



# the Mustang News

Wade Thomas School | 150 Ross Avenue, San Anselmo, CA 94960 | (415) 454-4603 | [www.rossvalleyschools.org/wadethomas](http://www.rossvalleyschools.org/wadethomas)

## Important Dates

Feb. 11th	<b>Yes! Gala</b>
Feb. 16th	<b>WTPA Meeting, 7pm</b>
Feb. 16th	<b>Parent Chat, 6pm</b>
Feb. 20th –Feb. 24rd	<b>President's Week Recess, No school</b>
Feb. 29th	<b>Parent Chat, 9am</b>
May 24th	<b>International Day</b>
May 28th	<b>Memorial Day, No school</b>

## Turn in your Cool the Earth Coupons!

Wade Thomas students and their families have been pledging to take all kinds of carbon-reducing actions to help the planet. **We're 2/3 of the way to our goal of 1000 actions**, and we'll be collecting coupons **every Wednesday after school** in the breezeway until the Presidents' week break.

**We need your coupons to help us achieve our goal!** We have extra coupon books at the table, or you can download just the ones you need at: [www.cooltheearth.org/action-coupons/](http://www.cooltheearth.org/action-coupons/).

**While you're at the Cool the Earth website, sign up to join Club Koda.** You'll receive a subscription to Polar Pages, a quarterly e-newsletter filled with tips for green living, and a special activities page just for kids. Please contact [emartin@cooltheearth.org](mailto:emartin@cooltheearth.org) with questions.



## parent chats!

Please join us for an upcoming **parent chat**. These meetings offer an informal setting to discuss whatever is on parents' minds.

- **Thursday, February 16** at 6:00 p.m. (before WTPA meeting)
- **Wednesday, February 29** at 9:00 a.m.

## School Lunch Program News

**During these colder winter months, a hot meal for lunch can help keep kids healthy and focused!** Check out some of the new meal options like Quinoa Pasta with Meat Sauce, Tikka Masala, and Zesty Chicken Melt. With 17 meal options every day, there's something for everyone!

All meals are ordered online at <http://www.choicelunch.com/> or on your iPhone app using registration code **Ross**. Meals can be ordered the day before and cancelled the day of for credit (great on sick days!). Feel free to order as many or as few meals as you'd like—it's a treat for everyone!



**Questions?** Contact Susan Reed at 415-451-4074 or via email: [food@rossvalleyschools.org](mailto:food@rossvalleyschools.org).

## Emergency Hotline (415) 721-4751

The Mustang News is published weekly on Fridays. Please submit newsletter articles by Wednesday (two days prior), 3pm to [marlana@rossvalleyschools.org](mailto:marlana@rossvalleyschools.org). All submissions will be approved by the Ross Valley School District office prior to inclusion.

## YES! Gala: Saturday, February 11th

Less than 32 YES Gala tickets are left! Hurry to [yesgala.com](http://yesgala.com) so you can be sure to join everyone on **February 11th at the Ross Valley Swim and Tennis Club** for the biggest YES fundraiser of the year.

Like the music and art YES supports, Scott Howard's three-course Gala meal will be an enriching experience. Savor his great food, enjoy fabulous wines from Coppola and Raymond Wineries. Review the Live Auction items, including four tickets to the Neil Young's Bridge School Benefit Concert, at [yesgala.com/Auction.php](http://yesgala.com/Auction.php) and come prepared to bid on your favorites.

## Parent Preview/ Education Night on Family Life: February 8th, 6:30pm

It's that time of the year: **Family Life Education for 5th grade students** in Ross Valley School District. Parents of 5th grade students are invited to a Parent Preview/Education Night.

**Presenters:** Steve Gardner, Family Life Education Specialist and Laurel Yrun, School Nurse

**When:** Wednesday, February 8th at 6:30pm

**Where:** RVSD District Office, 110 Shaw Drive (behind Red Hill Shopping Center)

**Questions?** Call Laurel Yrun at 451-4078



## Safe Routes to School News

The Safe Routes to School Program offers incentive and encouragement. Everyone who walks, rolls, bike, carpool, or bus can stop by our tables on both sides of the campus and enjoy a snack and a high five for staying out of your cars and finding greener ways to school.

**Car Drop-off Problem—Much Better**  
**Thank you to for not parking in the red curbs or crosswalks.** Please do not stop or drop-off in the crosswalks, red curbs or private driveways. This causes your child and other children to cross the street where there is not a crosswalk and surprises other drivers and bicyclists. Use the drop-off lanes on the Ross side or new sidewalks on Sunnyside Ave.

