill out the bright green Shop-4-Kids Form (available in your school office) and return it to the Kiddo! offices or go to eScrip.com and enroll/ update your information online. You can support Kiddo! by shopping at Safeway (renew card by October 31st each year), shopping with registered credit cards at Whole Foods, Mollie Stones, Delano Markets and Paradise Market, shopping with a registered Macy's card, tell the checker at Mill Valley Market that you want to contribute to Kiddo!, contact Kiddo's for a United Markets Community Card, or shopping online through schoolpop.co.

Thank you in advance from Kiddo! Questions? Call Patty Flax in the Kiddo! offices at 389-7789.



Wednesdays are Walk to School Days!

Any student who walks, bikes, or carools on Wednesdays will be recognized with a hand stamp and orange juice!

At least one day a week, please consider walking, biking, or riding a scooter to school instead of driving. Physical activity at the start of the day can make an enormous difference for your children's (and your own!) health, and it benefits everyone. Kids arrive at school awake and ready to learn.

- **Walk or bike with friends** – many children “funnel” into the main arteries to school, such as the Dipsea stairs, Oak Lane stairs, or can meet at City Hall to walk together from there.
- **Walk part of the way** – if you live too far to walk all the way, walk the last quarter mile.
- **Carpool** – if you have to drive, reduce the number of cars in the queue every day at Drop Don't Stop. The **SchoolPool Program** connects families who wish to join together by walking, biking, or carpooling. Go to: <http://www.saferoutestoschools.org/Programs/MVSchoolPool2008.htm>. The map shows neighborhood boundaries, numbers, and names. Find your Neighborhood number in the Mill Valley School District Directory by your family's listing.

We look forward to a safe and healthy school year! Please consider one of these alternatives for transporting your child to school. Your choice will contribute to the health and safety of the whole community as well as your own child.

THE MILL VALLEY PUBLIC LIBRARY WELCOMES YOU BACK TO SCHOOL!

September is **New Library Card Sign-up Month**. You'll receive a personalized bookmark and a special gift just for getting your own card – all you have to do is be able to write your first and last name. To sign up, bring a parent/guardian into the library or apply online before coming in to pick up your new card – it's easy!

Your library card allows you to use the self-check machine to check out books, request books from other libraries for free, and use our array of databases and services, including **Live Homework Help**, our FREE virtual tutoring service which offers homework help to students in grades 4-12+ in math, science, social studies, and English.

Our wildly popular **Annual Bookmark Design Contest** for kids 12 and under begins September 2nd and ends September 30th. Create fantastic designs celebrating books, reading, and the library. Work on your designs at the Children's Room art table or at home. Kids can vote on their favorites in October, and then in November, five winning bookmarks will be professionally printed and available free at the library. Entry forms are available at the library and on our website.

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>.

Old Mill Creek Deadlines

Submit any Creek articles by email to dale.rice@comcast.net by the deadlines below (no pdf files please):

Articles Due	Published	Articles Due	Published	Articles Due	Published
September 21 st	October 1 st	December 21 st	January 7 th	March 22 nd	April 1 st
October 26 th	November 5 th	January 25 th	February 4 th	April 26 th	May 6 th
November 23 rd	December 3 rd	February 22 nd	March 4 th	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