

Sage Ridge School

College Preparatory Excellence

November 18, 2009

Dear Sage Ridge Parent,

I have included general all school information below. More specific divisional information is contained in the division heads' letters which are included.

1. **Veteran's Day** – On Wednesday, November 11, there was a short program in the Great Space of the Webster Building to honor servicemen and women, past and present. On behalf of the entire school community, I want to thank everyone who attended and in particular, our guest speaker, Chief Master Sergeant Ken Gray.
2. **2010 International Trip to Macchu Pichu and the Amazon Jungle** – This year's international trip over the February break will be to Machu Pichu and the Amazon jungle. This is a once in a lifetime trip and is open to students in grades 8 – 12. There is one additional spot open for someone who is interested.
3. **Admissions Open House** – The first admissions open house of the school year will take place at the school on Saturday, November 21, from 1-3 p.m. At that time prospective parents will visit the campus to speak with teachers, current students, and current parents. I ask that all of you who know of people in the community who have children who might be a good fit for SRS, mention to these individuals that they should contact Carol Murphy, our Admission Director, for a school tour. Although we advertise in the local media, both voice and print, current parent referrals has proven to be the single best marketing tool we have. Close to sixty-five per cent of all of our applications last year came from referrals from our own parents.
4. **The SRS Web Site** – We have transitioned to the new website. I believe you will find the redesign of the site much more practical and user friendly. Your comments and suggestions are welcome and should be sent to Mary Dini, Development Assistant (mdini@sageridge.org). You may also email them to me. A result of this transition is an increased reliance on Edline. Please be sure to activate your Edline account. Contact Mr. Jorgensen with any questions in regards to Edline.
5. **Thanksgiving Feast** – This has been a tradition at SRS since the School opened in the Fall of 1998, and is organized by the Parents Association. Unfortunately, this event is for faculty and students only. In the past, the entire community was invited but because of the School's recent growth, including the entire community has not been possible the last several years. Many thanks go to PA Hospitality co-chairs, Sonja Leonard (Courtney, '15 and Brittany, '17) and Laurice Becker (Lauren, '15), and in particular Mary Ann Huber (Andrew, '12 and Brandon, '14) and all the volunteers who make this wonderful day possible.
6. **Emergency Communication with the Entire Community** – It is that time of the year again. The School is part of the *School Reach Recording System*, which allows us to send a prepared message to the emergency telephone numbers of all parents simply by dialing one number. All parents should ensure that the emergency phone number the School currently has (please contact Laura Stephens) for them is accurate.
7. **Snow Days and Late Starts Due to Hazardous Conditions** – Sage Ridge will generally follow Washoe County School's schedule unless there is a compelling reason to do otherwise. Translation: When the county road in front of the School is plowed and we can get the company with whom we subcontract for snow removal on site, in time to clear the parking lot and walkways, we will have school. Announcements regarding whether there is no school or a delayed start will be communicated in the following ways prior to 6:30 a.m. on the day in question.
 1. The School Reach Recording System – A message will be sent by Laura Stephens between 6:00 – 6:30 a.m. to all families via the telephone (see #6 above).
 2. Website – Andy Jorgensen, Director of Technology, will put notification on the School's website between 6:00 – 6:30 a.m.

3. **Television** – Channels 2, 4, and 8 will be contacted and informed of the School's decision prior to 6:30 a.m. Please check all of these channels since, depending on the conditions and phone traffic into the station, not all of the stations may respond to our call and information.

Finally, the School has a schedule for a one hour delayed start (9:05 a.m.) and a two hour delayed start (10:05 a.m.). If this is considered appropriate, this will be indicated in the announcements as well.

