

July 1, 2009



Welcome Back!

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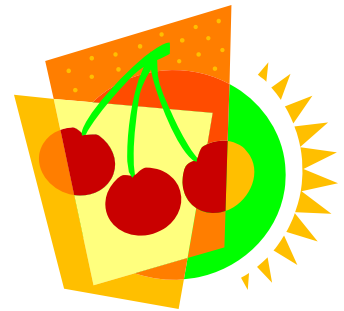
New School Lunch Program

To those of you who are returning families to MCS, welcome back, and to those of you who are new, welcome to the MCS family. We have many exciting new things at our school this year, including new class configurations, new carpeting, and a new play structure, but the one I want to feature in my first column of the year, is our new food services program.

During my tenure at MCS, I have worked with many student groups who have desired to see a change in both the quality and variety of foods served through our school lunch program. We have investigated many options, but are now happy to say that Ray DiGiaino, Director of Food Services for Petaluma City

Schools has agreed to design a pilot program for MCS@CV that will feature both daily choice and all natural food selections, hormone and antibiotic free. All produce will be farm fresh. Children will have choice of two hot selections, two cold selections, and a fresh Chicken Caesar Salad each day. There will be a vegetarian choice each day as well. Lunch price will include milk and selection from the Salad Bar which will have farm fresh vegetables and fruit each day. There may be an optional opportunity to purchase bottled water for lunch as well.

Menus for the lunches will be posted to our website created specifically for our school lunch program. You may print menus, make



menu selections, and purchase them for a two-week period. Initially, you will pay for them at school through our Food Service Coordinator, Jerelyn Kruljac, as in the past. In the future, we hope for you to be able to make your selections and pay for them online.

Mr. DiGiaino would like to keep the price of our school lunches consistent with what other schools are paying, but because we wish to

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Dates and Times:

- Thurs., July 16—First Day of School/8:20/PTA Social/8:15-9:30/Quad
- Mon., July 20—MCS Educational Foundation/3:30 FCVL/7:00/Library
- Tues., July 21—Ice Cream Social/6:30
- Tues., July 22—Coffee and Chat with the Principal/8:30-9:30/Lodge
- Thurs., July 23—K-1 Back to School Night/6:00
- July 23-24—School Pictures
- Wed., July 29—Back to School Night/Grades 2-3 at 6:30/Grades 4-8 at 7:30
- Mon., Aug., 4—Advisory Council/3:30/Library
- Fri., Aug. 7—Beach Day
- Thurs., Aug. 13—PTA

Please Make Note!

Every Wednesday is a shortened day to allow for teacher collaboration. All students, 1-8, dismissed at 12 :45.

PTA Welcome Coffee Thurs., July 16th 8:15 in the Lodge. Important opportunity to learn about PTA and sign up for annual PTA events. Please plan to attend.

State law requires that anyone entering school grounds must sign in. Whenever you come to MCS, please come to the office, sign in, and get an identification sticker. This assures that everyone on campus has a reason for being here. Thank you!



"How far you go in life depends on your being tender with the young, compassionate with the aged, sympathetic with the striving and tolerant of the weak and strong. Because some day in your life you will have been all of these."

—George Washington Carver



Principally Speaking

My guess is that all of you are busy trying to enjoy the last few remaining days of unscheduled time, and a letter from the MCS principal is not your idea of leisure reading.

However, there are a few important reminders that might help us get school off to a good start, and some important new information that will give

you and your child(ren) something new to anticipate during your remaining summer vaca-

tion. During the brief summer break, the office staff of MCS is very busy preparing for the opening of school, and we are getting lots of phone calls about logistical information.

In response to those calls, we thought we might include answers to those **FAQS**:

Q: What time does school start and end?

A: Kindergarten: 8:20-11:45

Grades 1-3: 8:20-2:30

Grades 4-8: 8:20-3:00

Conferences/Wednesdays:

Grades 1-8 8:20-12:45

Q: How much is the school lunch program?

A: Breakfast \$1.15

Lunch \$3.25/\$3.75

Milk \$.35

Q: When will school pictures be taken?

