

CONTENTS OF THIS ISSUE

Fund a Dream
Page 1

Table of Contents
Page 2

Recycling
Page 2

“Invaluable Time”
Page 2

Donors: Reflections Auction
Page 3-6

Savannah Channele Wine Tasting and Tour
Page 6

Macys' Community Shopping Day
Page 6

Decision 5
Page 6

Calendar
Page 7

A Night to Remember
Page 7

Mtn. School Community Service Drives
Page 8

Adult Education Program
Page 8

Honk! Spring Musical
Page 8

Decision 5, continued
Page 9

In Remembrance of Adam Hitchcock Glover
Page 9

“Rowing Together, Thanks”
Page 10

“Play...Play...Play”
Page 11-12

Adventuresome Play and Thanks
Page 13-14

Decision 5, Continued
Page 14

RECYCLING

By Priscilla Amend, Go Green Chairperson

Dear Mountain School Families,

Save your Electronic Recycling over the summer Akeena Solar enjoyed supporting our event so much that they'd like to do it again. The next e-waste drive, has been confirmed with Akeena Solar and Earthcare Recycling and will be on Saturday, October 25th.

RED LGSONS Eco friendly reuseable shopping bags are for sale in the Parents Room at \$7 each. They will continue to remain for sale until all sell out. Make checks Payable to LGSONS. ☞

“Invaluable Time”

by Stevie Caceres, Community Service Liaison

Hard to believe that our school year is beginning to wrap-up. Although I'm really looking forward to spending some time in the beautiful outdoor locations and getting some creek playtime, I'm a bit sad to think I'm closing up my 5th year here at this amazing school.

As I look back it's a bit bitter-sweet. I can still remember our first year in the Wed 2s with my son. I was nervous, having no idea how we would do in the preschool setting. I knew no one at the school and was hoping to make some new friends. I was hesitant to get involved as I felt my hands were very full with my 2 yr old and one on the way. How would I squeeze in time to help out at the school? I was in awe of all the hard-working volunteers that seemed to be doing everything. How did they do it?

I stepped into a board position my 4th year. My son was in Kindergarten and my daughter adjusted easily to Mountain School. I felt I had a little time and I loved the idea of helping on the community service end. At the end of my first year serving on the board, I realized it was not as much work as I had expected and there were many unexpected rewards. It's not just about helping out the school; it's about making new friends and deepening relationships. It's about being part of a team for a good cause. The only regret I have is that I did not join in a bit sooner. Only one year left, and I'll have to move on.

I want to encourage parents who may be feeling hesitant to participate to give it a shot. There are many ways to begin helping out in small ways. If you are interested in finding out more get in touch with a board member.

☞

Donors: Reflections 2008 Silent and Live Auction

by Jane Johnson, 2008 Auction Chairperson

We would like to thank the following Donors for helping make our auction a success. Please make sure to thank these donors and vendors the next time you make a purchase with them. Let them know you're with LGSONS and we appreciate their support!

The Mahoney Company
Lilo & Stephen Adams-Campeau
Kimberly & Joe Anzalone
Kris & Shain Holden
Diane & David Marcus
Annette Rau & Renato Ravanello
Karen & Mike Seater
A Tool Shed
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Acorn Naturalists
Affordable Treasures
Sean and Linda Aggarwal
Airborne Gymnastics
Aldo's Ristorante and Bar
Alexander Cellars
All Ears Audio Books
All-Pro Tae Kwon Do
Almaden Valley Athletic Club
Alta Fine Clothing
AMB Designs
Priscilla and Dan Amend
American Musical Theatre San Jose
Amici's East Coast Pizzeria
Andale Taqueria
Janine and Sean Andersen
Anderson's TV
Heidi and Jeremy Archdeacon
Tessa and Allen Arguijo

ArtHouse Kids
Asian Art Museum
Athletic Performance
Balloon Cuts
Bally Total Fitness
Bargetto Winery
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Bay Area Discovery Museum
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Billy Jones Wildcat Railroad, Inc.
BJ's Restaurant & Brewhouse
Blackberry Farm Golf Course
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Boulder Creek Golf & Country Club
Jan Bowman
Tony and Sue Bozzini
Buca di Beppo
Build-A-Bear Workshop
Bump Maternity
Byington Vineyard & Winery
C.B. Hannegan's
Adrian and Stevie Caceres
California Fun Jump

California Theatre Center
Camera Cinemas
Campo di Bocce
Cartoon Art Museum of San Francisco
David and Sonia Casper
Jenn Castro and Doug Young
Jon and Emily Cervino
Chacho's Mexican Restaurant & Catering
Charlie's Cheesecake Works
Children's Discovery Museum of San Jose
Childrens Fairyland
Children's Musical Theater San Jose
Cicero's Pizza
City Lights Theater Company
Geoff and Jennifer Clark
Classic Car Wash
Classic Kids
Gillian and Robert Claus
Karyn and David Cline
Nigel Cockroft and Annemarie Gustavsson
Olivier Colliou and Vilma Huertas
Cookies by Kelly
David Cooper and Jayne Capelin
Costanoa Lodge & Camp
Costco Wholesale #470
Coyote Point Museum
Crystal Springs Golf Course
CueTopia Billiard Cafe
Cup & Saucer - A Family Restaurant
Dave and Rebecca Curran
Ron and Cami Czarny
D & J Hobby Shop
Dance Attack! Studios
Dance Effects
Dave & Buster's of Milpitas
Decathlon Club
Dick's Bakery
Diddams Party Headquarters
DiPuccio's Restaurant
Mindy and Patrick Dirks

