



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.

Editor: Julie Nelson

Headmaster: Stephen T. Repsher

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January & February 2010

Thank you to all the parents who volunteer for the morning Line Patrol each month - eighth-grade parents are opening doors in January and first-grade parents are on for February. A special thanks to Mr. Repsher and Mr. Lincoln for their curbside welcome EVERY DAY!

Monday, January 4	Back to School - Happy New Year!
Wednesday, January 6	Sports Boosters meeting, 7 p.m., Matthews Library
Thursday, January 7	Fifth grade "move-up" day, when fifth-grade students spend time in sixth-grade classrooms and electives. 1st grade to American River Water Education Center, 9:15 a.m.-2:15 p.m. Students need to bring a "brown-bag" lunch. Winter Homecoming Rally and presentation of "Run to Feed the Hungry" first-place trophy, 12:20 p.m.
Friday, January 8	Seniors & college freshmen potluck and panel, 11:45 a.m.-1:55 p.m. Homecoming potluck dinner (provided by the Varsity), 6-8 p.m., Matthews Library Co-ed Games - 5th grade, 3:30 p.m., 6th grade 4:30 p.m. Varsity Basketball - Girls' vs. Lutheran, 6 p.m. Varsity Basketball - Boys' vs. Lutheran, 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, January 9	Breakthrough 15th Annual Reunion, Ice Rink at 20th & J Members of the MS & HS Bands will perform at Sheldon HS in Elk Grove
Tuesday, January 12	PK rides the SCDS school bus to JoAnn Fabric, 9:45-11 a.m.
Thursday, January 14	Barbara Fiorica visits PK with her goat, spinning wheel, and fiber/textile collection.
Thursday & Friday, January 14 & 15	Classroom visits for LS & MS Parents - reserve by emailing Christy Vail or Sandy Lyon Lower School, 9-10:15 a.m. Middle School, 9:05-10:55 a.m. (or 11:55 to visit some electives)
Monday, January 18	Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday, school closed.
Tuesday, January 19	Author Mitali Perkins visits Middle School 5S to UC Davis Raptor Center, 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
Tuesday-Thursday January 19-21	HS Final Exams, Gym Tuesday, 9-11 a.m. World Language Tuesday, 11:30-1:30 Science Wednesday, 9-11 a.m. English Wednesday, 11:30-1:30 Math Thursday, 9-11 a.m. History Thursday, 11:30-1:30 Make-up/Double Discipline Thursday, 11:30-1:30 Computer Proficiency (Room 18)

Wednesday, January 20	Community Forum, hosted by the Parents' Association, 7-9 p.m., Winters Library
Thursday, January 21	End of 1st semester 7th grade to Asian Art Museum, 7:15 a.m.-2:30 p.m. 5L to UC Davis Raptor Center, 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. <i>The Glass Knife</i> Staff Retreat, 1-5 p.m.
Friday, January 22	Teacher Work Day - No School, ASE available with reservation. Campers need lunch and two snacks from home. 12th Annual Ski & Snowboard Trip, Alpine Meadows, grades 4-8
Monday, January 25	AUCTION kick-off get-together, 8:30 a.m., Winters Library. Join the fun of putting together the 33rd annual auction! Everyone invited! Mock Trial competition, 5:30-8 p.m.
Tuesday, January 26	Tour of Newton Booth campus for alumni and alumni parents, 4:30 p.m.
Wednesday, January 27	"Talking to your Teens About Sex," for MS & HS parents, 7 p.m., Matthews Library Mock Trial competition, 5-8:30 p.m.
Friday, January 29	Faculty & Staff Appreciation Lunch, hosted by Middle School parents
Saturday, January 30	Mock Trial competition, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Winter Ball, Campus Commons Clubhouse, 8-11 p.m.
Saturday & Sunday January 30 & 31	Middle School play, "Words," about a writer with writer's block whose various alter-egos come to life to help him through his writing woes. Saturday - 7 p.m., Sunday - 2 p.m.
Monday & Wednesday February 1 & 3	Classroom visits for 8th grade parents interested in visiting High School classes. 9 a.m.-12:45 p.m. Sign up by emailing Sue Nellis - snellis@saccds.org
Monday, February 1	5th & 6th grade parent information meeting with health educator Sue Simonson, 7 p.m., Matthews Library
Tuesday, February 2	Sophomore Moratorium
Wednesday, February 3	5th grade to Lawrence Hall of Science, 7:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Parents' Association meeting, 8:45-10 a.m., Winters Library. The SCDS Music Department - Dan Ahlstrom, Bob Ratcliff, Elena Bennett and Jay Johnson - will be guest speakers. Sports Boosters meeting, 7 p.m., Matthews Library
Thursday & Friday February 4 & 5	LS Parent/Teacher Conferences, LS closed, ASE available with reservation Campers need lunch and two snacks from home.
Saturday, February 6	SCDS hosts the Middle and High School Honor Orchestra where almost 20 groups from regional schools participate. The concert in the SCDS Gym is at 3 p.m. and the public is invited.
Monday, February 8	Parent meeting for Spring Sports, 7 p.m., Gym
Wednesday, February 10	1st grade to Nimbus Fish Hatchery, 8:30-11 a.m.
Friday, February 12	ASE Parents Night Out, 6-9 p.m., LS Music Room. Go to dinner and a movie with your "sweetheart" and let ASE care for your child (SCDS students, only). \$25 per child, plus \$10 for a sibling. Email Joy at jpangilinan@saccds.org for a reservation.

