



Ring Mountain News

A Publication of Ring Mountain Day School www.ringmountain.org

October 11, 2006

**SPECIAL
ADMIN
EDITION**

Can You Walk the Walk?

Are you walking with us down by the Bay? Ring Mountain will be lining up at the starting gate this Sunday, October 15, for the school's 5th Annual Walkathon. If you haven't turned in your registration form, it's not too late, and we welcome last minute entries on the day of the event – we don't want anyone to miss the fun!

This year we will be walking at McNearns Beach State Park, a beautiful spot on the Bay. The climbing wall, the jumper and giant slide that the kids love will be there, the DJ will be spinning tunes to keep us moving and there will be plenty of food to fuel our athletes and their families. Choose a sandwich from the grill or a delectable salad: our friends at Comforts and Kitti's have provided their famous Chinese Chicken Salads, and wait until you get a whiff of the sausages, generously contributed by Aidell's! Top it off with a sweet treat from our Bake



Sale, homemade goodies from Ring Mountain family kitchens (and buy a few extra for next week's lunch-box). You won't want to miss a visit to our Ring Mountain Alumni Jamba Juice Bar, where returning Ring

Mountain graduates will serve you a refreshing smoothie.

This year, because we are so close to the Bay, we know that the beach will be another attraction of the event. If you have a child who loves the water, you may wish to pack a towel, some sand toys and maybe some extra clothes. Don't forget the camera and the sunscreen!

Although the day is meant to

bring the Ring Mountain community together for fun, it has an important purpose behind it. This is the Parent Association's major fund raising event of the year, and not only provides the resources for the PA's other events, it also allows us to fund materials and programs on the school's wish list that might not otherwise be available. Last year



we were able to raise \$13,000 that was divided between preschool and E/M needs. Whether your family collects pledges or chooses to donate a flat fee, we hope the efforts of our student athletes will be

generously rewarded. In addition, we are grateful to our sponsors and our merchant donors who have kindly supported the event.

The Walkathon itself will start at 11:00 am, after a set of warm-up exercises to get us ready and will conclude at noon, at which time the amusements will be open. Students should arrive between 10:00 and 10:45 to check in and collect their souvenir gift. If you have signed up for a volunteer shift, (thank you, volunteers!!) please check in at the volunteer station for instructions, and arrive for your shift on time, so that everyone gets a chance to spend time with their families.

If you have never been to our Walkathon and have any doubt that it is something your preschooler or older student would enjoy, ask a teacher or classmate who has been there before – or look at the faces in the photos from last year; the joy, determination and triumph are all there. We hope you will be there too!



CALENDAR

**WALKATHON AND
PICNIC FUNDRAISER**
Sun., Oct. 15
10:30-3:00
McNearns Beach State Park

**E/M PARENT/TEACHER
CONFERENCES**
E/M SCHOOL CLOSED
Thurs., October 19

**E/M ADMISSIONS OPEN
HOUSE**
Sunday, October 22

**PRESCHOOL PARENT/
TEACHER
CONFERENCES**
October 23-27
November 1-3

Walking with Us!

We are grateful to our Merchant Sponsors for their generous support of Walkathon and encourage our families to show their appreciation with their patronage:

Aidell's Sausage
Comforts
Catering/ Restaurant
Costco
Jamba Juice
Kitti's Place
Long's Drug Stores
Mollie Stone's Markets
Mill Valley Safeway
Corte Madera Safeway
The Water Store

We also wish to thank our Walkathon Patrons for underwriting the event:

Marcelle Hinand-Cady and Steve Cady
Dr. Sean Carlson - business sponsor
Steven Hao & Erica Dao
Anthony & Cynthia DeRose
Michael & Nancy Diamonti
Eyetime Media
Julia Evans
Maia Madden
Jennifer Muller
David & Heather Olitsky
Richard Steele & Dana Linker Steele
Katie Sullivan
Steven & Robin Tuch
Anthony & Kirsty Williams



Getting the News to You

Five regular editions of the Newsletter have been planned for this year, tentatively scheduled for Nov. 2-3, Dec. 14-15, Mar. 8-9, April 19-20 and June 1. These newsletters will include information from the Parent Association, the Board of Trustees and the Directors, as well as classroom reports from the teachers. In addition, two "Admin" editions are scheduled (or more, if the need arises) which will not include the teacher reports, but will include important information about upcoming activities. Because teachers are currently busy preparing conference reports, our first newsletter of the year is an Admin edition.

Ring Mountain News is a monthly publication of Ring Mountain Day School.

*Preschool, Pre-K Camus
215 A Blackfield Drive
Tiburon, CA 94920
(415) 381-8181*

*Elementary/Middle School
Campus
70 Lomita Drive
Mill Valley, CA 94941
(415) 381-8183
fax: (415) 381-8484*

*Copyright 2006 by
Ring Mountain Day School.*

*Editorial:
Nancy Diamonti,
Head of School;
Laura DiStasi,
Preschool Director
Suzanne Geller,
Elementary Director
Carolyn Brown,
layout design*

FROM THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Board Moves Forward

You heard at Back-to-School night about the exciting work your children will be doing this year. I'd like to tell you about the exciting work the Board of Trustees will be doing. But first I'd like to again thank Ruth Epstein, for her many years of hard work as Board Chair, and Karen LeFurgy and Julie Rudick, for their tireless dedication and support of RMDS while serving on the Board for the past few years. Ring Mountain wouldn't be the special place it is today if it weren't for their strong commitment to the ongoing success of the school. Thank you Ruth, Karen and Julie!