(Donors, continued)

Disneyland Resort
Mike and Jane Dodge
Domus
Double D's Sports Grille
Doubletree Hotel San Jose
Jerry and Julie Doyle
Dream Dinners of Los Gatos
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Ann Du Bois and Herb Quon
Dustin David Salon
Chris and Sonia Dyrby
East West Music & Dance
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Elephant Bar Restaurant
Emile's Restaurant
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Brad and Erica Giannini
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Tracy Glenn
Golfland
Gordon Biersch
Great America
Green Thumb Nursery
Morgan and Stephanie Griffith

Steve and Nadya Gulesserian
Habitot Children's Museum
Jill and Erik Hansen
Happy Hollow Park & Zoo
John and Kara Hardman
Sandy and Mel Hatzis
Peter Herzlinger and Anna-Maria
White
Hicklebee's
Hidden Villa Farm
High Tech Burrito
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Chris Houck and Tracy Halgren
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J.T. McHart's Pizza Restaurant
Jakes of Saratoga
Jalisco Mexican Food
Jamba Juice
Japanese Weekend Maternity
Jasmine Chinese Cuisine
Jayne Capelin of Bored Dog Pro-
ductions
Jeanette Turkus
Jane and Dan Johnson
Joyful Melodies Music School
Juguemos En Espanol
Just Dinners
KidsArt
KidsPark
Knowledge Quest
Jane and Don Krejci
La Concha Spa Salon
La Cuesta Inn
La Nebbia Winery
JoAnn Lambkin and Jim Gensheim-
er

Jean and Tom Lattie
Lawrence Hall of Science
Le Papillon
Learning Express
Learning Rainbow
Dom and Laura Le
LGSONS 3,4's class
LGSONS 3's class
LGSONS 4,5's Class
LGSONS Friday 2's
LGSONS Saturday 2's
LGSONS Saturday 3/4/5s
LGSONS Wednesday 2's
Mike and Lisa Liddle
Linden Tree Books
Loma Prieta Winery
Barbara Lonsbury and Aldo Mar-
esca
Los Gatos - Monte Sereno Police
Department
Los Gatos Baby Boutique
Los Gatos Coffee Roasting Co.
Los Gatos Framing Company
Los Gatos Swim & Racquet Club
Los Gatos-Saratoga Recreation
Amoreena Lucero and Rich Thomas
Lunardis
Lupretta's Deli
Lush Cosmetics
Macy's - Valley Fair
Main Street Burgers
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Mimi's Café
Minigym Explorations
Julie Christine Mitrovich
Mosaics and More
Mr. Pickle's Sandwich Shop
Laura Murphy-Wilkens and Peter
Wilkens
Musical Me, Inc.
My Gym Children's Fitness Center
My Pony Party & Petting Zoo
Natural Expressions of Los Gatos
Navlet's
Stephen and Lisa Newton
Nilou Day Spa
Nora M. Mason

Calendar

MINI COURSE, "SELF-PROTECTION SKILLS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE" BY KIDPOWER

Thursday, May 1st
7-9 pm at Louise Van Meter
Cafeteria/Multi-Use Room
For more info see page 8

WINE TASTING AND TOUR

Friday, May 2nd
5-7 pm at the Savannah Chanelle Tasting
Room
For more info see page 6

BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, May 6th
7:00 pm at Van Meter Elementary,
Clubhouse Portable

CULMINATION PROJECT 4/5S

Thursday, May 8th

MOUNTAIN SCHOOL SPRING CAMPING

Friday, May 9th - Sunday May 11th
Arrive 2 pm Portola Redwood State Park
Vacate 12 Noon Mother's Day

CULMINATION PROJECT WED 2S & SAT 2S

Monday, May 12th

CULMINATION PROJECT 3/4S

Tuesday, May 13th

CULMINATION PROJECT FRI 2S, SAT 3/4/5S

Wednesday, May 14th

CULMINATION PROJECT 3S

Thursday, May 15th

MACY'S COMMUNITY SHOPPING DAY

Saturday, May 17th
All Day!
For more info see page 6 check email

AQUA'S & HICKLEBEE'S FUNDRAISER

Sunday, May 18th
Time TBD, (early dinner)
For more info check email

END OF SECOND SEMESTER

Tuesday, May 20th

SUMMER SCHOOL WITH TEACHER LESLIE

Monday, June 30th - Thursday JULY 31st
9:30 am – 12 Noon
To be added on the Waitlist email
laurasnyder2@sbcglobal.net

A Night to Remember

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to invite friends to your home for a gourmet dinner and not need to worry about planning the menu, shopping, cooking, selecting the perfect wines, serving AND cleaning it all up afterward? For me it had only been a dream---until I found myself the winner of the 1st prize at our school raffle drawing at the Turkey Trot last fall.

