



## WEEKLY PARENT NEWSLETTER

September 16, 2011

### Calendar of Events

Thursday, September 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Flamenco Assembly 8:00am Campus Center
Friday, September 23 <sup>th</sup>	Teacher Workshop – No School
Saturday, October 1 <sup>st</sup>	THS Flea Market
Wednesday, October 5 <sup>th</sup>	Picture Day
Wednesday, October 5 <sup>th</sup>	Open House 9:00-11:00am Campus Center
Monday, October 10 <sup>th</sup>	Grandparent's/Special Person Day
Monday, October 10 <sup>th</sup>	PTO Meeting 8:10-9:10am Art Room
Saturday, October 15 <sup>th</sup>	PTO Parent/Teacher Social at the Home of Matt Shippey & Carin Case
Wednesday, October 19 <sup>th</sup>	Uniform Sale 2:30-4:30pm Campus Center
Wednesday, October 26 <sup>th</sup> -27 <sup>th</sup>	Parent-Teacher Conferences - No School
Friday, October 28 <sup>th</sup>	Teacher Workshop – No School

### A MESSAGE FROM THE THS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Board of Trustees meets on the second Tuesday of each month. Meeting minutes are on file in the School's main office and available for parents to review at any time. In the coming months the board will work with the Strategic Planning Committee evaluating the survey data presented at Back to School Night. Recommendations based on that data will follow.

We extend a warm thank you to our faculty and administration for planning an informative and productive Back to School Night this week. It was a pleasure for the members of the board to share who we are, what

we do and how parents can become more involved in our work. We have committee openings available for interested parents in development, finance, strategic planning and admissions.

If you are interested in learning how to become a member of the Board of Trustees, please feel free to contact Jim Headley, Trustee Committee Chair.

Finally, we send best wishes to Co-chairs Melissa Imhaus and Elizabeth Hawkins, as they prepare to launch the Annual Fund next week. We support their invitation to parents to participate with a tax deductible gift to the School. Gifts to the Annual Fund sustain the School's core academic program and annual operations.

## **FROM THE DESK OF THE DIRECTOR OF ADMISSIONS**

### **Head of School Coffees**

In order to accommodate our larger groups, and for the sake of convenience, **we will hold the October Head of School Coffees at THS in the Campus Center**; therefore, the start times have been adjusted as noted below. We look forward to these important conversations.

Kindergarten: Thursday, October 6<sup>th</sup> at 8:50 am (following assembly)

1<sup>st</sup> grade: Friday, October 7<sup>th</sup> at 8:15 am

2<sup>nd</sup> grade: Tuesday, October 11<sup>th</sup> at 8:15 am

3<sup>rd</sup> grade: Friday, October 14<sup>th</sup> at 8:15 am

4<sup>th</sup> grade: Thursday, October 13<sup>th</sup> at 8:15 am

5<sup>th</sup> grade: Wednesday, October 12<sup>th</sup> at 8:15 am

6<sup>th</sup> grade: Monday, October 17<sup>th</sup> at 8:15 am

7<sup>th</sup> grade: Tuesday, October 18<sup>th</sup> at 8:15 am

8<sup>th</sup> grade: Wednesday, October 19<sup>th</sup> at 8:15 am

## **UPCOMING NEWS AND EVENTS**

### **Accelerated Reader Informational Meeting**

There will be a parent informative forum on AR on the evening of Monday, September 26, 2011. All parents will meet first in the campus center at 6:00 for an introduction and overview. We will then have breakout sessions with Kindergarten parents going to the Kindergarten room with Mrs. Garcia and Grades 1-8 parents going to Mrs. Caldwell's classroom. We should be finished by 6:45 or 7:00. All new parents or anyone needing an update on the program are invited to attend.

### **Flamenco Assembly**

Sol Flamenco! This Thursday, Sept. 22 at our 8 a.m. assembly, we will have a rousing presentation by Sol Flamenco with dance and live guitar. Parents are invited to come and enjoy the passion and fire of Flamenco as it will be introduced to our students on stage in the Campus Center. This is part of our Spanish cultural study.