Monday, February 15	Presidents' Day, school closed, ASE closed
Tuesday-Friday February 16-19	5th grade to Marin Headlands
Wednesday-Saturday February 17-20	ASTA National Orchestra Festival in Santa Clara. HS Band & Orchestra members will participate. The group will leave Wednesday evening and return on Saturday.
Monday, February 22	Author Erin Dealey visits the Lower School Winters Library
Wednesday, February 24	MS parent "brown-bag" lunch, noon-1 p.m., Matthews Library College Counseling for juniors and their parents, 7-9 p.m., MP Room
Friday, February 26	World Cultures Day MS Dance, 7-10 p.m., MP Room Speakeasy, 7-9 p.m., Matthews Library

LOWER SCHOOL & MIDDLE SCHOOL PARENT VISITING DAYS

Thursday & Friday, January 14 & 15

Lower School, 9-10:15 a.m.

Middle School, 9:05-10:55 a.m.

(or 11:55 to visit some electives)

HIGH SCHOOL PARENT VISITING DAYS

for 8th grade parents

Monday & Wednesday

February 1 & 3

9 a.m.-12:45 p.m.

This is your chance to visit a class or two and see if you're smarter than a 5th grader! Lower and Middle School parents are invited to visit a grade above their child's current one and experience the classroom in action. Eighth-grade parents interested in visiting High School classrooms may select from a full list of subject areas. SCDS trustees will escort groups, answer questions, and share their knowledge. Don't miss this opportunity to learn more about the richly resourced Country Day education offered at all levels.

Community Forum

Wednesday, January 20, 2010

7 p.m., Winters Library

Your Parents' Association is hosting a Community Forum for SCDS parents. Come share your thoughts at a "round table" discussion. Topics include Campus Development at Newton Booth and Latham, Role of the Parents' Association, Volunteerism, Giving & Fundraising...

The ASE Program will provide child care (SCDS students, only), compliments of the Parents' Association. Reserve with Joy at jpangilinan@saccds.org

ACADEMICS, PLUS!



THE SCDS TEAM IS TEAM #1

Team SCDS is once again the top fundraising team for the "Run to Feed the Hungry." This year, the SCDS team had 188 members, and raised a total of \$7,548. Top student fundraisers for our team include Jack Whitney '17, Brooks Baxter '15, Sarah Mancina '11, and Paul Kessler '11. This is the School's fourth consecutive win, so we get to keep the shiny trophy in the front office. But more importantly, as each \$10 donated becomes \$100 in goods and services, SCDS has raised more than the equivalent of \$338,000 in the last four years. The top individual fundraiser this year was CK Keiner '11, who raised an incredible \$6,465. Both Team SCDS and CK were honored at the Pep Rally on January 7 by Food Bank President Blake Young. For more information about the Sacramento Food Bank and Family Services, visit <http://www.sfbs.org/>. We look forward to having even more Country Day students, parents, teachers, and friends on the team for next year, so mark your calendar for Thanksgiving morning 2010!