**Please Avoid the Walk & Roll Routes**  
**If you drive, please avoid using the bike/walk routes.** Please use major thoroughfares (San Anselmo Ave to Tunsted or Ross Ave) and keep the interior roads (Laurel & Crescent) safe and car free for our walking and biking children.

### Winter Riding Tips

Creative tips seen recently in cold, but dry conditions:

- **Wear ski or snowboard helmets** —insulated with ear muffs
- **Wear a scarf**
- **Wear a wind breaker or rain coat** to keep the cold air out
- **Wear a balaclava** under your helmet
- **Wear garden gloves**—waterproof means windproof
- **Wear gloves and under helmet beany style hats or balaclava.** CVS and Target have knit gloves for cheap.
- **Watch for wet mossy patches and even ice.** Ride slow and straight across icy patches. During the rain season, consider walking or riding on clear mornings with a car pickup.

Helen Badger & Ted Fehlhaber,  
Safe Routes to School Co-Team Leaders

# Upcoming Parent Education Events in Marin

## FEBRUARY 2012

### **Thursday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2012 (9:00 – 10:00am)**

**How to be the Rare Adult that Your Teen Will Listen To: From the Back of Their Head to the Center of Their World.** Speaker: Jeff Leiken, MA (founder of Evolution Mentoring). Location: Redwood High School's small gym. NOTE: A detailed flyer for this event can be found at <http://parenteducationgroupofmarin.blogspot.com>.

### **Friday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2012 (9:30 – 11:30am)**

**Help Resistant Writers.** This event is offered by Marin County School Volunteers and is open to all parents, volunteer tutors, teachers, and aides in Marin. Location: Marin County Office of Education (1111 Las Galinas Avenue in San Rafael), West W II Room. Cost: FREE. Enrollment is limited and registration is required. To register, call 415-499-5896 or visit the "Training and Event Registration" section of the following website: <http://marinschools.org>.

### **Monday, February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2012 (9:30 – 11:30am)**

**Breaking Down Homework Barriers.** This event is offered by Marin County School Volunteers and is open to all parents, volunteer tutors, teachers, and aides in Marin. Location: Marin County Office of Education (1111 Las Galinas Avenue in San Rafael), Foundation Room. Cost: FREE. Enrollment is limited and registration is required. To register, call 415-499-5896 or visit the "Training and Event Registration" section of the following website: <http://marinschools.org>.

### **Thursday, February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2012 (9:30 – 11:30am)**

**How Our Brains Learn.** Speaker Torri Chappell will demonstrate and explain the basic neuroscience of how we relate to others and how we learn. This event is offered by Marin County School Volunteers and is open to all parents, volunteer tutors, teachers, and aides in Marin. Location: Marin County Office of Education (1111 Las Galinas Avenue in San Rafael), West W II Room. Cost: FREE. Enrollment is limited and registration is required. To register, call 415-499-5896 or visit the "Training and Event Registration" section of the following website: <http://marinschools.org>.

*(NOTE: This event will also be offered on **Wednesday, February 29<sup>th</sup>** at the same time in the same location.)*

~ Upcoming Events Continued on Next Page ~

**Friday, February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2012 (9:30 – 11:30am)**

**Back To Basics – Addition/Subtraction.** This event is offered by Marin County School Volunteers and is open to all parents, volunteer tutors, teachers, and aides in Marin. Location: Marin County Office of Education (1111 Las Galinas Avenue in San Rafael), West W II Room. Cost: FREE. Enrollment is limited and registration is required. To register, call 415-499-5896 or visit the “Training and Event Registration” section of the following website: <http://marinschools.org>.

**Wednesday, February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2012 (9:30 – 11:30am)**

**Behavior Management.** This event is offered by Marin County School Volunteers and is open to all parents, volunteer tutors, teachers, and aides in Marin. Location: Marin County Office of Education (1111 Las Galinas Avenue in San Rafael), West W II Room. Cost: FREE. Enrollment is limited and registration is required. To register, call 415-499-5896 or visit the “Training and Event Registration” section of the following website: <http://marinschools.org>.

**Thursday, February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2012 (9:30 – 11:30am)**

**Empower Struggling Spellers.** This event is offered by Marin County School Volunteers and is open to all parents, volunteer tutors, teachers, and aides in Marin. Location: Marin County Office of Education (1111 Las Galinas Avenue in San Rafael), Board Room. Cost: FREE. Enrollment is limited and registration is required. To register, call 415-499-5896 or visit the “Training and Event Registration” section of the following website: <http://marinschools.org>.

