



DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

From the Desk of the Superintendent

Meredith Jones

Dear Parents,

Each year, professional development activities for teachers are designed within the context of the District's strategic goals. This year, improving student writing is one focus. In light of this, on March 7th and 8th all Menlo Park teachers will be attending a two-day workshop on the teaching of writing and revision skills. Entitled "Write Traits: 6-Trait Instruction and Assessment", the program is widely recognized for its practical approach to writing instruction which spans all ages.

The presenter for the workshop is Vicki Spandel, a former language arts teacher, journalist, technical writer, and award-winning video producer. Vicki coordinated the original 17-member teacher team that developed the 6-trait model for writing assessment and instruction in 1984. Since that time she has also served as the scoring director for more than 75 state, county and district writing assessments.

Update on Superintendent Search Process

At its February 12th Board meeting, the Menlo Park School Board selected Ray Tolleson, a consultant from the California School Boards Association (CSBA), to conduct the Board's search for a new superintendent. In addition to serving as the superintendent search adviser to numerous districts throughout California since 1998, Mr. Tolleson recently conducted the search for CSBA's Executive Director and served as the Director of the Department of Defense Dependent Schools, which has schools in thirteen countries and the United States. Prior to

his consulting activities, Mr. Tolleson was Superintendent of the ninth largest school district in the state where he also served as a teacher, principal, director of elementary schools, director of certificated personnel, assistant superintendent of personnel, and associate superintendent of instructional management.

As one of its first steps in the search process, the Board is seeking input from the community about criteria to be considered in selecting the new superintendent. You can submit your recommendations in writing or in a personal interview with Mr. Tolleson. *For details, please see the flyer attached to this newsletter.*

2002- 2003 School Calendar

Next year's school calendar is not finalized. It is currently being negotiated as part of the collective bargaining process with teachers. I know that having the calendar unsettled is difficult for many parents who must plan far in advance for family activities. Tentatively you can plan that your child will begin school next year the week before Labor Day.

Sincerely,

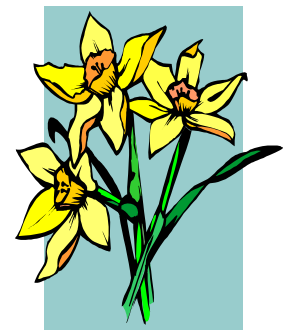
Meredith Jones

Menlo Park City
School District

Volume 7 March 4, 2002

Special points of interest:

- © Mar 7th-8th Staff Development Days - NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS
- © March 14 - School Board Meeting
- © Superintendent Search Consultant meetings 3/14,15
- © Summer Camp Opportunities
- © District Progress Report on the website www.mpcsd.org



Highlights of School Board Meeting...

The meeting was held on Thursday, February 12, 2002.

ACTION ITEMS: Consent Agenda approved vendor warrants – January 2002. Classified Personnel Assignment Order – Employment Valerie Russell, Instr.Aide, Spec. Ed. and Shirley Webster, Inclusion Aide, Behavioral; Authorization for Director of Curriculum and Business Manager to Sign Credit Card; Contract Agreement with CSBA Executive Search Services to conduct the search for a new superintendent. **Curriculum** Adoption of Updated Education Technology Plan. Copy of the plan is available for review at the District Office or at school offices. **Business & Finance** – 2002 California School Boards Association Delegate Assembly - School Board members Marie Brizuela (Jefferson) and Marcia Cohn-Lyle (San Mateo Union HSD) were nominated to serve on this assembly. Adoption of Board Policy #2111 Superintendent Governance Standards; Board Bylaws #9005 Governance Standards

DISCUSSION ITEMS: GOB Construction Update – Hillview completion date moved to November 2002. Acoustical problems in the gym/multi @ Hillview will be corrected. **Curriculum:** Math Committee will meet to review the District's math adoptions and the state's recommended materials. Governor slashed by 40% the budget for the Peer Assistance Review program. The District has a good PAR program in place and plans to continue it next year. Committee Reports: Laura Rich has been nominated for 2002/03 President of the San Mateo County School Boards Association. Mrs. Canty stated the draft of the District Fund Raising Policy will be ready for the March meeting. Mrs. Canty will conduct a Board Candidate Workshop in the spring. School Board members Serrurier, Canty and Rich terms will expire in November 2002. Mrs. Canty will not seek a 4th term on the Board. Mrs. Rich has stated she will run for another term. Mrs. Serrurier has not announced her decision.

