

**March 21, 2007, KEEP week 3**  
**See your KEEP funds in action!**

**KEEP Us Artistic**  
**KEEP Us Creative**

**Loma Prieta**  
**Music, Visual & Performing**  
**Arts Program**

The MVP Program provides each student in K-5 with a 10 week long rotation of each of 3 arts branches: music, visual art, and dance. It is funded by KEEP. Without doubt, research proves that an arts education helps our kids in all areas of academics. Children with classes in the arts perform better on testing (from STAR to SATs) than children without. The arts also connect our children with our humanity, a priceless gift to carry with them throughout their lives.

Thank you, parents, for giving to KEEP.

**Music:**

Our Loma music classes are led by the talented Kristin Allen following the Orff music education philosophy based on the instinctual responses kids have to music. Since music is an ever-changing art form, full of improvisation and creativity, students actively participate in this process by creating their own music. They also learn the tried and true music from our cultural canon.

Ms. Allen describes her experience this year: "The kids are able to get a sense of how music ties in with and stems from the human condition - for instance, we've been studying spirituals lately, and they are getting an in-depth look into the history of songs and dances that are hundreds of years old, stemming from the need for slaves to uplift their spirits, all the way into the Civil Rights movement. They learn that music arises out of the basic human need to express ourselves, and that music is a way to connect with the community around us.

"Students seem to leave music class feeling connected with their peers, understanding that music is an essential element of the human experience, and that they themselves are an important part of music's process and creation."

**Art:**

Taught by the dynamic Cathe Lieb, Loma kids get elbow deep into art. Ms Lieb loves to design projects to help the children experience art firsthand and to know that art is all around us.

The children develop art skills as well as critical thinking skills. "Knowing WHAT a particular people did is interesting, but the more important question to ask is "WHY did they do it?" In my classes, children learn background to understand WHY people created art in the way they did."

In grades 2-5, the children create original artworks by painting, sculpting, and weaving to compliment grade level studies, i.e. California art for the 4th graders and Colonial art for the 5th graders. By doing these projects, children learn the relationship of art to an individual peoples' history and culture. K-1 children create art works using a variety of materials, having fun while learning the basic concepts of art. "Creating art instills a sense of pride and accomplishment as the children recognize their abilities in using a variety of mediums," says Ms. Leib. "I get "fed" when I hear a child (a second grader in this case) finish his project and say, with awe in his voice, "that's the best thing I've ever done!"



## Dance:

The dance segment of MVP is taught by Eileen Moore, so popular with the kids as PE teacher. From an early age dance helps kids with coordination, expression, and confidence. Thanks to MVP the kids at Loma have an appreciation for dance and the confidence to perform for others.

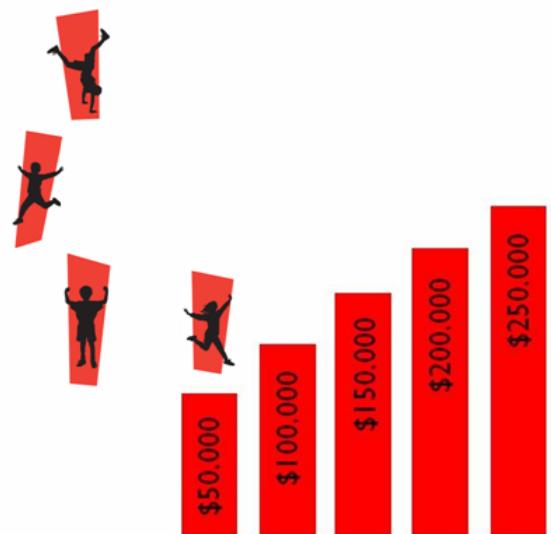
The dance program is developmental, each year building upon the last, starting with a simple circle dance and moving on to a wide variety of folk, swing, line dancing, etc. The children learn rhythm, tempo, and are exposed to a wide variety of music. Ms. Moore enthuses "This year's kindergarten class can do the grapevine which I have not seen before. It's wonderful to see their confidence as they gain ability. I thank the parents for their support of this program."



**The MVP program  
is funded by the  
KEEP Campaign  
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**Donations Received To Date:  
\$ 67,965**