

SUNRIDGE BULLETIN

MARCH 4, 2009

SUNRIDGE SCHOOL

487 WATER TROUGH RD.
SEBASTOPOL, CA 95472

PHONE: 707.824.2844
FAX: 824.2861

AFTERCARE: 824.2276

WWW.SUNRIDGESCHOOL.ORG

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS
THIS SUNDAY MORNING

CALENDAR

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

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

Thursday, March 5: Grades 1-8,
Pajama and Creative Hair Day
(see article on page 2 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

Thursday, March 12, 5:00-7:00pm:
Class 6 Celebration of Learning

Friday, March 13, 6:00-7:30pm:
Class 3 Play

Tuesday, March 17, 6:30-8:30pm:
Parent Ed evening with Folk Dancing! (Note date change)

Addressing the Funding Crisis

from Ed Mills, Fundraising Coordinator

Two Actions you can take right now to help us raise \$60,000 this year.

Last week I explored our current budget situation from a perspective of what is possible. This week let's begin exploring what we can do to turn this crisis into an opportunity, come together as a community and raise the money needed to keep all of the SunRidge curriculum and services in place. So let's take a look at two quick and easy actions that we all can take to generate additional funds for our school.

These actions require very little time and little or no money out of your pocket. But if each of us commits to taking at least one of these actions, the impact to the SunRidge bottom line will be dramatic. Here they are:

Signup for Escript.

This is a no-brainer! We all shop. Even now, with the financial tightness we are feeling, we all still need food and other essentials. When you sign up for these programs you pay nothing extra when you shop but the stores donate a percentage of your purchase directly to SunRidge. And, when you figure that each family is spending between \$400 - \$1000 on groceries and other necessities each month, that donation can add up quickly. But in order to take full advantage of it, we've all got to be on the program!

Escript is valid at **Safeway** and **Fircrest** Market as well as many other local and online stores. It's free and it takes less than 5-minutes to sign up. (Have your Safeway Club card handy since you can link it directly to the SunRidge fund).

<http://www.escrip.com/>

Community Smart is accepted at **Andy's**, **Pacific** and **Olivers** Markets, as well as **Copperfields**, **Toyworks** and **Office Depot**. For this program you'll need to get a card and there is a signup fee of \$4.95. It took me less than 2-minutes to sign up for the program online and the card takes about a week to arrive.

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

Or, signup at the school office.

Raise your pledge amount by \$5 or \$10/month.

If every SunRidge parent added just \$5.00 to their monthly pledge amount, we would add approximately \$1,250/month to the budget. With 4 months left in the year that's an additional \$5,000 for the school!

Now let's get real for a minute: \$5.00 a month is the cost of one double latte or a large Soy Chai with tip! Can you give up one special coffee drink a month to support your kid's education? Or can you find that extra \$5.00 elsewhere?

So if you already pledge (Thank you!) and would you consider adding just \$5 or \$10/month to your pledge amount? You probably won't even notice the difference in your budget, but SunRidge certainly will!

And if you don't pledge or if you have not been keeping up with your pledge, here is an opportunity for you to take an action that will make a big difference.

Consider pledging just \$5 or \$10 and writing that check each month.

There is nothing to be embarrassed about that amount. We all know that these

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Pajama and Creative Hair Day Tomorrow

Tomorrow, 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: Not participating

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

Thank You

Many thanks to the parents who worked on the new sink and “mud room” by the first grade. Paula Camacho, Scott Hickey, Brian Hasik, Jill Bottomley, Harry Bergbauer, and Martin Bolz all contributed to this improvement project. Nice job!

Apple Blossom Parade Float

The parade this year is April 25th. 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 or 480-5988.

