



SUNRIDGE BULLETIN

JUNE 9, 2010

SUNRIDGE SCHOOL

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WWW.SUNRIDGESCHOOL.ORG

CALENDAR

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 1st Grade Ceremony

Saturdays, August 14 & 21:
Campus/classroom
beautification/prep days

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

Wed.-Friday, August 25-27: **First week**
of school, all early release days

Saturday, August 28:
Back to School Party

Early Release today and tomorrow (last day of school)!

End-of-Year Picnic at Ragle Park Tomorrow

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...)

Pledge Thank You and Plea

Thank you so much to everyone who was able and willing to contribute to our pledge program this year. We will hopefully raise over \$200,000 this year, all of which went to pay for teachers and supplies for our Specialty classes and for teaching assistants. We could not offer what we do without those monthly donations, so please pat yourself on the back and say, "I am part of making SunRidge possible!"

As we close this school year, please don't forget your June pledge. Our expenses are equalized out over 10 months, so our June expenses are the same as any other month. We need June pledges as much as we need pledges for any month. Thank you for caring and remembering.

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.

AfterCare on Last Day of School

Aftercare will be available as usual today, Wednesday, but on Thursday will only be available until 1:00pm so that staff can attend our end-of-year picnic.

Graduation Needs

Our 8th grade graduation will be on Friday, June 11, at 5:30 pm in the outdoor amphitheater. Helpers are always needed for this event. If you would like to contribute, please call Aurora at 829-7358, or Nedra at 823-8067. We still need **fresh flowers**. There will be buckets of water near the Community Room to put them in anytime before late afternoon on Friday.

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.

Sad Goodbyes

Many dedicated employees are leaving SunRidge after this year, and there is neither time nor space to do them justice in this Bulletin. We can only say thank you for all you have given to SunRidge, and wish you the best on your new paths.

- Mekonen Bahta, our fine custodian, who has decided to cut back to only one full-time job (he also works at SRJC)

- Karen Gallagher, who moves onward toward her future career in Eurythmy
 - Lyra Matthews, who is moving back to her home in Mendocino County
 - Christopher McRee, whose health needs do not allow him to work as a full-time teacher
 - Galia Brieva, who has been hired to teach Spanish at Sonoma Country Day School
 - Linda Clopton, who is contemplating how she can best stay connected to everything she loves at SunRidge!
- Also leaving their positions as Independent Contractors:
Barbara Neumann, Carl Sokol, and Tess Pohlmann.

We will miss you all !

Clarification about Getting Cut Classes Back

from Mark Rice

I have had several inquiries lately from parents about how they can help get a Specialty class back that needed to be cut for next year. It is important for everyone to know that parents cannot directly fund the payment of a teacher in a school. Parents can donate to the SunRidge Educational Foundation with the request that their donation go to supporting the offering of a particular class, but it must be understood that the Foundation Board would then be responsible for deciding if and when such a fund would be donated to SunRidge for that purpose. In their decision making process, the Board of the Foundation would not want to fund any "new" program (or bring back a cut program) if the donations being made were having a negative impact on our pledge program, which supports existing programs (i.e., if parents were reducing their pledges so they could donate to the Foundation). Perhaps the best way to bring back our cut classes would be for parents to increase contributions to our pledge program directly. As we turn things around financially and keep our pledge program strong and growing, we will bring back cut programs.

Spring Concert Beautiful

Many thanks and gratitudes to Karen Gallagher, Eddie Guthman, and our singers and instrumentalists for the wonderful concert last Thursday night. Our students shone as they demonstrated the art of bringing beauty to others through music.

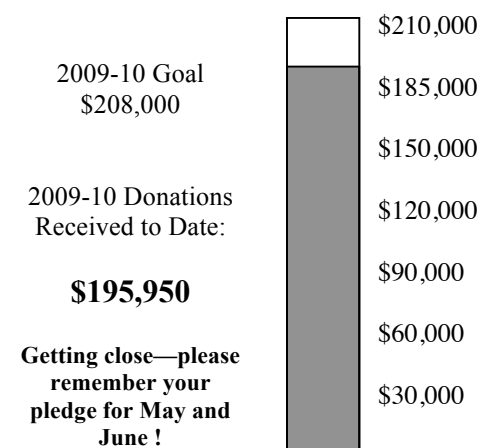
Thank You Amphitheater Creators

Last weekend the sunbrella roof of our outdoor amphitheater went on and it looks beautiful. This roof continues the work of many parents over the last few years to make this area both functional and beautiful. Last year, **Lars Langberg** created the design of the roof and this year **Baron Coenen** has donated way too many hours to count in getting the structure and the covering fabricated and installed (including digging some deep post holes!)—and just in time for our 8th grade graduation! Gratitudes and appreciations!

Another Thank You

Hopefully finished today, this year's third grade building project was overseen by parent **Dustin Deason**. The project is a new bridge over the (usually only) winter creek

2009-10 Pledge Program Report



that runs down through the side yard next to the basketball court. The muddy conditions this year delayed the project until recently, but it will be an attractive and functional addition to the yard. Great job third graders, and many thanks to Dustin for his contribution of skill and time to this great learning opportunity for our third grade class. Thank you also to kindergarten parent **Jonah Bernard** for drawing the plans on his computer.

Student End-of-Year Reports

Look for your child's end-of-year reports to arrive by mail by the end of June.

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.

