



Parent News

DAYS OF CHILDHOOD:

We are now on day three of Rainbow week, The Wearing of the Green Day. And what a sight you will see as you drop off or pick up your child. The students have done an incredible job this week. Today there are little green students running everywhere. The great potato play off was a blast for the students and we were amazed by the green items in the students' lunches.

We want to thank all the parents who helped set-up, cook, serve and clean for our pancake feed yesterday. We hope you have had a chance to view the pictures. Nance Tovar will be placing the student galleries on a mobile me account while the school webpage is being developed. The address to reach the galleries is <http://gallery.me.com/akebonofan#gallery>. She will put up as many pictures as she can from the school year.

The following is a reminder for the last two days activities for the week:

Thursday, March 18, 2010: Hero/Cultural/or Era Day/Freaky Fingernail Day/Art Day

Students: Be creative. Pull out your parent's disco clothes or hippie attire, your cultural attire or dress like Gandhi, Rosa Parks or your favorite hero. There is a choice for everyone. Let your imagination be your guide. See if your peers can guess who or what you are representing through your attire. Each Rainbow Group will take part in a fashion show in Morning Circle. We will also have art stations set up for the groups to express themselves creatively through art.

- Let your fingers express your Rainbow Group through art.
- Create a pattern, color scheme, theme, or words using nail polish or other decorative methods on your fingernails. (no points will be given for crayon or marker decorated nails)

Friday, March 19, 2010: Sport and/or College Day/Hot Wheels Day/Cooperation Races - bring your bike, skates, skateboard, or anything with wheels to school

Students: Today is the day to wear your team uniform to school. If you belong to a soccer, baseball, basketball team, etc., get out your uniform and wear it to school.

No cleats please. Rainbow groups will receive points for each student who wears a sports uniform.

This is not a free dress day. If your child does not play on a sport team or have a uniform to wear, he or she may choose to wear a tee shirt representing a college or professional sports team with their school pants or shorts.

- During Morning Circle, members of the Rainbow Groups will use a Cooperation Board (you just have to see it) made for 6 people to participate in relay races against other groups.



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Hot Wheels Day:

Bring your bikes, skateboards, skates, and scooters to school. No one will be allowed to be on any wheeled item without a helmet. Students who arrive without helmets will have to park their wheels. Please be aware that we cannot be responsible for broken equipment. It is important that your child ride his or her wheeled item only. Please speak to your child regarding this policy. The track will be marked off in sections for each type of wheeled item. Students will be required to follow all rules of the road set down by the school. A ticket will be given for the first offense if a student is not following the safety rules. The second offense will result in loss of riding privileges.

PARENT VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:

On our final day we have a snack table set up in the playground area. The students will snack together, ride bikes and/or wheeled items and enjoy sport activities. We need parents to help with our snack table by preparing food to share for the morning activities. We need everyone's help!

- Parent volunteers are needed to provide simple snacks such as fruit, vegetable trays, bottled water, finger sandwiches, cookies, cakes, donut holes, brownies, deviled eggs, the list is endless. Please send goodies in well-marked containers so we will know who to return them to at the end of the day.
- The Class of 2010 will be selling hotdogs in the afternoon for \$2.00 per hotdog. All money raised will support their Washington, D.C. trip.

Parents are also needed to help supervise the playground from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Let's make this the best week ever. Parents are invited to Morning Circle daily to share in the excitement.

CLASS OF 2010 ICE CREAM SALE:

Thanks to Mr. Jones, Jenesis and Halli's dad who donated ice cream to the school, the Class of 2010 will hold a sale and all proceeds will go towards their trip to Washington, D.C. The ice cream will be sold at lunchtime for \$1.00 per scoop. It is the perfect weather for a scoop of cool ice cream. Please note that the flavor has nuts so students with allergies should not purchase ice cream.

CLASS OF 2010 HOT DOG SALE:

On Friday, during sports day, the eighth grade students will be selling hot dogs for \$2.00 a piece. Please support their efforts.

SCHOOL CLOSED:

Northern Light School will close on Monday, March 29, in honor of Cesar Chavez. Please note this for your childcare planning.

SPRING BREAK:

Spring break is upon us. The flowers are all blooming in the garden and we are preparing for the students to show signs of spring fever. Spring break will begin on Thursday, April 1, with a 12:00 dismissal. There will be no Extended Care available. Please note this for your planning. Classes will resume on Monday, April 12.



