



WEEKLY PARENT NEWSLETTER

September 23, 2011

Calendar of Events

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

A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT

Annual Fund Launches

Do you know, tuition does not cover the full cost of educating our students? Like most independent schools, THS also receives financial support from other funding sources in direct benefit of its annual operating budget. The operating budget sustains the School's core academic program, enables us to retain and hire renowned faculty and dedicated staff, and maintains our facilities—to name a few key areas supported by the operational budget. This year, the gap between tuition fees and other funding sources has narrowed from past years due to record enrollment and is approximately \$3,300 per student. One way we mind the gap is through gifts to the Annual Fund, launching this week.

Parents, guardians, grandparents, alumni and alumni parents, faculty, staff and friends of the School are invited to participate in the Annual Fund through tax deductible gifts to the School, in any dollar amount.

What matters most is participation in show of support for the School. The goal is for 100 percent of all these groups to participate. Gifts of any size are encouraged and greatly appreciated.

In an effort to make participation more convenient for those responsible for tuition, the School will divide your total Annual Fund gift into four installments and bill your monthly tuition statement beginning in November, if you indicate your pledge by October 15.

You should have received a letter today about the Annual Fund with details about “why” and “how-to” participate. I am happy to discuss this important funding campaign with you in more detail and to answer any questions. Please call me at 707.433.4847, extension 214 or stop by my office at your convenience. Thank you for considering your participation in this important fundraising program.

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

Admissions Update

For families who wish to apply for **tuition support for the 2012-2013 academic year**, please be aware that the TADS (Tuition Aid Data Services) applications will be available on-line beginning **October 1st**. The “Tuition Support” section of the THS website contains important information about this process. The **deadline** for application and submission of all required documents is **January 15, 2012**. If you have any questions, please contact me.

Our first Open House will be held on October 5th from 9-11 am. Please encourage any friends, colleagues, neighbors, and extended family members who are interested in learning more about THS to attend. Kindly RSVP to ctalley@thehealdsburgschool.org or you may call the Admissions Office.

Admissions procedures and application documents for the 2012-2013 academic year are now available to download from the THS website under the “How to Apply” section. All Admissions procedures must be

completed by **February 1, 2012** for consideration for the 2012-2013 academic year. If you have a child applying for Kindergarten, please note the February assessment dates, and inform me if you a preference at this time.

UPCOMING NEWS AND EVENTS

Grandparents/Special Persons Day – Monday, October 10

The students of THS cordially invite Grandparents/Special Persons to join them for “Grandparent’s/Special Person’s Day”, on Monday, October 10th. This special day is held each year in an effort to bridge the generation gap, build community and inspire grandparents/special persons to become more keenly aware of their grand-student’s unique, high quality, international educational opportunity at THS. The day will comprise of an informative morning assembly after flag salute with musical presentations by each grade and, of course, time in the classrooms. Please inform your room parent of who your student’s grandparent(s)/special person(s) will be for the day. Each family is encouraged to bring up to two persons. Grandparents or special persons should plan to be at the School from 8:00 a.m. to noon, depending on their lunch schedules. The schedule of the day is:

8:00 – 9:15 a.m.	Flag salute/assembly
9:15 – 9:45 a.m.	Visits with the Specialty Teachers for Upper School Visits with homeroom for Lower Schools
9:45 – 10:00 a.m.	Recess
10:00 – 11:55 a.m.	Classroom visits following the regular schedule for this time
11:55 – 12:35 p.m.	*Lunch
12:35 p.m.	Tours of the School conducted by Administration Directors

*Grandparents may bring their lunch to enjoy with their students; should grandparents plan to take their child to lunch, please make plans to return to campus by 12:35 p.m.

