

# THE OBSERVATORY

“Let us love winter, for it is the spring of genius.” - Pietro Aretino

## Calendar Highlights

**FEB 6** Priority Registration was Due!

<http://lgsons.org/registration/2017-18%20Registration%20Form.pdf>

**FEB 6 - MAR 31** Second Harvest Food + Fund Drive

**FEB 27** DIY Household Cleaners with Adrienne Cox. Please bring a \$5-10 donation toward supplies. 7pm at the Schoolhouse.

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0d44aaaf22a1f85-diynatural>

**FEB 28** Logowear Orders Due

**APR 30** May Faire

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Dear Mountain Schoolers,

What a month it has been! Between the heavy winter storms and our first lockdown experience, there's been no lack of drama. Both cases relied on advanced preparation, creative thinking and steady nerves. Both, as is often the case with situations that test us, have uncovered action we can take to be better prepared.

I loved hearing stories of mountain families who turned their isolation due to closed roads into a magical experience for their children. Camping out in sleeping bags by the wood stove, walking to neighbors' houses to play board games by candlelight, having a neighborhood barbecue to make use of frozen meat as the power outage lingered. These are the kinds of experiences that stay on in children's memories: unfettered access to parents with all normal routines interrupted to say nothing of the awe of seeing creeks overrun their banks and large trees blocking roads!

If you haven't heard, we were notified that we needed to lockdown our school site on January 26th when a Scotts Valley bank robber ended up in Redwood Estates. I'm proud to say, the teachers of the Three's class quickly and calmly gathered the class inside and began implementing the plans we added to our safety protocols last year. They managed to keep their small charges engaged in various quiet activities for over an hour until they were notified the lockdown had been lifted. My favorite report came from a mom who said her son came home and talked about how much fun "dark circle" was! The experience showed that we need to do more to make sure all parents understand our emergency processes and feel comfortable about what their role is. Teachers will be addressing this at the March circle meetings. Meanwhile, we can all reread the emergency plan at: <http://www.lgsons.org/parents/Emergency%20Plan%202016.pdf>.

Please join me in singing, and I never thought I'd say this, “rain, rain go away, come again another day”

Love, Teacher Leslie



# Community Service Update

Caroline Forman, Community Service Chair

## *Thank You*

Thank you to all the Mountain School Families and Teachers who helped make the Christmas Project a success!

Our Mountain School community donated a total of 50 gifts to children, teens, moms and dads who live in migrant farm camps in Watsonville. The larger project served over 370 families. It is so exciting to see all the gifts collected: clothes, scooters, dolls, gift cards, tricycles, art supplies...there were too many great and generous gifts to list. It is impossible for me not to smile just thinking of each individual opening his or her gift. Thank you for sharing the joy of giving and the spirit of the holiday season.

## *What's Next?*

We have an opportunity to share with our neighbors in need here in Santa Clara County with a Second Harvest Food Bank Food and Fund drive. More than 1 in 10 Santa Clara County neighbors receive food from Second Harvest. The majority of people served are seniors and families with children. Together with our children, let's help fulfill this basic need of nourishment.

Here is how to help:

### DONATE FOOD

**Monday, February 6 - Friday, March 31**, you may drop off non-perishable food donations in a bin in the schoolhouse.

Please consider these most needed foods and avoid donating items packaged in glass:

Meals in a can (stew, chili, soup)	100% Fruit Juices	Tuna/Canned Meat
Peanut Butter	Low Sugar Cereals	Canned Fruits and Vegetables

### DONATE FUNDS

**Starting now**, you can visit our [Online Food Drive](https://www.shfb.org/page.aspx?pid=1036&FFDDrive=17%20FD%20Winter%20Community&FFDOrg=460686) <https://www.shfb.org/page.aspx?pid=1036&FFDDrive=17%20FD%20Winter%20Community&FFDOrg=460686> to donate directly to **Los Gatos-Saratoga Observation Nursery School's** drive. As one of the most efficient nonprofit organizations in the nation, Second Harvest turns every \$1 into 2 nutritious meals!



## Open Board Positions\*

### VOTING BOARD

Board Chair

Recording Secretary

Fundraising Chair

Newsletter Chair

### NON-VOTING BOARD

Community Service Liaison

Workday Coordinator

T-Shirts / Sweatshirts Sales  
Coordinator

\*Positions open as of 2/10/17

# Join the LGSONS Board!

Are you excited to serve as a positive ambassador and to support our school's best interests?

