



October 28, 2005

# Rio Minders

## From the Principal's Desk

Dear Seahawk Community:

I am typing this letter in the midst of Parent Conference Week. As you can tell, the teachers put a great deal of effort planning these conferences and we really appreciate your commitment to attending. On last spring's parent survey, many of you commented on their value and wanted it to happen in the spring as well. Unfortunately, this district-scheduled and funded event only happens once a year; however, we have a wonderfully dedicated staff who are a phone call or email away.

Over the last couple of weeks, I've noticed some dangerous parking lot behavior. I know how busy the morning can be for so many of us with getting the kids to school on time and then off to work on time, but for the safety of our kids and the smooth flow of traffic, it is essential that we follow the following procedures:

- Arrive early---school starts at 7:49 with traffic at its worst by 7:45, supervision begins at 7:30.
- Pull all the way up to the flag pole (and the yellow curb) before dropping students off--this allows traffic into our lot from Pinehurst and allows students to be dropped off in the area where there is the greatest supervision.
- Stay in your car--give those goodbye hugs and kisses before the drop off point.
- If you want or need to walk your students up to the playground or class, park on the side streets and walk up--spaces in the center of our lot are for teachers and staff, parking on the perimeter stops traffic in the lot for you to back out.
- Please do not park in unmarked spaces--this hinders traffic flow and causes unsafe crossings as we want the children to learn to use the crosswalk.

Following these simple procedures will help you send your student off safely and help you get through our parking lot more easily.

Around the school, our upper grade classes are conducting student elections. Last year we formed a student leadership team. The student leaders work on developing leadership skills through the planning and implementation of events that define our school to the community. Our student leaders coordinated the Hurricane Katrina fundraising that brought in close to \$700 in three weeks.

Monday, weather permitting, is our annual Halloween Parade. This is a really fun event that brings the entire student body together. The students cheer each other on as upper grade and lower grade classes are paired with their reading buddies. If you can't make the event, please check the school web site for pictures.

On Tuesday, we are having an assembly. Music students from the Alushta Music School in the Ukraine will be sharing their musical expertise through a performance with our students. The Alushta Music School is considered to be the best in their country.

We've included in this edition of the Rio Minders a parent letter from the Show What You Know Campaign. The campaign is a coordinated effort between the Program Evaluation and GATE departments at the district office.

As always, thank you for sharing your children with us,

Mike Heffner

### Dates to remember

- ◆ Halloween Parade  
Mon. Oct. 31<sup>st</sup>  
At 8:15am on lower playground.
- ◆ School Site Council / Library Redesign Meeting  
Tues. Nov. 1<sup>st</sup>  
At 2:30pm in library.  
Free childcare available.
- ◆ Parent Alliance Meeting  
Tues. Nov. 1<sup>st</sup>  
at 6:30pm in library.  
Free childcare available.
- ◆ Picture Re-takes  
Wed. Nov. 9<sup>th</sup>  
8:00am.
- ◆ See's Candy Orders Due  
Mon. Nov. 14<sup>th</sup>

### RE-TAKES

If you haven't received a picture form for re-takes and need one, please contact the front office.

*Many thanks* to the Carvers for their generous contribution to our kindergarten classroom. Edie Abendschan

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[Deborah\\_dorney@pvusd.net](mailto:Deborah_dorney@pvusd.net)

## School Website:

[www.Riodelmar.santacruz.k12.ca.us](http://www.Riodelmar.santacruz.k12.ca.us)

## District Website:

[www.pvusd.k12.ca.us](http://www.pvusd.k12.ca.us)

## Site Council:

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[Untibruce@earthlink.net](mailto:Untibruce@earthlink.net)

## Parent Alliance:

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## RioMinders

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Publication dates usually alternating Mondays except for holidays.  
Deadline: Noon on Wednesday prior to publication.



- All parents are invited to come join us for refreshments and an opportunity to voice your views the first Tuesday of each month in the Rio library. Free childcare and refreshments are available. The next meeting is Tuesday Nov. 1<sup>st</sup> at 6:30p.m. in the library.
- NEW FOUR-PAGE RIO MINDERS !! [READ MORE ON PAGES 3 & 4 !!](#)

## Pajaro Valley Unified School District

### SHOW What You Know Campaign

**S**tudents who  
**H**ave  
**O**wnership are  
**W**inners!

Hello Parents,

November's Scholarly Trait is **CURIOSITY**.

Your school is continually working towards building a *Community of Inquiry*, where thinking and questioning are central elements in the classroom. You know that your children are naturally curious; they like to explore and to discover. Yet, when kids answer questions, it's often a very passive process. When we ask them open ended questions, and help them learn to ask their own questions, it becomes a more active process.

Does this type of exchange sound familiar? Parent: "How was school today?" Student: "Fine." Parent: "Well, what did you learn at school today?" Student: "Nothing," or if we're lucky perhaps something like, "Math." Working together at home, we can engage our children's active curiosity while supporting their ability to participate in the Community of Inquiry at school.

Five examples of questions that are fun and easy for kids and parents to learn and use at home are:

#### What if...? Questions

Child: What if there were 100 brand new balls on the playground?

