

# SYCAMORE RIDGE



October 2010

## Round-Up

Vol. 6, Issue 1



### Principal's Message

Dear Sycamore Ridge Families,

I would like to welcome the entire Sycamore Ridge community to the 2010-2011 school year! The staff and I are enthused about our sixth year as a school community, with 475 kindergarten through sixth grade students and about 50 students enrolled in the District's Special Education Preschool Program and Early Child Development Center. I hope that you have noticed the positive change in the decreased traffic at the start of the school day with the adjusted 8:15 preschool start time. I encourage you to use the front of school valet service to drop off and pick up your child, as it is safe and smooth!

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. . . and much more!



### A Note from the PTA President

Hello Sycamore Ridge Families!

Hello and welcome to the 2010-2011 school year! We on the PTA Board have been working hard to plan a great year at Sycamore Ridge. We are so excited about our programs this year.

The year started off with our Welcome Back Teacher Luncheon, which had as its theme: Tree of Knowledge. Thank you to Toni Fisher and her team, who organized a lovely luncheon and arranged the donation of books for our library and fruit trees and vegetables for our school garden. We are so thankful for our wonderful teachers and staff here at Sycamore Ridge and are happy to honor them in this way.

Many of you already enjoyed our Boo Hoo Breakfast, for those kindergarten parents leaving their little ones at school for the first time. A big thank you goes out to Nicole Baril and her team for creating such a nice beginning of the school year for our kindergarten parents.

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# Calendar of Events

## OCTOBER, 2010

- 10/4 Kids Korps Meeting @ 11:30 a.m. (in MUR)
- 10/5 Stallion Sprinters starts @ 11:30 a.m.
- 10/6 First Day of Villages
- 10/6 Walk to School Day
- 10/6 Coffee with Principal and PTA General Mtg. @ 8:15 a.m. (in Staff Lounge)
- 10/6 Last day to register to vote
- 10/18 Study Buddies starts @ 2:30 p.m. – 3:50 p.m.
- 10/18 Dad's Club Lunch @ 11:30 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.
- 10/19 Reflection entries collection before school
- 10/21 School Site Council meeting @ 2:45 p.m. (in Library)
- 10/25 - 10/29 Red Ribbon Week
- 10/26 Jog-A-Thon @ 10:45 a.m. - 11:45 a.m. (on Upper Grade Field)
- 10/27 DMUSD Board of Trustees Meeting @ 5:45 p.m. (at Del Mar Hills Academy)
- 10/29 Halloween Parade @ 8:15 a.m.
- 10/31 DMSEF Walk-A-Thon

## NOVEMBER, 2010

- 11/2 DMUSD School Board Election
- 11/11-11/12 Veteran's Day Holiday -- **NO SCHOOL**
- 11/15-11/19 Parent/Teacher Conference Week -- **12:30 P.M. DISMISSAL FOR ALL GRADES ALL WEEK**
- 11/15-11/19 Book Fair
- 11/16 Dads & Doughnuts @ 7:45 a.m. (in Library)
- 11/17 DMUSD Board of Trustees Meeting @ 5:45 p.m. (at Del Mar Hills Academy)
- 11/22-11/26 Thanksgiving Break -- **NO SCHOOL**

# Volunteer Connection

**Stallion Sprinters** - Parent volunteers are needed to help tally laps, fill water cups and encourage the participants in this running club. The club meets from 11:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m. every Tuesday and Thursday. If you have younger siblings at home, feel free to bring them with you! If you can volunteer on either day, please contact Marie LeRose at [marielerose@gmail.com](mailto:marielerose@gmail.com).



**Everyone A Reader** - Everyone A Reader (aka EAR) is a volunteer tutor program that trains tutors to work with students who could benefit from additional literacy support. These volunteers work one-on-one with first and second grade students using research-informed instructional methods to help the children reach their grade-level in reading. Volunteers are needed to work for 30-60 minutes a week with the same 2-4 students (sessions are 15 min. each) once a week, October through May. If you're passionate about reading and 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@san.rr.com](mailto:ldblazer@san.rr.com) to have any of your questions answered.

**Clothing Donations** - Clothing donations of all sizes are needed to have in the health office as back up for students that may have an accident on campus and need a change of clothes. Also, donations of NEW underwear and socks are always appreciated. If you have any questions, please contact Raquel Dixon, Sycamore Ridge Health Tech, at (858) 755-1060 x3894.



**Stallion Learning Garden** - A parent with a pickup truck is needed to deliver soil and mulch to the school for use in the Stallion Learning Garden. If you can help, or have questions, please contact Melissa Jacobson at [melyan02@yahoo.com](mailto:melyan02@yahoo.com) or at (858) 509-4927.



**Jog-A-Thon** - Parent volunteers are needed to help tally laps, fill water cups and encourage the participants at the Jog-A-Thon (see article on p. 6), taking place on Tuesday, October 26, 2010. Please contact Shelley Aberle at [saberle@san.rr.com](mailto:saberle@san.rr.com) or (619) 517-1730 if you are interested!

## Welcome New Staff Members!



Jennifer Fletcher, Kindergarten



Kristin Bonaguidi, 1st Grade



Heather Kowieski, 2nd Grade



Sam Ung, Science

## Principal's Message

(continued from p. 1)

The Stallion staff is excited about the year ahead, and we are honored to have the opportunity to educate your child. Every new school year begins with the excitement of seeing familiar faces and meeting new ones! We are pleased to introduce our new staff members: Jennifer Fletcher, joining us in kindergarten; Kristin Bonaguidi in first grade; Heather Kowieski (aka Sullivan) is back in second grade; and Sam Ung has joined our Extended Studies Classes team, teaching science.

