

# CONGRATULATIONS ON THE NEW BABY IN YOUR NEW HOME!

Dear Mills Elementary Family,

What an exciting time for all of you! We couldn't be happier for you.

Mills Elementary has partnered with The Delta Kappa Gamma Educational Foundation and our local chapter of DKG, Omega, to give your family a gift of literacy.

Today your Mills student(s) was honored in front of the entire school for becoming a big brother and/or sister. Your student(s) also took a pledge with me and other students to be your new baby's reading buddy. The pledge was to help your student understand their role in helping to read to the new family member. It is never too early to start reading to our children, and keep them reading all through their lives. This special BEAR Program (**B**uilding **E**arly **A**cademic **R**eadiness) will help your older child(ren) develop wonderful reading skills, and support the new baby's learning which began at birth!

We hope that you will enjoy the backpack of books, flyer on Milestones of Early Literacy Development, Scholastic's Reading Tips for Parents and that your family will share the love of reading with your new baby.

We have also included a stuffed bear as a way to help snuggle in with your children and books.

A special BEAR reading log is included so your child(ren) can record how many minutes they read together. Please have your student turn this log back into their classroom teacher when it is filled and pick up another one. We will have a special celebration at the end of the year for all families who have received a BEAR backpack and celebrate the time you have read together.

We look forward to welcoming your future Mills' Mustang to kindergarten a few years from now.

Please contact my office or your child's teacher if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Fred Bartels, Principal  
Mills Elementary School