2011 THS VOLLEYBALL GAME SCHEDULE

Day	Date	vs.	Location	Time
M	9/26	THS	SCDS	3:45*
W	9/28	THS	Sonoma Charter	3:45
Th	9/29	THS	Harvest Christian	3:45
M	10/3	THS	Presentation	3:45
W	10/5	THS	RVCS	3:45
TH	10/6	THS	St. Luke	3:45
M	10/10	THS	Mark West Charter	3:45
W	10/12	THS	Sunridge	3:45
Th	10/13	THS	Summerfield Waldorf	3:45*
M	10/17	THS	Sebastopol Charter	3:45
W	10/19	THS	Windsor Christian A	3:45

2011 MSSL Volleyball Tournament Saturday, October 22 at Sonoma Academy

3:45 Start times are for eighth grade teams. Seventh grade games are played immediately following eighth grade games. Seventh Grade games generally start at around 4:30.

*= Seventh and eighth grade games are both played at 3:45 on separate courts

Game times are subject to change. Any changes will be communicated as far in advance as possible.

10 Days Until the THS Fall Flea Market!

Thank you to all our generous donors and our great volunteers.

There is still plenty of time to bring in your quality recycled goods. Spread the word! Donations are accepted from outside the THS community and donors will receive a tax deductible receipt.

Donations directly impact THS long distance educational trips with monies divided equally among each class. POD donation drop off hours are M-F 7:30-9:00 and 2:30-4:00. **We will be closed this Friday as there is no school. We will be open this Saturday (Sept 24) from 9-1 to organize and accept donations.** Please bring any larger items on September 30th as our PODs are filling up quickly. If you have extra dry cleaning hangers or children's hangers, we need them!

We have a wonderful group of volunteers for the Flea but are looking for more folks to post signs the day before and sort, sell, etc. the day of the event.

This is a great opportunity to invest time toward your THS volunteer hours. The time slots to choose from for the day of the event are as follows:

5am - 10am
9am - 2pm
1pm - 5pm

Please let MJ Dubé know ASAP if you would like to volunteer and what shifts you prefer. She can be reached at 707-953-4712 or mdiamond@vintagewineestates.com.

Here's to another fun and profitable THS Flea Market!

On-CORE Program will begin October 3, 2011

On-CORE is 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 during ASA. Please contact Gretchen Werner, M.Ed. for more information or to schedule a pre-enrollment consultation: 707.838.9767 or gwerner@wernereducationalservices.com

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.

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, or 707-889-0639.

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 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!

GENTLE REMINDERS:

Front Parking Lot

Parents, please be careful when exiting from the east side of the parking lot. There are trucks coming in and out from behind that side of the parking lot and we certainly do not want an accident to happen. Thank you for being careful and watchful.

Dishes, Platters & Baskets

There are a lot of dishes, platters, cookie sheets and baskets in the office that belong to you! Unfortunately these items do not have names on them so we have been unable to return them to their rightful owners. Please stop by the office when you have a chance and see if there is something that belongs to you.

A WORD FROM OUR TEACHERS

Kindergarten Teachers, Michelle Garcia & Jeanette Inness:

We are wrapping up our unit on sorting and graphs this week. To finish the unit we will be making a graph using M&M candies. The students have enjoyed learning about graphs and our excited to jump into our next topic *directions*.

This week we are finishing our first unit of inquiry on community by integrating an economics lesson. I read a story called Ant Cities and asked the students to help me make a graph of types of ants, job each type performs, and compare the ant to a community worker. The students picked one ant job that is like a community worker. We have had parent guest speakers talk about their roles and we will finish by answering the wonder wall questions

First Grade Teacher, Suzanne Mitchell:

Our first IB Unit, Who We Are, has some great Wonder Wall sentences. We have quite a group of inquirers in First Grade! When prompted to wonder about people all around the world, the students wanted to know the following...

"I wonder how Native Americans make a tent." – Kaylin

"I wonder how do people make blankets and clothes." – Zoe

"I wonder how George Lucas came up with the movie Star Wars." – Owen

"I wonder what happens when people get too close to the equator." – Ben

"I wonder why people from Boston say their vowels differently." - Samantha

It's so amazing to see what happens when students are allowed to learn about what's important to them. I love to learn along with them!