### **After School Academy (ASA)**

Guitar lessons are now being offered by Steve Pile at THS! Local musician Steve Pile has been performing professionally and teaching guitar for 10 years. He has performed at the very popular Tuesday Nights in Plaza and various other venues throughout the North Bay. He teaches all levels and specializes in rock, blues,

country, and African styles, on both acoustic and electric guitar. He also teaches beginning piano and bass. He has taught at various local schools and is eager to teach the budding musicians at THS! Rates are \$30 for a 1/2 lesson, though a longer lesson is possible depending on demand. To schedule lessons, contact Steve Pile at, [steve@stevepile.com](mailto:steve@stevepile.com), or 707-889-0639.

Announcing a new offering through ASA— ***On-CORE***, a supplementary scholastic program offered by **Werner Educational Services**. *On-CORE* offers the opportunity for students to strengthen academic skills, develop effective study habits, boost scholastic self-confidence, and increase academic responsibility through direct individual or small-group instruction that is targeted to each student's specific learning needs. Students can enroll, by appointment, for one or more hours after school Monday through Thursday starting at 3:30. Drop-in appointments will also be available for students needing homework assistance. Please contact Gretchen Werner, M.Ed. for more information: 707.838.9767 or [gwerner@wernereducationalservices.com](mailto:gwerner@wernereducationalservices.com)

### **THS Fall Flea Market**

Flea Market update: please bring any large furniture or items on September 30th as our POD is filling up quickly. If this is not an option for you, please contact Hans Dippel at [cigarguy@earthlink.net](mailto:cigarguy@earthlink.net), and arrangements will be made. Thank you all for the great donations, keep them coming! The POD is open from 7:30-9:00am and 2:30-4:00pm Mon-Fri. We will also be open Saturday September 24<sup>th</sup> from 9-1 to organize and accept donations.

If you have extra dry cleaning hangers or children's hangers, we could use them!

### **Seven Tips to Tackle Homework**

By Gretchen Werner, M.Ed.

As a learning specialist, I often hear from parents that homework time is the most stressful time of the day. A good homework plan can alleviate stress and make evenings more enjoyable, both for you and your child.

**First**, as a parent, it's important to understand why homework is important. Homework not only reinforces concepts taught during the school day but also provides an opportunity to practice and strengthen skills. In addition, homework teaches responsibility, independence, and perseverance. Homework also helps your child develop time management skills and superior study and work habits that will carry your child throughout his or her academic and professional careers.

**Tip #1:** Instill in your child a positive attitude toward homework (No grumbling; not your child - YOU!). Show your child that homework is important by taking an active interest in his assignments. If you don't take homework seriously, your child probably won't either and will resist doing it. As a parent, you set the example for your child. Don't complain about the teacher, assignments, or amount of work. Instead, make homework time fun and exciting. Use this time to gain insight into your child's school day and take the opportunity to provide sincere, positive feedback to your child about all of the new things he is learning and how well he is doing. When your child finds homework assignments challenging, work together to figure them out. There is nothing more rewarding than solving a problem together. It results in a sense of pride in accomplishment and is a confidence builder - your child learns that he can do it. In our busy lives, homework time can actually become quality time for parents and children. Homework topics can provide the platform for sharing ideas and experiences and promoting family discussions.

**Tip #2:** Schedule a regular homework time. Routine is important. If it is impossible to adhere to a specific

time every day, schedule homework time to coincide with family routines, perhaps while dinner is being prepared, after dinner, fifteen minutes after returning home, etc. This way, you can adjust —homework time|| as after school and family commitments change throughout the school year. Discuss this plan with your child, and be consistent.

**Tip #3:** Pick a spot. A desk in your child’s bedroom, a clean place at the kitchen table— it doesn’t matter where. What does matter is that it is away from distractions, quiet (out of earshot of the TV, stereo, video game system, iPod, telephone, and family conversations), well lit, and well-equipped (See below).