What I won was the time and talent of Chef Victor Ingraffia (father of Samuel in the 4/5s class) who planned a surprise menu, brought over all that was needed for a fabulous meal for eight, along with matching wines (wonderfully selected by Sherri Ingraffia).

Thanks to Chef Victor, it was indeed an evening to remember.

The moral of this story is: if you ever have a chance to bid on Chef Victor---buy lots of tickets!

Jan Eby 3s teacher. 🍷

(Donors, continued)

O.M. Inc. / Aqui Cal-Mex
Oakland Athletics
Oakland Zoo
Off The Wall Soccer
Oil Changers
Only The Best
Orchard Valley Coffee
Out of the Envelope
Outback Steakhouse
Outback Steakhouse - Cupertino
P.F. Chang's
Jinho Park and Hyun-ah Im
Kyle Park and Amy Attard
Pavia Day Spa
Peak Travel Group
Willys and Betty Peck
Pedro's Cabo Grill
Pets and more
Phoenix Photography
Photography by Delgado
Connor and Tracy Pingree
Planet Granite
Plush Salon
Powell's Sweet Shoppe
Pruneridge Golf Club
Red Horseshoe Paper
Mohammed Rehman and Nicola
Boughton-Smith
Restaurant James Randall
Leo and Shannon Richiuso
Roaring Camp Railroads
Jens and Holli Roever
Romantiques
Rosicrucian Egyptian Museum &
Planetarium
Nicole and Dale Rossi
Roudon Smith Winery
Runner's Factory
Running Revolution
Fred and Kristi Rupprecht
Marina and Robert Rush
Kenneth Ryu and Karen Paculba
Safeway Stores
Sakamoto Plants
Salon 2 Fabulous
San Francisco 49ers

San Francisco Giants Baseball Club
San Jose Giants
San Jose Repertory Theatre
San Jose SaberCats
Santa Cruz Museum Association
Saratoga Chocolates
Saratoga Springs
Savannah-Chanelle Vineyards
Juliana Scalise and Brian Royston
Sea & Adventures, Inc.
See's Candies
Senecker-Frisch Interior Design
Shadowbrook & Crow's Nest
Sharks Ice at San Jose
Todd and Kuniko Shira
Signature Images by Lori Rose
Six Flags Discovery Kingdom
Six Flags Magic Mountain
Skipping Hippos
Rowell Sotto and LaBreche Jennifer
Spiedo
Stanford Athletics
Starbucks Valley Fair Store 5913
Leina and Greg Stowers
Adrian Stubbs and Marie Crawford
Summit Photography
Tricia and Tim Sunderland
Susan J. Weiand Photography
Sweet Peas
Tassels of Los Gatos
TCBY / Mrs. Fields of Los Gatos
Testarossa Vineyards
The Cheesecake Factory
The Dance Zone
The Diner of Los Gatos
The Fish Market
The French Cellar
The Indian Store
The Jungle
The Little Gym
The Music Place
The Original Hick'ry Pit
The Spa Los Gatos
The Tech Museum of Innovation
The Wilson Veterinary Hospital
The Wooden Horse
Thomas Fogarty Winery & Vine-
yards

Tiny Tots Diaper Service and Baby
Boutique
Tiny Treks
Toll House Hotel- Three Degrees
Restaurant
Trader Joe's - Campbell
Trail Head Cyclery
Two Small Farms
Venz Fine Photography
Vernoica Schneider, M.A. Piano
Victoria's Dance - Theatrical Supply
Victory Martial Arts
Michael and Connie Vincent
Wax Museum at Fisherman's Wharf
West Valley Gymnastics
West Valley Light Opera
Western Railway Museum
Alan and Jenny Whitman
Jim and Alis Whitman
Whole Foods Market
Kathy Wilcox and Jeremy Fogel
Wild Bird Center
Wild Things, Inc.
Shelly and Michael Wille
Jack Williams
Willow Glen Yoga
Willow Street Wood Fired Pizza -
Los Gatos
Steve and Katie Wilson
Winchester Mystery House
Windy Oaks Estate Winery & Vine-
yards
Yamagami's Nursery
Julia and Terrence Yee
Yoga Source
Claudia and Tom Yore
Kirk and Shilpa Young
Heidi and Ehab Youssef
Scott and Christine Zafropoulo
ZER01
Trailsloggers Outdoor Discovery
Gear
Cooper-Garrod Estate Vineyards
The Maids Quarters
Weigh To Health
Kindermusik with Lisa and Friends
Annette & Eric Nystrom
Cow Palace

(Donors, continued)

Summer Winds Nursery
Baja Fresh
Fahrenheit Ultra Lounge & Restaurant
Ben & Jerry's
Kyoto Palace Japanese Restaurant
West Coast World Martial Arts
Pet People of Los Gatos
The Maids Quarters
C28
Time Out Clothing
The Flower Garden Florist
A Party Place
MaestroSoft, Inc.
Redwood Estates Pavilion
Wally's Swing World
Melvin Johnson, Owner – White
Limousine Service
Kelly Paper
Patsons Press
Redwood Estates Services Association
Janelle Wilcox
Larry & Susan Bosquez

Savannah Chanelle Wine Tasting and Tour

Submitted by: Claudia Yore,
Social Chair

Come and support one of our beautiful outdoor locations while enjoying some wine.