Second Grade Teacher, Ashley Lapham:

Last week, the students presented their published stories during our literary tea. We were delighted to have Mrs. Passalacqua and Ms. Talley join us for the presentations. The writing process began the first few weeks of school when the students wrote their rough draft around the theme "Something I did this summer". Next, we presented a series of lessons around the 6 Traits of Writing. We worked with the students to analyze their rough draft in terms of ideas, organization, voice, sentence fluency, word choice, and conventions. Students made changes to their work and then composed a final, published version of their story which included a cover page (with title) and in many cases an illustration. The students practiced their generous listening skills during the presentations. Both of our guests complimented the students on both the quality of their stories as well as their ability to present in a mature way. This week, the students are beginning their next formal writing project that will take them through the writing process once again. Working with the theme of "Something that happened to me", students will apply their understanding of the parts of speech as they identify nouns to which they can add lively adjectives. Already the students are eager for the next presentation!

Third Grade Teacher, Sigal Cohen:

It has been such a great week this week. The students have really been working hard on their Writer's Workshop stories. We are hoping to publish the students' stories in the beginning of October. The students did a "health" rotation. They experienced what food items have starch, how much sugar is in some items and the feel of grease and how it looks on a paper bag. The students were really surprised to learn that low-fat yogurt has more sugar than a Kit-Kat. We are looking forward to making a great "healthy" cookbook. Enjoy your three day weekend.

Fourth Grade Teacher, Britta Dulac:

The fourth grade had a very exciting week at THS! On Tuesday, we went on our first field trip of the year to the Coastal Miwok village Kule Loklo in Point Reyes. Did you know that Kule Loklo means Bear Valley?

Here are some thoughts from the students about their field trip:

- "I liked the trip to Kule Lokolo... I thought it was cool that they used rocks as tools. I also liked the sweat house, but it was really hot outside!"- Travis

- "What I liked about Kule Loklo is the round house. I liked it because we got to see what it was like to be a Native American."- Chloe

- “... the hike was very fun. We met ranger Mary Beth. She told us about how the Indians traded beads for obsidian. Me and Travis counted three lizards!”-Zack
- “My favorite part of the trip was the round house. I liked it because it smelled so good and it was interesting that the Miwoks still have ceremonies there.”- Rik
- “The Miwok people gathered acorns and other seeds and ground them into meal that they ate. They ground the acorn and rinsed it before cooking it with hot rocks. The acorn was the most important part of their diet?”-Skyler
- “What I liked about Kule Loklo is the sweat lodge. What I don’t like is that I didn’t get to try the food that the natives ate.” –Joe
- “... I wish we could watch the Miwoks dance. I think it would be fun to try and spend a day as a Miwok.” - Molly

In math, the students spent last week gathering information and organizing it in a table. As a class we brainstormed a variety of favorites: from ice cream to color to types of meat. The students then worked in pairs to focus on one category of their choosing. They decided which items they wanted to include in their survey and how they would gather the results. Then they created a table on graph paper. The class was so excited to get out into the school community and start asking their questions, so on Thursday we went to several different classrooms and gathered information from students in 2nd-8th grades. On Friday, the class analyzed its results and came up with 5 mathematical questions based on those results. They did an excellent job interviewing a variety of children and were even brave enough to introduce themselves and to explain our project to each class we visited.