**Tip #4:** Equip your child’s study area with all of the supplies she will need to complete homework. If your child doesn’t have a desk or works best at the kitchen table, put the supplies in a basket that can be stored in a cabinet. Use homework supplies only for homework, and check and replace worn-out and used-up items frequently. This will keep your child on task because she won’t be wandering around the house looking for supplies.

**Tip #5:** Require your child to write his homework in an agenda or planner. Each night, review your child’s agenda and help him create a **“Must Do”** list (all assignments due the next day) and a **“Should Do”** list (upcoming quizzes/tests, long-term projects, and all work due later in the week or next week).

**“Must Do”** – Use this list to prioritize and help your child decide which assignment he will do first, second, third, and so on. Have your child do the most difficult task first; assignments that your child finds easy can be completed with less stress later in the evening when he is tired. Check off each assignment as it is completed.

**“Should Do”** – Use this list to get a jumpstart on up-coming assignments and prepare for quizzes and tests in advance. Your child won’t put off assignments until the night before they’re due and won’t have to cram for tests.

**Tip #6:** Schedule breaks into your nightly homework plan and break up long assignments. Have your child take needed breaks, but no longer than 5 to 10 minutes in length. Divide longer assignments into manageable chunks. A full page of math problems can appear to be a daunting task; use a highlighter to divide the page into sections or fold the paper to show only one row at a time. Give your child permission to take a break from one assignment to begin work on another. Be respectful of your child’s ability to manage the homework workload, but require appropriate periods of sustained, focused work to ensure progress toward completion of all homework assignments.

**Tip #7:** Correct homework and review concepts. Look over your child’s homework; help her identify and correct errors. Review the concepts and skills, and help your child name ways in which she can use these in her everyday life outside of school.

**One final thought—** As a parent, you can use homework time to nurture your child and provide the appropriate amount of guidance, support, and encouragement to allow your child to develop independent work habits and academic responsibility at his or her rate of maturity. With consistency over time, you can help your child develop superior study and work habits. When homework is done well, it helps your child increase understanding of concepts, practice and learn new skills, develop academic confidence, and perform better, not only during the current school year but also in subsequent school years and in life.

**The Library Volunteer Committee**

The THS TLC ("The Library Committee") is going to have its first meeting on Monday, September 26 at 3:30 in Amy Caldwell's classroom. If you were on the committee last year, we want to thank you for your tireless work in our school book inventory. Well over 100 hours went into this! Wow! We are ready for the next steps. We are in need of some immediate volunteers, so if you are anxious to get started, let me know. Please e-mail Amy at [acaldwell@thehealdsburgschool.org](mailto:acaldwell@thehealdsburgschool.org) if you want to serve on this very important committee. If you cannot make the meeting, you can still be on the committee; just let Amy know to add you to the list. There are a variety of jobs for parents who volunteer for this committee! This committee will be helping to put the spine labels on our existing library books, helping to shelve our new arrivals, and learning how to man our new library circulation software system. What a great way to help THS! You can participate as much or as little as your time allows!

### **Volunteers for School Lunch Program**

We are in need of volunteers to help with the school lunch program. There are a couple of different ways in which you can help. They are as follows:

- Pick-up pizzas on Mondays from DiVine Pizza at approximately 11:30am and bring them to THS.
- Pick-up lunches Friday from Savvy Catering at approximately 11:30am and bring them to THS (Savvy is located in Healdsburg).

This is a great way to satisfy your volunteer hour requirements. We don't want this program to be discontinued so if you are interested in helping on one or more of these days, please e-mail Paula at [pdougherty@thehealdsburgschool.org](mailto:pdougherty@thehealdsburgschool.org).

**PLEASE STAY TUNED FOR A WORD FROM OUR TEACHERS IN NEXT WEEK'S NEWSLETTER**