



# Sage Ridge School

*College Preparatory Excellence*

February 19, 2010

Dear Sage Ridge Parent,

It is a quiet week around school as I catch up on a stack of paperwork. I hope this finds you in good health and “on the slopes” or indulging yourself in the recreation of your choice.

1. **Replacement for Retiring Dr. Gaye McCollum-Nickles** - I am proud to announce the hiring of Mr. Jamie Otis as the new Upper School Head beginning in 2010/2011. Mr. Otis is currently employed by the Korea International School where he is the Upper School Associate Principal. He has also been the Vice Principal of the Secondary School at the Lincoln School in Accra, Ghana, the Assistant Head of the Middle School at the Bishop’s School in La Jolla, CA, and the college counselor and science department chair at the Palm Valley School in Palm Springs, CA. Jamie holds an undergraduate degree in biology from Denison University and a graduate degree in Nonprofit Management and Leadership from the University of San Diego. He is married to Katherine Pasternak and they have two children, ages two years and three months. Jamie will take up his duties on July 12. During the interview process, he showed himself to be a, “bright and ambitious educator who has demonstrated outstanding leadership abilities and a true passion for working with students.” I know you join with me in extending to Jamie a huge Sage Ridge welcome.

I am also pleased to announce that Gaye Nickles will continue to teach the senior seminar, SRS’s “capstone” course in the upper school academic program. Gaye is a wonderful teacher and her continued involvement in the Sage Ridge community is truly a blessing for the School and its students.

2. **“A Magical Night at the Cirque” Gala – March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2010** - Join us for an enchanted cirque-styled evening. Taste a myriad of edible delights and awaken your senses with world class entertainment by InnerRhythms Dance Studio. The evening’s highlights include a silent auction, Dick Wilson’s Exclusive Wine Raffle and an exciting live auction. For more information, to purchase tickets, or to make a donation, please contact Mary Dini 852-6222 ext. 502.

**DICK WILSON’S EXCLUSIVE WINE RAFFLE IS BACK FOR THE 3<sup>rd</sup> YEAR**  
**A collection of wines from Dick Wilson’s personal cellar consisting of world-class Chardonnay and Pinot Noir Wines from the vintages 2004-2006**

***White Burgundy:***

2004 Girardin Chassagne-Montrachet, Le Romanee, Vieilles Vignes, Premier Cru  
2005 Matrot Meursault, Les Chevalieres  
2006 Brocard Chablis, Montee de Tonnerre, Premier Cru

***California Chardonnay:***

2004 School House Chardonnay, Spring Mountain, Napa County  
2005 Patz & Hall Chardonnay, Alder Springs Vineyard, Mendocino County  
2006 DuMOL Chardonnay, Russian River Valley, Sonoma County

***Red Burgundy:***

2004 Jadot Beaune, Clos des Ursules, Monopole, Premier Cru  
2005 Raphet Gevrey-Chambertin, Les Combettes, Premier Cru  
2006 Delarche Le Corton, Vieilles Vignes, Grand Cru

