



**WEEKLY PARENT NEWSLETTER**

**December 9, 2011**

**Calendar of Events**

Thursday, December 15 <sup>th</sup>	Winter Celebration 7:00pm Rio Lindo Auditorium
Friday, December 16 <sup>th</sup>	Minimum Day
Monday, December 19 <sup>th</sup> – Jan. 2nd	Winter Break
Tuesday, January 3 <sup>rd</sup>	School Resumes
Wednesday, January 4 <sup>th</sup>	Open House 9:00-11:00am Campus Center
Monday, January 9 <sup>th</sup>	PTO Meeting 8:10-9:10am Art Room
Friday, January 13 <sup>th</sup>	Teacher Workshop – No School
Monday, January 16 <sup>th</sup>	Martin Luther King Jr. Day – No School
Wednesday, January 18 <sup>th</sup>	Open House 9:00-11:00am Campus Center
Monday, January 30 <sup>th</sup>	Teacher Workshop – No School

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

### **For Planning Purposes**

For your planning purposes, I'd like to inform you of some important upcoming deadlines:

- January 21, 2012 All application materials for tuition support are due!  
Apply using the TADS links provided on the THS web site.
- February 1, 2012 All new student application materials are due. This includes THS siblings.
- February 15, 2012 2012-13 Enrollment Contracts for current students are mailed.
- February 25, 2012 2012-13 Enrollment Contracts and the \$1000 deposit for current students are due.

## **FROM THE DESK OF THE DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT**

### **Year End Gifts to THS**

The end of the calendar year is fast approaching, however, it is not too late to participate in the Annual Fund and make your contribution to THS count twice!

Not only will you support our wonderful School, your donation is tax deductible in the 2011 tax year to the extent of the law. Please consider making your gift by check before we depart for Winter Break on Friday, December 16.

Credit card payments are accepted for gifts of \$1,000. Checks received after we depart for break must be dated, post marked and sent on or before December 31, 2011, to count in the 2011 tax year.

### **Bravissimo!**

Don't miss our annual Dinner and Auction on February 11, at John Ash Vintner's Inn. Tickets are on sale now for \$150 per person. You can purchase them at [www.thsbravissimo.com](http://www.thsbravissimo.com)

Have a great idea for an auction item? Contact Co-Chairs Amber Behrens or Patrick Rousche to discuss or to learn more about Bravissimo

## **UPCOMING NEWS AND EVENTS**

### **THS Library**

The Healdsburg School Library now has a search engine to allow parents and students to search to see what we own and if it is available.

[https://thehealdsburgschool.follettdestiny.com/common/welcome.jsp?context=saas19\\_0415633](https://thehealdsburgschool.follettdestiny.com/common/welcome.jsp?context=saas19_0415633)

Please feel free to use it. If you save the website to your internet browser on your smart phone it can come in handy when at a bookstore. For example, if you or yours think about buying a book, you may want to first check to see if we own a library copy. It could save you money! OR, you can do a search for what books we have, for example, in A.R. Level 3.4-3.8 that are mysteries, and so on. Hopefully, this will get to be a wonderful addition to the services our up and coming library can offer to your child at THS! If you have any questions, please see Mrs. Caldwell or Mrs. Cohen.

### **Digital Photos Wanted for Winter Celebration**

Mrs. Schlotthauer is in the process of creating a special presentation for our THS annual Winter Celebration program. She is asking for a digital photo of your family celebrating a winter holiday. If you are interested in participating in this presentation, please e-mail Connie a digital copy of your family celebrating your favorite winter holiday at [cschlotthauer@thehealdsburgschool.org](mailto:cschlotthauer@thehealdsburgschool.org). She will need your digital photo by Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup>.

### **Holiday Shopping Time is Here!**

Did you know by starting your online shopping through this link <http://shopping.escrip.com/cgi/shop.plx?pid=5400&sid=500016475> a percentage of your purchase will automatically be donated to THS? Stores like Amazon, Nordstrom, Expedia, Apple and more are included. Plus Macys cards can be registered with the eScrip program in the same way as your debit, credit and Safeway club cards can.

If you need help or have any questions feel free to email PTO Community Card Coordinators, Christine Rodgers ([rgeyserville@aol.com](mailto:rgeyserville@aol.com)) or Helen Barnes ([helen@motorbytes.com](mailto:helen@motorbytes.com)).