At Sycamore Ridge, our commitment is to create a balanced educational program with the focus on the whole child, academic rigor and lifelong learning. This commitment is exemplified in our school's mission statement:

### Sycamore Ridge Mission Statement

*The mission of our school is to ensure high levels of academic achievement as measured by assessments that are aligned with state standards. We are committed to a comprehensive system of support and intervention to assure this outcome. We are dedicated to maximizing the individual potential of each learner by offering programs that foster creative and critical thinking, as well as social and emotional growth.*

### Academic Performance Index Report

We have much to be proud of as a school community with the recently released Academic Performance Index (API) report for the 2009-10 school year. The California Department of Education provides API reports as a part of its Accountability Progress Reporting system. California's integrated accountability system is the cornerstone of California's *Public Schools Accountability Act of 1999*, which measures the academic performance and growth of schools on a variety of academic measures. The API is a single number, ranging from a low of 200 to a high of 1000, which reflects a school's performance level based on the results of statewide testing. The API is used to rank schools. A school is compared to other schools statewide and to 100 other schools that have similar demographic characteristics.

Our newly released API score for the 2009-10 school year is **965**, an increase from last year's API of 959. We met every subgroup target and are thrilled to recognize the academic achievement of our students. This is a true testimonial to the dedication and efforts of our entire school community! Congratulations are in order once again! More information about Accountability Progress Reporting is available online at: <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/ac/ap/index.asp>.

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*Excellence can be achieved if you expect more than others think is possible.*

*~ Roland Barth*

# Principal's Message

(continued from p. 4)

## School Focus Areas

The entire Sycamore Ridge community of staff, students and parents look forward to moving ahead with our major school improvement goals for the 2010-2011 school year:

School Climate - *Maintain and continue to build a positive school climate that extends beyond the campus and connects all neighborhoods within the school community.*

Parent Education - *Implement a program that allows all parents to be able to participate fully in the learning of their children through parent education.*

Professional Learning Communities/Assessment for Learning and Essential Elements of Instruction - *Establish and determine grade level common assessments based on essential standards, identify and use strategies and resources to maximize learning for all.*

## Sycamore Ridge's Rockin' PTA

Our PTA Board, under the leadership of PTA President Carrie White and Vice President Victoria Shoushtari, has been very busy over the summer months planning events and programs for this school year. A new program we are excited about implementing this year is the PTA-sponsored Cultural Ambassador Program. This program is a way to recognize the various cultural groups at Sycamore Ridge and encourage involvement and participation by everyone. Twelve of our Sycamore Ridge parents have volunteered for this very important role, representing eight of the different languages spoken by our diverse school population. Our cultural ambassadors were present at the Back to School event, each introducing themselves in their native tongue. They will be working closely with the PTA, and will be available to help translate information about school programs and school events. Please stay closely connected to our school website and the PTA link for event updates and ways to get involved. If you have not yet signed up for school and PTA e-blasts, there is no better time than now... please stay in the know!

## "It Takes a Village"

The Sycamore Ridge Stallion community is a collaborative partnership between students, parents, teachers and staff. I am honored to observe daily the power of this partnership when it comes to educating each and every learner. I encourage you to find a way to get involved. By capitalizing on our collective efforts, we will truly make a difference for our kids.

I look forward to a rewarding and exciting year ahead.

Most sincerely,

*Emily Morris*

Principal, Sycamore Ridge

*A California Distinguished School*

## Save the Dates for Upcoming Dad's Club Events

Sycamore Ridge children love to have their Dads (or Grandpas, Moms or other family members who want to come and enjoy the fun) visit school! Our Dad's Club organizes fun-filled events that include: Dad's Lunches, Career Day, Dad's Read-In, Movie Night, Field Day, and others.

The next Dad's Club Lunch will take place on Tuesday, October 19. Bring a lunch and share lunchtime with the children from 11:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m. Also, mark your calendars for the Dads & Doughnuts breakfast, happening on Tuesday, November 16 at 7:45 a.m. A flyer will come home with all the details.

If you would like to volunteer for any of our events, or have any suggestions or questions, please send an email to Mark Belford at [mbelford@san.rr.com](mailto:mbelford@san.rr.com).

## Important TB Test Reminder for All Parent Volunteers

TB tests last for 4 years. If it has been longer than this since you've had a test, you will need to submit a copy of your current TB test to the front office. If you are unsure as to whether or not your test date has expired, please stop by or call the front office to verify if a current copy is on file.

If you are unable to obtain a TB test from your regular healthcare provider, and need a list of alternatives, please contact Raquel Dixon, Sycamore Ridge Health Care Tech at [rdixon@dmusd.org](mailto:rdixon@dmusd.org) or at (858) 755-1060 x3894.



## The Jog-A-Thon is Coming!

The Sycamore Ridge PTA is sponsoring the 6<sup>th</sup> annual Jog-A-Thon on Tuesday, October 26<sup>th</sup>. The Jog-A-Thon, the only fall fundraiser for the PTA, raises money for fun community building events for the entire year and for supporting the needs of our school. Please consider sponsoring your child in this event. It's a wonderful way for the children to stay active and feel they are contributing to their school. Pledge sheets will be coming home via the Wednesday folder a few weeks before the event.

Every child will receive a small snack at the end of the Jog-A-Thon and the winning upper grade (4<sup>th</sup>- 6<sup>th</sup>) and lower grade (K-3<sup>rd</sup>) classes that run the most laps will receive gift certificates for a free kids scoop at Baskin Robbins. So get your shoes out and get ready to run!

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Shelley Aberle at [saberle@san.rr.com](mailto:saberle@san.rr.com) or (619) 517-1730.

## Generous Community Donations Make Welcome Back Teacher Luncheon a Success

The theme of our Welcome Back Teacher Luncheon for the new school year was "A Tree Of Knowledge," recognizing the staff at Sycamore Ridge as the source of that knowledge. Because our awe-inspiring educators creatively and successfully awaken an excitement to learn within students, our children enjoy personal growth and academic success and develop hope for a rewarding life. The luncheon honored the staff and ushered in a wonderful new school year.