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CAMP ARROYO – TOOLS FOR PEACE:

Drivers are needed to transport students to and from Camp Arroyo for the upcoming Tools for Peace weekend workshop. The students will leave school at 3:00 p.m. on Friday to arrive at Camp Arroyo by 4:00 p.m. There is a time change for Sunday, March 28. The students will leave camp directly after breakfast so drivers are needed to arrive to the camp by 10:00 a.m. and the students will return to Northern Light School for pick up by 11:00 a.m. Please call Rosanne Esplanada in the school office if you are available to help drive students to and or from Camp Arroyo.

COMMUNITY RESOURCES FUNDRAISER:

We would like to thank everyone who participated in the Community Resources Fundraiser. A special thank you to Desirea English for helping prepare the orders. Orders will be at the school for pick up on Tuesday, March 30, in time for Spring Break. We are please to announce that grade four was the winning class and Caitlin Kara will be awarded the \$50.00 gift certificate.

EXCITING NEWS:

Megan Lewis will be working with Maryknoll in Cochabamba, Bolivia as a lay Missionary from June through December, 2010. Megan applied to Maryknoll and was just notified this week that she was accepted into the program. For six months, she will be working with Ninos Con Valar, an organization that has numerous homes in Bolivia for children suffering from HIV/AIDS, as well as kids who are living on the streets, orphaned or barely surviving in high-risk situations. Megan will live at a home, and work with the children everyday. She is looking forward to becoming immersed in the Bolivian culture and helping indigenous children who are in need. We are very proud of Megan's choice to participate in this act of service. This is a volunteer job so Megan has to raise a total of \$5,000 prior to leaving. We hope to organize fundraisers in the spring to show her our support.

Reminder - MANDATORY SUMMER SCHOOL REDUCED TUITION:

Mandatory summer school letters have been sent home with your child as well as by mail. If you have received a mandatory summer school letter it is important that you enroll your child as soon as possible. There are a limited number of sliding scale tuition slots available. If you qualified for sliding scale for the 2009-2010 school year and would like to take advantage of reduced tuition for the summer session, please contact Nance Tovar by email or phone as soon as possible.



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Reminder - IMPORTANT – PLEASE READ - PRIVATE SCHOOL AID SERVICE:

We are aware that we have included this information in all our recent newsletters and will continue to include it. Due to the economy, like all other non-profit organizations we have seen a drop in donations. Because of this we had to limit sliding scale giving this past year and expect it to be just as tight for the 2010-2011 school year. All families who qualified for a reduced tuition for the 2009-2010 school year are not guaranteed a space. Families must reapply for consideration for sliding scale tuition each year. If you benefited from sliding scale tuition this year and would like to be considered for the 2010-2011 school year, you must complete the application process. Please note that we are adhering to the March 31, 2010 deadline for returning families to submit their forms to PSAS. Families who do not meet the deadline of March 31, 2010 will not be considered for reduced tuition. Please contact Jennifer Diaz if you have questions regarding this policy.

Application forms for sliding scale reductions have arrived and are in the school office for you to pick up, fill out and return to the PSAS before the March 31, 2010 deadline. No one will be awarded a reduced tuition without the completion of the application.



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ONE TICKET – 28 CHANCES TO WIN:

Here is your opportunity to complete your fundraising fee obligation and help the school at the same time. This raffle was very successful for us in the past and fun for the students as well. We need 100% participation for the raffle to be successful. We are asking that each family sell at least 10 tickets and encourage you to sell more if you can. We are attaching 10 raffle tickets for each family. As we stated, we need 100% participation to be successful. If you are not going to participate in the raffle, you must return your tickets to the school office in the envelope provided with your family name clearly marked on the envelope by Thursday, April 1.

Any tickets not returned by Thursday, April 1, will be considered part of the fundraiser and become your responsibility. You must sell and return the bottom part of the ticket and \$100 by Friday, April 30. We have found that everyone loves a chance to win something and this raffle gives everyone 28 chances. It is important to note that the ticket stubs of the daily winners will be returned to the pot for additional chances to win. We can make this a success if we all work together.

Raffle stubs and money should be returned daily to Morning Circle in an envelope with your family name and total money marked on the outside.

For every five tickets you sell, your child will receive a daily prize raffle ticket that will go into a separate bin. Each morning when the winner of the One Ticket Raffle is drawn, a daily prize ticket will also be drawn. The student chosen will be able to choose a daily prize.

Please note: This is the last fundraiser of the school year. This raffle, daily prizes and grand prizes will take place in lieu of the Spell-a-thon.

Individual family fundraising totals will be sent to your homes during the week of March 30. Each family is responsible for \$650 in fundraising fees. Be sure to pick up more tickets in the school office if you would like to sell more than 10. Remember whatever you take to sell you cannot return and are financially responsible for them.

Your tickets will be sent home with your child On Tuesday, March 25. Please be sure to check his or her backpack.