



# The Observatory



Los Gatos-Saratoga Observation Nursery School ~ Issue 4 January 2006

## Looking Back

by Marie Imai, Director

Dear Families,

I hope your holidays were happy ones filled with more family time than usual and some special traditions that are enjoyed from year to year. One of our family highlights of this season is Japanese New Year which is on Jan. 1. About 40 of my husband's relatives, ages 1 to 91, get together to share traditional Japanese food. Everyone has their specialty – teriyaki chicken, spinach with sesame sauce, nishime – a variety of vegetables cooked in special ways, macaroni salad with crab, smoked salmon, sushi, chow mein, and other delicious American foods as well. After eating way too much we end the day by exchanging white elephant gifts with great hilarity. This year my 2 oldest grandchildren, 11 and 8, made the tamago egg rolls instead of their dad so hopefully this tradition will be carried on by their generation for many more years.

At some of our evening circle meetings we discuss what we want to teach our children, our values and our priorities. During this process it is helpful (and revealing) to look back at our own parents and examine what lessons they taught us and how. And do we want to teach the same ones? Without conscious effort to change we are likely to parent as we were parented. Perhaps we should all do one observation about our parents – their styles, attitudes and values – followed with ways we choose to differ or not. My own mother turned 93 in December and recently suffered a broken hip in a fall at her retirement home. So she has been on my mind a lot and I've been thinking about how she lived her life and what kind of mother she has been to me. What I appreciate most about her is that she was able to make me feel that I was always loved and yet I don't ever recall her saying "I love you". She is neither very emotional nor demonstrative but I always felt I was cherished by her. I also don't think people of her generation expressed their emotions as easily as some people do today. When I was young she sent me outdoors to play a lot, wasn't overly protective and yet made sure that my brothers and I did our family chores every Saturday morning and went to church as a family every Sunday morning. She was

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## Donation Conundrum

by Lori Lux, Board Chair

A new year is upon us bringing resolutions, fresh starts, and the much anticipated LGSONS auction! Gillian Claus, our co-chair for the auction, has written a hilarious overview of the auction in this newsletter. If her article sets the tone of the event, this auction is sure to be one to remember.

Family donations always cause quite a conundrum – do I have to buy and item and donate it, does it need to be a new item, can I make something for my donation, can I offer a service or event? I thought it would be fun, and hopefully helpful, to talk about family donations and what I've seen work over the past six years (wow, have I really been here THAT long?)

The great thing about family donations is just that, they're items donated by families at our school. It may be an individual family or it may be a group of families going in on some big ticket item, but they are priceless items that you can't buy in a store, or more likely in today's world, online.

The family donations don't need to be huge, or expensive, but the items that remind us of our days at Mt. School seem to hold the most allure. One of my favorite purchases is a clay vase made by a Mt. School mom. All around the vase are scenes from Mt. School – kids climbing the bunny hill, playing on the play structure, chasing chickens and even the schoolhouse itself. I have it in my kitchen window and

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(Donation Conundrum, continued)

shift it around every now and again in order to view a different scene as I'm doing exciting things like washing dishes.

The best donations tap into the talents of the family. If you love to cook you can offer a dozen cookies or a pie each month for a year, or join with a few other families and host a gourmet dinner for ten. Does your family have a traditional food dish? Those delicious Christmas tamales sure would be a hit, as would a potato latke party.

What about your hobbies? Beautiful offerings from past auctions include hand-painted tea sets, a scrap booking party, photography services, hand-knitted children's sweaters, a quilt, a tyke-sized work bench, a playhouse and a toy chest

Don't overlook the work you do every day. Do you have a business that specializes in estate planning, personal finance or law? What about offering your IT knowledge for a day, or if you're handy around the house or in the garden you can offer a day of handyman services. And, if you're a frequent traveler and have more miles than you know what to do with, you can donate those miles.

A family donation doesn't need to be just one family. Some of the most successful items have been events that multiple families have put on – a themed dinner, a scavenger hunt in downtown Los Gatos, a girl's weekend away, a sleep over at the schoolhouse, baby-sitting services, a poker night for the dads. It's a blast to be a guest at these types of offerings but it's also a lot of fun to team with other families to create the event.

I hope that helps get the juices flowing for the family donations. I love seeing what creative things people come up with every year. If you have an idea but want to run it past someone first, please feel free to contact our auction co-chairs, Gillian Claus or Liz Montgomery, or the family donations committee chairperson, Lisa Bailey.

