

# SUNRIDGE BULLETIN

MARCH 25, 2009

## SUNRIDGE SCHOOL

487 WATER TROUGH RD.  
SEBASTOPOL, CA 95472

PHONE: 707.824.2844  
FAX: 824.2861

AFTERCARE: 824.2276

[WWW.SUNRIDGESCHOOL.ORG](http://WWW.SUNRIDGESCHOOL.ORG)

## CALENDAR

Thursday & Friday, March 26 & 27:  
**School Closed** for Parent Conferences

Tuesday, March 31, 6:00-7:30pm:  
**Class 5 parent evening** (date change)

Tuesday, March 31st, 3:15pm  
**Diversity Committee Meeting** in  
Class 3, All interested parents welcome

Tuesday, March 31, 6:30-8:30pm:  
**Kindergarten parent evening**

Tuesday, April 7, 6:30pm:  
**Parent Council meeting**

Friday, April 10: **Early Release Day**

April 13 - 17:  
**School Closed for Spring Break**

Monday, April 20, 6:00-7:30pm:  
**Class 5 parent evening**

Tuesday, April 21, 6:00-7:00pm:  
**Class 4 meeting re: trip planning**

Tuesday, April 21, 6:00-9:00pm:  
**Charter Council meeting**

### ~School Closed Thursday and Friday for Parent Conferences~

#### Continuing Student Agreements

Thank you to everyone who returned their continuing student agreements. Because this is the first time we have implemented such a strict policy for continuing students, we will continue to hold spaces for those few who have not yet returned their signed agreement until next Tuesday, March 31. At that point, anyone who has not returned their form will be called to make sure they received the form when it was mailed. After that, we will have to assume that not returning the form means the family does not want their child to continue at SunRidge next year, and the space can be offered to a new student from our waiting list.

#### ***Just Do It Day!***

Please join me next Tuesday, March 31 at 10:30am to spend a few hours soliciting donations for the auction. We will meet in front of the school, then break up into 2's (or more) and take a territory and do some asking for auction items.

There is just no other way this is going to happen! *Two or three people does not an all school fundraiser make!*

We will have materials for you to bring to the places you solicit. Coaching will be available if needed. We can go to some wineries, restaurants, stores, etc. It's amazing what you can receive if you just ask. If that doesn't work for you, let me know a day the following week that does and we can do it again!

Please feel free to e-mail me with any questions – [pamkoppel@comcast.net](mailto:pamkoppel@comcast.net).

I look forward to seeing you there. *Pam Koppel, 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Mom*

#### **Great Volunteer Opportunity: New Garden Kitchen Spring Up**

We need volunteers this Friday and Saturday to assist with the next phase of the project. This past Saturday we ran electrical and water lines to the site, and on Friday and Saturday we will build forms and pour the concrete slab. We have experienced parent volunteers heading this up, but they can use helpers, with or without carpentry or concrete skills. We will start at 8 AM each day. Food, beverages, and lots of appreciation will be provided. Big thank you's to Jeremy Allen for taking the lead; to Jay Greenfield, Sam O'Brien, and Owen Massey-Todd for the electrical work; and to Nicandro Lopez and his energetic and efficient crew for the back-challenging trenching work. Please contact Bob Poole at 823-8324 or [robtpoole@gmail.com](mailto:robtpoole@gmail.com)

#### **Parking Reminder**

If you must park in the no parking driveway drop-off lane for a short time because there are no other spaces, please remember to put on your flashing lights so that others coming in behind you know the car is parked for a bit and to go around you rather than waiting (with increasing irritation possibly) for the car to move.

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

**Brother / Sister can you spare an hour?**

Are you a few hours behind with your community service hours? Would you like an easy way to get caught up? If so, the auction committee could use you! Because the auction has the potential to generate the most money for SunRidge in the shortest time, the Fundraising Committee is throwing its full support behind the incredible Auction Team!

To make this auction a success, they need all of our help. So if volunteering in the classroom or assisting at a farmer's market are too much of a time commitment, consider offering just one or two hours this month to help the auction committee. Never underestimate the amount you can accomplish in a focused hour of work!

One of the top priorities right now is soliciting more donations for the auction. How many restaurants could you visit in an hour and ask for gift certificates? How many local shops could you call? Even if you connected with just four or five, that could add up to a significant donation for the auction.

Keep in mind that even in this tight economy, businesses still want to contribute. And providing a \$25 or \$50 gift certificate is an easy and affordable way for a business owner to do so. And, coincidentally, gift certificates are one of the items that will sell very quickly – often for more than face value – on the auction.

