

# SUNRIDGE BULLETIN

MARCH 11, 2009

## SUNRIDGE SCHOOL

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## CALENDAR

Thursday, March 12, 5:00-7:00pm:

**Class 6 Celebration of Learning**

Friday, March 13, 6:00-7:30pm:

**Class 3 Play, People of Corn  
Apple Blossom MUR**

Monday, March 16, 6:45pm:

**Class 6 parent meeting**

Tuesday, March 17, 6:30-8:30pm:

**Parent Ed evening with Folk  
Dancing!** : Creating Family Culture with  
the "Vital 5" (see article on page 2)  
**At Apple Blossom School**

Thursday, March 18, 7:00pm:

**Class 8 Shakespeare Play**  
in outdoor amphitheatre (bundle up...)

Monday March 23, 6:00-8:00pm:

**Class 2 parent evening**

Tuesday, March 24, 6:00-9:00pm

**Charter Council meeting**

Tuesday, March 24, 7:00-8:30pm:

**Class 3 parent evening**

Thursday & Friday, March 26 & 27:

**School Closed** for Parent Conferences

### **Budget Update** *from Mark Rice*

Since our January budget crisis meeting, our new fundraising committee has divided up tasks and met regularly to develop and implement a number of plans to make up for funds lost due to the economic recession. You will see an increasing amount of communication in the coming weeks about actions we each can take that will help with this critical effort. It is essential that everyone read their weekly Bulletin for updates, and be part of the solution by contributing in whatever way they can.

Unfortunately, the state budget that was finally approved in February did nothing to lessen the crisis. We are faced with a substantial cut in state funding for this year, and even more next year. This is clearly a time that requires us to reach deeper into the pockets that still have money in them, reach out to a wider circle of pockets than just our school parents', and reduce our expenses as needed to remain viable and stable. As the person primarily responsible for making budget cuts, let me assure you that my primary interest is in keeping the educational program as intact as possible, looking for ways to creatively meet needs with fewer resources, and making cuts as necessary that have the least negative impact on the overall quality of what the children now receive.

The good news is that we will likely be at full enrollment next year, so no revenue decline for that reason. It will be imperative though that we increase our attendance rate, from an historical level of 93% up to at least 95%. That 2% increase alone would generate about \$24,000 more in state funding, about enough to fund a half-time Specialty program. Please keep this in mind, as this is one of those "easy" funding streams that depends entirely on every parent having a "community consciousness" when making individual decisions about when to keep a child out of school for reasons other than illness.

In the coming months, and probably years, we will need to develop additional funding streams just to keep our school running well while offering a bit less than we do now. While this will be challenging, the strength of the SunRidge faculty, staff, and parents will be drawn upon to get us through the tough times without sinking into self-fulfilling negativity. SunRidge is a solid, vibrant community that can rise to this set of circumstances and come out stronger and better than ever.

### **Continuing Student Agreements Now Required**

With the overwhelming interest in our school (see next page), it has become clear that we need to do more to ensure that those who join the school do so because it is a good match for their family. Our admission agreement lays out pretty clearly the basic parameters that parents should agree to if they choose SunRidge as their child's school. We have new families sign this agreement, but it is clear that some families do not follow the agreements once they are part of the school. For this reason, we just mailed all current families new agreements to be read, signed, and returned in order to retain a space for their child for next year.

We sincerely hope this is not seen as an attempt to push anyone out, or as a meaningless exercise in signing something with which you don't agree. We simply want to make clear that choosing SunRidge is a choice that should be based on a desire to support the form of education we offer, and to work in partnership with your teacher to create a living and learning environment that best supports your child and the class as a whole. Sign and return if you choose this partnership.

**Open Enrollment Success**

Our just completed open enrollment period for the 2009-10 year was a huge success: we had 110 applicants, 54 for kindergarten and 56 for the grades, the largest number since the school opened. This is good news in a fiscal year that will demand maximum revenue, as we should be able to expect every class to be full and have a waiting list.

**Creating Family Culture: Living Our Values Through The 'Vital Five'**

Drawing on Gloria de Gaetano's work, Donna Burgess and George Hoffecker will explore how to affirm, live and communicate family values within the context of the powerful societal images and influences of our times. Don't miss this stimulating evening of relevance to both home life and school, interspersed with fun folk dancing led by Donna!

**At the Apple Blossom MUR** so there is lots of room.  
**Next Tuesday, March 17, 6:30 - 8:30pm.**

**SunRidge Girls Basketball**

Today's games, March 11, are at Presentation in Santa Rosa starting at 3:45pm. Next week we play Rincon Valley on Monday at the Community Church Gym in Sebastopol, and St. Luke's at their gym in Santa Rosa on Wednesday. Go Valkyries! ~ Dale and Curt

**Yearbook Help Needed**

Interested in helping with the annual SunRidge yearbook? Coordinator Sari Singerman can always use more helping hands to create another beautiful yearbook this year. The work begins now, so if you are interested let the office know and we will have Sari get in touch with you.

