



SUNRIDGE BULLETIN

NOVEMBER 18, 2009

SUNRIDGE SCHOOL

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CALENDAR

Thursday, November 19 (tomorrow)
7th Grade Farmers' Market

Monday, November 23
**School Closed for Parent
Conferences**

November 24 - 27
**School Closed ~Thanksgiving
Break**

Tuesday, December 1
Make-up Portrait Day

Tuesday, December 1, 6:30pm
Parent Council Meeting

Saturday, Dec. 5 & Sunday Dec. 6
**Winter Garden/Festival of Light
See attached schedule on pg 4**

Tuesday, December 15, 6:00-9:00pm:
Charter Council Meeting

Friday, December 18
Early Release - Winter Break

Winter Break - Dec 18 - Jan 4

Thanksgiving Week, November 23 – 27, School Closed All Week

Directory Corrections have been made. The corrections page is attached to today's bulletin and will also be sent home in hard copy with your child.

Is Your Child Prepared? If you haven't yet put together a Survival/ Comfort Kit for your child/children, please do so now. Better late than never!

Parent Conferences are Essential

We are closing the school Monday, November 23, so that our teachers have a good block of time to conduct many fall parent conferences. Please sign up for a conference that day if at all possible. Our teachers are expected to conduct a fall parent conference for every student—your cooperation in making this happen is essential. Thank you for working in partnership for your child's education.

Winter Garden/Festival of Light, December 5 & 6

Please reserve space on your calendars for December 5 & 6. SunRidge's annual WINTER GARDEN event will be held during that weekend and all are encouraged to attend. Please see article and schedule on page 4 of today's bulletin.

Games/Movement News~ from Mr. T

Mr. T got back from a movement training this weekend and is excited to collect old bed sheets from families to make a ragball for games like take the bacon and basketbrawl. Your timid sheets can find new life in ball form, being pulled on vigorously by grades 6-8 and providing years of joy for our students. If you have some old sheets lying around, please consider donating them to this fun cause. To the office, with a note for me is fine.

Also, how many of you would be interested in having a Family Play night where you get to play the same games as your children, with your children, and together with others in the community? It's an idea that's been simmering in my head for years... Dale Thurber

Folk Art For Schools Calendars

Folk Art for Schools Calendars are now available and on sale as a fundraiser for our school. They are only \$12 and all of the profits go to SunRidge and other local schools. Last year we raised over \$6000 with this project—not so hard if everyone buys a few (at least)! They are now available in the office. Contact Heather with questions about calendar sales. heathert@sonic.net or 537-0839.

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!

Get on board the SunRidge Online Auction Train!

After the great success of our online auction last year, we're doing it again! The auction will be a bit earlier this year - early to mid-March.

There were two key lessons we learned from last year's auction:

Get Started Early and The More the Merrier!

We've already got a great team lined up including Amy Schiff, Ed Mills, Craig Litwin, Pam Koppel, Hassanah Meechan and Paula Camacho, and we're already making steady progress, but we could use YOUR help.

Here's some of what's still needed:

- help with receiving and storing the items
- data entry
- help soliciting items

Since we all now have the auction experience from last year and we know how much fun it is to participate - hop on board early and help make this year's auction a success. If you are interested in participating, please call Pam Koppel @ 799-2203 or Amy Schiff @ 318-2315.

Handwork Gnome Update...

There's still time to contribute to our yearly gnome knitting venture.... The gnomes will be sold to our family and friends here at SunRidge before the winter break. The beautiful variegated yarn was donated by Alchemy Yarn. Many thanks to Gina Wilde. E-mail me at handwork@hotmail.com if you would like to participate. Happy Knitting, Laurie McKenzie

Yea Compost!

We have been offered well-composted manure, which our gardens desperately need. If you are around on the break and can spare some time, please call or email Tiffany Ashcraft in the second grade class. She will need help loading and unloading her truck. Thank-you Tiffany. tiffanyash@comcast.net

Make Your Own Earthen Paints

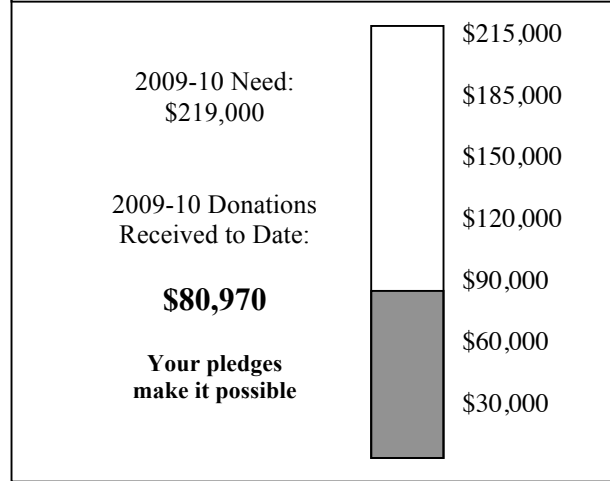
On Saturday, **November 21st** the garden program is offering a **FREE** class on how to make interior paint. Sara McCamant has taught natural building and painting at Emerald Earth for the past ten years. Google Emerald Earth to see some of her work and you will know how lucky we are to have her come here to teach.