Looking forward to seeing you at the auction! ☺



# Important Information

by Mary Matlack, Administrative Director

Hello Mt. School Families!

Welcome back to another year of wonder and discovery at Mountain School. We had our first day back yesterday and my son William was eager as ever to try out everything at school that he had missed over the vacation. He even decided the chicken coop would be a good place to explore after the heavy rains! His shoes are still recovering but he couldn't have been happier!!

I have two business items that I would like to share with you in this newsletter:

1.) You may notice that in the application forms for this year, we have added a new policy:

“It is the school's policy not to allow the repeating of a particular class by a child. However, a family may petition the board to request that a child repeat a class. The petition review and potential exception will be based on teacher recommendation and board approval.”

The board has discussed this new policy at length. If you have questions about this, please contact me. If you would like to petition the board to repeat a class, please discuss this with your teacher and then contact our Board Chairperson, Lori Lux.

2.) It has been brought to our attention that we have three children in our school with severe nut/legume allergies. I have sent out an e-mail and will have copies available of an “allergy alert” that we would like every family to read. If you have questions or concerns about this situation, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Thank you all for your time and consideration with regard to the “business” outlined here. Through careful consideration of these concerns, I know that we can keep our community strong and vibrant.

Mary Matlack

E-mail: [maryalicematlack@yahoo.com](mailto:maryalicematlack@yahoo.com)

Tel: (408) 269-3710 ☎

(Looking Back, continued)

my Girl Scout Leader from Brownies through Senior Scouts and excitedly sent me off to many wonderful Scout encampments and international adventures. Once I left home she rarely gave advice, even for the rearing of my own children. Perhaps she was waiting to be asked. She is the kind of person who takes the lemons that life offers and makes lemonade. And now that my mom has Alzheimer's disease she still laughs easily when she just can't communicate any other way.

My husband, Kent, remarked a few days ago that he had decided that his goal this year is to enjoy his children for who they are and not for whom he wishes they were. And I think that really describes my mother's best gift to her children – she has always loved us as we are. Offering this kind of unconditional love is my goal as well but it is much, much harder for me to do than it seems and I'm afraid it will take a lifetime to even get close. At our next circle meetings let's share stories about the lessons and gifts we've received from our parents. There's lots of wonderful inspiration that's not found in how-to-do books.

Love, Marie ☎

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## Funky Snowman

submitted by Mary Matlack  
From: *Polka Bats and  
Octopus Slacks* By *Calef Brown*



Funky Snowman loves to dance.  
You'd think he wouldn't have much chance  
Without two legs  
Or even pants.  
Does that stop Funky Snowman?  
No!!  
Turn up the music with the disco beat,  
When you're in the groove, you don't need feet.  
Crowds come in and fill the street.  
Kick it, Funky Snowman!!

## Parents' Night Out

by Gillian Claus, Fund-raising Co-Chair

Got plans for Saturday, March 18? All the hepcats and lounge lizards will be making a beeline for The Los Gatos Lodge.

To celebrate our fiftieth anniversary, we have planned a swinging blast from the past. Dine and dance in a fifties lounge so authentic you'll swear you hear Frank and Dean crooning! Before you know it you're in 1955 – the same year that LGSONS began.

Be a beatnik, join the rat pack or get spacey with sputnik. Dress up as much as you like! Make sure your wardrobe includes dancing shoes as live entertainment will be none other than Wally's Swing World.

Feast on a buffet featuring delicious comfort food that Ike would have liked. And of course there will be cocktails! Retro martinis and a special theme drink plus sparkling punch from a champagne fountain.

Let luck be your lady as you vie for exciting and unusual silent auction items. What parent could resist one-of-a-kind projects made by each class? Bid on original "buy-a-spots" like group scavenger hunts, made-to-order gourmet meals and personalized hikes with your child's favorite teacher.

Be sure not to miss the excitement of the live auction. Who will take home that vintage bottle of French bubbly or dream vacation?

Mark your calendars for this special evening - March 18 at The Los Gatos Lodge. Have a great night out while contributing to the success of the school's biggest fundraiser. Raffle and auction tickets will soon be available for purchase.

