



# The Godmothers of Timothy Murphy School Year-end Newsletter

June, 2008

## The Big Picture Kids

*An Art Exhibition at the Bay Area  
Discovery Museum*

The Bay Area Discovery Museum presents *The Big Picture Kids*, May 29 through Sept. 7, 2008 in the Studio 10 gallery. The show features photographic work by students from the Timothy Murphy School situated on the historic St. Vincent's School for Boy's campus in San Rafael, California. This exhibition contains selections of images taken from a larger body of work created from January-May, 2008

Many of the images were shot on the highly picturesque school grounds. The work is a portrait of that unique place seen through the eyes of high school students in the art program at Timothy Murphy School. In accordance with school protocol, the identity of each student has been kept confidential.

Learning to use the camera as mode of exploration, students were asked to "see" the beauty in the world around them in new ways. The focus is on the details in nature and architecture, as well as the big picture, including landscapes. By learning to edit and critique their own work, they uncover and embrace their unique artistic perception.

The Bay Area Discovery Museum has previously exhibited the art work of young artists as well as the work of artists outside the mainstream as part of their mission to encourage creativity

and to foster appreciation for the transforming power of creativity in learning about oneself and the world.

Katherine Leonard, the instructor in the program at the Timothy Murphy School, says. "I believe in the innate creativity within each of us; every person is capable of finding and developing their own artistic sensibilities. Where ever they go from here, each student will carry the ability to find and create beauty and be familiar with the experience of personal satisfaction."

This exhibition was underwritten by the Godmothers. We are so proud of the boys and encourage you to visit it and see first hand one of the many ways that your hard work and energy is being put to work.





## Bingo 2008 – An English Garden Party

Lynn Elliott & Janet Barton

Co-chairs

This year's bingo saw the Timothy Murphy School cafeteria bloom into a beautiful garden party complete with tea pot centerpieces and garden themed table settings realized by the decorating dream team of Paula Sauve and Karen Lamson.

With the generous support of our donors and sponsors, we exceeded our goal and raised over \$26,000. The vendor boutique headed up by Boo Boero was a bustle of activity as Godmothers and their friends found treasures from jewelry and garden decorations to sun hats and artisan olive oil.

The silent auction, under the expert supervision of Chris Feibusch, was our biggest ever with 43 items most of which sold at or above value. The misto salad and vegetarian cannelloni expertly prepared by Ristorante La Toscana was absolutely delicious. Diane Sandquist guided her kitchen crew and serving team with the usual enthusiastic camaraderie that makes it so much fun to work this event. The highly sought after prize baskets were abundantly amazing thanks to Basket Committee Head Dolores Dougherty and her team of helpers.

The Bingo luncheon is one of our biggest fundraisers and we are looking for a few Godmothers to head various committees and bring fresh ideas to next year's event. Thank you to the many, many volunteers that helped to make this year's event a blooming success. Consider volunteering in one of the many facets of Bingo Luncheon next year, it's always fun and you are always welcome.

Did you love the sweet treats at this year's Bingo luncheon? You can order them from Godmothers friend and supporter, Stacey Wetmore at Stacey's Sweet Sensations  
707-546-5956

### Mother's Poem

The Godmothers of Timothy Murphy School  
Are to be greatly admired  
For they give their time and talents  
To keep TMS boys inspired.

The boys at this particular school  
Have had problems in their past  
And the Godmothers show each of them  
That someone cares...at last.

Fundraising is way of life.  
Bingo Luncheon, Pumpkin Patch, the Valentine Ball  
Bring monies needed for the library, computers,  
Even new uniforms for one & all.

The boys have learned through photography and art  
To show their talents and explore their heart.  
The Merit Store makes saving points fun.  
And Life Skills offers opportunity to each one.

While the boys are grateful for all that they do  
Some day, as men, they'll understand even more  
That what the Godmothers really gave them  
Was the love they were searching for.

