

Can Do! and MESHSA

Working Together to Improve Our School



We are often asked – “What is **Can Do!** and how is it different from the Mary E. Silveira Home & School Association (MESHSA)? And why do we need both?” We thought we’d take this opportunity to introduce both organizations and explain what each group does and how they complement one another.

For starters, both **Can Do!** and MESHSA are run by parents who are passionate about improving the quality of our kids’ school and their education. We both support our teachers and administrators, enrich the educational experience of all students in the district and keep families connected to our school and the parent community.

Each organization has a distinct role to play: **Can Do!** is focused on fundraising to bridge the gap between inadequate state funding and the cost of a well-rounded quality education, while MESHSA forms the backbone of many vital campus activities and events. Below are further details on what each organization does, who is involved and how you can participate to make a difference in your child’s education.

Can Do!

Raises funds for Dixie Elementary, Mary E. Silveira Elementary, Vallecito Elementary and Miller Creek Middle School.

Directly supplements the annual budget of the Dixie School District (DSD).

- Funds technology instruction, equipment, supplies and staff District-wide
- Provides specialists, equipment and supplies for the following elementary school programs: art, drama, K-2 music, PE
- Supports environmental science programs at elementary schools
- Funds Social Emotional Learning through Dave Nettell at all 3 elementary schools
- Provides counseling services at Miller Creek Middle School
- Funds after-school sports, lunchtime clubs and intramurals, and music and performing arts clubs at Miller Creek Middle School
- Hosts the annual Consistent Achiever luncheon and District recognition events

MESHSA

MESHSA’s purpose is to promote the development of our children in school and the community and to establish a closer relationship between home and school. To achieve these goals, MESHSA organizes and supports the following activities:

- Hosts family events that encourage parents, students, faculty and administrators to work together
- Maintains own site-specific budget to support:
 - Classroom and curriculum grants (field trips, technology seminars, reading programs, etc.)
 - Scholarship support (Gold Rush, Walker Creek, etc.)
 - Professional development
 - Capital improvements to augment the learning and play environment at school (picnic tables, garden materials, yard supplies, etc.)

Can Do!

Fundraising Efforts

- ❖ **Family Giving Campaign**
 - Largest **Can Do!** fundraiser; generates two-thirds of funds committed to the DSD
 - All families asked to participate by making a donation of \$500 per child to help fund the valuable programs and services each child receives at their school
- ❖ **Auction Fundraiser**
 - Annual party that celebrates our community and raises money for our schools
 - Held in November; features silent and live auction, dinner and dancing
- ❖ **Business Partner Program**
 - Over 130 parent-owned and local businesses support our schools
 - Provides valuable exposure to our 1,350 families, in district-wide and online business directories
- ❖ **eScrip Campaign**
 - Parents register credit cards with eScrip so **Can Do!** earns free money from participating merchants
- ❖ **Giants Night at AT&T Park**
 - Community event held in the spring or summer
- ❖ **Golf Tournament**
 - Annual fun golf event co-hosted by Scotty's Market where parents and vendors can enjoy a day of golf, prizes and dinner

Can Do! Board and Staff

- President: Lesley Savelli
- CFO: Sue Hickey
- Secretary: Patti Bender
- Board Members: Michelle Baumert, Julie Bloomberg, Erica Kienzle-Barnes, Jo McDonough, Kim Revai, Robin Ryan, Beth Salyer
- Executive Director: Robin Gerrity
- Operations Manager: Candace Alexander
- Administrator: Keli Honsberger

How to Contact Can Do!

- Phone: 415-492-3500
- Email: info@cando4schools.org
- Mail: P.O. Box 6182, San Rafael, CA 94903
- www.cando4schools.org

MESHSA

Building Community

- ❖ **Movie Night**
 - A fall event that showcases a child appropriate movie
- ❖ **Harvest Festival**
 - Annual event in October that includes dinner, games and other fun
- ❖ **Talent Show**
 - An evening event that focuses on the talent of the students at MES
- ❖ **Spring Dance**
 - A Spring event that includes games, food and dancing
- ❖ **Coffee Fridays**
 - A social gathering of parents during Friday assemblies, about two times a month
- ❖ **Field Day**
 - A fun-filled day of games for all grades in the spring
- ❖ **Teacher's Luncheon**
 - The MES school community comes together in the spring to thank the teachers and staff for all their hard work and dedication

How We Support MESHSA Needs

- ❖ **Walkathon**
 - Annual event where students raise money by walking laps around the school
 - Held in April, near Earth Day
- ❖ **Book Fair**
 - This annual event held over four days in the last week of October is kicked-off at the Halloween Parade. Families are encouraged to buy books for home reading and proceeds go directly to support the needs of the MES library
- ❖ **Spirit Wear**
 - Silveira apparel is available for sale during assemblies and school wide events

How to Contact MESHSA

- President: Nathan Dunn and Jennifer Marks
- Email: nathand@plantco.com and JenniferHarrisMarks@gmail.com
- Board Members: Cristina Blouin, Susie Hamel, Lisa Hooper, Shawna O'Connor, Barbra Rosenstein, Avril Wilson