This event is made possible by your volunteer hours and family donations. Look out for family donation forms at the general meeting as well as by e-mail. Gillian Claus & Liz Montgomery-Eder, fund-raising chairs, will be at the meeting to answer your questions. For more information, please contact Gillian at [gillianclaus@earthlink.net](mailto:gillianclaus@earthlink.net) or Liz at [msliz01@earthlink.net](mailto:msliz01@earthlink.net)

## Emergency Supplies

Our Purchasing Chair, Nigel Cockroft, is updating and restocking our Emergency Supplies at the school-house. There are several items that he has recommended we add to our supplies. The school would graciously accept donations of any of the following supplies:

- sauce pan and/or pots
- a camping stove

Please contact:  
Nigel Cockroft  
[n.cockroft@gemfire.com](mailto:n.cockroft@gemfire.com)  
or (408) 356-1193.



## While you're at it...

While you are out in the garage looking for blankets and camp stoves, can you let me know if you have any of the following to loan for the auction?

- A PC running Microsoft Windows 2000 or greater. (CD drive and internet capability would be great) only needed until end of March
- A safe with tumbling combination lock
- 1950's memorabilia

If you are able to help, please contact Gillian Claus  
[gillianclaus@earthlink.net](mailto:gillianclaus@earthlink.net)

Thanks in advance! ☺

## Only Two More...

*Only two issues of the Observatory left in the school year. Is this your last year at Mountain School? Do you have a story or poem you'd like to share, people you'd like to thank? Would you like your voice to be heard? This is your chance. The deadline for submissions to the next newsletter is Friday, February 17th. Please e-mail all submissions to [mtnmama@garlic.com](mailto:mtnmama@garlic.com).*

*Thank you,*

*Sonia Casper, Newsletter Editor*

## Open House

Tell your friends!

*Sunday, January 22nd  
11:00am to 2:00pm*



Do you know someone that is interested in Mountain School, or looking for a preschool? Please let them know that our Open House is a perfect opportunity for them to experience an afternoon at the little red schoolhouse. The whole family is welcome. They will have an opportunity to meet teachers and families, tour the school, and see what makes the Mountain School a unique educational experience for children and their parents.

Directions, applications and information are available at: [www.lgsons.com](http://www.lgsons.com) or by calling the schoolhouse at (408)

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## A Grand Day Out!

by Sonia Casper, Newsletter Editor

Picture a sunny day at Mountain school, a big party with Mountain School families from all 50 graduating classes! Multiple generations of MS alumni together to celebrate our fabulous little school in the woods and all that it has given us: appreciation, time with our children and irreplaceable friendships that have lasted generations.

As many of you know this is Mountain School's 50th Anniversary and we'd like to invite all Mountain School families, past and present, to join us in our special 50th Anniversary Celebration. However, we need your help to reach everyone. Spread the word, we're in search of all alumni. We all have friends and family that are Mountain School Alumni, won't you help us find them?

If you have contact information for a Mountain School alumni family that has moved, or attended the school more than 10 years ago, please contact Sonia Casper ([mtnmama@garlic.com](mailto:mtnmama@garlic.com) or (408) 353-9728). Help us make this a party to remember. ☞

## Cream of Corn Chowder

by Tracy Halgren, Registration Chair

2 tablespoons Canola oil  
1 medium onion, diced  
1 stalk celery, diced  
1 medium carrot, diced  
1 medium potato, diced  
1 leek, diced, use bottom 1/3  
5 cloves garlic, crushed  
1/3 red pepper, diced  
1 teaspoon dried basil  
1/8 teaspoon crushed red chilies  
1/4 teaspoon dried coriander  
1/8 teaspoon cumin  
3 tablespoons flour  
12 ounces creamed corn  
1 lb. frozen corn  
5-6 cups vegetable stock  
Fresh parsley (optional)  
Heavy Whipping Cream (optional)

Sauté vegetables in 4 quart soup pot until soft. Add spices. Add flour and mix well. Add 5-6 cups vegetable stock and mix well. Add the creamed corn and frozen corn. Simmer until potatoes are soft (sometimes I let it simmer ~1 hour). Add salt and pepper to taste. Finish with 1/2 cup cream and chopped parsley.

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## Did you Know?

“Did you know that for every \$100 spent at a chain (store), \$13 remain in the community while \$45 remained when spent with a home town business?”

Support your community, shop locally.

