



# DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

## From the Desk of the Superintendent

Meredith Jones

*Dear Parents,*

It is kindergarten registration time once again! I want to underscore the importance of everyone who has an entering child to register now. We ask you to pass along the information to anyone who has a child turning five by December 2, 2002. It is critical for District planning purposes to have as accurate a count as possible by the need of the orientation period in May. Thank you in advance for any help you can give us to get the word out.

### 2002/03 KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

Parents whose children will be beginning kindergarten in the fall are invited to attend orientation meetings at either Oak Knoll School, 1895 Oak Knoll Lane, Menlo Park, for families who live on the west side of the El Camino Real in the Menlo Park City School District, or Laurel School, 95 Edge Road, Atherton, for families living on the east side of the El Camino Real in the District. Oak Knoll School is a kindergarten through fifth grade school. Laurel School is a kindergarten through second grade school.

•Laurel School will host two kindergarten orientation meetings: **Thursday, April 4th from 2-3pm and Thursday, May 2nd from 2 to 3pm.** Please contact the school office at 324-0186 to reserve a space. Nancy Hendry is the principal.

•Oak Knoll School will host three kindergarten orientation meetings: **Wednesday, March 13th @ 1pm; Monday, April 8th @ 1pm and Thursday, May 2nd @ 7pm.** Please contact the school at 854-4433 for more information. Marilyn Franklin is the principal.

Children who will be age 5 by December 2, 2002 are eligible for kindergarten. A birth certificate or other legal proof of age must be presented at the time of registration. Children entering school must be immunized against diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus, polio, measles, mumps and rubella, tested for tuberculosis, etc. Please note that as of 2001 there are new immunization requirements for kindergarten students. The varicella (chickenpox) immunization is mandatory for students entering kindergarten, effective July 1, 2001. Proof of a chickenpox immunization or disease history (if a child has had chickenpox) must be presented at the

time of registration. Also, proof of residence (a deed, lease agreement, rental agreement, and P.G. & E. bill) must be shown at the time of registration.

### Other important information:

- ◆ Please **NO SKATEBOARDING** on any of the school campuses. Hillview's new hardscape has already sustained \$1000 worth of damage from skateboarders. When skateboarders engage in what is called "grinding" it chips and breaks the edges of cement benches, planters and so forth. This is vandalism and is ruinous to our new campuses. The police will be called whenever skateboarders are on Menlo Park District campuses. Please take your children to a skateboard park. There is a fine one in Palo Alto.
- ◆ The STAR testing program requires us to test in May all students in grades 2-8. During the past three years Menlo Park also tested students in grade one as a condition of a reading grant. Since the grant has expired we will no longer be testing first graders.
- ◆ As you probably know, I have submitted my resignation to the School Board, effective this coming summer. The School Board is busy planning the executive search process for finding a replacement. We will keep you posted.

This year is certainly moving quickly. We are already planning for fall 2002. Marian Hill, former parent in the District, recently completed our enrollment projections gratis. She is always astonishingly accurate and we continue to be grateful to her for preparing this essential planning data.

Sincerely,

Meredith Jones

## Menlo Park City School District

Volume 6 February 4, 2002

### Special points of interest:

- ☉ Feb. Break; Feb 18-22  
Observance of Presidents' & Lincoln Day
- ☉ Feb. 12, School Board Mtg.  
note changed date)
- ☉ Feb. 14, St. Valentine's Day
- ☉ District Progress Report  
on the website [www.mpcsd.org](http://www.mpcsd.org)



Pres. George Washington  
February 22; Pres. Abraham  
Lincoln February 12







# Highlights of School Board Meeting...

The meeting was held on Thursday, January 23, 2002.

