

SUNRIDGE BULLETIN

FEBRUARY 25, 2009

SUNRIDGE SCHOOL

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CALENDAR

February 9 - March 6: **SunRidge Open Enrollment Period for 2009-10**
(see article on page 2)

Saturday, February 28, 10:00-12:00
New applicant Orientation Meeting (must call to sign up)

Tuesday, March 3, 6:30-8:30pm:
Kindergarten parent evening

Tuesday, March 3, 6:30-9:00pm:
Parent Council meeting

Wednesday, March 4, 6:30pm:
Class 4 parent evening

Thursday, March 5: School-wide,
Pajama and Creative Hair Day
(see article on page 3 for guidelines)

Thursday, March 5, 6:30pm:
New applicant Orientation Meeting (must call to sign up)

Tuesday, March 10, 6:30pm:
Class 1 parent evening

Wednesday, March 18, 6:30-8:30pm:
Parent Ed evening with Folk Dancing!

Addressing the Funding Crisis

from Ed Mills, Fundraising Coordinator

Unless you've managed to find a really big rock to hide under, by now you know about our school's budget "crisis." While we still don't know the final number, it is likely that, after the state announces its cuts and we calculate our current pledge shortfall, we will have at least a \$60,000 budget deficit. And, as with any budget deficit, we have two options for dealing with it: Raise more money to cover the difference, or cut existing services.

Those of you who attended our school-wide budget meeting know how difficult it would be to cut existing services for our children. What would we cut? Every one of those "extra" services is an integral part of the SunRidge and Waldorf experience. Clearly, our first choice is to raise the money needed to retain these services.

And out of that same budget meeting, a new fundraising committee was created with the intention of being a catalyst for our efforts to raise \$60,000 and ensure that our children continue to enjoy *all* of the amazing curriculum that makes SunRidge such a magical place to grow, learn and discover the world! But the fundraising committee can't do it alone. To succeed we will have to come together as a community. This is our challenge, and our opportunity.

It's been said that every cloud has a silver lining. We now have an opportunity to put that saying into practice: We can choose to look at the cloud of this crisis or its silver lining. We can focus on the obstacle in our way or the opportunity we have to find a way around it. We can become paralyzed by the problem or energized in our quest for the solution. As individuals and as a community, the choice is ours.

It seems that wherever we turn there are financial crises. And it's likely that many of you reading this have your own financial issues to deal with. But these crises that we witness and face, in our own lives, here at SunRidge, and in the wider world, provide us with opportunities to choose where we focus. With so much attention on the financial mess that this country is in right now it is easy to get caught up in and focused on the financial struggles and problems. But it is just as easy to focus on the incredible abundance that is all around us. Everywhere you look you can find examples of abundance. Look around you right now. Take in all the amazing abundance in your life. Your home or office. The computer that you're using. Your child's artwork on the wall. Everything in your world right now is an example of the abundance flowing through your life.

Have you ever asked yourself why you wanted your children to come to SunRidge? There are the easy answers: "I wanted my kids to have a Waldorf education." "I like that it's a charter school." "We heard great things about the school." But my guess is that you are here because, on some level, you recognized the magic that exists here at SunRidge. You could sense the beauty and wonder that weaves itself through the foundation of this school. And you wanted your children to experience, to absorb, to remember and to believe in that magic. As a Kindergarten parent, I see that magic every day. The magic is there in the cubby room with the symbols and the aprons and the "magical archway."

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Pajama and Creative Hair Day AHEAD...

Next Thursday, March 5, we will have an all-grades pajama and creative hair day at school. Specific guidelines that the children must follow for each grade are printed below. Please read them and support their implementation.

Kindergarten: already had their PJ day earlier.

1st — 4th: Pajama day only

- Pajamas must follow the dress code
- Outdoor shoes a must for Games class and recess

5th: Pajama day and/or creative hair day
(teacher discretion)

- Pajamas must follow the dress code
- Outdoor shoes a must for Games class and recess
- **No coloring or dyeing of the hair**
- Sprays and gels may not be brought to school
- Preparation of hair is to be done at home

6th — 8th: Pajama day and/or creative hair day

- Pajamas must follow the dress code
- Outdoor shoes a must for Games class and recess
- Sprays and gels may not be brought to school
- Preparation of hair is to be done at home

Please report January community service hours

Please take a minute to report your hours for January if you haven't yet from the link sent out by email yesterday. Next week an email will go out with the link for reporting your February community service hours.

