



# SUNRIDGE BULLETIN

JUNE 2, 2010

## SUNRIDGE SCHOOL

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## CALENDAR

Thursday, June 3, 6:45-8:15pm:

**Spring Concert @ Apple Blossom Sch.**

Friday, June 4, 11:45am and 6:00pm

**Class 6 Play**

Monday, June 7, 7:30pm:

**Class 7 Meeting**

Tuesday, June 8, 6:30pm:

Wednesday, June 9, 9:30am:

**Class 4 Play**

Wednesday, June 9:

**Is an Early Release Day!**

**Class 5 Ceremony (6:30 - 8:00pm)**

Thursday, June 10, **Last Day of School**

**Early Release! Farmers Market at Ragle Park**

Friday, June 11, 5:30pm in Amphitheatre:

**Class 8 Graduation**

Saturday, June 12, 10:00 - 11:30pm:

**Kinder to 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Ceremony**

Saturdays, August 14 & 21:

**Campus/classroom  
beautification/prep days**

Wed., August 25: **First Day of School**

### 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Projects

Congratulations to our 8<sup>th</sup> graders on the presentation of their amazing year-long projects last week. It was a wonderful display of the creativity, individuality, and self-confidence of our graduating students. Onward to graduation!

### AfterCare for 2010-11

As has been announced previously, our AfterCare program is very marginal financially and is ending the year in deficit. A decision about next year has not yet been made, but it would be helpful to hear from those who anticipate AfterCare needs next year. Please sign up on the survey in the AfterCare room or leave a message for Rebecca on the AfterCare phone line: 824-2276.

### Last Week of School

Next week, our last week of school, we will have early release days on both Wednesday and Thursday. Aftercare will be available as usual on Wednesday, but on Thursday will only be available until 1:00pm so that staff can attend our end-of-year picnic.

### End-of-Year Picnic at Ragle Park next Thursday

Our traditional all-school picnic on the last day of school will be on Thursday, June 10. This is a **pot-luck** event, so please bring food or drinks to share, and your own dishes and utensils. Come celebrate the completion of our 2009-10 school year with the SunRidge community! (and please supervise your children at the park...)

### Many Thank You's

The faculty and administration would like to thank the many Class 4 parents who generously provided lunch for us during the month of May. We loved being surprised by the variety of dishes you provided each week and felt very cared for by your delicious and wholesome offerings. Thanks so much!

### Graduation Needs

Our 8<sup>th</sup> grade graduation will be on Friday, June 11, at 5:30 pm in the outdoor amphitheater. Traditionally our 7<sup>th</sup> grade takes on the provision of food and other needs for this 8<sup>th</sup> grade event. Because our current 7<sup>th</sup> grade is small, they could use some help from others who would like to lend a hand. They need: **fresh flowers** (buckets of water will be out for them near the Community Room next week), and **salads** (call Aurora for ideas: 829-7358. Also needed: someone who could **video** the event, and **a sound system** for the stage. If you can help with either of these, contact Nedra at 823-8067.

### Back-To-School Party

Put it on your calendar now: our annual back-to-school party is scheduled for Saturday, August 28. A day of fun in the sun, building community with friends old and new. More details will be sent out during the summer.

### Spring Concert Tomorrow!

Thursday, June 3 is SunRidge's annual Spring Concert, held at the APPLE BLOSSOM AUDITORIUM from 6:45 to 8:15 pm. This is an evening of sharing what our students in grades 4 -8 have been learning in both choir and strings/orchestra classes. It is a lovely showcase of musical talent and we look forward to another

evening of celebrating what we do at SunRidge School. Everyone is welcome to come and enjoy this evening of student performed music.

Please ensure that your son or daughter in grades 4 – 8 attends the concert. Of course we know that there are many other events taking place at this time of year like graduations, sports banquets, etc. There are some families who simply cannot make it, and we appreciate being told so. Nevertheless, we are expecting all available singers and musicians to come share their music with the greater community.

All choir students as well as string/orchestra students are expected to attend. Attire is black and white for musicians; semi-formal for singers. Skirts, dresses, clean and neat pants, shirts and blouses are expected. This formality allows us all to honor the work we have done, and bring a sense of celebration to the event.

ARRIVAL TIME for performing students is 4:00pm, in order to conduct a 'dress rehearsal' of the evening. At 5:30 we will have food available for the students. Parents from all grades are asked to provide sandwich fare for the students. Everyone can share, potluck style:

\*\* Last names from A - H please bring lunchmeats, cheeses, lettuces, spreads; each item enough to serve 8 people.

\*\* Last names from I - P please bring chips, crackers, breads, veggie sticks; each item enough to serve 8 people.

