

SUNRIDGE BULLETIN

SEPTEMBER 30, 2009

SUNRIDGE SCHOOL

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CALENDAR

Friday, October 2 ~ **School Closed for Tribes Faculty Training**

Tuesday, October 6, 6:30 - 8:00pm
Class 1 parent Evening

Tuesday, October 13, 6:30 - 9:00pm:
Parent Council meeting

Wednesday, October 14
Portrait Day

Monday, October 19, 6:33pm:
All Middle School parent evening

Tuesday, October 20, 6:00 - 9:00pm
Charter Council Meeting

Wednesday, October 21, 6:30-8:30pm:
Kindergarten parent evening

Saturday, October 24, 9:00 - 12:30pm
Class 5 Parent Meeting

Thursday, October 29, 6:45pm:
Tribes Presentation for Parents
At Apple Blossom School Auditorium

Friday, October 30 ~ **School Closed for Tribes Faculty Training**

SCHOOL CLOSED THIS FRIDAY for Teacher Training Day

Please Label Clothing

With the cool mornings and warm afternoons, the quantity of clothing shed around campus is growing. If you label your children's clothing with a name, we can return it to their classroom. Otherwise it ends up in our lost and found and eventually we give it away to charity. The lost and found is in the breezeway between class 4 and 6.

Did You Know?

Conflict is inevitable in any community. That's why we have a conflict resolution procedure in our parent handbook (on the website if you don't have one). Please take a few minutes to read through this procedure so that we are all on the same page and working together to address conflicts in the healthiest way. Short version: always talk first to the person with whom you have a concern or conflict; remember there are always at least two parts to every story; there is no shortcut to resolution that does not involve the challenge of speaking directly to the person with whom we feel some discomfort, and with the intention of finding clarity and resolution rather than blame.

Great Storytelling Festival!

The Diversity and Storytelling Festival Committee want to thank all of you who gave so generously of your time to make the festival such a success. We will be thanking individuals in upcoming bulletins but for now, we just want you to know how much we appreciate the many ways you contributed as a community.

Helpers Needed

Volunteers willing, our outdoor amphitheatre will be getting a roof during October. This all-volunteer project is being designed and coordinated by parents Lars Langberg and Baron Coenen. The plan is for the footings to be dug and installed this Friday, October 2 when the school will be closed for a staff Tribes training. They will need 4-6 helpers for this project on that day. Later in the month, the fabricated roof structure will be installed. If you can help on October 2, please let Baron know: 510-504-7382 or el3ring@gmail.com.

Walk and Roll Train! Wednesday Oct. 7th!

Calling all students and parents in the Twin Hills School District! On Wednesday, October 7th, join our "walk & roll train" in celebration of International Walk & Roll to School Day! Join with Supervisor Efren Carillo and Sebastopol Mayor Sarah Gurney and participants from five schools as we have fun and demonstrate the need for a safe route to schools on Watertrough Road.

We'll be organizing in school groups at 7:30am on the grassy strip along the south side of Bodega Hwy, near Valley View Drive. We will start walking and rolling as a group at 7:50 am. Those who live too far to bike or walk are welcome to join us! Please park legally on Valley View Drive.

For safety, wear bright colors. Bike riders should wear helmets. Costumes, bells, drums, flags, etc. are encouraged!

** Parents: Please arrange for a safe return home. This is a one-way event!*

More info: The Sonoma County Bicycle Coalition, Safe Kids Sonoma County, Santa Rosa Street Smart, iWALK, Kaiser Permanente, Network For A Healthy California, and FedEx are sponsoring the 13th annual International Walk and Roll to School Day on Wednesday, October 7, 2009. Activities are planned at over 40 schools throughout the county to encourage children and their parents to walk and bike safely to school.

This event has the support of the CHP and the Sebastopol Police. For more information, please contact Rebecca at 823-4635.

New Kitchen Update and Volunteer Opportunity

Thanks to the many people who have contributed volunteer hours, money, and materials we are happy to say we are in the later stages of constructing our new garden kitchen. Garden teacher Tess Pohlmann has already transformed the garden area into an exciting outdoor classroom, teeming with plants, bees, seeds, starts, and other learning opportunities for our students.

