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# The Observatory

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Los Gatos-Saratoga Observation Nursery School ~ Issue 4 January 2007

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## What Do I Do?

by Tracy Halgren, Board Chair

Happy New Year! As the holiday frenzy dies down and the kids start heading back to school, I find myself thinking about how much my kids are going to grow and change over the next few months. Soon it will be time to register for next year's classes. This is always a difficult and agonizing time for many parents, including myself. How do you decide what class to put as your first choice? Do you poll your class to find out what others are doing and try to keep your class together? Do you simply look at where your child is now developmentally, and register for the class that would be a good fit now? Or do you try and anticipate what your child will be like 7 months from now and register for that class? Three years ago I agonized about this decision with my son Aiden and now I'm agonizing over it with my son Joshua. Right now I'm undecided what class to register for. I am hoping as I write this article I will not only help you decide what class is right for your child, but what class is right for Joshua.

It's always a big step moving from the twos classes to the upper level classes. Not only are our precious little ones getting ready to go to school more than one day a week, they will also be going without us at least one, if not two days a week. Gasp! And then, on top of all that turmoil, mainly for the parent and not for the child, we add in the prospect of carpooling. Egads! Am I ready for that? How do the carpools work? This is how I felt when Aiden was moving from the twos to the upper level classes. I had no idea how the carpools would work or even if I wanted to carpool. On top of that, Joshua's due date was a week before school started. I really wasn't sure if I could handle taking two kids plus an infant to school and fulfilling all my duties. I was a nervous wreck. But then I sat back and thought about it. I realized that forming a carpool with other families all going through similar challenges was part of what Mountain School was all about. The bonds that we have formed with those families are wonderful. Even today, as I am writing this article, Aiden is playing with one of his carpool buddies from the 3/4s class.

When you're in the 3s class, choosing between the 3/4s and 4/5s

(continued on page 6)

## Good Job

by Jane Krejci, Fri. 2s, Assistant Teacher

I hear these two little words used very frequently at school by both parents and teachers. I am listening to myself and others more closely with some concern.

I believe our intentions are good. We want to build our children's self esteem. However, we can't do that for them. They have to do the work. Often our words of encouragement and praise don't help.

Praise is external: it is judgmental and manipulative. It is often used to control behavior. It leads to undue dependence on the external judgment of others. Children learn very quickly what behaviors get praised. They become 'people pleasers'... 'praise junkies.' Our children need to develop their own internal strength by experimenting, discovering, risking - and yes, even failing. They need to become self-motivated, independent thinkers and doers.

Here are a few alternatives to "good job."

1. Observe - use words sparingly or not at all. Often just your presence is enough.
2. Say it without words: a thumbs up, a hug, or a smile will communicate your feelings.
3. Acknowledge what your child is doing - especially effort.  
e.g. "You worked hard to dig that big hole."

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## Open House

by Aimee Frank, Marketing Communications

Tell Your Friends!

*Sunday, January 21st*

*11:00am to 2:00pm*



Do you know someone that is interested in Mountain School, or is looking for a preschool? 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. We will have culmination projects on display as well as activities for the children.

The priority registration period this year will be January 21st -- February 3rd. All interested families should submit their applications during this period.

Spread the word!

Directions, applications and information are available at: [www.lgsons.com](http://www.lgsons.com) or by calling the schoolhouse at 408/395-2892 ☎

(Good Job, continued)

4. Describe what your child is doing. Be specific.  
e.g. “You used so many different blocks to build this structure.”
5. Reflect what your child is feeling. Children will show you how they feel; mirror those feelings and share in their delight.  
e.g. “You look really excited!” “How does it feel?”
6. Share what you are feeling, without being judgmental.  
e.g. “I really appreciate your help cleaning up.”
7. Ask questions, especially process questions.  
e.g. “How did you figure that out?” “What colors did you use to get this color?”
8. Present a challenge.  
e.g. “You went up three steps on the climber. Can you go up four?”

When we do use words of encouragement and praise, they should be honest, authentic and heartfelt! We will be helping our children to develop their own inner strength, so they will do a ‘good job’ of becoming competent and confident individuals. ☎

# Workday

by Tessa Arguijo, Workday Coordinator

*When: Saturday, January 20th  
12:00pm - 4:00pm*

*Who: Friday 2s & 4/5s classes*

*Where: The Schoolhouse, Black Rd.*

The next Workday for the school is coming up Saturday, January 20th from 12:00pm – 4:00pm. This workday is for the 4/5s & Friday 2s. If you were unable to attend the last workday you may make up your attendance at this one or the one scheduled for March 18th. Each family is required to participate for 4 hours\*. Please sign in when you arrive so we can keep track of your attendance.