If you would like to know more about these positions, please see the By-Laws for detailed descriptions: [http://lgsons.com/about/LGSONS%20BYLAWS\\_AUG2016.pdf](http://lgsons.com/about/LGSONS%20BYLAWS_AUG2016.pdf).

Contact a member of the nominations committee if you are interested in joining the Board:  
Jesep Myers <jeseps@hotmail.com>  
or Tania Vong  
<chiomi@gmail.com>



## Spring Logowear

Spring logowear ordering is open now until **February 28th!** Don't miss out on this year's t-shirts!



<https://www.freewebstore.org/lgsons>

# Teacher Profile

Sarah Hitchcock-Glover, Teacher Friday + Saturday 2s



I grew up the youngest of five in Southwestern New York state's "snow belt." My fondest childhood memories are season related.

When "snow days" from school were called (as much as three feet in a day) there were tunnels to be bored through the snowbanks and serious sledding to be done on our hilly neighborhood streets. "C-A-R!" was the reliable warning call and all was fine. We would be out all day 'til the street lights came on.

With Spring came the tapping of the three giant maple trees in front of our house for sap.

There was usually a good deal of snow well into April, covering the budding crocus, tulips and forsythia. Boiling the sap down to maple syrup, then pouring it over snow-packed pans for candy was a treasured rite of Spring.

Each summer all seven of us packed into the old Ford station wagon for a car camping trip to Allegany State Park. This was hardly a wilderness experience, though each day was filled with independent creek play and campfires at night. The same two weeks in July every year, this was the cherished Hitchcock tradition.

Autumn was all about the leaves. Beautiful on the trees, yes, but from a child's perspective, much more fun once fallen to the ground. Oh those mountain high piles for throwing, hiding in or pedaling through.

It is now called a "gap year", that year after high school when so many are not sure of a goal, or lack the drive to march onward to college.

I was grateful to be rescued and selected as an exchange student to the Netherlands for one year. This was 1969-70. I was a naive 18 year old from a conservative Republican family, not knowing how to respond while living in the Hague during the Vietnam War, Apollo moon landing, the Kent State incident and Wavy Gravy's Woodstock.

After a brief time back in New York, it was off to Arizona for twelve years, with the intention of studying child development at ASU. Only a year had passed and I decided to work full time..... and play full time, if that is possible, to explore the desert and mountains.

New England caught my fancy. I started to grow up, just a tad, in my mid- thirties and missed my family. I moved to Boston where I worked as a medical assistant. Pediatrics was my favorite assignment. I finally was able to support myself while getting through an RN program. I spent again just one year in a great Boston hospital and loved working on the transplant unit.

While also loving back country skiing, I met this gentle man in a Pinkham Notch hostel. He was ice climbing. We got on well and moved to his sailboat in Sausalito.

I enjoyed another year of nursing on a liver and kidney transplant unit in San Francisco.

This was indeed the time to do it, a now or never dilemma. Fred (the fellow in this picture) and I took that 29 foot sailboat down to and around Mexico, then out across the Pacific for exactly... yes... one year. We visited three island groups and returned north through Hawaii.

Once settled back in Sausalito on land, our rental was sold. We were forced into a move to Fred's geodesic dome in the Santa Cruz Mountains.

I found my passion in nursing to be in Oncology. In the South Bay, this was my work for over 20 years.

Twenty five years ago Fred and I married. We so very much enjoyed living in this stunning natural mixed forest environment on Skyline Boulevard.

Then came our son Adam, who along with the recommendation of friends led us to the Mountain School community. We three started in 1997 in the Wed. 2s class. Teachers Jane Krejci and Jill Hyman were Adam's teachers! As older parents with one child, finding Mountain School was the most enriching experience we could ever have hoped for. So much to be learned through so much play. We might not have seen it that way without the gentle guidance. The sense of community and the inspiration to foster a love for all things natural...Our first early childhood school years had filled us with gratitude. Parent friendships have continued to this day.

Seeing the natural world through the eyes of a child is such a gift. We get to do it a second time 'round when we become parents. And then a third time as we become grandparents....or teachers. In providing this "bio" I would be remiss if I didn't mention the fact that our son Adam passed away at the age of 12. As you might imagine, his life... and loss continue to be a significant part of my daily life. After years of bereavement help, I was at first hesitant but then thrilled with the opportunity to return to Mountain School as an assistant teacher for three years. I now am into a fifth year as lead teacher. Some of the activities I share were Adam- inspired from those days back in the late nineties at Mountain School. So much of the joy that he passed on to me I love to carry every day, right into the 2s classes on Friday and Saturday.