The next regular School Board meeting will be held on Thursday, March 14th @ 7pm.

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>

SUMMER ACADEMY 2002

The District's summer academy program will again be offered to students entering kindergarten through seventh grade. Classes begin on June 20 – July 19, from 8:15am to 12 noon. Students will be recommended to the program by classroom teachers and staff. Reading/language arts and math skills using preteaching and reteaching strategies will be the focus of this session. Director of the Summer Academy 2002 is Maria Clemo. The program will be held on the Oak Knoll School campus.

CAMP GALILEO....

In conjunction with Klutz and The Tech Museum

Camp Calileo is lunching an science, art, and outdoor exploration summer program for students for students entering fourth through sixth grades. Camp will be held on the Walter Hays School campus in Palo Alto. Four one-week sessions starting July 8th and finishing August 2, from 9am – 3pm Monday – Friday. Tuition \$259 if registering before March 15. For more info visit www.campgalileo.com or call 800-854-3684 or pick up a flyer in your school office.

GIRL SCOUTS present...

Calling all girls 5-12 years of age. Come join the Girl Scouts Spring Break at Flood Park. This is a recruiting event for all non-registered Girl Scouts. April 16-17 from 9am to 4pm. Cost: \$40 per girl; please bring a bag lunch. Please call Shawun Anderson @ 510-562-8470 ext. 114. Registration forms available at school offices.

CALL ALL GIRLS...

Chaos 2002 is a unique summer day camp for girls that integrates math, science, art and fun. Sessions for girls entering 3rd – 9th grade held on the Notre Dame de Namur University July 8 and July 15. For more info and/or a brochure-call DoMoreThanDream @ 1-800-268-5151.

DECATHLON SPORTS CLUB...

The summer camp still has a few openings available for boys and girls currently in grades K-2. Camp will be held at La Entrada Middle School from 9am-3:45pm. There will be two 4-week sessions: June 24-July 19 and July 22-Aug. 16. Campers may enroll for as few as 3 days/week/session and the cost varies accordingly. Extended care available 8am – 6pm. More info call 365-8638.

Menlo Park City School District

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SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS:

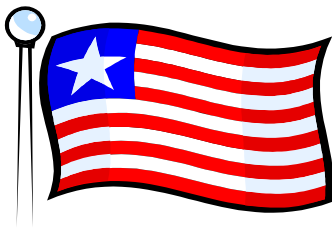
Karen Canty

Bruce Ives

Laura Rich

Nancy Serrurier, President

Terry Thygesen, Clerk



MENLO PARK CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

MISSION STATEMENT

Adopted November 1993

The Menlo Park City School District will offer all students a high quality education which prepares them for academic, occupational, and personal success, positive relationships, and effective citizenship. We believe all students can succeed. We will work with our community to advocate for or provide programs which support children in being safe, healthy, and ready to learn. We will promote sensitivity to individual differences. The School Board and staff will work together and in partnership with parents, students, and community to achieve this mission.

KIDS CORNER...

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: Coming March 9 –17, another mainstage productions “Oliver” PYT also offers vacation drama camps for ages 8 and up from 9am to 3pm. April 15-19. Cost is \$150. Call 988-8798 for a brochure or visit www.pytnet.org.

PALO ALTO BABE RUTH BASEBALL TRY-OUTS: open to 13-15 year old baseball players from Redwood, Menlo Park, Portola Valley, Atherton and Palo Alto. Tryouts held at Baylands Field in PA, Sunday, March 10 – 13 yr olds from 9am to 12; 14-15 yr olds 1-3pm. For more registration info go to www.paloaltobaberuth.com.

LEGO MANIAC CLASSES: once/week for 8 weeks 3-4:30pm Wednesdays, held at Oak Knoll School. Cost \$200 per section. \$25 for a single class. Section 2: March 6, 13,20, 27 and April 3,10; Section 3: April 24, May 1,8,15,22,29, June 5,12. For more info call 851-3703

PACO: Parts two and third of the three-concert series in March will celebrate Bach in the Redwoods. Sunday evenings @ 8pm, Valley Presbyterian Church, Portola Valley. Concerts focus on the music of Johann Sebastian Bach and features an array of notable guest conductors and soloists. Bach’s 317th birthday is on March 21. Bach was born in Eisenach Germany on March 21, 1685. For more info call 856-3848 or www.paco66.org.