A: July 23-24

Q: When will class lists be

(Continued on next page)

New Hot Lunch Program—Continued

reduce our carbon footprint, we will use compostable trays and biodegradable cutlery, which will add an additional cost to the lunches. Right now, we are slated to charge, \$1.15 for breakfast, \$3.50 for lunch for students grades K-6, and \$3.75 for students in grades 7-8. This is just \$.25 more than we paid for lunches last year.

For breakfast, students will have a daily selection of granola, yogurt, cereal, milk, juice and fresh fruit.

In order for our new food service plan to be a success, we really need increased participation in our new lunch program. Mr. DiGiamino has researched purveyors of natural and organic foods and has worked with Marilyn Briggs,

former state Director of Nutrition Services, with a doctorate in nutrition science from UC Davis. He is gathering new recipes and intends to use our feedback to make continuous improvement to our hot lunch program.

Our school lunch website is under construction, but you will be able to find it at: www.cherryvalleyfoods.com

Changes/2009-10

Staffing Changes

- Mrs. Lisa Damico, Mrs. Lisa Lewis; Mrs. Kerry Santia, Mrs. Kim Hertzberg; and Mrs. Fran Lucas-Hill will be teaching K-1. All K-1 classrooms are in Toyon and Manzanita.
- Mrs. Liza Eichert, Mrs. Gena Richman, Mrs. Denise Howe, and Mr. Craig Wicks will be teaching 2-3. All 2-3 classrooms are located in Madrone.
- Mr. Keoni Yu will again be teaching 4-5, but will be joining his team-
- mates in Laurel cluster.
- Mrs. Eleanor Perkiss will again be teaching sixth grade core, but is moving to Mrs. Howe's former room in Toyon.

Other Changes:

New Lunch Program

New Play Structure

More FAQs

posted?

A: Wed., July 15th after 4:00

Q: Can my child ride his brand new motorized scooter to school?

A: No. The only vehicle that a child is allowed to ride to school is a bicycle. Law requires that all children wear helmets on bicycles.

Q: Where do I drop off my child?

A: You may drop your child off in the staff parking only if you are just passing through. There is no parking for parents in the staff lot. Please park only in legal parking areas. Tickets have been given to cars parked illegally.

Q: Where does my child go upon arrival at school?

A: All students should be in

the quad where there is supervision beginning at 8:05. On rainy days children may go directly to their classrooms.

Q: Can my child ride his/her skateboard on school property?

A: No. If your child rides a skateboard to and from school, they must ride only after leaving school property.



"If we don't stand up for children, then we don't stand for much."

Marian Wright Edelman

Did You Know?

Your PTA is committed to support of the following programs/activities at MCS:

- ◆ Support of a fulltime library Clerk.
- ◆ Educational assemblies
- ◆ Garden and Environmental Education
- ◆ Performing Arts program
- ◆ Parent Education
- ◆ Mentor Reading Program

◆ Westside Relays

◆ Teacher Activity Fund

◆ Mentor Me Petaluma

◆ Scholarships for fieldtrips

◆ Art Docent Program

In order to continue to support these things and many others, the PTA must raise significant amounts of money. You can help by doing the following:

- ◆ Join PTA and attend meetings.

◆ Support events such as the Cherry Jubilee, Dine Out Nights, Variety show, and Readathon.

◆ Buy Scrip

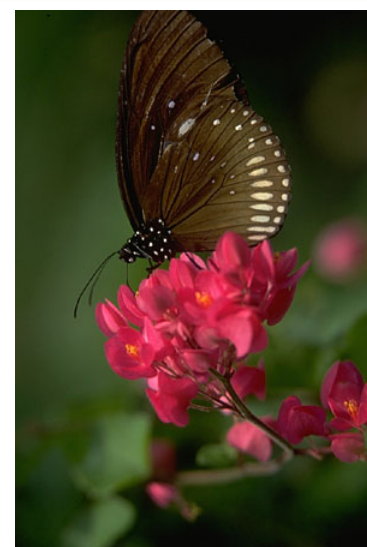
Your PTA Officers this year:

President: Deanna Ford

Vice President: Adee Swanson

Secretary: Dena Grunt

Treasurer: Terese Daniele



"Children seldom misquote. In fact, they usually repeat word for word

what you shouldn't have said."