With this idea of allowing our students to become enthusiastic, independent, self-confident learners, the PTA asked for the support of our community partners. Valerie and John of Thinker Things and Brian Miller of Geppetto's were most gracious in donating books for our school library. To Von's manager, Gary, and Henry's manager, Rebecca, a very special thank you for the fruit trees, herbs and vegetable seeds to be planted in our school garden, which will offer a source of enjoyment to all students and staff.

The PTA at Sycamore Ridge would also like to express our appreciation for the generosity of the following donors, as the luncheon could not have been made possible without their support:

- ★Souplantation (Luis Gonzalez, manager) for graciously providing the lunch
- ★Sprouts Farmers Market Carmel Mountain Ranch Store #213 (Kevin, manager) for generously providing water
- ★Village Mill Bakery (Parker and Sandra Sexton-Pike) for graciously providing desserts
- ★Jimbo's Naturally (Kelly) for generously providing fruit platters
- ★Trader Joe's of La Jolla (Nick, manager) for graciously providing snacks for our table centerpieces
- ★Ralph's (managers Brian Zobel and Sarah) for generously providing the paper goods
- ★Albertson's (Drew, manager) for graciously providing coffee

These donations played an integral part in the fun and success of our project. Thank you!



## Curtain Raising on Sycamore Ridge Drama Club

Calling all fourth through sixth graders interested in participating in Drama Club! Please be on the lookout for information coming home about this year's spring performance. We'll be needing talented and hardworking students to join the cast, stage crew, and set design team, along with some dedicated parents to help organize it all. If you're interested, or would like more information, please contact Victoria Shoushtari at [vicshou@yahoo.com](mailto:vicshou@yahoo.com) or Lisa Blazer at [ldblazer@san.rr.com](mailto:ldblazer@san.rr.com).



## New Cultural Ambassador Program Started at Sycamore Ridge

As a way to recognize the various cultural groups at Sycamore Ridge and encourage involvement and participation by everyone, the PTA has implemented a new Cultural Ambassador Program. The cultural ambassadors will work closely with the PTA and will be available to help translate, explain school programs, and answer any questions people may have during the school year. Following is a list of our volunteer cultural ambassadors and the languages they speak. We are grateful to each of them for their willingness to participate! If you have any ideas or questions regarding the Cultural Ambassador Program, please contact Meaghen Gardiner at (858) 461-0128.

<u>Language</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>E-Mail Address</u>	<u>Phone #</u>
<b>Armenian (limited)</b>	Ritta Maduntseva	Rmaduntseva@gmail.com	(858) 793-0281
<b>Hindi</b>	Tulika Agarwal	tulikak@yahoo.com	(858) 793-0224
<b>Japanese</b>	Richard Kaleta	rkaleta@san.rr.com	(858) 350-0028
<b>Korean</b>	Hazel Kang	yungmo@sbcglobal.net	(858) 350-9058
	Nami Kang	hotchoco888@gmail.com	(858) 472-9093
<b>Mandarin</b>	Jennifer Lu	xinglu88@gmail.com	(858) 761-3090
	Su-Ling Wong	suling.wong@yahoo.com	(858) 481-2888
<b>Persian</b>	Babak Shoushtari	bshoushtari@yahoo.com	(858) 793-0978
<b>Russian</b>	Ritta Maduntseva	Rmaduntseva@gmail.com	(858) 793-0281
	Olga Kanevskiy	olgakanevskiy@sbcglobal.net	(858) 509-0414
<b>Spanish</b>	Victoria Shoushtari	vicshou@yahoo.com	(858) 793-0978
	Juan Carlos Nava	yj48cm@yahoo.com	(858) 523-9897
	Irene Nava	ilnava@yahoo.com	(619) 254-6916
<b>Ukrainian</b>	Olga Kanevskiy	olgakanevskiy@sbcglobal.net	(858) 509-0414
<b>Vietnamese</b>	Thuy (Elise) Nguyen	elise.nguyen@yahoo.com	(858) 380-9809

## Kids Korps Encourages Youth Volunteerism

Kids Korps is a national organization which involves children in community service. The Sycamore Ridge Chapter of Kids Korps will kick off its new season on Monday, October 4<sup>th</sup> during Lunch Recess in the MUR. We welcome all returning members and invite new members to join us for exciting community projects throughout the year.

Last year some of our projects included: making blankets for our troops overseas; delivering presents to needy families during the holidays; feeding the homeless; making lunch for families staying at the Ronald McDonald House; and organizing food for shelters and schools through Feeding America.

If you are not familiar with Kids Korps, please check out their website at [www.kidskorps.com](http://www.kidskorps.com). You can register online and select Sycamore Ridge as your chapter. If you would like to help us with any of our projects, or have any questions, please contact Marie LeRose at [marierose@gmail.com](mailto:marierose@gmail.com).

**Reminder: Always  
Come to a Complete  
Stop!**

When driving near Sycamore Ridge, please remember to come to a complete stop at the stop sign on Old Carmel Valley Road. Let's work together to keep our children safe and injury-free!



SAVE THE DATE..... March 26, 2011.....  
Our biggest event of the year! Don't miss out!



Look for details soon! For more information or for volunteer opportunities.....contact:

Eileen Johnson  
[ejohns@san.rr.com](mailto:ejohns@san.rr.com)  
(858) 243-1900

**Sycamore Ridge Students to Participate in Red Ribbon Week,  
October 25th - October 29th, 2010**

Red Ribbon Week is a nationwide program, endorsed by the Del Mar Union School District and sponsored by the Sycamore Ridge PTA, that was organized to honor the memory of federal agent Enrique Camarena from San Diego County, who was murdered in 1985 by a drug cartel in Mexico. The purpose of Red Ribbon Week is to help citizens across the country come together to keep children, families and communities safe, healthy and drug-free.

