



411 Sycamore Ave.,
Mill Valley, California 94914
tel (415) 389-7700

April 22, 2022

Contact: Anna Russell For Immediate Release
MILL VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT
411 Sycamore Ave., Mill Valley, CA 94941
Phone: (415) 389-7724 | Email: arussell@mvschools.org

Mill Valley Community Learning Side-by-Side

This week Mill Valley parents and community members were able to attend the fourth and final session in a [series of workshops](#) dedicated to diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI). This educational opportunity provided by the District and led by [Facing History and Ourselves](#), was carefully designed to run parallel with [MVSD staff professional development training](#) to enable a collective understanding of equity issues in our educational system and develop an inclusive school community. Engaging families alongside our staff gives a full spectrum of awareness of equity and diversity that can be shared with our students, and adults of tomorrow.

Aside from learning new perspectives and expanding understanding, the parents and community members are harnessing this knowledge and joining together to create district-wide and school-specific PTA DEI committees, whose main focus is to bring this awareness to enhance our students' education and growth in alignment with the district's [Local Control & Accountability Plan \(LCAP\) goals](#) of enabling students to achieve success in an environment that fosters social-emotional development, equity and creativity. As an educational community, we aim to prepare our students to be global citizens, and this includes working towards increased representation of a wide variety of cultures, and to elevate voices through events and activities.



The DEI committees are still in their infancy when it comes to implementing their goals and projects, but recently our community hosted a cultural “show-and-tell” evening. Edna Maguire has many students who celebrate the Islamic religious holidays of Ramadan and Eid, and the roots of this momentous time of year run deep in the community, which was evident when over 150 people attended this special event, connecting students and families in shared celebration. The evening included an informative presentation about the holiday and its

customs and was filled with fun and engaging activities such as henna tattoos, Hijab styling, and craft stations, plus snacks and treats traditionally eaten to break the daytime fast. The evening continued for some with a tour of the nearby Islamic Center of Mill Valley.



This type of event is a strong enhancement of the driving force behind the DEI goals of our teams, but the core emphasis remains on learning from one another to grow our collective understanding of inclusion and equity in schools for the benefit of our students and future generations.