

JOURNEY SCHOOL NEWS



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

Dear Parents,

As I sat gazing out at the ocean last Sunday afternoon, I realized that my love affair with it had been reawakened. As some of you may know, I was raised in Riverside and moved to San Francisco when I was out of high school, promising that I would never return. Not that I didn't have a pretty terrific childhood, but for some reason my soul was drawn to the northern Sierra Nevadas. When we lived in Colorado for a year, the Rockies were even more dramatic and after living in their shadows, I thought that I was close to heaven.

Memories are vivid for me of a drive Patti and I took three Thanksgivings ago from Aspen to Orange County. We spoke for many hours about the possibility of returning to Southern California, and it was difficult for me to accept. Patti urged me to look at the Journey School Administrator's job posting three times before I finally did. When we visited later that spring, Patti and I interviewed at the school while our folks sat a few miles away spending the afternoon together. When we returned, they naturally asked what we thought, and I said that the job was a challenge that I thought I wanted to take. It proved to be true.

I left Colorado with a feeling of melancholy as the year there had been a wonderful one. We arrived in San Juan Capistrano on a Thursday and I began work the following Monday after a wrong turn resulted in my getting lost for 30 minutes. I have made a few wrong turns since, but arriving at Journey has not been one of them. My two years here have been a blessing. I have been a part of a community striving to raise their children in the best way possible. I have worked with colleagues, district personnel and parents who have challenged me to improve every facet of the school and challenged me to be a better person. I have thoroughly enjoyed seeing the instrumental and chorale parts of the school grow and bring joy to many. The festival life of the school has grown strongly. The International and May Festivals were bright spots of the spring and provided the community reason to come together to celebrate and share in the joy of what we have built together. The academic rigor of the school has grown steadily as well. I am so proud of the school.

I never thought that I would feel sympathetic to this area again, but the collective kindness of the community has moved me. I have had so many terrific encounters with your children. I feel so fortunate to walk into any classroom and be greeted with respect and hugs. I hear flute music each day, recitation, verses and shrieks of joy. In combination with the joy of your children, I have seen beauty here in a new way. The constant and steady flow of the water and the cool breezes have stirred me in just the same way that the mountains have.

As the school enters the next seven year period with new leadership, I urge you to reflect on what has been accomplished. There is so much to be thankful for; educational freedoms, community-based schooling, incredible growth! I urge you to move into the future with boldness, challenge each other to be better, but always do so with kindness focusing on our commonalities rather than our differences.

Take heed of experience. I was not sure about returning to Southern California and yet I have found a deeper insight from our leap of faith to come back.

I believe that Journey's best years are still ahead, and it will take a collective working to create them and believe it will happen. I see a very bright future and thank you all for your kindness, love and caring for Patti and me. You are part of the fabric of our hearts and where we go; there you will be as well.

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

Council Update

The Council held its monthly meeting and the final meeting of the fiscal year last night.

The agenda included:

- A review of the school's April 30, 2007 financial statement that shows expenses are lower than predicted for the time period.
- Approval of a revised budget with no bottom line changes but with changes to line items for salary, mentoring, rental fees and equipment.
- Write off of debts to the school for JASP of approximately \$1,800 accrued over the last two fiscal years.
- Approval of detailed draft job descriptions for the two administrator positions.
- Review of the lease to be entered into between the school and CUSD for the 2007-08 year.
- Approval of faculty contracts for all certificated and classified teachers.
- Interview with the faculty's recommended candidate for the 2007-08 1st grade class and subsequent approval of a contract for the candidate.
- Continued review of the Council's by laws and moving towards adding two additional members to the Council for the next school year.
- Receipt of an oral report from the Parent Cabinet on its workings and intentions for the next school year.

It has been a good year for the Council. The working relationships within the Council have been healthy and respectful and the group looks forward to continuing its good work in the upcoming school year when they reconvene in August!

End of School Year Reports

Just a reminder to let you know that the teachers are working diligently on the student's reports for the 2006-07 school year. Each report will include an overall class summary, reviews by the specialty teachers, a completed rubric for the grades children that details how each are doing with the state standards as well as a one page summary of the students' social experience over the course of the year. We expect that these reports will be to you no later than July 12. I have given myself a little extra time to promise this date in consideration of the move and anticipating that all will go well.

For the Faculty....Tim Connolly

MOVING BOXES NEEDED

Please contact the office at 949-448-7232 if you have sturdy usable boxes for our upcoming move.