During Red Ribbon Week, Sycamore Ridge students will participate in activities designed to establish a commitment to forming a healthy lifestyle and create awareness of the problems related to the underage use of tobacco, alcohol and other drugs. Our fun-filled and educational week of activities include:

- \* Kids will receive special red ribbons and wristbands
- \* Jog-A-Thon will take place, encouraging children to exercise
- \* Local police officers will come to Sycamore Ridge to speak to our kids about stranger danger and safety
- \* High school students (specially screened by the San Dieguito Alliance for Drug Free Youth) will talk with our 5th and 6th graders about why they choose to live drug-free
- \* Mrs. Morris will read "The Red Ribbon - A Story of Hope" to the lower grades
- \* Coach Sink will incorporate healthy lifestyle and Red Ribbon Week themed activities into P.E.



For more information about the activities scheduled for Red Ribbon Week, please contact Carrie White at [cnydahl@san.rr.com](mailto:cnydahl@san.rr.com).



## Smiles Reign at Boo Hoo Breakfast

The Annual Boo Hoo Breakfast was held on the first day of school to welcome incoming kindergarten parents to the Sycamore Ridge community. There were a few tears shed, but smiles were mostly in fashion as the parents sent their little ones on their way! The upper grade lunch area was decorated in bright yellow with flowers and happy faces. The parents were treated to a wonderful breakfast of scones, pastries, bagels, fruit, juice and coffee that were kindly donated by the generous families at Sycamore Ridge.

While parents enjoyed their breakfast, Principal Morris welcomed them and helped provide some of the ins and outs of kindergarten and Sycamore Ridge. In addition, PTA President Carrie White and DMSEF Representatives Debbie Romine and Branden Belford gave brief presentations on their respective organizations.

Many thanks to Carrie Goldman, Janet Ross, Marie LeRose, Debbie Rosenfield, Shelley Aberle, Miranda Giurciu, Lisa Granet, Eileen Johnson, Kathy Rasmussen, Missy Haugner, Sylvia Riggio, Sabina Clorfeine, Shannon Cary, Donna O'Rourke, Debbie Romine, Pam Hunter and Victoria Shoushtari for providing all the yummys! A special thanks to Sycamore Ridge alumni Meaghan and Delaney Baril for providing setup, organization and cleanup.

### Don't Miss Out on Yearbooks!

Our wonderful yearbook chair, Jen Ernst, and our team of Sycamore Ridge photographers have been snapping away. This year's yearbook will be even bigger and better! Order forms will not be sent home until February, but please be sure to order promptly when you do receive one. In the meantime, if you capture any wonderful photos that you'd like to submit for consideration, please send them to Jen Ernst at [jen@beatchik.com](mailto:jen@beatchik.com) and Brooke Cortese at [vineyardcreative@yahoo.com](mailto:vineyardcreative@yahoo.com).

### 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](http://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 Branden Belford, at [bbelford@san.rr.com](mailto:bbelford@san.rr.com).





Cat Gilbert

The school year is only a few weeks underway, and already the Stallion Studio is buzzing with creative energy. Students in grades two through six have been hard at work creating a collaborative public art piece. Each student designed and executed their own "Pinwheel for Peace," incorporating grade level visual art standards with students' ideas and thoughts about promoting peace in their families, classrooms, playground, community, and world. The individual pinwheels were combined to create a larger installation that is on display as part of an international "Pinwheels for Peace" project. Pinwheels for Peace\* is an art installation project started in 2005 by two art teachers as a "way for their students to express their feelings about what's going on in the world and in their lives." Millions of others around the world have joined in the annual project.

For some at-home conversation, ask your child what they know about...

Second Grade – Warm/cool/neutral colors, line pattern, watercolor "bath," radial symmetry

Third Grade – Henri Matisse, paper cut-outs, warm vs. cool color

Fourth Grade – Positive vs. negative space, composition

Fifth Grade – Op-Art, movement, repetition, rhythm

Sixth Grade – Translucent vs. transparent, graphic design

\*Visit [www.pinwheelsforpeace.com](http://www.pinwheelsforpeace.com) for more information on the project.



## Parents Urged to Vote in November School Board Election

On November 2, 2010, voters will be asked to elect three trustees to the Del Mar Union School District Board of Trustees. The Board is responsible for the approval of the scope and focus of the District, as well as the appointment of the Superintendent, who administers the day-to-day operations of the District. The five candidates listed below (along with their website addresses) have declared their intent to run for the Board:

- Kristin Gibson, Carmel Valley resident, educational consultant and parent ([www.gibson4schoolboard.com](http://www.gibson4schoolboard.com))
- Jason Maletic, Del Mar resident, small business owner ([www.electmaletic.com](http://www.electmaletic.com))
- Douglas Rafner, Carmel Valley resident, attorney, mediator and parent ([www.rafner4trustee.com](http://www.rafner4trustee.com))
- Scott Wooden, Carmel Valley resident, biopharmaceutical director and parent ([www.wooden4trustee.com](http://www.wooden4trustee.com))
- Steven McDowell, Del Mar resident, incumbent ([www.dmusd.org/district/webpages/openwebpage.aspx?webpageID=2264](http://www.dmusd.org/district/webpages/openwebpage.aspx?webpageID=2264))