We will be doing general maintenance such as organizing and cleaning the schoolhouse and exterior buildings, weeding and cleaning up the garden areas as well as special projects. Please bring: shovels, wheel barrows, rakes, garden tools, clippers, gloves, rags, sponges, extension cords, paint brushes, electric drills, power tools & tool kits (if you're handy we may have special projects for you) & lots of energy! Please mark your items with your name so there is no confusion when it's time to take things home.

Please wear old clothing and sturdy closed shoes.

If you have any questions please contact:  
Rebecca Curran Facilities Chair

408/353-4443, rebecca@rkg.com

Tessa Arguijo Workday Coordinator

408/356-2478, arguijo@comcast.net

*\*Workday Obligation: 4 hours for 1 person or 2 hours for 2 people. This is a "per family" obligation, not per child. Families may elect to buy out for \$150.00. Please notify the Facilities chair if you intend to buy out or are unable to attend your workday at least 7 days beforehand or you will be required to pay an additional \$15.00. ☞*



# "Sweets Under the Stars" 2007

## Auction Update:

We have some fantastic committees assembled for our upcoming Auction. We really appreciate everyone's enthusiasm and hard work. It's sure to be a sensational event. Here are a few Auction reminders:

-Auction is fast approaching. As you know, the big day is Saturday, March 3rd. We hope you will all join us for an evening of fun. Our special "Sweets Under the Stars" event will feature decadent desserts, delicious cheeses and local wines. Please make sure to send in your reservation by the February deadline.

-Family Donations are due by Monday, February 5th! Each class has a family donation liaison. Please make sure you check in with your liaison when handing in your family donation. Thanks so much for your generosity!

-There is lot of excitement surrounding this year's class projects! We can't wait to see what is put together! Stay tuned for some fantastic class projects to be featured at this year's Auction.

-Raffle Tickets: We would really appreciate your help in supporting the Auction raffle. Whether you buy some raffle tickets yourself and/or sell tickets to others, this makes a great difference with our fundraising efforts. We have some great prizes featured in the raffle! Please see the raffle representative in your class for more info or more raffle tickets.

-We are delighted to have received many generous donations from local businesses. Posted at the schoolhouse you will find a continuously updated listing of this year's Auction donors. By keeping an eye on this list you can get a sneak peek at goodies you might want to bid on! Also, if you happen to shop at one of these places- please make sure to thank them for their generous donations!

Please let us know if you have any questions!

-Ann Du Bois & Sherry McNamara  
2007 Auction Co-Chairs

*Ann: (408/279-2092; annmariadubois@yahoo.com)*

*Sherry: (408/353-3556; sherry@scsi.com) ☞*

# Move “Play Time” to the Top of Your Child’s To-Do List

By Leslie Berlin

“I’m too busy,” my daughter announced. “I have something every day after school.” Swim team on Mondays, soccer on Tuesdays and Fridays, Hebrew on Wednesdays, and Brownies on alternate Thursdays.

She was right. One thing after another had crept into the schedule until she had no free time left. My son, listening nearby, mentioned that students in his grade have had to give up recess time to sit through mandatory meetings, led by parents, about the carnival at his Palo Alto school. Last month, this same child brought home a science worksheet that included fill-in-the-blank questions about  $E = mc^2$  and nuclear fusion.

My son is in the fifth grade. My daughter is 8.

What are we doing to our children?

Earlier this month, the American Academy of Pediatrics issued a report on the “Importance of Play in Promoting Healthy Child Development” that makes clear my children are not alone. The report’s authors noted that “American children with adequate resources may be limited from enjoying the full developmental assets associated with play because of a family’s hurried lifestyle as well as an increased focus on the fundamentals of academic preparation in lieu of a broader view of education.”

In other words, we are inadvertently but systematically stealing from our children the only thing they can never regain: their childhood. In its place we are giving them a life that reproduces the worst aspects of our own adult lives: no play time, a constant sense that you are not keeping up, a day filled from the minute you wake up until you fall asleep with one must-do activity after another.

Most afternoons, our children are not playing. They are at a class or rehearsal or lesson or practice or meet or performance. And because so many of these children are asked to function in every aspect of their lives at an

absurd level, there are also visits to private coaches and personal tutors -- so the children can maintain a toehold where they never should have been in the first place.

