



HIGHLIGHTS

at Sacramento Country Day School

SCDS serves a community of Pre-K through 12th grade families. *Highlights* lists items of interest to all grades.

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Headmaster: Stephen T. Repsher

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March & April 2010

*Thank you to all the parents who volunteer for the morning Line Patrol each month -
A special thanks to Mr. Repsher and Mr. Lincoln for their curbside welcome EVERY DAY!*

Monday, March 1

AUCTION Kick-off, 8:45 a.m., Winters Library.
Join the fun of putting together the 33rd annual
auction! Everyone invited!
The Cat in the Hat reading in over a dozen languages,
noon, Matthews Library
5th/6th grade girls' basketball end-of-season
Mother/Daughter game & pizza party, 5-7 p.m.,
Gym & MP Room



Tuesday, March 2

"Read Across America Day" - sit down for 15 minutes from 2:30 to 2:45 p.m. and read!
4th grade Wax Museum, 9:45-10:15 a.m.
7th/8th grade girls' basketball end-of-season Mother/Daughter game &
pizza party, 5-7 p.m., Gym & Matthews Library

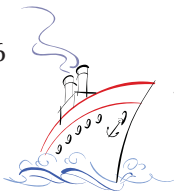
Wednesday, March 3

Sports Boosters meeting, 7 p.m., Matthews Library
7th/8th grade boys' basketball end-of-season Father/Son game & pizza party,
5-7 p.m., Gym & Matthews Library

Friday, March 5

HS PE to Country Club Bowling
3rd grade Colonial Faire where students assume 18th century personas, 12:45-2 p.m.

Saturday, March 6



HS Art History trip to San Francisco, 7:30 a.m.-7 p.m.
All Aboard the SS Country Day for the annual
Mother/Son Bingo and Father/Daughter Dance, Gym
Bingo is 11 a.m.-1 p.m., the Dance is 6-9 p.m.

Wednesday, March 10

Lorraine Temple brings her "Alaska Husky Spirit" sled team to the 3rd grade, 1:30 p.m.

Thursday, March 11

8th grade geometry students fly their kites to test their design skills in aerodynamics

Thursday-Friday
March 11-12

4th grade overnight adventure at Sutter's Fort

Friday, March 12

7th grade Renaissance Day



Sunday, March 14

Jazz Supper, 5:30-9 p.m., MP Room

Tuesday, March 16

5S to UC Davis Raptor Center, 8:45 a.m.-noon

Wednesday, March 17	HS Winter Sports Awards, 6-8:30 p.m.
Thursday, March 18	5L to UC Davis Raptor Center, 8:45 a.m.-noon ATS testing for 4th & 5th graders, 3:45-5 p.m.
Friday, March 19	Faculty/Staff Appreciation Lunch, hosted by Lower School parents
Thursday, Friday, Saturday March 18, 19, 20	High School One-Acts, 7 p.m.
Saturday, March 20	A Morning with Bev Bos & Michael Leeman, 9 a.m.-noon, Winters Library Hosted by SCDS, area pre-school directors are invited.
Monday, March 22	MS dismissed at 2 p.m. Lifers' dinner celebration, 6 p.m., Piatti's
Tuesday, March 23	PK to Alpha Fired Arts, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
Thursday, March 25	6th grade Greek Olympics, all day
Friday, March 26	Lower School Student-led Conferences Middle School Parent/Teacher Conferences No school for Lower or Middle School; ASE available with reservation by emailing Joy at jpangilinan@saccds.org . (Please provide two snacks and a lunch for your child.) High School in session
March 27-April 11	SPRING BREAK Spring Break trip - Latin students are off to Greece and Rome for 12 days
March 29-April 2	ASE open, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Reservations required - no drop in. Please reserve by emailing Joy at jpangilinan@saccds.org . (Please provide two snacks and a lunch for your child.)
Monday, April 12	Back to School!
Wednesday, April 14	Parents' Association meeting, 8:45-10 a.m., Winters Library
Thursday, April 15	1st grade to UC Davis Arboretum to see native plants
Thursday-Sunday April 15-18	HS Journalism Conference, Portland, OR
Tuesday, April 20	5th grade to Fitzgerald Marine Reserve (Moss Beach) as the culmination of the Pacific Intertidal Life unit, 6 a.m.-2:30 p.m.
Thursday, April 22	Battle of the Sophomore Project presentations, 12:05-1:55 p.m., Matthews Library OPEN HOUSE, PK-12, 6-9 p.m.
Friday, April 23	PK are studying food and nutrition on their walk to SaveMart & Jamba Juice, 9:30-11:30 a.m. Battle of the Sophomore Project presentations, 12:05-1:55 p.m., Matthews Library Softball "Friday Night Lights," SCDS vs. Buckingham, 7 p.m., location TBA
Friday-Saturday April 23-24	HS Jazz Band to the Reno Jazz Festival, leaving after school on Friday, returning on Saturday Rummage Sale for Newton Booth - details to be announced. SAVE YOUR STUFF!