Savannah Chanelle is graciously hosting a wine tasting and tour exclusively for our Mountain School community on Friday, May 2nd. Appetizers along with wine tasting begin at 5pm followed by a tour of the grounds. The \$20.00 admission fee includes a souvenir wine glass. Spots are limited to 25 couples, so please email me c_yore@msn.com to reserve a spot.

☞

Macy's Valley Fair Community Shopping Day Saturday, May 17th, 2008

Submitted by Karen Paculba,
Fundraising

Tickets are only \$10.00, ALL proceeds from Macy's ticket sales will go directly to our "Fund a Dream" upgrade to our play area! Be a part of the LGSONS "Classes of 2008" donation towards this project!. Teacher Sally and her daughter will be volunteering at Macy's from 2:30 to 6 PM.

Not only will you save a lot of money, you'll be treated to a fun-filled day of food and beverage samples, entertainment, promotional gifts and the chance to win a \$500 shopping spree! Ticket holders will enjoy 10-20% savings on nearly everything in the store (including sale & clearance items). Plus, you will receive \$10 back when you purchase one regular-, sale-, or clearance-price purchase of \$25 or more throughout the store. (See email for the details.)

To purchase your tickets, please contact Karen Paculba at kpaculba@gmail.com.

☞

Decision 5

Dear families,

It's hard to believe that we're already back at Saratoga Springs. This year has flown by! Year, what am I talking about...where have the last 4 ½ years gone?

As some of you already know, my son Jacob is an August baby. There is the big debate around summer babies, August babies in particular, as to whether to send them to Kindergarten when they turn 5, or to wait a year. I can't tell you the relief I felt when pregnant with him and was told that his due date was in early September. I felt like I had won the lottery, not to have to deal with that issue! But, instead he decided to surprise us and come 3 weeks early! I knew right then and there that we would be facing this question all too soon.

Fast-forward to today, and here we are, right in the thick of it. So, what do we do? Honestly we still haven't made up our minds for sure. I had hoped to be able to write this article with the decision made, with the insight of how we came to our conclusion. But we haven't. Being in a class with a lot of summer babies I know we are not alone in facing this decision. So, what do you do? I think the answer is individual to each child. I always thought that if I had any doubt that I would wait. But now that I'm here, how do I know that the doubt isn't caused by my own doubts or me just not being ready? After all, I LOVE Mountain School and it's hard to imagine it not being a part of my life.

I remember when my daughter Megan (now in 2nd grade) was in the 4/5s and was going to go on to Kindergarten. It was hard to imagine that she was ready to leave and go on to the big world of Kindergarten. I so wanted Mountain School to continue on through the elementary school years. She was thriving in its nur

Mountain School Community Service Drives

Submitted by: Stevie Caceres,
Community Service Liaison

I want to thank all of you from the bottom of my heart for all your amazing generosity this year! Just today, I went to the schoolhouse to pick up another load of donations for our shelter drive. I found bags of diapers, wipes, clothes, beautiful puzzles, books, toys and a box full of brand new blocks. I have e-mails from families wanting to donate car seats, swings and even a train table....it's wonderful! I will be sure to send you e-mail with more details at the end of this drive.

As this will be the last newsletter this year, I'd like to give you a quick recap of all your heartfelt giving to those less fortunate. The PJ drive collected 38 pajamas and 43 books. These items were distributed to our local emergency shelters. The Watsonville Gift drive filled all 60 wish tags, donated 24 each \$5 gift cards, 97 stuffed animals and a large box of new books donated with Mountain School scholastic points. The Second Harvest food banks' bin was filled to the brim!

I'll leave you with words from a letter received from Gladys Anderson, the organizer for the Watsonville drive:

"I would like to extend my most sincere appreciation to you for helping bring so much happiness to many of the needy families of Santa Cruz County. Thanks to your love, compassion and generosity, The Christmas Project was able to deliver gifts to 320 families, including over 1600 children.

I wish each of you could see those big smiles and happy faces, not only of the children, as they received their dream gift, but also from so many fathers and mothers. The parents are almost as happy as the children as they watch their excited kids unwrap their special gifts. Your kindness and generosity truly makes this very special and a memorable day for the entire family.

Thank you so much for making this project a reality. Without your help and generosity this project would not be possible."



Last Adult Ed Program of this Year

Submitted by Linda Aggarwal,
Programs Chair

All families are required to attend one mini-course per semester.

