

## HELP KEEP OUR SCHOOL SPECIAL

We are pleased to report that again this year, the commitment of our parents has enabled our school to provide a rich, whole child education to every SunRidge student. Last year's voluntary parent pledges were over \$200,000, about 13% of our total income. These essential funds enabled us to provide all the things that our limited state funding cannot: Specialty classes in Handwork, Spanish, Movement, Eurythmy, Choir, Woodworking, Instrumental Music, and teaching assistants in kindergarten through third grade. Clearly, without the dedication, generosity, and community spirit of SunRidge parents, our school would not be what it is today.

The "bad news", however, is that the State's fiscal crisis is resulting in severe state funding cuts for our school next year. While the exact amount of the cuts is still unclear, we know they will be substantial and we must plan for them. The choices are pretty clear; we can either cut programs or we can raise funds from other sources. State funding cuts already made have forced us to already make some spending cuts for 2009-10. These include reducing teaching assistant time in grades 2 and 3, not providing Spanish in kindergarten, limiting Eurythmy classes to grades K-3 (not 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>), limiting our extra Math teacher to 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade (not 6<sup>th</sup>), reducing expenses for our storage needs, and other internal reductions. Together, cuts of almost \$70,000 have been made to next year's budget.

To limit our cuts to only these, our pledge program must remain stable at a level at least equal to last year's amount of \$207,000. To do this, **we need every family that can to pledge \$200 per month per child.** Of course, everyone's financial situation is different. It is expected that some can contribute more and some must contribute less. If each of us participates to the *highest* degree we are able, it will work in a fair way, and every child will receive the benefit. If too many parents do not participate to the highest degree they are able, we will not raise enough funds, and our unique educational program will be in jeopardy. With this in mind, please make a pledge commitment of \$200 per month per child or more, or as close to that amount as you are able. Every amount counts, and full participation is our goal, so please do what you can, no matter the amount. **Of necessity, we are also asking this year for a one-time annual class materials and supplies donation of \$100 per student.**

If possible, please make your pledges for the full 12 months of the year, beginning with July, as this greatly helps us reach the amount of pledge funds we need to continue our educational program.

If you have any questions about the Pledge program or SunRidge's financial structure in general, please don't hesitate to ask. Thank you in advance for your commitment and contribution to a quality education for all our children.

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### 2009-10 SunRidge Pledge Commitment—Please return by August 21

Parent Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Child Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

*I/we will pledge the following amount for the 2009-10 school year:*

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ per child for a total of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ per month; a total of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ per year

*My pledge commitment will be on the following monthly schedule* (please check one):

July '09 through June '10 (12 months)

September '09 through June '10 (10 months)

*I also pledge the following annual Materials Cost Donation:*  \$100 or: \_\_\_\_\_

• All donations are voluntary, tax-deductible, and non-refundable.