INTERESTED IN A PARENTS' WRITING GROUP?



Pens and Pinot? High School parents Stephanie Leach and Faith Galati are interested in starting a parents' creative writing group! Faith and Stephanie will co-host the no-pressure hour of writing using prompts from writing classes and/or topics you bring at an evening or weekend gathering. Sharing your writing for positive feedback will be optional. If there is enough interest, the group will meet on an ongoing basis at Arden Hills Country Club or in our homes. Have some fun and let us know if you'd like to participate by sending an e-mail to s.e.leach@comcast.net or faithg@surewest.net by January 25th please.

A SPA DAY FOR LATIN III

On Tuesday, January 12, the High School Latin III class will visit Arden Hills Country Club to check out the spa! Most Romans, male and female, who were not slaves, visited the spa every afternoon to bathe. The class will conduct a field study comparing the many ways in which a modern spa compares to an ancient balnea (private spa). Both had hot tubs, pools, saunas, work-out areas for lifting weights, a gym for basketball, massage facilities (replete with exfoliation treatments), eateries, and, at some of the larger spas, libraries whose modern counterparts are newspapers, magazines, and cable television. This field trip follows chapters in the Latin text featuring the "Spa of Caracalla" (which could house the entire Arden Hills complex in just one of its many wings).



Health Education and Sexuality Classes

MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL. Human sexuality classes for 8th, 10th, and 12th grade students will take place during the last week of January. On Wednesday, January 27, at 7 p.m., SCDS is offering a program for Middle and High School parents "Talking with Your Teen About Sex."

SIXTH GRADE. During the first week of February, Sue Simonson, a Health Educator from Sutter Women's and Children's Services, will lead discussions on puberty and maturation with our sixth-grade students. These class discussions may provide an excellent opportunity to continue dialogue in the home about sexuality, values, and decision-making. Parents of fifth and sixth grade students are invited to an information meeting to meet Ms. Simonson and ask questions on Monday, February 1, from 7 to 8:30 p.m., in the Matthews Library.

BREAKTHROUGH NEWS

Last month Breakthrough students were treated to an American holiday tradition – *The Nutcracker* Ballet! The Sacramento Ballet Foundation makes available free tickets for students from needy families to attend *The Nutcracker* and Breakthrough received 75 tickets for the Saturday matinee. The Polan family made lunch for us - six lasagnas and brownies! Almost a dozen summer teachers joined us for lunch and the ballet and the mentorship that started during the summer was seamless. Students asked lots of questions about college-life, and the college-going culture that is absent in many public schools was palpable in the Breakthrough community.

Also in December, Breakthrough participated in Country Day's Annual Holiday Gift-making event on campus. Parents' Association co-chair Liane Randolph recommended a great idea that was a hit with the kids – wrapped candy! If you received a candy bar wrapped like a piece of hard candy – your child visited the Breakthrough table. Breakthrough parents of Cavaliers volunteered to work the table and it was great to see Breakthrough parents active on campus. The parents who volunteered are already looking forward to the next Holiday Gift-making event in December 2010. Instead of wrapping candy bars, though, maybe a local chocolatier will donate chocolate and candy for your children to wrap for you.

January 9 is the day for our 15th annual reunion, where current BSAC students, alumni students, alumni faculty, program supporters, and current and former staff come together for a day of reflection, sharing, mentoring,

and celebration with lots of laughs on the ice rink! Breakthrough Sacramento now has six cohorts of Breakthrough students that are college



graduates and some of these pioneering BSACers (AKA SBers) will be joining us. The Midtown Business Association is supporting our reunion by offering a discount on the ice skating rink rental. We will be skating from 9 – noon and all SCDS community members who have supported BSAC in the past or are interested in learning more about the program are welcome to stop by the ice skating rink at the corner of 20th and J Streets. Lunch will be provided by Luigi's Slice, who could not give us a 100% donation, but is giving us a 60% discount on lunch.