Thursday, May 1st: 7-9 pm Louise Van Meter
Cafeteria/Multi-Use Room
Self-Protection Skills for Young People by KIDPOWER.

This entertaining, active program gives parents and other caregivers the opportunity to learn the KIDPOWER approach for introducing and practicing self-protection skills with young people. "How can we teach our children to be safe without scaring them?" Participants will learn methods to improve both the safety and the quality of their children's interactions with strangers and with people they know.

KIDPOWER Everyday Safety Skills

- How to be and act aware and confident
- How to move away and check first
- How to get help
- Safety with strangers
- Safety in emergencies
- Dealing with hurtful words
- Setting clear boundaries

KIDPOWER is a non-profit organization founded in California in 1989. Register Online @ www.lgsons.com.




HONK! Spring Musical

Submitted by Jill Milton and Claudia Bowen Campbell

Come see Redwood's production of HONK!, an enchanting musical comedy packed with sparkling wit, brilliant design, a memorable score, and dazzling choreography. A wry look at the tale of the Ugly Duckling, Honk! Suitable for all ages. Performances are at the McAfee Center at Saratoga High School, 20300 Herri-man Avenue in Saratoga.

Fridays, May 2nd and May 9th at 7 pm
Saturdays, May 3rd and May 10th at 2 pm and 7 pm

ORDER TICKETS ONLINE USING YOUR PAYPAL ACCOUNT If you have any questions, please email honkrms@gmail.com. Thank you for your support! 

(Decision 5, continued)

turing environment. How could this be the end of that road, how could she possibly be ready for that next step? Looking back, that issue was ALL MINE! That was as clear as the nose on my face on her first day of Kindergarten. I remember that day as if it was yesterday...she woke herself up, got dressed, went downstairs and made herself breakfast and packed a lunch for herself. Then she proceeded to come upstairs and wake David and I up and say, "I'm ready to go to school!" with the biggest smile I think I've ever seen on her face. It was 7am and school didn't start for another hour! The thought of it brings tears to my eyes today. How could I have doubted she was ready? So I say again, clearly more my issue than hers. She was ready!!! She is thriving at school, she's never once had a day that she didn't want to go, she excels, is self-confident and a good will ambassador if there ever was one.

So, now it's Jacob's turn, and instead of being a May baby, he's an August baby. Instead of being a girl, he's a boy. Does that make a difference? Can you really pigeon hole boys that way? Don't we need to look at the person our child is, not their sex? Holding children back, especially boys, does seem to be the thing to do these days. But I can't help but ask, are we now holding them back because everyone else is, or are we really making the decision based on what's best for our child? It's easy to get caught up in the "keeping up with the Jones" environment that is brewing around the subject. That being said, how do you know? How do you know when they're ready? Well, I have no crystal ball to offer. If I did I'd use it and gladly share it with others because I'm beginning to wonder when it will all end? We keep pushing the date back farther and farther. First we questioned September babies, then August, then July...etc, etc. Will we soon be sending kids to Kindergarten when they're 7? Yikes!!!

So I try to ask myself, if developmentally Jacob was where he is now, but were born in May or June, would I even be thinking twice about sending him? Am I creating this drama myself because he's an August baby? He's convinced he's ready to go! Ask him and he'll tell you so. So you say to yourself, shouldn't that count for something? The follow-up question to that is "does he really understand what Kindergarten is?" Oh, you can talk yourself in circles around this issue!!! Honestly, sometimes I just want to make the decision and be done, and as soon as we do I'll let you know!

In the meantime I'd like to take this, my last newsletter as Co-Chair, to voice my appreciation. First I'd like to thank our wonderful teachers for everything they do. Their dedication and passion are our school's biggest asset. Thank you for helping me become a better parent than I ever would have been without your guidance, example and friendship

that you've offered. For all the wonderful things our very unique school has to offer, when it comes right down to it the teachers and the families are who make our school what it is.

On that note, I'd like to thank all the parents and children that we've met along the way for the friendships that we've made, the laughter that we've shared and the strength and support that has been given in times of challenges. What is life without family and good friends? I feel incredibly fortunate to have met so many truly incredible people through Mountain School and made many valuable and hopefully lifelong friendships. I'd also like to give a special thanks to all the parents who have made a special effort to serve on the Board of Directors over the years, but especially this year. Your hard work, dedications and commitment I have greatly appreciated. For those who have not served on the Board it can be hard to appreciate how much work goes on behind the scenes to keep the school running. These very talented and dedicated individuals deserve a round of applause. I hope if you see one of them you'll take the time to thank them as well.


And finally, to those parents who are stepping up to take over the reigns (you'll find a list of the incoming board members below). Thank you! I am always here for you if you need anything...once a Mountain School parent or Board member, you are always one, it becomes part of you. Best wishes to you all and have a wonderful summer!