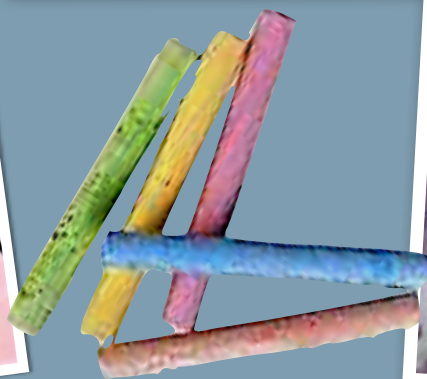
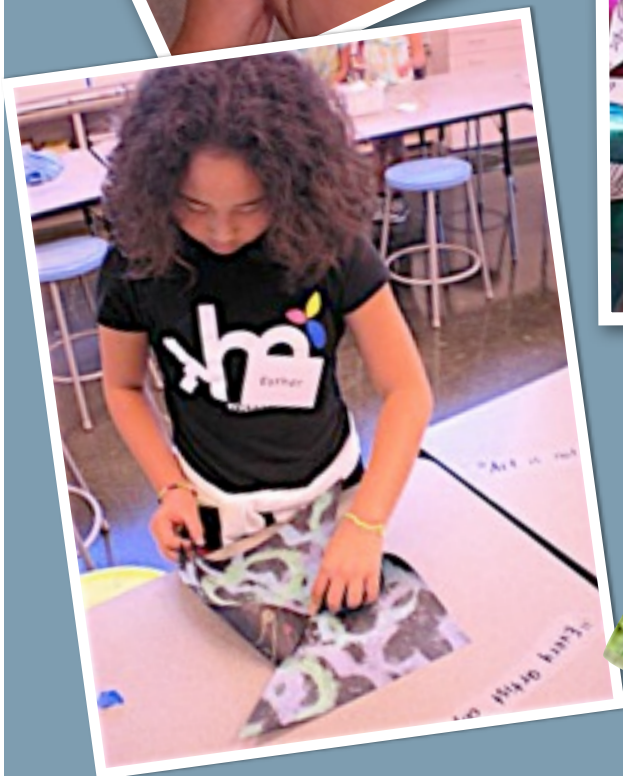
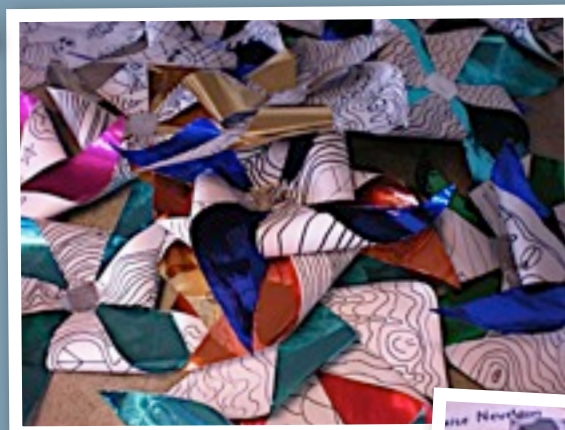
We urge you to visit all the candidates' websites and be an informed voter!

The deadline to register to vote in the election is **October 18, 2010**. If you are not registered to vote, need to find your polling location or are interested in viewing a sample ballot, please visit [www.california.evoter.com](http://www.california.evoter.com). And remember to get out and vote on November 2!





### Students Creating "Pinwheels for Peace" Art Project



## The First Days of First Grade

First grade is full of firsts! It is the first time students spend an entire day at school (as much time in class as a sixth grader). It is the first time they play on the BIG playground. It is also a year of firsts academically and socially. Academically, the world of numbers stretches in first grade to 100 and beyond. Students who recently have learned the names, shapes, and initial sounds of letters are now learning that letters may have as many as four sounds and can do all sorts of strange things when they are together in words. They will then learn to take this new knowledge of letters, mold it into words, and turn words into sentences and sentences into paragraphs. First graders also work with each other all year long, through first hand experience, on how to become first-rate PeaceBuilders.



The first grade class of 2010-2011 has faced all of these firsts with enthusiasm (to the delight of their teachers). As the teachers are getting to know the students, the students are learning about their place in the world (geographically speaking) with our first unit, “Me on the Map.” The map is the unifying theme, as the first graders will learn about plants, animals, habitats, holidays and heroes and how they are all connected on this earth. The Sycamore Ridge First Grade Teachers are all looking forward to traveling around the world with our first graders, as we explore all these new adventures together. Three cheers for First Grade!



# ★ Help Your Child ★

## Join Sycamore Ridge PTA!

(PARENT TEACHER ASSOCIATION)

More than 30 years of research shows that children do better when their parents and families are involved both at home and at school.

Grades are higher. Test scores rise.

Self-esteem grows. Schools improve.

You can make these outcomes a reality for your child, your school, and your community by being involved in PTA.



Sycamore Ridge PTA provides Teacher Mini-Grants and sponsors many of the wonderful programs that benefit our students. Membership forms are located in the school's front office or please contact Janet Ross with any questions.  
clubross@san.rr.com • 858.922.8584

### PTA and School Information Available via E-Blasts

Sycamore Ridge and the Sycamore Ridge PTA have begun sending out bimonthly e-blasts (approximately every other Sunday), 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](http://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](mailto:joliviera@dmusd.org) or check out the Cartridges for Kids website at [www.cfktoday.com](http://www.cfktoday.com).



## Box Tops for Education an Easy Way to Help Raise Money for Sycamore Ridge

Want an easy way to raise money for our school simply by purchasing the products you already buy? All you need to do is clip the pink and blue BoxTops from brands such as: Avery, Kleenex, Ziploc, Nature Valley, General Mills, Huggies, Pillsbury, and so many more (see the BoxTops website for a complete list)! For every 10 BoxTops collected, our school receives \$1.00! This year's goal is \$1,000 and we will meet it if everyone clips their BoxTops! Look for collection sheets in your Wednesday folder or collect them in a baggie and turn them in to the front office.

Are you an online shopper? Sycamore Ridge can now earn cash back from your online purchases through the BoxTops online marketplace. Barnes & Noble, Limited Too!, Target, Gap, Old Navy, Best Buy, Office Depot, PetSmart, and Nordstrom are just a few of the vendors who offer the cash back donation. All you need to do is register on and shop through the BoxTops website. Once you have registered, Sycamore Ridge will automatically receive a percentage of your purchases. To register for the BoxTops marketplace, go to [www.BoxTops4Education.com](http://www.BoxTops4Education.com).

