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Proudly helping Mill Valley
kids reach their full potential
for 26 years!



Newsletter Design donated by Ruth Rosenfield
Newsletter Editing donated by Trish Manwaring
Printing partially donated by MSI Litho

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Permit No. 12
Mill Valley CA 94941

(MUSIC PROGRAMS Continued from front page)

Pheobe Dong, Orchestra Director

This is Pheobe Dong's first year directing the MVSD orchestra. "It is very apparent how much the students care about and love music," says Pheobe, adding, "It is a joy to teach them everyday and bring the best out of each student." Orchestra programs begin in 4th grade with beginning orchestra, moving up through 8th grade with intermediate and advanced groups. The elementary string program of 4th and 5th grade students includes approximately 100 students. The middle school orchestra program now supports two orchestras with a total of 42 students. Highlights of the middle school orchestra programs include:

- 2006 CMEA Festival. Unanimous Superior ranking.
- 2006 Disneyland Music Festival.
- 2007 CMEA Festival. Unanimous Superior ranking.
- 2008 Music in the Parks Music Festival. Advanced Orchestra will compete April 25th.



Kiddo! MVMS Computer Update

Kiddo! is proud to announce that we contributed \$20,000 to Mill Valley Middle School to provide a new computer learning station in the library. Together with the MVMS Parent Teacher Student Association, Kiddo!'s contribution helped to purchase twenty new iMacs and a printer, for a total cost of \$25,000. According to MVMS principal Matt Huxley, this is an essential purchase as the current number of computers (ten) is not adequate to serve all of the students who use the library both during and after school.



26th Year

www.kiddo.org

Spring 2008

Celebrating Kiddo's Award-Winning Music Programs

Thanks to the generosity of our parent community, the commitment of our teachers and the talent and hard work of our students, the Mill Valley School District can boast of an award-winning music program. Kiddo! funds an array of musical opportunities for children from Kindergarten through 8th grade – a program that is unparalleled in most California public schools. Our outstanding music teachers build a strong musical foundation for all students in the elementary schools. Then in the middle school years, our students' many talents start to shine brightly through organized concerts and competitions.

Jessica Stewart, Choral Director

The MVSD choral program has grown every year since its inception in 2000. Today, almost five hundred 3rd through 8th grade students sing each week and perform several times throughout the school year. Nora Thomas, our exceptional K-2nd grade classroom music teacher, teaches 3rd and 4th grade chorus, and Jessica Stewart teaches 5th through 8th grade chorus. "I love teaching in this community because the parents are so appreciative and supportive," says Stewart. "The students really work together well as a team, and will accept and rise to every challenge," she adds. The Middle School program has over 200 students, including a 6th Grade Chorus and a Concert Choir and Bel Canto for 7th and 8th graders. Each year the 7th and 8th grade vocalists participate in an off-campus festival. Some of the recent choral awards include:



- 2005 Music in the Parks Festival. All three competing choirs received a Superior rating, the highest honor. Chamber Choir also received the Overall Choir Award. We are especially proud that all of our choirs received the "Esprit de Corps" - an award for spirit, enthusiasm, and professional demeanor.
- 2006 Disney's Magic Music Days. The choirs performed inside Disneyland Park and participated in a music workshop.
- 2007 Music in the Parks Festival. Two of our choirs received an Excellent rating, and one choir received a Superior. The Chamber Choir also received an Overall Choir award. Again this year, all choirs received the "Esprit de Corps" award.
- 2008 Disney's Magic Music Days. They will also perform at the Music in the Parks Festival in April.

Cayce Carnahan, Band Director

Each year the Kiddo! funded band program enrolls 175 students. Fifth graders play in Beginning Band, 6th graders in Intermediate Band and 7th graders in Advanced Band. There is also a Wind Ensemble for 7th and 8th grade musicians and a celebrated Jazz Band for talented 6th-8th graders. "I believe that the band program in Mill Valley is so successful because of the incredible parent and community support," explains



Cayce Carnahan, band director since 2000. "I also have very high expectations for the bands, and the students are not afraid of working hard to get the most out of their abilities," he says. The MVSD bands compete in festivals every year, with some highlights including:

- 2003 Music in the Parks. Wind Ensemble received a unanimous Superior ranking and 1st place overall.
- 2005 CMEA Festival. Wind Ensemble received a unanimous Superior ranking.
- 2007 Music in the Parks. Wind Ensemble received a unanimous Superior ranking and 3rd place overall.
- 2007 Music in the Parks. Jazz Band received a unanimous Superior ranking and 1st place overall.

(continued on back page)

DONATION DAY - COMING SOON

Last year on May 1, Kiddo! launched Donation Day. We asked school district parents to help Kiddo! lower fundraising costs by making their annual donations on a single day. Hundreds of families participated in this first year effort, which helped save valuable volunteer time and significantly decreased the cost of paper, printing and postage for follow-up mailings.

