



The Observatory

Los Gatos-Saratoga Observation Nursery School ~ Issue 4 March/April 2008

Showers Of Acceptance

by Marie Imai, Lead Teacher

Dear Families,

I'm getting really excited about attending our school auction and party on March 8th and am very appreciative of everyone's hard work to make it a success. My husband, Kent, and I always enjoy the opportunity to socialize with so many friends as well as make some great buys of both useful and impulsive items. The excitement of bidding appeals to Kent's competitive side and I am always impressed with the creativity and variety of donations. It is an informal event that is lots of fun to attend because of the friendly camaraderie that exists in our Mt. School community. There is never enough time during our regular school days to really visit and catch up on each other's lives so don't miss this great event! Bring some friends and any alumni you know to bid on all the wonderful items and let's surpass our goal for this annual fundraising party.

I want to share a story about our class's visit to Our Lady of Fatima Nursing Home in Saratoga. Last week the 4/5s had a valentine-making factory for three days to get ready for our visit to the great-grandmas and great-grandpas there. We wanted to be sure we had enough for everyone we encountered. Upon arriving we sang a variety of songs that the children know to a group of residents gathered in their wheel chairs in their community room and then the children showered them with their cards and pictures. Next our whole group of parents, teachers and children rode the giant elevator up and down several different wings of the facility to pass out valentines to residents who were still in their rooms as well as the nursing staff and hardworking caregivers. Of course the elevator was a great hit! It is always a very special day when we visit a nursing home because the residents are so delighted to see young children and we adults are pleased that the children exhibit little fear of

this different setting. I am excited to provide an opportunity for the children to be givers instead of receivers of gifts. But it was only later in the evening when I was reflecting upon the accepting way the children behaved towards the elderly that I finally understood that it is me who still need this lesson of service as much as the children. The only time I've visited a nursing home is a couple of times a year with my class and when my mother was a resident of one in Portland, Oregon. And perhaps it is the same for you as parents. Each new family experience or conflict is not only a teachable moment for your child but for you as well. Thankfully most of us are fortunate to live long lives because there are so many lessons to learn. And without children we would have many fewer opportunities to practice. So thank you so much for sharing your children with me.

Love, Marie



The Compost Song:

"Take Me Out to the Compost"

(Sung to the tune of "Take Me Out to the Ball Game")

Take me out to the Compost.
Take me out to the pile.
Add some soil and a few good worms.
I don't care if I'm turned and I'm churned.
'Cause it's root root root for the microbes;
If they don't live it's a shame.
For in two, four, six weeks, I'm out in the old garden.

Pam Ahearn, Waits River School,
East Corinth, Vermont



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ELECTRONIC WASTE RECYCLING

By Priscilla Amend, Go Green Chairperson

Dear Mountain School Families,

A big THANK YOU to everyone who participated in making the e-waste recycling event a success by dropping off your e-waste and/or forwarding information about the event to your family, friends, message groups, etc.

We collected 22,759 lbs of e-waste to completely fill 3 large trucks. Many people participating were very enthusiastic about being able to get rid of their e-waste in a safe, easy way. Mountain School will receive \$1,667 as our share of the recycling proceeds. Special thanks go to Aimee Frank and Annette Nystrom for their work on the event flyer, and Jennifer LaBreche and Joan Scott for distributing flyers around Los Gatos.

Akeena Solar enjoyed supporting us through this event so much that they'd like to do it again. We're talking about dates in October. Stay tuned for details. ☞

“Spring My Favorite Time of Year”

by Marina Rush, Co-Chair

As I write this, it is glorious day outside, absolutely glorious. All the children are outside, running and playing and laughing, so full of happiness and energy. The cooking project has moved outdoors and some of the boys slowed down just enough to help prepare the beets for cooking. I wander down to the garden and the crocuses are blooming. If you haven't seen it lately, please take some time to take a closer look and really see how beautiful it is right now. What a glorious day indeed.

