

SUNRIDGE BULLETIN

DECEMBER 2, 2009

SUNRIDGE SCHOOL

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CALENDAR

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

Thursday, December 10:
Farmers Market at Ragle Park

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

Tuesday, December 15, 6:45pm:
7th grade play, Aladdin, at Subud Hall

Friday, December 18
Early Release - Winter Break

Winter Break - Dec 18 - Jan 4

Tuesday, January 5, 6:30 - 8:00pm:
Class 1 Parent Evening

Wednesday, January 13, 6:30 - 8:30pm:
Class 5 Parent Evening

Friday, January 15
Early Release

Monday, January 18
School Closed ~ Martin Luther King Jr. Day

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!

Winter Garden/Festival of Light, This Weekend, December 5 & 6
Our annual Winter Garden and Festival of Lights is this weekend, December 5 & 6. Please see article and schedule on page 4 of today's bulletin.

SunRidge Shirts, Order by Thursday, December 10

This year we have organic cotton in a women's cut as well as men's, authentic pigment dyed, in river blue (t-shirts), and periwinkle (sweatshirts). Sizes run large so you may want to come in to the office to check sizes before ordering. We are expecting our delivery of SunRidge shirts around December 18. If they don't come before school is out that day, Kenna will schedule a couple of times during the following week that you can come by the school and pick your order up. We will let you know the times in next week's bulletin.

Pick up Wreath Orders this Week

Wreaths will be distributed at drop-off and pick-up today (Wednesday), Thursday and Friday this week. Many thanks, the 7th Grade.

Winter Food Drive ~ from Class Two

Hunger occurs year round, but the winter months are especially challenging for those facing food insecurity. Please join Class Two and the SunRidge community in providing a basic necessity to Sonoma County residents. Remember every donation brings light into the giver and receiver's life. The star-covered barrel is located next to the office for your convenience.

The non-perishable foods that families and children need most are:

Canned tuna and chicken, beans and rice, canned soups, canned fruits, boxed and canned juices, peanut butter, pasta, canned stews, canned vegetables, breakfast cereal. Please – no homemade foods, no glass.

With gratitude, Class Two

Folk Art For Schools Calendars Needs YOU

Folk Art for Schools Calendars are on sale as a fundraiser for our school. They are only \$12, and last year we raised over \$6000 with this project—not so hard **if everyone buys at least one**, as many are also sold in local stores. They are available in the office, and also look for our calendar volunteers out this week in the parking lot to remind us to participate. Contact Heather with questions: heathert@sonic.net or 537-0839.

Thank You 5th Grade Parents

The lunches for faculty meeting in November were such a gift! Delicious, plentiful, and filled with appreciation, which we, faculty and administration, send back to you with deep gratitude.

Door Prizes Needed

The Twin Hills District is hosting an employee Holiday Party at the French Garden restaurant on December 17. We are looking for good door prizes to brighten up the party. If you have anything you might like to donate to the cause (bottles of

wine, gift baskets, etc.) we encourage you to feel the joy of giving by bringing it to the office by December 16. Thank you!

Farmers' Market Next Week

Come join the 8th grade for its winter celebration farmer's market on December 10. We will be making graham cracker gingerbread houses, face painting, playing games, holding an outrageous rummage sale and selling gifts and crafts.

Budget Situation Not So Bright...

The economic crisis at the state level has worsened and schools are likely to face even deeper cuts than those we endured this year. That is particularly bad news for a small school like ours, which doesn't generate enough state funding to pay for our operations even when state funding was higher. It is a year that our own fundraising will be crucial in minimizing any cuts we might be forced to make. Please step up and help make this year's fundraising efforts as successful as possible, especially our major fundraiser, the on-line auction. See the following article for how you can help.

Get on board the 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 Meehan 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.

Crosswalk Duty Needed for Fridays

Many thanks to Kenna Lee for her help with morning crosswalk duty. Unfortunately, she now has to let go of that morning task, so we are looking for a new crosswalk helper for Friday mornings. This is an important but enjoyable role—help ensure the children's safety as they cross the parking lot, and you get to greet their happy faces everyday and socialize a bit with others. If interested, talk to Mark: 824-2844.

