

SUNRIDGE BULLETIN

APRIL 8, 2009

SUNRIDGE SCHOOL

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CALENDAR

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

Friday, April 24:

**7th grade Explorers' Tournament
at Ragle Park**

Wednesday, April 29, 6:30-8:30pm:

Kindergarten parent evening

April 27- May 8: **STAR testing**

Friday, May 1: **Class 5 play**

Saturday, May 2: **May Faire**

Tuesday, May 5, 6:30pm:

Parent Council meeting

Early Release this Friday ~ Spring Break Next Week

2008-09 Budget Picture Now Clear *from Mark Rice*

In the last month the budget picture for our school has become clear for this year. The State budget cuts were finalized and our school experienced a cut of approximately \$52,000 in state funds for this year. Fortunately, our attendance has been up this year (yes!), offsetting this loss somewhat, but our originally projected balance of \$30,000 for 2008-09 has now become a projected deficit of \$11,000. Unfortunately though, that projected deficit is based on our originally projected pledge budget of \$223,000. New calculations of expected pledges—based on the slumping economy's affect on many families ability to pledge—show us falling short of that \$223,000 goal by \$20,000-\$30,000. Translation: a potential shortfall this year of up to \$40,000. Please see the articles below on how we as a community can reduce or prevent that shortfall.

Spring Break Telethon – Come Join the Fun! *From Ed Mills*

Spring Break is right around the corner and those of us staying in town are probably going to be looking for fun ways to keep our kids busy and ourselves sane! Well, have we got an opportunity for you!

Come join us next **Monday, from 1:00 – 5:00 at SunRidge** for our first Spring Break Telethon. We'll have rotating childcare duties in the aftercare space so we'll all have a chance to connect as adults!

As you know, we're coming down to the wire with the SunRidge Auction which begins April 24th, and we've got a lot of calls to make if we want this to be a success. So during our time together we'll be calling SunRidge Alumni to tell them about the auction and get their email addresses. We'll also be calling wineries to follow up on a donation letter we sent out. (Wine is a big seller in these online auctions and we'd love to get a LOT of wine!)

And, most important, we'll be having lots of fun! After all, it is Spring Break! No sense in getting together like this if it's going to be all serious and hard work. So bring along a snack to share and we'll make sure we take lots of breaks to socialize and trade war stories about our best and worst calls!

We'll have scripts and outlines available to help you on the calls. And, if you've never done this kind of thing before, there will be some "veterans" there to coach you through the process. (It's really not that hard!)

So, if you're staying in town next week, and want to give your kids something to do for a few hours, help SunRidge raise some money and get a few hours of "adult" time, come and join us on Monday from 1:00 – 5:00.

You don't need to be there for the entire time. Come for an hour or two or for the entire afternoon. We'd love to have you join us!

Oh, and it would be great if you could RSVP. Send me an email at info@edwardmills.com or call 824-0554 and let me know you'll be coming and how many kids you'll have with you.

Here's to our success!

Auction update: **SunRidge.cmarket.com**

* Its not too late, keep those donations coming.

* If you bring something to the office, please remember to leave your name, all the info about the item, and a value for the item.

* If you have donated something and do not see it on the auction site, it means I am waiting for either the item, the certificate, or more information. As soon as all

(continued on next page)

Auction Update continued

that is in, the item will be published onto the site.

*We still need lots of restaurant certificates.

Those sell great, and we don't have many.

* Huge thank you to everyone who is helping. You're great!

* **Super Fun Idea:** I would like to put a "dress up"

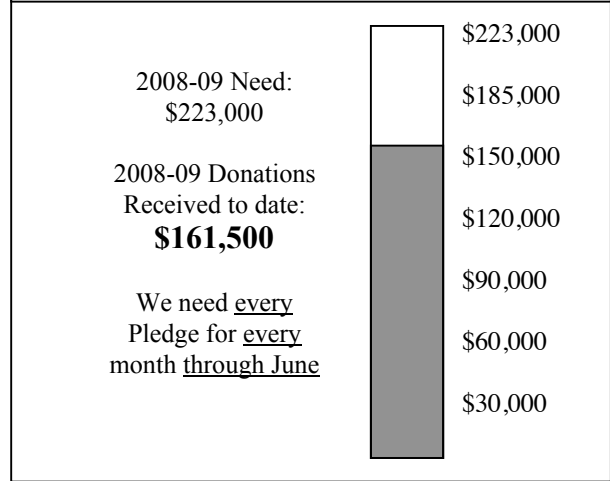
basket together. Do you have one (or more) clean dress up items in good condition you can donate? A king's crown sitting in the corner? How about a tutu taking up too much space? Bring it to the office, I'll collect it and put a basket together over the break.