As you've surely heard by now, the Board welcomed two new members over the summer, Andrea Dyer and Jim Kiles. Both Andrea and Jim have valuable business experience and Board experience that will greatly benefit Ring Mountain as we focus on some important initiatives this year, such as developing a long-range strategic plan, expanding and improving community relations, enhancing diversity at our school and obtaining CAIS accreditation for our elementary/middle school programs.

The following Board committees are in place and you will be hearing more from them in the coming weeks:

Community Relations Committee –

Andrea Dyer, Chair

Development Committee –

Marcy Cady, Chair

Diversity Committee –

Suzanne Geller, Chair

Finance Committee –

Jim Chestnut, Chair

Site Committee –

Pam Hamamoto, Chair

Strategic Planning Committee –

Nancy Diamonti, Chair

30th Anniversary Committee –

Marielle Fagersten, Chair

Trustee Committee –

Michele Miller, Chair

I feel we have a very talented group of Board members (see Board bios, following) who are excited about moving the school forward and achieving many important goals in the coming years. We are all looking forward to a productive and rewarding school year!

Pam Hamamoto

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

2006 – 2007

Marcelle Hinand Cady:

Marcy Cady has served on the Board of Trustees since 2005. For the past year she has been Program Director for the Arts at the James Irvine Foundation in San Francisco, where she currently serves as a consultant. Prior to joining the Foundation, Marcy was a senior consultant with the TCC Group, a national consulting firm. With the TCC Group, she designed and managed programs for several leading foundations in the arts field, including the Ford Foundation's New Directions/New Donors for the Arts initiative, the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation's Philadelphia Community Partners in Arts Access initiative, and the Lila Wallace-Reader's Digest Fund's Audiences for Literature Network. Marcy also led strategic planning, evaluation, and program planning assignments with a wide variety of nonprofit organizations. Prior to working as a consultant, she directed the San Francisco Bay Area Program of the Cultural Facilities Fund, and held program staff positions respectively at the Lila Wallace-Reader's Digest Fund and the National Endowment for the Arts. She has served as a member of the literature panel for the New York State Council on the Arts (a gubernatorial appointment), and was president of Small Press Distribution in Berkeley. Marcy is the coauthor of two books on cultural participation. She holds a bachelor's degree in English from Skidmore College, and a Master of Fine Arts from Brown University.

Jim Chestnut:

Jim Chestnut was elected to the Board in 2005 and currently serves as its Treasurer. He is Chief Financial Officer at San Francisco University High School where he manages all accounting and financial reporting, human resources, risk management, legal affairs, purchasing, facilities management, management information systems and community relations. Prior to SFUHS he worked as a consultant for Wryte Systems, Inc. in Glenbrook, NV and San Francisco, CA where he advised clients on strategic information requirements and developed database solutions to manage, record and report on the implementation of specific projects and/or the achievement of overall business objectives.

Continued on page 3

From 1988 – 1990 he worked as Director of Marketing and Sales for Alcan Aluminum Ltd. (Rapak Division) in Hayward, CA and from 1980 – 1988 he worked in Marketing/Financial Planning & Management for FMC Corporation in Chicago, IL and Madera, CA. He earned his BA from Northern Illinois University and his MBA from J.L. Kellogg Graduate School of Management.

Nancy Diamonti:

Nancy Diamonti has been Head of School since 1999. She has her Ph.D. in Child and Adolescent Psychology and Educational Leadership from Boston College. Nancy has also completed her doctoral coursework in Curriculum and Instruction and Educational Policy Studies from the University of Wisconsin, Madison. Her MA is also from UW- Madison in Reading and Learning Differences. Her BA is from Caldwell College, Caldwell, New Jersey in History and Elementary Education. She has 40 years in education, 22 in public and private schools as a Principal/Head of School. She has been a Reading/Learning Specialist and taught grades 1-4 and Graduate and Undergraduate level courses at the University of Wisconsin and the University of New Hampshire.

Andrea Dyer:

Andrea Dyer was elected to the Board of Trustees in 2006. She is a founder of Demeter Matrix Alliance, an alliance of senior practitioners who provide coaching, consulting, education, and facilitation to guide leaders and organizations in their efforts to create sustainable excellence. Since 1997 her organizational work has been focused on enhancing leadership and organizational capability, and strategic partner alliances as well as enabling strategy implementation, and organizational learning and effectiveness. She works with leaders and teams in a way that creates conditions where both the people and the organizations can thrive. Additionally, she provides coaching to individuals who are interested in integrating change in their lives - supporting them in realizing increased fulfillment and effectiveness. Recently she has been leading women's circles of development,

a nine-month program focused on individual and collective development.

