

**Laurel School**  
**Menlo Park City School District**

August 4, 2008

Dear Parents,

I am delighted to welcome all our new and returning families to the 2008-2009 Laurel School year. The entire Laurel professional team is looking forward to another stimulating and successful school year with all your children.

Over the summer Laurel's modernization projects began with the painting of all our permanent buildings, the construction of brand new pathways and landscaping throughout the school grounds, renovations to all of the Kindergarten classrooms, the installation of SMART Boards within all classrooms, and a new office breeze-way. Even though the continuing modernization projects for the 2008-09 school year present some logistical challenges for some of our programs, the flexibility and collaborative spirit of our professional staff and school community will certainly result in a highly successful year for all our children. It is very exciting to see our school site facility planning efforts become a reality!

To kick-off the year we have some teacher room assignment changes to accommodate our modernization projects going on in the G building, as well as some new staff and new teachers' names. Sue Peterson's 1st grade classroom is now in room D3 for the remainder of the year, moving our Music program to the area nearest the stage in the Multi. Our second grade teachers from the G building are relocated to the C building until mid-November; Cilla Seely will be in room C1, Steffany Cressey will be in room C2, Jeriann Hirsch/Andi Dehne will be in room C4, Sandra Horwitz will be in room C3, and Andrea Mazzoncini will be in room C5. Brynn Cahill will be joining our second grade team and will be in room E1. I am very pleased to welcome back to Laurel our new librarian, Gail Bradley. Gail has been a parent in our school, a past Laurel PTO president, and most recently the librarian at Encinal School. I also want to welcome our new part-time Art Specialist, Anna Herzlinger to our staff. Anna will be co-planning with Stephanie Noon, and teaching Art at Laurel every Wednesday. And returning to Laurel to join Judy Fairbrother in providing reading support services to our Laurel students, is the District's BTSA Advisor and our new part-time Reading Specialist, Bets McKnight. A special congratulations to our newly wed teachers! Christen Oberdoerster is now Mrs. Snyder, and Whitney Engle is now Mrs. Argyres.

Your child's classroom will be posted in the school office window on **Thursday August 21th at 4:00 PM, with school opening on Monday, August 25th**. More information about our school program can be found on our school website at [www.mpcsd.org](http://www.mpcsd.org), and our PTO website, [laurelPTO.org](http://laurelPTO.org).

\* Classes will begin for all students on **Monday, August 25th** with the following weekly time schedule:

<b>Mon.,Tues.,Wed.,Fri.</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Session Kindergarten	<b>8:20 AM - 12:20 PM</b>
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Session Kindergarten	<b>10:20 AM - 2:50 PM</b>
	1st and 2 <sup>nd</sup> grades	<b>8:25 AM - 2:55 PM</b>
<b>Thursday "Altogether Day"</b> (For staff development and program planning)	<b>All K, 1st &amp; 2<sup>nd</sup> grades</b>	<b>8:25 AM - 1:40 PM</b>

Our opening day coffees, hosted by the Laurel PTO, will be held Monday, August 25rd at 8:25 & 10:20 AM on the school patio near the arbor. This is a wonderful opportunity for you to meet other Laurel parents and learn more about the many ways you may actively participate within the Laurel School program.

Our "Back to School Night" will be held on **Thursday, September 4th** at 7:00 PM. At this time your child's teacher will present the goals and expectations of their instructional program and provide information concerning the overall Laurel program. Because of the depth and breadth of the information, I encourage you to come to this very important event without your children.

You and your child are a very special part of our school community, and I am committed toward doing all I can to ensure open and ongoing communications between our Laurel families and the school. I am looking forward to working with you and your children as we enjoy the events of the 2008-09 school year.

Sincerely,

Nancy K. Hendry, Principal