Personnel Changes

As the school year comes to a close, the faculty bids goodbye to aftercare teacher **Adrianna Allen** and to Sunflower KG assistant **Oriana Duron**. **Adrianna** has elected to not return next year in this capacity even though her boys will both be here. She is hoping that this next year finds her back in school herself taking courses leading to a bachelor's degree. She has been with the school for two years and made some wonderful relationships with the children. She will be missed for her kind ways and her dedication to making the time after school meaningful for the students.

Oriana will continue her teaching career at another school. Her exciting news is her upcoming wedding in early November to her long time best friend and partner, Eric. They became engaged while on their recent trip to India and the Middle East. Oriana's love of the children and her kind and caring way will be truly missed. She has worked with Laura for 18 months now and bids goodbye to the school tearfully, but clear that she wishes to begin leading a class on her own.

While we bid goodbye to the two of them, we welcome **Ms. Jill Lischalk** and **Ms. Kristin Sato** to the faculty for the upcoming year. **Jill** has just recently graduated from the California State College @ Fullerton teacher training program where she received her multiple subject credential. Her undergraduate degree is in history from UC Irvine. Jill has taught most recently at two other Waldorf inspired schools and has two of her boys here at Journey, Ronan in the 4th grade and Wyatt in the 6th grade. She will serve as the credentialed teacher in the Sunflower KG and work as Ms. Childers' assistant. Jill loves reading, history, volunteering at various local non-profits and taking care of her menagerie of "critters" at her home in San Clemente. Her mentor teachers have stated that she has "a natural flair for this work". We feel fortunate to have her and her experience.

Ms. Sato comes to Journey as our First Grade teacher for the 2007-08 school year. Kristin decided to become a teacher in her early teen years but was dissuaded from such a vocation due to the "scandal that the wages can be". She received her undergraduate degree from the University of Arizona where she majored in Family Studies and Human Development. Upon graduation, she accepted a position with Marriot International where she worked as an event manager and hospitality steward. This fueled her organizational skills. She was accorded several awards for her excellence in her field, and despite the success, still felt a strong pull to be an educator. After seven years at Marriott, she returned to college and will graduate from the Pepperdine University Education Program this month where she will be accorded her state certificate as well as her Master's in Education. Despite her lack of knowledge about Waldorf education, her Philosophy of Education statement reads like a review of Steiner's work:

"My belief is that caring and individualism are key concepts for an effective classroom. Teaching should not be about content standards, not about test scores and not about achieving good grades. Education and teaching should be about truly caring about students and recognizing them as individuals, each whom have unique gifts to present to the world."

With that said, please welcome both Jill and Kristin to the school community. We are excited to have them both while we sadly say goodbye to Adrianna and Oriana. **The first grade parents will have the opportunity to meet Ms. Sato on the evening of June 12, Tuesday at 7:00 PM in the 2nd grade classroom**

Ask the Administrator

Dear Administrator,

I was wondering what kind of training the staff and faculty will be taking on as summer approaches?

I am excited to say that the Council has made continued education and training a priority for the school. As a maturing organization, it is essential to continue to train and learn new techniques. The faculty has enthusiastically joined them with the desire to serve the school with as much as wisdom and knowledge possible. The following represents the training that will be taking place beginning next week:

Jill Lischalk <i>(our new Sunflower assistant)</i>	A one-week kindergarten seminar
Laura Childers Zela Meece	Therapeutic kindergarten training in Fair Oaks, Continued training with the Waldorf Institute of Southern California where she continues to pursue her Waldorf Certificate
Hellene Brodsky-Blake	One on one mentoring this summer from two trained Waldorf kindergarten teachers
Kristin Sato <i>(new 1st grade teacher</i>	Will take a one week 1 st grade intensive at the RSC and 1 st year of her Waldorf teacher's certificate
Liz Clark Liana Emery Sarah Northrip	One-week 2 nd grade Art of Teaching intensive at the RSC One-week 3 rd grade Art of Teaching intensive at the RSC Training in the RSC summer teacher's program where she continues studies to gain her Waldorf Teacher's Certificate
Connie MacLeod	Continued training at the Center for Anthroposophy in New Hampshire to complete her second teaching certificate, and continued pursuit of her California Teacher's Certificate
Richard Martin Alise Kubecki	One-week 6 th grade Art of Teaching intensive at the RSC Training in the RSC summer teacher's training program where she will begin her studies to obtain her Waldorf certificate
Michele Bennett	One-week 8 th grade Art of Teaching intensive at the RSC and continued studies to receive her Waldorf certificate for remedial teaching
John Bennett	A participant in the California Charter School Association's Quality Schools Program
Holly Johnson	Classes to deepen her skills in the arts in and around the artist colony of Salt Spring Island, Canada and the Sunrise Waldorf School

The teachers also attend other conferences will be attended during the school year including APWS meetings, the RSC colloquium for Charter Schools in January, the California Charter Association in March and the RSC February Teacher's Conference in February.

