



Miraloma Gazette

Miraloma Elementary School, San Francisco, CA □ May 26, 2004

A Fond Farewell

By Kathleen Burkett Miraloma Gazette Editor 2003-2004

It seems that being the editor of the School Newsletter has its perks! I want to take a few moments of your time to say a fond farewell to everything that makes Miraloma such a great place to be! My family came to Miraloma because of a mistake by the District, we had never heard of Miraloma, but am I ever glad (for once) that the District messed up! We got our assignment the Sunday before school started and from the first minute we entered the halls we were impressed! Eliska was so accommodating and helpful, and then we headed outside to witness an organized morning assembly where Marcia introduced each teacher individually. Jeff Kaliss was sure to invite my husband and me to the Parent Room for a welcome breakfast and question and answer session with the Community Group (now the PTA). From that moment we knew we had found the best school in the city. Well the past two years have whizzed by; I can't believe it's time for us to leave! We have had the opportunity to work closely with the School Site Council, PTA, Miraloma Teachers/Staff and MEEP Staff, when I look back on our experiences, my heart feels so full and my eyes begin to tear, I feel so lucky to have been a part of such a great community. In closing I'd like to say "Thank You" to every person in the Miraloma Community who has touched our lives and made our experience unforgettable! You are the most dedicated group of Staff, Teachers and Families that I have ever had the pleasure of calling friends. Keep up the good work! Cheers.

K1's Author's Brunch

Submitted by Jennifer Howard, Teacher K1

On Friday May 7th K1 held its second annual Author's Brunch. This is a time when students share one of the stories they have written in Writer's Workshop during the year. Students "write" in their journal several times a week throughout the year. The students mainly express their ideas through pictures and use some words. They take turns sharing their journals in Author's Chair where they get peer comments and suggestions. In preparation for Author's Brunch, students chose one of their stories to "publish." In this final draft of their story students made a front cover, title page, dedication, and redrew their pictures.

This year's Author's Brunch had an Outer Space theme. Parents decorated the classroom so that it was transformed when students came back from Sing Along. The theme was inspired by the students' love of the story of The Iron Giant so the event began with a reading from the book that offered hope of a peaceful world. Several students wore costumes and most of the families came to the event. Each student shared their story with the group and the event culminated with a potluck brunch.

I would like to thank all of the families who attended the Author's Brunch for their support of the students. I especially thank my room parents and all of the parents who helped to organize and set-up the event. Finally, I would like to congratulate the amazing writer's

in K1 for a job well done!



Photo by Paul Korntheuer

Miraloma Parent Involvement Group - Everyone is Welcome!

By Leisa Sinclair-Vick and Leslie Kirk-Campbell

When a parent is involved in their children's school, the child benefits, the school benefits, and the parent benefits as well. Parent involvement is a powerful, effective, and easy way to make a difference in your child's education. The child feels a sense of pride that his/her parent is involved in the school. The child will often do better in school because of the attention given by the parent. Meanwhile, the school benefits because a much needed task, which may not have been done otherwise, is being done by the involved parent. The parent benefits because anytime you volunteer in schools you feel a sense of accomplishment in assisting the next generation.

The San Francisco School District has set five academic goals for all public schools. The fifth goal is to broaden the base of parent involvement. Every family at Miraloma can be involved in some way, however small. Parent involvement builds community and brings warmth and a cooperative spirit to a school. Mindful of this fifth academic goal and the many benefits of broad parent involvement, a multi-cultural group of Miraloma parents gets together once a month. The Parent Involvement Group is an informal group of mothers and fathers who get together and discuss ways to assist parents from diverse ethnic, cultural and socio-economic backgrounds to overcome challenges that may have kept them from becoming involved at Miraloma Elementary School. Some challenges include transportation, getting time off from work, not realizing how important it is to help and how big a difference a little volunteer time can make, speaking English as a second language, and simply never being asked to help.

Currently, the Parent Involvement Group works in cooperation with the Site Council. Some of the issues we discuss and try to bring into action are: (1) Encouraging diverse membership and leadership in school organizations such as the Site Council and the PTA (2) Encouraging culturally diverse ideas for school functions (i.e., serving Chinese food at Math Night, incorporating Cinco De Mayo into the Spring Festival); (3) Developing a convenient and grass-roots Room Parent program to broaden involvement to all families on a personal basis; (4) Ensuring translation of school communication both with written media and during meetings. (5) Serving as allies and support for members of ELAC, SAC, and other volunteers at the school. (6) Assisting individual parents who wish to volunteer overcome challenges to do so, and (7) Increasing multi-cultural awareness and sensitivity at the school.

