

JOURNEY SCHOOL NEWS

Volume 3, Issue 15

May 11, 2007

*Journey School * 23431 Knollwood * Aliso Viejo, CA 92656 * (949) 448-7232 * www.journeyschool.net*

Dear Parents,

To half of the parents in the school, I wish you the happiest of Mother's Days this Sunday. I will spend the day with my mom, celebrating her 85th birthday as well. I wrote a newsletter piece on her last year at this time and as I thought about this upcoming newsletter, wondered what source of inspiration I would find that could add even more to this letter. To my good fortune, Diana Corbo greeted me last week with a piece she had written recently about her own view of motherhood and the work that goes along with it:

"Some of you know me as a stay-at-home mom for my three children (though I am actually more often at church). People often comment on what great kids they are, how great a job we've done and how I seem to have it all together - and how DO I do it all? Well, I don't. In fact, I hardly ever go to their games, seldom step foot in their classrooms or let alone volunteer. I feel overwhelmed on a regular basis trying to find the balance of my work and their needs and have long phases of fast food runs. And there's more. I am often impatient, unsympathetic and unable to feel present in so many of those important little moments, let alone cherish them. Yet, here is the shocker: I am OK with it. I have finally embraced who I am and who I am not as a mother. I even laugh about it with my kids. Deadbeat mom, that's me and we giggle about it.

I find things I REALLY enjoy doing with them and participate with joy. I went to the Powerhouse tour last year so my daughter could see I actually AM fun. I learned to stop resenting my husband's long hours at work and go out of my way to comment to the kids how lucky we are that he works so hard for us. I do whatever it takes to cultivate a more peaceful me so that when my 12 year old is falling apart, I can pass the same calming tools I have learned on to her. I share with them openly the passion and frustration in trying to raise money for a soup kitchen. I let them know regularly that I wish I could be there in so many more ways for them but I just can't. Yet share how I always, always love them.

What if as mothers we made a laundry list of all the things we do right or did wrong? What if we believed it? The things you do make them strong. The things you don't do make them strong. Be the mother you are and be who you are. Be at peace with it and let this be the legacy you pass on to your children."

Mother Teresa said, "I feel that we too often focus on the negative aspects of life, on what is bad. If we were more willing to see the good and the beautiful things that surround us, we would change our next door neighbors and then others who live in our neighborhood or city. We would be able to bring peace and love to our world, which hungers so much for these things."

Motherhood is a unique task. There is no school for it. I have been fortunate to witness mothering at its best and I thank you all for what you do. I thank you Diana for your courage and like your other friends, I do think that Danny and Emily are terrific. I thank Mother Teresa for her inspiration. I thank you Patti for raising two incredible children with me and I thank my mom for her tireless efforts to raise and love eight of us. I salute you mothers on this day and hope that you are appreciated for the full worth of your love and dedication.

My best to you....Tim Connolly, Administrator

School Holiday Calendar for 2007-08

The Faculty and Council have approved the holiday calendar for the upcoming school year. We attempt to do this so that vacations and family gatherings coincide with the school holidays. The calendar also largely coincides with CUSD and allows for 180 school days for the grades and 175 for the kindergarten.

Tuesday, September 4	School begins (12:35 release)
Monday, October 8	Fall weekend
Monday, November 12	Veteran's Day
Monday – Friday, November 19-23	Thanksgiving Break
Friday, December 21	Winter Break begins (12:35 release)
Monday, Dec 24 – January 4	Winter Break
Monday, January 7	School begins again
Monday, January 21	MLK Day
Monday, February 18-22	Teacher's Conference week
Friday, April 4	Spring Break (12:35 release)
Monday, April 7-11	Spring Break
Monday, May 26	Memorial Day
Friday, June 16	Last day of School for Kindergarten
Friday, June 23	Last day of School (12:35 release)

School will begin at 8:30 AM.

School for the kindergartens will end at 12:30. Grades classes will end at 3:05.

School will continue to end at 12:35 on Wednesdays in addition to days marked above.