Tuesday, April 27	“Poem in your Pocket” day
Wednesday, April 28	1st grade to Soil Born Farms, 9:45-12:15 p.m. MS/HS Spring Concert, 6-9 p.m., MP Room
Friday, April 30	Grandparents and Friends Day, 9 a.m.-noon ASE available after LS & MS dismissal. Please reserve by emailing Joy at jpangilinan@saccds.org. (Please provide two snacks and a lunch for your child.) Tennis “Friday Night Lights,” SCDS vs. Foothill, 7 p.m., Rio del Oro
Friday, Saturday, Sunday April 30, May 1, May 2	Middle School play, Friday and Saturday 7 p.m., Sunday 2 p.m.



from the SCDS Diversity Committee

Who do we turn to on campus for classroom resources (both in print and electronic) and great reads about diversity issues? The wonderful librarians of the Matthews and Winters Libraries! Joanne Melinson and Cary Kelly have a strong commitment to including both informational sources and fiction to help expand our awareness of our world. Both libraries are a treasure trove of cultural resources, with everything from folk and fairy tales from around the world to a wonderful series of books about cultures of the world. (Manson Tung '16 and Ms. Melinson are competing to read the most books in the series; Ms. Melinson admits that Manson is well in the lead.) In the Winters Library there are over forty versions of the Cinderella story, from locales as diverse as the Appalachian Mountains, Cambodia, and Mexico. For all age and reading levels we can find moving stories about people of color living in the United States and around the world, as well as novels and memoirs that deal with the challenging issues of poverty, race, civil rights, and religious conflict, as well as responses to racism and bigotry.

Many people on campus meet to discuss books that open our eyes to a wide variety of experiences. For example, the Middle School Teacher Book Club just read *Wild Swans: Three Daughters of China* by Jung Chang. And the last High School Book Club meeting focused on books representing World Cultures. Below you can find a short list of some books that were discussed and recommended at that meeting. If you have books about diversity issues that you'd like to recommend for our libraries or suggested reading lists, especially ones that reflect your own experiences and interests, please send a message to us at diversity@saccds.org. You can use the same address to pass along messages to the Diversity Committee.

Laura Steele Monahan
Chair of the Diversity Committee

High School Book Club, February 17, 2010
Collected Fictions/Jorge Luis Borges
Best European Fiction 2010
Anna Karenina/Leo Tolstoy
Doctor Zhivago/Boris Pasternak
Balzac and the Little Chinese Seamstress/Dai Sijie
Three Cups of Tea/Greg Mortenson
Arthur Rimbaud: the Complete Works/Arthur Rimbaud

ACADEMICS, PLUS!