### **Healthy Lunch Suggestions!**

Please e-mail THS mom, Sarah Petersen your favorite recipes and/or items you put into your child's lunch. Each of our suggestions may accumulate to be a great list of new ideas which we all can benefit from. Any snack ideas, lunch items, purchased or homemade... please share what works for you. For unique or harder to find items, please also note the store which they come from. We look forward to building a wealth of peanut- & cashew-free, healthy items to pull from! Please send emails to [SarahMustang@aol.com](mailto:SarahMustang@aol.com). Thank you!

### **GENTLE REMINDERS**

#### **Removing of Poles**

Parents, please do not remove the poles in the front of the school and drive into the circle during the hours of 8:15am-3:15pm. If you are driving for a field trip, you will need to park in the front lot and students will walk to the cars with teachers and or chaperones. There have been parents driving into the circle while P.E. and other student activities are happening and it is very dangerous. Thank you for your understanding with this matter.

### **A WORD FROM OUR TEACHERS**

#### **Kindergarten Teachers, Michelle Garcia and Jeanette Inness:**

Last week we learned about Christmas around the world. We discussed how Christmas traditions are similar and different. The children observed that Santa looks different and delivers gifts in different ways depending on the country. This week we will learn about Kwanzaa.

We are moving on to conflict resolution through comprehensive reading and character development. Our stories and discussions will involve understanding how conflict escalates, having a method for resolving conflicts, knowing many different ways to solve a conflict, and being able to choose the most appropriate strategy.

This week we started a new unit on...Addition! We are learning to join numbers in different ways and how to use objects and pictures to model addition stories.

**First Grade Teacher, Suzanne Mitchell:**

Last week the First Graders started a new Language Arts Unit on Conflict Resolution. Conflict Resolution involves: understanding how conflict escalates, knowing a variety of methods for resolving conflict, and being able to choose the most appropriate conflict resolution strategy. In this unit, students use their developing understanding of identity and perspective to acquire conflict resolution skills they can use when they have disagreements with others. Students will learn when to act independently to solve a conflict, when to use rules, and when to use persuasion. Not only are we developing our academics with this theme, but we are looking at ways to make everyone's life more peaceful and connected.

**Second Grade Teacher, Ashley Lapham:**

Last week, students proudly displayed their dinosaur poster projects and sculptures during our "Dinosaur Exhibit". This was the students' first research project of the year. After initially selecting individual dinosaurs to research, students worked as a whole group to brainstorm categories and information that would be valuable and interesting to an audience. They learned how to locate information using books and pre-selected websites as well as record their information in the format of a graphic organizer. Next, we discussed the best ways to categorize, synthesize, and present information in the format of a poster. We began with the question, "What does a well-designed poster look like?" From this point, the students began to create the various components for their posters (i.e. title card, map, illustration, summary, timeline, etc.) and assemble them on their posters in a beautiful way. The results were outstanding and we are very proud of their efforts. Each student successfully demonstrated that s/he can research a new subject and share information in the format of a high-quality poster project. This is a great accomplishment for a 2<sup>nd</sup> grader!

**Third Grade Teacher, Sigal Cohen:**

This week the students have been scientists and documenting their research on the desert biome and the habitats that are in it. They researched from a wide range of books on three animals and three types of vegetation. They had to write a description of each one. They concluded their facts with a picture of the desert including and labeling the vegetation/animals they researched. The class has also discussed the threats that are destroying deserts and brainstormed solutions for these problems. Each student labeled the major deserts of the world and charted the four largest deserts of the world. Our next biome will be the rainforest. We are really proud of the beautiful and neat work our students are accomplishing in this unit.

**Fourth Grade Teacher, Britta Dulac:**

This week in 4<sup>th</sup> grade we were very excited to welcome Valentina Berg to our class! She just recently arrived from Chile and will be spending the next three months at THS. Our students have been incredibly warm and welcoming and are excited to make a new friend. They have been practicing their Spanish and including her in the entire goings on of our classroom.

