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Contact:
Tina Barni
Publications Manager
Marin Primary & Middle School
Tel: 415.924.2608, ext. 214
Fax: 415.924.9351
tbarni@mpms.org

Granting the Gift of Time — The MP&MS Junior Kindergarten Program

LARKSPUR, Calif. — Acting as a balance between preschool and kindergarten, the Marin Primary & Middle School Junior Kindergarten program provides a welcoming environment for children to ease into primary school.

Junior Kindergarten allows children to have another year to mature physically, developmentally and socially. “We want students to be confident, successful learners,” says Murray E. Lopdell Lawrence, Head of School.

“The Junior Kindergarten programs gives children the gift of time,” says Mia Munson, co-founding Junior Kindergarten teacher. “We’re letting them mature developmentally, and cultivate their social skills.”

Munson teaches with Marianne Thomas who is also a co-founder of the program that began in the 2004-2005 school year. Munson and Thomas have previously taught both in preschool and kindergarten.

The Junior Kindergarten curriculum involves project-based learning, pre-reading and writing skills, the introduction of math concepts and free play. Students also participate in projects lab, Spanish and drama classes along with field trips and physical education. The Junior Kindergarten program is in its second year. Enrollment is proving strong for 2006-2007. Junior Kindergarten has been so successful that it is now a permanent program in the school

Marin Primary & Middle School, founded in 1975, is a Pre-Kindergarten through eighth grade co-educational independent school located in Marin County, California. Their 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.

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