Spring Break Abroad

Latin teachers Jane Batarseh and Briana Titus are accompanying 8th through 12th grade SCDS Latin students and a few parents on a trip to Greece and Italy over spring break. The trip is 12 days and highlights include:

- discussing the history of democracy at the Acropolis in Athens
- clambering around the Bronze Age citadels of Mycenae and Corinth
- exploring the ruins at Delphi, one of the most sacred places in ancient Greece
- traveling across the Mediterranean Sea on a steamer
- walking the streets of Pompeii, the Roman city buried by volcanic ash in AD 79
- reenacting scenes from ancient times among the buildings in the many Imperial Fora in Rome
- fighting each other at the gladiator school near the Colosseum
- seeing the Roman statues and art collected by the Catholic Church on a visit to Vatican City
- descending into the Etruscan tombs in Tarquinia to get a glimpse at the remains of a civilization that predated ancient Rome
- critiquing art in beautiful Florence, the birthplace of the Renaissance



Civil Rights “Teach-In”



On February 23rd, the 2nd grade led the Lower School in a "teach-in" about the Civil Rights movement in America. Starting with the Underground Railroad and leading up to the present day, the 2nd graders gave a rich historical picture of American history, focusing on how each one of us can make the world a better place by treating others with respect and kindness. Through the songs and words of those who actually lived these events, we learned about Harriet Tubman, who rescued 300 enslaved people on the Underground Railroad, and Rosa Parks, who courageously started the Montgomery Bus

Boycott that resulted in segregation laws being struck down by the U.S. Supreme Court. Students in various grade levels helped present poems, songs, and historical re-enactments and we all enjoyed video images that combined to create a multi-media presentation. The program, developed by the fantastic Elena Bennett, moved us, taught us, and inspired us to continue to work with others to create peace in our relationships with others. The second graders did an encore performance for the High School students on February 24th. As one teacher said after the program, "This is the Country Day Difference in action!"

World Cultures Day

World Cultures Day was celebrated at school on Friday with food, music, and games. Middle School students selected ethnic dishes to research and share in a dining extravaganza. Students were serenaded throughout lunch time by a mariachi band, and entertained by Gilbert Hetzel, a French accordionist. High School students purchased “passports” and moved from room to room sampling foods from different countries brought by students and faculty. MS academic classes participated in multi-cultural games and activities relating to their subject. Pre-algebra students visited the website miniature-earth.com/ to consider population statistics as a follow-up to their unit on percentages. (Did you know that over 60% of the people in our world are Asian? And that about 40% of the world’s population lives on less than US \$2 per day?) Eighth-grade math classes played an ancient strategy game that has been traced as far back as ancient Egypt, but that is still played all over the world today. Known in this country as 9 Men’s Morris, it is known in other parts of the world as Muhle, Mills, Merelles, Jeu de Moulin, and Murabaraba, among other names.



**HIGH SCHOOL HONOR ROLL
FIRST SEMESTER**

FRESHMEN

High Honor Roll 3.7

Madeline Arnett
Annie Bell
Mary-Clare Bosco
Carter Brown
Yanni Dahmani
Elise DeCarli
Julia Kerbs
Imani Ritchards
Sydney Stansberry
Madeleine Wright
Will Wright

Honor Roll 3.3

Jeffrey Caves
Jackson Dulla
Jacob Frankel
Corinne Locke
Hana Owaidat
Shewetha Prasad
Kelsi Thomas
Gerardo Vergara
Logan Winfield

SOPHOMORES

High Honor Roll 3.7

Mollie Berg
Ian Cardle
Barret Feusi
Cabot Jackman
Christina Petlowany
Mayuri Sadhasivan
Richard Whitney
Anna Young

Honor Roll 3.3

Lyria Beck
David Coffill
Alistair Fortson
Madison Galati
Camille Getz
Zach Lemos
Grace Mehta
Samantha Messina
Nick Samson
Trevor Sutley
Blair Wigney

JUNIORS

High Honor Roll 3.7

Nicole Antoine
Sarah Fleming
Parul Guliani
Sarah Mancina
Jiwon Oh
Lauren Taylor
Christopher Thompson

Honor Roll 3.3

Damien Blake
Samantha Carrasco
Brian Crush
Daniel Edgren
Paige FitzGibbon
KJ Park
Aamir Sheikh