I am excited! Spring is my favorite time of year. At Mountain School spring, means soon we will be moving to our outdoor locations, taking field trips, and exploring some new sights through the eyes of our children. It also means that the School Auction is just around the corner. Yea!

The Auction is our annual event where the grown-ups get to really whoop-it-up, see some old friends and meet new families. The invitations are beautiful, the items are rolling in and there is excitement to have this event under the redwoods again. Hats off to our fearless and tireless Fundraising Chair, Jane Johnson, and to all the committee members for bringing the event together. I look forward to seeing you there and hope you have as much fun as I will.

☞

Get Ready: Reflections Auction is an Event to See!

Saturday, March 8th ~ Redwood Estates Pavilion

by Jane Johnson, 2008 Auction Chairperson

Invitations: By now you've seen the amazing work of Lori Rose (photographic art), Aimee Frank (graphics) and Sharon Elder (logistics). Please thank them for their amazing creativity and work under duress (or surgery recovery!). By now, all responses should be in to Priscilla and Dan Amend. Those who still wish to add guests are welcome to send those in. There are no limits to the number of guests you can include. Please feel free to invite those who you know will be supportive of your child(ren) and our school! Door registrations are also accepted but preregistration is greatly preferred.

Schedule:	6 p.m.	Auction begins; Beverages and Refreshments available Start your bidding on all tables/walls!
	6:30 p.m.	Buy-a-Spots open for sign-ups
	7:30 p.m.	"Fairy Ring" tables/wall closing
	8:15 p.m.	"Ladybug Grove" tables/wall closing
	9:00 p.m.	"Bunny Hill" tables/wall closing Creative Display begins
	9:30 p.m.	Live Auction; Stick Around for this; So You Keep That Prized Bid Item
	10:00-10:30 p.m.	Auction Cashiering/Check-out

Dress: The evening is centered around **simple and sophisticated, comfortable and elegant**. Feel free to dress for this approach in what feels most comfortable to you for an evening out with adults.

Silent Auction - Items for Bid: You should SEE the amazing items both the Solicitations and Buy-a-Spot Committees have procured. Try to wait to make those class/camp purchases and splurges until after you see the offerings! Remember on the night of the auction to look on the main tables, the adjoining side tables and the surrounding walls for all of the offerings. Also, you don't have to wait to write your highest bid until an item reaches that dollar amount in the bidding. Just simply write whatever your top bid is on the sheet. If others want to bid above that, they can continue to increase the bid by the minimum increment or more. Example: An item starts bidding at \$50. The minimum increment is \$5. You see there are already 2 bids listed at \$55 and \$60. You know you are willing to spend \$126 on the item and really want the item. Just write the \$126 if it's an item you don't want to await bidding on (and therefore chance losing). If someone(s) wants to enter a bidding war with you, their next bid would be a minimum of \$131. However, most likely if you go to your high bid right away, you may end up winning your sought-after item! One last note: When the table has been announced as closing, respect the close and do not try to sneak in a bid afterwards. That's poor bidding manners - even if it would make the auction more \$\$ - it just is not the nice or right way to do it!

Silent Auction - Buy-A-Spot: Buy-a-Spot items are offerings for which there are multiple but limited numbers available to purchase and/or participate in. Most offerings will be on a wall-spot for sign-ups. There will also be items in a "store" type setting. Make sure to get there early - **You can start signing up after covers are lifted at 6:30 p.m!**

Live Auction: This year look for more potential variety in the offerings based on your bidding during the Silent Auction table/wall bidding. If an item's bid sheet fills or it is a very popular item, it then has a potential to be moved into the Live Auction. This means items ranging in price from very affordable to wonderfully indulgent! So **stick around and make sure you really did win the item with the full bid sheet!** Because you may have to secure it during the Live Auction against other potential bidders if it was one of the really popular items. Note: Not all items with full bid sheets will be moved to Live Auction. Discretion will be applied by auction personnel on site during the evening. For those new to Live Auction, you will have a bidder # printed to hold up during this portion of the evening. This is the portion that feels a bit like Sotheby's. Hold it up any time you want to raise the bid and try to win the item. When the bidding begins, get ready, and gather around the Big Screen!