Whole Foods Scrip Over the Summer

Please continue to support SunRidge by buying Whole Foods 4% scrip through the summer. Cards will be available at Infusions (check or money order made out to SunRidge) as well as in the office at designated times (email message with details to follow soon). Please call Lisa Eschenberg at 888-3392 with any questions.

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.

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.

Rudolf Steiner: A Biography in Pictures

Chris Guilfoil, a faculty member at Waldorf Teacher Education Eugene, is giving a lecture on the early years of Steiner's life. **Wednesday, June 30 at 7:30pm** at the East Bay Waldorf School, 3800 Clark Road, El Sobrante, CA.

Suggested Donation: \$10.

From Enlightenment to Spirituality A lecture by Christof Wiechert

As individuals in the 21st century, we need to realize that our individual freedom – or “ethical individualism” - requires respect for the freedom of others. If we are on our way to achieving that, we experience a need to find a way to an inner spiritual path.

Christof Wiechert, a Waldorf graduate, has been the leader of the Pedagogical Section at the Goethea num, in Dornach, Switzerland, since 2001. **Wednesday, July 14 at 7:30pm** at the East Bay Waldorf School, 3800 Clark Road, El Sobrante, CA. Suggested Donation: \$10.

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>.

Dear SunRidge Community,

Good-byes are never easy. They hold feelings of sadness, longing, pain, hope, love, expectancy. It is this way for me as I take my leave of SunRidge School. My ten years on this campus have imbued me with the power of imagination, have given me courage for the truth and have sharpened my feelings to responsibility of soul. I am on the path toward gaining a certificate in eurhythmy, and perhaps someday I can return to share this gift with my community. For now, I bid you all a fond farewell, encouraging you to keep striving toward Beauty, Goodness and Truth in all things. With Much Love, Gratitude and Grace - Karen Gallagher

Summer Camps

Balance, unicycle, leap, juggle, perform!

from Mr. T

10% off if you register by this Friday.
See attached flyer.

This summer Alex Boshell (Movement Teacher from Novato Charter/Live Oak) and I will run a one-week Circus Camp 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. If this sounds intriguing, you can learn more at 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 and 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, 5th 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.

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 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 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.

A Farewell Plug for the Parent Council *from Pam Koppel*

After 3 years as Parent Council Chairperson, I am handing over the reigns to the capable hands of Robert Rainwater. It has been a pleasure working with our class representatives over the past few years. We have spent a lot of time implementing systems in order for all the events and tasks that fall under the PC to flow smoothly. And for the most part...smoothly they have flowed! I can also say this group of parents that have been representing your classes this past year have been an amazing group of present, thoughtful and responsive participants and it has been an honor to serve with them.

All that said, the main reason for my departing PC blurb as we end the year is that I want to put in a plug for the Parent Council. I think this group flies way too "under the radar" for the work they do, and I encourage you as members of the parent body to spend some time next year connecting with Parent Council. Did you know that all community events (May Faire, Storytelling Festival, Back to School Party), parent education and fundraising activities fall under the PC? Pretty much everything that is not directly curriculum or personnel related is under the purview of the Parent Council. Yet when one of our representatives was begging his fellow parents to replace him, and sharing the need for each class to have a representative vote, the question was asked, "well, what is there to vote on?" Hmm....perhaps a shortcoming of my PC Chair days - a lack of communication in sharing the significance of the Parent Council.

We have the good fortune to be in a school environment where our voices can be heard and are taken very seriously by those who are charting the course of the school. Yet 400 or so disparate voices do not constitute a productive channel of information. Our Parent Council representatives, as well as our parent representatives on the Charter Council, are our opportunity to have our voices heard in the arenas where change is made. Both councils are where a large majority of the SunRidge decisions are determined, and if you have ever tried to be a part of creating change, you will know the first adage is - find out where decisions are made and move in that direction. Do you know who your PC rep is? Do you know who the parent reps on the Charter Council are?

I wish for all of us a sunny, relaxing summer. And when we return next fall, I encourage you all to make a point of taking one evening next year, and attend a Parent Council meeting. Or live on the edge - make it two evenings and check out a Charter Council meeting. It's important. I am willing to bet after you attend, you will understand why. And if your class doesn't have a PC representative, please reconsider. Every class having a rep means every parent has an avenue for their voice to be heard, and personally, I think that is a pretty cool thing!

Many thanks and blessings on our work!
Pam Koppel
Soon to be 3rd Grade Mom

Special thanks...

On behalf of the whole Parent Council, I just want to add a special thanks to Nedra Berns, graduating 8th grade parent. Nedra has either attended the meetings, or served as a PC rep for her entire 9 years at the school. This past year she also served as a parent rep on the Charter Council. Nedra, we thank you for your wisdom and mentorship and your years of continuous service. We wish your family well as your daughter moves into high school. Whatever community you end up in will be lucky to have you!

Also, another special thanks to Shyama Haris, who has served as our Community Service Coordinator for the past 3 years and is now letting go over her position. Thanks, Shyama, for all the passion you have put into the role and for the fabulous job you did on our Community Service Guide!
Your service is much appreciated.

Mark's Addition: A very, very special thank you to Pam for the service she has provided to SunRidge these last few years. Parent Council operations have never run more smoothly and she has done an admirable job of building something that will benefit the school well into the future. And, she also led our very successful auction effort this year. What would we do without the Pam's of the world? Not nearly as much, and not nearly as well, that's for sure. Blessings on you Pam!