## A Note from the PTA President

(continued from p. 1)

We also hope you were able to come to our Stallion Stampede, which took place on September 24. This event has become a Sycamore Ridge tradition, and kids and parents alike had fun dressing up in their favorite western attire and enjoying the BBQ and fun activities. Thank you to Lori Dreisbach and Shannon Cary for doing such an amazing job in organizing this community building event.

One of my main goals as PTA president is to further increase a sense of community within our Sycamore Ridge families. One of the ways I hope to do this is to encourage you all to become members of the PTA. Our PTA is the driving force behind many of the programs that enrich our school community.

Without the money raised by the PTA, and without its incredible volunteers, we would not be able to have programs such as Everyone a Reader, where parent volunteers help our kids learn valuable reading skills, or Study Buddies, where older kids help our youngsters study. We also host Parent Education Nights, Family Nights and School Assemblies where we bring in educators and entertainers to teach us new skills and provide opportunities to have fun and get to know one another. We support participation in the arts through our Reflections program and encourage reading through the school Book Fair. We promote healthy living through our Walk to School Day and Jog-A-Thon and teach kids about living healthy, drug-free lives during Red Ribbon Week.

The PTA raised enough funds last year to completely refurbish our school's computer laboratory, allowing each and every student access to better technology. We have planted trees and plants in our school garden, provided books to the school library, purchased equipment for use in our P.E. classes and even helped to repair and tune the school piano. Being a member of the PTA does not mean that you have to attend a lot of meetings or necessarily volunteer at the school. It simply means that you have chosen to support your school and, in turn, your child's education.

We are currently in the midst of our PTA Membership Drive, and we ask you to join us. Not only does PTA membership help our school, it also provides members with discounts on MetLife auto and home insurance, T-Mobile mobile phone service, HP and Sharp electronic products, vacations on Southwest Airlines, Barnes & Noble merchandise and a gift certificate for one free entrance to Legoland. In addition, children whose families join the PTA will have the opportunity to win prizes, selected at random by Mrs. Morris. We hope that this will get kids, as well as parents, excited about becoming members of the PTA. A big thank you goes out to Janet Ross for all of her efforts in gaining PTA members. Thanks also to Richard Kaleta who will be compiling information for our School Directory.

Another way that we hope to promote a sense of inclusion and community at Sycamore Ridge is by establishing our Cultural Ambassador Program. We have enlisted volunteers who speak Mandarin, Vietnamese, Hindi, Russian, Spanish, Korean, Japanese and Persian to help us communicate with our diverse cultural groups here at Sycamore Ridge. These volunteers will act as liaisons and sources of information for speakers of these languages, answering questions about our school programs and PTA activities.

(continued on p. 15)

## A Note from the PTA President

(continued from p. 14)

We invite all of you to participate in Walk To School Day on Wednesday, October 6<sup>th</sup>, and, immediately after, to attend our first Coffee with the Principal in the staff lounge. There, Mrs. Morris will give you an update on happenings at our school and we will hold our first PTA General Association Meeting of the year. Mandarin will be the language emphasized in our first meeting, but we encourage everyone to attend.

Another important way to increase the sense of community in our school is to make information easily accessible. Our website does just that, so please check it out at [www.sycamoreridgepta.com](http://www.sycamoreridgepta.com). There you can join the PTA, see a calendar of upcoming events, identify and contact the PTA Board and Cultural Ambassadors, read descriptions of PTA programs and sign up to receive the PTA e-blasts, which will be sent every other Sunday. The website and e-blasts are both great sources of news about the events and programs at Sycamore Ridge, as well as other information pertinent to our school community.

Please contact me if you have any questions about what we do on the PTA Board or if you have interest in volunteering in any capacity. We can always use your help. You can reach me best via e-mail at [cnydahl@san.rr.com](mailto:cnydahl@san.rr.com).

Again, I look forward to a great year!

Carrie White  
President  
Sycamore Ridge PTA



Please join us for

**"Coffee with the Principal"**

and our first

**PTA General Association Meeting**

**immediately after Walk to School Day on**

**Wednesday, October 6, 2010**

**at**

**8:15 a.m. in the Staff Lounge**

**We welcome all to attend our first PTA General Association Meeting of the year followed by Mrs. Morris speaking to us about current happenings at Sycamore Ridge. Our Cultural Ambassadors who speak Mandarin will be present to assist all Mandarin speakers who would like to participate.**

### **"Join the Sycamore Ridge PTA" Contest!**

Students in all grade levels are invited to help our school by encouraging their families to join our PTA (Parent Teacher Association).

There will be exciting raffles with super-fun prizes for all ages! Each student who brings in a PTA Membership Form and check (family membership is \$25) will be entered in the raffle.

Note: All siblings on the family membership form will be entered in the raffle. Mrs. Morris will randomly pull a name every morning and award a prize! Any children from families who have already joined the PTA will also be entered in the raffle.

Contest runs Sept. 27th to Oct. 15th, so bring in those memberships fast!

**Awesome prizes like Silly Bands, Zhu Zhu Pets, notebooks, gift cards for iTunes, Barnes & Noble, Baskin Robbins and Game Stop!**

# Sycamore Ridge Frequently Asked Questions



## What is the PTA and what do they do?

The Parent Teacher Association (PTA) is a non-profit organization run completely by volunteers. The PTA provides multiple programs throughout the year to help build the Sycamore Ridge community. Please check our website: [www.sycamoreridgepta.com](http://www.sycamoreridgepta.com) for information about ongoing programs and upcoming events. The PTA is always in need of parents willing to volunteer even an hour of their time to help us continue to provide quality programs for our school.