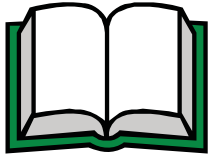
In February, Breakthrough traditionally visits a near-by college campus. We have not selected which campus to visit yet since none has offered us free lunch in the cafeteria to date. The Breakthrough staff would like to take the students to a smaller independent college in NorCal since the big public schools need less publicity. We are still accepting recommendations, especially if you can help us with lunch in a college's cafeteria. This can be a fun activity for a school's alumni association or student organization to underwrite. The Gates Millennium Scholars at UC Berkeley offered us lunch two years ago and joined us for lunch. Needless to say, more Breakthrough students are now applying for the Gates Scholarship and many more want to go to Cal. Hopefully we can set-up a similar lunch at an independent college in NorCal. Please contact Adolfo in the Breakthrough office should you have any ideas or recommendations to share.

Adolfo Mercado
Director

Marianne Ceballos
Program Coordinator



Breakthrough students and summer faculty meet for lunch at SCDS before attending the Sacramento Ballet's performance of *The Nutcracker*.



BETWEEN THE PAGES

News from Winters Librarian Cary Kelly

The Winters and Lower School are delighted to welcome sophomore **ANNIE BELL** as an aide in the library this quarter! Annie is working to fulfill her fifty requisite high school community service hours. Her mission is to clean every shelf (scores) and book (about 11,000) in the library! To date she has polished off all of the Yellow Fiction Section! Annie is so impressive! We'll keep you posted!

Always in the "impressive" category, **HOWARD the LIBRARY LIZARD** was awarded his black belt in karate last month! Sixth grade sensei Ed Bolman made the presentation at a special ceremony. We can all sleep better at night knowing that Howard is keeping watch at the WINTERS.

Second grade researchers will be attending the **INSTITUTE of INTRIGUING INSECT INVESTIGATIONS** next Monday. Our young entomologists will be using the OPAC for the first time in a search for the perfect insect to study!

So many of you have been exceedingly generous to SCDS readers these past few months. These patrons include Kate Ferries (PK), Isaac Goodman (K), Nate Leavy and Erin Wilson (1st), Emily Hayes, Seth Kelley, Aliana Mayer, and Chardonay Needler (3rd), Nicola Barnes (4th), and our wonderful grownup patron, Dorothy Knoell, in honor of Clayton Tidyman! Bravo! Bravo! Bravo!

Look forward to a visit on Monday, February 22, 2010, by children's author ERIN DEALEY. She wrote the ever-so-popular **LITTLE BO PEEP CAN'T GET TO SLEEP** and the hilarious **GOLDIE LOCKS HAS CHICKEN POX**. Ms. Dealey will be working with Lower and Middle School students. Her visit is a gift provided by the Andrew Cochrane Libraries Fund! See your Friday Folder for a flier about ordering one of Ms. Dealey's books!



Notes from the Matthews Library

Thank you to the following students and their families who donated money to the library to purchase materials to honor faculty and staff members: Richard Whitney '12, Margaret Whitney '14, Anna Young '12, Adam Ketchum '16, and Sasha Ragland '12. Your gifts help us add to the library collection in a meaningful way and we appreciate them.

Manson Tung '16 has generously provided seed money to inaugurate a Birthday Books program in the Matthews Library. Students may donate money to the library to help us purchase new books. Each book will have a bookplate inside recognizing the student's birthday. Manson said he always liked going back to the Winters Library to see the books he had donated over the years, and now he'll be able to do that in the Matthews Library also. His donation will help us add many non-fiction books (his favorites!) to our collection. If you would like to make a donation to the Matthews Library in honor of your own or someone else's birthday, please contact Joanne Melinson at jmelinson@saccds.org, call 481-8811 x341 or stop by the library between 7:30 and 4:30 any day.

