



# SUNRIDGE BULLETIN

APRIL 28, 2010

## SUNRIDGE SCHOOL

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## CALENDAR

Wednesday, April 28, 6:30 - 8:30pm:  
**Kinder Parent Evening**

Wednesday, April 28, 7:00 - 8:30pm:  
**Class 4 Parent Evening**

Monday, May 3, 6:30pm:  
**Parent Council Meeting**

Tuesday, May 4, 6:00pm:  
**Charter Council meeting**

Thursday, May 6, 6:30pm:  
**Class 3 Play**

**Saturday, May 8: May Faire!**  
See article for times

Tuesday, May 11, 6:00-7:30pm:  
**Class 1 Parent Evening**

Wednesday, May 12, 6:00 - 8:00pm:  
**Class 5 Parent Appreciation  
Dessert**

Tuesday, May 18, 6:00 - 9:00pm:  
**Charter Council Meeting**

Thursday, May 20:  
**Farmers' Market** hosted by the  
Kindergartens

### **Clarifying Why** from Mark Rice

We recently received this anonymous question on one of our "question cards": "If we take out the specialty teachers and we add a (middle school) computer lab, why should I donate money to a "Waldorf" school?" Reading this, I was taken aback by the question and its tone and I felt it deserved an answer. Perhaps there are others who share the sentiment of this writer (hopefully not many), so this response might also be for those parents as well.

First, we have not "taken out" the specialty teachers. We were forced—due to a severe funding shortfall—to make very difficult decisions about which specialty classes we would need to cut next year in order to continue operating during this crisis. It was a very sad day for those of us (parent and faculty charter council members and myself) who were responsible for making the necessary cuts. We needed to cut at least \$100,000 and there is simply no way to cut that level of expenses without cutting some positions, and there are only so many positions that it is possible for us to cut and still operate a school. Our sister charter school, Sebastopol Independent, has only been able to minimize program cuts because they have class sizes of 30-32—an option we don't have with our small classrooms. I hope that most parents understand the challenges we are facing and addressing.

Second, we are not adding a computer lab (while cutting people). It may or may not be possible or desirable for our middle school students to access the Twin Hills computer lab when we are located on that campus. People can disagree about when it is most appropriate to provide students with computer access, but there is no absolute rule about when that should happen in a Waldorf inspired school. Some Waldorf-inspired and private Waldorf schools now include use of computers and other electronic technology during the middle school years.

Third, and most important, is the answer to "why donate?" I think most parents would agree that, even with the temporary cuts we've made for next year, SunRidge remains a Waldorf inspired school. We have Waldorf trained teachers and we follow Waldorf methods and Waldorf curriculum to the highest degree we are able. We don't pretend to be a private Waldorf school, and anyone who wants that option can choose to attend the local private Waldorf school for about five times the cost of what we ask for pledge donations per child.

SunRidge was founded on the basis of having parents' commitment to provide both volunteer and financial support that enable the school to operate. Given our small room/class sizes and declining state funding, the reality now is that we must rely even more on the commitment of parents to support the continuance of this school for their child(ren). Why donate (or volunteer your time)? Because you think it through, you want this school to be there for your child and others, and you choose to do so because it feels like the right thing to do. SunRidge only exists because of all of you who make this choice every day.

### **Yearbook Orders Due by Next Tuesday, May 4**

Our beautiful 2009-10 yearbooks can now be ordered through next Tuesday, May 4. Don't miss your chance to get one! We emailed out an order form last week, and have attached another one to this Bulletin. **Remember: Tuesday deadline!**

**Farmers' Market Tomorrow**

Come join the fun at Ragle Park tomorrow, April 29, hosted by our 1<sup>st</sup> grade class.

**Beyond the Birds and the Bees** from Nicole Burbridge  
*Kindseth, Kinder parent*

Last night's presentation by Myra Polikoff was great! As a parent of a kindergartner I have only just begun to explore this topic but I realize it will be a very important subject in the near future. I also thought it was a great opportunity to hear from other parents in other grades about their questions, issues, and concerns. I would love to have Ms. Polikoff come speak to our class at a Parent Evening in order to be educated as a class and to hear what the parents of my child's peers are teaching their children about sex education and what issues and concerns they are dealing with. I think that kind of discussion would be very valuable. I am so appreciative of the organizers of this event and the speaker Myra Polikoff. Thank you!