The day will begin at 10:00 with a 2-hour talk and demonstration. Then we will make our own paint and apply the first coat onto the walls of the garden building. Class ends at 3:30.

If you are interested, contact Tess at 292-9867, sunridg garden@gmail.com

From Tess: I would like our garden to be a place where we can learn new skills that will help us make choices that brighten the future for our children and give them the tools they might need in the world we are handing to them. If you have something to share that you would like to bring to "the garden", please let me know. Together we can creatively make a big difference.

2009-10 Pledge Program Report



Boys' Basketball Games

Today at Sonoma Country Day School in Santa Rosa at 3:45. Monday, November 23 with Harvest Christian at the Sebastopol Christian Church at 3:45. Wednesday, December 2, at Windsor Christian Academy, 3:45pm. Go SunRidge Vikings!

Community Service Recording

It's now time to take a minute and input your community service hours for October through the following link:

http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=rE7kua_i_2bnzccZEXrEF3D4w_3d_3d

Waldorf Methods High School?

Yes, one is in the planning stages. Go to: <http://www.sonomacountyhighschool.org/welcome> if you are interested in seeing what they are doing. There is an impressive list of people involved in this project. Please pass this information on to anyone that may be interested in supporting a charter high school inspired by Waldorf Education.

Reminders!

December Aftercare Forms... Don't forget to turn in your December Aftercare forms by this Friday, November 20 (because after that, it's Thanksgiving break, and after that, it's December!).

No Cell Phones Please

We do our best to make SunRidge an electronic media-free environment. We ask parents to help by not using your cell phone around the children (i.e., not in the pedestrian crossing, outside of classrooms, in front pick-up area, etc.). Our rule for student use of cell phones is that if they must make a call, it should be made in the office only.

Flu Reminder

Help us minimize the spread of flu by keeping your sick child at home. Staff and students with flu-like illness should stay home for at least 24 hours after they no longer have a fever, or signs of a fever, without the use of fever-reducing medicines. Students with flu-like symptoms will be sent home. You can also help by reinforcing with your child the importance of frequent hand washing. Students are encouraged to wash their hands at school, and we now have hand sanitizing supplies in each classroom. Thank you for your cooperation.

Fall Sports Wrap-up

Great News! Our Cross Country Team finished Second place in the Middle School Sports League this year! Behind the strong and consistent running of Cassidy Whisman (7th grade Girls' division – FIRST place for the season), Toby Alongi (6th grade Boys' division – FIRST place for the season), Pierre Ginella (who made all three meets and improved his time each meet) Alex Mamrelli-Small, Autumn Racherbaumer, Carlos Booker, and Jasper Guyer-Stevens, we made a strong showing for our school. This is no small accomplishment in a league with 13 schools, as each meet saw more and more runners, and this year was the most competitive yet! Mr. T extends his gratitude to our athletes – we flew like the wind!

Our 8th grade Phoenix Volleyball team also finished very well this season, tying for second with our record in the 8-team tournament, and enjoying an outstanding season of play tying SCDS with a Second place season finish. The team's overall season record was the best yet for our 8th grade Phoenix team in our schools' history. And you could see the players understood teamwork and aligning their will forces to overcome adversity. Our 7th grade team enjoyed phenomenal improvement in skills, understanding of the game, and enjoying themselves and a season with more wins than losses. Next year looks promising. Special thanks to Curt Quantz for coaching the 8th grade team this year, and to all the players who made our program successful – 8th grade team: Annie, Serena, Alister, Ruby, Maya, Charlotte, Tucker, Sasha, Morgynne, Jessica, Chris, Ry, and Allegra; 7th grade team: Alaura, Jason, Autumn, Jewelana, Colleen, Taylor, Anya, Hannah, Zoe and Taidgh.

8th grade boys' basketball is underway, and is providing exciting games for onlookers. They are pioneering the first SunRidge team in at least 5 years. John Thompson is coaching the boys' team. They have quite a few home games at the Sebastopol Community Church on Monday and Wednesday afternoons. Come on out and support Wyatt, Jason, Jasper, Michael, Nick, Kady, Gabe, Xionamey, Alister and Alex to success and enjoy watching our student athletes play hard.

I'd like to take this time to reflect upon the growth of the athletic program. In our 8th year now, we've had a string of

many second place finishes in a row. We have 12-13 schools in our league, and that speaks volumes about the student athletes who strive in our programs. What says even more is watching them gracefully and purposefully move together. Here's to future success (and maybe a championship banner!)

Community Events

Cybersafety Workshop

Today, November 18, 4:00-5:30pm in the Sonoma County Office of Education Board Room.

Open to educators and parents. Topics include: Social Networking, What to do about inappropriate content, piracy, personal information—what's safe to share, and cyber bullying.