*Jeff Milchen - Author is the cofounder of the Boulder Independent Business Alliance*

# What Class Is Right For Your Child?

Reprinted from the February 1996 Observatory

What class shall I choose for my child for next year? As you ponder what is the best placement for your child, please discuss the matter with your teacher. She will be happy to make a specific recommendation based on your child's developmental needs. Or she may tell you frankly that it doesn't matter and you may choose the class that fits your schedule better. Another way to help you decide is to visit the older classes during this next month. Please call the teacher ahead of time and also arrange for your child to stay with a friend. Do remember that every teacher does his or her best to meet the needs of the individual children that make up the class and consequently most children will do well in any class. Here are some questions you should ask yourself and a brief description of the character of each class which hopefully might help you a little in your decision:

- How many days do you want your child to attend?
- Are mornings or afternoons better. Or does it matter (e.g., does your child nap?)
- Would you prefer to carpool with one or two other families?
- How old is your child in relation to the others in the classroom?
- What is the birth order of your child?
- Is your child enrolled in other classes/day care?
- What is the social development of your child?
- What family or work schedules need to be considered?
- Do you anticipate that your child will spend three or four years in the school? (Please note the new policy about repeating classes outlined in "Important Information" on page 3.)

*3's Class - Tuesday & Thursday mornings; carpool with one other child.*

There is not as much socializing as in the 3/4's class because the children are a little younger and may have a greater dependence on parents and teachers. There is a strong nurturing environment for the children as they take steps towards independence. The year begins with individual and parallel play, as is typical for this age group. The teachers help the children to develop words and ways to make the bridge to greater cooperative play

and to the successful handling of conflict. There is usually a slightly lower level of physical activity due to age and ability. Language development and self expression are important aspects of all activities. Children carpool with one other child and attend school twice a week, or another way to look at it is parents attend class once a week and are responsible for two children on that day.

*3/4's Class - Monday morning, Tuesday/Thursday afternoons; carpool with two other children.*

The children are generally more socially adept, more adventuresome and anxious to try new activities and assert their independence. Many children are 3 1/2 years old or older when school starts. The teachers are there to watch, guide, and facilitate; during conflict they usually step back to give the children the direct experience in problem solving that they need. Parents are encouraged to understand the child's view of life (their unique voice) and gain insights into their individual behaviors. Circle times may be longer and most children attend and participate in circle time activities, songs and conversations. Language, pre-reading and pre-math skills are developed through conversation, discussion, science projects, special materials and other activities. The class takes various hikes and field trips that will not only challenge the physical abilities of the children but also respond to their increasing need for independence. Children participate in a 3-way carpool and come to school 3 times/week, twice without their parent. (note: children in this class have priority the following year for the 4/5's class.)

*4/5's Class - Monday/Wednesday/Friday afternoons; carpool with two other children.*

There is more self-initiation of activities and more involved group play. Some projects take several class periods to complete. Children are held responsible for their actions and required to follow through on conflict resolutions. They are also required to attend circle time. Children are expected to help with clean-up and to wash their dishes after cooking time. Language and pre-reading skills are developed through drama, journal writing, and the introduction of other languages and cultures. Pre-math skills and science activities are part of special materials and an integral part of many other projects.

(What Class Is Right..., continued)

Hikes are longer and more adventurous to take advantage of the childrens' increasing physical capabilities. Field trips add more adventure and richness to the program. Parents attend class once a week and are responsible for three children on that day.

*So, in a nutshell, what can you do?*

If your child is currently in the 2's class, you can request the 3's or 3/4's class.

If your child is currently in the 3's class, you can request the 3/4's or 4/5's class.

If your child is currently in the 3/4's class you can request the 4/5's class or your child can go on to a Kindergarten program. (Children have successfully gone to Kindergarten from both the 3/4's and 4/5's classes.)

*Note: It is not always possible to get your child into the class that is your first choice. However, as a currently enrolled family in good standing, you are guaranteed a spot in the school next year if you get your application postmarked prior to February 4th (the last day of the Priority Registration Period.)* ☞



## Calendar

### FINAL TUITION INSTALLMENT DUE

*January 15th*

Please contact Amoreena Lucero. (408) 379-8458 or [theamoreena@sbcglobal.net](mailto:theamoreena@sbcglobal.net) for more info.

### MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. HOLIDAY - NO SCHOOL

*Monday, January 16th*

### BOARD MEETING

*Tuesday, January 17th*

*7:00pm at Lori Lux's house, for directions call Lori at (408) 393-6453.*

### BEGINNING OF SECOND SEMESTER

*Tuesday, January 17th*

Please make sure you are current in all areas regarding participation requirements and financial obligations. If you are unsure of your status, please check with your teacher and make arrangements for any needed make ups.

### FRI. 2'S AND 4/5'S CLASS WORKDAY

*Saturday, January 21st, at the schoolhouse*

### OPEN HOUSE

*Sunday, January 22nd*

*11:00am - 2:00pm at the schoolhouse*

See page 5 "Open House" for more information.