(Reflections, continued)

Item Sale/"Reflective Pond": Make sure to bring some cash with you so you can visit our Reflective Pond and pause to reflect on your chances of hooking the Big One! Each chance will be \$20. Note: There is the possibility that you can try a chance with just bidder # in hand if you've forgotten your cash. Check with the Reflections Pond staff the night of the auction.

Refreshments/Beverages: We're planning a complete menu with appetizers, dinner and desserts so come at least a little hungry! Beverages should run the gamut from water through some nice signature drinks for you to pair with your meal choices.

Transportation/Responsibility/Go-Green: Thought about your Designated Driver yet for the night? Want to get to know another family(ies) better? **Start planning your carpools now to insure you can enjoy the night to the fullest, and be safe doing so.** By carpooling, you'll pitch in to support our Go-Green campaign and make sure to find a parking spot close to the Pavilion! Note: The Go-Green use of envelopes (thanks to Karyn Cline!) in which you receive your checkout certificates at evening's end, too.

Entertainment: Ever heard local favorite "Wally's Swing World"? Well, this year we're lucky enough to have a trio including Wally himself play at the auction for our musical enjoyment. You just might find your tapping shoes turn into dancing feet while you await the Live Auction as we swing through reflections.

Pictures Needed: If you have not already done so, please send a few pictures of your child(ren) in action at Mountain School to Ken Chang at kchang@kchangdesign.com. Pictures of teachers, reflective items and Mountain School-esque pictures are appreciated, too. Historical pictures would be icing on the cake.

Speedy Checkout: Once you enter the Pavilion, you'll be greeted by Registration and handed your packet. Then, turn the corner to your right and either provide them with a blank **check or register your credit card** with the Cashiers if this is the method of payment you're planning to use. This will speed your checkout! At the end of the evening, you'll review the list of items won and once you simply confirm that, you can get your items and head out the door without having to wait for payment processing.

Sneak Peeks: Want to get a jump on your bidding planning? **Take a look at lgsons.maestroweb.com to preview items.** Either choose a category on the left side and explore the items within, or use the search box at top right and type in 'company' name, or potential title of the item you're seeking. Check back often as more items will be added in the days to come. Items will be moved to their final tables in the last week prior to the auction (designated by A, B, or C), or to the Reflective Pond (D), or to Buy- A- Spot (E), or even to Live Auction (L). And, some packages will be created with items together so make sure to follow your favorite items! Note: If the images are not displaying correctly, try pressing your Control key + F5 key.

Family and Class Donations: A huge thank you to Sherry McNamara and all of the class liaisons! They're helping keep us all focused on donations and getting them in on time. Donation descriptions are needed immediately, give to your class liaison if you haven't already done so. Deadline was January 31st and there are a lot of us depending on you to get us that information! Items are also due now and unless there's a very good reason prearranged and approved by Sherry or Jane J. at this point, your item should be delivered directly to Jane's home. Thanks to Everyone!

Who It's All For: Remember, when all's said and done we do this for the benefit of our children and school. All bidding is strictly towards this end goal, so remember this as you are placing your bids or end up in a bidding war for an item. And, a side benefit is any amount over and above an item's value is fully tax-deductible (please see your tax advisor for specific tax implications to your own personal situation). So bring your mighty pens and prepare for some serious bidding!

Thank You!!!: Thank you all so very much for all of your hard work and creativity(table names reflect areas our children know and love were contributed by the Packaging Team). Every single one of you has been pitching in where needed and it is so greatly appreciated!!! 