***California Pinot Noir:***

2004 El Molino Pinot Noir, Rutherford, Napa County

2005 Sea Smoke Pinot Noir, Southing, Sta. Rita Hills, Santa Barbara County

2006 Heintz Pinot Noir, Sonoma Coast, Sonoma County

3. **Snow Days and Late Starts** – I want to emphasize again that although we normally will follow Washoe County’s lead, there will be times that we will not do so. Information regarding the SRS decision is communicated through the SRS website, our emergency phone system, and the TV stations (Channels 2, 4, & 8). Regarding the latter, depending on the station, they either include us or not. Rest assured, however, that the TV stations are notified. As always, the safety of parents and students traveling to the campus is the highest concern, but no decision, regardless of what it is, will be right for everyone on a snowy morning or on a morning following a snowy evening. The general rule of thumb is that whenever Arrowcreek Parkway and the road in front of the school (Crossbow Court) are plowed (and passable) we are going to have school. Of course, deciding on delays can be a little difficult but the same principle applies. However, prior to making a decision on a delay, the neighborhoods in and around the school, because of the elevation at the school in relation to that in the valley, are driven at 5:00 a.m. to try to ascertain what delay, if any, is appropriate.
4. **Grade Level Parent meetings with the Headmaster** – In March, I will meet with parents from the various grade levels to discuss issues specific to their grade levels and also school wide issues in general. These will be announced through the respective PACs and Tuesday Notes.
5. **Admissions** – Current parents who are interested in hosting informational coffees should contact Ms. Carol Murphy in the admissions office. These coffees are very important to the success of our admissions efforts. Our families are our best marketing resource, and informal gatherings such as these provide a wonderful venue to discuss the School. As I have said many times, two thirds of our inquiries come from referrals. Please give Ms. Murphy a call to ask how you can assist.
6. **New Faculty for 2010/2011** – At this point, we are looking for teachers to replace Mr. Erikson (upper school physics and math) and Ms. Tanner (upper school English). Mr. Erikson will be following his wife, Karen, who is locating back east to pursue an internship in clinical psychology. Ms. Tanner not only will be returning to graduate school but will also be getting married (to Andrew Mills, former SRS Latin teacher). I know you join me in wishing them the very best in their endeavors and also in thanking them for their efforts on behalf of the students at Sage Ridge. In the meantime, I am searching for the best possible replacements. Both positions have been posted with not only national search agencies but also locally and with our regional and national accrediting associations. At this point, three candidates for the English position are being brought to campus. The replacement for Mr. Erikson’s position has already been identified and I hope to have a formal announcement shortly.
7. **7<sup>th</sup> Grade Parent Meetings and the SRS Upper School** – In the fall, Dr. Nickles and I met with each of the 8<sup>th</sup> grade parents (who wished to meet) to answer questions about the upper school at Sage Ridge. I suppose the “word got out” because we received a number of requests from current 7<sup>th</sup> grade parents to do the same with the 7<sup>th</sup> grade. Therefore, in April we will be offering the same opportunity to the 7<sup>th</sup> grade parents. In the middle of March, we will send a letter home to each 7<sup>th</sup> grade parent offering them the opportunity to speak with us about the upper school. This is simply a chance for parents to ask questions and receive accurate information that they will hopefully use to make an informed decision about the best fit for their child as they move from middle to upper school.

8. **Grandparents Day** – I do apologize for canceling Grandparents Day at the last minute. This is the first time this has happened in the School’s history. However, with a number of our students contracting chicken pox, the best medical advice available indicated that we would be putting our grandparents at serious risk if we were to continue the day as planned. Regardless, our grandparents are extremely important members of our community. Hopefully we will be able to have a day later in the year in which our grandparents can at least join us for lunch and one of our Coffee Houses.
9. **Chicken Pox** – As I indicated in my letter to the community during the week of February 7, we (I was) were caught by surprise regarding the immunization requirement for chicken pox. I accept full responsibility for this and would like to assure everyone that we are moving to ensure that this does not happen again. Please be advised that we are reviewing carefully the requirements by the state and county and will be performing an immunization audit on our existing records. More on this in next month’s letter.
10. **Annual Fund** – I want to thank everyone who has so far contributed to the Annual Fund and again emphasize how crucial this is to the financial health of the School. Our goal this year is \$165,000 and we are currently at \$114,000 in actual cash and pledges. Unfortunately, our participation level is still only at 27%. Every gift is important, regardless of the amount. Please join us in making Sage Ridge everything it can be by giving generously to this year’s Annual Fund.
11. **Wanted – First Host Family – Rotary Exchange Student** – Nick Wang our 2009/2010 Rotary exchange student, is doing quite well – he was the point guard on the varsity basketball team. Many thanks to Dr. and Mrs. Hasfurther, who are his host family. They are a former Sage Ridge middle school family. However, next year we have been promised an eleventh grade student from Thailand, and we are currently seeking a host family for the 2010/2011 school year. Rotary usually seeks three host families, each for 2-4 months. This is a very rewarding experience. To process his visa and other documents, we need to know the first family (middle of August through November) by April 1. If you are interested in helping by being the first host family, please contact Richard Hughes at 825-0505 or email either Carol Murphy or me at school.
12. **Tuition, Enrollment Contracts, and Deposits** – As I indicated in my tuition letter of January 29 last, enrollment contracts for SY 2010/2011 will be mailed to current families on March 17. Financial aid awards to current families will also be mailed at that time. Enrollment contracts from current families (along with enrollment deposits) are due back at SRS by March 26. Please note also that the remainder of tuition is due on July 1. However, families may also choose to pay monthly. Those families may choose to pay on either the 5<sup>th</sup> or the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month beginning with the 5<sup>th</sup> or the 20<sup>th</sup> of July. Questions should be directed to Cathy Hill in the business office. *Note: SRS is now using FAST not SSS for processing financial aid requests. Please contact either Cathy Hill in the Business Office or Carol Murphy in the Admissions Office if you have questions.*
13. **Host Families for Chinese Students Needed** – Host families are needed to house incoming Chinese students who wish to study at SRS. The sending families pay a monthly room and board “stipend” to the SRS receiving family to defray the costs of upkeep during the student’s stay. Interested families should contact Carol Murphy in the Admissions Office for more information. Please help us continue this program which is so beneficial to all of our students.

Best wishes to everyone and please let me know if I can be of help or answer any questions you might have.

Sincerely,

William H. Heim III