

May 2004

Upcoming Calendar:

No school on June 11th!

Teachers are finalizing student placement for the fall. Childcare is available. Please contact the school office to register for childcare. Registration is required.

May 31

Memorial Day - School Closed

June 2

[PSA Meeting](#)

June 3

Art Night 6:30-8p.m.

June 8

[Board Meeting](#)

June 10

PSA Picnic 6-8p.m.

June 11

No School

June 14 - 18

Half Days and Last Day of School

SDCCS Board of Directors

Directors:

Meghan Bach
Stephanie Baldwin
Paul Chiba
Lincoln Fish
Kim Hawley
Mark Nelson
Charlie Upham

Non-voting Teacher

Representatives:

Annetta Benedict
Morgan Weir

Principal:

Randy Drabman

NEWSLETTER SUBMISSION

DEADLINE. The SDCCS Newsletter is published on the 15th of each month. Submissions are due by the 10th of each month. Please e-mail your submissions to harris4567@aol.com



SDCCS School Newsletter

Principal's Corner

Why are the Arts Important?

In an open society, we value concepts like “democracy”, “freedom”, and “liberty”. The question is: How do these concepts apply to public education? The charter school movement speaks to the democratization of education. Thus, the values of an open society ought to be found in all such institutions.

At San Diego Cooperative Charter School, we honor these concepts by teaching Art, Spanish, Classical Greek, and an entire set of mini-courses based on weekly fieldtrips. Our dedication to the Arts and creative expression truly allows us to teach each child beyond “the page and formula”. So he/she can begin to understand the importance and uniqueness of knowledge, invention, and the critical skills required of citizens in an open society.

In the same way Art gives expression to creativity, the study of Greek stretches one's intellectual vistas. Students are not only introduced to the roots of Western historical, political, philosophical thought, but to the very roots of English vocabulary. Greek thought kindled the spirit of the Renaissance, and Greek language provided the bases for many modern technological vocabularies, including the vocabularies of most of the sciences. As a consequence, students of Greek have a great advantage in learning scientific and medical terms, and they tend to do better on such pre-graduate and professional exams as the GRE (grad school), MCAT (med school), and the LSAT (law school), and of course the SAT.

The study of Classical Greek will not only increase your child's understanding of case grammar, but in the process build schemes of thought for understanding mathematical complexity. Classical Greek is a mathematical language. Classical Greek is the fine art that enables one to open the door to the world of knowledge and creative expression allowing for the maintenance of an open society.

Randy Drabman



The Midway was Magic

It will be one to remember! Over 250 guests entered the gates at Navy Pier on April 23 to attend the Circle of Magic Aboard the USS Midway. Guests first accessed the 1001'6" aircraft carrier Flight Deck for a pre-dinner cocktail party, while others opted to take tours and explore. After an amazing sunset, it was time for everyone to gather in the Hanger Deck for some serious shopping at the silent auction. The merchandise was so good that many got very competitive about getting their goods. There were people negotiating deals, hovering over items that they 'just had to have' and bargains galore. The Silent Auction committee, chaired by Tess Nelson, did an amazing job securing over 100 different auction items that would eventually sell for \$5 - \$2000 each! Thankfully the Finance crew, headed by Virginia Bays, was ready to collect all the money when it was over.

In the main Hanger area, Linc Fish was busy on the microphone talking up items and preparing for some live auction activity. He also took advantage of a great opportunity to share some achievements with the large percentage of the guests that were not affiliated with the school. For many, it was their first exposure to the San Diego Cooperative Charter School and they expressed how impressed they were with our educational programs and sense of community witnessed that night. Many community leaders opted to attend the Gala, support our efforts and discover what we know to be a wonderful environment for our kids. The school spirit was especially evident to everyone as they watched the 'video yearbook' put together by 6th grade students Sydney Lampe and Darla Slater-Troum. The 10-minute DVD show, highlighted the kids, teachers, and staff doing the extraordinary things they do on a daily basis.

Thank you to our generous sponsors, the Village Circle committee, the crew that volunteered to load / unload at the event, and all the behind the scenes workers that helped make this a memorable time for everyone. In the end, we raised over \$18,000. And, just as important, we have raised the awareness about our

school in the community, and had a little fun in the process.

*Janette and Scott Lampe
parents of Maili, Madison and Sydney
and 2004 Gala Co-Chairs*

p.s. There have been numerous requests to purchase the video yearbook presented at the Gala. If you would like to buy a DVD or video copy, they are available for a limited time for a suggested donation of \$15 each (payable to the SDCCS Village Circle). Proceeds will be added to the Gala totals and benefit educational programs at SDCCS. Please see the envelope posted in the school office or call the event hotline at 619/641-4416 for more information. Orders will be taken until **June 4th** to ensure delivery before the end of the school year.