Calendar

WORKDAY FOR 3s & SAT. 3/4/5s

Sunday March 2nd
12-4 pm at the SchoolHouse
For more info see page 9

CLASS PHOTOS AT THE SCHOOLHOUSE

3/5 - WED 2s & 4/5s, 3/6 - THURS 3s & 3/4s
3/7 - FRI 2s, 3/15 - SAT 2s & 3/4/5s

AUCTION FUNDRAISER

Saturday, March 8th
6:00 pm at Redwood Estates Pavillion
For more info see page 3 & 4

BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, March 11th
7:00 pm at Van Meter Elementary
Clubhouse Portable

ARMADILLO WILLY'S FUNDRAISER

Wednesday, March 12th
5:00 pm - 9:00 pm
For more info see page 9

SHELTER DRIVE: INNVISION

Monday, March 17th-Friday, April 4th
For more info see page 4 and email

MINI COURSE, "SELF ESTEEM: THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN BOYS AND GIRLS SPEAKER: SHEILA DUBIN"

Thursday, March 27th
7-9 pm at Location TBD
For more info see page 9

WILLOW STREET PIZZA FUNDRAISER

Monday, March 31st
All Day!
For more info see page 7

BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, April 1st
7:00 pm at Van Meter Elementary,
Clubhouse Portable

SPRING BREAK

Monday, April 7th-Saturday, April 12th
No School

MOVE OUTDOORS

Monday, April 14th

FIREHOUSE BREWERY FUNDRAISER

Sunday, April 20th
Time TBD, (early dinner)
For more info see page 7 check email

SPRING PICNIC

Sunday, April 27th
11 am-2 pm at the SchoolHouse
For more info see page 8

SONOMA CHICKEN COOP FUNDRAISER

Wednesday, April 30th
5:00 pm to close
For more info see page 7

Allergy Alert: Age of Onset of Peanut Allergy Now Lower

The American Academy of Pediatrics now recommends delaying introduction of peanuts until age three years for children. Age at first peanut allergy reaction dropped from 24 months to 18 months over a 10-year period, according to a retrospective study.

The primary reason appeared to be earlier exposure to peanuts for children at risk for allergy from family history or other risk factors may lead to peanut allergy onset at a younger age, reported Todd D. Green, M.D., of Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh, and colleagues, in the December issue of the journal *Pediatrics*. 

THE CLEAR CHOICE

by Jane Krejci, Director and Teacher



The Santa Clara Valley Water District has reminded us that our tap water is safer than bottled water. Tap water is actually subject to more rigorous testing and purity standards than bottled water. It is tested daily and water suppliers are required to provide an annual report under the Safe Drinking Water Act. You get the results with your water bill. In contrast, the FDA examines bottled water only weekly and consumers do not have access to the results. A four-year study by the Natural Resources Defense Council found that a third of the bottled water tested contained levels of contaminants violating state limits or guidelines.

There is also the issue of cost both in terms of money and the environment.

Bottled water costs between 500 to 1000 times more than tap water, depending on the label!

In 2006 the Pacific Institute estimated that bottled water in America required the equivalent of more than 17 million barrels of oil and produced more than 2.5 million tons of carbon dioxide. It takes 3 liters of water to produce 1 liter of bottled water.

Once the bottled water is produced and consumed, the plastic bottle remains. Estimates by the Container Recycling Institute indicate that less than 20% of plastic water bottles in the U.S. are recycled. They end up in the garbage or become litter. Incinerating the used bottles produces toxic by-products and buried water bottles don't biodegrade for hundreds of years. The cost of transporting bottled water from as far away as Fiji and France is exorbitant.

Alternatives:

Fill stainless steel (e.g. Siig) or other bottles with tap water.

Use a filter on your water faucet or a pitcher with a filter (e.g. Brita or Pur).

Depending on the system you use; tastes, odors and impurities are removed.

The average home filter costs less than \$10.00 and produces about 300 large bottles of water. That works out to \$.03 cents per bottle versus the \$1.00+ you pay at the store.

So, we should all think twice before buying bottled water. It is convenient, but so expensive! Let your views be known at places where you shop (e.g. Whole Foods, Trader Joe's and other grocery stores).

Reminder: Our well water here at school is tested regularly. It is safe to drink. We do not need to bring bottled water.