5th Grade Homeroom Teacher & Upper School Humanities Teacher, Amy Caldwell:

Grade 5 has been really getting into their writing process. We have reviewed the Six Traits of writing and brainstormed ways to do our prewriting. We have had lots of discussion on the novel *Tuck Everlasting* and have all completed our rough drafts of the essay “If I Could Live Forever (at this age!)”. In addition we have begun the note-taking process for our research work on Native Americans. We have created our research folders and learned how to keep our research in an organized manner. Our Native American Day Assembly and Exhibition will be on November 3. Everyone is excitedly beginning to build their homes and prepare their costumes for this upcoming event. Our vocabulary work in Wordly Wise and Classic roots has continued as well as the grammar work we have steadily explored. This past week we have been working on correct comma usage. The fifth graders have begun to work with the first graders on helping to take AR tests. This has been very exciting to all of the children involved. In addition, we have continued to work on our Caring School Community with the IB attitudes of Enthusiasm and Appreciation being the themes of the month. This class has an amazing positive attitude and is a delight. The organization skills are blooming! Planners are getting signed, and smiles are beaming!

Grade 6 has really been rolling into Egyptian studies. We finished our study of early civilizations and are now preparing for our Open Tomb Event on October 12. Egyptian projects and costuming are in full swing. In school we have had some intense review lessons on using Study Smarts note taking skills. We have read and explored our textbook as well as the internet with the purpose of expanding our knowledge base of Ancient Egypt. In school we are conducting research, reviewing methods for collecting information, paraphrasing and organizing our thoughts, and preparing our final products. We have continued our momentum in Wordly Wise and Classic roots vocabulary. It is important to keep up the independent reading to keep that vocabulary growing! We have finished our first essay “Artifacts of Our Lives” and have begun the final editing process. Language Arts in 6th grade is off and running!

6th Grade Homeroom Teacher & Upper School Math, Science and Economics Teacher, Charlotte Perrine:

Fifth graders have been working hard on fractions and decimal and how to convert between the two. With this, they are working on how to order and compare mixed numbers, fractions, and decimals. We have also been working on number sense and how to estimate the value of a fraction based on how close it is to a whole or half. In addition, we continue to work on problem solving through our Problems of the Week (POW) and with daily warm-ups and "do nows". To help solidify their mastery of the multiplication tables, we have been doing daily timed tests of 100 problems. We started with 5 minutes and are now down to 1 minute! While they have all improved, I cannot emphasize enough how important it is for them to have these tables mastered.

In science, the class has become a curious group of astronomers. Having learned about all the planets, we are now doing a daily moon watch, which will last for one month. Each day in their journal, they draw what the moon looks like (if visible), the time of day, and ask a question based on their observation. It is amazing to see what questions arise due to the simple act of observation! During this moon unit, we will learn about the phases of the moon, how the moon affects tides, the surface of the moon, eclipses, lunar landings, and space exploration. Based on the students' interests and questions, we may also delve into other moon related topics.

Sixth graders are mastering their fractions. They are ordering, comparing, adding, subtracting, multiplying, and dividing. We are also working on our multiplication tables with daily timed tests. The contest is on for them to beat me (my record is 100 problems in 1 minute and 25 seconds). Students are also working independently on their accelerated math, which enables them to hone skills based on their individual needs.

Seventh graders are knee deep into solving equations, which is impressive! While using the distributive property and combining like terms, they can now solve multi-stepped equations with a variable on both sides of the equal sign. We are also starting to learn how to set up a word problem algebraically. To help reinforce this skill, we used manipulatives to solve "clue" problems. They did this using trial and error. Next we will see how these same problems can be solved algebraically. Next we will study inequalities. Students also continue to work on Accelerated Math. Everyone is at their own pace with this so that their individual needs can be met.

Thanks to everyone who came to Back to School Night! It was great to see all of you. If you haven't yet signed up for a parent teacher conference and would like to do so, the sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board as you enter my classroom.