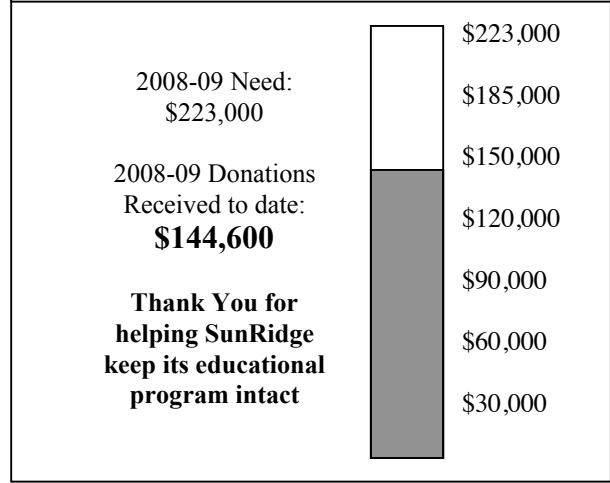
**Class One Community Service**

Class One is proud to be a part of the Adopt-A-Beach program at Doran Beach. We had our first workday on Friday, February 27<sup>th</sup>. We met our 8<sup>th</sup> Grade buddies and together we patrolled the beach and dunes for litter. We were blessed with a glorious day of sun, sparkling waters and community. Our thanks to all of the parents and teachers who were able to join us on this wonderful day. Class One is holding the intention of many more days of showing TLC to this natural treasure.

**Apple Blossom Parade Float**

The parade this year is April 25<sup>th</sup>. The theme: "Lights, Camera, Apple Blossom". It would be a great experience for the kids and our community if we could participate as a school in the parade. We need one parent to step up to being the Coordinator in order to make this happen, and one parent to lead the artistic design of the float itself. If you would like to offer yourself, please contact Shyama: [shyama@sbcglobal.net](mailto:shyama@sbcglobal.net) or 480-5988

**2008-09 Pledge Program Report**



**Viva Mexicana is Thinking of You**

Candy from Viva Mexicana knows that there are families at SunRidge who must be facing financial challenges in the economic downturn. She would like to offer 6 free burrito lunches to families in need through our hot lunch program on Tuesdays. If you are otherwise unable to participate in the hot lunch program, but would like your child (in grades 3-8) to have a free burrito on Tuesdays, please contact Theresa. If there is more need than burritos, we will come up with a fair way to help as many as possible. Many thanks to Candy at Viva Mexicana for her giving community spirit!

**Ask the Green Team!**

Dear Green Team,  
*My son wears his sneakers out way past recognition as footwear. Usually I donate old shoes to Goodwill or Soles for Souls, but when they are so trashed, is there any use for them outside the trash bin?*

Yes! As long as they are sport shoes and not made of metal, you can mail them to the Nike Recycling Center (no matter what brand they are) at Reuse a Shoe, 26755 SW 95th, Wilsonville, OR 97070. They will then be ground up & pressed into that newfangled playground surfacing that looks like asphalt but is all soft and bouncy to protect wee noggins. Maybe not as nice as grass, but it's better than adding them to the landfill.

If YOU have a question for the green team, or would like to join, please send an email to Kenna at [casalee-ribas@igc.org](mailto:casalee-ribas@igc.org).

**Garden Kitchen Update** *from Bob Poole*

Please send out big thanks to Brian Heacock, who recently did the huge job of excavating our site with a piece of rented heavy equipment; Jeremy Allen, who did the surveying; and a crack shovel crew of Matthew Bazzano, Trey Dunia, and Bodhi Nadler. Thanks also to Jay Greenfield, who has volunteered to do the electrical work. When completed our new garden kitchen will be approximately 14' X 17' with an attached pavilion area covering two picnic tables. It will also have sliding barn doors on two sides allowing it to be opened up to the garden and pavilion areas. Our goal has been to have the kitchen ready to go by April, and although the recent rains have put that date a bit in doubt, I am very optimistic our students will be cooking in there this spring. If the site dries out enough this week we are hoping to dig, form, and pour the slab soon. As soon as that is completed we will frame and outfit.

With this in mind we are asking for VOLUNTEERS, especially those who have experience with concrete, framing, and plumbing. If you do not have these skills there will be other tasks available, all great opportunities to contribute to this great project. Please contact me as soon as possible at 823-8324 or [robtpoole@gmail.com](mailto:robtpoole@gmail.com). Thanks.

**Community Service Hours**

Please take a minute to report your hours for February through the link sent out by email last week. We had 72 parents report 656 community service hours in January! Total reported for the year through January is 4593 community service hours. What would SunRidge be like without those 4593 hours of donated time?