After activities end, it’s homework time. Ten minutes per grade level, or roughly an hour for a fifth-grader, not counting the 20 minutes of music practice required by the school -- the children had to sign a contract saying they would do it -- or the 20 minutes of daily reading, or the ongoing “long-term projects” that lurk in the background, ensuring that our kids tune their ears to that singular soundtrack of adulthood: “Too much to do, too much to do.”

“Play is so important to optimal child development,” write the pediatricians, “that it has been recognized by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights as a right of every child.” In my town, Palo Alto, where children have so many toys that their parents bar birthday gifts, this right is threatened not by war or poverty, but by a philosophy that might be boiled down to this: If we can measure it, we want to see higher numbers (i.e., better scores, tougher curricula, more competitive sports leagues), and if we can’t measure it, then it has no value.

Of course, it is the immeasurable things, the things being lost, that are the most important. Family time -- we are together, just us, no interruptions. Friend time -- make up a game and all its rules, and referee it on your own. Chore time -- you have to do it because you are a member of this family, and all of us share the load. Boredom time -- do nothing until creativity blossoms. Quiet time -- lie on your back and watch the clouds.

We need to make these times priorities in our children’s lives. These are what give a child a self. This is how he or she learns: I am loved, I have friends, I am capable, I can innovate, I can be alone. In the end, when everything else is stripped away - when no one can call a coach or a tutor on our child’s behalf, when the Ivy League diplomas are dusty on the walls, when our children fail at work or are humiliated in romance, when they have passed some days in Melville’s “damp drizzly November of the soul” -- these few certainties about themselves will pull them through and keep them whole.

(continued on page 5)

# Mountain Community Loses a Friend

by Jenny Whitman, Alumni

I attended a memorial service for Dr. Jon Wilson, DVM last month along with over 500 other mountain community members. Jon was a beloved veterinarian who devoted his life to his family, his animal patients, and to the mountain community. I was not surprised at the large turnout for his farewell. In the years that I worked in the Wilson Clinic, I witnessed how much Jon's clients loved him and always spoke of him as their dear friend.

His reputation preceded him. Before I met him, a neighbor told me about the remarkable veterinarian who allowed her 10-year-old daughter to sit in on busy Saturday clinics in his mobile van for 18 months. It was not unusual for Jon to allow children to watch medical procedures as he mentored them using stories and anecdotes. School children, including Mountain School children, routinely visited his clinic on classroom field trips.

After years in the community, Jon and Corri Wilson had the opportunity to purchase the building on Highland Way in 1998. When they applied for a building use permit for their clinic there was standing room only at the Los Gatos town hall as the mountain community came forward to show their support.

I worked for the Wilsons as a registered veterinary technician shortly after they opened the clinic. He was a mentor and, eventually, a good friend to me. Sadly, I was there only a few years before Jon was diagnosed with cancer and I began to see less of him at his practice.

Working at the clinic was also an opportunity for me to get to know Corri, Jon's wife. She inspired me with her devotion to Jon's care. During the several years that Jon was sick, Corri left no stone unturned in her desperate search to help him. They traveled across the country many times to medical experts and support groups to find the help he needed. She refused to accept anything less than the best care for him. The amazing personal strength that she demonstrated in caring for Jon, her two young sons, Jared and Grant, and single-handedly running the clinic came from a very deep love for her family. Everyone who knows her has been touched by Corri's courage, love and devotion.

Corri is alone with her two children now, working together to pick up the pieces of their lives after this tragic loss.

Now is the time for the community to ask what we can do to help Jon and Corri's young sons, Jared (11) and Grant (9). Each of these two intelligent and poised young men, in their own ways, show many of Jon's special abilities with and interest in animals. Both children, Jared and Grant, need extensive eye surgery that will cost thousands of dollars. Jared's condition is the worst and Corri told me that unless he has treatment, he won't be able to drive when he is sixteen. He sees by peripheral vision only and guesses at what he sees when he is doing his school work.

An educational trust fund has been set up in their names at a local bank:

Jared and Grant Wilson  
Acct: 2857537  
Coast Commercial Bank  
1975 Soquel Drive  
Santa Cruz, California 95060



In the spirit of the 2007 New Year, please consider helping these children whose father and mother have given so much to our mountain community.