SENIORS

High Honor Roll 3.7

Mackenzie Higgins
Austin Karp
Robbie Lemons
Aisha Pier
Max Xie

Honor Roll 3.3

Lynsey Chediak
Jillian DePoy
Zach Eltorai
Anne Fendick
Jamie Johnson
Lily Kramlich-Taylor
Alison Levin
Charlie Martin
Parker Murray
Marco Siragusa
Molly Tash

**MIDDLE SCHOOL HONOR ROLL
SECOND QUARTER**

High Honor Roll (3.7+)

Emma Belliveau
Darby Bosco
John Bovill
Emma Brown
Sophia Davis
Andrew DeAnda
Jordan Driebe
Michael Fat
Aidan Galati
Ethan Ham
Ryan Ho
Jacob Iritani
Garrett Kaighn
Jennifer Kerbs
Samuel Kinunen
Connor Martin
Caroline Mehta
Sydney Michel
Akilan Murugesan
Jacy Neczypor
Blythe Newton-Haynes
Bradford Petchauer
Claire Pinson
Grant Quattlebaum
Erin Reddy
Melanie Rogers-Martel
Maxwell Shukuya
Grace Strumpfer
Ethan Tse
Katherine Vrame
Sara Warady
Margaret Whitney
Anna Wiley
Emma Williams

Honor Roll (3.5+)

Shepard Conner
Siena DiRoma
Serajh Esmail
Alexa Griggs
Hannah Hawkins
Sydney Jackson
Madison Judd
Grant Miner
Hibba Munir
David Myers
Tehwan Park
Kamira Patel
Isabella Tochterman
Manson Tung
Tyler Valicenti
Benjamin Weisman
William Weisman

BREAKTHROUGH NEWS



The 15th Annual Breakthrough Sacramento Reunion was a rescheduled success! Over 100 Breakthrough students and alumni skated, shared stories, and encouraged each other to continue striving for the best. Thanks to the Midtown Business Association who gave BSAC a big discount on the rink rental and Luigi's Slice who gave us an even bigger discount for lunch! A real testament to the caliber of students in the program, the staff at the pizza parlor commented on the well-behaved nature of the students and appreciated that the parlor was left in the same condition as when we arrived. It was amazing to see the college graduate BSAC'ers mingling with middle and high school students. One student from the class of 2008 came back to ice skate after over a year as an alumna and reconnected with BSAC friends! Our learning community truly is tightly-knit and a safe space for our members.

Our next super Saturday will take Breakthrough to the University of San Francisco. The college visit Super Saturday has quickly become a highlight of the school-year program and the bus and vans are always filled to capacity with eager college-bound minds. Breakthrough San Francisco is housed at the SF Day School, a block from USF, and discussion is underway for us to have lunch at the Day School with some ambassadors from their program. It is exciting to see NorCal Breakthrough support each other and Sacramento is leading the way in this endeavor.

In addition to the Super Saturday, March 6th is sure to be a fun day for high school Breakthrough students who will spend a day on the banks of the American River with volunteers from the Sierra Club's Inner City Outings (ICO) Group. Thanks to former SCDS science teacher, Ms. Jackie Delu, this partnership is strengthening and leadership skills are being fomented for high school Breakthrough students while offering outdoor education via an orienteering course. A shared hope is that these Breakthrough students will become leaders in the Sierra Club's teen program and begin to lead programming for their peers. Adults who are excited about being outdoors and working with youth from Sacramento's under-resourced neighborhoods are invited to contact the Breakthrough office for more information. ICO members are a fun group who have been very supportive of Breakthrough for years now.

In this chilly winter weather, one of the things that keeps us warm in the BSAC office is the all the work that we are now doing to prepare for summer 2010. This will be the program's 17th summer! Marianne and Adolfo have presented to over 400 sixth graders and will present to more than 700 before the deadline arrives. The SCDS community can really help us prepare for the summer by contacting the BSAC office and volunteering to: *read student applications and help us select the new cohort of Breakthrough students that will work with us for six years, *consider opening up your home to host a teacher during the summer (please call the office for details and references), and *we are always in need of school supplies and snack for our events. Please call or, even better, stop by the Breakthrough office and we can discuss opportunities for community members to support the work we do.

