



Smoke Signals

The Sacajawea Newsletter

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February 2010

President's Letter

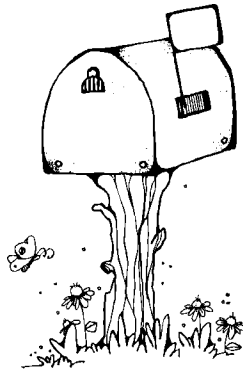
Dear Sacy Students, Parents and Staff,

February is often remembered as the month of love, referring to Valentine's Day where many express how much they care. The American Heart Association wants you to remember February as heart health month with admonishments to healthier living. I personally think of February as the month of my mother's birthday, the 3rd, which means my birthday is just over a month away. It's one of those dreaded milestones this year which I'm choosing to embrace with all my heart!

What captivates your heart? Do your children captivate yours? What about the other way around? Do you step outside your box and put your heart out there? Try it sometime if you haven't already. Making a difference will change you, just like in the true story turned movie, *The Blind Side*, where the adoptive mother's life was changed just as much as Michael Oher's.

The devastation in Haiti is captivating the world. Seeing such devastation makes me feel helpless. Seeing two of my friends head off to help rebuild an orphanage, I know with all my heart that they are making a difference.

So as I return to the salutation for this letter, Dear, I realize how little I use it. Maybe it seems a little old fashion or too formal. But it really is true. Each and



every one of you is dear to me. The Sacy family has my heart, now and for always. It will remain to be seen what kind of difference I'm making as PTO President, but I would like to think that with many of you alongside me, the difference in our school and community will be positively obvious. Please contact me with your ideas of how we can make a difference. Join me and the rest of the Executive Board at the PTO meeting on Wednesday, February 24th, in the Library. Everyone is welcome. Come and share your heartfelt thoughts and ideas on how to make a difference.

There is a line in a song, "One is the loneliest number..." and while I know there are many who have already made great strides for the good, thank you, thank you, thank you, there is always room for more. So until we meet again or for the first time or at the PTO meeting...

Most wholeheartedly

Karla Hackworth, PTO President

February 15 - No School
Presidents' Day



February Events



- 1 Boxtops Contest Begins
- 5 Battle of the Books - 10:00 A.M. in the gym - 4th and 5th graders
- 11 5th Grade Parent Science Night - 6:30 to 7:30 P.M.
- 13 Sacajawea Book Fair at Barnes & Noble
- 15 No School - Presidents' Day
- 16 Showcase Choir - 7 P.M. at Richland HS
- 19 Boxtops Contest Ends
- 23 Skate Party - 6:30 to 8:30 P.M. at Rollarena
- 24 PTO Meeting - 3:30 P.M. - Sacy Library
- 25 2nd Graders to Chief Jo for ACT performance at 8:50 A.M.
3rd Graders to Chief Jo for ACT performance at 11:30 A.M.
- 26 **Read Across America - Green Eggs and Ham Breakfast - 7:30 A.M. in the gym**

Sacajawea Book Fair at Barnes & Noble

Support Sacajawea Elementary School by shopping at Barnes & Noble in Columbia Center. In an effort to raise funds to buy books supporting their curriculum the Sacajawea PTO is working together with Barnes & Noble Booksellers by hosting a Bookfair at the Columbia Center store.

On Saturday, February 13, Barnes & Noble will donate a percentage of every sale made with a special Bookfair voucher to the Sacajawea PTO. Vouchers will be available online at Sacajawea's website www.rsd.edu/schools/sacajawea and in hard copy at Sacajawea.

The Barnes & Noble Bookfair will help Sacajawea in several ways. First, a percentage of Bookfair sales will underwrite their purchase of books for the school. Second, their library will be able to create a wish list for titles to enhance its own library collection. Bookfair supporters may choose books from an in-store wish list display to purchase for the library.



READ ACROSS AMERICA

Friday, February 26th is Sacajawea's annual READ ACROSS AMERICA celebration. On this day, we have several special events planned for our Sacajawea families.