Jenny Whitman ☞

(Move "Play Time" to the Top..., continued)

Changing our children's lives in this way is easier said than done, to be sure. My daughter did not want to drop some of her activities, but she did. I'm summoning my courage to bring up homework and recess at my son's school. Maybe with little steps such as these, we can start slowing things down and ban training wheels from the fast lane.

*LESLIE BERLIN (lberlin@gmail.com) is a historian at Stanford University. She wrote this article for the Mercury News and has been reprinted with Leslie's permission. ☞*

(What Do I Do?, continued)

classes can also be a difficult decision. You have already been carpooling with one other family so carpooling with two families isn't hard to imagine. But what class do you choose? Will your child be going to Kindergarten the following year, or is your child a young three and you may be waiting a year to send him to Kindergarten? Maybe you just want to give that younger child the experience of being the "big kid" in class. It's a tough decision all around.

So, if you aren't sure what class to select how do you go about making your decision? First of all, here is a list of questions to keep in mind as you think about what class is the better fit for you and your child.

- 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?
- What family or work schedules need to be considered?

After you reflect on these questions you then need to look at what each class has to offer. Here is some information about each class taken from a February 1996 Observatory article (it is also found on our website under "Registration")

3s Class – Tuesday & Thursday morning; carpool with one other child. There is not as much socializing as in the 3/4s 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 child 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. Parents attend class once a week and are responsible for two children on that day.

3/4s Class – Monday morning, Tuesday/Thursday afternoon; 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 4/5s class.)

4/5s Class – Monday, Wednesday, Friday afternoon; carpool with two other children. There is more self-initiation of activities and more involved group play. 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 cleanup and to wash their dishes after cooking time. Language and pre-reading skills are developed through drama, journal writing, and the introductions of other languages and cultures. Pre-math skills and science activities are part of special materials and an integral part of many other projects.

Even after I write these descriptions I am still undecided about what class to select. I think my next step will be to talk to his current teacher. All our teachers always have great words of wisdom and ideas on what class would be most appropriate for our children. I encourage you to talk to your teacher if you are still unsure.

Remember, no matter what class you get, whether it's your first or your second choice, it will be a wonderful class. You, your child(ren), the teachers and the other families will make it a great Mountain School experience. So sit back, relax and know that all of our classes are terrific, you can't go wrong. ☯

## Tuition Payment Due

by Jeanne Moore, Treasurer

The third and final tuition installment payment is due on January 15th, 2007. (If you have paid in advance you can disregard this message.) Payments received after January 15th are subject to a \$25 late charge.

Please make checks out to LG-SONS.

Mail check to:

*Jeanne Moore*  
40 Hernandez Ave.  
Los Gatos, CA 95030

The Tuition cost for the 2006/2007 year are as follows:

- 2s Class- \$690/year  
(three installments of \$230)

- 3s Class- \$1200/year  
(three installments of \$400)

- 3/4s Class- \$1650/year  
(three installments of \$550)

- 4/5s Class- \$1650/year  
(three installments of \$550)

- 3/4/5s Sat. Class- \$690/year  
(three installments of \$230)

If you have any questions I can be reached at 408/354-1036 or by email [r6moore@comcast.net](mailto:r6moore@comcast.net).

Thanks in advanced.

Jeanne Moore



## Calendar

MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY - NO SCHOOL

*Monday, January 15th*

END OF FIRST SEMESTER

*Friday, January 19th*

Please make sure your are up to date on your requirements: attendance, night meetings and observations.

FRIDAY 2s & 4/5s WORKDAY

*Saturday, January 20th*  
12:00pm - 4:00pm at the Little Red Schoobouse

For more information see page 3

PRIORITY REGISTRATION

*Sunday, January 21st to*  
*Saturday, February 3rd*



Registration forms should be out shortly. Be sure and get yours forms mailed before the deadline. For information on how to chose a class see "What Do I Do?" on page 1.

OPEN HOUSE

*Sunday January 21st*

See page 2 for more info.

GENERAL MEETING

*Tuesday, January 23rd*  
7:00pm - 9:00pm at the Louise Van Meter  
Elementary School cafeteria

"The 100% Positive Parent. For more information see page 8.

SCRIP ORDER DUE DATE

*Wednesday, January 31st*

For more infor see "Get Your Scrip - Help the School!" on page 10.