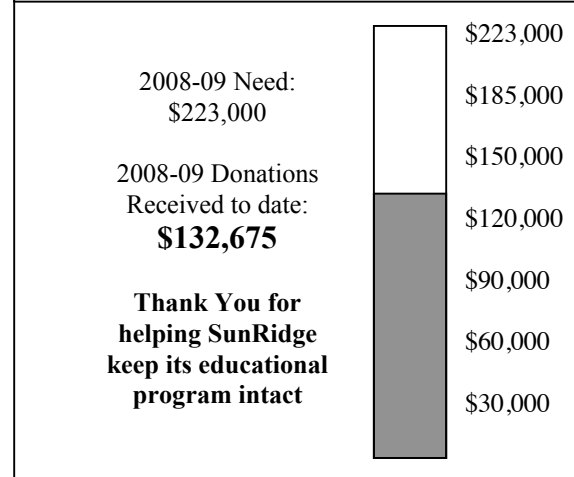
SunRidge Girls Basketball

The Girls basketball season is underway. In the 8th grade's second game, we played what was arguably their best game ever, but came up one point short in the score 29-28 versus Sonoma Country Day School's Comets. Our 6th and 7th graders played their first game against the Comets, and the learning curve was exponential. We had many bright moments in a 30-21 loss, and the girls never gave up. For our four 6th graders, it was their first game ever! I'm really proud of what every girl accomplished last Monday. Next week, the 8th graders play Mark West Charter on Wednesday, March 4th at MW Charter. The game starts at 5pm! Not 3:45 pm like normal, as their gym is not available until then. That might make it easier for parents to attend.

The 7th grade team's next game is Monday, March 9th at Sonoma Charter. Go Valkyries! ~ Dale and Curt

Open Enrollment Period for 2009-10

We are now in our annual open enrollment period through March 6. During this time we accept applications for next year for new students and offer ways for families to learn more about our school. The events include two Orientation meetings; attendance at one is required in order to be included in our lottery, even if an applicant family already has another child enrolled at SunRidge. Contact the office for information and an application.

2008-09 Pledge Program Report**Ask the Green Team!**

Dear Green Team,

Can I recycle Saran wrap? What about produce bags? Bread bags?

YES YOU CAN! But they have to be clean, dry, and bagged together so they are not light and able to fly away. Grab a bag, fill the bag, tie the bag of bags, recycle in your blue recycle bins. It's that simple! You can look for the numbers 2 & 4 on some "film plastic" bags to help guide you, but all non-crinkle plastic bags (like a produce bag) should be acceptable.

Dine and Donate Thank You

Thanks to everyone who supported our recent Dine and Donate Night at Mary's Pizza. We raised almost \$200 for our school, and it was a fun night of socializing and good food. **Many thanks to Mary's Pizza**, and check out their new gluten-free pizza crust!

Papas and Pollo Donates 10%

Papas and Pollo Restaurant will donate 10% of your purchase price to SunRidge if you provide the name and phone number of the school at the time of purchase. What an easy way to get donations for SunRidge!

Want to Order Hot Lunches?

Just fill out a form along with your payment to the Office **three days before any lunch you want** i.e. by Thursday for the Tuesday Hot Lunch and by Tuesday for the Friday Hot Lunch.

If you have any questions or problems, please contact Jessica at 823-5572. The class of 2011 thanks you.

Hot lunch form also available on our website:
<http://www.sunridgeschool.org/forms.html>

Poetry from 4th Grade

The 4th grade has been busy writing their animal reports, getting up in front of their classmates and telling them about their animal and sharing their dioramas with the whole school. Here are a few of the poems that were written for their oral reports.

PUFFINS

By *Mondara Granados Carreiro*

The puffins are a colorful bird,
though wee small in size.
They fly fast to get their food,
shrimp and squid being their prize.
Sometimes a few fish are stolen
from the puffin's bill;
this doesn't upset them,
because everyone gets their fill.
Their song may not be the most beautifully sung,
but they are outstanding
in raising their young.
Both parents work hard
both day and night,
finally they are rewarded
when their babies take flight.
The baby puffin looks
like a small feathery grey ball.
He grows into a colorful beauty
that proudly stands small.

Snow Leopard

By *Jack Wright*

I live, wild and free, in the far off
snowy mountains.
My coat is thick, and warm, and
covered in spots.
My feet are fat and wide, and keep
me from sinking.
My tail is long. Longer than any other.
I can leap! Like no other cat.
I hunt, fierce and swift.
From above, I leap upon a back,
and in their neck I sink my teeth.
I do no roar, but I have a voice.