8. **Gala** – The 8th annual SRS Gala will take place on Saturday, March 6, at the Atlantis Hotel and Casino. Please make a note on your calendars and save the date. Mary Dini, SRS Development Assistant, is hard at work with the 2010 Gala Committee. However, the Gala needs your help! Please consider donating an item for auction. Auction items come in many forms: wine, furniture, vacations, gift cards, antiques, art, the list goes on and on. Perhaps you own a business that could offer a service for auction? If you would like to help, please contact Mary at mdini@sageridge.org or call 852-6222 ext. 502. Gifts made to the Gala are tax deductible to the full extent of the law.
9. **Lunch Information** – Suzanne Shapiro (Nathan, '15) and Tina Montella (Michael, '15 & Marlette, '17) are this year's coordinators of the SRS Lunch Program. If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact either Suzanne or Tina.
10. **Board of Trustees** – This weekend (November 20 & 21) the SRS Board of Trustees is meeting to review and renew the School's Strategic Plan and the Strategic Financial Plan. This has been necessitated by the School's remarkable progress over the last three to five years. I hope to provide more information on this in my next letter.
11. **2010/2011 Tuition** – Please be reminded that my annual tuition letter will be sent, as always, the third week of January, 2010.
12. **The Headmaster's "State of the School" Presentation** – For the last five years, I have held a meeting with parents the last week of January to present and discuss the financial state of the School. In my December letter I will announce the date and time for this year's meeting. I hope to see you all there.
13. **Support Sage Ridge School while you shop!** – On December 4th, Gesture will donate 15% of its store net sales to Sage Ridge School. Simply shop at Gesture, located in the Summit Mall next to Orvis, on December 4th and mention Sage Ridge School.
14. **Annual Fund** – We are pleased to announce a monthly prize give away! Anyone who has contributed to this year's Annual Fund as of November 30th is eligible. Everyone who donates gets one entry - regardless of the size of your donation. The first monthly drawing will be for 6 bottles of French champagne and 12 crystal champagne flutes. The winner will be notified via phone or email. I can't emphasize enough how important the Annual Fund is to the financial health of the School. It is the Annual Fund that provides the dollars that support the enhancements in extra-curricular athletics, theater, and music. Without the AF, these programs would be funded at only one fifth of their current level. Please join my wife, Heidi, and me and participate in this year's Annual Fund Drive. Remember: All gifts are valuable, regardless of the level. Last year's giving percentages were as follows: Trustees = 100%, Faculty = 92%, and Parents 57%. The level of parent giving is crucial when we go to foundations that have a history of giving to non-profit institutions like SRS. If our level of parent giving does not match the industry average (65%), and it didn't, most foundations will not consider us as being "gift worthy." I want to thank our parent chairs this year, David Geddes (Michelle, '14) and Janet Lowe (Corinne, '13 & Kristen, '13) for their organizational work and support of the campaign. I ask that everyone respond to this appeal and contribute.
15. **October/November (and March) Parent Coffees** – I want to thank all of you who attended the parent coffees in the library after car pool in the morning this past month and a half. It was a pleasure to interact with everyone and especially to meet some, if not all, of our new parents. For those of you, who were unable to attend, please be assured that these will be repeated in March, but in the evening in order to allow people who are busy during the day to attend as well.
16. **SRS Drama** – The fall play (*Macbeth*) this year will involve both middle and upper school students performing on the same stage together. Performances are set for November 18, 19, and 20 at 7:00 pm. The performances will be in the Crossbow Theater. I hope to see you in attendance.

17. **Semester Exams** – I included this in my August, September, and my October letters but it bears repeating. The dates for semester exams are December 16, 17, 18. No one is excused from exams. Parents are asked to plan their vacations accordingly.

Sincerely,



William H. Heim III
Headmaster

Enc.



Sage Ridge School

would like to thank the following donors
for their generous contributions to the
8th Annual Gala:

Aura de la Femme (www.auradelaforme.com)

Big Five Sporting Goods

Build-A-Bear

Disneyland

Harrah's Reno

In-N-Out

Jack in the Box

Moana Nursery

The Resort at Red Hawk

Reno Aces



Qdoba

If you would like to make a contribution to the Gala, please contact Mary Dini
mdini@sageridge.org or call 852-6222 ext. 502

Memo

Date: 15 November 09
To: Upper School Parents
From: Gaye McCollum-Nickles, Ph.D.

Reminder

What a Deal, a Free ACT: The ACT test, because it is content based, is a more accurate measure of our curriculum than the SAT, a skills-based test that emphasizes a student's ability to reason effectively. Though the ACT is not required by all colleges, we encourage all of our juniors and seniors to take the ACT. Beginning this academic year (8/09 – 6/10), SRS will reimburse families of juniors and seniors only for the cost of one ACT exam (content and writing). Bring your receipt and ticket (obtained when the child takes the test) to Andrew Quinn who will fill out a reimbursement request and submit it to our business officer. Register on line at www.actstudent.org.