Class Play Schedule for the balance of the year

The class play is often a highlight of the year for a group. The teacher has thought long and hard on the selection of the play hoping that this play will bring significant insights to the students. The casting of the play is not intended to place the best thespians on stage but to bring out the best in each student in a role that will bear pedagogical weight for them. The first and sixth grades have already performed their plays as of this writing and the schedule for the rest of the year is as follows:

Friday, May 25	3rd grade @ 1:45 and 6:00 PM in the PAC @ Wood Canyon
Friday, June 1	4th grade with three performances during the day and the last @ 6:00 PM in their classroom
	5th grade @ 1:45 and 7:00 PM in PAC @ Wood Canyon
Tuesday, June 5	7th grade @ 1:20 and 6:00 PM in the PAC @ Wood Canyon
Thursday, June 14	2nd grade @ 1:45 and 6:00 PM in the PAC @ Wood Canyon

Council News for May 10, 2007

The Council met last evening with several items on their agenda largely geared at needs for next year and the closing out of this year.

Journey School Council

The Journey School is seeking new members for the School Council. Applicants should be familiar with the School's governance structure and be willing to serve for a two-year period. Meetings are usually held monthly on the second Thursday.

Serving on the School Council is much like being on the board of any company, but instead of answering to shareholders, your primary responsibility is to the taxpayers of California. As a Council member you are considered a public official. You should be prepared to review and speak to legal and financial matters, uphold the school's mission and vision, and insure the school is meeting its stated goals.

The Council is actively seeking candidates from both within and outside of the parent community. If you have knowledge of a friend, neighbor or colleague who would be interested in serving in this capacity, contact Tim so he can send them more information. A background in law, accounting and/or business management is beneficial. Perhaps most important is having the vision and will to enthusiastically serve our school as it enters the most exciting future in its 7-year history.

Interested individuals should submit a letter of interest to Tim Connolly. If you have questions about the position, contact Michael Graber at 949-489-9330.

2007-08 Budget

The Council has had this item on the agenda each month since January reviewing needs and requests. The budget to date carries a surplus of less than \$1,000. The revenue side of the budget will grow by over \$180,000 with the projection of 27 new students to the school for next year, supported by 109 new applications, not including siblings of previously enrolled students. There are waiting lists for each class from kindergarten to 6th grade.

The expense side of the budget will grow in proportion to the revenue by allowing the addition of a new first grade teacher, as well as the addition of a second full time administrator. Staff positions in the office will each move from $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ time. The base salary for the full time faculty was increased by \$500, and for the first time, two of the specialty teachers will be moving to full time status. As exciting as it is to move to the new site, the school will begin to absorb costs that previously had not been entirely passed on to us including maintenance and the full cost of utilities. Reserves for the continuing litigation that the school is involved in will need to increase by \$30,000 as well until settled due to continued accrument of back wages.

Contracts

During this meeting and the next, the Council will begin to review and approve personnel contracts for the upcoming school year.

Relocation

The Council will hear from the relocation committee about its work. There is still more details to be worked out with the District to coordinate the move between the two schools. Tentative dates for returning the Wood canyon campus back to its original state will begin on Tuesday, June 19, and the moving of the classrooms will take place beginning Monday, June 25, thru Friday, June 29, with the completion of the move slated for June 30! Yes, we will need every hand to help! It will be a two week party, one that you will not want to miss!

Pentathlon 2007 A.D.

On Saturday, April 28th, 2007, in Northridge, CA all of the schools from Southern California and Tucson, AZ gathered together for the Pentathlon. You may wonder, "What is the Pentathlon?" It is a Junior Olympics honoring the Greek Gods. The host school of the Pentathlon was Highland Hall. There were about 8 schools there and they were divided into 4 groups. The four groups were called: Thebes (blue), Athens (yellow), Corinthians (green), and Spartans (red). There were 6 different events. My favorite event was the 200 meter dash, I received 2nd place and when the second placers raced I received 2nd again! My friend Kalina Quinn of the 5th grade at Journey School challenged 7 people to the Greek wrestling (instead of the normal 4)! She won all but one. My other friend Annika Moe had great form in the javelin, the best of all the Corinthians! Before the big day all the schools going to the Pentathlon drew pictures to go on the back of the t-shirts. Only one child from all of the schools could be picked to have their pictures on the t-shirt, it was very exciting that the winner just happened to be Thomas Thornburg of our very own Journey School! I was a proud Corinthian!

By Sophie Brodsky-Blake

On Saturday, April 28, Mr. Martin's 5th grade class went to the Pentathlon, which was held at Highland Hall Waldorf School in Northridge. Students came from places as far away as Tucson, Arizona to participate in the day long events. There was javelin, discus, 200 meter dash, 50 meter dash, long jump and Greek wrestling. A javelin is a long spear-like object, and a discus is a heavy, black Frisbee. The javelin and discus throws are graded on style, grace, form and distance. The 200 meter run and the 50 meter dash are based on grace and speed. The long jump is judged by height, form and length. The eight different 5th grades split into four groups: red, yellow, blue and green (Spartans, Athenians, Thebans and Corinthians). Each team is at a different station at different times.

