



SUNRIDGE BULLETIN

JANUARY 27, 2010

SUNRIDGE SCHOOL

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CALENDAR

Monday, February 1, 6:30 - 8:00pm:

Class 1 Parent Evening

Monday, February 1, 7:30pm:

Class 6 Parent Evening

Tuesday, February 2, 6:30 - 9:00pm:

Parent Council Meeting

Wednesday, February 3, 5:30-7:00pm:

Class 7 Parent Evening

Thursday, February 4, 4:30-7:30pm:

Special Charter Council Meeting

Friday, February 5, 6:30-8:00pm:

SunRidge Family Folk Dancing

At Apple Blossom School (see article)

Monday, February 8, 6:30pm:

Class 8 Parent Evening

Tuesday, February 9, 7:00 - 9:00pm:

Class 4 Parent Evening

Wednesday, February 10, 6:30 - 8:00pm:

Kindergarten Parent Evening

Thursday, February 11, 6:00pm:

Class 2 Play @ Two Acre Woods

SunRidge Shirts are Back!

So many people asked to order more shirts, that we are doing another round! T-shirts and sweat shirts are 100% cotton, available in youth and adult sizes. Order forms are available in the office, **order by February 8th**.

Also, there are a few extra shirts for sale in the office right now: a kid's medium and a women's medium. Come check them out!

Last Chance for Survey Input

Because we really want to hear from as many of you as possible, the deadline for submitting your parent survey has been extended through this week. This is the best and most effective way to provide your valued feedback—please use it!

Family Folk Dancing Rescheduled

Donna sends her apologies for needing to cancel our Tuesday dance with such short notice. We have arranged a new time for next **Friday, February 5, 6:30-8:00pm**, up at Apple Blossom School. Please join other SunRidge families for an evening of fun (and exercise!). Children welcome, no previous experience needed.

Want to Teach Dancing?

Donna Burgess will also be leading an International Folk Dance Workshop on **Saturday, February 6, from 9:00am – 1:00pm**. This workshop is for teachers *and parents* who might want to bring international folk dancing to grades 3-7. *SunRidge would heartily welcome any parent who would be interested in volunteering to do folk dancing with any of our classes.* This workshop would give you the skills to teach others. Location: Sebastopol Independent Charter School. For information/registration: donna@hoffeckerburgess.com or 530-305-8129.

Need a Calendar? They are still a few available in the office.

Whole Foods Scrip Card Support

Thank you to everyone who responded so quickly to our scrip card survey. Looks like there is lots of interest to get it rolling! Of the 109 parents who completed the survey, 10 also marked that they would like to offer community service on this project, but only one parent sent their contact information to our Community Service Coordinator. Because the survey is anonymous, we do not know who you are if you marked 'interested in helping' until we hear from you. If you'd like to help with the program, please email Shyama, our Community Service Coordinator: shyama@sbcglobal.net

What Does it Mean to have a Vibrant and Thriving Parent Body and School Community?

As parents, we all came to SunRidge with the knowledge that the parent community plays a big role in helping the school to function. We are told in our initial orientation that parent involvement is written into the charter. As a matter of fact, it is state law that parents are represented in all areas of a charter school. As SunRidge moves into its next stage of development (we are, after all, in the nine-year change!), a subcommittee of the Parent Council (currently known as the Health of the Parent Body committee) is exploring how parents can provide support to other

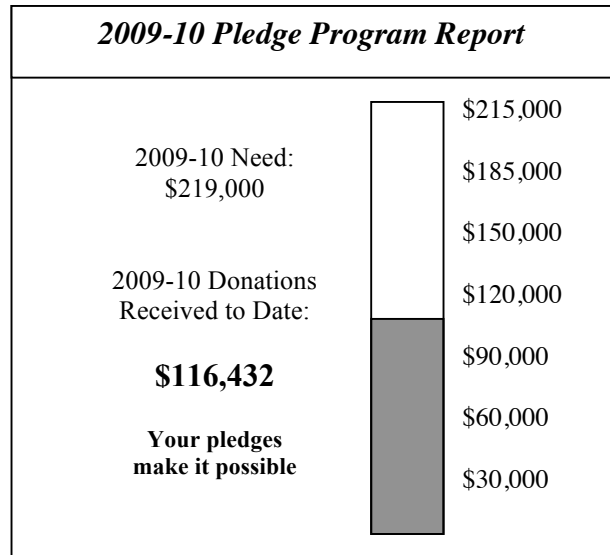
parents, the administration, our teachers and most of all, to our children as we help our wonderful school continue to thrive.

Here are some of the questions the committee has been exploring:

- What does a "collaborative model" of governance mean for SunRidge?
- How does a community of over 400 ensure that our voices are heard effectively and efficiently? When we speak, do we speak for ourselves as individuals or for ourselves as part of the greater community? What's the difference?
- How do we clarify and fully occupy our respective roles as parents, teachers and administration?
- How do we balance the needs of the individual vs. the needs of the community? How do we behave in response to this reciprocal relationship?
- How can we best utilize the formal parent leadership roles that are a part of our charter to support the faculty, the administration and our parent body?
- Can we, as a community, co-create a set of agreements about how we will treat each other and how we will treat faculty and administration using elements of the Tribes model that is being practiced by our children in their classrooms?
- What are the rights and responsibilities of being part of a collaborative school community?

