



Sage Ridge School

College Preparatory Excellence

August 12, 2010

Dear Sage Ridge School Families,

I sincerely hope you and your family have enjoyed a restful summer. I am excited for this next school year as we, as a community, learn and grow alongside our students who will need our support as they tackle challenges, build on strengths and improve weaknesses. At Sage Ridge School, children are the primary beneficiaries of our work, love and support. However, parents need support as well – that’s why we have moved to a new calendar/events communications system called Trumba. I hope you find it effective. This is a step in assisting our community to communicate, gather, and see the richness of our school. As you know, I speak frequently about Community; it is one of our Value Pillars. However, what are the tangible and measurable benefits of community – to students, parents, faculty and staff? I will be asking myself and others this question throughout the year and hopefully have a better sense of this powerful yet intangible aspect of a school.

Of course, in this line of work, the personal informs and enriches the professional. I am feeling refreshed and recharged. My family and I traveled to Egypt and Turkey allowing us to reconnect as a family and learn together, first-hand, history, cultures and geography of the places we visited. It also reminded me how much I love to learn with the added bonus to be alongside my children as they experience international travel from their own perspective. They saw things in ways I would never had noticed and served as a catalyst for interactions with people which would never have happened otherwise. I had to make time to listen to their observations and see the world we were visiting through their eyes. So it is with us here, at Sage Ridge School, we must charge ourselves with stopping and listening to our children and keeping them in the fore of our efforts.

Heading into the next school year, there are a few topics which deserve mentioning now. First, the search for a new Head of School is underway: the position description has been posted and the search consultant, The Education Group, has begun vetting potential candidates. Toward the end of the current month, a link on our website will lead you to information, updates and documents which describe this process. Furthermore, parents, students, and faculty will be involved in the candidate visit process. The Summer at the Ridge program was a success with over 150 enrolled children. I thank AJ Long for her work in this endeavor and the teachers who created and delivered novel and exciting courses and experiences for the children. Cathy Hill and her staff have worked tirelessly to make improvements to the buildings and grounds – I think the school has never looked better – Bill Heim would be proud. Finally, I wish to thank Brandon Welcome and Mr. Shaw who planned and constructed the raised-bed garden over the summer. The greenhouse was finally constructed with the help of Zack Dayton and his family.

We have several new faculty and administration joining us. They are in their second day of new faculty orientation as I write this letter. Our new teachers come from all over the world and it is my intention that they are received with courtesy, hospitality and warmth – join me in this effort. Also, Jamie Otis, Upper School Head, is stepping into his role as the leader of his division with sensitivity, energy and passion. I am appointing Mr. Otis as the Assistant Head of School as long as I serve as Interim Head of School. This will insure that the proper leadership is present in my absence. He and I, together, complement each other – taking care of our divisions while also discussing and acting in the best interest of the School.

As you see from the myriad of proud stories – this is a vibrant and caring community. I can't wait to greet your child on campus. By the second week of September, I will know all our new students' names – which is only the beginning of knowing them as individuals.

Sincerely,

Colburn Shindell
Interim Head of School



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Important Information for Sage Ridge Families:

The items listed below are of particular importance. Please note them carefully.

1. **First Day of School** – The first day of classes is Tuesday, August 24. Students are expected to be on campus by 8:00 am. There will be an all school assembly at 8:05 a.m. in the Great Space of the Webster Building.
2. **Office Hours** – Regular office hours are 7:30 am to 4:30 pm.
3. **Book Day, Middle & Upper School** (Monday, August 23) –Listed below are items to attend to while at Book Day:
 - a. Student schedule distribution
 - b. Distribution of laptops
 - c. PA volunteer desk
 - d. Student photos (ID cards)
 - e. Car pool forms and help
 - f. Used uniform clothing
 - g. Spirit Clothing sale
 - h. Gala sign up
 - i. Student driver sign up/Vaccination Station/Forms
 - j. Assistance (if necessary) with online textbook purchase – Parents should note that this should have been taken care of prior to Book Day. Questions should be directed immediately to the Business Office.
 - k. College counseling station

Note: Middle School physical education uniforms will be distributed in September. In the interim, please send your child to school according to the P.E. teacher's instructions. The cost of one uniform is covered by the student activity fee. Additional uniforms must be purchased. Please be careful when ordering (from Mrs. Stephens in the Crossbow Bldg.) to indicate the correct sizes.

The schedule this year for Book Day will be alphabetical by last name:

8:30 – 9:00	A - D
9:00 – 9:30	E – H
9:30 – 10:00	I - L
10:00 – 10:30	M - N
10:30 – 11:00	O - P
11:00 – 11:30	Q – R
11:30 – 12:00	S – T
12:00 – 12:30	U – Z

Everyone can help ensure that Book Day runs smoothly by arriving within (and only within) the assigned time frame. Parking will be tight. Please be courteous and understand that because of the limited number of spaces on the School's property, some of you will have to park curbside on Crossbow Court. Please do not double park or block anyone in who is already parked in a designated parking place and do not park against the red curbs.