Thank You's

When I say goodbye to the beauty and friendliness of the Journey School community on July 20, it will mark the completion of my ninth year as a school administrator. The odyssey began at the Rudolf Steiner College, continued at the Sacramento Waldorf School, taught me important lessons at The Waldorf School on the Roaring Fork and now coming to a graceful end here at Journey. No one needs remind me that I am a lucky man. I have learned a great deal about myself and my capacities. Hopefully the learning has transformed into an execution of good work at the four institutions. I have had many mentors over this time who aided me in my personal and professional growth. They have blessed me with their kindness and their patience. To name a few:

I thank you Gayle Davis, Astrid Stegmann-Schmidt, Torin Finser and Chris Schaefer for your inspiration and love for children and the art of education and administration.

I thank you Betty Staley for correcting my grammar and for teaching me that "if there is a will, there is a way", and for touching my heart so much that I chose this path.

I thank you Judy Blatchford for your graciousness, your kindness and for illuminating the true mission of an administrator. I have tried to follow your words.

I thank you Claude Julien for stories, inspiration and your truthfulness.

I thank you Liz Beaven for showing me how to be courageous in the face of adversity, for being truthful and for your friendship.

I thank Council Presidents Gordon Smith, Nancy Ranney, Kathleen Biasotti, Chuck Cole, Bas Mulder and Micheal Graber for their inspiration, their love for their respective schools and for keeping perspective at all times that our central focus is the education of children and the protection of childhood.

I thank the colleagues that I have worked with and for their desire to enter into an educational stream that asks you to not only teach, but to ask why.

I thank my daughter, Emi, who after graduating from high school, helped me to see why the math and science curriculums at the Sacramento Waldorf School needed to be reviewed and changed to meet the growing needs of college science requirements. I thank her as well for mentoring me through "high school".

I thank my son, Zach, for being at his best during the three years he was a student at the school and I was the Dean, as well as for his constant advice, love and care for me.

Last and not at all the least, I thank my spouse and colleague, Patti, for always (and I mean always), pushing me to think through tough decisions, be at my best, being my editor, keeping me healthy, always being willing to listen, telling me when to listen and for being my best friend.

My odyssey as an administrator ends here (I believe), and I thank you all.

Tim Connolly

Dear Journey Parents and Teachers,

I wanted to send my heartfelt gratitude to all of you for your many kindnesses and your open hearts. It was such a godsend for Tim and I to find Journey School and to work with such loving, dedicated colleagues and parents. I feel truly blessed to be a part of such a faculty circle, one striving always to give even more to their students. My work with the Community Forum Series and the Parent Cabinet have given me opportunity to feel the depth of commitment and love Journey parents have for this dear school. And my work in the Kindergarten, sharing each day with such loving, amazing children and "my Zela" (as I like to say) has definitely taught me all the truly important lessons of life as Robert Fulgrum has so poignantly written about. Gratitude is so difficult to describe in words, but please know that it is felt so deeply in my heart!

Namaste,

Patti Connolly



Summer Thoughts

To be so strong that nothing can disturb your peace of mind
To talk health, happiness, and prosperity to every person you meet.
To make all your friends feel that there is something in them.
To look at the sunny side of everything, and make your optimism come true
To think only of the best, to work only for the best, and to expect only the best.
To be just as enthusiastic about the success of others as you are about your own.
To forget the mistakes of the past and
Press on to the greater achievements of the future.
To wear a cheerful countenance at all times and
Give every living creature you meet a smile.
To give so much time to the improvement of yourself
That you have no time to criticize others.
To be too large for worry, too noble for anger, too strong for fear,
And too happy to permit the presence of trouble.

Christian Larson

Summer ideas!