With warm regards,

Sonia Casper, Co-Chair 

In Remembrance of Adam Hitchcock Glover

August 2, 1995 - April 19, 2008

Most loving and extraordinary son of Sarah and Fred of Los Gatos, and best companion to Oliver. His many relatives, friends, and teachers remember Adam as a happy, inventive, energetic boy who met new challenges with enthusiasm, and delighted us all with his charm, intelligence and very loving nature. He will be dearly missed by all who should have shared his future years with him. A boy who fully appreciated nature, Adam enjoyed conversing with great horned owls under full moon skies, riding waves at coastal beaches, sailing, skiing, hiking, playing his violin, Tae Kwan Do and exploring all the potential he offered. His too brief time with us will always be cherished. In memory of Adam's life, donations may be made to: Parents Helping Parents at www.php.com/donors/story2 and the Camp Winnarainbow Grace and Joy scholarship fund at www.campwinnarainbow.org. 

Rowing Together

Thank you, thank you, thank you all so very much!!! With everyone “rowing together” we were able to have a very successful auction! Final numbers are still pending, but we know we will be close to if not exceeding the auction goal. Everyone’s efforts made this happen and you are all to be thanked!

Lori Rose, Aimee Frank and Sharon Elder for the gorgeous invitations.

Solicitations team, chaired by Holli Roever, for procuring the wonderful assortment of items for us on which to bid.

Class Liaisons, chaired by Sherry McNamara, for spearheading wonderful and unique class projects and for coordinating the individual family donations.

Packaging team, chaired by Ann Du Bois, for the layout of the tables and gift certificates.

Reservations and Registration, chaired by Priscilla and Dan Amend, for coordinating all responses and registrations, and greeting everyone the night of the auction.

Decorations team, chaired by Alis Whitman, for setting the tone of the event with gorgeous enhancements.

Refreshments team, chaired by both Victor Ingrassia and Kimberly Anzalone, for providing sumptuous food in an elegant display.

Jon Cervino and his band of bartenders for providing lively libations.

Item Sale/Reflections Pond team, chaired by Barbara Lonsbury, for providing a fun way to try our hands at lady luck.

Transportation team, chaired by Rebecca Curran, for getting everything where it needed to be and being so flexible.

Closing/Cashier team, chaired by David Casper, for getting all items cleared and working well under duress.

Jill of All Trades, Annette Nystrom, for all of the little things and big things that needed to be done (including finding and purchasing those wonderful wine clips!).

Marketing team, including Karen Paculba for stepping in where needed and creatively packaging items, Jayne Capelin for marketing items and applying her creativity to the video, and Ken Chang for his expertise in providing an eye-catching show before the Live Auction.

Buy-A-Spot team, chaired by Mary Matlack, for providing such enticing items that they alone earned over \$8000 for our school.

Kristi and Fred Rupprecht and Stephen Newton for staying with me through the walk-through inspection and to Stephen for helping to cart all of the items to my house in the wee hours of the morning.

Jim Whitman, Dave Curran and Allen Arguijo for expertly erecting the tent and extending the usable area of the pavilion.

Sonia Casper for driving all the way out and back to Loomis, CA to borrow the tent and help save our school almost \$1000!

Marina and Sonia for helping sort purchased items for delivery the next evening and for Sonia staying until the wee hours to help do so.

Teacher Marie and Theresa Bond for rescuing me from under the piles of items that needed a home after the computer crash.

Everyone attending and proxy bidding for your bids and purchases after-auction bidding to complete the sale of all the items.

And thank you to everyone for your honesty and caring while we sorted out the details due to the computer glitch. It was so wonderful to work with everyone in the community to finalize this auction! We couldn’t have made the goal without you! I’m privileged to have served as the 2008 Reflections Auction Chair this year and hope that overall you enjoyed the event, coming together for a worthy cause and working to help our children and our school!

Warmly, Jane Johnson 

Play...Play...Play

by Jane Krejci, Director

There is an increasing body of research that reveals the importance of play for young children. It is gratifying to know that what we are doing at Mountain School is supported by solid findings. More importantly, it is wonderful that more information is available for all families in our society.

We have permission to reprint a policy brief from the Bay Area Early Childhood Funders entitled: "PLAY; It's the way young children learn." I have chosen to highlight key parts of this brief. (At the end, you will find where you can access the complete brief plus many other resources.)

[from the brief]

Preschoolers learn differently from school-age children: **play is essential to early learning.** Play is the main way children learn and develop ideas about the world. It helps them build the skills necessary for critical thinking and leadership. It's how they learn to solve problems and to feel good about their ability to learn.

Children learn the most from play when they have skilled teachers who are well-trained in understanding how play contributes to learning.

Most child development experts agree that play is an essential part of a high-quality learning program. **Play is not a break from learning - it's the way young children learn.**

Play promotes school success in many ways.

WHEN CHILDREN PLAY:

- ~ **They test their developing ideas** with objects, people and situations - the key ability for academic learning.
- ~ **They develop many kinds of skills together** - physical, social, emotional, thinking and language.
- ~ **They are doing things they are interested in**, so they have a natural motivation to learn.
- ~ **They develop concepts and skills together.** For example, as a child learns to write the letters in her name, she is also learning the concept that each letter represents a sound. And she is very motivated by the meaning - her own name!
- ~ Children are more likely to remember skills and concepts they have learned by doing things that are meaningful to them.
- ~ **They learn from other children** and develop social skills by playing together.