## How does the school library work?

At the beginning of the year, a form will be sent home for you to sign which will allow your child to check out books from the school library. Each class goes to the library once a week with their teacher.

## What are ESC classes and how often do kids have ESC?

Extended Studies Classes (ESC) are taught by certificated teachers with a specialization in a subject area. The ESC courses at Sycamore Ridge are: Technology, Music, Science, Art and P.E. We are able to offer this specialized instruction that goes beyond the California state requirements through funding from the Del Mar Schools Education Foundation. Students will have the opportunity to participate in some or all of these specialized courses during the regular school day while at Sycamore Ridge. The amount of ESC time students receive is dependent on educational funding and parental donations and may change from year to year based on funding.



## What are Villages?

At Sycamore Ridge we believe "it takes a village to raise a child" and we have created our own school Village program. A Village is a group of students grades K-6 and a credentialed teacher who meet together in a group for 30-45 minutes every other Wednesday. Students remain in the same Village the entire time they attend Sycamore Ridge. In Villages, students discuss PeaceBuilders topics and participate in different activities. Upper grade students are responsible for helping the younger children and serving as good role models. The goal of the Villages program is for students to bond, connect, make new friends and form friendships across grade levels.



## What is the Del Mar Schools Education Foundation?

The Foundation is a nonprofit charitable organization. The Foundation's primary goal is to raise funds to support our music, art, science, technology and physical education programs at each of our Del Mar schools. Contributions made during the current school year are used to fund the following year's ESC programs.

## How does the hot lunch program work? Where do the kids go?

Hot lunches must be ordered and paid for in advance. Lunch forms will go home in the Wednesday folder with your child each month. In the beginning of the year, kindergarten children walk over with their teacher to get their hot lunches and then join the rest of the children in the lunch area.

## How does the milk program work? Is it for lunch or snack?

The milk program allows children to get a carton of regular or chocolate milk at lunch. Prepayment is required and is paid either for the whole year or for half a year at a time. Order forms are available in the school office.



## What is the Wednesday folder?

The Wednesday folder is the means by which you will receive many communications from the school. Flyers will be put in the Wednesday folder for upcoming school events, fundraisers, etc. Additionally, your child's homework packet will be placed in the Wednesday folder. If you have more than one child at the school, your youngest child will be the only one to receive the Wednesday folder information. You will also have the option to receive all flyers electronically rather than via the Wednesday folder.

## What is PeaceBuilders?

PeaceBuilders is a character education program which focuses on teaching students responsibility and good judgment through friendship, praise, good modeling, and peace. Children recite the PeaceBuilders pledge during morning announcements. The Pledge is: "We pledge to: Praise people, Give up put-downs, Seek wise people, Notice and speak up about hurts we have caused, Right wrongs, and Help others."



## How do I keep up to date on school events?

Please check the Sycamore Ridge school website at [www.dmusd.org/sycamore](http://www.dmusd.org/sycamore) and the PTA website at [www.sycamoreridgepta.com](http://www.sycamoreridgepta.com) regularly. The calendar continues to be updated as programs, field trips, etc. are scheduled. Additionally, please read the materials that come home in the Wednesday folder. The PTA also publishes a school-wide newsletter five times a year.



We invite you to **donate online** today.

DMSEF directly funds the Extended Studies Curriculum (ESC) which includes Science, Music, Art, Technology and Physical Education. An online donation or check in the mail today will help ensure that these vital programs will be available for our children tomorrow.

### Donate Today and Win!

**Each donation of \$800 or more given from July 1st to November 15th, 2010 will qualify you for an entry into an opportunity drawing, to be held November 16th, 2010.**

All winners will be contacted by phone or email. Winners will receive opportunity gifts generously donated to the DMSEF for this sole purpose.

- Three (3) gift certificates for Foto Facials courtesy of ClaudiaO services, with an approximate value of \$250 (limit one per person)
- One (1) round of golf for four, including carts, at DoubleTree Golf Resort (must be used on same date)
- One (1) Robert Rodriguez 100% wool jacket, with an estimated value of \$800
- One (1) \$100 Gift Certificate for a style/closet consultation from Lauren Brandal

*Thank you to our generous sponsors for donating the opportunity gifts:*

ClaudiaO Double Tree Golf Resort The Collection at The Grand Del Mar Lauren Brandal

Please feel free to email your school representatives directly. Email address are available at [www.delmarkids.org/board/](http://www.delmarkids.org/board/)

Del Mar Schools Education Foundation

Office Location:  
13030 Ashley Falls Drive, San Diego, CA 92130  
TEL: 858-523-6007  
FAX: 858-523-6001  
Email: [delmarkids@gmail.com](mailto:delmarkids@gmail.com)  
[www.delmarkids.org](http://www.delmarkids.org)

Office Hours:  
Wednesday - Friday,  
7:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

### DONOR LEVELS

<b>Superintendent's Circle:</b> <b>\$10,000+</b>	<b>Platinum:</b> <b>\$2,500 - \$9,999</b>	<b>Gold:</b> <b>\$800 - \$2,499</b>	<b>Silver:</b> <b>Up to \$799</b>
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Donor levels are based on per-child giving.

**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.

The DMSEF is a not-for-profit 501(c) (3) charitable organization. Tax ID# 33-0925945

Sycamore Ridge PTA is proud to present the 6th Annual



Wednesday, October 6th  
7:35 a.m. - 7:55 a.m.

Look for more information in your child's Wednesday folder.

## Stallion Sprinters Makes Exercise Fun!

Stallion Sprinters is a great program where students run laps during Lunch Recess. Besides being a terrific way to get exercise during the day, students accumulate laps throughout the year and earn a "toe" token for every 25 laps that they run. Parents of kindergarteners and first graders will soon know how much the students love this program! Stallion Sprinters will begin on Tuesday, October 5 during Lunch Recess, and take place every Tuesday and Thursday after that. Come out, see your children and cheer them on while they run their laps!