WINTER BREAK - NO SCHOOL

*Monday, Feb.19th - Saturday, Feb. 24th*

## Program Events At Mountain School: Upcoming Events

by Marina Rush, Programs Co-Chair

### Mini-Course: Kindergarten Readiness Panel

*Thursday, Jan 18th, 7-9 pm*

*Louise Van Meter Elementary School Cafeteria*

Is my child ready for kindergarten? What are the readiness factors for kindergarten? Should I send my child with a late summer or fall birthday to kindergarten, or should I wait another year? These are some of the questions puzzling parents as they look ahead to elementary school. Kindergarten teachers from the area include Daves Avenue, Blossom Hill, Hillbrook, Village School. There will be time for Q&A so bring your questions!

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### General Meeting: The 100% Positive Parent

Speaker: Jim Wiltens

*Tuesday, Jan 23rd, 7-9pm*

*Fisher Middle School library*

To be a 100% positive parent, you need to be proactive. Proactive means being a step ahead of your children and moving in a positive direction. Hear stories of how proactive parents deal with concerns over schoolwork, chores, and family.

- Discover five steps that motivate children and build their self-esteem at the same time
- Learn how to change behavior without criticizing
- Get information on how to encourage super traits with a superheroes closet
- Find out why most chores given to children do not result in an increase in responsibility and what you can do to turn chores into a responsibility building experience.

Successful methods used by parents, teachers, coaches, as well as recent research have been condensed into this state of the art system for inspiring, motivating and influencing children. Practical solutions, humor, and audience interaction make for an enjoyable seminar.

Jim Wiltens is a three-time winner of the national Parenting Press Association Award for best column in a parenting publication. His column appeared in the Bay

Area Parent News Magazine locally and in regional publications across the US, Canada and Australia. His books include No More Nagging, Nit-picking, & Nudging and Goal Express! The five secrets of goal setting success. His newest book is Memory Smart: Nine memory skills every grade schooler needs. He works with GATE (Gifted and Talented Education) students through out the Bay Area. Jim lectures extensively on proactive parenting skills and is also director of Deer Crossing Camp Inc. ([www.deercrossingcamp.com](http://www.deercrossingcamp.com)), a children's summer camp dedicated to bringing out the best qualities in children.

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### Mini-Course: Sibling Rivalry

Speaker: Sue Dinwiddie

*Monday, February 12th, 7-9pm*

*Location TBD*

But I had it first! Sibling rivalry! When siblings fight, there is always a reason. Uncover reasons for sibling quarrels and minimize conflicts, and discover when and how to become successful mediators.

Sue Dinwiddie, M.A. Human Development, trains staffs and teaches parent education throughout the Bay Area and in New York City. In addition to publishing two books on helping children learn social problem solving skills, she has taught classes in human development through Stanford University, Pacific Oaks College, and local community colleges and agencies. Sue is a former Head Teacher at Bing Nursery School, Stanford University. Sue and her husband, parents of two grown children, play harp and flute in the musical duo "Wind in the Strings."

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### Mini-Course: Raising Children in an Affluent Society

Speaker: Sheila Dubin MS, of the Parents Place, Palo Alto

*Thursday, March 29th, 7-9pm*

*Location TBD*

Our children are lucky to be living in a community that is rich in resources. There are a myriad of activities, a wealth of classes, and an abundance of experiences that await our children. As parents we want to provide our kids with all that life offers, and protect them from life's problems. But does this abundance and protection deprive them of the opportunity to learn important cop-

(continued on page 9)

## Where Oh Where Is Our Friend Hairy?

by Jan Eby, 3's Teacher

Once again "Hairy" the pumpkin appeared in our garden the week after Halloween. The smiley Jack O' Lantern was stuffed with wet paper and planted with wheat berries by the 3's class.

Through the weeks he gave quite a funny display of grass growing out his eyes, ears, nose, mouth and top, and then---he very quickly slumped and has now almost completely disappeared in the tall grass. We have found a few remaining squishy pieces of him.

A sign designates his spot and thanks him for giving all of himself for our garden. Look for beautiful flowers in the Spring. Thank you Hairy! 🍂

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(Program Events At Mountain School:  
Upcoming Events, continued)

ing skills? How do we put balance in our lives and those of our children, so that opportunity does not turn into indulgence?

Sheila Dubin, M.S., Mountain School parent alum, is a parenting coach and consultant, with thirty years of experience in the field. She has developed and taught parenting classes at Children's Health Council, and Jewish Family and Children's Services in Palo Alto. She also works with parents on an individual basis. She specializes in classes and consultations for parents raising daughters, as well as issues relating to parenting adolescents and school-age children. She was a contributing writer and the editor of Bay Area Parent of Teens magazine. Sheila currently practices in Los Gatos and Palo Alto. She and her husband have two adult daughters. 🍂

## Parent Library Update

by Sonia Casper, Newsletter/Librarian

As many of you may have already noticed, the MS Parent Library is up and running! I'd like to thank Christine Dunn (Annabelle's mother, 3/4s class), for taking the time over the holiday break to paint the bookcase for us. Thank you!