So this is a call for your time. Can you give the auction committee an hour or two this week? How about next week? Chris Dunia, who is doing an amazing job coordinating the auction, is waiting for your call! Let her know how much time you have and she'll give you a job to do!

You can contact Chris at: [cdunia@comcast.net](mailto:cdunia@comcast.net)

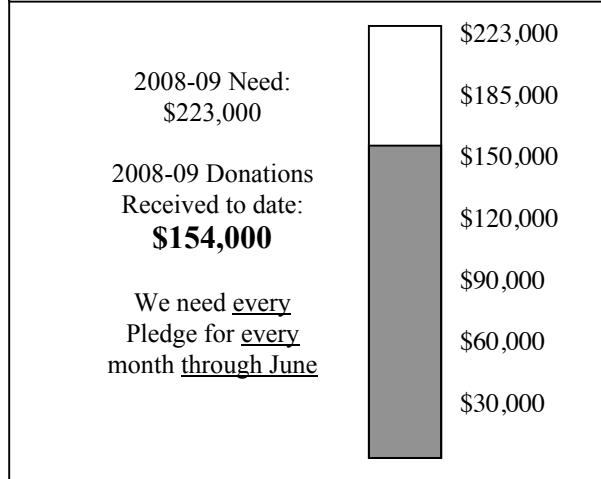
**Games, Movement, and Basketball News**

Today there are 7th and 8th grade Girls' Basketball games at the Sebastopol Community Church. We are entering the home game weeks of our schedule. Next week, we have games on Monday and Wednesday at the Sebastopol Church as well. 8th grade games start at 3:45pm; 7th grade at 5pm. Come watch some exciting basketball that is always close in score and effort. The following week – April 6-10th – is basketball playoffs, and the game schedule will be erratic, so we need to be flexible to meet the game times that playoff seeding will give us. There could be games on any of the days of the week at any school site.

As Spring arrives, I'd like to put a call out to the SunRidge community to take part in the multitude of May movement events. Below, I list the events for grades 5-8, and explain ways to involve yourself in them. It's a great way to meet those community volunteer hours and spend quality time with your child and help other children in their class.

5th grade All-in-Peace Pentathlon at Summerfield – Friday, May 15th. Parents can help shepherd the city-state of Corinth through the events; can chronicle the event for the school bulletin; can help Mr. T with the judging of the discus

**2008-09 Pledge Program Report**



or javelin (TBD). Please contact Angela Kindle or myself. (Cost is \$25 for medals, t-shirts and site prep – please get payment in soon – thank you!).

6th grade Mayacamas Medieval Tournament @ Cloverleaf Ranch in Santa Rosa – Friday, May 22nd. Parents can take the role of royalty (king, queen, noble court), jesters, heralds; of helping to get the site decorated and prepared for the day; and to act as a Guide, an important role for leading children from activity to activity and keeping tabs on their locations. This is our 1st annual event, and it promises to be loads of fun, and an important milestone/rite of passage for the students of the 6th grade from 5 different Waldorf charter schools – SunRidge, Sebastopol Independent Charter, River Oak of Ukiah, Stone Bridge of Napa, and Woodland Star of Sonoma.

Please contact Josie Martin or myself – I do have a more specific breakdown of volunteer roles and tasks. Of all the events, this is where I need the most parent help, and so far, at least 6 have offered to help – thank you! – and we need more, if possible. (Cost - \$25 per student, please get payment in soon – thank you!).

7th grade Explorers' Day @ Ragle Ranch – Friday, April 24th. Parents can assist with scorekeeping the teams, setting up the running and orienteering routes, and hold/create the feeling of a journey of exploration and survival in a strange new land. (Cost is \$5 per student for materials and awards.)

8th grade MSSL Track Meet @ Bailey Field, Santa Rosa Junior College, Friday, May 8th. Parents are needed to help time running events, assist as chaperones and event helpers. (Cost is \$5 per student.)

Contact me with questions, offers, concerns, and miracles at [movement@sunridgeschool.org](mailto:movement@sunridgeschool.org) or 591-1044. - Mr. T

### 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. Thus far, no one has stepped forward for these essential roles. If no one steps forward during the next week, we will need to forego the float plans and do something simpler. If you would like to offer yourself, please contact Shyama: [shyama@sbcglobal.net](mailto:shyama@sbcglobal.net) or 480-5988.

