



A MIDSUMMER JOURNEY

By John Bennett, the new Educational Administrator,

When I was in 5th grade, I read a story about the “Phoenix”. You might recall that the Phoenix is a magical bird, which builds a nest of cinnamon twigs every millennium or so, roosts, and lays an egg. When the hatchling emerges, the old Phoenix and its nest burn to ashes in a blaze of scorching orange fire, while its SCREECH is heard around the world. Perhaps this is a folk memory of recurring cometary impacts... who knows? But that story certainly had a memorable impact on this 11 year old’s imagination, coupling an image of enormous power with fantasy and mystery.

Now, coincidentally as my son Andrew enters 5th grade, Journey goes through yet another powerful rebirth. Longtime Journey parents are accustomed to these midsummer rites; perhaps some even feel blasé or put-upon... but the fact is that each reemergence has created a more amazing Journey. We are rebuilding a nest once again, readying to hatch cardboard boxes into a new Phoenix, so our children’s imaginations might soar over fiery orange paints into watercolor skies.

My 5th grade synchronicity brings to mind the topic of “coincidence”. I define “happy coincidence” as “being in the right place at the right time”. I have come to expect coincidence, and I now appraise my life by its presence. Coincidence seems the best evidence that my life is synchronous with the Community functioning at its best. And this summer has seen my share of “happy coincidences”. Unexpectedly, friends and volunteers have helped bring Journey forward to this new juncture: We moved to the Foxborough nest; boxes were stowed as carpets were greened and cleaned; a business/development manager was hired; and now... our glorious unpacking.

So here comes the Phoenix’ screech... “JOURNEY NEEDS YOU!!!” School’s opening depends on our teachers’ being ready in their classrooms. And it’s up to the parent Community to make the school ready! THERE IS NO ONE ELSE!!! Furniture and supplies need moving, grounds need beautifying, tables need wiping, gates need locking, door locks need repairing, signs need installing, teachers need assisting, everything needs decorating, etc.... It’s not about standing around asking what needs doing. Just look anywhere and you’ll see something that needs to be done!!! So we invite parents to Journey during the week of August 13 to participate in what we are calling “Journey Family Picnic and Fresh Start Work Days.”

If you want to plan your participation specifically around your child’s homeroom, then you could email Janette Loreto at janettel@cox.net. She is arranging class work parties during the week. Otherwise, come to the school during morning hours to join the fun. Or, if this doesn’t suit you, please show up any morning and I’ll put you to work arranging the office.

WHERE HAS JOURNEY MOVED?

Journey School, 27102 Foxborough, Aliso Viejo 92656, (949) 448-7232

Directions from the 73 toll road, exiting at La Paz: Turn west on La Paz, then right on Pacific Park. Cross Alicia and the Aliso Creek bridge. Turn left on Deerhurst, and left again on Foxborough. Drive to the end.

Directions from the 73 toll road, exiting at Aliso Creek: Turn west on Aliso Creek, then left on Pacific Park. Turn right on Deerhurst, and left on Foxborough. Drive to the end.

Directions from the 5 (northbound): Exit the 5 at Oso Parkway. Turn left (west) on Oso, which becomes Pacific Park. Cross Alicia and the Aliso Creek bridge. Turn left on Deerhurst, then left again on Foxborough. Drive to the end.

Directions from the 5 (southbound): Exit the 5 at Alicia Parkway. Turn right (west) on Alicia, and right on Pacific Park. Cross the Aliso Creek bridge. Turn left on Deerhurst, then left again on Foxborough. Drive to the end.

UPCOMING SCHEDULE

(Deletions are shown in red. This supersedes the website until it is updated.)

"Family Picnic and Fresh Start Work Days"	Week of August 13
Council Meeting	August 23
Kindergarten Work Party 9-5 PM	August 24
Faculty Meetings	Aug 27-29
1st-4th Grades Class Evening Meeting	August 27 postponed to 9/7
5th-8th Grades Class Evening Meetings	August 28 postponed to 9/7
KG Parent Meeting Night 6-8 PM	August 29
All Community Meeting	August 30 postponed to 9/7
Labor Day	September 3

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- ◆ Opening Day of School 8:30AM -dismissal @ 12:35PM September 4
1st & 8th Grade Rose Ceremony at 9AM--
1st Grade and 8th grade parents are invited.

Community Meeting and Back-to-School Night	6:30-9:30PM	September 7	new date
Grades 1, 2, 5, 6 meet in classrooms from	6:30-7:25PM		
Community Meeting in Eurhythmy room	7:30-8:30PM		
Grades 3, 4, 7, 8 meet in classrooms from	8:40-9:30PM		

JOURNEY FAMILY PICNIC AND FRESH START WORKDAYS

As mentioned above, JOURNEY NEEDS YOU next week to help prepare the classrooms, office, and grounds. The following gives some indication of all that is planned for the week. Basically, you will need to bring supplies for cleaning, wiring, carpentry, etc... so we invite donations (cleaning supplies, tables, computer connection supplies—really whatever you might imagine—at worst you can take it home.)

- Offices setup (Convert a storage area into an office, move furniture, install computers, hang bulletin boards)
- Prepare the teacher workroom
- Move an infirmary
- Move furniture from temporary storage into classrooms
- Setup classrooms
- Acquire desks from CUSD (trucks are needed for this)
- Install sections of a picket fence between two buildings
- Move playground equipment
- Attend to safety issues (lock fences, install pads on basketball poles)
- Sweep the grounds
- Wash tables
- Hang basket plants
- Clean a garden area

PICKUP AND PARKING ON THE FOXBOROUGH CAMPUS

This is a work in progress, but here is the initial idea... We are entitled to 25 parking spaces (though there are many more), and it is pretty much first come, first serve. So staff and faculty arriving early are requested to park in spaces along the south fence (Aliso Creek fence). This means that remaining spaces will generally be closer to the school and may be used by others coming and going; this means that many of these nearer spaces are not for school parking, but we are still within the letter of our agreement, and who's counting?

Entrance to the school will be through a “drop-off” gate opening in a chain link fence. (The more obvious entrance directly in front of the parking lot will *not* be used.) The drop-off gate will be used to control passage of students into/out-of the school. Arriving kindergarten students will be grouped and accompanied to their adjacent classroom. There will be staff present to move traffic.

A later option may have “all day” staff and faculty park on the playground area, inside the “drop-off” gate. This would free up more parking space, but would place cars closer to the foursquare and basketball courts. Please stay tuned for changes to this plan when we see how it is going.

A PERSONAL NOTE FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR

As I compose this letter, looking out across an empty school site, it is not too difficult to imagine that in a few brief days, school will come alive again. September is the springtime of the school year, it brings new life after our summer aestivation. We are charged once again to quicken children with love, learning, and beauty. What a great occupation we have!!!

The opening of a school year is a momentous occasion in the lives of parents and children, some of whom never have attended school before. It is also a momentous time for me, catapulting me from being a 25 year classroom teacher into a dual job of school Education Administrator and Teacher! I feel so very blessed in this position.

I hope you will introduce yourself to me. I know there will be occasions scheduled when we can meet, but I also want you to know that my office door is open to you. I trust you will let me know how Journey School can serve you and your family in the best possible way.

John Bennett, Education Administrator.