Thanks to the success of Donation Day, we reached our Annual Giving Campaign fundraising goal of \$1.2 million and funded this year's arts and technology programs, which are so vital to Mill Valley children's education. We encourage families to participate again this year on May 1. Giving is easy – just drop off your donation at school, go to www.kiddo.org, or mail in your donation – drop, click or mail!





VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Did you know that over one hundred parents and community members volunteer countless hours of their time each year to help make Kiddo! the highly successful fundraising organization that it is today? Moms, dads, and other generous folks are helping us help our students reach their full potential by organizing events, writing press releases, designing our new website, strengthening connections to the business community, stuffing donor envelopes, filling balloons for the Memorial Day Parade, you name it! We are very grateful for all the jobs, big and small, our volunteers perform. Here is a snapshot of four of this year's wonderful volunteers.



Hope Gelbach, All-Around Volunteer

! "I have always enjoyed volunteering for my sons' schools and contributing my time to Kiddo! is a great opportunity to help give back to the community," says Hope Gelbach, 12-year resident of Mill Valley and committed community volunteer. After a long career in high-tech sales and the wonderful opportunity to travel the world with her husband for several years, Hope is now making an invaluable contribution to Kiddo. With one child in third grade and an incoming kindergartener, she is passionate about the benefits community organizations like Kiddo! offer our children. "We are blessed to have such dedicated parents and community members who work so hard to raise the money necessary to provide the art, drama and music that our children receive," stresses Hope. "We are very lucky to have someone like Trisha Garlock (executive director and founder of Kiddo!), who had the foresight 25 years ago to start such an amazing organization."

Last fall Hope chaired the Kiddo! booth at the annual Fall Arts Festival in Mill Valley. As a Kiddo! photographer, she has beautifully captured the unveiling of the Kiddo! 25th anniversary sculpture, the wonderful Memorial Day celebration and chronicled Kiddo!'s annual golf tournament.



Tom Gooden, Lead Designer Kiddo!'s New Website

! Tom Gooden is the co-principal of Good Dog Design, an internationally recognized design firm specializing in web and interaction design. "I've always loved the visual arts, and I encourage children to keep drawing, painting...whatever outlet they enjoy," he explains. "As a designer, I really appreciate Kiddo!'s programs, and it feels great to be able to help on the new website." For over 15 years, Tom has served as the creative director of his firm, providing top-notch design services for Fortune 500 companies as well as many local businesses and non-profit organizations. Since 1994, Tom has lived in Mill Valley with his wife and business partner, Laura Foley. They have two young children. "As the world around us becomes more visually sophisticated, it's imperative that children get a great education in the arts," Tom says.

Tom and his Good Dog team completely redesigned the Kiddo! website – greatly improving its form and function. They generously did this work pro bono, so Kiddo! would not have to divert funds from arts programs. Check out the new website at www.kiddo.org.



Beverly D. Rodgers, Long-Time Volunteer

! Beverly Rodgers has lived in Mill Valley since 1975, having moved from Boston with her skis and guitar and deciding to stay. Beverly was the 5 o'clock news director at KGO-TV for 15 years, before she married Bob Reynolds and had her son James, who is now a sophomore at Hamilton College in New York. "James went to Park School and Mill Valley Middle School, all along enjoying the wonderful arts programs provided by Kiddo!," remembers Beverly. "He loved music and drama and is now a fine drummer, playing in the Hamilton Jazz Band, as well as playing guitar and piano," she adds.

Beverly has volunteered for years in the schools for various musical projects. This past year she started volunteering in the Kiddo! office, helping to gather business campaign ads and choosing photos for publication. "Being a part of such a vibrant and necessary organization as Kiddo! makes me feel connected to the school community, even though I am no longer a current parent," Beverly explains. "Mill Valley is sure lucky to have Kiddo!."



Julia Sze, Kiddo! Endowment Investment Committee Member

! Julia Sze is a finance professional with a background in mutual funds, hedge funds, and emerging markets and commodities. She currently works with Wells Fargo's Family Wealth Group. "I volunteer for and donate to Kiddo! because I believe their work is vital to providing the best, well-rounded education for our children," explains Julia, who has lived in Mill Valley since 1999 and has a son in third grade. "Volunteering for Kiddo! brings me a lot of pleasure, provides a model of volunteerism for my son, introduces me to a lot of excellent like-minded people in the neighborhood, and is a great way to use almost twenty years of professional development for an important local resource," says Julia. "Every time my son comes home with a new clay sculpture or singing an African lullaby, I feel a deep appreciation for Kiddo!'s tireless work in keeping the arts and creativity alive in the public school system."

As a member of the Endowment Investment Committee, Julia helps oversee the financial performance of Kiddo! endowment assets, implementing investment decisions consistent with the Board approved investment policy, managing asset allocation and selecting and monitoring investment managers.

! **Would you like to help out too?** No matter how much (or little) time you have, please consider lending your expertise and enthusiasm as a Kiddo! volunteer. You will meet wonderful people, add some new skills, be actively engaged in your community and help our children reach their full potential. Go to kiddo.org for more information.

