

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 12, 2006

Contact:

Tina Barni

Publications Manager

Marin Primary & Middle School

Tel: 415.924.2608, ext. 214

Fax: 415.924.9351

tbarni@mpms.org

Cross-Cultural Penpal Exchange Between Kindergartens in Larkspur and Landvätter, Sweden

The junior kindergarten class at Marin Primary & Middle School is celebrating the Swedish holiday of Sankta (Saint) Lucia's Day on Wednesday, December 13, at 10:30 a.m.

Mia Munson, a kindergarten teacher who grew up in Sweden and who has taught at Marin Primary & Middle School for seven years, is celebrating Sankta Lucia's Day with her junior kindergarten class. Mia's mother, Eva Cristenson, is a kindergarten teacher visiting from Landvätter, Sweden. They are piloting a penpal Internet exchange between their two classes.

This partnership promotes the school's mission to connect with other people around the world "to encourage our students to become informed, engaged, and ethical global citizens."

Mia and a junior kindergarten student will be dressed in the traditional white Lucia gowns. In lieu of the candle crown, they will wear battery-charged crowns of lights. Mia and Eva will sing three traditional Sankta Lucia songs for the students. Mia said, "It's important to teach other traditions to our students so they will be aware of how children around the world celebrate holidays."

The junior kindergarteners have baked and are decorating the traditional Sankta Lucia gingerbread cookies, pepparkakor, which they will eat with a non-alcoholic version of glögg, a spiced holiday drink.

The students from both classes created drawings of happiness, and Eva will be bringing the Swedish children's drawings to exchange with the Marin Primary & Middle School children's drawings. The two classes plan to continue their penpal exchange of photos and writings by computer.

Marin Primary & Middle School, founded in 1975, is a Pre-Kindergarten through eighth grade co-educational independent school located in Marin County, California. The school's curriculum is built around "teams of teaching." They believe education requires an integrated and interactive approach, inside the classroom and beyond - from physical education to science and technology, the arts and languages to outdoor education.

###