

SYCAMORE RIDGE



December 2011

Round-Up

Vol. 7, Issue 2



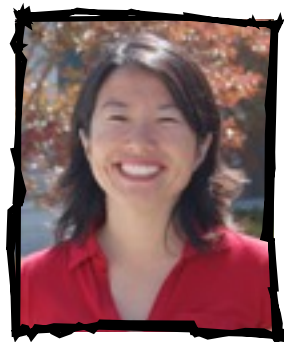
Principal's Message

Seasons Greetings Sycamore Ridge Stallions! The holidays are upon us, and we have much to be thankful for as a learning community! I'd like to take this opportunity to extend my gratitude and appreciation to you for making Sycamore Ridge School a very special place for all of us to learn and grow. Over the past few months, I have observed the wonderful staff and dedicated parents of our school family working together to ensure a productive, enriching and caring environment for our students. As I pause to reflect on

this, I am proud and content in knowing that indeed we work together as a "Village" to create a shared vision of what it means to develop strong learners and citizens.

For the past two months, our staff and students have focused on the character themes of Respect and Fairness. In an attempt to bring conversations about peace building from school to home, the teachers have agreed to send home a monthly activity focused on the components of our daily Peace Builder Pledge. Each month, students will continue to have the opportunity to describe how they display the traits of good character.

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A Note from the PTA President

As I walked through Target doing some last-minute Halloween shopping for my son's Haunted Halloween project, I stumbled into the Christmas aisle and found myself really annoyed. In this fast-paced society, where it seems everyone is rushing to get to music lessons, soccer practice, karate, language school, etc., I guess it isn't surprising that we are rushing through Halloween and skipping over Thanksgiving completely to get to holiday decorations! I know I am guilty of running the crazy shuttle bus schedule of "managing" two

kids' schedules, but my Target outing reminded me to have some perspective. In the chaos of the holiday season, it's easy to get lost in the "to do" list of all we need to get done, but my hope is that I can also teach my kids about the importance of the holidays—time with our family, giving to others, and reflecting on the past year.

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. . . and much more!

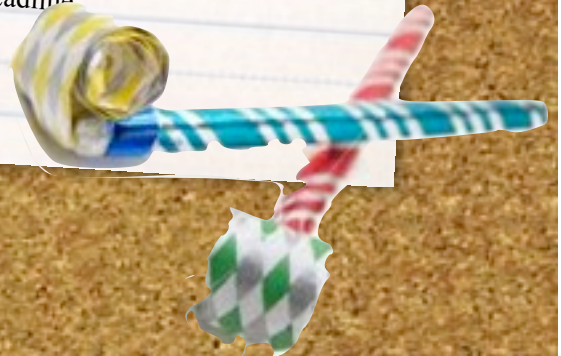
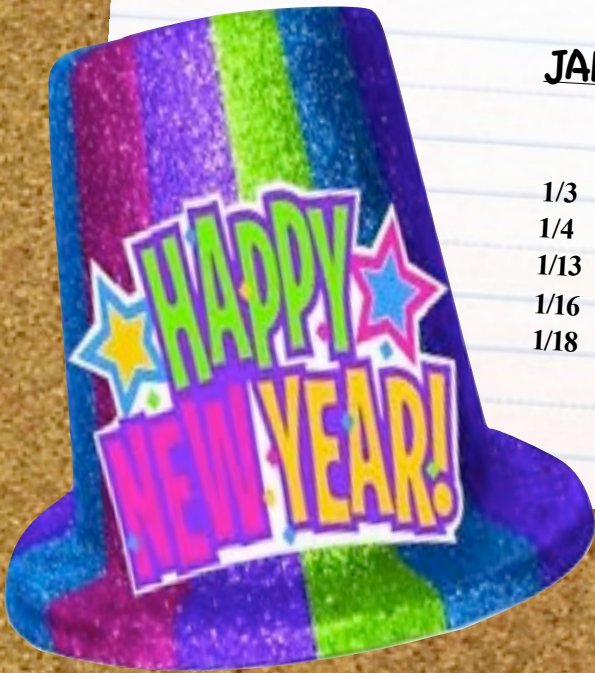
Calendar of Events

DECEMBER, 2011

- 12/4 Kids Korps Holiday Party @ 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. (at Family Resource Center in Oceanside)
- 12/5 4th Grade Field Trip @ 9:00 a.m. (to Cabrillo National Monument)
- 12/7 Lunch Order Deadline
- 12/7 Village Day (wear school colors or spirit wear)
- 12/9 Family Career Day @ 11:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. (in your child's classroom)
- 12/9 Student Council Spirit Day - Career Day
- 12/13 3rd Grade Field Trip @ 8:45 a.m. (to Old Town)
- 12/14 DMUSD Board of Trustees Meeting @ 5:45 p.m. (at Del Mar Hills Academy)
- 12/15 Mad Science Assemblies
- 12/15 Band Concert @ 6:30 p.m. (in MUR)
- 12/16 1st Grade World History Feast @ 10:30 a.m. (in Lower Grade Lunch Shelter)
- 12/19 - 1/2 Winter Break -- NO SCHOOL

JANUARY, 2012

- 1/3 First day back after Winter Break
- 1/4 Village Day (wear school colors or spirit wear)
- 1/13 Student Council Spirit Day -- Look Alike Day
- 1/16 Martin Luther King Holiday -- NO SCHOOL
- 1/18 Lunch Order Deadline





Jennifer Oliviera

What's Happening in the Technology Lab?