**Community Events of Interest**

**SunRidge Parent Ed with Folk Dancing**, Tuesday, March 17, 6:30-8:30. Please note the date change, as we realized we were in conflict with a talk on the Four Temperaments at Summerfield on March 18 that many are hoping to attend. George & Donna will present "The Vital 5" (see description on page 2). At Apple Blossom School so we have lots of room to gather and move. Don't miss this one!

**8<sup>th</sup> Grade Shakespeare- As You Like It**

Our 8<sup>th</sup> grade will be performing their last SunRidge play next week on two different days, Wednesday, March 18, at 11:00am, and Thursday evening, March 19 at 7:30pm. Both performances are scheduled for our outdoor amphitheatre, so bundle up for the evening event. Shakespeare content, not suitable for children under 4<sup>th</sup> grade.

**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.waldorfinthehome.com/> or (303) 546-0070.

**Farmers' Market, Pass it Along** *from Heidi Lewis*

The second grade invites you to our Farmer's Market on March 19. Our theme is Primavera - a greeting to spring. Along with delicious food, treats and fun we will also have a treasure hunt, and spring time crafts for sale. Remember what it feels like to give? During this time of economic struggles we invite you to remember how good it can feel to give to those in need. Let's remember also how blessed we truly are. The second grade would like to invite the school to help us gather items for the children at Sophia Project. Sophia Project <http://www.sophiaproject.org/> provides a Waldorf Kindergarten environment, after school programs, parent education and respite care for single mothers and their children in West Oakland who are at risk of recurring homelessness. They need items for the care of infants and older children's after school program. Please consider passing along any of your gently used Waldorf quality games, toys or books. Take a look at the Wish List on their website to see if there's anything in your "to-go" pile your family could contribute. They are also in need of toothbrushes, toothpaste, disposable diapers and wipes. Join us on the 19<sup>th</sup> for a fun filled farmers market. Lets make this a win for us, and a win for the Sophia Project as well. See you there.

**Hot Lunches Made Easy**

The March/April Hot Lunch order forms are out! (in the office and on the SunRidge website). Please fill it out and submit it 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. Before submitting yours, please check with your child's teacher for field trip dates etc. as it is extremely time consuming to credit hot lunches onto a future date. If your student does not receive a Hot Lunch that you ordered, contact Jessica at 823-5572. The Class of 2011 thanks you for your order.

<http://www.sunridgeschool.org/forms.html>

**Farmers' Market**

The Farmers' Market is a monthly event held after school one Thursday of each month at Ragle Park. If anyone (whether you are in the hosting class or not) has an abundance from your garden and would like to contribute, you can leave contributions on the bench outside the office on Thursday before pick-up.

The Farmer's Market Schedule for the rest of this year:

March 19 - 2nd Grade

April - 1st Grade

May - Kindergarten

June 10 - All school potluck

**Things To Do...**

Ultimately it will be the little things that have the biggest impact on our fundraising. Taking the 10-minutes needed to signup for Escrip and Community Smart will generate ongoing income for SunRidge for as long as you are enrolled in the programs. Making a commitment to increase your pledge amount by just \$5 or \$10 each month means an extra \$50 - \$100 for the school each year. And that may not sound like a lot, but multiply that by 160 families and you've got \$8,000 - \$16,000 extra dollars for the school each year!

So don't wait. Do it now, while you're thinking about it. Here are the links to the Scrip programs again:

<http://www.sunridgeschool.org/scrip.html>

<http://www.escrip.com/>  
<http://www.communitysmart.com/CSP/index.jsp>

And here's the pledge form:  
[http://www.sunridgeschool.org/pledgeletter\\_form08-09.pdf](http://www.sunridgeschool.org/pledgeletter_form08-09.pdf)

**More Parent Survey Results** *from Mark Rice*

Last week I reported the average ratings for eight different categories of ratings on our January Parent Survey. Here are some more, on a scale of 1 to 5 with 1 being the lowest level of satisfaction and 5 being the highest: (86 surveys, 57% return rate)

	Average of all ratings
Specialty Classes	4.10
Class Teachers	4.21
Director/Administrator	4.55

Are you less likely to read a Bulletin sent electronically: YES = 34%  
 NO = 66%

Parents who support Community Service hours reporting 45%  
 Parents who support reporting but have a hard time remembering 49%  
 Parents who don't support the idea of reporting hours 6%

That's generally good news on how the community service hours reporting is going, but 34 % of parents saying that they are less likely to read the Bulletin when sent electronically is a significant concern, given that our weekly Bulletin is the primary means we have of communicating with parents about important news, events, and announcements. We will now look more closely at the comments respondents gave for how to improve the likelihood of parents reading the Bulletin and see what courses of action make the most sense.

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