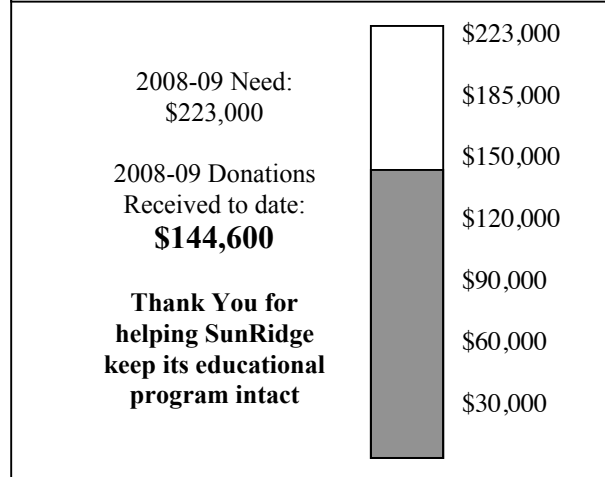
SunRidge Girls Basketball

Today, the 8th graders play Mark West Charter at their campus. The game starts at 5:00pm, not 3:45pm 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. Next Wednesday’s games, March 11, are at Presentation in Santa Rosa. Go Valkyries! ~ Dale and Curt

Community Service Hours

Please take a minute to report your hours for February through the link sent out by email yesterday. 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?

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!

Thank You 3rd Grade Parents

On behalf of the faculty and myself, thank you third grade parents for those yummy, nurturing lunches during the rainy days of February. We know how much goes into making these lunches possible, and are deeply grateful for the generous spirit that resides in every bite!

Ask the Green Team!

Dear Green Team,

If I have aluminum foil with food residue, can I recycle it?

Yes. It is best to rinse as much food off as possible, but otherwise the foil can be balled up and put into the recycling. Every bit counts!

Open Enrollment Period Ends Friday

Our annual open enrollment period ends March 6. **Current SunRidge families who have a new applicant must still turn in an application and attend one of the two Orientation meetings in order to be included in our lottery.** Contact the office for information and an application.

More Poetry from SunRidge Students

This week's poems are from Grace Mendoza in Class 2.

Dear Pig,

You are as pink as an eraser
and your tail is as curly
as noodles. But your
eyes are as black as
the night in the winter.

Grace's Ideas

Just be your self.
Use your imagination.
Find a friend.
You are a person.
Just believe in yourself.
Feel the need to be funny.
Respect your state.
Live in peace.

Community Events of Interest

Put on your calendar: **SunRidge Parent Ed with Folk Dancing**, Tuesday, March 17, 6:30-8:30. Please note the date change from last week, 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. More info on the George and Donna evening next week.

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

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 - 2nd Grade

April - 1st Grade

May - Kindergarten

June 10 - All school potluck

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>

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!

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

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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are difficult times and lots of people are struggling. But by pledging and writing that check each month (yes, even for just \$5.00!) you are not only showing your support for the school, you are expressing your belief in yourself and your ability to generate even more money!

You can download and print out a pledge form here:
http://www.sunridgeschool.org/pledgeletter_form08-09.pdf

Or you can pick one up in the office.

Here's the bottom line: Ultimately it will be the little things that have the biggest impact on our fundraising. Taking the 10-minutes needed to sign up 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.escrip.com/>
<http://www.communitysmart.com/CSP/index.jsp>

And here's the pledge form:
http://www.sunridgeschool.org/pledgeletter_form08-09.pdf

Here's to our success!

Edward Mills, Fundraising Committee Coordinator.

Parent Survey Results *from Mark Rice*

We have now tallied the results of our January parent survey. Once again we are proud to have received such a strong and generally positive response. Here are some of the results, 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
Social Emotional Environment of the School	4.34
Physical Safety of the School Environment	4.42
Administrative Staff	4.80
School Staff in general	4.71
After Care Program	4.31
Parent Education Evenings	4.55
Charter Council	4.44
Parent Council	4.47

It is heartening to know that so many parents feel so satisfied with the school. We are also taking note of the concerns expressed by those with less positive levels of satisfaction and will review them along with those suggestions for school improvements that were submitted. Additional survey results will be reported in next week's Bulletin. Many thanks to every parent who took the time to share their views, and to everyone for helping to make SunRidge such a great school.