Adolfo Mercado
Director

Marianne Ceballos
Program Coordinator



Breakthrough at *The Nutcracker* in December



Breakthrough at the ice rink in January

Notes from the Matthews Library



Happy Birthday and thank you to Laura Steele Monahan who donated to our new **Birthday Book Program**. A book containing a bookplate honoring her special day will be on the library shelves.

On February 22, author Erin Dealey visited the Middle School book club and creative writing classes and talked to them about what they were reading and writing. She also spoke about her own books in progress, read some amusing passages from her sixth grade journals, and led us in a writing assignment.

The Matthews Library Calendar

March 1 - *The Cat in the Hat* will be read in 17(!) languages by High School and Middle School students as well as faculty members.

March 2 - To celebrate "Read Across America Day," the whole school community will be reading from 2:30 until 2:45 p.m. If you'd like to join us in spirit, read at your desk, at the gym, or by the fireplace—wherever you happen to be at that time (if you're in the car, please pull over first). In addition to the all-school read, the Matthews Library will become the Lava Lounge filled with lava lamps and bean bag chairs and pillows for comfortable reading. The library office will be transformed into Starbucks Café for the faculty and staff to stop in for coffee and treats.

March 15 – Seventh grade history students will participate in "The Battle of the Books" where they will read and vote on historical fiction books from the cultures they have studied this year.

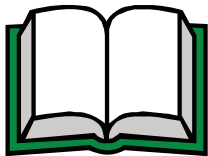
March 22-26 – Tenth graders will present their year-long research to their classmates. The top presentations will battle it out for prizes in the library on April 22 and 23.

April 19 – Poet Bob Stanley will visit the school for Poetry Month. He'll participate in a lunchtime Speakeasy (open mic reading) with the high school and visit with other classes throughout the day.

April 27 – Poem in Your Pocket Day. All students and faculty caught with a poem will be rewarded with a piece of chocolate. Kindergartners will spend time reading poetry with high school students.

BETWEEN THE PAGES

News from Winters Librarian Cary Kelly



Be sure to catch THE CAT IN THE HAT on campus ON March 2! That saucy feline will be at SCDS to help celebrate READ ACROSS AMERICA DAY. The CAT will pass out commemorative bookmarks for Lower School readers to take home. The entire campus—students, faculty and staff—will be reading at the same time from 2:30-2:45 PM!

Last Monday we all enjoyed the delightful author ERIN DEALEY who performed for us and with us! She really liked our version of the *Writer's Rap* that we've been seeing on YOUTUBE in the Winters! Thanks to everyone who purchased a paperback copy of "Goldie Locks has Chicken Pox." Proceeds of \$117.19 went to our Rwandan friends! Ms. Dealey will be back next year to do some writing workshops with fifth graders. Her visit was a gift from the Andrew Cochrane Libraries Fund.

Lower School students are currently reviewing titles nominated for the CALIFORNIA YOUNG READER MEDALS. Each student—no grown-ups!—will have a vote before spring break. Rosie Brownridge, Nicole Wolkov, Jasmine Anderson, and Claire Michael (5th) read an extra three books, making them eligible to vote in the Intermediate Category. Talk about "Reading with Stamina"!

Last month four fifth-grade students rode the BOOK MOBILE to BORDERS with Mrs. Kelly for the morning. Aidan Cunningham, Sidrah Siddiqui, Marie Ybarra, and Nicole Wolkov were selected for their enthusiasm for reading (and filling out BLUE CARDS for Mrs. Levy), as well as for excellent citizenship! The troupe spent about five hundred dollars on new books!

OVERDUE FINES for Rwanda has netted about \$110 to date. Thanks to all of those generous kids and parents who regularly deposit pocket change! It adds up quickly! We'll have another estimation contest soon! Nicole Wolkov aced the last one!