The initial journey (beyond the HPB committee) into these questions began with the current leadership groups, at a daylong retreat last Sunday, and will be introduced more formally to the larger community in the near future. The retreat was beautifully facilitated by 4th grade parents Alexander and Kathia Laszlo, and included parents from the Health of the Parent Body group, the Charter Council and the Parent Council. We thought it would be a good idea to start the discussion among parents who are occupying formal leadership roles within the school at this time. Our intention was to begin a conversation to identify and name the range of current positive and challenging experiences within our school community, and then to imagine together how we might initiate a cooperative movement within our community; inviting everyone to put conscious intention into all of our communications and connections. We see this moment in our community development at SunRidge as an opportunity to find some common ground regarding the issues listed above and to use that common ground as a launching place from which we co-create a model of functioning *with* the community.

There is an understanding in ethical organizational design that states one must design *with* others, not *for* others. In this way, form follows function. Or put another way, the areas that have broken down are useful markers that help us see what needs adjusting and reforming. So all solutions are informed by and in response to real needs that have surfaced. Everything put forth to the community-at-large will be an



open invitation to join this effort.

We recognize that it is to everyone's benefit to widen the circle as we move forward, to include other voices. At the same time, the beginning steps of this process require extensive discussion and there are logistical limits to the group size of initial meetings. Therefore, we would like to extend an invitation to 4-5 parents in the school who are interested in joining us. The next meeting will be Sunday, February 7 from 12:30-6pm. We are looking for parents who are interested in learning more about the process we have begun, and feel like they have something to offer to this initial process. If you are interested, please e-mail a paragraph to bethfully@earthlink.net with the following information:

Let us know what draws you to want to join this process at this early stage, and what specific skills, interests, and goals you feel that you would bring to the group. Those who wish to attend the next gathering will also need to meet with someone who attended the previous gathering in order to be brought up to speed in what was discussed and where we are headed.

Parents who were at the first gathering were inspired by the potential that we as a community have to create a healthy and vibrant environment. And we are joined together in our intention to help our children thrive. We know that we will not only be modeling healthy relationships, but will be surrounding them in healthy and peaceful energy.

We look forward to sharing more of our work with you shortly, and hope you will join us in our intention to make SunRidge a thriving community.

Sincerely,

Pamela Gould, Paula Camacho, Beth Gallock and Pam Koppel

On behalf of the Health of the Parent Body Committee

Donate yourself or your child!

What, you ask, are you referring to?! The auction of course!

Do you have a special skill, perhaps something you are really good at personally or professionally? For example, perhaps you are a great cook...you could donate cooking lessons or you could cook dinner for a party of 6. Or perhaps you are really good at sewing. You could donate a 2 hour sewing lesson. Photography your thing? Offer a few hours to teach someone photography basics. Graphic design, gardening, winemaking, sushi making, food culturing, goat milking, guitar playing, drumming, dancing...get the idea? Or perhaps for you bakers out there, you can bake a dozen cookies every month for a year. Or if you are handy around the house, offer 2 hours of handyman (or woman) services. As for the kids..if they are old enough, what about offering babysitting, or a few hours of "mom's helper" services? Or there are probably things our talented older SunRidge kids could teach the younger kids. What might that be?

Let's be creative. Let's get going. Let's do it now!

*Please note, submitting your items sooner than later will be greatly appreciated by our data entry team who are kindly donating their time for this big job. We don't want them pulling "all-nighters" the few nights before the auction because everyone has waited until the last minute to donate their items. Let's get as much submitted now as possible, so they can have a nice steady flow of work, and not face the pressure of a last minute flurry of entries.

Lastly...we are getting a spreadsheet up and running with a list of all the businesses that have been approached, so you can check it before you call or visit a business. You can find it by going to the home page of the SunRidge website at www.sunridgeschool.org <<http://www.sunridgeschool.org>> , look under "**Auction**" and click on "help solicit auction item donations." This will take you to the spreadsheet. You won't be able to add or change things, but you can send info to any of the following e-mails and we will add and edit for you - amyschiff1@sbcglobal.net, Hassanah Meechan at emailbooboo@yahoo.com or pamkoppel@comcast.net.

Don't forget...it will take all of us working together to make this successful!

Thanks for your help!

SunRidge Open Enrollment for 2010-11

Our annual open enrollment period runs this year from February 8 through March 8. During this time we accept applications for next year for new students and offer ways for families to learn more about our school. Submitting an application and attending an orientation meeting during the open enrollment period are required in order to be

included in our lottery for available spaces, even if an applicant family already has another child enrolled at SunRidge. Current students do not need to re-apply, but if you are planning on enrolling a new child at SunRidge, contact the office for information and an application.