A Day in Downtown Sebastopol from Beth Gallock
 Tuesday of last week found Pam Koppel and me walking the sunny Sebastopol beat. We headed into town after visiting a few wineries, having tasted a pinot rose and a chardonnay at Balleto Winery. We munched on lovely lavender scones from Peter Lowell's and enjoyed the gorgeous weather. What, you may be thinking dear reader, does this have to do with SunRidge business and why is there a travel section write-up in our school newsletter? Well, I'm so glad you asked. While enjoying the beautiful day, delightful conversation and friendly people, we were also helping to support the SunRidge Online Auction in a big way. Our auction is opening for bids on April 24th but we are still woefully short on donations. There are multiple businesses in our town, in Santa Rosa and wineries further out that must be asked for donations before our auction is ready to open for business. Pam's and my purpose was to ask various Sebastopol businesses for donations to our Online Auction. What ended up happening was that Pam and I had so much fun that I thought it would be worth sharing our story. Asking for donations can be awkward for some (I was nervous!), but after the first effort my delivery got better, my smile came more easily and chatting with Pam in between requests was a pleasant way to relax before gearing up for the next request. So, now that I've sold you on how fun it can be to walk around town asking for donations, what you need to do is contact Pam Koppel at 799-2203 or Beth Gallock at 824-8931 to find out which stores you will visit on your 'Day in Downtown Sebastopol'. It could also be your 'Day in Downtown Santa Rosa' (the Railroad Square area for example), because we need to tap businesses in surrounding areas as well. Remember, bring a friend and make it fun. Oh, and those winery visits landed us with five bottles of gold metal award winning wine for the auction. We could literally taste our success!

STAR Testing Coming

Our annual STAR testing for grades 2-8 will take place this year between April 27 and May 8. We do our best to make the testing as stress-free as possible, and generally find the children to be unaffected by them (many find the multiple choice questions a "refreshing" change from having to actually come up with their own answers!). Please help us make the testing a successful experience by ensuring that your child has plenty of rest, a nutritious morning breakfast, and arrives to school on time. Thank you!

2008-09 Pledge Program Report



Calling Everyone to Help a Little More...

As you hopefully read on page one, we are projecting a \$20,000 - \$30,000 shortfall in our pledge budget this year, unless we can raise enough funds to close that gap. One way we can help is for everyone who can to pledge a bit more for April, May, and June, or to make a one-time donation in addition to your regular pledge. I am also proposing that we ask all faculty and staff to join in this effort with parents, to the degree that they are able. At the other local Waldorf schools, *everyone*—parents and employees— is asked to contribute to this group effort. Remember, there are well over 300 adults who call SunRidge their educational community. Even a small donation multiplied by that number adds up to make a big difference. Give what you can and feel great about it!

Basketball Playoff News

7th Grade

Despite a valiant effort, our 7th grade team lost to SCDS on Tuesday. This means that the next game is Thursday at 3:45 at the Community Church gym in Sebastopol. If we win that game, we will be playing an hour after we finish that game, at 6:15 in the same gym.

8th Grade

Their playoff game is today at 5:00 at Mark West Charter. Pray extra hard for the 8th grade to win because if they lose we are going to have to clone the teams and the coaches because both teams will be playing at 3:45 in two different locations on Thursday! If they win, they are in the championship game this Friday at 5:00 at Sonoma Country Day School.

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

Lost/Borrowed Post Hole Digger

Owen is missing his posthole digger and thinks someone borrowed it. If that is you, please return to Owen ASAP.

Community Events of Interest**Apple Blossom Parade, Yes or No?**

No one has stepped forward to coordinate a float for the Apple Blossom parade on April 25. At this point we are looking at whether or not SunRidge can even participate in the parade as a walking group. We will need at least one parent volunteer who is willing to arrange for a SunRidge banner (we have a parent who can make it), and doing the coordinating for times, meeting spot, etc. Not a really big job, but without it SunRidge students will not be walking in the parade. If you are willing to do take on this role so that the children can be in the parade, contact Shyama no later than this Friday.

“Educating Our Children—Changing the Future”

It is still possible to register for all workshops and all childcare options at the regional Waldorf parenting conference, “Educating Our Children—Changing the Future,” being held April 24-25 at Sacramento Waldorf School.

The conference will offer three-dozen workshops and bring together keynote speakers from various social impulses: **Shea Darian** (*Seven Times the Sun and Living Passages for the Whole Family*); **Lisa Bennett** of The Center for Ecoliteracy; **John Bloom** from Rudolf Steiner Foundation Social Finance; and **DeAnna L’am** (*Becoming Peers: Welcoming Girls into Womanhood*).

For a complete brochure and secure online registration, see www.waldorfinthehome.com <<http://www.waldorfinthehome.com/>> or call (303) 546-0070. The conference is organized by Rahima Baldwin Dancy at Informed Family Life.

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>

Spring Movement *from Mr. T*

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 discusor javelin (TBD). Please contact Angela Kindler 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 or 591-1044. - Mr. T

And remember, our May Faire is Saturday, May 2nd! Mark your calendars, for the Green Man and the blessings of Spring cometh!

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