

June 2011



Dear Parents and Students,

I hope that you are all having a wonderful summer. We are very busy preparing for the 2011-2012 school year. As always, summer will literally fly by, and we'll be seeing you all very soon; we're all looking forward to another great, and very full, year!

Please remember that our Registration days are Monday, August 29th from 9-12 p.m. and 1-3 p.m., and Tuesday, August 30th, from 9-12 p.m. **only**. During both Registration days, families and students may check Homeroom placements, visit classrooms, meet teachers, and pick up ordered logo items. **Visiting school during Registration is NOT REQUIRED**, and ALL forms and fees must be returned to MTS not later than Thursday, July 21. Logo clothing must be ordered well in advance and will be held for pickup, but school supplies will need to be purchased elsewhere. After-school childcare sign-ups must be taken care of prior to Registration, as should After-School Enrichment class enrollments. Regular after-school childcare begins on the first day of school, Wednesday, August 31st. After-School Enrichment classes and other school activities begin the week of September 5th, including cross country team practices. Our Library is open after school hours, from 3:15-4:00 p.m., Monday through Thursday, and closed on Fridays, beginning on Wednesday, August 31st. The complete schedule of all of our after-school activities will be finalized during the first week of school; we'll keep you posted.

Thanks to the dedicated parents and friends of MTS who volunteered to help us out this summer, and to all of our parents who help so much throughout the school year, beginning with Registration and accelerating through Graduation. We are very grateful for all of your many, many efforts on behalf of our children and our school, and we value so highly the spirit and the generosity of your commitment. We need you, we love you, and we can't do it without you!

We will be holding our First Day Coffee for parents of students in Grades 1-8 on August 31st from 7:30-8:30 a.m. in the Patio area near the Art room. The Coffee for parents of Kindergarten/K-1 students will take place there as well on Thursday, September 1st, so that Kindergarten parents will have a chance to bring their children into class and then meet with each other briefly. Please plan to carpool, as only the blacktop areas will be available for parking.

As in the past, eighth graders will meet and greet Kindergarten students at arrival each morning to walk them into their homeroom from their first day of school through the end of September. Our students like this arrangement, and it gives the Kindergartners a chance to mingle with the eighth graders, the class of 2012.

Parent Open Houses are scheduled as follows:

Grades 1 & 8	Tuesday	September	6	7 p.m.
Grades 2 & 3	Wednesday	September	7	7 p.m.
Grades 6 & 7	Thursday	September	8	7 p.m.
Grades 4 & 5	Tuesday	September	20	7 p.m.
Kindergarten/K-1	Wednesday	September	21	7 p.m.

Please mark your calendars and plan to attend.

School pictures will be taken on Wednesday, September 7th (Grades K-8) with any necessary retakes scheduled at a later date. Color photographs are taken, individual and class. Students wear dress uniforms for their school pictures; girls **MUST** wear dresses and pinafores (K-3), skirts and middy tops (4-8) All boys **MUST** wear white, short sleeved polo shirts. Special order forms will be sent home with your child early in the school year; these should be returned as soon as you've selected the picture package you want. Peter Gerba will be back this year, he always does such a great job on the school photos! Peter plans to take the group pictures outdoors, and the individual student shots will be taken indoors to ensure the best possible results. We expect the completed photographs before Thanksgiving, so that pictures will be available for holiday gifts. Say cheese!

We ask that all families make every attempt to carpool, bus, bike or walk to and from school. We operate with great complexity during arrival and dismissal and we need every MTS family to be as flexible and cooperative as possible. Please arrange to stagger your delivery and pickup times in order to minimize congestion in our neighborhood and school parking lot.

Students may be dropped off in the morning, Monday-Friday, from 7:30 until 8:09 a.m.; school begins promptly at 8:10 and all students must be in their homerooms by that time. The library is open before school from 7:30-8:05 a.m. Afternoon pickup, Monday-Thursday, **BEGINS at 3:00 p.m.**, and lasts until 3:30 p.m., with after-school activities 3:15-4:00 p.m. and childcare until 6 Monday-Friday. Friday pickup **BEGINS at 2:15** and lasts until 2:45 p.m. **Parents and drivers must not arrive at school before the 2:15 or 3:00 p.m. dismissal times, and are asked to stagger their pickup times.** Southern Marin students (Mill Valley, Sausalito, Belvedere, Tiburon) may not be collected until the latter part of dismissal so that students and families needing to travel north on 101 may be collected first. Parents and drivers are not able to park and come into the school **at any time** during arrival and dismissal, so please leave messages on the school answering machine and send notes/messages into school through your children. School buses depart immediately following dismissal for the Southern Marin, Northern

Marin, Mill Valley, Sausalito and San Francisco routes; students riding the school buses need to report to the loading areas **immediately** after they are dismissed.

The beginning of each new school year carries with it renewed commitment and belief in the importance and the impact of a comprehensive elementary school education. **We are truly grateful for the opportunity and the joy of working with you and your children, and we are continually and eternally convinced that in each child is the presence of a hero, a spirit like no other, a unique and individual being capable of unbounded success and limitless accomplishments.** We thank you for your belief and your faith in us, for your ongoing involvement and support, for your commitment to Mount Tamalpais School. My faculty and staff join me in anticipation of a full, enriching and exciting year with you and your family. We'll see you all very soon!

Sincerely,

Kathleen M. Mecca, Ph.D., Ed. D.
Director