At the January 6 High School Leadership Lunch, junior Shanna Ballesteros talked about her recent term at the School for Ethics and Global Leadership, a semester program for juniors in high school in Washington, DC. On January 19, the Matthews Library will be hosting author Mitali Perkins who will present to the whole Middle School and then meet with the book elective class. Ms. Perkins has written several books for Middle School students including Secret Keeper, The Not-So-Star-Spangled Life of Sunita Sen, the First Daughter series, and Monsoon Summer. We will not be selling these books, but encourage you to purchase them at your local bookstore or Amazon if your student would like to read them before she arrives. Mitali Perkins was born in Calcutta, and lived in many places before moving to California. She said she often felt stuck between cultures and she deals with these issues in many of her books. Ms. LaMay's book club elective students created book trailers (like movie trailers, but they're for books) to introduce her to the rest of the Middle School. We're looking forward to her visit.



from the SCDS Diversity Committee

The SCDS Diversity Committee has been discussing how issues of diversity are woven into our curriculum across the grades, and how many families may not know what is happening at other levels. Just a few examples: the second graders saw the Yamoto Drummers, seventh graders discussed the play *A Raisin in the Sun* then watched a performance at Celebration Arts, and many language classes had holiday celebrations. Some of our events are performances; many of us were able to enjoy the Lower School Winter Concert before vacation, a public celebration of music of peace and the holidays from many traditions.

One noteworthy upcoming celebration is not a public performance, but an experience for students to share with each other. So that the rest of us can have a sense of this event, Diversity Committee Chair Laura Steele Monahan asked Lower School Music Teacher Elena Bennett to share about her February celebration of the Civil Rights movement and the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Actually, the whole Lower School music curriculum is about diversity; I'm even writing a Masters' thesis about furthering social justice through music. I also coordinate my curriculum with what is taught in the classrooms, as much as possible. In January and February, I review the music of the Civil Rights movement with every grade, which I put in context by also studying spirituals, the music of the Underground Railroad. Much of American music is rooted in those 19th century African-American traditions (especially jazz, which we get into in the spring). The music and all of that history are inseparable.

These historical and musical studies culminate in an assembly for 1st-5th grade students, teachers, and a few guests, sometime around Lincoln's Birthday. Because second graders study the Underground Railroad, they narrate the assembly, and they dramatize the Rosa Parks incident which sparked the Montgomery bus boycott.

The assembly includes video and news footage, and it's a big sing-along, with all the song lyrics projected on a screen. Seven and eight year olds are leading it! It's not a public performance, it's an intergenerational, educational experience. The power of music is unleashed and celebrated in the MP Room that day, and absolutely everyone participates. It ends with a song which expresses our main theme: "What can one little person do?" to make this country and this world better. What does King's work have to do with us today – how do justice and fairness issues effect our own school, our attitudes, our character, our behavior choices every day? And how do we look to the future? Since Lower School children and teachers think, talk, and work continually on these questions throughout the year, the program is just one more way to express themselves. It's my favorite program of the year.

Elena Bennett
LS Music

We encourage you to ask your Lower School students about their experiences in this special assembly.

If you would like to share an observation with the Diversity Committee, please email us at diversity@saccds.org. You can read previous entries in our series "What Diversity Means to Me" on the SCDS website: go to the About SCDS menu, then choose Diversity.

Laura Steele Monahan
Chair of the Diversity Committee
& 7th grade math teacher



Parents' Association
Community Building since 1964



From the desk of Christina Kaufman
President, Parents' Association

WELCOME TO "TWENTY-TEN!"

Happy New Year from the Parents' Association. Welcome back everyone! We hope your winter break was a memorable and joyous one!

ANNUAL HOLIDAY GIFT MAKING, Saturday, December 5, 2009

Many thanks to event chairs Liane Randolph and Leah Frink for organizing a fantastic annual gift-making celebration. Over 25 tables of arts and crafts were enjoyed by all. And, a heartfelt thanks to Debbie Egerland and her *Candy Cane Cafe* team for providing such delicious food.



PARENTS' ASSOCIATION MEETING, Wednesday, December 2, 2009

The December PA meeting featured the SCDS Art Department. Patricia Kelly, Julie Didion, Andy Cunningham, Tom Wroten and Briana Titus (Julie Shanks was in class teaching) all shared their love of art and the many fascinating things being done by SCDS students. It's evident that our students are learning from the very best and as a result are passionate about what they create. High School ceramics teacher Julie Didion said, "Many of the student pieces produced are gallery level." Following the art presentation, dozens of cookies were tasted and tested for the Annual Cookie Exchange. This year's winning cookie awards went to Gerrit Michael for "Best Tasting Pecan Cookies," Cynthia Edwards for "Prettiest Gingerbread Snowflake Cookies," and to Sue Brownridge for her "Most Interesting Candy Cane Twists." Many thanks to all who participated and shared their delicious treats. If you have not already done so, please submit your cookie recipes to Christina Kaufman. For those interested in having these cookie recipes let Christina know and a recipe list will be emailed back to you.