**May Faire Coming May 8**

Our annual May Faire begins at 10:30am with set up and garland making; the procession begins at 11:15, followed at 11:30 with singing, class presentations, and the weaving of the may pole. Bring a picnic lunch and top it off with strawberries and shortcake.

More info: Bring your own utensils, sunscreen or hats are suggested, and blankets to sit on. Please deliver washed strawberries to the kitchen on the day of the event. The recipe for strawberry shortcake is available in the office. Please double check the sign up lists outside your child's classroom.

*Here's a branch of snowy May,  
A branch the fairies gave me,  
Who would like to dance today,  
With the branch the fairies gave me?*

Wildlife sightings this week have included many robins, fiddleneck ferns in abundance, and a glimpse in the willows of the green man stirring from his slumber...

**Please Buy Whole Foods 4% Scrip Cards**

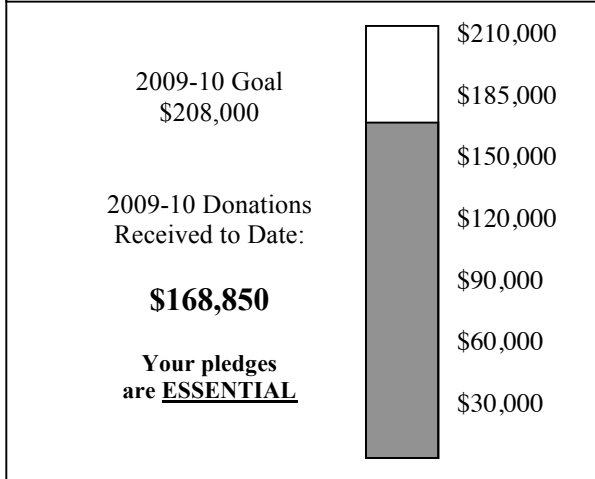
Such an easy fundraiser: just remember to buy your scrip cards before you shop. The best place to go is **Infusions** tea and chocolate shop 4 doors west of Whole Foods. They have generously offered to sell the cards for us. Please bring a check as they will not accept cash.

We will also make scrip available at **Farmer's Markets**, and **every Wednesday Scrip will be available in both the lower and upper driveway.**

At quiet moments, Scrip can be purchased **in the school office** (remember, exact amount only).

**May/June Hot Lunch Order Forms** are now available in the office. Remember, Tuesday orders must be received by Thursday of the previous week, and Friday orders by Tuesday

**2009-10 Pledge Program Report**



of the same week. Order forms attached.

**7th grade Explores, "Survives", and Thrives!**

Adventurous 7th graders from our school and Sebastopol Independent Charter explored inside and outside at Ragle Ranch Friday at the 2nd Explorer's Tournament. Students started out "alone, in a natural state of having to survive the forces of nature and savage neighbors", playing a few games to represent what life may have been like before civilization arose, in a time that famous English philosopher described life as being "solitary, poor, nasty, brutish and short."

They then partnered and worked together at a few blind games, finding ways and reasons to cooperate, and there arose the nations of England, France, Italy, Portugal and Spain. They became an explorer for one of the five nations (for example, Sir Francis Drake, or Ferdinand Magellan), and had a "race for resources" (1/2 mile run). This was followed by a "sailing trip from San Francisco to the Galapagos Islands" that ended in disaster, and they now had to rank 15 items important to their survival at sea.

Felix Greer was the Tournament Survivalist, as he scored nearest the experts in his rankings - congratulations, Felix. All five nations competed in the 5-way tug of war, as a test of their nations' strength. Then began the final event, the orienteering course, with 6 colored compass loop routes. Students took bearings of their intended journey and raced to complete each loop, punching cards to prove they were there. Meanwhile other members of the team tied knots competitively and answering worst case scenario survival questions for points. It was quite a fun day for all.

Prizes of pizza and ice cream went out to each team for their place finishes, listed here: 1st place tie! - Spain; 2nd Portugal; 3rd England, Italy (Tie) and 4th France. Mr. T would like to extend his appreciation to the teachers and parent volunteers who helped make the event fun and successful. It was a day to remember.