However, for her to be able to continue through the rainy season we need volunteers to help with the following projects over the next few weeks:

- Installing non-toxic denim insulation (at least two persons)
- Helping to install plywood interior walls and ceiling (one more person with carpentry skills plus two helpers)
- Painting with non-toxic earth-based paints (several persons)

Please contact Bob Poole at 823-8324 or robtpoole@gmail.com

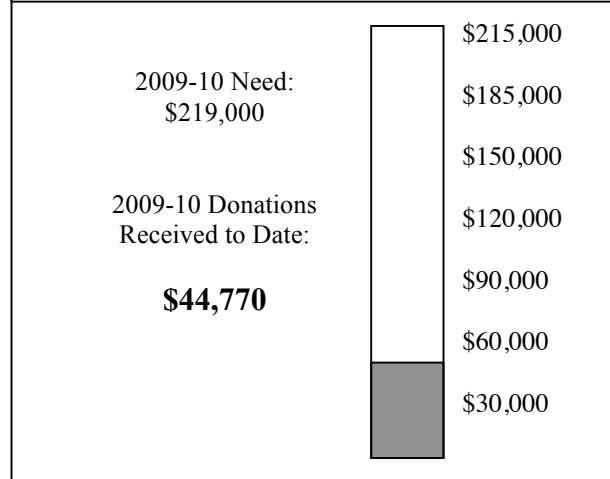
Middle School Sports League News ~ from Mr. T
 The 2009-2010 Middle School Sports League is underway! Co-ed Volleyball matches have started and there is strong competition in both the 7th and 8th grade divisions. Games are played every Monday and Wednesday beginning at 3:45pm. Teams will compete throughout September and October for the League Championship that will be decided on the last day of the regular season which is October 21st. The 8th grade will then have their end-of-year Friendship Tournament on Saturday, October 24th on the campus of Sonoma Country Day School. Good luck to all teams.

The Fall Cross-Country Season is beginning on Tuesday, September 29th. The meet will be held on the campus of Sonoma Country Day School and has a 4:00pm start time. The meet is open to all 6th, 7th, and 8th Grade boys and girls. The runners will negotiate a 2.1 mile flat, fast course. Good luck!
 MSSL

First Cross-Country Meet a SunRidge Success!

Yesterday, Toby and Pierre from 6th grade, and Cassidy from 7th grade ran in the Middle School Sports League meet. Toby finished 1st in his division; Cassidy finished 1st

2009-10 Pledge Program Report



as well in her division. Pierre finished strongly too in the 6th grade boy division, well ahead of some 8th grade boys. Congratulations to the runners! We look forward to the next two meets. It's not too late to sign up – forms in the school office. Talk with Mr. T, too.

Next Meet Dates and locations: Tuesday, October 6th at Sonoma Academy @ 4pm; Tuesday, October 13th at Santa Rosa Christian/Wells Fargo Center at 4pm.

Folk Art For Schools Calendars are here! Enjoy the Art of Patrick Amiot all year long or give them as gifts. They are only \$12 and all of the profits go to SunRidge and other local schools. They are now available in the office. Volunteers are needed to help sell calendars during Art Trails on October 11th. Have fun, meet the artist & help raise funds for SunRidge. Last year we raised \$6000 for the school with this project—let's do that again! Contact Heather to volunteer or with questions about calendar sales. heathert@sonic.net or 537-0839

Greetings from the Spanish Program from Galia Brieva

One of the most special and symbolic traditions in Latin America is coming up soon, "El Dia de Los Muertos" or The Day of the Dead. The Spanish program at SunRidge honors and celebrates this beautiful day in early November. It is a whole school event where we remember the life of those families and friends that are no longer with us. In addition to the beautiful decorations, displays, and crafts, the Spanish program wants to ask families for donations of spare eggs, flour, and sugar for the making of the "Pan de Muerto", bread of the dead. These ingredients can be brought to Senora Galia's casita, around the middle of October (more details to follow). Also if your family has any extra pumpkins and marigolds or any type of white, purple, orange or gold flowers, they would be appreciated. More details will come soon!

SunRidge Budget 101 by Mark Rice

For those of you who wonder or have questions about SunRidge finances, here is an overview. Feel free to ask me if you have any questions.