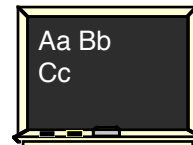
Prior to the start of school, you and your child are invited to our Green Eggs and Ham breakfast from 7:30 to 8:30 A.M. We encourage you to bring a comfy blanket or pillow and some favorite books for you and your child to enjoy during this special event. The Cat in the Hat and other special book characters may be making a special appearance at our breakfast, too! The cost of the breakfast is \$2.25 for adults and \$1.35 for children. (Those enrolled in our breakfast program may eat breakfast at their usual cost.) Please bring checks payable to Sacajawea or exact change to help make our lines move quickly. We can't wait to see you there!

The 26th is also Book Character Day for staff and students. Students are encouraged to dress up as a character from a favorite book. (No masks or scary costumes, please.)

At 10 A.M. we will have our "Read Across America" spirit assembly. During the assembly we will have our first **Bikes for Books** drawing for the year! This means two lucky children will win a bike donated by the Richland Masonic Lodge to take home and call their own. Children who have met their monthly at-home reading goals have been putting their names into the drawing each month. (We will have another drawing in the spring that children who meet their reading goals in February, March, and April can participate in.)



District News



Levy Election is February 9 - Election ballots for the Richland School District's 2010 Operations Levy have been mailed out and must be returned by February 9. The operations levy allows the District to continue basic programs which are not fully funded by the state including: updated textbooks, technology, substitute teachers, transportation, extracurricular activities and utilities expenses. Levy money makes up about 15% of the District's annual operating budget. The levy is not a new tax. Every two years, voters are asked to renew the levy. The current levy expires at the end of 2010. The Levy Voter's Pamphlet is available at: www.rsd.edu/info/operations-levy-election.html

Fill Out Survey on Teacher Collaboration Time/Professional Learning Communities - As many of you know, the District is looking into the feasibility of establishing teacher collaboration Time/Professional Learning Communities at the middle schools and high schools. An online survey will be posted on the District web page (www.rsd.edu) on February 12. We invite you to fill out the survey and give us your feedback.

Learn More About Professional Learning Communities - The term *professional learning community* describes a group of administrators and school staff who are united in their commitment to student learning. They share a vision, work and learn collaboratively, visit and review other classrooms, and participate in decision making. The benefits to the staff and students include a reduced isolation of teachers, better informed and committed teachers, and academic gains for students. As an organizational arrangement, the professional learning community is seen as a powerful staff-development approach and a potent strategy for school change and improvement. For parents wishing to learn more about Professional Learning Communities, one resource is PLC Washington. Find it on the web at: www.plc.washington.org

K-5 Parent Resource Guides - Kindergarten through fifth grade Parent Resource Guides are posted on the Richland School District web site. The guides provide information regarding what students are expected to learn at each grade level. They also provide families with ideas for supporting their children's education at home and in our community.

May 28 is Makeup Day - The District has announced that Friday, May 28, will be the makeup day for the canceled school day in December.

National Board Certified Teachers - 47 District teachers have now earned certification from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards, the highest credential in the teaching profession. The list is posted at: www.rsd.edu/about/nationally-certified-teachers.html

"A" is for Americans!

The Tri-City Americans and Kennewick General Hospital want to reward you for all your hard work, with a FREE game ticket!

The KGH "A" is for Americans Program is simple; just bring your successful report card or progress report into the Americans office and get your FREE Student Ticket to the game on Tuesday, 2/9/10! Limit 1 free ticket per K-12 student, additional tickets may be purchased at a discounted rate! Please feel free to spread the word and forward this email to anyone who may be interested. Give us a call at 736-0606 or stop by our office to get your tickets today! Expires 4pm, 2/8/10.



Taking the Mystery out of Discovery Quest

The Discovery Quest is scheduled this year for March 24 and March 25. Discovery Quest is a way for students to boost their confidence by having a forum to display their knowledge of a favorite subject. Every year I am amazed by the variety of subjects covered and the passion the students display for their projects. Also, working on a Discovery Quest project can be a fun and productive way to spend our long Richland winter nights, or to fill up some of the time during days off for teachers conferences.