Each athlete received a t-shirt printed with a chosen seal. This year, Thomas Thornburg's seal won and was put on every t-shirt! All the athletes also received a braided wreath and for every event a certain color flower was given to put in their wreath.

By the end of the day, everyone was happy and tired. Everyone came home with medals and smiles.

By Nour Alhiriri

The Social Inclusion Approach

A Recommendation for the Journey School Community

This past weekend Richard Martin and I attended a two day training program at the Waldorf School of San Diego. The program introduced a way to overcome anti-social behaviors such as bullying and teasing in school and at home. It was presented by **Kim John Payne** who has worked for over 20 years as a Waldorf counselor and educator. Richard and I left inspired, and wanted to inform you of this program as a first step to implementing “The Social Inclusion Approach” at Journey School.

In brief, the program works through a team based approach to helping a child/children in need. In an unresolved teasing situation for example, each individual child in the dynamic describes the event to two trained coordinators. Through this process ideas arise, solutions are planned and positive behavior is supported. Trained coordinators are parents, teachers and peers of the children, who are specially prepared for this work and are available to help when needed. The program extends to building circles of friendship, with responsibilities for such things as welcoming new families to the school and helping new children settle into their classes.

To move forward on this approach we need the support and agreement of the School Council, the Parent Cabinet and the faculty. The commitment of time and enthusiasm rather than monetary, and we hope you are as enthusiastic about this idea as we are. The next step is to form a Social Inclusion Coordinators Group with members from both faculty and parent bodies, to begin weekly meetings between now and June. Contact Richard Martin at 949-631-2403 if you are interested.

Liz Clark M.Ed., First Grade Teacher

May Festival

We would like to thank the following Journey School Parents for their help with our beautiful May Festival: Diana Corbo, Michael Graber, Tom Dillingham, Tammra Tanner, Patty Wallace, Rosie and Jerry Klien, our Room Parents and the parents who donated supplies for our garland making.

Thank You!

-The Faculty of Journey School

Come join us for a Kayak Experience!

Saturday, May 12 at 10:30 am
Dana Point Harbor, Baby Beach
24200 Dana Point Harbor Drive

If you have a Kayak bring it, if not come on down and you can borrow one of ours!
For more information contact Michael Burk or Cheryl Moe

A blood drive and bone marrow screening will be taking place at Journey School.

Wednesday, May 16 from 12 to 6

This is in honor of Kennedy Kraus, a former Sunflower Kindergartener who would be in Ms. Emery's class if she had not moved from San Clemente to Carlsbad. Her brother Cole would be in Ms. MacLeod's class. Kennedy's mom Terri has been an instrumental parent at our school and even co-chaired our last silent auction.

Kennedy, along with 6 other children in north San Diego County, were diagnosed with Aplastic Anemia last November. This is a one-in-a-million disease that is rare but treatable.

"Aplastic anemia is a disease that involves failure of the bone marrow to produce the cells it normally makes: the white blood cells which fight infection, red cells which carry oxygen, and platelets, which promote blood clotting," said Dr. Peter Reissmann.

Kennedy has been receiving treatment at the City of Hope and is now on the Bone Marrow Transplant list, while she is finishing an ATG treatment. Every week she receives several blood and platelet transfusions to keep healthy and has not been home since early January. When Kennedy and Terri are not living at the hospital they are able to stay at her Aunt Marla's house, in Newport Beach. Marla worked at the WSOC.

We invite you to schedule a time to donate the gift of life on May 21, Wednesday afternoon. For more information or to schedule a time to donate or if you would like to help please email Cheryl Moe at cmoearchitecture@cox.net or Patty Wallace at pswmail@cox.net

Journey School Gratitude Gala Auction

Are you . . .

a jewelry maker, a felter, a knitter,
a doll maker, a wood-worker, a painter, a baker,
a gourmet cook, a muralist, do you have a green-thumb?

Do you surf? Would you be willing to
donate a day of surfing instruction? Maybe a group
of surfers could do it collectively . . .

Are you a web-designer, a photographer?

What is it you like to do? . . .

Would you be interested in
offering your talent or creation
as a donation to the Auction on June 8th
to benefit Journey School?

Have questions or need ideas?

