

SWCS Community E-Newsletter

June 18, 2010

Wow! What a Year!

We, the staff & Board, want to thank everyone -- parents, kids, each other -- for making it through a very challenging year! It certainly was not the year we expected, but we made it! And we're happy to say that some amazing learning happened despite the craziness. We so appreciate the patience, appreciation and kindness that we felt from all. We are very much looking forward to a fantastic year in our new home next year. In the meantime, we hope that you have a relaxing and fun summer!

Property Update

The pre-application meeting with the City went well so the sale of the building is moving forward. We haven't heard that it has closed yet, but we'll let you know. Also, our architect has been finalizing plans so that demolition can happen ASAP. There was also meeting last week about skylights. It turns out they are more affordable than we expected (yeah!), but we are not sure yet if we'll be able to implement them right away. We hope to know more soon.

Moving Help @ Both Campuses

Both campuses need to be packed up immediately after school, and at the Vermont Campus, we need to move out completely. Here are windows of time when we need some assistance:

Monday, June 21, 2pm-5pm – Packing/cleaning @ both campuses

Tuesday, June 22, 2pm-5pm – Packing/cleaning @ both campuses

Wednesday, June 23, 6pm-8pm – Packing Vermont campus into the mobile storage unit

Summer Fun

Some wonderful parents have volunteered to coordinate some low-key get-togethers over the summer. The announcements for these will happen via email. If you do NOT want to be contacted about these get-togethers, please let Anne know and she will remove you from the contact list. (annegurnee@swcharter.org)

SWCS Board Meeting – July 15, 6:30-8pm at the Hood Campus

We do not usually have a Board meeting in July, but this year we will! Come join us if you are interested in hearing the latest on school happenings.

Class Assignments for Next Year

We will not be assigning kids to classes for next year until the last week of August. Ahead of that, all those affected will receive an email survey asking for your input about your child's class placement. Please know that your preferences are important to us, but we will not be able to accommodate them all! No school every can! We appreciate in advance your patience and understanding.

Start Date & Times for Next Year

As of now, we are planning to start school for 1-8 grade on Tuesday, September 7. This is the day after Labor Day, and the same day that PPS starts. Kindergarten will start on Monday, September 13. There is a chance that we may need to delay the start if we hit snags with the building over the summer, but we will try to keep you very well informed over the summer and make any decision to delay the start as far in advance as possible.

As of now, we are also planning to have the same hours this year as next. That would mean the hours would be as follows:

Full-day K-3rd

Monday-Thursday, 8:25am-3:05pm

Friday, 8:25am-1pm

Half-day K

Monday-Thursday, 8:25am-11:55am

Grades 4th-8th

Monday-Thursday, 8:15am-3:15pm

Friday, 8:15am-1pm

The reason for the staggered start/end times are to help with traffic congestion around the site, but we know that they cause problems for families with students in the two different "time zones" and for operations as well. The Board will be wrestling with these issues over the summer, so stay tuned on this front as well.

Calling All Bargain Hunters!

We know that some of you enjoy looking for bargains at garage sales, so if you are planning to head out to a few, we have some things you could look for and donate to SWCS. Attached is a list you can print and take with you!

Life is Still Sweet!

We have a two week fundraising event at the "Sweet Tomatoes" Restaurant from Monday, June 14th - Sunday, June 27th. For everyone that eats at the Tigard "Sweet Tomatoes" carrying our flyer, the restaurant gives SWCS 20% of the sales. A copy of the flyer is attached to this email. Please send the flyer to everyone you know so that we can get as many people as we can to partake in this tasty and healthful event. Here's the other bonus - Buy Sweet Tomatoes through our school Scrip program. With the Scrip profit and the 20% back, every \$25 card used nets SWCS \$7 for each.

Dates: From Monday, June 14, 2010 - Monday, June 28, 2010

Times: 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Address: Sweet Tomatoes, 6600 SW Cardinal Lane, Tigard, OR 97224

Summer SCRIP! Get your Costco card renewed here!

Summer order days are Monday July 13th and August 10th. You can email your order and pay by credit card or, order the week before the deadline and mail in your check. Your orders can be picked up on that Friday or sent out to you. I have attached the summer order forms with this email.

Scrip orders arrive Thursdays and will distributed Fridays. Don't forget to get your Sweet Tomatoes Scrip cards to use at the upcoming fundraiser in June. When you buy and tasty or cool stuff via our SCRIP program you fund the school for free.

Last "4" Bags of Whole Bean Java

Our SWCS "Griffin Blend" Private Reserve Coffee is almost gone! Our next coffee sale won't be until the fall. Cost is only \$12 for a "real" one pound bag. One cup and you'll be passionate about coffee all over again. Our "Griffin blend" coffee is a full city roast "Tanzanian Songea Peaberry." It is an excellent example of Tanzania's legendary Peaberry coffee. It hails from the Mbeya Region of southern Tanzania, near the town of Vwawa.

Nature Play Summit – June 22

The City of Vancouver is hosting a Nature Play Summit on June 22, featuring keynote speaker Richard Louv, author of Last Child in the Woods: Saving our Children from Nature-Deficit Disorder (Algonquin Books, 2005). The day-long conference brings together leaders and experts in parks and recreation, environmental issues, education and health care to discuss how to effectively foster the values of nature play and includes educational breakout sessions and a resource exhibitor fair. \$30/person. June 22, 9 am to 5 pm. Hilton Hotel, 301 W 6th St., Vancouver, Wash. 360-619-1170. cityofvancouver.us/calendar.asp

Thank You!

Thanks to all the hardy families and staff who came out and joined the fun at Willamette Park last Sunday for our end-of-year celebration. It was a lot of fun, and although it was wet, we escaped any actual rainfall during the picnic! Really glad that you could join us!

Upcoming SWCS Events

June 21, 2pm-5pm – Packing/cleaning @ both campuses

June 22, 2pm-5pm – Packing/cleaning @ both campuses

June 23, 6pm-8pm – Packing Vermont campus into the mobile storage unit

July 15, 6:30-8pm – SWCS Board Meeting @ Hood Campus

SW Charter School

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"Southwest Charter School is a public charter school dedicated to connecting students to the community and the natural world"