Tucked between the two glass doors there is a blue folder that has a list of the books available as well as an annotated bibliography of the DVDs. A huge thank you to Teacher Kathy for taking the time to watch each DVD and type up this invaluable document. The annotated bibliography can be found in the back of the folder as well as on the covers of the DVDs.

Just recently the DVD series by Janis Keyser, author of "Becoming the Parent You Want To Be" was added to the library. This is a fabulous, informative collection, and I urge you all to take one home when you get the chance. More DVDs will be arriving soon.

**POLICIES:** DVDs are available to borrow for a 1-week check out period. Please only take one DVD at a time out of respect to others who may be interested. The books currently do not have a time limit, but we ask you return them in a reasonable time frame, keeping in mind that others may be waiting. If you find the book you would like to borrow is not available please let me know, I'd be happy to put you on a waiting list.

**CHECKOUT PROCEDURE:** To check out a book, DVD or CD please ask your teacher for assistance. She/He will unlock the case for you and assist you in the check out process. Inside each book, and on the back of the media items, is an envelope with a check out card in it. Please fill out the card completely and give it to your teacher. To return the item give it back to your teacher who will check the item back into the library. Please **DO NOT** leave it on a shelf. If you happen to lose an item we ask that you replace it.

If you have any further questions please ask ([mtnmama@garlic.com](mailto:mtnmama@garlic.com) or 408/353-9728). Otherwise, ENJOY! The books and media are there for you to use.

Warmly,

Sonia Casper  
Newsletter/Librarian

# Get Your Scrip - Help the School!

by Marie Crawford, Scrip Co-Chair

Yes, it's Scrip order time. We have placed scrip order forms, and an envelope for your completed forms and checks, in the school house parents' room. I have also attached a copy of the January Scrip form to a school-wide email for your convenience.

The deadline for this order is January 31st.

Please note that we have added Dream Dinners to the order form, for those of you that might be interested in this service.

We hope that you will all consider purchasing scrip to benefit the school! It's a pretty painless way to make a difference.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Thanks!

Marie Crawford

cell: 408/621-4343

home/evenings: 408/371-4322

Shilpa Young

home: 408/559-3767

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## *From the Editor*

*Is there something you would like to see in the newsletter? Do you have a recipe, story, poem, field trip, or information you'd like to share? The deadline for the next newsletter is Friday, February 2nd. Please send all submissions for consideration to [mtnmama@garlic.com](mailto:mtnmama@garlic.com).*

Warmly,

Sonia Casper  
Editor



# Tiny Trifles

from Cooking Art, Easy Edible Art for Young Children  
by MaryAnn F. Kohl & Jean Potter

## Ingredients

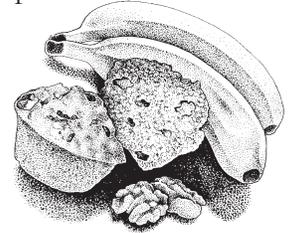
16-12 cupcakes, any flavor

Choice of yogurt (e.g. vanilla, strawberry, lemon)

\*note: can use one, two or three flavors

choice of fruit in different colors, such as raspberries,  
blueberries, strawberries, grapes

mint sprigs (optional)



## Utensils

Knife and cutting board

spoons

wide mouth glasses, one for each cupcake

## Directions

- ① Slice one cupcake into three layers. Set aside.
- ② Place several spoons of one flavor of yogurt in a glass. Be sure to completely cover the bottom of the glass with the yogurt. Spread a little of the yogurt up the sides of the glass too.
- ③ Place a slice of cupcake on top of the yogurt.
- ④ Add more yogurt on top of the cupcake slice (if using different flavors then use a second color.)
- ⑤ Arrange some fruit on the yogurt. When arranging the fruit pieces, hold the glass up and note the way they look from outside the glass. Press some against the sides of the glass.
- ⑥ Continue to layer the cupcake slices, yogurt and fruit pieces.
- ⑦ Top off the cupcake with a piece or two of fruit and a sprig of mint to decorate.
- ⑧ Place the tiny trifles in the refrigerator for about 1 hour to chill.
- ⑨ Enjoy! 🍷