Monica Andersen

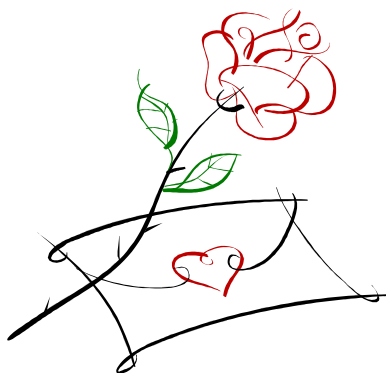
monicaplus4@aol.com

Please forward your donations
prior to May 25th.

Thank You for your consideration.

Watch the mail for your invitation. It's going to be a fantastic evening!

**Invite your friends and family.
Mark the date, Friday, June 8th.**



\$50,693

WE DID IT!
WE REACHED OVER THE GOAL
OF OUR
2007 ANNUAL GIVING CAMPAIGN
WITH 77% of our families PARTICIPATING!

We wanted to let you all know that we achieved our fundraising goal of \$50,000 and then some with the tally of \$50,693 (though some parents and friends are still sending in donations)!

As we mentioned earlier, we are so proud considering our Annual Giving campaign raised ~\$30,000 last year with roughly the same number families. Many, many thanks to the Parent Body and friends for giving so generously! Isn't it gratifying to know that our donations go directly to funding the unique artistic, academic, and movement education that Journey School shares with our children.

We also moved closer to another important goal in the campaign: 100% participation. It's very important to achieve this goal because of the sense of community spirit and pride it generates. Our school depends on 100% family participation to be able to provide such a fine education for our children and be a true "village" for them.

HERE ARE THE FINAL
CLASS PARTICIPATION LEVELS:

Morning Glory Kindergarten 75%
Sunflower Kindergarten 80%
First Grade 70%
Second Grade 95%
Third Grade 65%
Fourth Grade 85%
Fifth Grade 80%
Sixth Grade 85%
Seventh Grade 75%

We heartily thank our most recent donors:

Cathleen and John Aram
Karen and Tim Dillingham
Michele and Frederick Lavigne
Jill Lischalk
Peter and Linda Province
Lorie Shultz
David Leinen and Allison Spencer
Sharon and Jeff Sumich
Daisuke and Maho Tamaki

Robyn and Robert Thompson
Shannon Qualye (Topping)
Steve and Patty Wallace
Alex and Erin Warrack
Cliff and Teri Wasserbach
John Whitfield
Mauricio and Marisela Vela
Elaine Viele, grandparent of the Grutz boys
Mr. and Mrs. Donald Schultz grandparents of Mason

*And we continue to excitedly acknowledge
our heartfelt gratitude to our donors
from previous weeks:*

Marc and Betsy Abrams
Maysoun and Abdullāh Alhariri
Monica and Henrik Anderson
Imelda Ayala
Tiessa Bandy
Chris and Maica Belknap
John and Frances Bennett
Michele Bennett
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Patti and Tim Connolly
James and Gaylen Corbett
Cosibella Cristenas and Louix Dor Dempriey
Lisa and Norm Crow
Coco and Paul Cuddyer
Stacey and Chris Cussen
Leah Davida (Neipris)
Ginger DeLong (Gaul)
Sharon Diskin, in honor of the Cussen children
James and Julia Elliott
Liana Emery
Kimi and Jay Jay Encarnacion
Sheldon Eskow, in honor of Cussen children
Kimberlee and Abel Fernandez
Donald and Toni Garcia
Jamie and Jan Geisendorfer
Julie and Tom Giffin
Robert Goldstein and Amy Schick
Myra Gonzalez
Deborah Goss
Diana and Michael Graber
Susan and Sam Hahn
Joy and Eric Halverson

Angelina Hart
Mike and Amy Hessing
Matthew and Mary Holley
Doug and Kathie Hibbard
Charles and Jenny Jeffers
Holly Johnson
Nancy and James Johnson
Scott and Cathy Jones
Jim and Janette Loreto
Gayle Lillie, grandparent of Cussin children
Azita and Philip Lines
Connie and James MacLeod
Lisa and Patrick Maloney
Roger and Laurie Manderschied
Richard Martin and family
Ann and Scott McKee
Gunther and Dawn Meixner
Ivan and Maria Mesko
Cheryl and John Moe
Stuart and Barbara Okin
Anthony Penna and Frances Sassin
Claire Penneau
Timothy and Celeste Perkins
Bas Mulder and Liesbeth Sotebeer
Sarah and Tim Northrip
Kevin Quinn and Maxine Garcia
David Ranney and Mindy Shelton
Terry Rogan
Shaheen and Linda Sadeghi
Jay Salazar and Sarah Moldenhauer-Salazar
Alynn and Scott Scura-Iseyama
Sussan and Farhad Shahiary
Matt Shaw and Lisa O'Neill
Diana Richards (Smithson)
Jochen and Bettina Spretke
Doris and Miro Sumich, family of Sumich children
Lisa Thornburg
Kanji Tsuchida and Ritsuko Imuta
Glenn and Miki Watanabe
Lisa and Damon Wells
Jackie Wilson (Fino)
Rick and Nancy Yancey