During these first few months of school, students have been working on a variety of projects that integrate nicely with what they are learning in their classrooms. Collaborating with the classroom teachers, we created meaningful activities that hone students' technology skills. Here are some of the activities students have been working on:



Kindergarten - Mouse control, using Pixie for drawing and typing names, and using razkids.com for reading practice.



First Grade - Using Pixie for creating student passports and drawings of plants with labels, and using razkids.com for reading practice.

Other programs used by the lower grades include starfall.com, McMillan-McGraw Hill Math, and Dance Mat Typing.



Second Grade - Using Pixie to create booklets on the seed and plant cycle, writing sentences and illustrating the booklets.



Third Grade - Keyboarding, using Pixie to create images of landforms, and using PowerPoint to make presentations about the Kumeyaay.



Fourth Grade - Keyboarding, using Frames to create animations of solving a math problem, and using PowerPoint to create interactive quizzes about interdependence.



Fifth Grade - Keyboarding, using Frames to create animations, set to student-created song lyrics, of cellular respiration, and using prezzi.com to create presentations about regions.



Sixth Grade - Using Frames to create animations of plate tectonics and sea floor spreading, and using Google Earth to learn about topographic maps.

Other programs used by the upper grades include Google Apps for Education to write, edit, share, collaborate, and create spreadsheets, documents, and presentations.

In addition to the in-lab learning going on at school, we have out-of-lab learning happening as well. With so much equipment on campus, I have asked for the savvy assistance of some techno-smarties. Thanks to the following members of our campus GEEK Squad for helping to keep the equipment clean, solve minor problems, and be a support to teachers:

Red Team: Jamie (Team Captain), Niharika, Mariangela, Justine, Alyssa, and Tristan

White Team: Katie (Team Captain), Sophia, Hannah, Nicole, Danny, and Aaron

Blue Team: Samantha, Amaya, Christine, and Sumin



Winning Answers to September's Question: "How are you fair?"

"I am fair by sharing things with other people. I am also fair because I do not cheat in games."

- Kevin (Mrs. Rex)

"Being fair is when you play by the rules. You will never cheat when you are fair. When you and someone else want to do the same thing, you can either do it together or rock-paper-scissors. When you are fair, it shows you're a great peacebuilder."

- Faith (Ms. Money)

Winning Answers to October's Question: "How are you Respectful?"

"I'm respectful by listening to the person who is talking. I'm respectful by being polite to others. I'm respectful by behaving in school and at home."

- Angelica (Mrs. Johnson)

"I am respectful in many ways. Some ways are . . . I always say please and thank you. I also say bless you or excuse me. I am also respectful on the playground. If somebody said, "Let's play on the monkey bars" and I didn't want to, I would say, in a respectful way, "Okay, but tomorrow, can we play on the field?"

- Sofia (Mrs. Jackson)

Principal's Message

(continued from p. 1)

Congratulations to the following students whose entries were selected for publication in this newsletter: Kevin (Mrs. Rex), Faith (Ms. Money), Angelica (Mrs. Johnson), and Sofia (Mrs. Jackson).

Character Counts tickets are one of the many ways we celebrate and recognize good character on our campus. Any student who exhibits one of the six pillars of good character can receive a Character Counts ticket. These tickets are collected at the end of the week and a drawing is held the following Monday to recognize ethical and peace building behavior at school. Students meet with me at recess to select a small prize and recognition from the Principal! (By the way, this is one of my favorite jobs!)

We invite your continued support reinforcing the importance of good character. Here are some additional ways you can help:

TEACH! Teach your child that character counts – their success and happiness will depend on who they are inside and not what they have or how they look. Use examples from your own life's experience, history, and the news to teach them about core values.

ENFORCE! Reward good behavior (usually praise is enough) and discourage instances of bad behavior by imposing fair and consistent consequences that prove you are serious about character and personal responsibility. Demonstrate courage and core values when it is difficult to do so.

ADVOCATE! Be an advocate for character. Don't be neutral about the importance of character or casual about improper conduct. Be clear and uncompromising that you want and expect your child to be trustworthy, respectful, responsible, fair, caring and to take ownership for choices made.

MODEL! Remember, everything you do (and don't do) sends a message about your values. Be sure your messages reinforce lessons about doing the right thing even when it is hard to do so. When you slip (and we all do), act the way you want your children to behave when they act improperly. Children will learn that a sincere apology is one positive step to right a wrong.

DON'T FORGET! Take time, parents, to take care of yourself. At this busy time of year, it is easy to forget the importance of practicing self-renewal!

Thank you for your partnership as we work together to promote the development of good people who will live healthy, happy lives of purpose!

And, finally, please know how grateful I am for our school "Village." I continue to be amazed and inspired by the individual and collective efforts that I have the pleasure of witnessing each day.

My sincere appreciation to –

- Our students, who work to do their personal best each day and who take responsibility for their actions, both positive and negative.
- Our teachers, who pour their heart and soul into making a difference in the lives of our youngsters.
- Our classified staff, for ensuring our staff and students are safe and supported.
- Our PTA and parents, who support our programs with time, talent, energy, financial support, and encouragement.

Best wishes for a joyful and peaceful holiday season!

Emily Morris

A Note from the PTA President

(continued from p. 1)

With that being said, I am writing this the day before Thanksgiving and want to express the things for which I am truly thankful. I am thankful for our wonderful Principal, teachers and staff. As I sat in parent teacher conferences, I felt truly blessed to have such compassionate teachers who take the time to know my child's needs. I know that my children are safe, academically challenged and encouraged to develop their character every day. I am also thankful for the DMSEF for continuing to fundraise so our children can receive specialized instruction in Music, P.E., Art, Science, and Technology.