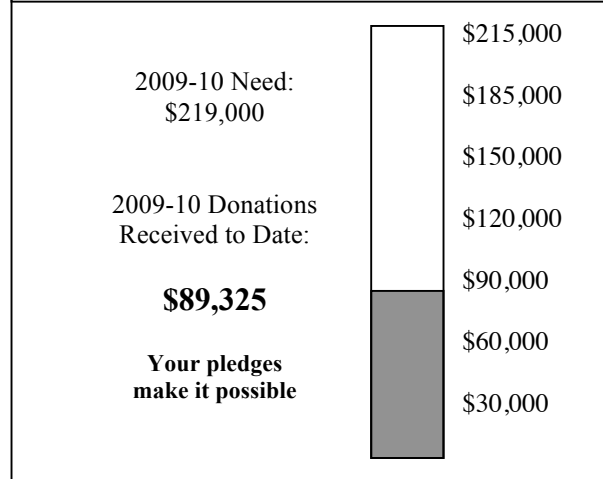
Easy Money

Holiday Shoppers don't forget your COMMUNITY SMART and ESCRIP earn money for SunRidge while you shop. Any questions? Go online at www.communitysmart.com and www.escrip.com

Or contact Kathleen Stroh at 829-2436 or kk_ward@hotmail.com.

Community smart cards are available in the office for \$3.50

2009-10 Pledge Program Report



Handwork News: Calling All Gnomes...

The time is near for the SunRidge gnomes to gather and find their homes. Starting December 7th they will be on sale. Many thanks to our SunRidge friends that have knitted beautiful works of art using all natural materials... Much appreciation goes out to: Claire Noble - for the specialty fabrics; Tory Davis - Organic cotton yarn; Joy Onkin - a nice tapestry loom! Thanks for thinking of SunRidge.....Laurie McKenzie

Make Your Own Earthen Paints

(free workshop rescheduled for this SUNDAY)

Due to a comedy of errors and several requests, we postponed our workshop to this **Sunday, December 6th**.

Meet at 10am in classroom 4.

We will break at 12:00 for lunch in the garden.

From 12:30-2:30 we will make our own paints and apply them to the glorious new garden building.

Not only is this a free workshop, but Bob Poole and I will bring chili and muffins for lunch. Bring a mug for tea. Hope to see you there.

From the Garden ~ 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.

Boys' Basketball Games

Today, December 2, at Windsor Christian Academy, 3:45pm.

December 7, 3:45 at St. Luke's in Santa Rosa.

December 9, 3:45 vs Summerfield at the Sebastopol Community Church. Go SunRidge Vikings!

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!**Tax Idea**

With the end of the year on the horizon, keep in mind that donations to SunRidge are tax-deductible...

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.

Community Involvement**Contribute to downtown Sebastopol**

I am hoping to find community members willing to share their skills and talents in various areas, including web design interior design, construction, artisan playspace building, legal, accounting, fundraising, and marketing & PR. Please contact Loretta at loretta_momof2@yahoo.com

Community Events**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.

Community Events continued**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

SunRidge Parents, Amy Schiff, Misty Cloud, and Karen Poe, together with their music-loving, community-building volunteers, proudly present and invite you and your family to: **WEST COUNTY DANCE AND JAM** (A Non-Profit Community Building Event, featuring local musicians)

Friday, December 11th, 6:30 - 11:30+

Sebastopol Community Center

390 Morris Street, Sebastopol

By donation

Come early for the potluck and dance, stay for the late night community jam. Child activity room available after 7pm, or call the sitter and make it a parent's night out. We hope to see you there! It's gonna be fun! Celebrate Our Community!

Classified

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

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!

Operations & Business Manager

Seeking an Operations & Business Manager for an exciting new nonprofit, The Sebastopol Women and Families Center, which will open its doors in May, 2010. This will begin as a part-time VOLUNTEER position until the Center opens, after which it could potentially evolve into a paid part- or full-time position with benefits.

How to Apply: Please submit a cover letter and resume to: SebastopolWomensCenter@gmail.com

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

Classified continued

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.

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.

Winter Garden & Festival of Lights

Saturday, 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.

Winter Garden & Festival of Lights continued

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.

It is essential that each child arrive up to 15 minutes before the actual start time and goes to their classroom, not out to play. 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