### Community Events of Interest

#### Summerfield Senior Projects

You are invited to attend Senior Project presentations for the Class of 2009 at Summerfield Waldorf School & Farm. Projects range from learning to pilot a helicopter to forming a harvesting and canning initiative; from exploring homelessness to learning to speak Egyptian Arabic; and from bee-keeping to flamenco dancing or painting in the style of Salvador Dali. These student-initiated projects are a culminating effort of up to 15 years of Waldorf education. Students are free to choose a focus that they are passionate about. They then work with a mentor to form a project and prioritize their tasks over many months. This typically involves introspection, sometimes many false starts, and always intense working periods. All of this work takes place outside of their regular school day curriculum, part-time jobs, college applications, etc. Please join us on Wednesday, March 25th, Friday, March 27th, and Saturday, March 28th at 6:30pm, when Summerfield's seniors will present the results of their efforts to the community. The location will be in Sophia Hall on the Summerfield Waldorf School & Farm campus.

#### The Cure for Money Madness

Take control of your finances! Spencer Sherman, Waldorf parent, financial advisor, and author of a new book "The Cure for Money Madness", will offer simple, practical, and invaluable guidelines for navigating the financial crisis, transforming your relationship to money, and ending financial stress. <<http://www.curemoneymadness.com>> Tuesday, March 31<sup>st</sup>, 7 – 9 pm in the Assembly Room of the Sebastopol Independent Charter School, 200 S. Main St., Sebastopol, 95472. Free event, no reservations necessary, everyone welcome.

#### 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.

### Fools for Spring

SunRidge's 1<sup>st</sup> grade is excited to be hosting the April **Farmers' Market**. There will be lots of food, games, crafts and a rummage sale. Back by popular demand, the Burrito Bonanza and Tic-Tac-Apple Toss. The Green Team reminds you to bring your own utensils. We'll see you there... **April 2nd from 12 - 4pm**

### Ask the Green Team!

Dear GT,  
What should I do with greasy pizza boxes?

*Put them in your green "yard waste" bin - they are compostable, NOT recyclable. Once food has contaminated paper, it is no longer able to be recycled!*

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).

### Hot Lunches Made Easy

The March/April Hot Lunch order forms are available 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>

### Faculty Lunch Schedule

It is a much-appreciated tradition at SunRidge for the parent body to provide lunch for weekly faculty meetings every Thursday. River Cullen has done a fantastic job of nurturing and coordinating this effort. Thus far this year the faculty has enjoyed lunches prepared by grades 6, 4, 8, 1, and 2. The schedule for the remainder of the year is:

March	Class 7
April	Class 5
May	Morningstar Kindergarten
June	Dragonfly Kindergarten

### 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!

---

---

## **SunRidge Strategic Plan Review of Quarter 2 & 3 Accomplishments**

### **Building Responsive, Living Waldorf Curriculum**

#### **QUARTER 2 & 3:**

- The Social Emotional Learning Committee identified the program “Tribes” as a comprehensive tool for supporting the social/emotional learning of our students, faculty and families
- A presentation regarding “Tribes” was given at a faculty meeting. The faculty will also undertake a 4-day training next fall.
- Faculty has received 16 hours of NVC training this year through George Hoffecker and John Kinyon, and has been practicing empathic communication in faculty meetings across the year.

#### **Curriculum and Standards Development:**

- After researching various options, the committee looking at curriculum standards recommended in February that SunRidge adopt the standards developed by Novato Charter School. These are basically the State Standards with adjustments in which grades some of the standards are addressed. Faculty is reviewing and the Charter Council plans on approving this adoption by May 2009.

### **Aligning our Practices with our Values**

#### **QUARTER 2 & 3:**

- Green Team continues to share tips with the community via the weekly bulletin

### **Strengthening the Community**

#### **QUARTER 2 & 3:**

- Shyama and Melissa Patterson are exploring the development of a mentoring program for new families
- Research and development continues for a Parents “Fun-Raiser”

### **Developing a Fully Inspired and Engaged Faculty**

#### **QUARTER 2 & 3:**

- Charter Council determined that it was not feasible to build an on-site Waldorf Foundation Studies at this time.
- Due to our current budget crisis, we are unable to consider expanding Specialty Programs at this time.

### **Maximizing Our Funding Capabilities**

#### **QUARTER 2 & 3:**

- Fundraising committee formed, actively pursuing ways to address current budget crisis and sustaining long-term funding streams.
- The Foundation provides approximately \$16,000 per year for professional development expenses. Additionally, teachers can request additional funding if needed, with requests considered based on a number of factors.
- “The Giving Tree” (formerly known as Hearts and Hands) is being reinvigorated and reintroduced to the community.
- Due to the funding crisis for schools, focus has been diverted this year toward how to raise funds to minimize cuts in programs