<u>ACT registration deadline</u>	<u>test date</u>
11/6	12/12
1/5	2/6
3/5	4/10
5/7	6/12

Mini-Session Courses: Upper School Mini-session courses have been scheduled. [78% of all students are scheduled for their first choices; 18%, for their second.] Courses run three hours, from 8:30 – 11:30 and 12:15 – 3:15. Lunch will be from 11:30 – 12:15 and will double as club and meeting time. There will be a ten-minute break from 10:00 – 10:10 in the morning and from 2:00 – 2:10 in the afternoon. Each course may assign a maximum of one hour and fifteen minutes homework a night, including Friday night of the first weekend. *Because both morning and afternoon courses are three hours long, any absence could seriously affect the quality of the experience for students. Please arrange appointments after 15 January, if at all possible.* All courses end on Friday, 15 January.

Morning Session

Mathematica [Mr. Erikson]
Anthropology: What Does it Mean to be Human? [Dr. Garey-Sage, Ms. Ingbar]
Jane Austen: Progression of an Author [Ms. Tanner]
Media's Effect on Society [Mr. VanCleve]
Latin American Short Stories [Ms. Taucare] Survey of Nuclear Power [Dr. deLancey]

Afternoon Session

The Magical World View [Mr. Knopp]
Aviation and Aeronautics [Mr. Cook]
Art in Public Spaces [Mr. Brown]
Forensics [Ms. Bissonette]
Introduction to Hitchcock [Ms. Dickson]
History of Crime and Punishment in Western Civilization [Dr. Bialkowski]

Spring Electives: Students have completed their Spring elective request forms, and we are in the process of scheduling. If you think your child might want to apply to one of the UC schools, please let either Andrew or me know as soon as possible. The UC schools require two consecutive courses in the arts; we will want to be sure to schedule your child accordingly. The scheduling of electives should not affect students' schedules; however, if it does, we will keep the disruption minimal. Please call me if you have any questions.

Bissonette: Molecular Biology Research
Brown: Upper School Studio Art
Brown: Ceramics
Cook: Exercise Physiology
Crain: Public Speaking
Erikson: Probability
Gault: Madrigal Choir
Gault: Music History
Gault: Music Theory
Larson: Debate Fundamentals
Larson: Journalism: Media and Society
Tanner: Public Speaking
VanCleve: American Constitution
VanCleve: Environmental History & Policy

Senior Thesis: Mr. VanCleve, senior thesis advisor, introduced the senior thesis program to seniors today. The faculty will keep grade books and post progress to Edline. Twenty per cent of the final grade on the thesis is earned by completing the process on time. The first six deadlines are as follows: 11/20 Topic and Committee; 11/25 Research Review meeting with chairperson; 12/04 Source #1 notes 50% complete; 12/11 Source #1 notes 100% complete; 12/18 Source #2 notes 50% complete; 1/04 Source #2 notes 100% complete (review research with chair). Seniors should plan to use 'B' period on Tuesdays and Thursdays to work on their senior theses. I will be available for questions.

Debate: The debate team will continue to travel to tournaments through November and December. Watch for correspondence from Ben Larson. We welcome those who were in Fall sports who have lately joined the team. Over November 6th – 8th, our debate team joined 500 students from 30 schools to compete at USC. Brandon Arner and Kyle Tanguay took 9th place in Lincoln/Douglas debate; Ryan Dhindsa and Grant Gabriel won all rounds but the final (2-1 decision) in Policy; Ryan Dhindsa was recognized, out of 170 debaters, as the 4th best speaker in Policy Debate. As a result, SRS is the only Northern Nevada school to receive invitations to multiple tournaments in California in the Spring.

College Counseling [Mr. Andrew Quinn]

As fall continues, please be aware of the following college counseling items:

EXPLORE & PLAN Testing Saturday, November 21; 8:00 AM

EXPLORE Testing (required for Freshmen) and PLAN Testing (required for Sophomores) takes place in the Webster Building. Please be sure your student arrives on time, as those arriving after testing begins will not be permitted to test. Testing begin promptly at 8:15 AM and will conclude at approximately 11:30 AM. Please plan to pick up your student at that time. These tests offer important preparation for the ACT (typically taken beginning Spring of Junior year) and a valuable career interest inventory. More information about these tests can be found at www.actstudent.org and in the test bulletins that were distributed to students.

PSAT Score Results

Results from the October PSAT administration are typically sent to us sometime in mid-December. As soon as they are received here, we will mail a copy of students' score results home. When school resumes in January, I will meet with students as a group during the school day to review and interpret their results with them and introduce them to some of the planning resources offered by the College Board.