### REGISTRATION for 2006-2007 SCHOOL YEAR

*Now through Saturday, February 4th*

For more information see page 10 or e-mail Tracy Halgren at [thalgren@earthlink.net](mailto:thalgren@earthlink.net) or call (408) 867-2701.

### WINTER BREAK - NO SCHOOL

*Monday, Feb. 20th - Saturday, Feb. 25*

Class resumes Monday, February 27th.



# Teacher Spotlight: Angie Davidson

by Sonia Casper

*Q: Where did you grow up and what was your childhood like?*

A: I grew up in Phoenix, Arizona. My parents have a wholesale plant nursery, so our family spent a lot of time outside, with plants. We went on lots of seed-collecting expeditions into the desert, and we played out at the nursery a lot, in wide-open spaces. My grandmother had a small farm in the middle of Phoenix when I was little, with cows and chickens and a big old barn, and a small fig orchard for exploring. Apart from that, we have a huge extended family, so there were always big family gatherings at one grandmother's or another, and lots of things happening, and great fun. I don't think I appreciated it nearly so well when I was young, but it was a very rich childhood.

*Q: What motivated you to become a teacher, and what do you like best about it?*

A: It's just fun working with kids. I taught middle school for 4 years before having children, and I loved that. And then I came to Mountain School and have just loved everything about it, so when Teacher Marie asked if I'd be interested in teaching here, that was wonderful!

It is so fun being with the children. Each one is so unique and helps you see and understand something new and different; it's amazing! The parents too are wonderful. It's great to get to work with such lovely people.

*Q: How did you find MS? And what is your favorite part of Mountain School?*

A: It was sort of like all roads led to Mountain School. We'd moved into the area but weren't really thinking about preschools yet because our oldest daughter had only just turned two. Then an old family friend brought a Mountain School handbook to our house and told us about it. My mother-in-law visited the school too and loved it. Then later that week my husband called friends from college that he'd lost touch with, and they said, we'll have to tell you about our preschool; it's fantastic! We looked at each other and said, well, that sounds like the place for us! And we were lucky enough to get in the Saturday 2's when we applied.

I love the community and spirit of our school. There is a very strong sense here that we are all in this together, supporting and accepting each other, with all our faults, and working hard to make our families and our wonderful school work. We are all just on this road together, with this incredibly joyous and difficult work of parenting and being in a family, and we are all learning as we go and trying hard and having successes and failures and having to pick up and keep going. And I feel really supported in all that here. I love that about Mountain School: it isn't about a silver bullet, a surefire way for solving some difficulty or other, but it's about the process and figuring out how to enjoy it as much as possible along the way, even though it's sometimes painful. And on my best days, I can carry that over into the rest of my life: Be patient. Forgive yourself your errors, and everyone around you. Take your time, observe, try to understand the other person, go slowly. Keep trying. To me that's the heart of Mountain School. And I so need all that support and practice because I'm not very good at it.

That's also why I wanted to stay and teach here: it is a very special place with a wonderful spirit, and I didn't want to leave that. My children may have been ready to move on, but I wasn't.

*Q: You were the Board Chair for two years. With the insights you gained during that time, and as a parent at the school, are there any special insights or memories that you would like to share?*

A: We've all heard that saying, "You get out of it what you put into it," and that's certainly been true for me. It's hardly an original insight, though!

I have gotten so much more out of Mountain School that I ever put in. I've just been so lucky to meet and work with such wonderful people. We have such dedicated parents and teachers, so willing to go more than the extra mile to make things happen and get things done. I have gotten to know such lovely people and found wonderful friends, as a parent in class, on auction committees, while serving on the board, and now as a teacher, and I am so thankful for that.

*Q: What do you do in your spare time (hobbies)?*

A: I love hiking, reading, traveling, and gardening.

(Teacher Spotlight, continued)

*Q: What is your favorite book and why?*

A: One of my favorites is “100 Years of Solitude” by Gabriel García Márquez. It’s amazing and impossible and sad and beautiful, all at the same time. I love his writing.