**ACTION ITEMS:** **Consent Agenda** approved vendor warrants – December. Certificated Personnel Assignment Order – Employment Jennifer Ryan (.10), Deborah Baldwin (1.0) Classified Personnel Assignment Order – Employment Sally Rowe, Inclusion Aide, Behavioral; Resignation Kellie Barrow, Aide and Pamela Suggs, Aide Spec. Ed. **Business & Finance** – Approved 2000/01 Audit Report; Resolution #528 Adoption of California Public Employees' Deferred Compensation Plan-allows District to become a participating employer. Awarded Oak Knoll Playstructure and Installation Project to Ross Recreation Equipment Co.,Inc. Approved Laurel School's request to designate use of remaining 2001/02 API/GPA funds to purchase instructional resources-teachers will receive new I-Books.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS:** Superintendent's Report– Dr. Jones announced her resignation effective this summer. **Curriculum:** Noted new artwork from Laurel School students. Art teacher at Laurel and Encinal is Stephanie Zanocco. CLAD teacher training continues, one more session. Mid-Peninsula Teacher Institute (MTI) Policy Board wrote and adopted bylaws and is currently advertising for a full time director position. 2001 California Standardized Testing & Report Program (STAR): results of the spring 2001 testing were reported. 2001 Golden State Examinations: Hillview students participated in end-of-course tests in Algebra and Geometry. 2001 Writing Assessment Program (WrAP): Menlo Park teachers piloted the use of this program in June 2000 and administered it to 3rd – 8th graders in the winter of 2001. Base Academic Performance Index (API) 2001 District schools API results determine target for the spring 2002 testing and provides new school rankings. **Business:** **General Obligation Bond Update** Oak Knoll completed. Hillview should be completed by October 2002. 1st Reading Board Policy Superintendent Governance Standards, the District is in the process of updating its policy book. 1st Reading of Board Bylaws Governance Standards. Part of updating policy book. **Committee Reports:** School Board member B. Ives attended an Oak Knoll PTA breakfast. N. Serrurier and T. Thygesen are serving on the District/MPEA negotiating team. **Comments from the Board/Admin:** Noted Study Session on Jan.29 re: proposed Board policy and guidelines for District fundraising. Added a one hour session on Jan. 29 to discuss hiring an executive search service to conduct search for new superintendent. The Board set a closed session re: Superintendent evaluation for Feb. 5 from 5 to 7pm.

**The next School Board meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 12th. CLOSED SESSION RE; SUPT. EVALUATION, FEB. 5, 2002 5-7PM.**

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## MPAEF – THE MENLO PARK ATHERTON EDUCATION FOUNDATION presents...

Only three months away! April 27, 2002. It's the Foundation's annual auction/dinner. The event, 'UNDER THE TUSCAN SUN', will be held at the Atherton home of one of our District families. It is not too late...to find out how you can help by becoming an auction sponsor call Lynne Young @ 327-2221 or Judy Hyrne @ 325-3852. If you would like to donate an auction item call Celeste Chapman @ 327-7557 or Kim Sommer @ 326-4569. Thank you. See you at the auction!

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## SKYLINE COLLEGE & THE GENENTECH FOUNDATION present The 22ND SAN MATEO COUNTY EXPANDING YOUR HORIZONS: Math & Science Conference:

A conference for 6th through 12th grade young women and interested adults to learn about career opportunities. Saturday, March 16, 2002 from 8:15am to 3pm @ Skyline College, San Bruno. EYH gives young women the opportunity to meet women who use science and math in their careers. Women in working in science and math related fields will lead hands-on workshops. If you would like to receive a program-registration form, send a request to Chris Case, Skyline College, 3300 College Dr., San Bruno, CA 94066 or use the web site: <http://skylinecollege.net/eyh>

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## TRIO MODERNE...

Music Teacher Richard Vaughan plays the cello in this Trio, along with Martha Stoddard on flute and Timothy Zerlang on piano. They will perform on Saturday, February 9 @ 8pm in the Palo Alto Art Center Auditorium, 1313 Newell Road, Palo Alto. The program features works by Martinu, Hoover, Francaix, Gaubert and Villa Lobos. Admission is \$12, \$10 / stu/senior. This performance is in cooperation with the City of Palo Alto Arts and Culture Division.

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## CORRECTION...

Please note that some of the lead teachers listed as this year's Jeanie Ritchie grant recipients were misidentified. Steffany Cressey is lead teacher for the grant Reading Bolts; Jeriann Hirsch is lead teacher for Our Proud History and Karen Strohmaier is lead teacher for the grant Family Message Journals. Again, congratulations to these teachers and their colleagues. Their grants reflect innovation and creativity!