Financial Aid Information for Seniors

As our Seniors have been completing their applications for admission, we have turned our attention to a review of the ins and outs of college financial aid and how to apply for it. Of particular note, students should now know which financial aid forms are required by each of the schools to which they are applying and their respective deadlines. These may include the College Board's CSS Profile, the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), and/or an additional financial aid application specific to a particular college. These requirements are clearly delineated on each school's financial aid websites. This is an excellent time to review these requirements with your Senior and have a conversation about each of your respective roles in this important process.

Naviance Family Connection

Is your student wondering which of America's 5758 colleges and universities are best for them? Upper School students and parents can begin the investigation by using the "College Search" feature in Naviance to enter criteria and formulate a potential list. It's a great way to learn more about schools with which you might already be familiar and discover new possibilities as well.

Please contact me if I can provide additional information as your student continues in the college search and preparation process.

MEMO

TO: Middle School Families

FROM: Colburn Shindell

Recognition of Headmaster’s List and Honor Roll: This is indeed a very important topic and remains under consideration. To be clear, I have not made a final decision. How we encourage and reward excellence is a topic I have taken quite a bit of time to reevaluate. In the meantime, please make an effort to call me or meet with me personally to share your perspective. I am primarily concerned with reducing the excessive emphasis that can be placed on grades and increasing the community’s recognition of learning, effort and citizenship. By only publicly recognizing academic excellence, we are sending a message to students that it is only the grade that counts. Over the past few years, we have introduced other ways to recognized excellence – primarily the Pillar Awards. This award serves an important role in recognizing students who exhibit the SRS Value Pillars – Integrity, Community, Courage, Respect, Scholarship – or the Middle School Pillars – Imagination, Effort, Spirit, Responsibility, Character. I believe academic recognition can be a personal and private experience. We should promote an intrinsic motivation for working hard and excelling. I encourage you to share with me your perspective in the coming weeks so that a final determination can be made prior to the end of the 2nd quarter. We will always recognize academic excellence through the Headmaster’s List and Honor Roll; how we do this is the question at hand.

Homework Survey Results:

Time Dedicated to Weekend Homework

Grade	5	6	7	8
N (#of students surveyed)	34	31	33	28
Median	45 min	60	60	90
Mean	43.52 min	51.93	73.63	101.32

Time Dedicated to Weekday Homework

Grade	5	6	7	8
N (#of students surveyed)	34	31	33	28
Median	60 min	70	90	100
Mean	58.97 min	66.93	111.67	119.64

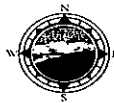
Mini-Session: During the first two weeks of January, immediately following the December break, middle school students will take part in four unique and exciting classes taught by middle school faculty. The schedule is a departure from the norm, balancing an exciting learning opportunity with a refreshing change of pace. Course descriptions will be sent home with the selection sheet in early December. 5th and 6th grade students will attend classes together as will the 7th and 8th. Some classes require textbooks – I have limited the cost per class to \$20. These

texts will be ordered by the school and charged to the student's account through the Business Office in January. Not all classes require texts. Final course rosters will be posted before departure for December holiday. A preliminary list of courses follows – these are subject to change between now and the selection process in early December.

Faculty Name	Course Name
Abrams	Poetry and Hip Hop
S. Stevenson	What is Design?
Andresian	Sign Language
Bailey	Dragons
Ward	Historic Buildings of Reno
Weber	The Supreme Court
Crain	Theatre Comedy
Gallivan	Sharks, Skates, Rays
Gault	Green Energy
Shindell	8th Grade Speech
Harmon	Baseball
Kratzer	1st Aid, CPR
Kuehn	My Life-Creative Writing in Autobiographies
Jorgensen	Website Design
Walker	Leadership
Welsh	Latin Dance

Logos: We require logos on all newly purchased uniform items to insure that the items are indeed a part of our uniform established by SRS through Lands' End. Items that are acquired through the used Lands' End clothing offered by the PA are exempt from this requirement. We understand that there is an added expense. In SY 07-08, we worked with Lands' End to reduce the stitch count and the cost of the logos. This logo helps us monitor the dress code and insure compliance.

Kindness and Firmness: Some mixture of firmness and kindness is essential to helping middle school students learn self-discipline. We are striving to offer students equals measure of discipline and encouragement. Each team of grade level teachers is going to employ varying levels of kindness and firmness when addressing a grace, class or individual. For example, Accountability Cards (card box) are a tool for a student and a teacher to keep track of and manage missing homework, forgotten materials or distracting behavior. Essentially, the card is a tool to identify a pattern of behavior so that it can be addressed and a solution devised quickly with a custom degree of kindness and firmness from the teacher. No student will “fall through the cracks” at SRS and this system is a key part of that insurance.