**7th Grade Homeroom Teacher & Upper School Science, Math and Economics Teacher, Leigh Schmitt:
Science 6-8**

The sixth grade earth scientists have been actively learning...on a variety of different fronts. As part of the Earth Science curriculum, we have been investigating the tools that scientists use in their profession. We have been trying out – and mastering – these “tools” through engaging, fun labs and field work. Now, we’re discovering the various types and uses of maps. Lots of initial questions have resulted in an exciting course of study into topographic maps. Stay tuned for our cool culminating project! For our current events period, we have marveled at free-solo climbers in Yosemite, tracked hurricanes, and watched segments of “24 Hours of Reality” (a recent climate change symposium that aired on 9/14-9/15). And lastly, as part of our job period on Fridays, the raised beds have been weeded, prepped, and some of our plantings have already germinated!

In Life Science, the students have been investigating and questioning life. Our unit started with field observations on campus... and led to interesting discussions and deep thoughts. What is the meaning of life? What does it mean to be alive? What are the characteristics of all living things? What are the necessities in order for life to exist here on Earth or other planets? The students ended the life unit with an engaging, well-orchestrated debate on the following question: Is an apple (that has been picked from a tree) living or nonliving? Now, the class is looking into the role of light on Earth, and how light impacts life. 'Should be enlightening...

In Physical Science, matter has been the name of the game. We began the unit by defining matter, and then brainstorming thoughts about the subject. Great questions ensued, such as the following: Is there matter in outer space? Can matter be destroyed? Was there more matter 50 years ago than there is today? To learn more – and to ideally find solutions to these puzzlers - the class has completed a lot of hands-on activities and lab-based exercises on defining matter, the properties of matter, and the conservation of matter. At present, we are learning about pure substances and mixtures. A competition to devise a cheap, inexpensive, and portable water filter will serve as our unit-ending assessment.

Math 8

The eighth grade math is deep into the properties of real numbers. Topics these past two weeks have ranged from the distributive property to square roots - and all at a deeper, more substantive level than the group has ever experienced. The students are now getting into weekly routine which includes warm-ups, challenging POWs (problems of the week), puzzlers, math drills, cooperative work, assessments, student-led teaching, and even a little acting. The Accelerated Math program has been a huge bonus, too, as students are able to individually challenge themselves, reinforce existing and new concepts, improve upon any math deficiencies. The AM program has even created lots of opportunity for differentiated instruction within the classroom. Next in the math line is solving linear equations.

8th Grade Homeroom Teacher & Upper School Humanities Teacher, Corey Paulson: 7th grade Language Arts and Humanities

In Humanities class, the seventh graders are looking at the geographical term, ecumene, and its relationship to the great nation to our north: Canada. We studied the physical features, economic activities, vegetation, and climate of the main 5 regions of Canada. Did you know that more people live in California than live in the entire nation of Canada? The seventh graders have also researched and reported on a Canadian landmark or physical feature. Finally, we listened to the Canadian anthem sung by two famous Canadian singers: Celine Dion and, of course, Justin Beiber.

In Language Arts, the seventh graders have been working on creating a secondary source document. They interviewed a family member about their experiences on September 11th. With those stories, they wrote thoughtful essays about how the world has changed since that fateful day. In doing this, they practiced writing thesis statements, topic sentences, and organized paragraphs.

8th grade Language Arts and Humanities

The eighth graders are preparing to rebel! Don't worry, it is a historical simulation. They have taken on the personalities and opinions of famous colonial patriots and loyalists in preparation for a 1776 town meeting. At this meeting, they will decide whether the American colonies should rebel against England. In preparation for this meeting, the students will study the economic and ideological reasons for rebellion. They will learn about taxes and the reasons those taxes were implemented. Additionally, the students will read the English philosopher John Locke and understand how his ideas influenced the colonial mindset. I cannot wait for the meeting.

In Language Arts, the eighth graders have also been working on a September 11th essay. They interviewed a family member about their experiences on September 11th. With those stories, they wrote thoughtful essays about how the world has changed since that fateful day. In doing this, they practiced writing thesis statements, topic sentences, and organized paragraphs. These essays were interesting, insightful, and nicely written.

Student Council

Student Council elections and speeches will be held in the Campus Center on Thursday September 29th at 8am. Please join us for this event.