I am so thankful for our wonderful PTA Board this year! Many of our Board members are working parents and I am truly amazed that they are still willing to give their time to serve on the Board as well as various PTA committees. Thank you Carrie White, Eileen Johnson, Sharry Zubrod, Christine Nizet, Lori Dreisbach Hawe, Shannon Cary, Nelda Soltero, Richard Kaleta, Nelar Wine, and Jen Marchese-Ernst! Without you we could not put on the amazing programs at our school!

I'd like to thank Ian Allen, Carrie White, and Eileen Lundquist for doing such a wonderful job with our Reflections program. The submissions I saw were truly beautiful pieces of art. I am so glad we were able to do the Reflections program again this year!

Thank you to Shelly Aberle, Jen Varela, Darcy Buchanan and all of the wonderful parents who helped with our Jog-A-Thon. The Jog-A-Thon is one of my favorite events of the year since it's so wonderful to see all the kids out there running! Thank you to all who contributed generously to the Jog-A-Thon!

A special thank you to Trisha Klimisch for getting our running club, Stallion Sprinters, off to a great start! The kids love the program and are having a great time! Thank you, also, to Shelly Yeager, Pam Hunter, and Jen Marchese-Ernst for chairing Drama Club again this year. The countless hours you are giving for all of the casting sessions, rehearsals, and extra practices are such an amazing gift to all who are involved. I cannot wait to see the performance in March!

Thank you to Eileen Johnson, Christine Nizet, and Nelda Soltero for designing and selling our Spiritwear! It always makes me smile when I see kids showing their Stallion pride by wearing their Spiritwear!

A heartfelt thank you to Jackie Niznik-Kempton and Kathy Pechtimaldjian for putting on such a fun Book Fair! I know you both went above and beyond what was required picking up books throughout the week to re-stock our shelves and that both your families were heavily involved in the Book Fair as well. Please express our thanks to them! For those of you who came to the Mad Science Book Fair Night, I want to apologize. Mad Science had a mix-up with the schedule, so the presentation had to be cancelled at the last minute. We are working to reschedule the event since we know the kids (and parents) were disappointed.

Thank you to Ryan Blackstone-Gardner and Doug Schulz for chairing the Dads' Club this year. Special thanks to Scott Tanaka for setting up and providing all the equipment for Family Movie Night! Movie Night was so much fun! I'm also looking forward to our next Dad's Club sponsored event--Family Career Day.

Thank you to Richard Kaleta for chairing Membership and Directories this year! I know this was a HUGE job! I appreciate the detailed, thorough job you did! The directories look great and I know parents really appreciate having them!

I am truly honored and thankful to serve as PTA President this year. I have had so many great conversations with parents that have reinforced my belief that Sycamore Ridge is a very special place. Please continue to stop me in the halls--I love hearing from you! Thank you to all the parents in our Sycamore Ridge community for your generous support of our teachers and PTA programs. Our kids are so very lucky to have such amazing parents! Wishing you all a very safe and happy holiday season!

Sincerely,
Maia Starling, PTA President

Sycamore Ridge Round-Up

A Recipe for Respect

Ava listens quietly when her teacher talks. Ben claps for each performer at his piano recital. These children show respect for others. Here's how you can encourage your youngster to do the same.

Demonstrate

Your child will learn respectful behavior by watching the way you treat others. When she makes a mistake, for instance, gently tell her what she's done wrong--and out earshot of others. Also, let her see you respect ideas and beliefs that are different from your own. For example, point out that you're happy a friend is voting in an election even though you each favor a different candidate.

Notice

When you see your youngster acting respectfully, let her know that you've noticed ("I like the way you asked your sister before borrowing her sweater"). Your words and attention will encourage her to show respect in the future.

Tip: If you see disrespectful behavior on TV (a child rolling his eyes or talking back to a parent), tell your youngster that isn't okay in real life. Then, ask her to be on the lookout for respectful actions by characters. How many can she spot before the program ends?

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Please Check the LOST & FOUND

*All items not picked up
will be donated at
2:45 p.m. on Friday,
December 16, 2011*



Parents Asked to Return Borrowed Clothing to Health Office

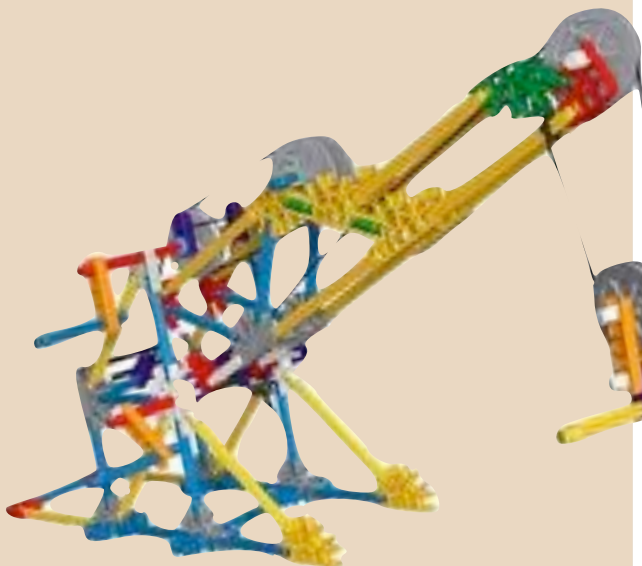
Attention Parents! If your child has borrowed clothing from the health office, please wash and return the clothing so it is available to students that may have an accident on campus and need a change of clothes. Also, if you have sweatpants, leggings, or shorts your child has outgrown, we always welcome donations. Please drop them off at the front office and if you have any questions, please contact Raquel Dixon, Sycamore Ridge Health Tech, at (858) 755-1060 x3894. Thank you!