PLEASE LET US KNOW IF YOU OR A FAMILY MEMBER HAS SENT IN A DONATION AND FOR SOME REASON YOUR NAME DOES NOT APPEAR ON THIS LIST. WE WANT TO MAKE SURE WE HAVE ACKNOWLEDGED ALL OUR SUPPORTERS!

You are the best,
The Annual Giving Campaign Committee

COMMUNITY FORUMS IN MAY

MAY 16
7:00-8:30 pm

PARENTING MADE EASIER WITH UNDERSTANDING THE TEMPERAMENTS

Patti Connolly will speak about how parents can use their knowledge of the four temperaments to make their parenting easier. The four temperaments, basic personality styles in their essence, were first identified in the Middle Ages but still are a huge help to adults in understanding and working with children and each other.

MAY 17
9:00 – 10:00 am

PARENTS' EURYTHMY

Come experience eurythmy for yourself! You will be led through a progression of the grades, sharing both tone and speech eurythmy with Amy Schick, Eurythmy teacher.

Please note that this Forum is in the morning

MAY 21
7:00 PM

MOVIE NIGHT FOR PARENTS

We invite you to the adult only premiere showing of "Journey School: Childhood Is A Journey, Not A Race" created by Michael and Diana Graber. There will be a question and answer period following the viewing. Popcorn will be served!

\$5. per person donation

DONATIONS GRATEFULLY ACCEPTED UNLESS FEE IS NOTED
ALL FORUMS ARE HELD IN THE ALC (EURYTHMY) ROOM

CHILDCARE IS AVAILABLE for only \$5 per child.
Pre-registration is required by calling the office at 448-7232.

You are invited to attend Journey School's

"MOVIE NIGHT"

Monday, May 21

7:00 p.m.

Wood Canyon Elementary School PAC

*Be the first to see the premiere of the "Journey School" Movie!
Generously created by Michael and Diana Graber*

(Okay, it's not a "real" premiere, so don't call your stylist. However it is a 40-minute presentation about education at Journey School).

Join us in celebrating Journey's teachers, community and your children!

Guests are most welcome.

Minimum suggested donation: \$5

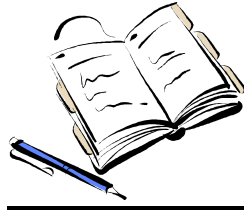
Adults Only

**Babysitting Provided \$5 per child
call office for reservations.**

Journey School Yearbook Photos NEEDED

Please upload and e-mail any photos you may have for our yearbook to OhJoyFoto@hotmail.com
Or call Joy Halverson at 949-697-9625.

*Also - Order forms for the NEW class photos are available in the office!
You may also call or e-mail your orders to Joy Halverson at above.
Make payments to Joy Halverson.*



Important Dates

May 16

Understanding Temperaments with Patti Connolly
7 pm

May 17

Eurythmy for Parents with Amy Schick
9 am

May 21

Journey School Movie Night
7 pm

May 25

3rd Grade Play, PAC Wood Canyon
1:45 pm and 6 pm

June 1

4th Grade Play in their classroom
Several performances during school day
6 pm
5th Grade Play, PAC Wood Canyon
1:45 pm and 7 pm

June 4

Meet Miss Hellene for Morning Glory Junior K families
6:30 pm

June 5

7th Grade Play, PAC Wood Canyon
1:20 pm and 6 pm

June 8

Morning Glory Field Trip to Laguna Woods Village

Silent Auction at Holiday Inn in Laguna Hills
6.30 pm

June 14

2nd Grade Play, PAC Wood Canyon
1:45 and 6 pm

June 15

Kindergarten Rainbow Bridge

June 18

Last Day of Kindergarten

June 20

LAST DAY OF SCHOOL FOR GRADES