\*\* Last names from Q - Z please bring cookies, brownies, fruits, finger desserts; each item enough to serve 8 people. With all of us sharing, there should be plenty to go around. Water will be our thirst quencher! Plates, cups and napkins will be provided.

This all happens at Apple Blossom Auditorium. Any parents who can stay through the rehearsal and break time prior to the show, please contact Karen or Eddie. We could use your helpful hands and smiling faces!

Two or three vases filled with flowers would also be greatly appreciated. Bring them in a bucket or vase, and we will be sure to return them to you at the end of the evening.

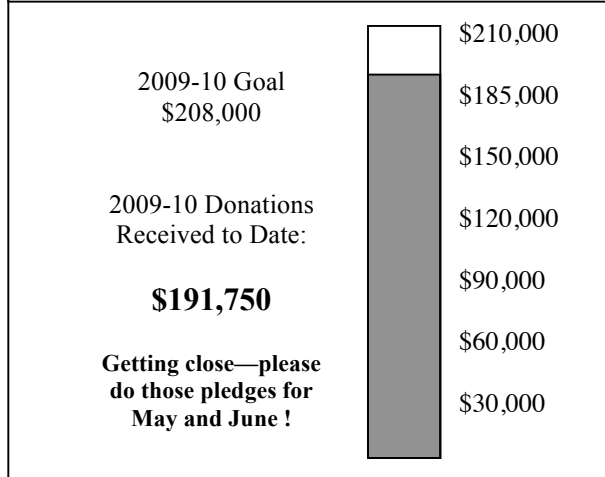
Many thanks for the help and enthusiasm. We are excited to bring our busy year to a close with the sound of beautiful music.

Join us, please! ~ Karen Gallagher and Eddie Guthman

**From the Garden** ~ from Tess

Wow! What an incredibly rich and wonderful year we have shared in the garden. I want to thank everyone who has given time and energy to the garden program and to thank everyone for asking me to teach this year. There is nothing like being with children in the garden. Next year, I will volunteer with the third graders through their farm year and I will definitely be inviting classes to visit the ranch where I live during lambing season. All things need a time for rest and many important things happen in times of rest. Right now I feel called to support those who are working so hard to ensure that our

**2009-10 Pledge Program Report**



school will continue to thrive in the future. I believe it depends on the strength of our community support and I trust that together we will not only come through the challenges we face, but that through the process our garden could be more fruitful. With much gratitude I wish all my students and their families a warm and wonderfully fun summer.

**Lost and Found Overflowing**

Please come collect your lost clothing in our breezeway to the back playfield. All left clothing will be donated to charity after school is out.

**Sonoma County High School Update**

The scheduled opening of the Waldorf charter high school is Fall 2011. It's getting exciting!

The development team intends to locate the school in the Cotati Rohnert Park Unified School District (CRPUSD). Chip Romer (lead high school developer) made this announcement during public comment at the CRPUSD board meeting on May 11.

*Charter Petition Signatures:* The SCHS charter petition will be ready for parent and teacher signatures in early June!

**Please show your support by signing the charter petition!** We hope to collect at least 100 signatures from each of the 6 area Waldorf charters. Look for clipboards at drop off and pick up the last week of school, and also at our Spring concert this Thursday evening.

**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 the upper driveway area.**

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

**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.*

**Community Service Hours Reporting**

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

Report **May** community service hours here:

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/RZY3D39>

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

**Community Workshops****Poetry Writing for Children**

This workshop will teach kids to write poems using art and music and word play, so they can express their unique personalities through language. Children must be able to write on their own. Open to ages 9-11.

Sebastopol Center For The Arts

**Tuesday, June 15, 2-4pm** Fee: \$40

Call Claire Drucker at 824-9621 to register.

**Waldorf Workshop for Adults**

The Bay Area Center for Waldorf Teacher Training is offering a week-long summer session entitled "Deepening the Understanding of Waldorf Education through Study and Art." While the course is primarily for new Waldorf teachers, parents who have prior engagement with Anthroposophy are also very welcome. The course will take place from Monday, July 5th through Friday, July 9th at the East Bay Waldorf School. More details can be found on our website at <http://www.bacwtt.org/curriculum-classes/summer-arts-festival/overview>.

**Summer Camps****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.

**Classified**

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

**House for Rent**

Unique, loft style w/2 sleeping areas; beautiful, updated, natural with W/D hook-up an laundry room. Suitable for single, single parent w/child, or couple. One mile south of SunRidge. Available 7/1/10. Call Deanna: 824-9611.

**Rental Needed**

The Hue (Lily, 5<sup>th</sup> grade) family is looking for a 2+ bedroom house in the Sebastopol, Occidental area starting August 1. Please contact Suzanne at 332-8395. Thank you!