Sixth Graders Use Popular Building Toy to Connect Classroom Learning to Real World

During our recent field trip to UCSD, Sixth Grade students had the opportunity to connect their learning to the real world by thinking like owners of buildings, architects, contractors, and structural engineers. After several weeks of preparation and strict guidelines, our students attempted to build structurally safe buildings using K'NEX. During this hands-on unit, students were also asked to submit architectural drawings, artistic representations of their buildings, construction documents, a floor plan determining the area available for rent, and a bill of materials for the price of their building.

While at the UCSD campus, our Sixth Graders got to see the fruits of their labor. Under the guidance of engineering majors, each student team tested their structures using a shake table. They had to explain the rationale for their buildings and reflect on what worked and what could be improved. The fact that we live in an earthquake prone area made this all the more fascinating. Job well done, Sixth Grade scholars!



Sycamore Ridge Students Unleash their Artistic Talents in PTA Reflections Program

Fifty-nine Sycamore Ridge students submitted artistic works interpreting the theme "Diversity Means . . ." in this year's PTA Reflections Program. After judging at the school level, the following students' entries were forwarded to the North County Coastal Council for the next level of judging:

Literature:

Austin (2nd Grade) "Everyone is Unique in Sycamore Ridge"
Andrew (6th Grade) "Diversity – Sports"

Music Composition:

Adelle (4th Grade) "Playing in the Rain"

Photography:

Amanda (5th Grade) "Diversity is Delicious"
Katy (2nd Grade) "Diversity Means Different"
Julia (4th Grade) "Sweet Colors"

Visual Arts:

Claire (1st Grade) "My Giraffe"
Emily (3rd Grade) "Reach to the Stars"
Emma (5th Grade) "Diversity Means Variety"
Anjali (5th Grade) "Diversity is Beautiful"
Andrew (6th Grade) "Nature"
Andrew (6th Grade) "The Wonder of the Sea"

Congratulations to all who participated and created amazing works of art. A reception where all the works of art will be displayed will be held in the Spring.



Everyone A Reader Program Needs Volunteers

Everyone A Reader is a program where students receive additional literacy support in the form of individualized reading practice and instruction sessions. These trained volunteers work one-on-one with first through third grade students using research-informed instructional methods to improve students' reading strategies. Volunteers are asked to commit to giving 30-60 minutes a week through May. If you would like to be part of a dedicated team helping to make a difference in the lives of children, please consider joining the Sycamore Ridge EAR team. Contact Lisa Blazer, Sycamore Ridge Site Coordinator, at (858) 945-6920 or ldblazer@live.com to have any of your questions answered.

Raise Money for Sycamore Ridge While Shopping at Vons

Do you want to help raise thousands of dollars for Sycamore Ridge just by shopping as usual? It is so easy--just register for eScrip! eScrip is a free program through which VONS donates a percentage of your purchases back to the school.

To get started, go to www.escrip.com. There, you need to identify Sycamore Ridge as the school you would like to support. Our group name is "Sycamore Ridge PTA" and our Group ID # is **500002133**. You must also register your VONS card number. If you don't know your VONS card number, please call (877) 723-3929 and VONS will supply you with the number. If you don't have a VONS card, sign up for one today!

If you have any questions, please contact Alyson Coons at alysoncoons@yahoo.com.





Hello Wonderful Sycamore Ridge Parents!

For those of you that don't know me, my name is Eileen Johnson and I am Vice President of Ways and Means for the Sycamore Ridge PTA and the Chair of RidgeRaising 2012. RidgeRaising is a dinner and silent auction and is Sycamore Ridge PTA's largest fundraiser of the year. If you haven't attended in the past, the event is a super-fun, adult's-only evening where you can meet other parents in a social environment and help our school. Last year our theme was Disco. The event was held at Santaluz Country Club and we raised \$22,000. This money purchased printers, projectors, docu-cams and a portable sound system for our school. Everyone that went had a fantastic time! As a parent of a Sycamore Ridge 1st Grader and 3rd Grader, I am quickly learning the importance of our fundraisers. Without these events, our children would not have the wonderful things available to them at our award-winning school.

The tentative date for RidgeRaising 2012 is *March 10th* and we are starting to plan now, as this event takes a lot of time and energy to make it a success. That is why.....

I NEED YOUR HELP!!!!!!!!!!!!

I am currently putting together the RidgeRaising 2012 committee and need approximately 20 volunteers to help with the event. This is a very fun event to be involved with and a great way to meet other parents. I welcome as much or as little help as your time allows! Every bit counts! The **committees** I need help with are:

- | | | |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------|
| •Donations of Auction Items | •Teacher Feature Coordinator | •Check-Out/ Financial |
| •Party Venue-Logistics | •Administration | •Ticket Sales |
| •Set Up/Clean Up | •Graphic Design | •Website/Blog |
| •Grade Level Basket Coordinator | •Advertising Coordinator | •Decorating |

We are also currently seeking ideas for a location and theme. We are going to have a contest for the best ideas and themes. If you have been to a party at which you had a great time, or know of a great location that would accommodate 150-200 people that is not too far from Carmel Valley, let me know. And, most importantly, if you have any friends/colleagues or family that own a business that would be willing to donate for this wonderful event, PLEASE let me know so I can contact them with our donation letter and tax information. Every donation counts no matter how large or small!!!!

Feel free to email or call me if you have any questions. Thank you so much for your help in making RidgeRaising 2012 a success!

Eileen Johnson-Chair
ejohns@san.rr.com
 (858) 243-1900

Please fill out and return to your teacher or leave at the front office with my name on it. You can also email me directly.