Support SCDS at the Jammies!

On March 6, High School students Sarah Fleming, Richard Whitney, and Sarah Mancina will perform at the 6th annual "Jammies," a concert showcasing Sacramento's best high school musicians. The 7:30 p.m. concert is at the Mondavi Center.

Visitors to SCDS

- High School art students were treated to a talk from Erin Tinney, an intern from the Crocker Art Museum.
- Middle and High School students participated in workshops about drugs, addiction, and decision-making with Dr. Victor J. DeNoble. Dr. DeNoble's interesting background - he headed a secret lab for Phillip Morris on the effects of nicotine, was ultimately fired, and was a key witness in government hearings examining the practices of the tobacco industry.
- The Cat in the Hat welcomes students on March 1!
- Alaska Husky Spirit dog team sleds over on March 10.



Members of the High School band and orchestra performed at the ASTA conference in Santa Clara and attended master classes. Middle and High School musicians will attend the Golden Empire Small Ensemble festival on March 6.

MIDDLE SCHOOL CHARACTER AWARDS

The Barbara Ore Character awards were created to help keep values at the forefront of students and teachers thoughts as we explore "Character Counts" values. These character traits include *trustworthiness*, *respect*, *responsibility*, *fairness*, *caring*, and *citizenship*. All of our students exemplify so many already but we are hoping to build upon these and recognize those students who epitomize these values. So far this year, students have been recognized for three character traits:

Trustworthiness: Alex Ahlstrom, Caroline Mehta, Savannah Richey, and Max Shukuya

Respect: Brooks Baxter, Ernest Beynars, John Bovill, Ryan Ho, Garrett Kaighn, and Jacy Neczypor

Responsibility: Skovran Cunningham, Chris Liston, Connor Martin, Jacy Neczypor, and Emma Williams



Help for Haiti

The 5th grade did an unbelievable job raising funds to help the survivors of the earthquake in Haiti. Filled with empathy, the students developed several fundraising projects and saw them through from planning to completion with enthusiasm and energy and very little help from grown-ups! They so appreciate the support of their friends in the Lower School who bought free dress passes, donated their games and toys to the Hand-Me-Downs-for Haiti store and then bought items, and snacked on bake sale goodies. In all the Lower School, through the leadership of the 5th grade, raised more than \$2,700 that we proudly send to the American Red Cross to support Haiti relief efforts. We are so impressed with the great character of our students! They truly live our motto of "The Habit of Helping."



Parents' Association
Community Building Since 1964



From the desk of Christina Kaufman President, Parents' Association

MANY THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING:

To **Shareen Fat** and **Janis Kuwamoto** for spearheading a 45th Birthday Celebration SCDS PA Cookbook. Recipes came pouring in from SCDS families all sharing their favorite meals. Julie Nelson assisted with this wonderful collection and the PA is especially grateful. There are books for sale in the front office if you would like to purchase a copy or two.



To Ski & Snowboard Chair, **J.C. Fat** and his fabulous team of volunteers for another fantastic annual ski and snowboard trip. For the third year in a row more students participated than the previous year. This year over 70 students signed up for the Friday, January 22, 2010 trip. Inclement weather could not stop this road trip from happening. The day was enjoyed by all.

MUCHOS GRACIAS to our dedicated **Miriam Mayer** and **Beth Foondos**, and their group of middle school parents for organizing the Faculty Appreciation Luncheons. They hosted a fabulous Mexican feast for faculty and staff on Friday, January 29, 2010. Plenty of burritos, tacos, enchiladas and more were cooked up and dished out. The food was delicious and plentiful. Muy bien! Senoritas!

UPDATES

Our February 3rd PA meeting was fantastic. The highlight of the meeting were our guest speakers, Elena Bennett, Dan Ahlstrom and Bob Ratcliff who shared their vision and passion of music. The music program at SCDS is one of the best and well-known programs around and our children are very fortunate to have expert musicians and teachers like Elena, Dan and Bob teaching and guiding them to enjoy playing and appreciating music for the rest of their lives. (For detailed information about the PA meeting, minutes are accessible on the SCDS website.)