However, for parents, unfortunately, Discovery Quest may stare them in the face as another time consuming extra homework assignment. If you are on the fence about helping your child with a Discovery Quest project this year, I hope the information below provides you with some encouragement.

Unless your child is especially motivated for Discovery Quest, I would suggest limiting the time spent on the project to only 20 minutes per grade level. That would be 20 minutes for a kindergartner or 1st grader or one hour for a 3rd grader. For example, if you have a 1st grader crazy about snakes, help your student pick out 4 to 6 picture of snakes and write a short one line caption for each picture. Some families use the Internet and a word processor for this, but hand drawn pictures, pictures from magazines, calendars and museum brochures work equally as well. Of course, hand written captions, printed or cursive, also work well. Remember to use the Richland Public Library as a resource. With an ID you can access the computers for one hour. On Saturdays, the Friends of the Library sell old copies of magazines such a *National Geographic* and *Smithsonian* for pennies a copy. Projects previously done for a school assignment are also acceptable.

Presentations can be made on regular poster boards or cardboard stand alone display boards.

Participants will set up their displays in the gym on Wednesday, March 24 from about 6:00 to 7:00 P.M. This is usually an exiting time for the participants, they are excited to see their friends' exhibits and show off their own. Of course, if other commitments prohibit students from coming Wednesday night, they are welcome to set up their displays Thursday morning before school.

During class time on Thursday morning, participants will be escorted to the gym to discuss their projects with the reviewers. The reviewers are parent and grandparent volunteers. The reviewers ask the following questions: Where did you get the idea for your project? What was the most important thing you learned from working on your project, and What part of the project did you enjoy the most? The reviewers write the students' comments down on the review sheet which is eventually returned to the student. The student is then awarded with a medal or ribbon and a certificate. Thursday night, all students and families are invited to come and view all of the projects. AND THAT'S IT!

Please remember that this is not simply a science fair. In addition to wonderful displays about experiments tried at home and favorite animals, there are many displays about favorite figures from history, favorite book/video characters, favorite sports and sports teams, favorite places to travel, poetry written by students, and much more. If you would like to volunteer, please contact me at 371-1170 or eyokuda@aol.com. Please watch for the Discovery Quest flyer coming home in the next few weeks that will give full details on schedules and signing up.

Eileen Yokuda
Chairperson, Discovery Quest

Join us for the next PTO meeting!
February 24th at 3:30 pm in the Sacajawea Library.

Thank you, volunteers!

Our Book Fair was a great success, with many wonderful books finding their way into students' hands (or into their parents' hands). PTO volunteers helped set up the fair, run the sales desk and pack up everything to return to Scholastic. It couldn't have happened without their help! We sold over \$5000 worth of books in three days, and will receive over \$2000 worth of books to improve our library collection. The generosity of Sacajawea parents and students provided teachers with \$300 in gift certificates to improve their classroom libraries.

Many thanks go to everyone who helped make the Book Fair a success, especially to Eileen Yokuda who chaired the book fair and scheduled the volunteers.

Volunteers:

Patty Adkins
Beck Anderson
Diana Brown
Bobbie Bumpaous
Alma Diaz
Kristina Farnsworth
Trish Fraga
Joy Ham
Tami Lang
Liz Moy

Raluca Munteanu
Kim Nguyen
Cheryl Olivier
Jennie Seaver
Marge Shipman
Morgan Shipman
Christy Smith
Shilo White
Kiersten Young

Benita Brown
Librarian

Thank you

February Boxtops Contest

It's the last contest of the year! Let's see if you can beat our last winners, Mrs. Johnson's 4th grade! Contest will run from Feb. 1st. through Feb. 19th. As always, the winning class will get an ice cream party! Start collecting now and be sure to turn them into the collection bag in your classroom. We still need about 5,000 Box Tops to meet our yearly goal.



WANTED

Yearbook Photos!