Our school funding comes primarily from state and local funding for public schools. We receive different amounts for different grades, and the amount has been cut by about 10 % in the last year. We receive between \$5000-\$6000 per student per year, not nearly enough to run our school.

SunRidge is especially pinched by state funding because it is paid per student, per day of attendance. We get no money when a student is not here, regardless of the reason for the absence. Our traditionally high absentee rate hurts us financially to the tune of around \$12,000 per year for each percentage point (i.e. if we had a 96% attendance rate rather than a 94% rate, we would receive \$24,000 more in state funding for the year). In addition, our small classrooms force us to keep class sizes small—too small to be financially viable without supplementing state funding with other funding of some kind.

Our pledge program was created when SunRidge was founded to help address state funding inadequacies. Traditionally, parent pledges have made up about 13% of our entire income (i.e., public school funding pays for 87% of the cost, parents are paying for the rest). Pledge donations from parents go directly into the school fund at the district to pay for wages, payroll costs, and supplies for various specialty classes and for teaching assistants in kindergarten and 1st grade. Without pledge funds, we would need to eliminate significant parts of our educational program.

What about those funds that are raised by parents through sales and events like last year's on-line auction? All fundraising is coordinated by our Parent Council and fundraising income is held and managed by the SunRidge Educational Foundation. Our non-profit Foundation exists solely to support SunRidge School, and allocates funds for various purposes based on prioritized needs. The Foundation typically funds about \$15,000 per year for Waldorf and other teacher training, and a similar amount for site improvements, school equipment (e.g., desks and chairs), and other classroom needs. This year the Foundation will be donating the funds raised in last year's auction to the school to minimize the negative effect of this year's state funding cuts.

School budgets are fairly complicated because of the complex bureaucracy of state and local funding methods and procedures. Our school budget is developed each Spring, primarily by the school Director, in consultation with the Charter Council and the district Business Manager. The Twin Hills Business Manager provides monthly budget reports to the Director, who implements the budget and provides monthly reports to the Charter Council.

Classified

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

FREE: 2 Choroi "C" wood flutes. Very good condition with fingering chart, cleaning rod, cloth case, and original box. No cost. Email tmakihara@sbcglobal.net or phone 707-823-2347.

For Sale: Violin stand and chin pad, very lightly used, \$20.00. Call Amy at 829-3345.

FOR SALE: Upright wooden acoustic BASS, 1/2 size, made by Cremona. Lovely sound and action. Played by a SunRidge student for 3 years. Comes with a bow and 2 carrying cases (one light-weight, one thickly-padded). \$650. Call Mella at 829-8208. Thanks.

FOR SALE: child's 1/2 size cello. Excellent condition. Includes bow and hard shell case. \$400 obo. See Eddie to view cello. Barbara 829-0203
Thanks, Barbara Chapman

Santa Rosa/ Sebastopol Carpool Desired

Hello fellow Waldorf parents. I live in downtown Santa Rosa and my daughter attends 2nd grade at the Independent Charter School. We are looking for other families to share the CO2 burden of commuting between Sebastopol and Santa Rosa. If interested, please call Nichole at 545-2747.

Trailer Space Needed

Sixth grade teacher, Mr. McRee and his wife live in Healdsburg but would like to be closer to school at times. They are looking for a place to park their beautiful large trailer somewhere near the school (like just a few minutes' drive away), either in the country or at a quiet location in town. Mr. and Mrs. McRee would like to be able to stay overnight now and then (like weekends, for example) and enjoy being closer to the school. They are willing to pay reasonable rent or trade services (like tutoring?). The trailer is fully self-contained, although they would prefer to be hooked up to electricity at least, as well as water and sewer or septic if possible. Please contact them via email at cmcree@comcast.net or by phone at 431-2572 (lv. msg.)

Room for Rent

Spacious master bedroom with private bath, walk-in closet, deck and private entrance if wanted. Nice NW Santa Rosa neighborhood, near Hwy's and shopping, easy to downtown. \$700 per month, utilities included. Call Rebecca: 525-8750.

Housing Need Sebastopol Area

For two adults, one SunRidge student and one baby (in October). Can pay up to \$1,000/ mo including utilities. Prefer 2 BR, but 1 BR is okay. Washer/Dryer hookup is important (cloth diapering). Please call Ruth, (707) 293-7477. Thank you

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