**Rental Needed** for single parent and 10 year old daughter new to Sebastopol area; 2-3 bedrooms, outdoor space for playing and gardening, close to SunRidge Charter School; starting in July. Contact Crispin at 510-333-1433 or [crispinalee@yahoo.com](mailto:crispinalee@yahoo.com).

**Wanted Home for Rent:** Mama and daughter seek 2 bedroom lovely home in country setting. Employed, good references, organic, and conscious. We have 2 old kitties who don't hunt. Can pay up to \$1100. Please call Triya 527-2609 or email [triyacruises@gmail.com](mailto:triyacruises@gmail.com) Thanks!

**After school care needed** for SunRidge kindergartener starting Fall 2010. Hoping for a SunRidge family that wants to take on another child 4 afternoons a week. She'll need to be picked up at school. Sebastopol or West county ideal. Elizabeth 707/228-8102

**Childcare Provider Available**

Former Summerfield farm camp teacher/Waldorf subject teacher/RSC eurythmy 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.

**Art at the Source**

The tour, sponsored by the Sebastopol Center for the Arts, celebrates its 16th anniversary this year, with 127 artists and 73 studios., June 5-6 and June 12-13, the tour offers the public an up-close and personal look at a diversity of artworks—painting, print-making, sculpture, photography, ceramics, fiber arts, etc.—along with the chance to meet and talk with the artists who create them.

Free color catalogs with detailed maps are available on-line at [www.artatthesource.org](http://www.artatthesource.org).

**Bringing Back What Was Lost...** *from Mark Rice*

Our school needed to make several painful budget cuts for next year, because funding to provide everything we have been providing is just not there. Many parents have asked about how they can help bring these classes back. Parents cannot directly fund the payment of a teacher in a school, but parents can donate to our Foundation with the request that it go to supporting the offering of a particular class. The Foundation Board would then need to decide when such a fund was adequate to do that, and would donate the funds to SunRidge for that purpose. It would be important, however, that parents not cut back on their current pledge donations in order to make a donation to a specific program through the Foundation. That would only cause a decline in pledge funds, leading to the need to make further cuts.

**Save Our Gardening Program** *from Kenna Lee*

Currently there is an effort underway by many parents to save the gardening program. For a mere (only! just!) \$10,000, we can both fund the teacher position and provide the materials needed to do the job. We already have pledges to cover almost one-third of that amount. If we can find seven more people to donate a mere (only! just!) one thousand dollars each (or 14 people giving \$500 each), then voila: a gardening program! The program cuts were announced too late for significant grant-writing to occur for the 2010-11 school year, but if we can fund the program with donations from our community for one year, then we should be able to find grants to help it continue on. So, if you think you may have a grandparent, uncle, employer, etc, who could help us get through this crisis, please join the FOG people (Friends of Gardening) by calling Kenna at 235-7576. Your donation can be entirely confidential if you wish, and I'd be happy to help you write a letter to your potential donor.

For inspiration, please read this excerpt from my "*A Million Tiny Things: one mother's race against despair in a changing climate*":

"In the fall, our school's garden teacher comes to first grade parent night to make a presentation about her curriculum. In her soft-voiced, gentle way, Tess performs a horrifying routine where she massacres an apple to illustrate the dire state of the world's soil. The apple is the earth. Tess is holding a paring knife. First, she cuts off three-quarters of it, since that much of it is underwater. Then she keeps slicing off more and more chunks: this much is built over, this much is polluted, this much is desert, on and on, until she has one tiny smaller-than-bite-sized chunk left. Then she peels it, holds up the miniscule scrap of peeling, and says: this is the soil that must feed the entire world, and it's getting smaller all the time. Shit. This is just the type of image that tends to haunt my nightmares, but somehow Tess, with the radical wisdom of a professionally trained clown, doesn't let it get us down. Because she immediately follows this gruesome show with a passionate explanation of how she is teaching our children how to renew the soil, to create and expand the basis for life itself.

"I decide on the spot that Tess is the best hope for the world, and I will be her disciple. So I sign up to coordinate volunteers for her garden class, and I drag my preschooler (under protest) to assist for first grade gardening. Helping at first grade garden class feels more like crowd control than saving the earth, but then they all run to collect earthworms to place in the strawberry pots we just filled, and in that action, as boys and girls alike pull up the wiggly, oozy worms, there is a moment of wet, slimy grace. All along I've been trying to teach reduce, reuse, recycle, trying to simply mitigate the mess we continue to make, while overlooking something so much more elemental. Here, in the actual physical soil, in the "worm poop," is a real, muddy truth, a hoped-for future, in which our children do not merely "make do with less," but rather, they actually rebuild a healthy planet. The children are learning to make fertile soil, the main lesson in the new, necessary "three Rs," full of so much more dirt and possibility: Regenerate, Restore, Renew."