COMMUNITY FORUM - WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 20 - WINTERS LIBRARY, 7-9 PM

Come join a "round table" discussion and share your thoughts about how the school year has been thus far. The purpose of this forum is to gather information from the parent body. Our goal is to get a feel for the current parent vibe. How are you feeling about the many things going on within the SCDS community? It is imperative that the lines of communication remain open between all constituents of SCDS. The investment we as parents make in our children's education is an extremely important one. The decision to enroll our children at SCDS is likely one of the best decisions we ever make for them. It allows our children the opportunity and exposure to an exceptional education.

I liken this forum to a team effort: Team SCDS Community. Each member of this team has an integral part and plays an important role. Coach ~ Teacher, Player ~ Student, Trainer ~ Parent, and Trustees ~ Manager/Owners are each a part of this team unit. This unit consists of many members and all members must communicate and work together for success to happen. Now more than ever it is important to have everyone on board to be part of the change and growth that Sacramento Country Day School is currently facing. We urge you to come join the discussion and share your thoughts about the Newton Booth Campus, volunteerism, giving, fundraising and more. The SCDS ASE program will provide childcare (SCDS students, only) courtesy of your Parents' Association. Be sure to contact Joy Pangilinan for a reservation.

PARENTS' ASSOCIATION MEETING DATES

Come to the PA meetings and listen to a faculty or staff member share their knowledge and expertise on what they teach our children. Enjoy a cup of coffee with fellow SCDS parents, learn more about activities of the Parents' Association and get updates on upcoming events. Bring a friend and get involved!

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	NOTES
Wed. Feb. 3	8.45 AM	Winters Library/LS	General Meeting
Wed. Apr. 14	8.45 AM	Winters Library/LS	General Meeting

If you have any questions about the Parents' Association, our meetings, or about getting involved, please call me at 396.9821 (cell) or 457.6808 (home).

UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday, January 20, 2010	Parents' Association-hosted Community Forum, 7 p.m., Winters Library
Friday, January 22, 2010	SCDS Annual Ski Trip, Alpine Meadows - Forms due ASAP
Friday, January 29, 2010	Faculty Appreciation Luncheon, hosted by Middle School
Wednesday, February 3, 2010	PA Meeting, 8.45 a.m., Winters Library - Guest Speakers: Dan Ahlstrom, Bob Ratcliff, Elena Bennett, and Jay Johnson
Saturday, March 6, 2010	Mother/Son Bingo and Father/Daughter Dance

MASTER SCULPTOR JULIE DIDION OFFERS CLAY CLASSES AT SCDS

WHAT: Explore your creative side AND support Breakthrough Sacramento by signing up for hand-building clay sculpture classes offered by SCDS ceramics teacher and local well-known artist Julie Didion. Space is limited, so the first four SCDS parents or alums who sign up for a four-day or eight-day workshop will get to participate in this fabulous opportunity. Some previous experience with clay would be helpful but is not necessary.



WHEN:

Four-day Workshop, 12:45 to 1:55 p.m.

Wednesday, February 3, Friday, February 5

Tuesday, February 9, Thursday, February 11

How Much: Four sessions – \$125

Eight-day Workshop, 12:45-1:55 p.m.

The four-day workshop classes, plus:

Tuesday, February 16, Thursday, February 18

Monday, February 22, Wednesday, February 24

How Much: Eight sessions – \$250.

WHERE: Dress warmly when you come to class—the studio is outdoors behind the SCDS art room, but the space is covered and heaters are available.

WHO: Julie Didion, who has shown at Solomon Dubnick Gallery and done ceramic demonstrations at the Crocker (among other accomplishments), has a studio at The Art Foundry Gallery at 10th and R Streets, and is a regular participant in the very popular "Second Saturday" art walk. You may remember that she arranged for an SCDS student clay "shoe" show on a "Second Saturday" last spring, which received rave reviews by parents and students alike.