I spoke with Smitty (Facilities Manager at Lakeside) and he showed me the paper work regarding testing of the well water at school. It lists what they test for (a very long list indeed!) and the results. Compliance is 100%. The complete results are posted on the bulletin board in the Hallway of Lakeside School for anyone to examine. Regarding 'rusty' water: sometimes if we lose power or the system has temporarily shut down, the water will look rusty. All we need to do is run it to clear the pipes. It is safe to use and drink.

Jk ☺



Shop with Schoolpop!

<http://www.schoolpop.com/cgi/shopplx?pid=81170>

SchoolPop is an internet-based fundraising company. Each time you make an online purchase through SchoolPop.com's shopping mall, up to 20 percent (usually 3% to 7%) of the sales will benefit our school - at no additional cost to you or the school.

When you visit www.schoolpop.com for the first time, a "school search" bob appears on their computer screen where you can enter Los Gatos-Saratoga Observation Nursery School as your shopping beneficiary. Once registered, you are led back to the shopping page where you can shop 24 hours a day, seven days a week at nearly 150 stores such as Amazon.com, Gap.com, eToys, Land's End and Tower Records. The name of our school will appear on your computer screen while you shop to remind you that our school will benefit from your purchases. After using schoolpop.com for the first time, subsequent visits are very easy. Just visit the schoolpop website and start shopping - no need to sign in again. Our school will receive a quarterly report and check for a percentage of your purchases. ☞

From the Editor

The deadline for the next newsletter Issue 5, May/June 2008 is Wednesday, April 2nd. Please send request for the eNewsletter and all submissions for consideration to newsletter@lgsos.com

Warmly,

*Theresa Bond,
Editor and Publisher* ☞

Feed Your Family

Submitted by Amoreena Lucero,
Fundraising

There are several dining opportunities to raise money for Mountain School over the next two months. Every little bit counts, so I hope you can fit one of these dates into your busy calendars! Look for flyers in the parent room one-two weeks before the event and email. Thank you!

Armadillo Willy's

2071 Camden Avenue, San Jose
Wednesday, March 12, 2008

(408) 371-9033
5:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Please join us at Armadillo Willy's for good old-fashioned Texas style barbecue! From salads to hamburgers to bbq platters and a kids menu, there is something for every member of your family. Mountain School will receive 20% of your purchase.

Willow Street Wood-Fired Pizza

20 S Santa Cruz Avenue, Los Gatos
Monday, March 31, 2008

(408) 354-5566
All Day!

Invite friends and family to enjoy a gourmet pizza, burger, pasta or salad at Willow Street on March 31st. Lunch, dinner, dine-in or take-out, all benefit Mountain School with 20% of your purchase.

Firehouse Grill and Brewery,

111 S Murphy Avenue, Sunnyvale
Sunday, April 20, 2008

(408) 773-9500
Time TBD, (early dinner)

Firehouse Brewery is owned and operated by a Mountain School family. With a rotisserie grill and microbrewery, the Firehouse Grill and Brewery offers a fresh menu and award-winning beers. The plan is to make this a family night, with Mountain School taking over the upstairs dining area and the banquet room open for play and (possible) story time by two-three teachers. Details will follow in email when confirmed.

Sonoma Chicken Coop

200 E Campbell Avenue, Campbell
Wednesday, April 30, 2008

(408) 866-2699
5:00 pm to close

Another chance to raise money for Mountain School the "easy way", join us at Sonoma Chicken coop for a dinner of "Inexpensive Excellence." Mountain School will receive 15% of your purchases, and you won't have to do dishes!

☞

“Keepers and Tellers”

by Jane Krejci, Director and Teacher

Marie and I recently went to a story telling workshop for grandmas by Nancy Mellon (she spoke at one of our General Meetings a few years back). She reminded us of how we are both the keepers and tellers of family stories. But it begins long before we are grandmas. You can start today, if you haven't already.