Using one thing to represent another

Through pretend play, children learn to use their imaginations to represent objects, people and ideas.

WHAT YOU SEE

- ~ A Toddler flaps her arms, pretending to be a butterfly.
- ~ Another picks up a banana, holds it to his ear like a telephone and says, "Hello."
- ~ A preschooler builds a firehouse with blocks.

HOW IT PROMOTES SCHOOL SUCCESS

If children can use one thing to represent something else, it's easier for them to understand that letters represent sounds and numbers represent quantities. And later on they will be able to use their imaginations to visualize historical events or scientific ideas.

Using language and telling stories

Through pretend play, children develop their skills in using language and in telling and understanding stories.

WHAT YOU SEE

- ~ Children act out scenes in the housekeeping corner.
- ~ A child makes her stuffed animal "talk," telling a story.

HOW IT PROMOTES SCHOOL SUCCESS

Oral language skills and storytelling are the building blocks of reading and writing, as well as subjects like social studies and science.

Using experimentation and logic

When children play with materials such as blocks, clay, sand, and water, they develop skills in logic. They experiment with cause and effect, with counting and sorting things and solving problems.

WHAT YOU SEE

- ~ Children experiment with blocks to figure out how to build a stable structure.
- ~ Children count the number of cups needed for a “tea party.”
- ~ Children pour sand into different sized containers.

HOW IT PROMOTES SCHOOL SUCCESS

This practice in experimenting, observing, comparing, and working with shapes, sizes, and quantities forms the basis for understanding math and science and for all higher-order thinking.

Developing self control and social skills

As children share materials and play together, they learn to cooperate, listen to others, stand up for their own ideas, handle frustration and empathize.

WHAT YOU SEE

- ~ Children negotiate over roles in dramatic play: “We can both be pilots if we have two seats.”
- ~ One child cries and another says, “Don’t worry, our Mom is coming soon.”

HOW IT PROMOTES SCHOOL SUCCESS

Many studies have shown that kids with good social skills and emotional health do better in school and are more likely to avoid dangerous behavior as teenagers. Through play, children develop their ability to form relationships with other children and with teachers.

Learning to enjoy learning

When children do activities they have chosen, learning is enjoyable. It is based on their own interests and gives them a sense of competence.

WHAT YOU SEE

- ~ Classrooms organized with different activity centers (blocks, dramatic play, painting and drawing, reading, science, etc.)
- ~ Children are encouraged to choose their own activities.

HOW IT PROMOTES SCHOOL SUCCESS

Studies show that children’s attitudes of curiosity, motivation, and competence are key to success in elementary school.

The teacher is key to play-based learning.

Children learn more through play when they have well trained teachers who know how to respond to, guide, and extend their play to increase learning - and how to assess their development by observing play.

[end of summary of brief]

I commend all of you for choosing Mt. School for your children and letting them play....play....play!

I commend all of our wonderful teachers for caring so much and providing a rich play - and thus learning - environment.

Read more about play by going to NPR. Here is a link to a wonderful story on imaginative play. (You can also listen to it.)

Old-Fashioned Play Builds Serious Skills

<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=19212514#share>

<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=19212514&sc=emaf>

www.zerotothree.org

National Association for the Education of Young Children

www.nacyc.org/ece/eyly

www.allianceforchildhood.net/projects/play/pdf_files/play_fact_sheet.pdf

www.aplaceoffourown.org

First 5

www.cafc.ca.gov

www.4children.org/play.htm



Adventuresome Play and Thanks

by Marie Imai, 4/5s Lead Teacher

Dear Families,

Spring is here and the children love being outdoors almost as much as the teachers! As my class exploded on to the playground at Saratoga Springs our first day back Andy Castro Young said to me “Look, Teacher Marie, I can reach the bars!” So many children really noticed how much they had grown and the teachers noticed the improvement in their coordination and stamina. Most of all it was such a delight to share their great joy in being back at Saratoga Springs, a place they know so well and love to explore. Once we return to our outdoor sites each school day becomes precious because we suddenly realize that, unbelievably, there are only a few weeks left in the school year.

As I reflect back on our year together I appreciate so much everyone’s contributions to Mountain School that make it such a special place for children and families. The teachers share their unique experience, their love of children and their curriculum, which is so appropriate to each age level. The parents give of themselves in many extra ways that are really important – the carpooling, the cleanup, being cooking parent, participating in the educational meetings and the all-important fundraising activities. And then there are the board members, parents who volunteer for even more responsibility to keep our school running smoothly and with adequate funds to support our program. I extend my utmost thanks to the following voting board members who attend the monthly meetings in addition to carrying out their specific job.