WHY: You will come away from these classes with finished, glazed hand-built clay pieces that you can proudly display in your home or give away as treasured gifts. All supplies will be provided, and the proceeds from the class will go to Breakthrough Sacramento, "a public-private partnership providing a year-round, tuition-free, college preparatory program for academically motivated, ethnically diverse students from under-resourced schools in the Sacramento area. It is also an innovative teacher-training program for talented high school and college students."

HOW: Don't miss this great opportunity!! Call Sue Nellis, Head of High School and Breakthrough board member, at 481-8811 to reserve your space now!

SCDS Performing Arts Boosters

PLEASE JOIN US!

Support the SCDS Band,
Orchestra, Choir, and Theater Arts Program!

MEMBERSHIP LEVELS

- | | | | | | |
|------------------------------------|-------|---------------------------------|-------|--------------------------------------|---------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> FRIEND | \$ 50 | <input type="checkbox"/> PATRON | \$250 | <input type="checkbox"/> YOUR CHOICE | \$_____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SUSTAINER | \$100 | <input type="checkbox"/> STAR | \$500 | | |

The SCDS Performing Arts Boosters is a volunteer organization that promotes and supports all performing arts programs at SCDS. Last year we sponsored the popular jazz supper clubs, helped host the International Thespian Society dinner for drama students, assisted with band trips and theater performances, and provided t-shirts for all student performers. We hope you'll join the boosters for another exciting year of performing arts at SCDS.

The Performing Arts Booster Committee: Beth Davis, Barbara Demmon, Susan Johnson, Linda Weber

NAME: _____ PHONE: _____

E-MAIL: _____

STUDENT'S NAME & GRADE: _____

AMOUNT ENCLOSED: _____

Questions? Contact Beth Davis - brddavis@sbcglobal.net, 812-6604

Please return this form to the SCDS Front Office.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR INTEREST!



January 8, 2010

Dear Middle School Parents,

Welcome back after our long winter's break. The next stretch of school time until spring break is often viewed as the longest expansion of time in spite of our single days off in January and February. We do all that we can to keep the kids engaged, learning, and having some fun along the way. For instance, soon the new elective sheets will be handed out to the students, and our second semester will commence January 25. This always causes a flurry of excitement when new choices can be made.

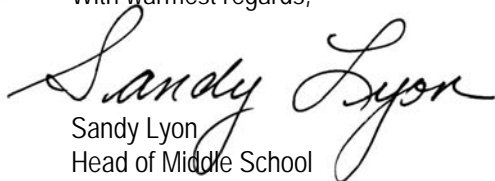
This Thursday, January 7, fifth-grade students visited sixth grade during the morning to learn about Middle School. They rotated between the main sixth-grade teachers and had the opportunity to visit two electives. We treated all fifth and sixth graders to lunch, which was followed by a pep rally for Winter Homecoming. This Move-up Day takes some of the mystery out of Middle School for the fifth graders, allowing them a more comfortable move to a new division. Next week, parents will have an opportunity to visit classrooms on two different mornings. Again this is a good opportunity to have a look at the learning taking place in Middle School classrooms.

Some rally points in the next two months include a ski trip, the seventh-grade field trip to the Asian Art Museum, the sixth-grade portable observatory called the Star Dome, the Planned Parenthood workshops for eighth-grade and the puberty classes for sixth grade, and World Cultures Day for the whole division.

Report cards will be mailed the first week in February, and since it is the semester, teacher comments will be included. Please feel free to follow up with us in person after you receive the written reports. Parent conferences will again be held the Friday before Spring Break for quarter 3.

Our values studies are well under way. Trustworthiness and respect were the first two qualities that we underscored. Next on the agenda is responsibility, which was launched at the end of the week and is the focus for about a month. I encourage the students to explore synonyms for the value, and in classrooms teachers tie it to literature, history, and advisory discussions and activities. As you support us at home with these endeavors, it brings the learning to the forefront of everyone's experience and demonstrates in a practical manner what we as a society value. It massages these qualities into the psyche of the students and is a reminder for all of the adults, too, as we model what we treasure. As Henry Ward Beecher noted, "Hold yourself responsible for a higher standard than anyone else expects of you."

With warmest regards,


Sandy Lyon
Head of Middle School