Location Idea: _____ Theme Idea: _____

Donation I may be able to receive: _____

Interested in Volunteering: Name: _____ Committee: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

September 2011 Sycamore Stallion Superstars



The following students were chosen by their teachers as September's Sycamore Stallion Superstars as persons of excellent character:

Kindergarten

Mrs. Fletcher: Hadley
Mrs. Litt: Jack
Ms. Wojtkowski: Ava

First Grade

Mrs. Howell: Adrian
Mrs. Jones: Lauren
Mrs. Saunders: Aiden
Ms. Waxman/Mrs. White: Lewis

Second Grade

Mrs. Bonaguidi: Aimee
Mrs. Chung: Isabel
Mrs. Schengel: Shaina
Mrs. Zuzow: Arysse

Third Grade

Mrs. Bullis: Emely
Ms. Johnson: Sarah
Mrs. Kowieski: Neha
Mrs. Rex: Sean

Fourth Grade

Mrs. Jackson: Lily
Ms. Money: Allison

Fifth Grade

Mrs. Mackie: Kendall
Ms. Stanton: Isabel

Sixth Grade

Mr. Dahl: Luke
Mrs. Mokiao: Hallie
Mrs. Schwab/Mrs. Solowczuk: Christine

CONGRATULATIONS!

October 2011 Sycamore Stallion Superstars



The following students were chosen by their teachers as
October's Sycamore Stallion Superstars as persons of excellent character:

Kindergarten

<i>Mrs. Fletcher:</i>	Liam
<i>Mrs. Litt:</i>	Payton
<i>Ms. Wojtkowski:</i>	Cole

First Grade

<i>Mrs. Howell:</i>	Katrin
<i>Mrs. Jones:</i>	Laird
<i>Mrs. Saunders:</i>	Hannah
<i>Ms. Waxman/Mrs. White:</i>	Morgan

Second Grade

<i>Mrs. Bonaguidi:</i>	Helen
<i>Mrs. Chung:</i>	Sophia
<i>Mrs. Schengel:</i>	Alejandro
<i>Mrs. Zuzow:</i>	Demir

Third Grade

<i>Mrs. Bullis:</i>	Caleb
<i>Ms. Johnson:</i>	Lily
<i>Mrs. Kowieski:</i>	Naoki
<i>Mrs. Rex:</i>	Wanda

Fourth Grade

<i>Mrs. Jackson:</i>	Ethan
<i>Ms. Money:</i>	Debora

Fifth Grade

<i>Mrs. Mackie:</i>	Carson
<i>Ms. Stanton:</i>	Andrew

Sixth Grade

<i>Mr. Dahl:</i>	Sara
<i>Mrs. Mokiao:</i>	Siana
<i>Mrs. Schwab/Mrs. Solowczuk:</i>	Justin

CONGRATULATIONS!

November 2011 Sycamore Stallion Superstars



The following students were chosen by their teachers as November's Sycamore Stallion Superstars as persons of excellent character:

Kindergarten

Mrs. Fletcher: Nikki
Mrs. Litt: Zephyr
Ms. Wojtkowski: Anika

First Grade

Mrs. Howell: Allison
Mrs. Jones: Joanna
Mrs. Saunders: Cindy
Ms. Waxman/Mrs. White: Aidan

Second Grade

Mrs. Bonaguidi: Gus
Mrs. Chung: Vincent
Mrs. Schengel: Katy
Mrs. Zuzow: Mia

Third Grade

Mrs. Bullis: Duncan
Ms. Johnson: Karly
Mrs. Kowieski: Evelyn
Mrs. Rex: Shaun

Fourth Grade

Mrs. Jackson: Sofia
Ms. Money: Brendan

Fifth Grade

Mrs. Mackie: Aaron
Ms. Stanton: Katie

Sixth Grade

Mr. Dahl: Arezo
Mrs. Mokiao: Grayson
Mrs. Schwab/Mrs. Solowczuk: Liza

CONGRATULATIONS!

Jog-A-Thon: Celebrating Health & Well Being

Way to go Stallions! Our 7th Annual Jog-A-Thon was a huge success and a wonderful way to celebrate Red Ribbon Week. Coach Wells started everybody off with stretching and warm-up exercises and everybody looked fabulous dressed in red! Our school ran 6,240 total laps! Ms. Johnson's (3rd grade) and Mrs. Mackie's (5th grade) classes won the "Crazy Hair Party" for running the most laps. Ms. Johnson's class ran 301 laps and Mrs. Mackie's class ran 450 laps.

The Jog-A-Thon raised \$9,674.95 this year! Thank you to all our generous sponsors and to the students for running all those laps! We could not have had such a wonderful event without the help of our volunteers and donors. A special thank you to Primo DJ's for providing such fun music to run to and our amazing teachers and staff who helped coordinate the event and got the kids excited to run. Thank you to all the parent and grandparent volunteers who came out to help, support, and run with the students. We know we may have missed some of you, but we could not have had such a fun and successful event without each of you. THANK YOU!



Thank you to all the parent volunteers: Tulika Agarwal, Jen Varela, Darcy Buchanan, Maia Starling, Shelley Aberle, Unhae Kim, Su-Ling Wong, Lillian McGillivray, Samia Kabban, Nicole Baril, Marie LeRose, Janet Ross, Catherine Conover, Sandy and Ryan Blackstone-Gardner, John Taylor, Laura Peele, Lisa Becker, Christy Mohler, Christine Nizet, Erika Blunt, Pam Hunter, Christa Eilers, Eileen and Ron Johnson, Anita Kim, Rich Moon, Brandi Nishnick, Lisa Becker, Carrie White, Tiffany Wickham, Bettina Papouchado, Regina Huelsenbeck, Nicole Elleraas, Jill Seidenverg, Ryan Wasserman, Alyson Coons, Nelda and Ricardo Soltero, Tracy Nguyen, Jen Marchese-Ernst, Sofia Alessio, Lisa Myers, Debbie Romine, Paul Riva, Charles and Sandra Dreisbach, Penny Tassara and Lori Hawe. From set-up/clean up, to running water tables, marking laps, tallying all the laps and providing popsicles, we could not have done the Jog-A-Thon without you!