Since 1994 she has been member of the Board of Directors of the Community Music Center, a San Francisco-based nonprofit organization whose mission is to make music accessible to all people, regardless of financial status. Andrea lives in Tiburon, California with her husband, Mike, and three sons, Cole, Owen and Quinn. She earned a BA in Economics from the University of California, Santa Barbara.

Ruth Epstein:

Ruth Epstein has served on the Board of Trustees since 1997 and as Board Chair from 1998 – 2006. She is a Screenwriter/Independent Producer with credits including "The Deal" and "We Don't Live Here Anymore." Prior to her film career, she worked in investment banking for Goldman Sachs in New York and San Francisco from 1988 to 1997, where she specialized in high technology and high yield. She earned an undergraduate degree from Wesleyan University in Economics and an MBA from Harvard University. She feels that serving on the RMDS board has been extraordinarily rewarding, and she is excited about the future of the school.

Julia Evans:

Julia Evans has served on the Board of Trustees since 1998, chairing the Annual Funds and a Capital Campaign. She is a physician, Board Certified in Emergency Medicine. Over the last several years she has acted as a physician consultant and patient advocate for people with complex medical conditions. In this capacity she assists patients in deciphering the increasingly confusing medical landscape; she coordinates multi-hospital specialist physician teams, optimizes treatment protocols and diagnostic testing, streamlines physician-to-physician communication and physician referrals, and assimilates research data into user-friendly packages. Julia has also worked with the city of Mill Valley and other medical-care providers to strategize and build out a comprehensive Emergency Preparation and Disaster Management plan.

Julia earned her Bachelor of Science from UCLA, followed by her M.D. from University of California San Diego School of Medicine, and completed her residency training and specialty Board Certification in Emergency Medicine through Harbor-UCLA Medical Center.

Marielle Fagersten:

Marielle Fagersten has served on the Board of Trustees since Jan 2002. Marielle started her career at EF Language Schools in The Netherlands in 1980 and became the Manager of The Netherlands in 1981. In 1986 she left EF and set up two companies in The Netherlands and Belgium, CCUSA and ASPECT. She has been involved in Cultural Student Exchange for over 25 years (High School and College programs in- and outbound; Language Schools in UK, USA, Canada, Australia, Italy, France, Germany, Spain; Au-Pair program; Internship programs in USA and Europe; Student Summer Work Travel programs).

Currently she is President of Camp Counselors USA (CCUSA). CCUSA is an internationally recognized organization that recruits counselors/employees from over 50 countries and provides cultural exchange programs of the highest quality at summer camps and in various work environments worldwide, both paid and volunteer work. The company has placed over 125,000 young adults in hundreds of summer camps and seasonal employers across the USA, Australia, New Zealand, UK, Europe, Brazil, Mexico, South Africa and Russia.

Additional community involvement includes Camp for Camps. She is running for Executive Board Member of GWEA (WYSE Work Abroad Association Executive International Board). She is also a scholarship sponsor for SCOPE, USA, Camp California, Croatia and "Do It 4 Real", UK.

Pam Hamamoto:

Pam Hamamoto has served on the Board of Trustees since 1999. She was elected Vice Chair in 2000 and Chair in 2006. From 1990 to 1999, she worked as an investment banker for Goldman Sachs in New York and San

Room Parents Wanted

There are several openings on our room parent list: Art from the Heart Room parents are needed in the Toddler Room, Garden Room, Pre-K A and C. Art from the Heart Room Parents assist the teachers in creating the Art Projects that will be auctioned at our Annual Auction & Dinner Dance on May 5. Most of this work is done after the New Year, but can be started earlier if desired. A little creativity and an interest in working with the children is all that is required.

In the Elementary/Middle School, room parents are needed in the Kindergarten, Grade 5 and Grade 7/8. These room parents assist the teachers with special projects and serve as a communication conduit between the Teachers, Parent Association, Administration and the families.

Being a room parent fulfills volunteer hour requirements and helps the classroom run more smoothly. If you have some time to spare, please consider this important function. Contact Laura DiStasi or Suzanne Geller if you can volunteer to be a room parent.

Francisco and for Merrill Lynch in Los Angeles. Prior to investment banking, she worked in strategic planning for GTE Corporation in Honolulu, Hawaii and as a civil engineer for PG&E in San Francisco.

Pam earned a BS and MS in Civil Engineering from Stanford University and an MBA from UCLA's Anderson School of Management. She also serves on the Parent Board Executive Committee at Marin Country Day School and as President of the Tiburon Girls Softball League.

Jim Kiles:

Jim Kiles was elected to the Board of Trustees in 2006. He is an experienced entrepreneur and investor. Jim has established, developed and sold enterprises in real estate and technology over the last 25+ years. At the height of the technology boom, Jim spearheaded media technology investments at Intel Corporation and was the architect of Intel's largest corporate spin out. Jim has served on the Board of Directors of many companies and looks forward to helping RMDS on its development path as a member of the Board of Trustees.



Walkathon 2005 photos by Don Schreiter and AJ Diamonti.