



Mary Collins School @ Cherry Valley, A Charter School
1001 Cherry Street, Petaluma, CA 94952 ☎ phone 707.778.4740
☎ Principal: Karen McGahey ☎ www.cherryvalleyelementary.org

Where Every Child is an Honored Student

*Live as if you were to die tomorrow.
Learn as if you were to live forever.*
~Gandhi

Principally Speaking

Thanks for helping with our Giving Tree in the office!!



At a time when many of us are still preoccupied with Christmas shopping and planning for the big Christmas dinner, it seems almost "too much" to be talking about the New Year and those dreaded resolutions. For my own part, I decided that I needed to make my New Year's resolution my Christmas gift to myself. Likewise, I decided that if I shared it with the entire Mary Collins School community, that there would be a large group of people willing to hold my feet to the fire to make my resolution a promise of action rather than empty words. So...here goes!

I borrowed from a well-known song for my resolution: "Let There Be Peace on Earth, and Let It Begin With Me." In my life, I will take time to renew my spirit daily by scheduling much-needed down time doing things that make me feel healthy and peaceful. In my family, I will work to understand my children's and my siblings' points of view before holding forth with mine. In my work I will continue to support students with policies and programs that encourage seeking peaceful solutions to problems. In my community, I will commit to some worthy cause that brings comfort to others less fortunate than myself. "Let There be peace on Earth, and Let It Begin with Me!" I wish all of the Mary Collins School community a holiday season filled to overflowing with peace and love.

Karen W. McGahey

**Plan to attend!
Save the Date! March 3 1st
(... see article on page 3)**



Educational Foundation News

As the holiday season brings luminous moons, early dark nights, and family festivities, the Educational Foundation is appreciative of our amazing and generous school community. Once again, thank you for your donations, pledges and support of the Choral Music and Instrumental Music Programs, Our Art Docent and Guidance Counselor, Pre-Algebra/Algebra intervention and the Environmental Education Program.

Over the past few months we have been busy, busy, busy trying to create sub-committees to tackle such things as grant writing and bridging the technology gap. We are currently forming a Grant Committee and a Technology Committee and have been discussing, researching and reflecting upon how we can best access and integrate technological resources to enhance and enrich the academic experience of our children. There are a few grant submissions in the works and we are gearing up for 2012 and 2013.

The Educational Foundation would love to hear your ideas and input at our monthly meetings held the third Tuesday of every month at 6:00 pm in the Library. Come join us, and share your ideas. THANK YOU for all your support and HAPPY HOLIDAYS!



Absences must be called in each & every day a student is absent from school (unless on Independent Study)

School attendance phone number:

778-4741



NEWSLETTER

Submissions:

Please send newsletter articles as WORD documents or text of an e-mail; photos as full size JPEGs to NL editor

Star Downey
kevstar@pacbell.net
Next deadline is
January 13th,
6 p.m. Questions?
707.769.8115

PTA wishes you all a Happy Break! Have fun & see you in the New Year!

Don't forget:
KIDPOWER is coming to Cherry Valley on January 21st!

kidpower™

Library News

Adopt-a-Book Program – Thank you for helping us build a strong and interesting library for our students. The following students have recently adopted books for our library:

Grace Steckler – “Just Grace and the Double Surprise” + “School Days According to Humphrey”
...thank you Grace!

Holly Keaton – “Seizure”...thank you Holly!

Eli Witz – “Sports Illustrated: All Access”

...Happy Birthday Eli!

Simone Smith – “Tuesdays at the Castle”...thank you Simone!

Zeeshan Deura – “Golden Gate Bridge”...Happy Birthday Zeeshan!

Almy Family – “A Royal Christmas”..Book Fair 2011...thank you Almy Family!

Aiden + McKayla Casey – “Miss Smith Under the Ocean”...Book Fair 2011

...thank you Casey Family!

Jess Brown – “Kiki and Coco in Paris”...autographed copy,

featuring Jess Brown’s dolls...thank you!

Keaton Family – “Pet Rocks”..written & illustrated by the Keaton girls

...thank you!