*Q: What advice do you have to new parents to MS?*

A: Just the usual: savor this time! My older daughter moved on to a fantastic elementary, and we just love it and feel so lucky to be there. It has great teachers, a great community too and a real feeling of family. But it’s not Mountain School. And for all the times I sat in the main room of the schoolhouse and wished my daughter could be even a little more independent, now I wish I could have appreciated that closeness more. This is such a unique time and place, both for children and parents, and it goes so fast. Drink it up!  
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## The Road Not Taken

by Robert Frost

Two roads diverged in a yellow wood,  
And sorry I could not travel both  
And be one traveler, long I stood  
And looked down one as far as I could  
To where it bent in the undergrowth;  
Then took the other, as just as fair,  
And having perhaps the better claim,  
Because it was grassy and wanted wear;  
Though as for that the passing there  
Had worn them really about the same,  
And both that morning equally lay  
In leaves no step had trodden black.  
Oh, I kept the first for another day!  
Yet knowing how way leads on to way,  
I doubted if I should ever come back.  
I shall be telling this with a sigh  
Somewhere ages and ages hence:  
Two roads diverged in a wood, and I-  
I took the one less traveled by,  
And that has made all the difference.

## Hi-ho, Hi-ho It’s Off To Workday We Go...

It’s that time again...back to school and time to think about your maintenance requirement. Saturday, January 21st is the scheduled workday for the Friday 2’s and the 4/5’s classes. School policy requires that each family must perform four hours of maintenance, this can either be one person for four hours or two people for two hours. This not only keeps the schoolhouse and grounds in shape, but provides us with the opportunity to meet with other parents and show our continued commitment to “Mountain School.”

If you are unable to attend, please contact Rick Juncker, our Workday Coordinator, to make other arrangements. We do realize this requirement is difficult and not practical for everyone, so we provide the option of “buying out” for a \$150 fee. However, an additional \$15 penalty will be incurred if you cannot attend and fail to call prior to the workday. This may sound harsh but it is impossible to plan projects and accomplish the jobs that need to be done unless we know who we can count on being there to help.

Rick Juncker (408) 267-9553 or  
pr\_juncker@yahoo.com ☞

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## One Hundred Years From Now...

by unknown

...it will not matter what your bank account was,  
the sort of house you lived in, or the kind of car  
you drove

...but the world may be  
different because you  
were important in the  
life of a CHILD.



# Lawns Grow Back, Kids Grow Up

from AT WIT'S END by Erma Bombeck  
reprinted from the October 1996 Observatory

When Mike was 3, he wanted a sandbox, and his father said: "There goes the yard. We'll have kids over here day and night, and they'll throw sand into the flower beds, and cats will make a mess in it, and it'll kill the grass for sure."

And Mike's mother said, "It'll come back."

When Mike was 5, he wanted a jungle gym set with swings that would take his breath away and bars to take him to the summit, and his father said: "Good grief, I've seen those things in back yards, and do you know what they look like? Mud holes in a pasture. Kids digging their gym shoes in the ground. It'll kill the grass."

And Mike's mother said, "It'll come back."

Between breaths, when Daddy was blowing up the plastic swimming pool, he warned: "You know what they're going to do to this place? They're going to condemn it and use it for a missile site. I hope you know what you're doing. They'll track water everywhere and have a million water fights, and you won't be able to take out the garbage without stepping in mud up to your neck. When we take this down, we'll have the only brown lawn on the block."

"It'll come back," Mike's mother said.

When Mike was 12, he volunteered his yard for a camp-out. As they hoisted the tents and drove in the spikes, his father stood at the window and observed, "Why don't I just put the grass seed out in cereal bowls for the birds and save myself the trouble of spreading it around? You know for a fact that those tents and all those big feet are going to trample down every single blade of grass, don't you? Don't bother to answer, I know what you're going to say. 'It'll come back.'"

The basketball hoop on the side of the garage attracted more crowds than the Olympics. And a small patch of lawn that started out with a barren spot the size of a garbage can lid soon grew to encompass the entire side yard.

Just when it looked as if the new seed might take root, the winter came and the sled runners beat it into ridges. Mike's father shook his head and said, "I never asked for much in this life - only a patch of grass."

And his wife smiled and said, "It'll come back."

The lawn this fall was beautiful. It was green and alive and rolled out like a sponge carpet along the drive where gym shoes had trod...along the garage where bicycles used to fall...and around the flower beds where little boys used to dig with iced-tea spoons.

But Mike's father never saw it. He anxiously looked beyond the yard and asked with a catch in his voice, "He will come back, won't he?" ❧



## Registration for 2006/2007 School Year

*Now through February 4th*

PRIORITY registration for the 2006-2007 school year has started and will end on Saturday, Feb. 4th. That means, your application for next year **MUST** be postmarked by the 4th of February in order to be guaranteed a spot in our school next year. All applications postmarked after Feb. 4th will be processed on a "first come, first served" basis. For help in choosing a class, see "What Class Is Right For Your Child" on page 6.

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