- to Sonia Casper and Marina Rush for quickly stepping in as Co-Chairs when Tracy Halgren moved to Colorado last October.
- to David Casper for serving as our very capable Treasurer for the auction as well as collecting tuition and overseeing the budget
- to Nicole Engel for handling registration up to the day her new son Oliver was born and then returning to finish the job only a week later
- to Karen Paculba for serving as Information Chair and spending all those hours on the phone explaining our school’s philosophy
- to Lisa Liddle for serving as Secretary and doing her work in such a helpful and timely manner
- to Claudia Yore for serving yet another year as Social Coordinator and planning our special events through the year
- to Jane Johnson, Fundraising Chair, for signal handedly masterminding such a successful and fun auction that enables Mountain School to meet its budget once again
- to Erik Hansen, Maintenance Chair, for keeping our old, old schoolhouse in such tiptop shape
- to our Program Chairs, Sonia and Chris Dyrby and Linda Aggarwal for providing such a rich and varied adult education experience this year.
- to Theresa Bond for our interesting and well written newsletters
- to Mel and Sandy Hatzis for seeing that all our many forms are properly completed and up to date
- to Nigel Cockcroft, Purchasing Chair, for keeping our cupboards full of shaving cream and toilet paper and needles and pins and all sorts of things

In addition we have a large group of parents on the board who have volunteered for specific tasks but are not required to attend the monthly board meetings. Thanks...

- to Kimberly Anzalone and her team who have made our garden grow and glow like never before
- to Sherry McNamara and Ann DeBois for handling schoolpop and escrip to raise money for the school
- to Webmasters, Adrian Stubbs and Marie Crawford who increase our efficiency so much
- to our Health Coordinator, Rebecca Curran, who also organized our school photos
- to Julia Yee for heading the T-shirt and sweatshirt sales and well as our very successful school raffle
- to Stevie Caceres who organized our wonderful community service drives helping us to help others beyond the confines of this one small school

(Adventuresome Play, continued)

- to Tessa Arguijo who organized our 3 workdays – the people, the tools, the projects for yet another year
- to Nadya Gulesserian for the Scholastic book sales making available good books at great prices
- to AnneMarie Gustavson for caring for our guinea pigs and rats
- to the Casper family for sharing their 3 special hens – Tallulah, Poppy, & Marie with all the children during our time indoors
- to Nicole Engel, Rebecca Curran, Sonia Casper for their unbelievable help in the very difficult job of organizing carpools for our 3 older classes
- to Priscilla Amend for planning our first ever E-Waste Recycling Drive
- to Kathleen Graham for handling the Sally Foster Gift-wrap fundraising drive
- to Cris Imai our grant writing coordinator and investigator

As you can see a great number of parents – more than 25% of our families – have served on the board in some capacity this year. It is great way to give back to our school and to make lasting friends as well. So please consider volunteering sometime during your years at Mountain School. We are certain to find some job or project that will fit your interests and benefit the school as well.

And last but not least I am very, very thankful to have Jane Krejci serving so competently as our director this year. She is the most organized person I know, a joy to work with and a great help to all the teachers and board members as well. And most of all she cares deeply for our school and all it provides to our families and the community.

So to those families graduating I wish you a warm goodbye and special thanks for sharing your children and yourselves with us during your years at Mountain School. I hope everyone has a lovely summer filled with lots of outdoor play and unprogrammed time to allow your children’s imagination to blossom. And I look forward to seeing all the returning families next fall for another year of adventuresome play and learning together.

Love, Marie


(Decision 5, continued)

Mountain School 2008-2009 Board

Voting

Co-Chairs	Nicole Engel and Lisa Liddle
Treasurer	Kyle Park
Information Membership	Karen Paculba
Registration Membership	Karen Seater
Secretary	Marina Rush
Fundraising	OPEN
Facilities	Eric Hansen
Programs	Stevie Caceres
Newsletter	Annette Rau
Social	Claudia Yore
Forms/Correspondence	Rebecca Curran and Mel Hatzis
Purchasing	Theresa Bond

Non-Voting

Turkey Trot	Yumi Hiroshima, Karen Paculba, Sonia Dyrby, Sandy Hatzis
Garden	Kimberly Anazalone
Schoolpop/Script/eScrip	Sherry McNamara
Webmaster	Cris Imai
School Photos/T-Shirt Sales	Oliver Colliou
Marketing Communications	Annette Nystrom
Community Service	Amy Attard
Workday Coordinator	Holli Roever
Scholastic Book Sales	Nadya Gulesserian
Animals	Nigel Cockroft
Carpool Facilitator	Heifi Youssef
Librarian	Jane Dodge
Go Green	Pricilla Amend
Bulb Sales	OPEN
Sally Foster	Kathleen Graham
Health Coordinator	Sharon Elder
Grant Writer	OPEN 

From the Editor

Please join me in welcoming Annette Rau as Editor and Publisher for the 2008-09 school year. It has been a great joy and learning experience for me this year. Please send request for the eNewsletter and all submissions for consideration to newsletter@lgsons.com

Signing off, Theresa Bond, Editor and Publisher 2007-08 