Nancy has many ideas for telling stories – our own, others, or a totally new one out of our imaginations. (See books and websites at end of article.) I like how she encouraged us to tell stories from our own childhoods. Nancy had us pair off. We described to our partner a play memory from our childhood. It was descriptive and factual. She then had us retell the memory in the third person....“There once was a little girl named.....” When we processed the two stories, everyone agreed that the second story tapped into the senses more, was richer, more textured and full of feelings.

My husband's 101 year old aunt just died. Auntie Lou was a strong, healthy woman throughout her life. She was also tough and stubborn – even a bit cantankerous (many in the family attributed her longevity to these traits, though her surviving sisters are 99 and 94– and quite sweet and mellow). Except for a week before her passing, she had only been in the hospital once in 101 years and that was when her only daughter was born! Lou obviously witnessed a lot in more than a century of living. What was it like before airplanes, indoor plumbing, television, computers, etc.? She was neither a great talker nor a story-teller. I feel sad that we will never know the stories she carried within her. It renews my desire to share my life stories with my children and grandchildren, so they will know me more fully and have an appreciation of their family history. If you are not already doing this, I hope you will start doing so soon.

RESOURCES

www.healingstory.org

www.storyarts.org

StoryTelling with Children by Nancy Mellon

StoryTelling and the Art of Imagination by Nancy Mellon

Keeping Family Stories Alive by Vera Rosenbluth



Automobile Insurance Renewal

Submitted by: Mel Hatzis,
Forms/Correspondence Chair

Dear Parent,

As the ‘Forms and Correspondence’ chair, I am required to ensure all the necessary paperwork is in order. Please keep in mind when you receive your renewal statement to stick a copy of it in the mail to LGSONS.

The information we have on file from the start of the school year regarding your auto insurance shows that your coverage is due to expire or has expired. Your participation in a car pool requires you to provide proof of your renewal to the school.

Please mail an updated copy of your automobile insurance policy statement (showing dates of coverage and liability limits) at your earliest convenience to the address shown at the end of this message. Note: The school requires a copy of your insurance policy statement showing the coverage amounts and policy period. The small insurance cards which you carry in your vehicle do not contain this information and are not acceptable.

Mail to:

LGSONS Registration
4921 Tilden Dr
San Jose, CA 95124



Spring Picnic

Submitted by: Claudia Yore,
Social Chair

Mark your calendars, The Spring Picnic is coming!

The infamous May Pole Dance, Potluck Lunch, Crafts and Music April 27th from 11-2 at the schoolhouse.

Please bring your picnic supplies with drink, a dish to share, and a blanket to spread on the lawn.



Mountain School Community Service Drives

Submitted by: Stevie Caceres,
Community Service Liaison

March 17th – April 4th (3 weeks): Shelter Drive
<http://www.innvision.org>

InnVision, is the Silicon Valley's largest provider of housing and services to homeless and at-risk families and individuals. More than 16,000 people are served annually at 20 sites throughout the region. We will be collecting gently used clothing and other items needed by this organization. Check the list on the bin at the schoolhouse and email for complete details. ☞

Upcoming Adult Ed Program

Submitted by Linda Aggarwal,
Programs Chair

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

Thursday, March 27th 7-9pm Location TBD

Self Esteem: The Differences between Boys and Girls
Speaker: Sheila Dubin

Self esteem is a core key ingredient for a thriving child. It emerges from how they react to the world, and how they experience themselves as active agents in these experiences. However, girls and boys have different challenges in developing self esteem and the knowledge of their own empowerment. As parents it's important to understand these differences and how we can create environments that support and encourage this process for both our sons and daughters. This talk will explore the essential ingredients of emerging self esteem, the differences between girls and boys, and what we can do as parents to help our sons and daughters in this process.

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. ☞

Spring Workday...