Community Events of Interest

Put on your calendar: **SunRidge Parent Ed with Folk Dancing**, Wednesday, March 18, 6:30-8:30. More info to come.

**Waldorf Parenting Conference:
Educating Our Children—Changing the Future.**

April 25-26 at the Sacramento Waldorf School in Fair Oaks (Sacramento). Join more than 250 like-minded parents for a weekend of inspiration and renewal. A complete brochure and secure online registration are available at <http://www.waldorfinthefuture.com/> or (303) 546-0070.

The Peregrine Falcon

By Aidan Toner Rodgers

The peregrine falcon, high in the sky,
Waits for prey to go flying by.
It scans below with its piercing gaze,
This majestic bird hasn't eaten for days.
An unlucky bird comes into view—
The peregrine's ready for what few can do.
Speeding, headfirst, to the ground,
A faster diver can't be found.
With keen precision and amazing balance,
It hits the bird with its balled-up talons.
It dives toward the ground to retrieve its feast,
A spectacular hunter to say the least

No February Farmers' Market

From *Leslie Washington*

Due to uncooperative weather, we are officially calling off the Farmer's Market for February. We are starting a new tradition where all the classes that don't get a Farmer's Market during the school year can share the last Farmer's Market in June. So save up all your craft items and faire ideas and we will bring them out for June.

Classified**Rental Available**

Waldorf family is looking for child friendly neighbor(s) for the next door cottage in south Sebastopol. 3 rooms with a deck. Light and quiet. Share a big back yard with fruit trees and flowers. \$875/mon. Contact: hideaki@earthlink.net

Three Violins for Sale

Violins lovingly refurbished & used by local family. Prices discounted from recent local violin shop appraisal for private sale. • **3/4-size, Suzuki:** Bow needs re-hairing. Velvet-lined, cloth case solidly latches, one zipper broken. \$150. • **1/4-size, made in Czechoslovakia:** Stradivarius style, school violin. Usable bow. Solid case. Kun. Resin. Extra strings. \$150. • **1/10th-size (16-3/8th inches), made in Czechoslovakia:** Stradivarius style, school violin for 4-6 year old, 1/8th-bow usable, will need re-hairing soon. Cardboard case. \$35, or may consider renting. Contact Aline or Mark at 824-0422.

Free to a good home

Two funny, intelligent *rattus norvegicus*, shoulder trained, hand-raised females. Includes: Four story cage with wooden den, water bottle, easy clean bottom, nice big wheel to run on, and ladders for rats (a \$120.00 value!). Also rat kibble (a couple weeks worth) and bedding (a years worth or more). We aren't as into the rats as we thought we would be and we just got a new puppy, so they're not getting all the love they deserve. Call Steve: 707-477-4725.

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The magic is there in the “little people” and the singing and the candle lighting. You can feel it.

But the magic does not end with kindergarten. The magic continues into and through all of the grades. Even as our children connect more with the “real” world and begin to question that magic, it still flows through them and through this school. And they will carry this magic with them out into the world.

And you know what, that magic still flows through all of us as well. The magic doesn't go away when we become adults and parents. Yes, we now have more responsibilities. Yes, we have to learn how to survive and, ideally, thrive in the “real” world. But one of the best lessons we can give our children is to show them that it is possible to stay connected to that magic while being rooted in the real world. And I wonder if we have, as parents, chosen SunRidge as much for ourselves as for our children? Is it possible that we are here to remember that magic? To reawaken our own imaginations and connection to the magical world that is so real to our children?

As our world, with its chaos and confusion and crises, now begins to encroach upon our children's magical land here, we have a choice to make: We can choose to focus on the crisis and approach this moment from a place of fear and scarcity. Or, we can choose to focus on the magic and approach this moment from a place of abundance and love.

Now, the magic I speak of does not involve burying our heads in the sandbox of our fantasyland and denying the “reality” of our situation. Not at all. The magic I speak of involves coming together, as a community, seeing the opportunity, focusing on the solution, and taking inspired actions in the real world to raise \$60,000 and ensure that our children continue to fully experience the magic of this place and the feel the magic of the world. So as we move forward, together, towards our goal of \$60,000, watch this Bulletin in the coming weeks for specific actions you can take to help ensure that SunRidge remains the magical place of learning and exploration that we chose for our children.

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* Check our web site for the weekly bulletin, and many school forms:
<http://www.sunridgeschool.org/>