On a volunteer basis I have been involved with child loss support groups. Currently I enjoy time as a hospice volunteer, and do some garden work at Montalvo Arts Center. Each summer I volunteer to run off to Wavy Gravy's circus camp Winnarainbow in Mendocino County as a nurse. This camp has provided fun, circus and life skills to hundreds of underserved children each summer for nearly 40 years.

The learning never ends, especially within our school community. It seems that I am the fortunate learner, a student of the children in Mountain School and their parents!

## Teacher Profile

Jane Krejci, Teacher Friday 2s



### **“People who like their work get to play all their life.”**

This anonymous quote certainly reflects how I feel about my ‘work’ - and life - at Mountain School which started back in 1972. It was our precious daughter that led us to the 2 year old class that year.

It was the perfect fit for me and our family given my background. I was born in San Francisco and then moved to Yosemite when I was 4 years old. My childhood was embedded in the natural world. My older sister, younger brother and I played outside most of the time. Hiking, camping, biking, skiing and skating were an integral part of our lives. Our family was part of a small (under 1000 people) community that worked and played in the most beautiful of places. To this day, John Muir’s quote resonates with me.

### **“Going to the mountains is going home.”**

My more ‘formal’ education included elementary school in Yosemite; a boarding high school; Cal, Berkeley for college; and a California Teaching Credential through the UC system.

Following university, I lived and worked in education overseas: teaching for three years in Uganda; and then developing a primary school science curriculum in Malawi for two years. My world expanded greatly during this period as I witnessed the birth of independent countries following long colonial periods. The opportunity to meet and work with wonderful people from diverse backgrounds was exciting and enlightening. Great travel experiences were wonderful, too.

I had taught junior high girls in Uganda. I taught third grade in Union School District when we returned to the States. And then I found Mountain School where teaching young children and working with parents became most fulfilling.

I also had the opportunity to work for BRIO toys for 15 years. I was able to combine my love for children with my interest in design by working closely with product development in Sweden. I also worked with sales reps and retailers focusing on the importance of play and toys for children.

I have had the pleasure to work in many capacities at Mountain School. The teachers, as well as many parents, have become dear friends. My favorite class, of course, is the one I have taught for decades - the precious 2 year olds. I learn something every time I am with them and their dedicated parents. It is especially exciting to see these toddlers develop their physical skills and verbal abilities (and maybe even some sharing and other social skills!) over a short year of their lives.

My unique childhood and the Mountain School community have both had a very significant impact on my life. I love and respect the natural world; I value kindness and diversity; and I always strive to be curious and adventurous.

Mountain School has become community for me - thank you!

**"Every learner a teacher; every teacher a learner."**

*Footnote: I am hoping our great-granddaughter will be joining our 2 year old class in the Fall. It will continue the family tradition that started 45 years ago!*

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## Hannah Banana Oatmeal Cookies

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Hannah Tuttle is crazy about preparing this easy 3s snack!

### INGREDIENTS

1 cup steel cut oats (use Gluten Free oats if desired)

2 very ripe bananas

Sprinkle of Cinnamon and Salt

### DIRECTIONS

1. Preheat oven to 375°
2. Combine all ingredients in a mixing bowl
3. Make roughly 1 Tablespoon balls with the mixture on a greased baking sheet
4. Bake for 10 minutes
5. Remove from the oven and smoosh with the back of a spoon.
6. Put back in the oven for another 5 minutes.

**ENJOY!**

MOUNTAIN SCHOOL PRESENTS THE

# Winter Raffle

January 19th - February 17th  
Tickets are \$10 each or 5 for \$40

Public Drawing will be held on March 7th  
@ the Board Meeting

## CHOOSE A PRIZE!



### SPLENDID MAUI VACATION

Enjoy a one week stay at the Aston Mahana at Kaanapali in a premium two bedroom (4-6 people), two bath oceanfront condominium in beautiful Maui, Hawaii. Amenities include: direct oceanfront view, floor-to-ceiling windows, private lanai, pool, hot tub, outside garden BBQ, and one mile of beach only steps away. Located within walking distance of Duke's newest location, grocery stores and unique coffee shops. Guests rave about this ideally-suited Maui condo! Prize includes **\$1,000 Airfare Stipend for the airline of your choice.**

**Restrictions:** Dates available year round and must be coordinated with donor. Travel must occur by February 28, 2018.



### PICK YOUR APPLE

Choose yourself a shiny, new Apple product! With a **\$1000** shopping budget, the winner can select from several models of the iPad, iPhone, or the Apple Watch. So many amazing choices—what will your Apple prize be?

**Restrictions:** Model must not exceed \$1000 in value. If contract is required, the winner is responsible for contract.