Cell Phones and Electronic Devices

Cell phones and electronic devices such as iPods and hand-held games are not allowed at school. If your child has an emergency s/he can access a phone both in the office and in his/her classroom. Given

that most children do have both cell phones and iPods, we ask that during the school day they remain turned off and in their backpacks. If they use them on campus, they will be taken away and returned to them after school. These are expensive gadgets that can be

easily broken, lost or stolen in a school environment. In addition, they are a major distraction to the educational environment. Please assist us maintain the academic integrity of the school by discussing this policy with your child, and by not calling on the cell phone during school.

Petaluma City Schools

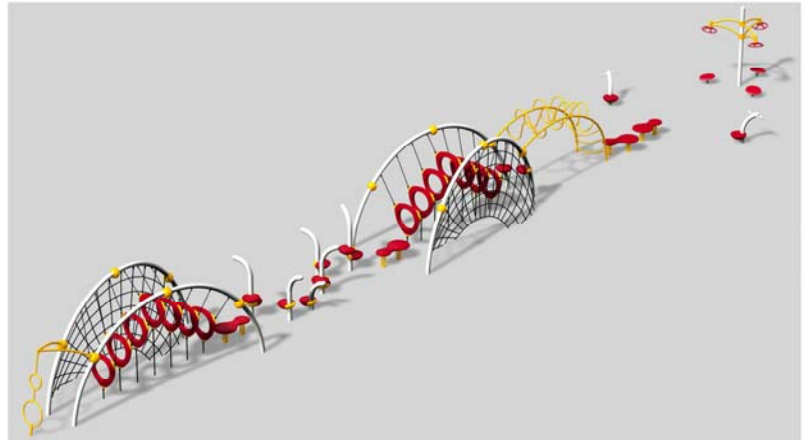
Mary Collins Charter School at Cherry Valley
1001 Cherry St.

Petaluma, CA 94952

Phone: 707-778-4740

Fax: 707-778-4839

E-mail: karenm@pet.k12.ca.us



We're on the Web!

www.cherryvalleyelementary.org

**Educating today's children
for tomorrow's world!**

Take a peek at our new play structure!

"There are only two
lasting bequests we
can give our children—
one is hope, the other
is wings."

Hodding Carter



"Gardening is civil
and social, but it
wants the vigor and
freedom of the
forest and the
outlaw."

Henry David Thoreau

Important Traffic/Safety Reminders

- ⇒ There will be absolutely **NO** parking for parents allowed at any time in the staff parking lot except for drop-off and pick-up from daycare before and after school and handicapped access.
- ⇒ During drop-off and pickup of children, parents may drive through the parking lot, but should not park there. If you are waiting for older students after picking up younger ones, please find a street legal parking space. Do not park in red zones or in the bus zone if it is noted that a bus is returning to school.
- ⇒ Because we wish to be good neighbors, we are asking your support respecting the access and People who live near MCS.
- Please do not block anyone's driveway.
- ⇒ Please observe all traffic and safety laws and familiarize yourself with traffic signs in the area.
- ⇒ Please be respectful of all personnel on duty and comply with their requests. There are good reasons for them!
- ⇒ Please model for your children the safe way to cross the street.

MCS@CV Educational Foundation

The MCS@CV Educational Foundation is in its second year, having successfully fund raised to support the Visual and Performing Arts hub of our charter. Without the support of the Foundation, we would not be able to afford

our fabulous instrumental music program, classroom and choral music for all students, and our Art Docent program.

Fundraising for these programs is ongoing in nature. If you have not already had the opportunity to make a donation,

Please consider making one at the beginning of the school year. Your donations are tax deductible and are of considerable value to the mission and vision of our school. If you are interested in finding out more about the Foundation, regular meetings are the third Monday each month.