Parent: What if you had to go through the whole school day with no pencil?

#### Quantity Questions

C: What are all the ways I could have complimented people today?

P: Can you list reasons why you did well on your math test this chapter?

#### Compare / Contrast Questions

C: How are third grade and fourth grade alike / different?

P: How did lunch recess today compare with yesterday?

#### Point of View Questions

C: What could I add to the homework assignment that would make it more meaningful to me?

P: Would you rather win the lottery or have no homework all year?

#### How come...? Questions

C: How come I often forget to bring my lunch box home?

P: How come you'd rather I drive you to school than you take the school bus?

Adapted from the Quick Question Workbook, N. Johnson

## Tickets for New Car Drawing Still on Sale!!

\$5 each or 6 for \$25

Drawing Date is Nov. 5<sup>th</sup> at Subaru of Santa Cruz

Tickets available on Fridays after school in the quad or on Wednesdays after school in the office. (100% of ticket price goes to Parent Alliance!!)



## **eScrip: Now's the time to Sign up and Renew!**

It's easy! Just go to [www.escrip.com](http://www.escrip.com) or click the link on Rio's homepage. When the eScrip homepage comes up, click on the orange checkmark on the middle/left side of the screen and follow the instructions. Every time you use your registered credit or debit cards at Safeway, Big 5, New Leaf and many other merchants, you'll be earning contributions of 4-7% what you spend! You can register your Macy's card and earn contributions, too. Also, be sure to check out the Rewards Network Dining Club program – there are a number of restaurants in our area that contribute to our school when you use a registered credit card to pay your bill. Thanks for supporting your school by participating in the eScrip program!

Questions? Contact Jennifer Andrew, eScrip Coordinator, at 685-1150

## **SEE'S CANDIES FUNDRAISER**

- Didn't get the See's Packet ??? Get one from the front office.
- Up to 50% of the money collected in candy sales will come back to the Parent Alliance. (We make the most money on the 1 lb. boxes).
- This is the perfect opportunity to stock up on holiday gifts of this high quality candy.
- All orders (and money) due in to the school office by **Monday, Nov. 14th 2005**. Checks payable to "Rio Del Mar Parent Alliance".
- The projected date for the candy to be distributed at school is Thursday, Dec. 1, 2005.

If you have any questions, please call Laura Junod at 688-0744 or [Ljunod@firsthorizon.com](mailto:Ljunod@firsthorizon.com). Thanks for your participation!

## **Have You Met Our PALs ?**

Parent Alliance Liaisons (PALs) are volunteers from each classroom who have committed to attending the monthly Parent Alliance Meetings. Our PALs are responsible for picking out the high points of the meeting and then providing you with this information. They will let you know what activities the Parent Alliance is involved in, what needs the school might have and what we, as the Parent Alliance, have been able to accomplish. All parents at Rio Del Mar are encouraged to attend our Parent Alliance Meetings but the PALs in each of your classrooms can let you know what you missed if you were not able to be there.

There are still PAL positions needed for Terribilini, Kyle and Williams !!! If you would like to volunteer or have other questions concerning PALs please contact Denise Russo: [denirus@sbcglobal.net](mailto:denirus@sbcglobal.net).

So, have you met your PALs? We are pleased to introduce Rio's PALs for each classroom.

<b>Abdenschan:</b>	Natasha Hopkins and Eva Robinson
<b>Brown:</b>	Nancy Beech and Cindy Harrison
<b>Bryant:</b>	Tonya Riggs and Yolanda Beaudoin
<b>Clayton/Mayer:</b>	Catherine Breitenstein
<b>Clouse:</b>	Lorna Jordan
<b>Cooper:</b>	Tiffany Mitchener and Yolanda Beaudoin
<b>deBakker:</b>	Lisa Bruce and Linda Rossi
<b>Ferrero:</b>	Laura Bratsch
<b>Flegal/McCraw:</b>	Candace Boulter and Kateyoon Dinyari
<b>Hauck:</b>	Fari Salih and Stephanie Long
<b>Jarvis:</b>	Margie and David McConnell
<b>Jaynes:</b>	Arcelia Hodges and Dusti Fregger
<b>Jenkyn:</b>	Margaret Wold and James Harrill, Marie Kramer and Heidi Wilson
<b>Kitch:</b>	Ana Luis Jimenez, Catherine Breitenstein and Traci Buskirk
<b>Koue:</b>	Roxanne Wilson and Cindy Harrison-Evans
<b>Kyle:</b>	
<b>Landmann:</b>	Dave Miller and Lydia Sanchez
<b>McNeilly/Salazar:</b>	Lisa Bruce
<b>Robinson:</b>	Natasha Hopkins and Margaret Wold
<b>Silva:</b>	Tiffany Mitchener and Ellen Jones
<b>Sweet:</b>	Sabrina Coffelt, Linda Rossi and Marla Lane-Irvine
<b>Terribilini:</b>	
<b>Truex:</b>	Fran Majors and Dave Miller
<b>Werner:</b>	Suzanne Ziegler
<b>Williams:</b>	
<b>Wolcott:</b>	Sally Hancock and Ellen Jones