5. **School Materials (i.e. binders, notebooks, etc.)** – Lists were sent home with the June letter. *There are lists for middle school only.* The upper school does not have a general supply list for each grade level. Instead, supply lists are distributed with course expectations the first day of school. If you have questions, please contact Ms. Stephens in the divisional office (x 508)
 - a. Laptop Program – New laptops will be distributed on August 20th at the New Student/6th Grade Orientation and August 23rd on Book Day in the Great Space to everyone who has purchased one.
 - b. Student Planners – These will be distributed the 1st day of school during advisory meetings
6. **Community Advisory Council**

Colburn Shindell, Interim Head of School	cshindell@sageridge.org	775-852-6222 x510
Jamie Otis Upper School Head	jotis@sageridge.org	775-852-6222 x534
Pat Casey Director of Athletics	pcasey@sageridge.org	775-852-6222 x514
Carol Murphy Director of Admissions	cmurphy@sageridge.org	775-852-6222 x503
Cary Ingbar PA President	cingbar@gmail.com	775-885-2864
Ann Barnes US PAC	Michael-barnes@msn.com	775-742-2259
Ruth Adams MS PAC	ruveges@charter.net	775-884-4585
Lauren Becker MS SG President		
Dylan Turner US SG President		

7. **Parents' Association** – As a parent, you are already a member of the Parents Association, and we look forward to your participation in this active volunteer organization. The PA sponsors many activities, including the Welcome Back Barbeque and other special events. Please note the enclosed letter from Cary Ingbar, this year's PA president. The Parents' Association will have a hospitality area set up on Book Day in the Great Space for individuals who like to sign up for their volunteer hours. In addition, the PA will assist parents with choosing how they wish to become involved in the School this year. There are many possibilities, so please ask the Parents Association how you can best serve. Independent schools such as ours thrive on parent support and volunteerism. It is one of the things that set us apart and helps make us a strong, vibrant community. If you have questions, please do not hesitate to ask. Parent Association Executive Committee meetings (see enclosed) will be the 1st Wednesday of each month at 5:30 p.m.
8. **Parent Advisory Councils (PAC)** – Parent Councils are normally composed of two parents from each grade level and meet by division (Middle and Upper School). These meetings are normally closed to all except Council members but input is solicited from all parents prior to each meeting. The Councils have the following goals:
 - a) Provide a forum for addressing parental concerns.
 - b) Act as a sounding board for initiatives developed by the school.
 - c) Pass on suggestions for improvements in the school to the administration.
 - d) Act as a positive community resource for new, current and prospective parents.
 - e) Make suggestions for appropriate policy/curricular changes.

- f) Provide a direct and indirect communications link to their respective grade levels.
Please read the enclosed divisional letters to determine meeting dates and times.
9. **Lunch Information** – Please refer to the website under Parents/Lunch Orders/Men Wielding Fire.
10. **Parent Rosters** – These are small, red, three-ring binders that contain parent addresses, email addresses, phone numbers, etc. These will be distributed to new parents and returning parents who have lost theirs on Back to School Night, September 29, 2010.
- If you have any current information, you can email it to Laura Stephens at: lstephens2@sageridge.org. **We will have what is on file at Book Day for you to review and approve, or you may contact Laura Stephens.**
 - You may include any contact information you wish for the student and/or parent/guardian such as: name, street/ mailing address, home/cell numbers, email addresses, etc. The sooner the PA can collect all the information – the sooner the Directory can be published.
 - Also, you may submit business cards to be placed in the directory for \$50 payable to the Sage Ridge Parent’s Association. You may leave a card with Julia Ballinger at the front office or send the pdf to Lisa Cady at: joncady@sbcglobal.net. Due to limited space, all ads/cards are subject to final approval by Mr. Shindell.
11. **Student Drivers** – Driving onto campus is a privilege. Students who wish to drive onto campus need to register their vehicle with Mrs. Stephens on Book Day. Students will need to present their drivers’ license and license plate number in order to receive their parking sticker. Student parking is confined to the area indicated on the sticker.
12. **The School Uniform** – Please see divisional letters.
13. **Important Calendar Items** – Below are items of which you should be especially aware:
- PA Back to School BBQ - Sunday, August 29, 5:00pm – 6:30pm. This is always a fun annual event sponsored by the Parents Association and designed to kick off the year. It is very relaxed and is conducted “picnic style.” That is, people bring umbrellas, blankets to spread on the grass, lawn chairs, etc. and the PA provides the food. It is a great chance for people to meet newcomers and renew old acquaintances from the previous year. Please RSVP to Julia Ballinger in the main office by Wednesday, August 25th, at 4:30 p.m.
 - Back to School Night (Wednesday, September 29) – This will begin at 6 pm in the Great Space and will provide a chance for parents to gain some first hand knowledge about the organization and direction of their children’s classes. There will also be a short presentation by the Headmaster to begin the evening.
 - Semester Exams – These dates are December 15, 16, 17. No one is excused from exams. Parents are asked to plan their vacations accordingly.
 - Outdoor Education Week (September 13 – 17) – The parent information evening for outdoor education will be Thursday, September 2, at 6 p.m. Attendance is crucial at this because the trips for each grade level are different.
14. **Fall Sports** – Upper School sports teams begin practice on Monday, August 16. Teams that will start practice will be girls’ volleyball, boys and girls cross country, and boys and girls soccer. Middle School teams do not begin practice until Tuesday, August 24. Please note also that there will be a parent meeting of all upper school fall sport athletes on Tuesday, September, 1 from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m.
15. **Student Physical Exams** – All students are required to have a physical on file with the School by the first day of classes. That is, all new students to SRS are required to have a new physical (within the last six months) prior to the start of classes. In addition, all returning students in odd numbered grades (e.g. 5th, 7th etc.) need new physicals as well. All returning students in even numbered grades (e.g. 6th, 8th, etc.) do not need to get a new physical and may use their physicals which are on file from 09/10.
16. **2010 Gala** – Currently set for Saturday, March 5, 2010, this year’s Gala is looking for volunteers to help with this year’s event. Interested individuals should contact Mary Dini at x 502.