

# RIO MINDERS

April 23, 2007

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## 1 Dates to Remember

- Golf Tournament Planning Meeting / **Thurs. April 26<sup>th</sup>** / 8:00 am – MPR
- Sports Theme Spirit Day / **Fri. April 27<sup>th</sup>**
- Site Council Meeting / **Tues. May 1<sup>st</sup>** / 2:30pm in Rio library / free childcare available
- Parent Alliance Elections Meeting / **Tues. May 1<sup>st</sup>** / 6:30pm in Rio library / free childcare available
- Parent Information Meeting : School Staffing / **Thurs. May 3<sup>rd</sup>** / 6:30pm / MPR
- Parent Input Forms due to front office / **Fri. May 4<sup>th</sup>**
- North Zone Advisory Council Meeting / **Fri. May 7<sup>th</sup>** / 7pm / Bradley Ele.
- **5<sup>th</sup> Annual Golf Tournament, Dinner, Dance, Auction / Fri. May 11<sup>th</sup> / Seascape Golf Course**
- Curricular and Fiscal Forum / **Wed. May 16<sup>th</sup>** / TBA
- Open House / **Thurs. May 24<sup>th</sup>** / 6:30 – 8:00pm

## 2 From the Principal's Desk

Dear Seahawk Community:

With spring break behind us, we are truly in the final stretch. The next month and a half goes by so quickly, but it offers us a great time to reflect upon how much the children have learned and grown over the course of the year. My article this week is devoted to informing you about some events coming up over the next several weeks.

April 27<sup>th</sup> is a school-wide spirit day sponsored by our student leadership team with a sports focus—see their announcement in this edition of the Rio Minders.

May 1<sup>st</sup> opens our window for the annual standardized tests, the California Standards Test (CST). Our second through sixth graders will demonstrate their mastery of the California State Standards that they have been learning. Our staff utilizes these results to determine school-wide and grade-level trends and improve our academic program. The state and federal government use the results to determine our Academic Performance Index (API) and Annual Yearly Progress (AYP). As always encourage your student(s) to show his/her best on the test.

May 1<sup>st</sup> brings our monthly School Site Council and Parent Alliance meeting. Site Council is deep in the revision of our school plan which guides the spending of our School Improvement Plan (SIP) budget to target student achievement. The Parent Alliance meeting will, amongst other items, have an update on our annual Golf Tournament, our biggest fundraiser of the year. The meeting will also include elections for next year's Parent Alliance Board.

May 3<sup>rd</sup> is our third annual staffing night. This is an event when Mrs. Dorney and I will share with parents the District's staffing procedures and ratios, impacted grade-levels, and any other staffing information we would like you to know before summer comes.

May 7<sup>th</sup> is the monthly North Zone Advisory Council. This monthly meeting held at Bradley School will begin a discussion to inform Dr. Woods about needs and goals for the entire North Zone of the PVUSD.

May 11<sup>th</sup> welcomes the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Golf Tournament, Dinner and Dance. As I said, this is the biggest fundraiser of the year, and a truly fun parent event. Tickets are on sale now and each year the event sells out quickly.

On May 16<sup>th</sup>, we will be holding a Curricular and Fiscal Forum. The evening's event will include a presentation from me about the direction of our District's curriculum and its targeted use of financial resources. After the presentation, a discussion will follow with teacher Jeff Bryant and parent Jonathan Ziegler. This is a valuable opportunity to hear and talk about our school.

Open House is May 24<sup>th</sup> from 6:30-8:00. This is an opportunity for your student(s) to show off the great work completed this year.

I look forward to seeing you at some or all of these important parent events. Thank you for your continued support,

Mike Heffner

**Rio del Mar School's**  
**5<sup>th</sup> Annual Golf Tournament, Dinner, Dance & Auction**  
**“007 in 2007 - Black, White & Bond”**  
**Sponsored by Mike O'Boy Coldwell Banker**

- What:** Our biggest fundraiser of the year!  
Provides over 50 % of our Parent Alliance budget !!!
- When:** Friday, May 11<sup>th</sup>, 2007
- Where:** Seascape Golf Course
- Time:** Golf Registration – 10:30am for 12noon shotgun start.  
  