P.E. Corner Update

Thanks to multiple donations this year, our students have been able to have fun playing a wide variety of games and activities. Recently, we focused on soccer skills and teambuilding. Trapping, kicking, and ball control skills have improved greatly in each of the kindergarten, first, second, and third grades. It was very motivating to have a set of brightly colored soccer balls to work with. The younger students loved learning games like Monsters in the Closet, Fizz Buzz & Wahoo, Spiders & Flies, and Carpenter Tag.



I saw substantial growth in these classes in terms of cooperation and sportsmanship. In particular, I saw many students learn how to "go with the flow" during these activities, one of the main challenges of P.E. The sixth grade played a creative rendition of basketball that uses sideline players as strategically

A Very Special Thank You

to **Janette and Scott Lampe** for co-chairing the Midway Magic Gala.

Wow! What a fantastic event!



placed teammates, rather than passive onlookers. It was entertaining to watch them come together as a team and build strategies.

In every P.E. class we work on the basics: stretching, strengthening, and balance. In September, many students couldn't balance on one foot for more than two or three seconds. Now, I am pleased to report that most are now able to balance on either foot for upwards of 30 seconds. Ask your child to put one hand in front of their belly button, choose one spot on the ground to look at, and raise one leg. Voila! Balance! Other concepts we concentrated on were: directional activities (forward, backward, sideways, etc.), movement in personal space versus shared space, different levels/heights of play (low, medium, and high), and speed differentiation. These skills are incredibly important for physical development and control over bodily movement.

In general, when I arrive at the classroom door for P.E., the kids are ready to go (bouncing off the walls ready!). It is obvious to me that these creative little minds need to use their body – A LOT! I found myself repeating over and over, "If I only had more time...I could do a whole unit on..." It would be wonderful to be able to see each class once a week. Maybe next year we'll be able to

facilitate a weekly P.E. class for everyone. The possibilities are endless!

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! To the parents who donated time, equipment, and funds to support the P.E. program, we are so appreciative! I'd like to thank the students for trying their best, supporting their classmates, and helping me to teach them. It was an adventure! Keep active everybody!

Tera Newton

Spanish Corner

Here's an update on our Spanish enrichment program.

At the beginning of the year, we started with the basics: colors, shapes, numbers, greetings, etc. We have also done activities relating to different holidays (Christmas, Easter, Day of the Dead) and the history of Latin America. We worked on other activities like Thanksgiving and Earth day. Children really enjoyed a craft project or a poem with these themes. In one class, we acted out a short play in which students learned and had fun at the same time. We talked about the five senses and learned vocabulary with this activity.



A few months ago, a Spanish budget was granted. This gave me the opportunity to bring in another tool for our Spanish program. The new tool, Symtalk, comes with symbols to help students in construct simple sentences. The results of this program have been positive. The older students are especially motivated in class. Many are moving quickly through the program. The younger kids are also enjoying this program and are participating enthusiastically in class.

Some of our upcoming activities include learning about Frida Kahlo, the Mexican artist. We will continue working with Symtalk and I will Assess the students at the end of the year.

My goals for next year so far are: share multicultural songs, use the 3rd level of

Symtalk, and introduce more Latin American artists. If parents have suggestions for the Spanish program, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Dina Yup

Art and Humanity : It's Not Mr. Roger's Neighborhood Anymore

There are many thousands of children throughout the United States who are being shortchanged by the budget cuts we face in our educational programs. The Arts are always the first to be cut.

This says as much about our values as an educational community as it does about our nation. We are told to value test scores and numbers that compare our children to others in our district and around the world. In his book, *Becoming Human Through Art*, Edmund Burke Feldman, one of the premier art educators of our time, believes, as I do, that we are all a work in progress and that it is only through self-expression that we as a culture can find our humanity. A grandiose thought during a time when our nation has lost its (creative) soul. How does this have anything to do with your child's life and the art they make, the songs they sing or the dances they dance? I would like to say it's simple and goes like this...but, it's not. The world as we know it is not for children. It's P.G. and rated R more times than not. Negative visual images abound and invade our sensory systems-- there is nowhere to hide. Fantasy and Imagination are sacred commodities to be cultivated in childhood. We have to be willing to give our children back their innocence and their childhood, fight for it. It's not Mr. Roger's neighborhood anymore. How can we change the visual images that your children are bombarded with? The answer is to let them make the



images, write the songs and dance the dances. It is essential that we do it at our school. We are a catalyst for change, a strong, creative force taking a stand for humanity. We are a parent cooperative willing to take the risk and make a difference. A country without the arts is truly a country without humanity.

Karen Crump, Art Consultant @SDCCS

Come, Bring Family and Friends to our 2nd Annual Arts Night! Thurs. June 3rd 6:30-8:00 pm "ECO ARTS NIGHT" CONNECTING ART, ECOLOGY AND THE ENVIRONMENT ART SHOW, SCULPTURE GARDEN, MUSIC, RAFFLE AND HANDS ON ACTIVITIES.