Sage Ridge School
College Preparatory Excellence

November 12, 2009

Dear Sage Ridge Parent,

We have officially closed out the fall sports season with the Upper School boys and girls cross country state championships. The girls team placed 2nd overall with outstanding performances by Monica Herrera, placing 4th overall, and Haley Kennedy, placing 7th overall. Zach Dayton from the boys team finished 6th overall. Congratulations to all our Sage Ridge School cross country runners, as well as all of our fall sports teams on an exciting and successful season!

The first day of the winter sports season in the Upper School is November 16th. Winter sports in the Upper School consist of coed ski racing, boys and girls basketball, and wrestling. Winter sports in the Middle School begin on a range of determined dates. Boys basketball begins on October 19th, boys and girls skiing begins on January 6th, girls volleyball begins on January 6th, and middle school wrestling begins on February 24th.

The Upper School boys basketball team will begin practicing on Monday, November 16th. Practices will be held at Sage Ridge School in the Great Space. Practice begins at 5:30 pm and ends at 7:30. John Schreiner will return as Upper School boys varsity basketball coach. The full practice and game schedule is available on the athletic calendar at www.sageridge.org.

The Upper School boys and girls ski racing team will begin practicing on Monday, November 16th. Practices will be held at Sage Ridge School (dry-land training) and at Mount Rose Ski Resort. Practices at Sage Ridge School begin at 3:30 pm and end at 5:30 pm. Practices at Mount Rose Ski Resort begin at 8:30 am and take place on Sundays. Sage Ridge School's own Bryan Walker will return as head coach of the Sage Ridge Ski Racing Team.

I will have complete details regarding Middle School volleyball, coed skiing, and wrestling in next month's December Head Letter. For information regarding practice and game/competition schedules for the aforementioned athletic events, please visit the athletic calendar at www.sageridge.org.

The Fall Sports Awards Banquet will take place December 3rd beginning at 6:00 pm and concluding at 7:30 pm. We will be recognizing Upper School volleyball, boys and girls soccer, and boys and girls cross country. This banquet is for Upper School fall sports only. The banquet will be held in Crossbow Hall in the Upper School Loft and will feature guest speaker Devin Scruggs, Head Volleyball Coach, University of Nevada, Reno.

As a reminder, I would like to again mention Sage Ridge's policy on annual medical exams. Students are required to have an annual examination on file at Sage Ridge prior to the START of each school year. This exam applies to athletics and athletic participation. If your child does not have a physical exam on file at Sage Ridge, he/she will not be allowed to participate in Sage

Ridge athletics. Physicals run in two year cycles: Beginning with 5th grade, next with 7th grade, next with 9th grade, and concluding with 11th grade.

I would like to clarify Sage Ridge's policy regarding Middle School students who participate in external/club athletic activities and physical education exemption. Students participating in external/club activities may be excused from physical education for the duration of one quarter only, IF the following conditions are met:

- 1) An application for exemption must be made in writing to the Middle School Head prior to October 1st of the school year in which the parent/student is requesting exemption.
- 2) The student must be involved in an organized athletic program for at least 90 minutes per day, Monday through Friday. This must be documented and must include the signature of the supervisor of the particular athletic activity.
- 3) Students who miss class time for approved external/club competitions and travel will receive ONE day to make up schoolwork for each day missed, up to a maximum of THREE days.

Please be sure to arrive on time when you pick up your athlete from practices and competitions. Coaches/faculty cannot leave campus until all athletes/students have been picked up from SRS. This makes it very difficult for coaches and faculty to attend evening commitments or post-work obligations if they have to wait for a student to be picked up.

Again, please continue exercising preventative measures and established health provisions/recommendations in order to prevent the spread of illness within our community and in order to prevent severe flu conditions here at Sage Ridge School.

Please refrain from using your cell phone during morning car pool drop-off and afternoon pick-up. With the number of children exiting the building and crossing the street, cell phone use can be a dangerous distraction.

I am very proud of the performances by our fall sports teams and their endeavors to make Sage Ridge athletics a successful and competitive program in the Northern Nevada area. I am looking forward to the winter season and many more athletic accomplishments to share and celebrate with the Sage Ridge community.

Thank you, and...GO SCORPIONS!

Patrick Casey
Director of Athletics