Runners celebrated with popsicles after they ran their laps!

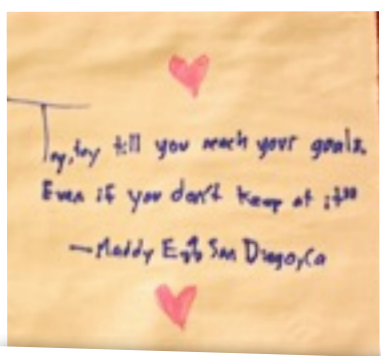


We are the champions!



Water kept runners cool in the heat!

Kids Korps Chapter Kicks Off Year by Making Blankets for Troops



The Sycamore Ridge Chapter of Kids Korps kicked off the new school year by making Blankets of Hope for Soldier's Angels, an organization that supports our troops overseas. Used on hospital beds, wheelchairs, and transport litters on medevac flights, Blankets of Hope bring the message, through pictures and notes from the children, that each service member is loved and not forgotten. Over 40 children attended the first meeting and we look forward to their participation in upcoming events!



PTA and School Information Available via E-Blasts

Sycamore Ridge and the Sycamore Ridge PTA send out e-blasts every Wednesday with the latest school news and information on upcoming events. If you would like to receive an e-blast, please sign up at www.sycamoreridgepta.com.

Love Your Planet, Help Our School, by Donating Old Electronics

Sycamore Ridge continues to participate in the Cartridges for Kids program -- a recycling program that pays schools CASH for used inkjet cartridges, cell phones, PDAs, digital cameras, laptops, iPods, calculators, GPS devices, DVDs, video games and video game consoles. You may drop items off to Jennifer Oliviera in the tech lab. For more information, please contact Jennifer Oliviera at joliviera@dmusd.org or check out the Cartridges for Kids website at www.cfktoday.com.



Kathy Pechtimaldjian
(Mrs. P.)

Thank you everyone for making our 2011 Scholastic Book Fair a great success! We had a record high sales total of \$13,200 (not including our Online Book Fair). This important fundraiser brought in \$3,350 in profits for our library, which will be used for new library books and resources! We appreciate all of you coming and spending your hard-earned money to help our library. Your generosity and support make Sycamore Ridge the best school!

Students, parents, and staff enjoyed the week-long event that included games and prizes, Bagels and Books with Dads, and our family night. Unfortunately, our scheduled special event for family night was cancelled due to an error on the part of Mad Science. A sincere apology goes out to all of our families who came to see this exciting show and attend our Book Fair. We are looking to reschedule this event in the near future. Thank you to Girl Scout Junior Troop 1775 who organized and ran a very popular and delicious bake sale during family night to aid our science room animals. Their cheerful smiles and yummy treats helped ease the disappointment and ensure that a fun time was had by all.

Thank you to everyone who supported their teachers' classroom libraries by purchasing and donating books. Students will enjoy these books for years to come.

Needless to say, the Book Fair could not happen without the help of our amazing and dedicated volunteers (students and parents). From setting up, to helping students find just the right book, to dressing up as Geronimo Stilton, to looking for that last Angry Birds poster, to counting up \$4.80 in small change for students, to packing and cleaning up, our volunteers were the best!

Kudos and a huge and humble thank you to our PTA for sponsoring this event and especially Jackie Niznik (and her daughter and husband) and Maia Starling (our wonderful PTA President), for committing so much of their time to make our Book Fair an exciting, fun, and successful event. We are lucky to have you.

Peace and happiness this holiday season. May you enjoy spending time with your family, friends, and a good book!



2011 Book Fair Volunteers are Out of this World!

Student Volunteers

Sophia	Arezo
Sophia	Amaya
Sumin	Katie
Zach	Nicole
Siana	Ashley
Christine	Kaitlin
Mariangela	Anisa
Anabel	Matthew
Kalaina	Aditya
Hallie	Chloe
Matt	Michael
Alyssa	Jeffrey
Ben	Niharika
Kathy	Noah
Michelle	Jade

Parent Volunteers

Amy Zhu	Leesa McNealy
Anna Wong	Lisa Blazer
Brandi Nishnick	Maia Starling
Carrie White	Marie LeRose
Christine Nizet	Mary Buckley
Christa Eilers	Misbah Cochinwala
Eileen Johnson	Nami Kang
Irene Nava	Nelar Wine
Jackie Niznik	Nelda Soltero
Janet Ross	Nicole Elleraas
Jen Ernst	Pam Brar
Jennifer MacKay	Shannon Cary
Judy Balsiger	Su-Ling Wong
Julie Shin	Sun Jin Choi
John Taylor	Sylvie Nottoli
Bev Taylor	Tiffany Wickham

Student Council News

October Happenings

by Student Council Historian Emily Dixon

So far, in Student Council, our year has gone well. During our spooktacular October month, we were able to put on a rocking Haunted Hallway and Gruesome Guts to show the K-2nd grade. The time and effort spent setting up the Haunted Hallway was well worth it. Gruesome Guts was so cool getting to gross out the little kids (sometimes our siblings!) The Halloween parade was so awesome! Ghosts, zombies, and princesses galore! Morning announcements have gone great these past few months because it's so cool having people coming up to you and saying "you were great on announcements." It makes me feel so good to be a leader of my school!