In Science, we have been working hard on our invention projects to culminate our IB unit on the theme "How the World Works". Last week the students worked diligently in teams to gather research on inventions which use either electricity or magnetism. These range from x-rays to nuclear energy. As

each team finished their research, they began to work together to develop presentations using either a poster board or PowerPoint. This week they completed the visual component of the project and practiced their oral presentations. On Thursday the teams presented their discoveries to the class and on Friday we welcomed other members of our community to visit and learn about the various inventions.

### **5<sup>th</sup> Grade Homeroom Teacher & Upper School Humanities Teacher, Amy Caldwell:**

#### **Fifth Grade Language Arts and Humanities**

The Fifth Grade had a really exciting week. We went to the Wells Fargo Center to a science show. Mrs. Caldwell was even taken on stage for a static electricity experiment! In Language Arts we have continued working on poetry. We have worked on haiku, tanka and diamante forms this week. We are writing poetry using the monthly themes of the IB program that have been covered so far this year: Enthusiasm, Curiosity, Appreciation, Respect, and this month's theme, Cooperation. We also have spent time preparing for the holiday program performance with 6<sup>th</sup> grade. The 5<sup>th</sup> graders are amazing performers and demonstrate cooperation in the best way! We have also moved on to learning about the explorers in the New World in Humanities. We are on a roll with Wordly Wise vocabulary and Classic Roots word study. We have begun reading the literature study book, *The Light in the Forest!* As we read this book about Native Americans and the colonists as they work through their difficulties, we are working hard to understand that some of the words that were once used are now considered disrespectful. The Fifth Grade is a model of good attitudes!

The Sixth Grade has really been enjoying the literature study book *The Giver!* The book has opened the door to incredible class discussions in which all are wholeheartedly participating. We have continued working on Wordly Wise vocabulary as well as Classic Roots word study. The Sixth Grade is also studying poetry and is working on Quatrains. In connection with the IB attitudes, we are writing quatrains about these attitudes. We are also writing short mini-essays in our journals about the five attitudes that have been stressed so far this year: Enthusiasm, Curiosity, Appreciation, Respect, and this month's theme, Cooperation. As a follow-up to our trip to Chinatown, the Sixth Grade has studied the inventions and innovations of the Han Dynasty this week and have all become the teachers for a short lesson. We have a test next Wednesday to follow up those lessons. We have worked on appropriate Study Smarts note taking method so that we have good notes to study. The Sixth Grade has had an amazing attitude in their rehearsals with 5<sup>th</sup> grade for the holiday program! This is an enthusiastic group!

### **6<sup>th</sup> Grade Homeroom Teacher & Upper School Math, Science and Economics Teacher, Charlotte Perrine:**

Fifth graders are working hard on long division with decimals. They are dividing by two-digit divisors all focusing on where to move and place the decimal point. We are also focusing on word problems, not only working on which number should be the divisor and which the dividend, but also on how to interpret the remainder (rounding up or down, or turning to a fraction or decimal). Next week we will be putting our decimal skills to more "real life" use by learning how to write checks and balance a check book as well as go catalog shopping, order multiple quantities, and shop within a budget (and including tax and shipping fees).

In fifth grade science we have been using our scientific method skills to perform and observe a variety of experiments. While investigating evaporation, we asked, and proved, the questions of how both temperature and surface area affect the rate of evaporation. Students have also been observing condensation using various experiments with food dye, ice, and rock salt. In addition, we have been using thermometers and have observed, and graphed, the rate at which water cools when ice is placed in it. Next, we will compare the temperatures of soil and water as they get heated in the sun and then put in the shade (demonstrating how the Earth is heated unevenly).

Sixth graders just started a new unit on ratios, rates, and proportions. Students learned the difference between ratios and rates, and we discussed how to use a unit rate in order to determine a better buy (ask them about Costco and human nature). They are also learning how to set up and solve proportions while applying them to real life scenarios.

Seventh grade pre-algebra is finishing up Chapter 6, which covers rates, similar triangles and proportions, probability and odds, measurement, and the counting principle. While learning probability, we compared experimental probability to theoretical probability using coins and dice. In addition, we watched “Luck Be a Lady” from *Guys and Dolls* and the figured out the different combinations that can be rolled with two dice and which ones have a better chance of occurring. Based on these results, we then played some games involving probability and odds. We even looked at the famous Monty Hall question from *Let's Make a Deal* which offers a puzzling probability conundrum involving doors. We wrap up this unit this week, and next week we start working with percents.