Community Service Hours Reporting

Here are the links for reporting your community service hours for the month of December and January. Thank you for helping us have good data on the impressive number of hours parents give to our school.

Report **December** community service hours here:
<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/K23DJ93>

Report **January** community service hours here:
<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/R6SJLG9>

Community Events

Boy's Basketball Playoffs ~ from Coach John & Mr. T

The boys lost a close contest Monday vs. the downtown Charter school. They played really well, and if it weren't for a few fast break layups the team may have pulled it out. The season is not over though. We get to play Wednesday at the Sebastopol Community Church gym at 5pm. If we win that one, we play Thursday at 4:30pm @ SCDS for Consolation Championship. If we lose Wednesday's game, we finish up a fine season. Come on out and support the team!

Mothering and Spirituality

A Waldorf Parenting Conference

"Mothering and Spirituality: Resourcing Feminine Wisdom" will be the theme of the annual regional parenting conference **April 24-25 at Sacramento Waldorf School**. Designed to offer a weekend of inspiration and renewal, the conference brings together keynote speakers from Waldorf education with nationally-known authors/presenters to explore weaving the strands of mothering, spirituality and feminism.

Featured speakers include: Cynthia Aldinger, founder of LifeWays North America, with training for parents and childcare providers inspired by the work of Rudolf Steiner; Rahima Baldwin Dancy, Waldorf early childhood specialist and author; Carol Lee Flinders, author of *At the Root of This Longing: Reconciling a Spiritual Hunger and a Feminist Thirst*; Nancy Jewel Poer, wise elder, Waldorf educator and author of *Living into Dying*; and Regina Sara Ryan, author of *The Woman Awake. Feminine Wisdom for Spiritual Life*.

A complete brochure and secure **online registration** are available at < <http://www.waldorfinthehome.com/> > or by calling (303) 546-0070. The conference is organized by Rahima Baldwin Dancy at Informed Family Life.

Waldorf Teacher Training at Summerfield

The Center for Educational Renewal is now accepting applications for a their 4-year part-time course beginning in June 2010. The course has been designed to enable people who cannot leave the area to take part in a full-time course and to meet the growing need for Waldorf Teachers at Kindergarten, Elementary and High School levels.

For more information and to apply, visit their website: www.edrenew.org or contact Don Basmajian at (707) 575-7194 Ext. 301. Enrollment is limited to 30 students.

Classified

(We can list rentals, parents selling used items, free items, lost and found, or trades. We cannot list for-profit business ads)

Missing Fleece

Have you seen a grey, zip-up fleece (brand: Black Diamond)? Tristan Simms in class 3 is missing his fleece. Please call Diana if you find it ~ 823-2303. Thank you!

Need a babysitter, yard help, or other helper need?

The Parent Council is sponsoring a student work referral system for students in grades 6-8. Students can fill out a form listing jobs they can do, and parents sign it to approve the referral form going into our Student Work Referral Binder. When you need a job done, stop by the office and look through the binder. Many of our students are excellent workers and are trying to earn money for various reasons. It's a win-win!

Looking for a House

SunRidge family is looking for a 3 bedroom house to rent in or near Sebastopol. Please call Rebecca if you know of anything: 525-8750.

Share Rental Available

Vegetarian Waldorf Family seeks similar to share west Santa Rosa home. 2 bdrms and a bath in a private downstairs wing available November 1st. \$1,200.00, includes utilities. Call 542-7372.

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**Budget Summary** *from Mark Rice*

This was not put on the last page hoping no one would see it! More will be coming on our current and next year's budget in the months ahead, but I wanted to provide a quick overview this week on where we stand right now, at least to those of you who diligently read the entire Bulletin every week!

First, where does our funding come from? The total expenses for running our school are almost \$1.6 million annually. Of that, over 75% are personnel costs. On the revenue side, this year we will receive approximately \$1.2 million in State and Local public school funding. We are depending on at least \$200,000 in parent pledges, and another \$30,000 or so from our Foundation (from last year's auction). The Foundation also provides funding for various other things (site improvements, teacher trainings, etc.) directly, so those funds are not included in our school budget. These are rough numbers, but if you do the math (\$1.2 million + \$200,000 + \$30,000 = \$1,430,000) you can see that we come up short by well over \$100,000. Not good, but fortunately, the school has some reserve to get us through this year.

Why the deficit? Two primary factors—less than full enrollment in our 3<sup>rd</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, and 7<sup>th</sup> grades, and cuts in funding from the State, are the quick explanation. But there is a deeper, longer-term problem that SunRidge faces. Our school site and our classrooms are too small to accommodate a viable K-8 school. Every year we turn away dozens of students in our younger grades because our classrooms are too small to take more. And, our upper grades do not have the rooms and playfield areas needed to offer the type of middle school program that can attract/retain students in those grades. The Charter Council will be discussing these problems and the options we might have for addressing them in upcoming meetings. Those meetings are open and you are welcome to attend. Next meeting: Thursday, Feb. 4, 4:30pm.