*Martha Vasquez,*

*Mother of a Godmother*

*and a Godmother member, living in Virginia*

*May 31, 2008*



## Life Skills: Lower School Boys Transform Hallway with New Mural!

By Linda Graber

The Lower School boys transformed the hallway to the Computer Lab and Library with a bright, fresh new look – an impressionist-style mural of horses and riders, plus multi-colored panels. The April and May Life Skills lessons for the Lower School emphasized teamwork: when the boys cooperate and work together, they can accomplish something marvelous.

Sara Henry, a Godmother Life Skills volunteer and professional artist, designed the mural, 4 feet high and 21 feet long. She drew a grid on the wall with over 70 squares. The other volunteers sketched in pencil lines, so Sara's design filled up the entire grid, like a giant coloring book page on graph paper. Each Lower School boy painted his own square according to the overall design. When all of the squares were complete, the mural popped together as a total scene.

For the following lesson in May, the boys completed the hallway's new look by adding the multi-colored panels. They learned the basics of painting: how to tape off sections, use brushes, and paint with rollers. The boys are really proud of their work – come and see!

### SAVE THE DATE !!

**Saturday, September 13th**

for the

**Godmother's 10th**

**Anniversary Celebration**

**"Rock Around the Clock"**

**in the courtyard**

**at St. Vincent's. There will be great**

**food,  
great  
dancing  
music,  
and lots  
more!**



## What do the Godmothers do?

By Janet Barton

The Godmothers involvement at TMS is constantly expanding and changing. What started just 10 years ago as a positive "motherly" influence in the lives of the boys has evolved into an integral part of their education and development.

We established the library and have continued to expand and improve it every year. There is a nice selection of stuffed animals that can be held and cuddled while reading a favorite book.

We built the computer lab and have recently upgraded all the hardware and facilitated internet access. We have added computers to some classrooms as well.

The Life Skills program that we pioneered is evolving and improving with field trips, hands on lesson plans and curriculum enhancement.

The newly opened Merit Store has been an incredibly positive addition that rewards good behavior and cooperative interaction.

Working with St. Vincent's, the Godmothers are funding a new uniform program for the boys that will help improve self-esteem giving the boys a sense of pride in their school with blue TMS logo sweatshirts and white polo shirts.

When a boy leaves the school, he no longer has to arrive at this new destination with his belongings in a plastic bag, the Godmothers provide a selection of luggage that he can choose from.

With summer here and school in recess, please take a minute to renew your commitment to the Godmothers. Consider how you can continue to nurture and support the boys of Timothy Murphy School. Look for the invitation in your mailbox mid-August to attend the back to school wine and cheese party on September 8th and join us in helping to give these boys a brighter future.



The Godmothers  
of  
Timothy Murphy School  
at  
St. Vincent's

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Don't forget to renew your membership!

**Message from the President:**

My first year as President of the Godmothers has brought me joy and happiness. I have found this group to be more than I ever expected. Everyone has been working hard to achieve one goal. "Helping the boys become young men." So many of the boys have overcome extraordinary obstacles. The Godmothers can applaud themselves for implementing the many programs we have put in place and continue to support.

Through these programs, the boys have started working in our community. Some are working at local stores throughout Marin County. Thank you for enriching the lives of these young men.

Working closely with the Staff at Timothy Murphy School and the St. Vincent's Staff at the group homes where the boys live, we have built a stronger bond. We have started a family atmosphere that will flow through to the everyday lives of the boys.

I am so proud to have this relationship.

I believe we can all bring positive changes to the boys as we go forward. The Godmothers are always accepting new friends and talents to our unique group. Please ask a friend to join. The commitment is up to you, what time and energy you are able to give. We will always support that commitment. Volunteers are what makes our family grow.

I would like to thank all the Godmothers for their generous work last year. Without all of the support, I could not have achieved such joy and happiness. Thank you for believing in me.

I know that, with your continued enthusiasm, our next year will bring more fun and excitement to the school and to the boys. There will be a new look around the school this fall with the uniforms that the Godmothers are providing for the boys.

Have a great summer and I hope to see you at the wine and cheese membership party in September.

Sincerely,

Karen Lamson