Dinner, Dance & Auction – 5:00 pm
- Tickets:** On sale after school (near pick up or in the quad)  
Registration forms are also available in the front office.  
Substantial discount with early registration (by 4 / 30 / 07)
- How to Help:** -Volunteer for planning and the day of the event.  
-Help your class rep. with your class' gift basket for the auction.  
-We are looking for donations of “big” items for the silent auction.  
(Vacation homes for a week or weekend, professional services, sports equipment, art, jewelry, etc.)  
-Have your business become an event sponsor.
- Contacts:** To volunteer, sponsor or donate items for the auction please contact:  
Mark Lippert at 689-9189 [mlippert@rdmpa.org](mailto:mlippert@rdmpa.org) or  
Jonathan Ziegler at 687-0882 [jziegler@rdmpa.org](mailto:jziegler@rdmpa.org)

## **4 And now a word from our Vice Principal...**

Dear Parents and Guardians.

Welcome back! I hope you all had a restful, relaxing and rejuvenating spring break with your families.

As we return, the Rio staff has begun their preparation for our annual standardized California STAR assessment. The tests are here, the staff has been trained, and we are ready to administer the assessment the first week of May.

This testing time of year can be very stressful for children, but it is my hope that we can reduce or alleviate their fears. The following tips may do just that.

1. Make sure your child gets a good night's sleep before every test.
2. Provide a light, healthy breakfast on test days.
3. Have your child dress comfortably and arrive at school on time.
4. Send your child off to school with confidence-building words of praise and support:  
You'll do great! Believe in yourself! I love you!
5. Suggest that your child breathe deeply to relax before and during the test.
6. Remind your child to read directions carefully and look at all the answers before choosing one.
7. Let your child know that he/she may not know the answer to every question and that it's OK. In those cases, encourage him/her to make his/her best guess.
8. Tell your child to check his or her answers before turning in the test.
9. Do not schedule trips, dental or medical appointments, or early pick ups for testing days.

Hope you find these tips helpful.

Sincerely,  
Deborah Dorney, Assistant Principal

## **5 Thanks to the Aptos / Capitola Rotary Club for \$3000 Grant**

During their March Literacy Month the Aptos / Capitola Rotary Club awarded Rio del Mar \$3000 for the purchase of science and technology books for our school library. Special thanks go to Rotarian and Rio granddad, Jim Kutch, for bringing this grant opportunity to our attention and for guiding us through the application process.

## **6 Spirit Day**

Go shine your bats and pump up your soccer balls 'cause Friday the 27th is going to be our next spirit day, and in honor of all the games we play, it's going to be a Sports Day!

We're going to have a lunchtime wiffle ball game so wear your jerseys and put on your hats! (But don't bring accessories: gloves, cleats, bats, etc.).

Danny Drysdale, Jonathan Bol, Student Leadership

## 7 From the Front Office

### Parent Education Survey

We sent a letter home with your students on Tuesday, 4 / 17 / 07, requesting the highest level of parent education. Please fill out and return to your child's teacher no later than May 1<sup>st</sup>.

### Parent Input Forms

We are not accepting specific requests for teachers for the 07 / 08 school year. However, if you feel there is information about your child's learning style you'd like us to consider; Parent Input Forms are available in the front office. The completed forms must be returned to the office by Friday, 5 / 4 / 07.

### Moving????

If your child will not be returning to Rio del Mar School for the 2007-2008 school year, please notify the front office as soon as you can.

Thank you!  
Gail

## 8 Parent Alliance Update

Quite a lot of shuffling has gone on by volunteers offering to serve on the PA Board (if elected). As you can see, several positions that had no volunteers before now do. Good news! This has left other positions without volunteers. Also good news as you readers can now take a good look and see how you can help us out!

Several candidates stepped forward offering to serve in the following positions if elected:

- Vice President
- Treasurer
- Recording Secretary
- Room Parent Coordinator

Positions for which there are currently no candidates:

- President
- Volunteer Coordinator
- Hospitality Coordinator
- Rio Minders Editor
- Corresponding Secretary

### Did you know????

- For 2006-2007 the Parent Alliance fundraising is providing **\$86,554.00** of additional monies for Rio del Mar School.
- If your child attends Rio del Mar, **you** are a member of the Parent Alliance!!!
- All you have to do to vote on Parent Alliance issues is show up at a meeting (and, of course, say 'aye' or 'nay' when prompted!)
- Any member of the Parent Alliance is eligible to serve on the Parent Alliance Board. (That means YOU, as we established above!!)

**\*Next Meeting:**

All parents are invited to come join us for refreshments and an opportunity to voice your views the first Tuesday of the month in the Rio library. Free childcare and refreshments are available. The next meeting is **Tuesday, May 1<sup>st</sup> at 6:30p.m. in the library.**

**\*2007 PA Board Election Year:**

As the two-year terms for the current PA Board members have come to a close, we will be electing a new board at the May 1<sup>st</sup> 2007 PA meeting. Any parent/guardian of a Rio student is eligible to serve on the Parent Alliance Board.