PA ANNOUNCEMENTS

The PA is working with Doug Wallis, Michael Covey, and several teachers for a spring revival of the school garden. Plans to improve and upgrade the garden area are being finalized. Michael and Doug met with Mr. Repsher to discuss these plans. The process is "growing" momentum. More information with dates and times for garden work parties forthcoming. In conjunction with the school garden project, the PA also wants to raise awareness about Earth Day April 22, 2010. More information coming.

The Parents' Association surveyed parents a month or so ago to determine interest in a golf tournament and the response was quite favorable. Originally proposed to be held in mid April, the date is currently under discussion – more likely later in the summer or even the fall. Thank you very much for your response and stay tuned!

Plans for a Town Hall Forum continue to move forward. The PA Board is finalizing details for a possible mid-March date.

The SCDS Nominating Committee for the 2010/11 school year consists of the following members: Debbie Egerland, Liane Randolph, Kristine Burks and Sabrina Zamudio. The committee is currently accepting nominations for the positions of: President-Elect, Secretary and Treasurer. March 5, 2010 is the deadline for submitting nominees.

SAVE THE DATES

Saturday, March 6, 2010 - Mother/Son Bingo and Father/Daughter Dance - SCDS Gymnasium
Friday, March 19, 2010 - Faculty Appreciation Luncheon - hosted by Lower School parents
Wednesday, April 14, 2010 - PA Annual Meeting - 2010/2011 PA Board Elections



February 25, 2010

Dear Middle School Parents,

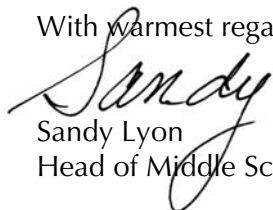
This month and next are delightfully full with classroom activities, field trips, and events. Many years ago, I worked in a defense company library, and the pace was so slow it felt like there was no pace at all. That's one of the reasons I chose to remain in education: the pace is always lively and energizing, ideas are fresh and abounding, and no two days are the same - for me, a lovely scenario.

On Tuesday of this week the High School and Middle School hosted a speaker from Kaiser Permanente, Dr. Victor DeNoble, who spoke with us about the dangers of addiction, and how it permanently scars and distorts the brains of those adolescents who experiment with nicotine, drugs, or alcohol. Dr. DeNoble was a scientist studying the effects of these substances on brains when he worked for the Phillip Morris Company. Ultimately he testified before Congress about his research, which led to some significant changes. Some of the information was difficult to hear because of the actual experiments and their results. Dr. DeNoble was a remarkable, attention-grabbing speaker who answered numerous questions posed by the students and kept their attention throughout the two sessions. I hope you are able to speak with your child about the assemblies and whatever reinforcement you give will be add to the impact of these meetings.

I'm writing this as I look forward to World Culture's Day on Friday, which will feature a multi-cultural lunch, classroom activities, and a French band – great entertainment for all. In two weeks, we celebrate the seventh-grade's Renaissance Fair, when the Middle School quad area is transformed with banners, facades, and feasting tables, and students and adults are in costume for the day. Parents are invited to take part in the day; sixth-grade parents may particularly want to see what this event is all about. Two weeks following the Renaissance Faire, the sixth grade will have the Greek Olympics with games and feasting. When I contemplate all this richness of curricular experience, it gives me chills realizing how much joy in learning there can be. While these special days take a lot of work and coordination, they are just so much fun and so educational – a great combination.

Our values studies continue in the classroom and around the campus. Fairness is the next quality we'll work on. The students who are honored seem to enjoy the certificates and the recognition during our Friday meetings. Parents seem to appreciate the letters home and the results posting in Highlights. But most of all, the students love going to lunch as a special treat. Hopefully as we continue this process, we will see more and more growth in the values we all include in our lives. Ghandi noted, "If we are to reach real peace in this world, we shall have to begin with the children."

With warmest regards,


Sandy Lyon
Head of Middle School