Yearbook picture deadlines are fast approaching. We are still in need of pictures. If you have any pictures of your child's class, please submit them to the school so we can be sure to have pictures of all the kids. We don't want anyone missed. Please submit a copy to the school attn: Tami Lang.

Music Notes

Thank you to all the families and staff that attended the Music Teacher's Concert. It was very well attended and very well received. One fourth grade student said "IT WAS AWESOME". We did raise about \$1800 which will be used to supplement the district music budget.



Sacajawea's Trailblazer Choir will perform at the District Choral Showcase on February 16th at 7:00 pm in the Richland High School Auditorium.

Debi Teague

Newsletter Input

The deadline for items for the March newsletter is Wednesday, February 17. Submit your items to the school office, or mail electronically to bjrausch@owt.com. Please include your name and phone number.

Check out these eBooks!

We have a new resource that we would like to share with you. Our school has been awarded a one-year School Resource Grant that provides our school and our children's families' unlimited access to some pretty amazing technology.

It is a collection of 45 eBooks from Sylvan Dell Publishing, each with selectable English and Spanish text and audio. The books are fun, fictional stories involving animals and nature and with spectacular art, but there is a lot more. The back of each book has a 3-5 page educational section called For Creative Minds that you can explore with your child. Also, each title has its own homepage loaded with 30-40 pages of cross-curricular teaching activities and three interactive quizzes and it is all free online. We think you'll find this program an interesting integration of fun reading with the option of serious science, math, geography and language learning.

Because our school has this eBook site license, you and your family have complete access to this resource from your home computer and we encourage you to enjoy it with your children.

Here is how to access the eBook site license:

1. Go to our school website: www.rsd.edu/schools/sacajawea
2. Click on Library Resources (on the left side of the screen)
3. Click on Library Catalog
4. Select Sacajawea Elementary School from the list that appears.
5. Under Reading and Literature, click on Sylvan Dell e-books

If you like the eBooks and think you might like to purchase either hardcover or paperback editions for your family and friends, Sylvan Dell gives Sacajawea parents a 20% discount for all online purchases. As an added incentive, when you purchase these picture books for your home collection, our school library receives a 10% donation from the publisher. When families buy the books, our school will earn money towards next year's Site License and new books for our library. If you would like to take advantage of this offer, just select items from Sylvan Dell's online store (<http://www.sylvandellpublishing.com/catalog.php>) and during checkout, enter this code in the coupon code window: 6T1BPO

On the Family Coupon page in the upper right corner, you can enter the code--6T1BPO--and see your purchase and the 10% contribution back to Sacajawea.



PTO Nominating Committee

We are in search of people who are interested in being on the PTO Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee is comprised of two or more people who are willing to be contacts for those that would like more information on the PTO Board and what the positions entail, and to relay those names to the current board for nomination for a position for the 2010-2011 school year. Nominating Committee members will have a detailed description of each position, and basically act as a contact for those that are interested in running for a board position. If you'd like to be on the committee, please contact Karla Hackworth at 375-0564.



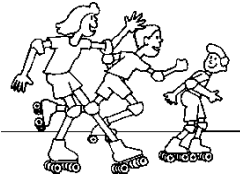
Talent Show

Coming Soon to Sacajawea!
The 2010 Talent Show!



Skate Party

Tuesday, February 23
6:30 - 8:30 pm
Rollarena Skating Center
in Richland



Happy Birthday to the following Sacajawea teachers and staff during the month of February!

February 21 - Craig Curtis
February 25 - Ashely Hill



Remember to

VOTE

on the school levy
February 9, 2010



www.RichlandSchools.com

February 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Boxtops Contest Begins	2	3	4	5 Battle of the Books	6
7	8	9	10	11 5th Grade Parent Science Night	12	13 Book Fair Barnes & Noble
14	15 No School	16 Showcase Choir	17 Newsletter Input Due	18	19 Boxtops Contest Ends	20
21	22	23 Skate Party	24 PTO Meeting 3:30 pm	25 2nd and 3rd Graders to ACT	26 READ ACROSS AMERICA	27
28						