Earth Fair 2004!

On April 25th, about 40 SDCCS students and parents marched in the Earth Day parade. We represented five areas of concern for our students: organic gardening, saving our beaches, protecting wild places, saving endangered animals and recycling.



We dressed as trash, a recycling bin, beach lovers and several adorable endangered animals. Jacob was a big hit as an "organic gardening" bush. We won a group prize for "Best Expression of Theme" and Alec Kuebler won an individual prize for 'Best Costume Using Recycled Materials'. Shayne Geiger also had an outstanding costume made from recycled materials.

PSA Co-president Charlie Upham and Jacob staffed our outreach table and we

handed out numerous brochures to prospective parents. The message was clear: we care about the environment and we love our school spirit!

Put Your Apron On

A parent in Morgan's classroom has arranged for SDCCS to keep 100% of the money raised from the sales of refreshments for the closing night of *Androcles and the Lion* on May 30, 2004. This George Bernard Shaw play is being performed by the Looking Glass Theater at the Unitarian Universalist Church in Hillcrest.

To get the most out of this fundraiser, we need families to donate some nice home-made goodies. Please save the date to bake some cookies, cake brownies, or cup-cakes. Drop off will be at school on Friday May 28. If your family would like to help sell the items, please call Suzette Southfox (True's "Ma Sue") at (619) 474-7230 or email suzette@firstusandiego.org



PSA Corner

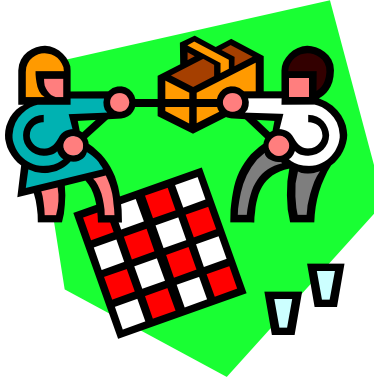
Elections are June 2nd.

If you or someone you know is interested and would be a good addition to our PSA leadership, please submit your names to Charlie Upham or Carrie Quinn for posting. Names must be in this week so don't delay!!!

PSA Picnic June 10th 6-8p.m.

Please bring your family and some food to the Boys and Girls Campfire site. Bring a dessert to share if you would like. PSA will supply all paper goods needed. We will show the video yearbook that was shown on the Midway for all to see. We will also have sign up sheets for the Fall 2004 class/school jobs. Anyone who cannot attend and

would like to be a class coordinator next year, please contact Charlie Upham or Carrie Quinn ASAP. We are going to get these jobs off and running this summer so things are in place for the Fall.



Your Volunteer Hours

Some of you have recently been notified that your family has not worked the volunteer hours that are needed to remain enrolled in SDCCS. Do not fear because there are still five weeks left in the school year. There are still numerous volunteer opportunities remaining. Here are some suggestions: Post a copy of the Cartridges for Kids flyer in your office or else where in the community. Then collect and deliver the cartridges to school. Similarly, get a copy of the Ralph's Club card sign up sheet post and return to school. Volunteer to help sell goodies or to bake goodies to benefit our school on May 29 (see related article). Sign up for a school trip. Ask your teacher what you can do to support him/her. At the end of the year a thorough classroom cleaning will most likely be done. Come to the SDCCS family picnic on June 10, 2004. Attend the next PSA meeting or board meeting (or both). Speak to Co-President Charlie Upham (esqatlg@cox.net) about outreach opportunities during the summer months. The school will have official presence at Trolley Barn Concert Series, the Hillcrest Street Fair, and the Pride Festival.

Many of you have already fulfilled some of your commitment and not realized it. These things all count towards your volunteer hours. Please think about these events and record your hours promptly. Any meetings at

school, PSA, classroom, parent-teacher, board meetings, The Gala on the Midway, Science night, Earth Day, Dr. Seuss Race, soliciting items for the silent auction, Halloween Parade, and the Gulls Hockey game. Did you support your classroom volunteer coordinator in any way? Did you participate in the organization or maintenance of a car pool? The thing to remember is our volunteer system is liberally designed to bring all families into the school's community. No job or effort is insignificant for in total they help to make this school a special place.



Walk For the Cure!

On October 1, 2 and 3 of this year, teacher Annetta Benedict and parent Kim Hawley will be participating in the Susan G. Komen breast cancer foundation 3-day walk. The walk is 60 miles over three days to raise money for breast cancer research. We invite all parents who are interested in joining the walk to contact Annetta (coop_apbk@hotmail.com) or Kim (kimhawley@cox.net) for more information. Or, you can log on to www.the3day.org.

WANTED: Parent Newsletter Editor

Do you have a nose for stories and an eye for graphics? Then we need you to be our next Parent Newsletter Editor! Duties include collecting stories and producing a four page newsletter every month. Please e-mail Carrie at harris4567@aol.com if you are interested.