



# Millbrae Nursery School

September 2014  
Newsletter



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## Director's Note

As we prepare for the new school year, some things remain the same and some things change. We need to be open for change and growth. Our vision and goal to serve the kiddos and the families that chose to partner with our program and staff remains the same. That means exploring, learning and playing in a rich environment. The teachers have the background to implement these techniques, but without *your* support in the classroom and at our school events, growth comes very slowly if at all. We will continue offering quality staff and a quality school. We work with the County Office of Education and the programs that they support; i.e. the preschool foundations – Common Core – Best Practice for you and your children - Raising a Reader - Virtual Pre K. Our school is refurbished and new but still needs gentle use and care.

There is always excitement as teachers start the new school year; preparing the rooms, cubbies, and lesson plans - the same excitement the kiddos experience. I hope the excitement is contagious and you are enthusiastic and eager to be at Millbrae Nursery School too.

Let me take this opportunity to introduce the support staff that work in the classroom, our teachers' aides. These staff members have been with us anywhere from 3 to 20 years. They are alumni that understand the philosophy of our school, and most whose children have graduated from our program. They are: Audrey \* Fanny \* Ghada \* Manal \* Maura \* Nadia \* Nick \* Rika \* Tessa.

Welcome to the Millbrae Nursery 2014-2015 school year! I hope you find this year a rewarding and exciting school year.

Always, Teacher Brigidan

## 2's & 3's Class

A brand new year at Millbrae Nursery School, we welcome you and hope to build a great relationship with you. We hope everyone had a fun and relaxing summer. Teacher Norma and Teacher Megan spent some of their summer at school teaching the summer program. They both tried to add a few small vacations in before the school year started. We both are excited to start the New Year and can't wait to see and get to know the kiddos in our class. Our goal for this month will be for each of us to get to know each other and our families. We will also help everyone get familiar with the classroom. The colors we will be working with are red and yellow, and we will be learning about the circle shape. We can't wait to get the year started and meet all the children.

Welcome to preschool,  
Teacher Megan & Teacher Norma

## 3's & 4's Class

Welcome back! I hope that you all enjoyed your summer and are ready to get back into the school routine. I'll start this month's letter with a little bit about myself.

My name is Sandra Diodati and I am the lead teacher for the 3 and 4 year old classroom. This will be my third year here at Millbrae Nursery School and I have learned so much from my colleagues and fellow teachers, our MNS families, and of course the kiddos. My interest in Early Childhood education started at a young age and continued throughout high school and college. After several years working in the field of Health Education, I went back to school to get my degree and certificate in Early Childhood Education. My favorite part of working with children is getting to know each and every child- their unique personality, interests, and families.

This month we will start by building a classroom community- getting to know one another, making new friends, and learning the school routine. We will be talking about ourselves- what makes us different and similar to each other. We will be discussing feelings and how we express them.

I'm looking forward to getting to know our new and returning families. We are partners in your children's educational experience, so please feel free to share ideas, thoughts, concerns, and/or special talents with me so that we can incorporate these into our curriculum. Families bring richness into the classroom and provide for more well-rounded experiences for all.

Here's to a fantastic new school year!  
Teacher Sandra

## Pre-K Class

Welcome new families, and welcome back returning families! Look how these kiddos have grown... Was it just yesterday that they were newborns and now they are preparing for Kindergarten?

Some important educational goals that we need to help prepare them for are:

Being well rested: Make sure your child is getting enough sleep.

Being on time for school: This is an important indicator of success and high priority for preschool, elementary school and the 16 yrs. of education they will experience.

Team work: Working together with their classmates and teachers. Listening, and also communicating with everyone.

Critical Thinking Skills: Finding solutions to the many experiences they will have in class and at home.

Are you ready? – Get Set – Let's Go!  
Teacher Brigidan

## We put the FUN in Fundraising

Dear new and returning families - Welcome to school! We are looking forward to lots of fun events for this school year, kicking it off with our annual See's Candy bar sale, which were given out at orientation.

This year we have lots of other great opportunities for families to reach your \$400 fundraising obligation, from restaurant nights, All Fired Up ceramics, pasta night and art sale - to our big silent auction in March.

The money that we will be raising helps us pay for our enrichment programs for the children, such as Playball, Music and Movement, and Storyteller Olive, as well as extra supplies for classroom projects.