**Reading  
Saves the  
Day!**

## Students Can Be Reading Superheroes at the Book Fair Coming November 15 - 19, 2010

Mark your calendars for the annual Scholastic Book Fair, taking place on November 15 through November 19, 2010. A portion of the proceeds from every book sold will go directly to the Sycamore Ridge library to buy new books for our students to enjoy.

The event is sponsored by the PTA and will include the popular Dads and Doughnuts morning on November 16. This is the library's biggest fundraiser, so be sure to stop by and, remember, books make great holiday presents!

If you have any questions, or would like to volunteer for this event, please email Julie Anderson at [janderso@san.rr.com](mailto:janderso@san.rr.com).



Kathy Pechtimaldjian  
(Mrs. P.)

Welcome to a new year at the Sycamore Ridge library! We are off to a great start. The students have begun checking out books and the Library Club has started. In order to have a fantastic year, and keep our collection of wonderful books available for everyone to enjoy, I would like to review the policies of the school library.

All classes visit the library once a week for thirty minutes. This is their time to hear a story, learn library skills, and check out books. Kindergarteners and first graders can check out one book each week and their books are due the following week. Second through fourth graders can check out two books each week and their books are due in one week. Fifth and Sixth graders can now check out two books with a two-week check out period.

I always encourage the younger students to keep their school library book in their backpack so that it is not forgotten on library day. Please encourage your child to take responsibility for his/her book, as students with overdue books are not allowed to check out a book and must pay for lost or damaged books. If a book is lost or damaged, please contact me right away. Please note that replacement costs are as follows: hardcover books, \$20-\$30; and paperback books, \$10-\$20.

On Mondays and Fridays, students may come to Library Club during lunch recess. During this time, they can return and check out books, play quiet board games, read, or do arts and crafts. Donations are always welcome for gently used board games and craft supplies.

Please support our annual fundraisers, which generate much needed money for our library. These include the Scholastic Book Fair (Nov. 15-19), the Stallion Birthday Book Club (flyer sent home about this), and the Used Book Sale held in May.

Volunteers are always needed to help shelve books and keep the library running smoothly. If you have a little time to spare and love children's literature, this is a great opportunity. Volunteers can check out books too!

Thank you for your support. I look forward to a wonderful year.



Most of what I really need  
to know about how to live,  
what to do, and how to be,  
I learned in kindergarten.  
Wisdom did not lie at the  
top of the graduate school  
mountain, but there in a  
kindergarten classroom

~Robert Fulghum



Kindergarten parents catch one last glimpse...

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](http://www.dmusd.org)

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Principal: Emily Morris  
PTA President: Carrie White  
Photographers: Lisa Blazer, Brooke Cortese, Jen Ernst  
Newsletter Editor: Christa Eilers

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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)

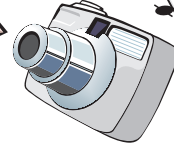
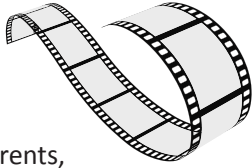
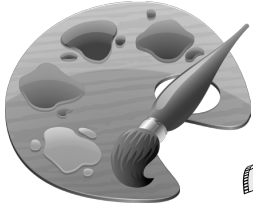
**Spirit Wear is  
coming!**

**We will have all  
new and exciting  
items for  
purchase in early  
October. Look for  
more info to  
come!**

**Go Stallions!!!**

# Reflections

A PTA SPONSORED PROGRAM



September 16, 2010

Dear Sycamore Ridge Parents,

It is time again to encourage your children's participation in the Reflections program. Every student at all grade levels is welcome to share their talents! Last year was a HUGE success with the largest number of entries going forward to higher judging levels in our school's history!

As many of you are already aware, Reflections is a PTA sponsored program that encourages students to create works of art for fun and recognition. Children can submit entries in categories of **literature, musical composition, photography, dance choreography, film/video production and the visual arts (paintings, drawings, collage, etc.)**. Every participant will receive a prize!

**Our theme this year is "Together We Can."** This could be anything the children may think represents this statement. **All entries will be collected at the Collection Tables in front of the school on Thursday, October 21st.** Our judge's choice winners will have their entries advanced to the next PTA level of selections.

**Please review rules of entry to ensure your child's work of art meets all the requirements for eligibility for judging at [www.capta.org/sections/programs/reflections.cfm](http://www.capta.org/sections/programs/reflections.cfm).**

Copies of the rules and entry forms are also available in the cubbies in the school office. Mark your calendars for our **Reflections Exhibit** featuring all of our entries on Thursday, April 28, 2011 from 6-8 PM at the MUR!

### ★Enter a Raffle to Promote Our Theme★

To promote our theme, **regardless if the student will submit a work of art or not**, please have your child/children complete the form at the end of this letter and deposit it into a **Reflections Box** located in their classroom by **Friday, September 24th. Submissions can be made every Friday until Oct. 15th.** Each week **Mrs. Morris will randomly choose three students' raffle entries and they will receive a small prize!**

The Sycamore Ridge Reflections Committee would appreciate any encouragement you can give to your children to enter their work of art into the Reflections program as well as to submit the raffle form below.

And finally, we would like to invite you to volunteer for this very popular arts program—we need as much help as possible to make this as successful as last year's! Please contact us!

Thank you,  
Sycamore Ridge Reflections Chairs  
Eileen Lundquist: [laiwing8@gmail.com](mailto:laiwing8@gmail.com) & Janet Ross: [clubross@san.rr.com](mailto:clubross@san.rr.com)

-----Cut here, fill in what "Together We Can" means to you to be entered into a raffle. -----

Deposit into the box in your classroom by each Friday, Sept. 24th-Oct. 14th

**"Together We Can"**

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Name

Teacher

Grade