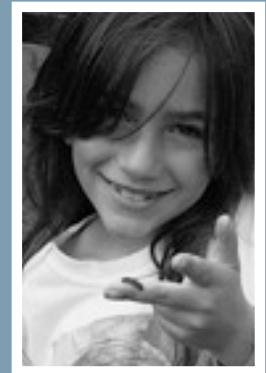
Ever Wonder What Happens in Student Council Meetings?

by Student Council Historian Grayson LeRose

Every Thursday, a group of 13 wise people join together to create the best spirit and, most importantly, to make this school the best it can be. We start off Student Council meetings with Brian Bae, the Sycamore Ridge Vice President, taking attendance. During one meeting, we discussed all of the movie ideas for the 3rd Annual Sycamore Ridge Movie Night on November 10, 2011. Our amazing technology teacher and the head of Student Council, Mrs. Oliveira, has guided us through meetings with much success. I've had a great experience in Student Council and I know the others will too.



Please
GIVE



The Del Mar Schools Education Foundation is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) charitable organization that was established to raise the necessary funds to provide Del Mar Union School District students with enrichment programs such as science, music, art, technology, and physical education. But the Foundation can't do it without YOUR continued support and generous contributions to YOUR school.

If EVERY family could make a contribution to the Foundation, it will make its goal of raising enough money to fund Science, Music, Art, Technology and Physical Education teachers at all schools. Keep in mind that ANY size contribution will make a BIG difference to ALL the children at Del Mar schools.

Del Mar students — your kids — are some of the brightest in the nation. The Foundation's goal is to keep them motivated and challenged by nurturing interests that go beyond math, reading and writing. Help keep Del Mar schools strong! Consider writing a check to DMSEF today or donate online to help DMSEF partially fund your child's enrichment programs.

Mail your check to:

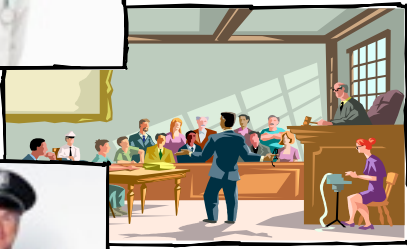
Del Mar Schools Education Foundation
13030 Ashley Falls Drive
San Diego, CA 92130

Remember:

Most companies provide **Corporate Gift Match** programs to their employees.

Donate online at: www.delmarkids.org/donate

Parents* are Invited to Speak in the Classroom about their Professions



at
Family Career Day

on
Friday, December 9th

from
11:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Please **RSVP** via email to your child's teacher
to let him/her know you are coming

Students are encouraged to participate in the Student Council sponsored Career
Dress Up Day. (Please make sure costumes don't impede the regular school day.)

*If a parent cannot make it, you are welcome to invite a grandparent or another family member!

Sponsored by Sycamore Ridge Dads' Club, A Program of the Sycamore Ridge PTA/www.sycamoreridgepta.com

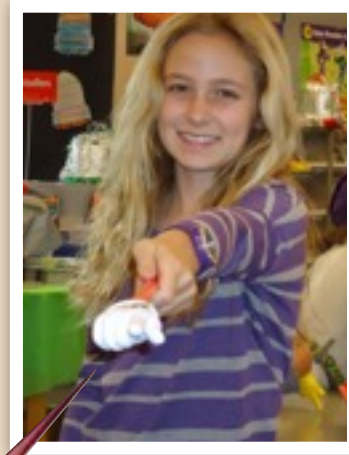
Kids Korps Chapter Helps Children at Feeding America San Diego



FEEDING
AMERICA

In November, the Sycamore Ridge Kids Korps Chapter had a great night working at Feeding America San Diego. Feeding America San Diego delivers food to 6,000 children across San Diego County each month through two different programs--Farm2Kids and Backpack Program. The Kids Korps Chapter worked on the Farm2Kids and Backpack programs, bagging 500 pounds of beans and 600 bags of sweet potatoes in 2 hours!

Fun at Scholastic “Reading is Out of This World!” Book Fair

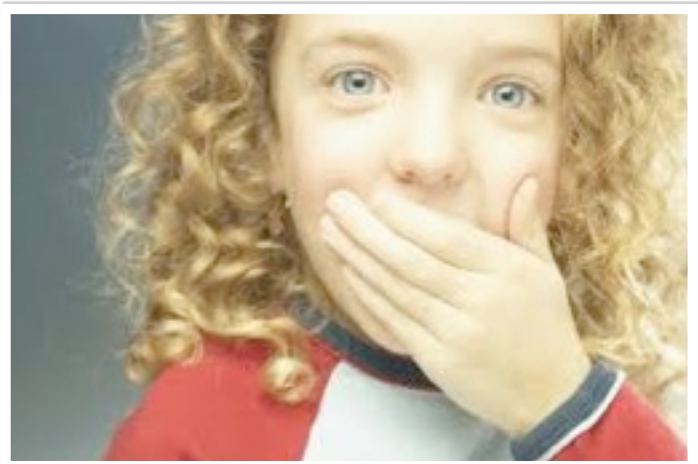


Teaching Children to Tell the Truth

For the third time this week, your child told a lie. They weren't big ones, but how can you get her to stop? Why is she doing it? Youngsters have vivid imaginations and are learning the difference between fantasy and fact. Talk with your child about what's real and what isn't. For example, "Do talking purple dinosaurs really exist? Let's look up dinosaurs in the encyclopedia and find out."