The informal group of parents meets together with their children for dinner each month and while the kids play, the parents discuss involvement issues. Most members also attend Site Council meetings and form part of the monthly parent involvement discussion group at those meetings. This group is always welcoming new participants and encourages all parents with ideas or comments to come and share their views.

COME TO OUR PARENT INVOLVMENT END-OF-THE-YEAR POTLUCK PICNIC AT GOLDEN GATE PARK

SATURDAY, JUNE 5, NOON -3PM
A great time to meet our families and have a fun day in the sun!
WHERE: Playground, at the corner of 19th Ave. and Martin Luther King Drive. See you there.
Contacts: Leisa Sinclair-Vick 267-4006
Leslie Kirk Campbell 285-1926

Family Pot Luck

The Miraloma PTA would like to invite all Miraloma Families, Staff and incoming Families to the Family Pot Luck Tuesday, June 1st, 6:30 to 8 pm in the cafeteria. Make your favorite dish and bring the family in to celebrate another great year at Miraloma! Please contact Laurie Petrelli at 282-0145 if you would like to volunteer to help set up or clean up.

Good Bye Ms. Evers!

Interview with Dottie Evers, Retiring K8 Teacher by Diana Alves de Lima

In mid-May, Mrs. Evers' and Ms. Krueger's class arrived a few minutes early for their field trip to the Randall Museum. Not one to miss an opportunity, Dottie Evers proceeded past the museum and led students and parents on a brisk hike up Corona Heights hill to admire the view and the fresh breeze. At the top of the hill, Ms. Krueger commented breathlessly, "Are you sure you want to R-E-T-I-R-E, Dottie, because you're way ahead of us!"



Dottie Evers and I chatted above the voices of boisterous kids on the return bus ride.

Born and Raised: Chicago, IL

Educated: Chicago Teacher's College and Central University of Iowa

Children: Two grown boys, living in Nevada City and Yuba City and one grandchild.

When you were young, what did you want to be when you grew up?

I always said I wanted to be a teacher. Since I talked too much in class, I got low grades in "Behavior", so I wanted to be a teacher so I could talk as much as I wanted. I really understand those kids who are always talking. I tell them I was the exact same way when I was their age, but I had to learn to listen too.

How did you get hired at Miraloma?

I began at Miraloma 21 years ago. I had been teaching in the Elk Grove school district, and had my Master's degree in school administration and worked two years as a principal there. Then my husband began as a minister at Miraloma Church on Teresita, and we rented the house next to school. I walked up to the school and asked if they had any positions available, but the district had just laid off hundreds of teachers. But I wanted to work at the school, so I helped out a 3rd grade teacher as part of my Masters' project. Later I ended up working as a Program Resource Teacher, in effect a vice-principal, hiring paraprofessionals and helping with the administration, then a teacher.

How has Miraloma changed as a school since you started working here?

At the state and district levels, there have been many changes, some good, some not. The school itself is much more family oriented now, with much more parent involvement, and that is great.

What were you doing in the 60's and 70's? Were you a hippie?

No, not a hippie. I was teaching, as usual, both Sunday school and public school. My husband and I started 3 churches, so that kept us pretty busy.

How did you meet your husband?

Richard and I have always known each other. We went to the same church in Chicago growing up, and our families knew each other.

Many parents have admired your "look." Where do you get your sense of style?

I like to draw and paint, and style is part of that. I just see what looks good.

What are some of your hobbies?

I love to sing, and I sing in the choir. I sang in a capella choirs a lot growing up. Growing up, I also liked to play ball; my dad was the softball coach for years. I love to read...everything, both fiction and non-fiction.

Have you traveled?

Yes, quite a bit: to Amsterdam, Turkey, Greece, Panama, Alaska, and other places.

What are your plans after retirement?

We will live full time at our house in Wilton and be volunteers at the church we started in Carmichael.