Feel free to purchase a favorite book at Copperfield's, Costco, visit our Wish List on www.Amazon.com under “Friends of the Cherry Valley Library,” or come visit Mrs. Derby in the library and browse through the new books still waiting to be adopted.

MyPCS.org - Cool New Website

- We would love for you to visit our new Petaluma City Schools library website. It's an easy way to access our school's online catalog, play educational games (including geography and math games), as well as try out an online database on trial to our school district through World Book. World Book Encyclopedia online offers a wide array of sources...encyclopedia articles, newspaper articles, website connections, and more. Just visit www.mypcslibrary.org and click on the “World Book Encyclopedia” logo. Until January 2, we can sign in with the user name: americas and the password: rose. Try it! ☺

Happy Holiday reading to you all!

April Derby



A book is the only place in which you can examine a fragile thought without breaking it, or explore an explosive idea without fear it will go off in your face. It is one of the few havens remaining where a man's mind can get both provocation and privacy.
~Edward P Morgan



Wrapping up 2011, the Green Team hosted the Second Annual Holiday Share Event. Again it was a huge success with a plethora of cool games, cute clothes, fabulous books and more finding a second life with a new family. Many thanks to all who participated and special thanks to **Arcelia Moreno** for once again heading it up and **Corrina Lozanov** for her spur of the moment help.

This month I was invited into the classrooms of Ms. Lewis, Mr. Wicks, Ms. Richman, Ms. Eichert, and Ms. Howe to talk about trash. Boy was I impressed by their understanding! Despite the potentially confusing rules for recycling, they really got it. Now, the trick is helping them remember to use the power of this knowledge. We all know how easy it is to forget to stop and think before we toss something away, but the success of our campus recycling and composting programs depends on it! One thing we all noticed... **most of the trash is packaging.** You can help by sending **packaging-free snacks and lunches** to school.

And don't forget that the Green Team's **Amy Rosenbaum** has partnered with the ever fabulous Cookie Wilson to bring the Cartridges for Kids program to YOU! **Cartridges for Kids** is an ongoing recycling program that pays schools **CA\$H** for:

cell phones, empty laser and inkjet cartridges, laptops, iPods, PDAs, video games & consoles, scientific graphing calculators, digital cameras, DVDs, GPS devices and iPads/tablets/eReaders.

Bring in any items on the list and drop them in the box in the office. This way you can recycle and raise money for our school all at the same time! So start collecting from home, office, businesses, family, neighbors, or anywhere else you can think of. The more the better! And be on the lookout for exciting things to come! To learn more visit www.CFKtoday.com or contact Amy at amy.rose1@comcast.net.

Happy Holidays!

Natasha Juliana & Your Green Team

Mentor Me Petaluma News

Help Mentor Me Petaluma celebrate National Mentoring Month in January! We have over 200 thriving mentorships in 16 Petaluma schools and also have 75 kids on our waiting list. Mentors and mentees spend time together each week working on school projects and study skills, playing sports, doing art projects, cooking together, hiking, reading, and much, much more.

Mentoring is all about building longterm, consistent, supportive, trusting relationships. You can help Mentor Me Petaluma provide more mentors to more kids: 1) Be a mentor and/or spread the word about our 75 waitlisted kids and help us recruit mentors. 2) Support us financially - we are **not** funded by the city, county, state or federal government, nor do we receive cash donations from school districts. We depend on the generosity of individuals, businesses, service clubs, PTA's, small foundations and our annual fundraising events.

To learn more about mentoring or to download an application, go to our website www.MentorMePetaluma.org, call our office at 778-4798 or attend a Q&A for prospective mentors.

Viva Cocolat is hosting a Q&A on Thursday, January 12th from 7:00-8:00pm; the address is 110 Petaluma Boulevard North in downtown Petaluma. Come if you can... or tell ten friends.

There are many ways to support our good work financially:

- mail a check to 35 Maria Drive #852, 94954
- log onto the website and click the "donate" button
- attend Band Night at the Burdell Building on January 14th, with a one-night-only reunion of the great dance band **FunkSway**
- purchase "January Special" tickets for the **Mad Hatter Ball**, coming up on **March 31st**

Each mentorship changes TWO lives simultaneously. Please join us! ☘