**Calendar Sales Needs Help!**

Are you looking for a great place to dedicate some of your energy? We need more people working with the Patrick Amiot calendar project. If you have some time and energy to help with the project please contact Heather Thurber at 480-4376 or [heathert@sonic.net](mailto:heathert@sonic.net).  
*Note from Mark: This calendar project brings in over \$6,000 to our fundraising efforts every year, at little cost to our school community. Please help if you can.*

**Last Week for March Community Service Hours Reporting**

Here is the link for reporting your community service hours for the month of March. Thank you for helping us have good data on the impressive number of hours parents give to our school.

Report **March** community service hours here:  
<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/RZLVF3V>

If you have any problems with entering your data, please contact Melissa Morgan, [melissa\\_morgan@mac.com](mailto:melissa_morgan@mac.com).

**Community Events****SunRidge May Faire:**

Saturday, May 8, 10:30am -2:00pm

**"As You Like It" the Shakespearean comedy**

Performed by the Center For Educational Renewal's 5th Waldorf Teacher Training's graduating class.

**Saturday, May 8, 7:00PM** at Summerfield Waldorf School. Adults: \$8, Children/students: \$5. Tickets available in the Summerfield Office and at the door.

**SunRidge Spring Concert: Thursday, June 3, 6:45pm**, featuring 4<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grade strings, orchestra, and choir performances.

**Tae Kwon Do for everyone** at the Occidental Community Center (OCC) with Alexander Laszlo. Kids Class for anyone 8-17 on Thursdays from 3:30-5pm, and Adult Classes for those 18-80 on Thursdays from 5 - 7pm and Sundays from 11am-1pm. The cost is \$5/class or \$15/month for kids and \$5/class or \$25/month for adults, plus a membership fee of \$20/year. For more information, check the OCC website at <http://www.occidentalcommunitycenter.net/tae-kwon-do.html>, or contact Alexander at 874-6030

**Balance, unicycle, leap, juggle, perform! ~ from Mr. T**

This summer Alex Boshell (Movement Teacher from Novato Charter/Live Oak) and I will run a one-week Circus Camp this summer here at SunRidge. We're offering a 5-day intensive to teach, develop and sharpen skills like Poi spinning, Rola Bola balancing, acrobatics and

tumbling, unicycling, stick, ball and ring juggling and more. This camp is open to next year's 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students. SunRidge gets priority signup; then we'll open registration district-wide and to the downtown charter school. If this sounds intriguing, you can learn more at [www.waldorfcircus.org](http://www.waldorfcircus.org). Registration forms are available online.

The week is **July 5-9**, and the camp runs 8:30am - 12:30pm or 2:30pm.

**Summer Day Camp with Rick Concoff**

Camp Chai is at Finley Community Park!

\*Session I: June 21-25 \* Session II: June 28-July 2

For kids entering K - 9th grade Monday through Friday 9:00 to 3:00pm

Ask about our 3 night/4 day Adventure at Hendy Woods July 7 - 10.

Jewish traditions, active games, art & crafts, storytelling, singing, recreational swim.

All are welcome!

Brochures are available in the school office.

Call Beth at 707 528-2549 or visit [www.jccsoco.org](http://www.jccsoco.org) for more information.

**Sebastopol Super Summer School**

The Sebastopol Community Center is sponsoring a half day summer school program. Children entering 3<sup>rd</sup> through 7<sup>th</sup> grade may choose up to 3 subjects to focus on from a long list that includes: arts and crafts, cooking, dance/gymnastics, science, basic math and reading, etc.

**Hours:** 9:00 - 12:00 noon, Monday through Thursday

**Dates:** June 14<sup>th</sup> - July 8<sup>th</sup>

**Cost:** \$350 for the entire 4 week program with discounts for siblings.

Contact: Rebecca Worsley at 874-1025 or [rebworsley@yahoo.com](mailto:rebworsley@yahoo.com)

**Classified**

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

**Childcare Provider Available**

Former Summerfield farm camp teacher/Waldorf subject teacher/RSC eurhythmy student and experienced childcare provider/administrative assistant seeks opportunity to provide full-time/part-time consistent and warm childcare and/or motivated & organized administrative help this summer. Also in need of summer house sitting or other housing opportunity. Please call Ashlee (254) 749-1918.

**Housing Needed**

Single mom with two children, 11 and 14, seeks long or short term housing beginning in May or June 1---house sit/sublet/alternative sheltering/partial or full work trade for services---child care (I drive a minivan), cleaning, healing foods (ayurvedic, live foods, etc.), bodywork, personal assist/caregiving, gardening. Jamila 808-264-5093.

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