Ms. Evers Retirement Party

The parents of K8 would like to invite you to celebrate Dottie Evers' many years of wonderful, caring teaching and contribution to Miraloma.

Dottie Evers Parent & Student Retirement Celebration

Date: Tuesday, June 8

Time: 5:30-7:00 pm

Place: Miraloma Library

Potluck dinner hosted by the parents of K8.

(Other contributions welcome.)

Summer Fund Raising

Box Tops 4 Education: We more than doubled the amount of money earned by turning in Box Tops 4 Education! Keep saving during the summer; let's double our money again next year!

Printer Cartridges: Not only do we earn money for our school, but we also help the environment! Tell all your friends and relatives to save all used ink jet cartridges and used toner cartridges and turn them in to the

Office or Parent Room in August!

eScrip Reminder

Our profit from eScrip is steadily increasing – thanks to the many parents who've gone online to register their Safeway card or other credit cards with www.eScrip.com. It is a safe and secure way to bring money to the school – we as parents need only register for the program, and do our shopping as using those registered cards. Registering costs nothing and you will not receive junk mail.

Good Life Grocery Scrip

Good Life Grocery has two stores located in Bernal Heights and Potrero Hill selling organic and natural foods. They give back 5% of your purchases to the school. Contact Tanja at 643-3573 or tgubser@aol.com.

Albertson's Community Partners Card

Do you shop at Albertson's? They will give 2% of your purchases to Miraloma if you get and use their "Community Partners Card." We have plenty of these cards for the parents of Miraloma. Call Amy O'Hair at 334-5154 for a card.

Rainbow Grocery Scrip

Call or email Amy O'Hair at 334-5154 amy@ohair-sherman.com to purchase Rainbow Grocery Scrip during the summer.

Thank You

Contributed by Laurrie Petrelli

I would like to thank all those parents & grandparents who gave their time, money, food and flower donations for the teacher/staff appreciation luncheon. The lunch room looks fresh and clean with new counter tops and cabinets, fresh paint, new dish drainer and mug racks. Soon the window coverings will have new shades on them. This has been a big project and will be ongoing thru next year. A special thanks to Rich Kescskemeti (Kali's dad) and crew for donating many hours of labor and materials, and also to Eddie Farbrother (Karry Jane's dad) for donating time to paint the window frames and the sink cabinet. Thanks to everyone who helped make this happen.

Principal's Corner

By Marcia Parrott, Principal

As we come to a close, I want to thank everyone for making this year's experiences successful and fun for our students, staff, families and community.

As our families of 5th grade students move on to middle school and as one teacher retires and another has a baby (and a para-professional who may be laid off...), we wish them well. We thank them for their hard work and commitment, and hope they will visit and share in the new adventures our school will have in 2004 - 2005.

It just keeps getting better and each of you plays an important part in making this school so special!

Have a fun-filled and safe summer vacation!

Important Dates:

All students are expected to attend school on Tuesday and Wednesday, June 8th and 9th.

Monday, June 7th - 10 am - Kindergarten Promotion Ceremonies, in each Kindergarten classroom.

10 am - 1:30 - 5th grade picnic, in Miraloma (Sandy) Park.

Tuesday, June 8th - 9 am - 5th grade Promotion Ceremonies, in the auditorium. Refreshments will be served in the cafeteria. Families are invited to take their 5th graders out to lunch.

Wednesday, June 9th - Last day of school. Day ends at 1:50 pm. School will resume after summer break on Monday, 08/30/04.

Monday 05/24	Tuesday 05/25	Wednesday 05/26	Thursday 05/27	Friday 05/28
English Language Advisory Council (ELAC)			School Advisory Council (SAC)	Parent Principal Chat 8:30 AM
Monday 05/31	Tuesday 06/01	Wednesday 06/02	Thursday 06/03	Friday 06/04
Memorial Day NO SCHOOL	PTA Family Pot Luck 6:00 PM Cafeteria			
Monday 06/07	Tuesday 06/08	Wednesday 06/09	Thursday 06/10	Friday 06/11
Kindergarten Promotion Ceremony 10 AM 5th Grade Picnic 10-1:30 Sandy Park	5ht Grade Promotion Ceremony 9 AM Ms. Evers Retirement Party 5:30 PM Library	Last Day of School Have a safe summer!		