- ❖ Have your 6/7th grader read The Yearling
- ❖ Eat fresh fruit from a farmer's market
- ❖ Choose a Steinbeck book for yourself
- ❖ Swim in the ocean
- ❖ Go to the desert or mountains once a month to see the stars
- ❖ Go to the museums in downtown Los Angeles
- ❖ Take a picnic lunch to the Getty Museum, and maybe even look at some art!
- ❖ Go see the Dodgers' or Angel's play
- ❖ Pick up trash wherever you see it
- ❖ Make a point to get up early one day per week
- ❖ Go to Barnes and Noble and browse for an hour each week
- ❖ If you see a child's lemonade stand....stop and buy
- ❖ Find big shady trees to sit under
- ❖ Visit one new thing each week
- ❖ Of course, be with friends as often as possible
- ❖ Remember what you liked to do as a child and likely yours will like it as well
- ❖ Read Ray Bradbury's Dandelion Wine this summer...it is a delight
- ❖ Go to a Shakespeare play in your community
- ❖ Go to a circus this summer
- ❖ Play games with the children every day...Twister can be great fun!
- ❖ Laugh lots...
- ❖ Read the Sunday New York Times
- ❖ Look for free concerts
- ❖ Make bubbles often
- ❖ If you are traveling this summer through farm lands..stop and pick some corn!
- ❖ Visit universities while traveling...they are beautiful and can leave a deep impression
- ❖ Play wiffle ball
- ❖ Make specific lunch dates with your children

Welcome to new families

We are excited to report that there will be an increase of 37 new children to the school this September. While some of those will be siblings, there will be close to 22 new families in that group. As the school year begins anew, please be conscious to welcome these folks with open arms. Seek them out and introduce yourself and help them to quickly understand what makes this community special!

More TV, Less Sleep, a Children's Study Finds **Excerpt from the New York Times**

Five and six year old children who watch television, especially police dramas, news broadcasts and movies directed at adults, have a markedly increased risk for sleep problems, a new study suggests. The families of 297 children were studied on sleep routines and TV viewing habits that included details about the time spent watching, types of shows they saw and whether the parents and children watched together. The researchers chronicled the time spent in passive viewing as well.

The study appears in the June issue of "The Journal of Sleep Research" where the foundation of the study was conducted in three university cities in Finland. On average, the television was on 2.8 hours of a day during the children's waking hours, and they watched it actively for 1.4 hours. The total amount of time the television was on, and the amount of active TV watching and exposure to passive TV were all correlated with decreased sleep duration. The more that children watched programs intended for adults and the more passive TV exposure they had, the more severe their sleep problems. Watching TV at bedtime or watching alone was also significantly correlated with the severity of sleep disturbances. Children who spent the most time in passive viewing had almost tripled the risk of sleep difficulties of those studied.

Dr. Julia Paavonen, the study's lead author, said television watching should be limited and that parents should control the program contents that are actively watched by their children.

Parent Meetings and Education in September

Next school year the faculty have scheduled their parent meetings for the year. These first meetings will begin before school starts, and will allow the class teacher to lay the foundation for the school year as well as speak to specifics of their own class. Later in the week a community meeting is scheduled to allow for a more broad based information session on the state of the school, brief review of school policies and a time to gather and begin the year as one. New to the school, will be two Friday-Saturday workshops, one in the Fall and the other in the Winter. This first one scheduled in September will focus on Waldorf education and the various tenets of it in the classroom. This offering will be for parents of the school and other interested guests.

August 27	1-3rd Grade Parent Meetings
August 28	5-8th Grade Parent Meetings
August 29	Kindergarten Parent Meetings
August 30	Community Meeting
September 29-30	Waldorf Education Lecture and Workshops