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## MENLO PARK LYCEUM 2002

Late registration: Thursday, February 7th, 5 to 6pm, Hillview School Room 2. Call 361-0221 or [www.menlo-park-lyceum.org](http://www.menlo-park-lyceum.org).

**Menlo Park City School District**

181 Encinal Avenue, Atherton

Phone: 650-321-7140

Fax: 650-321-7184

**SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS:**

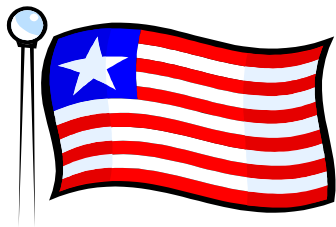
**Karen Canty**

**Bruce Ives**

**Laura Rich**

**Nancy Serrurier, President**

**Terry Thygesen, Clerk**



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**DIRECTORS OF THE SEQUOIA DISTRICT COOPERATIVE NURSERY SCHOOLS present...**

An evening with Jane Nelsen, author of the POSITIVE DISCIPLINE series. Ms. Nelsen will speak on raising self-reliant children in a self-indulgent world. Come on February 5 from 7:30 to 9:30pm, Sequoia High School Auditorium, 1201 Brewster Avenue, Redwood City. Doors open at 6:30pm. Tickets: \$5. Questions? Call Kristy Roos-Taylor @ 325-5133.

**KIDS CORNER...**

**RAGAZZI**, Peninsula Boys Chorus presents On March 2, 2002 @ 7:30pm A Russian Tapestry in San Francisco, March 3 @ 4pm in San Mateo and June 16 – Do you hear the People Sing? Concert in Saratoga. More info phone 342-8785 or visit the web @ [www.ragazzi.org](http://www.ragazzi.org).

**MUSIC FOR MINORS** presents... Sunday, April 7, 2002 enjoy Tom Chapin with Michael Mark, only Bay Area engagement! Performances at 1 and 4pm, Spangenberg Theatre. NOTE: All seats reserved – order early. Front section \$12, back section \$9 and series tickets \$22 and \$16. For info call 941-9130.

**PENINSULA YOUTH THEATRE:** PYT continues with “Born to Entertain” a convivial night of song and dance by the company’s veteran teens and rising stars February 9 @ 7:30pm, Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts. Coming March 9 –17, another mainstage productions “Oliver” PYT also offers vacation drama camps for ages 8 and up from 9am to 3pm. February 18-22 and April 15-19. Cost is \$150. Call 988-8798 for a brochure or visit [www.pyt.net.org](http://www.pyt.net.org).

**ATHERTON LIBRARY** invites all children to make a valentine for the Library and enter a raffle. Kids can participate in one of three ways: come to an arts-and-crafts program on Monday, Feb. 11 @ 4pm to make a valentine puppet or other type of creation; bring in your hand-made valentine on or before Valentine’s Day; make a valentine at the Library during

the week of Feb 11 (paper and other supplies will be provided). Each participant’s name will be entered in the raffle and all valentines will be displayed in the Library. For more info contact Children’s Librarian Marcia, 328-2422 ext. 225.

Continuing Mondays at the Library: The Coyote Point Museum will present a program on mammals, including nocturnal animals. This one-hour event will be held on Monday, Feb. 25 @ 4pm. Children of all ages are invited to attend.

**PACO** presents Dan Levitan, award-winning principal harpist for the San Jose, Marin and Fremont Symphony Orchestras. Mr. Levitan will perform as guest soloist for the PACO at its February 23 concert. The program, to be led by guest conductor Barbara Day Turner, will also include Benjamin Britten’s A Simple Symphony, Op.4; and Georges Bizet’s Symphony in C. Concert begins at 8pm, Spangenberg Theater. Tickets are \$10, \$8 seniors and \$5 students. For more info call 856-3848 or [paco-us@mindspring.com](mailto:paco-us@mindspring.com), [www.paco66.org](http://www.paco66.org).

**GIRL SCOUTS:** Calling all girls kindergarten through 1st grade. Come join the Girl Scouts Valentine Workshop on Tuesday, February 12 from 6-7:30pm at the Community Activities Bldg. Room 1, 1400 Roosevelt, Redwood City. The \$10.50 fee includes membership, snack and crafts. Questions, please call Erica at 1-800-447-4475 ext 121.