Thanks and Welcome,

*Amy Grady & Mayra Alvarez*

# Meet the MNS Board

**Tiffany Chu, Board Co-President** Hi Everyone. My name is Tiffany Chu and I am your Co-President along with Sarah Wells at Millbrae Nursery School; this will be our family's third school year and my son Evan will be in the 3-4 year old class with Teacher Sandra. We came to join Millbrae Nursery School after a former co-worker of mine spoke very fondly and strongly recommended it to me. After two years at the school our family has forged many great friendships and have reaped the benefits of a co-op system. I wanted to give back by joining the Board. My first year I served as Human Resources, second year as Special Events Coordinator, and this year as Co-President.

As Co-Presidents, Sarah and I hope to increase efficiency, better manage school jobs, and create more transparent channels of communication. We are here to help your family succeed in a co-op school environment; please don't hesitate to reach out to us with feedback on how to better processes or your experience.

As we begin a new school year I have a couple of tips to share:

- 1) Take a picture of your child with their backpack standing in front of your front door; take a backside view too so you can capture what backpack they're wearing. Do the same on the last day of school. You will be amazed at how much they have grown.
- 2) Buy frames with a mat to frame your child's classroom artwork. Present it as a gift to grandparents and/or loved ones for birthdays or holidays. It also serves as great artwork to hang in your homes.
- 3) As a working mom, I don't get the privilege or luxury of picking up my son from school. I always make time to ask him what he learned, what he had for snack time, and if he made someone smile today.

I wish you all a wonderful school year!

**Sarah Wells, Board Co-President** Hello! I am Sarah Wells and I am Co-President. My older son, Matthew, just graduated from MNS and is doing great in his first few weeks of kindergarten. My younger son, William, is in his second year at MNS and will be in Sandra's class. I am excited to meet all of the new families and to help create an enriching community for all of our kiddos.

**Amy Grady, Fundraising Co-Chair** My name is Amy Grady and I am one of the 2 co-Fundraising Chairs. My son Leo is in the Pre-k and has been attending Millbrae Nursery School since he was in Teacher Megan's 2-3 year old class. I also have an older daughter, Alexandra, who is entering 2nd grade at Spring Valley Elementary. I am very excited to be working with all of you and am looking forward to a wonderful school year.

**Amanda Brown, Financial Clerk** I will be serving the board by computing extended care hours each month, also known as the financial clerk. My son, Hudson is in the 2-3 year class and my other son, Zander, is an MNS alumni.



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# Meet the MNS Board

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**Gisel Martin, Secretary** Hello I'm Gisel Martin, the secretary on the board. This year, my daughter Salma is in the 3-4 year class, my daughter Andrea is now a 1st grader at Lomita Park, and my son just turned 1. Our family is now entering our 3rd year at MNS. We are very excited to continue our involvement with the MNS community. My husband I would like to welcome the new families and express our appreciation for the teachers at MNS. We are also very grateful for the wonderful strategies that we have gained to improve our parenting skills.

**Megan Garner, Nutrition Chair** Hello! My name is Megan Garner. I am the Nutritionist/Purchaser for our snack program. My son Sam is in the 3-4yr class. And I have a little baby, Tom, that is usually hanging around too :-) I'll be sending out an email in a couple of weeks explaining the snack requirement in detail. If you have any questions, please email me, or just stop me at school. I don't have a work day but I'm around a lot. I'm looking forward to a fun and eventful year!

## Meet Carla



Carla Jonoubeh has been involved at Millbrae Nursery School, first beginning as a parent, board member and then being hired on as a staff member. All four of her children attended Millbrae Nursery School, beginning with her eldest in 1992. As Carla's youngest child graduated from MNS, she was hired to stay on as the Admissions Coordinator. Carla continues to take classes at local colleges and believes that education is one gift that you can give to yourself, which no one can take from you. Being involved at MNS helps to foster her love of family and belief that parents need to be advocates for their children, "I thoroughly enjoy working with young families and encouraging them to be involved in their child's education." She has been married almost 30 years, enjoys spending time with her family and friends, and loves travel, music, yoga and learning new things.

## Mark Your Calendar!

- **Sept. 2** First Day of School
- **Week of Sept. 2** See's Candy Bar Sale Kick-off
- **Sept. 8** 6 PM Board Meeting, All are welcome
- **Week of September 15** Parent Ed Meetings (Right after your workday)
- **Sept. 27** 9AM – 1PM Maintenance Party for K-Z Families (Mandatory Event)