Children also lie to avoid embarrassment. Confronting your youngster about eating a cookie without permission may prompt her to say a monster ate it. Remind her to tell the truth, even if she's done something she shouldn't. You might say, "It's fun to pretend there are monsters, but they aren't real. What is our rule about having snacks before dinner?"

Pointing out when your child tells the truth will help build honest behavior. Write down when she admits to doing something wrong or tells you about what she has done before you are aware of it. Review the list with her, and tell her you're proud of her honesty.



(Material is copyrighted by Resources for Educators, a Division of Aspen Publishers, and appeared in Early Years, 2011)

Make the Home/School Connection with After School Chats

“What’s in your backpack?” Greet your child with this question, and you’ll discover a lot about what she does in class.

- Set aside time each day to go through her papers. Try to do it first thing after school when her day is fresh in her mind.
- Look over your youngster’s work together. Help him feel proud by making a specific comment about something he’s done. For instance, if he shows you a picture he drew in art class, you might say, “The gray sky and big waves look just like our rainy day at the beach.”



- Have her talk through math problems or science experiments to show you what she’s learned. She might explain how she finds the perimeter of a triangle or why ants dig tunnels, for example.

(Material is copyrighted by Resources for Educators, a Division of CCH Incorporated, and appeared in Home & School Connection, 2011)

Thanks to PeaceCoaches for Their Hard Work on Campus

Thanks to the following campus PeaceCoaches for their help solving problems at lunch recess, seeking out Praise Note Worthy kids, and helping with games:

Monday PeaceCoaches

Sophia
Anisa
Debora
Bryan

Tuesday PeaceCoaches

Debora
Amanda
William
Anisa
Aaron

Wednesday PeaceCoaches

Katie
Niharika
Mariangela
Aaron
Anisa
Debora

Thursday PeaceCoaches

Emily
Makayla
Debora
Katie

Friday PeaceCoaches

Aaron
Sophia

Tips for Walking/Crossing to School Safely



- Please be aware that the crossing guard’s duty is to escort students (not adults) across the street safely.
- Crossing guards are not responsible for directing traffic.
- Be aware when a crossing guard is in the middle of the street.
- Please check the link “Valet Service” on the school website, sycamore.dmusd.org, for more school safety tips.





Box Tops for Education is an Easy Way to Earn Cash for Sycamore Ridge

The Box Tops for Education program is an easy way to earn cash for our school. It's as simple as 1, 2, 3.

1. Clip Box Tops. Box Tops coupons are on hundreds of products you probably already buy, including General Mills cereals, Totino's, Green Giant fresh produce, Juicy Juice, Betty Crocker, Hefty, Ziploc, Kleenex, Britta, Hanes, Avery office supplies, and others (see www.BTFE.com for a complete list). Each Box Top coupon is worth 10 cents.

2. Send Box Tops to School. Attach Box Tops to collection sheets from Wednesday folders or just send them in a baggie or envelope. Hand them in to a teacher or drop them in the box in the front office.

3. Sycamore Ridge Earns Cash. That's what it's all about! All those Box Tops really add up. We have already earned \$222 for Box Tops submitted over the summer.

Visit www.BTFE.com for other ways to earn even more, like registering for the Reading Room, which credits Box Tops directly to our school for purchases you make from Barnes and Noble. Other retailers participate in the Marketplace program, giving Box Tops credit for online purchases at stores such as Target and OfficeMax. All Box Tops funds go directly to the Sycamore Ridge PTA. Thanks for supporting this great program!

Dads and Special Family Members* are Invited to Share Lunch Time with Their Loved Ones During FAMILY LUNCH WEEK!

Dates: Any day during the week of Monday, February 6, 2012 through Friday, February 10, 2012

Times: 11:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.

Location: Sycamore Ridge School (of course!)

If you have questions about any of the events, please contact Doug Schulz (dschulz@uwalumni.com) or Ryan Blackstone-Gardner (rblackst@yahoo.com)



*Adults Only Please

Sponsored by Sycamore Ridge Dads' Club, A Program of the Sycamore Ridge PTA/www.sycamoreridgepta.com

Students Donate 221 Pounds of Treats for Halloween Candy Buy Back Program

Sycamore Ridge Elementary School students generously donated 221 pounds of their Halloween treats this year, helping to make Moser Orthodontics' 4th Annual Halloween Candy Buy Back a great success! In return for the donated candy, Dr. Noel Moser will be donating \$221 to Sycamore Ridge--\$1 per pound of candy collected! Thanks to all students who participated--you are supporting children's health and our school!



"Witch and ghost make
merry on this last of
dear October's days."

~Author Unknown



Halloween Parade 2011

The Sycamore Ridge Round-Up is provided by



Sycamore Ridge School
5333 Old Carmel Valley Road
San Diego, CA 92130
Phone: (858) 755-1060
Fax: (858) 755-1258
www.dmusd.org

Principal: Emily Morris
PTA President: Maia Starling
Photographers: Lisa Becker, Jen Ernst, Kaitlin Mohler
Newsletter Editor: Christa Eilers

THE SYCAMORE RIDGE PTA, DEL MAR UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT IS A MEMBER OF THE NORTH COUNTY COASTAL COUNCIL AND NINTH DISTRICT OF THE CALIFORNIA CONGRESS OF PARENTS, TEACHERS, AND STUDENTS (CCPTS)

**Spirit Wear is Still Available
(in limited sizes)**

To Purchase, Visit the PTA Website
at
[http://sycamorridgepta.com/
spiritwear/spiritwear.html](http://sycamorridgepta.com/spiritwear/spiritwear.html)

Items will be delivered to your child's
classroom