If you have content questions, contact Rick Phelan at 707-524-2847 or email to rphelan@scoe.org.

Community Thanksgiving ~ from Kat Ripley

As Thanksgiving approaches, I'd like to find out if there are any families that would either like to come to my house for dinner or if we could be included in their celebration.

Trevor and I do not have any family close by and would love to share this special day of thanks with the company of others. Warmly, Kat Ripley: katripley@att.net 887-2425.

Be Inspired to Action

Copperfield's Books in Sebastopol, **7:00pm, Thursday, November 19th**, presents Mike Roselle, one of the most controversial figures in the crusade to protect the environment.

Sebastopol Tree Lighting Ceremony

Sebastopol's Annual Tree Lighting Celebration takes place on December 3, from 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm at the Downtown Plaza (corner of McKinley St. & Petaluma Ave). Musical entertainment, cookie decorating, craft projects for the children, hot chocolate, sing a long with Mr. Music, good cheer and much more await you.

Summerfield Winter Faire

Saturday, December 5, 2009, 11am to 4pm

655 Willowside Road, Santa Rosa, CA 95401

An old-fashioned holiday event with family and friends as well as gift making & shopping.

Admission \$1, craft-making and other activities cost extra.

Contact: Sandra Sheffield, 707-484-0358

West County Dance and Jam!

Put **Friday, December 11, 6:30-11:30pm** on your calendar for an evening of live music, food, and dance for the West County community. Many local musicians, child activity room, potluck dinner, beer and wine for sale. Green event: bring own dishware. At the Sebastopol Community Center. Organized by SunRidge parent, Karen Poe.

Winter Garden & Festival of LightsSaturday, December 5th and Sunday, December 6th

As autumn gives way to winter, numerous cultures hold traditions to embrace the light within the darkest time of the year. On December 5 and 6 (see schedule in next column), we invite you to celebrate our Winter Garden and Festival of Lights. Imagine a darkened space, with a spiral of evergreens, winter foliage and crystals creating a path to the center where one candle is burning. Quiet music creates a reverent mood as parents await the entry of the children led by their class teacher. One by one, each child walks the spiral with his or her own candle nestled in a rosy apple; each candle is lit and placed on stumps placed around the spiral. The room brightens with the light of each child's candle. To prepare for the quiet mood of the evening, allow time before and after the celebration free of electronic media stimulation, including recorded music. Find ways to foster anticipation, reverence and inner quiet.

Families are invited to dress in festive attire. For safety reasons, tie long hair back and avoid full skirts and dresses. In order to maintain a quiet atmosphere, we ask families with younger siblings to sit next to an exit in case they become restless and need to be taken outside the building. Please leave cameras at home.

Like last year, grades K-5 will walk a spiral in the Community Room, and weather permitting, grades 6-8 will walk a spiral set up on the stage in the outdoor amphitheater.

Sign-up sheets have been prepared for each class. Please look for ways that you are able to contribute to this festival.

It is essential that each child arrive up to 15 minutes before the actual start time. Please make certain that your child uses the restroom. The time between arrival and the beginning of the ceremony is time that the teacher needs to prepare the class before the walk.

After dropping off your child at their classroom, please find your way to the After-Care Room to see the Festival of Lights display, and then to the Community Room (grades K-5) or the Amphitheater (grades 6-8). Please help us to maintain a mood of quiet and reverence prior, during and after the ceremony.

Families with multiple siblings at SunRidge are encouraged to have each child walk with his or her respective class. If that is not possible, please coordinate other arrangements with all class teachers involved in advance. We ask that younger siblings wait until they are kindergarten-age to walk the spiral.

Winter Garden Schedule (arrive 15 minutes early)**Saturday, December 5**

4:00 – 5:00	Morningstar Kindergarten
5:00 – 6:00	Dragonfly Kindergarten
6:00 – 7:00	Class 5
7:00 – 8:00	Classes 6 & 7
8:00 – 9:00	Class 8

Sunday, December 6

4:00 – 5:00	Class 1
5:00 – 6:00	Class 2
6:00 – 7:00	Class 3
7:00 – 8:00	Class 4

Classified

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

Need Childcare?

Needing somewhere for your kids to be while you work during the Thanksgiving and winter breaks? I am available to do childcare in my home. Please call Rebecca at 525-8750.

Wallet Found Looks like a students wallet. Come to the office to retrieve it. Found Tuesday, November 17.

Piano needed! SunRidge fourth grader needs upright piano. Please call Alissa at 236-0747

Morning Helper Needed

I need help getting my kindergartener, Elijah Trainor, to school in the morning on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays. I need to drop him off at your home at 7:15am on those days. I will pay someone for this help. Please call Nate Trainor at 318-0799.

Mommy's helper needed for SunRidge family.

Pickup from school and take to Sebastopol home. Prepare snack, supervise constructive play, help children clean-up. 15 - 20 hours per week. Please call Dustin @ 707-480-5883.

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.