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

In Climate Connections, the unit on natural and material resources was a huge success. The class did – and will continue to do - some valuable research for the THS community. The group performed an informal trash audit, made recycling posters for each of the classrooms, and will ultimately serve as recycling educators (“waste wizards”) at the lunch period. These budding activists also hope to educate the community about the importance of recycling by making brief presentations to each of the classrooms. And lastly, as a fun research exercise, the students were assigned the task of writing a paper about their life as an imagined piece of trash. They had to recount their life story from creation (birth, mining, or extraction) to after-life (death, landfill, or recycling). This assignment made for some interesting reading – certainly not trashy! Just prior to the break, the class is moving on to a study of plate tectonics. Lab activities, model-making, and hand-on exercise will abound as we investigate our dynamic Earth.

The Life Science class mastered the idea of genetics and probability by creating unique paper pets (there some real unique, funny looking dogs). These paper pets were then distributed randomly, bred with those of a classmate, and the outcomes were determined through the use of Punnett squares. The exercise really helped to grasp the concept of passing traits, be they recessive or dominant, from parent to offspring. Just prior to the Thanksgiving recess, Max Grover’s dad, a wildlife biologist, came and talked to the class about genetics and the North American wild turkey. His talk was timely and fitting, and each student appreciated learning about this majestic, beautiful bird. Now, the class is investigating genes and DNA. We started this new unit by looking at our fingerprints, taking samples using pencil graphite, tracing paper, and tape... and then asking lots of questions. From the classes’ initial inquiry and detective work, we clearly have a lot of learning to do about our own DNA.

As part of a unit on nuclear changes, the Physical Science class had a successful, civilized debate on nuclear power. Both “teams” had very convincing arguments about the pros and cons of this valuable – and contentious – fuel source. In addition to the debate, each student wrote a position paper on their thoughts about nuclear power as a fuel source. The last segment of unit was the viewing of a powerful PBS documentary entitled, “Radioactive Wolves.” This piece looked at the current ecology and biology of the fallout zone in and around Chernobyl. A must see... Now, the class is on to solutions – mixtures, how substances dissolve, and solubility and concentration. The project for this unit entails researching the

economics, science, and advertising of a beverage (solution), and then creating and marketing a new sports drink. Each class member will then have to “sell” their product to their peers.

### **Math**

The Algebra class recently concluded a unit on linear equations. The last few lessons of this section were practical and fun stuff, be it creating scatter plots or determining lines of fit. We even managed to review concepts with an online game involving diving for jewels and linear equations! Now, just prior to the holiday recess, we are transitioning graphing inequalities. To start, we will be looking at inequalities involving addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, and multiple steps, too. POW’s, or problems of the week, as of late are festive and thematic with the holidays; one involves the writing of mathematical jingles whereas another involves the creation of an Algebra-based ornament.

### **8<sup>th</sup> Grade Homeroom Teacher & Upper School Humanities Teacher, Corey Paulson:**

#### **7<sup>th</sup> grade Language Arts and Humanities**

Currently the seventh graders are engaged in an interdisciplinary unit on China. We are studying modern Chinese cultural geography, while we are also looking at historical China, particularly China during the Cultural Revolution of the 1960s. We are reading the phenomenal memoir, *Red Scarf Girl*, which is about the Cultural Revolution. Additionally, we are writing our own memoirs and examining the theme of identity. We also took a trip to Chinatown this week; we received a tour of the district, examined the history of the Chinese in America, and ate a healthy and delicious Chinese lunch.

#### **8<sup>th</sup> grade Language Arts and Humanities**

Bravissimo is coming up sooner than you think! The eighth graders have been hard at work on their art project with abstract expressionist, Sargam Griffin. The paintings they have completed are beautiful, and the students are very excited to show them to you at the auction. They have visited and painted at her studio, and in conjunction with this project, students have also researched abstract expressionists in America. Additionally, students used their fantastic writing skills to express their thoughts on Sargam Griffin’s paintings. We gave these paragraphs to Ms. Griffin as a birthday present.

The eighth grade also went on the field trip to Chinatown. This trip was in conjunction with our studies on immigration history in America.