Hello Everyone,

The last workday of the year is Sunday, March 2nd from 12:00 pm -4:00 pm. This workday is for the 3s and the Sat. 3/4/5s classes and any other folks who have not completed their required 4 hours*. Families may elect to buy out for \$150.00. Please notify the Workday Coordinator if you intend to buyout or are unable to attend your workday at least 7 days beforehand or you will be required to pay an additional \$15.00. Please sign in when you arrive so we can keep track of your attendance. Be prepared to bring these types of items: Shovels, wheelbarrows, rakes, garden tools, clippers, gloves, rags, sponges, extension cords, paintbrushes, electric drills, power tools and tool kits (if you're handy we may have special projects for you). Please mark your items with your name so there is no confusion when it's time to take things home. Meet at the schoolhouse and wear old clothing and sturdy closed shoes.

or Project...

Workday doesn't fit into your schedule? If you're interested in doing a project in lieu of attending the work day I have one for you! The ramp on the red two level wooden structure (the one to the left when you are facing the front door) is rotting through. The project would be to remove the plywood on the ramp, replace it with new plywood (which we will provide) and to repaint the whole structure. This project does need to be done ASAP.

If you have any questions please contact:
Tessa Arguijo, Workday Coordinator (408) 395-2892
arguijo@comcast.net

*4 hours for 1 person or 2 hours for 2 people.

☞



10th Annual Mountain School Family Camp at Sequoia Lake YMCA, May 23rd-26th



Submitted by: Gaye Lockwood(gayelockwood@yahoo.com) and Diane Steel(dsteel@sjcl.edu)

Dear Mountain School Families,

Please join other Mountain School Families, Alumni and Teachers for our Memorial Day Weekend Family Camp trip to Sequoia Lake. For the past 9 years Mountain School Families have been able to escape to their very own private get-a-way at Sequoia Lake YMCA Camp. Imagine a safe private camp for your children to roam and play independently with familiar friends and teachers in the beautiful Sierra Nevada Mountains. Sequoia Lake <http://www.sequoialakeymca.org> is located 55 miles east of Fresno and approximately a 4 - 5 hour drive from Los Gatos.

Attached is the registration form. The fee is \$185 per person and includes:

- 3 nights lodging (your choice of cabin, or tent site. You must bring your own tent)
- 9 meals (Friday dinner through Monday lunch)
- Use of boats and a great private get-a-way for lots of family fun
- Children 3 and under are free

Registrations will be accepted in order of postmarked date on envelop and fees are nonrefundable. The rate is reasonable in comparison to summer rates due to the fact that we provide our own volunteer staff like the Lockwoods for securing deposits and managing registrations, and Teacher Karen, and Teacher Diane to organize as well as all of you for managing the camp duties in a co-op spirit. To reserve your spot full payment is necessary. If your plans change or someone gets sick and you can't attend you may sell your spot to someone or find a replacement. Since we are accountable for the payments there will be no refunds unless a replacement has been secured.

Registration for new campers opens February 29th and is filled on a first come basis by your post marked envelope.

We have secured two Camps in order to accommodate additional Mountain School Families to enjoy this weekend together. Registration will remain open until both camps are full and then we will start a waitlist.

The accommodations are rustic bunkhouses that sleep 8 -12. Cabins do have electricity. Communal restrooms are separate from the cabins. Campers bring their own sleeping bags or linens and heavy blankets for the beds. There are also 5 tent-sites available and a few RV sites. The fee is no different for tent/RV spaces or if you choose to share cabin space as the expenses are in renting the entire private camp (food service, lake facility use, equipment, lifeguards etc...) Meals and program activities will be held in Camp Sequoia. Camp Space in Camp Sequoia is usually filled by returning campers. As space becomes available returning campers in Camp Gaines will be moved into Camp Sequoia.

We look forward to seeing all of you, your children and sharing in this tradition for the 10th year. Please be flexible as we are all co-creating this community experience for all of our enjoyment. If you have additional questions feel free to give Diane a call at (559) 299 -7988, Gaye at (408) 234 - 2781 or talk to past participants. This weekend continues to be a memorable family centered camping experience complete with campfire songs, skits, fish stories, boating, rustic cabin living, square dancing, home cooked meals and starry nights. An information packet with what to bring list, directions, and program schedule will be sent May 1st.

Hope you will join the fun!

☺