Journey School Calendar

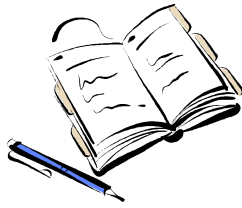
School Year 2007-08

Drafted @ June 7, 2007

Council Meeting	August 23
KG Work Party 9-5 PM	August 24
Faculty Meetings	Aug 27-29
1 st -4th Grades Class Evening Meetings	August 27
5 th – 8 th Grades Class Evening Meetings	August 28
KG Parent Meeting Night 6-8 PM	August 29
All Community Meeting	August 30
Labor Day	September 3
Opening Day of School -dismissal @ 12:35	September 4
Council Meeting	September 13
6 th grade trip to Bishop	September 23 - 28
Parent Education Workshop	September 29-30
CORE Testing for grades 2-8	October 2-12
Fall Recess-school holiday	October 8
Council Meeting	October 11
Class Meeting night and Parent Education Evening	October 17
Moon observation party with Mr. Bennett	October 20
CORE re-test	October 22-26
Harvest Faire	October 28
Faculty Evaluation week	November 5-9
Lecture by George Hoffecker	November 7
Council Meeting	November 8
Veteran's Day-school holiday	November 12
Parent Conferences	November 1-21
Martinmas Walk (KG and grades)	November 16
Thanksgiving recess-school holiday	November 19-23
Kindergarten Garden of Light	November 30
Council Meeting	December 13
Winter Concert	December 14
Fairy Market	December 18-19
Eurhythmy Assembly (afternoon)	December 20
Winter Break-dismissal @ 12:35	December 21
Winter Recess-school holiday	December 24 – Jan. 4
School resumes	January 7
Council Meeting	January 10
Martin Luther King Day-school holiday	January 21
Class Meeting night and Parent Education Evening	January 30
Re-enrollment deadline	January 31
Open enrollment begins	February 1
Parent Education Workshop	February 1-2
Journey School Information Meeting for new parents (7:00 – 9:00)	February 5
Council Meeting	February 7
Classroom Walk Through for interested parents	February 12
Journey School Information Meeting for new parents (7:00 – 9:00)	February 12
Class Play	February 14-15
President's Week/Teacher's Conferences-school holiday	February 18-22
Classroom Walk Day for interested parents (8:30-10:45)	February 26
Afghan Circus Day and workshop	February 26
Journey School Information Meeting for new parents (7:00 – 9:00)	March 4
Classroom Walk Through for interested parents (8:30-10:45)	March 4
4 th /7 th Grade STAR Writing tests	March 4
Classroom Walk Through for interested parents (7:00 – 9:00)	March 11

Class meeting night and Parent Education evening	March 12
Council Meeting	March 13
CORE tests for 6/7/8 th	March 17 –25
Journey School Information Meeting for new parents (7-9:00)	March 18
Grandparent and Special Friends Day	March 21
Classroom Walk Day for interested parents (8:30-10:45)	March 25
Eurythmy assembly	March 27
International Festival	March 28
Classroom Walk Day for interested parents (8:30-10:45)	April 1
Journey School Information Meeting for new parents (7:00 – 9:00)	April 1
Class Play	April 3-4
Spring Break begins-dismissal @ 12:35	April 4
Open Enrollment closes	April 4
“Mars” observation party with Mr. Bennett	April 5
Spring Recess-school holiday	April 7-12
School Resumes	April 14
CORE retest for Middle School	April 14-18
Council Meeting	April 17
Open House and Parent Education evening	April 23
Class play	April 25
May Faire	May 2
New Parent Orientation meeting	May 7
Council Meeting	May 8
Spring concert	May 9
STAR Testing	May 12- 23
CORE testing for 2-5 th grades	May 19-30
New Parent Orientation meeting	May 14
Class Play	May 16
Class Play	May 23
Memorial Day-school holiday	May 26
CORE retests	June 2-6
Class Play	June 6
Council meeting	June 12
Class Play	June 13
Class Play	June 19
Last Day of Kindergarten	June 13
Last day of school-dismissal @ 12:35	June 20
8th Grade Graduation	June 20

Medieval Games...tbd
Pentathlon.....tbd
7th/8th grade track meet.....tbd
Parent Cabinet meeting days.....tbd
Class trips.....tbd



Important Dates

June 10 - June 15

6th Grade to Channel Islands

June 12

Meet Ms. Kristin Sato, new 1st grade teacher
7 pm in 2nd grade classroom

June 13 - June 15

3rd grade to Tierra Miguel Farm

June 14

Kindergarten Parent Appreciation Party
10:30 am Wood Canyon Park
2nd Grade Play, PAC Wood Canyon
1:45 and 6 pm

June 15

Kindergarten Rainbow Bridge Ceremony
11 am
4th Grade Play in their classroom
Several performances during school day
And 6 pm
LAST DAY OF JASP

June 18

Last Day of Kindergarten
(No JASP all this week)

June 20

LAST DAY OF SCHOOL FOR GRADES out at 12:35

June 25 - June 29

School move to Foxborough Site

- ✓ Office and Kindergarten, Monday, 6/25
- ✓ 1st - 3rd, Tuesday, 6/26
- ✓ 4th - 6th, Wednesday, 6/27
- ✓ 7th and storage container, Thursday, 6/28

August 23

Council Meeting

August 27

Faculty meets to begin 07-08 year

September 4

School begins again!