**Thursday, February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2012 (7:00pm)**

**How Your Child’s Brain Learns: A Guide for Parents.** Speaker: Dr. Jeb Schenck (author of *Teaching and the Adolescent Brain: An Educator’s Guide* and *Learning, Teaching, and the Brain: A Practical Guide for Educators*). Location: Ross School Gymnasium. Cost: \$20 optional donation. NOTE: A detailed flyer for this event can be found at <http://parenteducationgroupofmarin.blogspot.com>.

**Wednesday, February 29<sup>th</sup>, March 7<sup>th</sup>, March 21<sup>st</sup>, March 28<sup>th</sup>, April 4<sup>th</sup>, and April 18<sup>th</sup> (7:00 – 9:00 pm)**

**Raising Well-Balanced Children in a Fast-Paced World.** This six-week course will be facilitated by Challenge Success of Stanford University and hosted by the Kentfield School District. Location: Kent Middle School Library. Cost: \$320 (Includes all course materials, 12 hours of class, and two Challenge Success founders as guest presenters). To register, visit <http://www.eventbrite.com/event/2292426710>. Registration closes on February 6<sup>th</sup>. NOTE: A detailed flyer for this event can be found at: <http://parenteducationgroupofmarin.blogspot.com>.

# **COMMUNITY NEWS – FEBRUARY 3, 2012**

(RVSD happenings, various community programs, services and other opportunities)

## **DISTRICT OFFICE HOURS**

Monday – Thursday

Open: 8 am to 12 noon / Open: 2 pm to 4 pm

Closed Friday

## **RVSD BOARD MEETINGS**

**(Subject to Change-Watch on Agenda Online and here in the Community News)**

(All meetings are held at the District Office (DO), 110 Shaw Drive, San Anselmo, CA, Board Conference Room / Check website for updates)

### **MONTH OF FEBRUARY**

- Board Policy Workshop Fri., 2/3/12 9:35-11:35 am DO Conference Room
- Board Meeting / Closed Session Tues., 2/7/12 6:00-7:00 pm DO Conference Room
- Board Meeting / Open Session Tues., 2/7/12 Starts at 7:00 pm DO Conference Room
- Board Visits White Hill Middle School Wed., 2/15/12 2:30-3:30 pm WHMS – Rm. TBD
- Board Workshop: District Technology Tues., 2/28/12 6:00-7:00 pm DO Conference Room
- Board Meeting/ Open Session Tues., 2/28/12 Starts at 7:00 pm DO Conference Room
- Board Visits Brookside Upper Wed., 2/29/12 2:30-3:30 pm BSU – Room 18

### **MONTH OF MARCH**

- Special Board Meeting Fri., 3/9/12 9:00-9:30 am DO Conference Room
- Board Policy Workshop Fri., 3/9/12 9:35-11:35 am DO Conference Room
- Board Meeting / Open Session Tues., 3/13/12 Starts at 7:00 pm DO Conference Room
- Board Visits Brookside Lower Wed., 3/14/12 2:30-3:30 pm BSL – Rm. TBD
- Board Meeting/ Open Session Tues., 3/27/12 Starts at 7:00 pm DO Conference Room

### **MONTH OF APRIL**

- Board Meeting / Open Session Tues., 4/3/12 Starts at 7:00 pm DO Conference Room
- Board Visits Wade Thomas Wed., 4/4/12 2:30-3:30 pm WT - Library
- Board Policy Workshop Fri., 4/6/12 9:35-12:35 am DO Conference Room
- Board Meeting/ Open Session Tues., 4/24/12 Starts at 7:00 pm DO Conference Room

### **MONTH OF MAY**

- Board Visits Manor Wed., 5/2/12 2:30-3:30 pm Manor – Rm. TBD
- Board Policy Workshop Fri., 5/4/12 9:35-11:35 am DO Conference Room
- Board Meeting / Open Session Tues., 5/8/12 Starts at 7:00 pm DO Conference Room
- Board Policy Workshop Fri., 5/11/12 9:35-12:35 am DO Conference Room
- Board Policy Workshop Fri., 5/18/12 9:35-11:35 am DO Conference Room
- Board Meeting/ Open Session Tues., 5/22/12 Starts at 7:00 pm DO Conference Room

### **MONTH OF JUNE**

- Board Meeting / Open Session Tues., 6/12/12 Starts at 7:00 pm DO Conference Room
- Board Meeting/ Open Session Tues., 6/26/12 Starts at 7:00 pm DO Conference Room

NOTE: Meeting locations sometimes change at the last minute for a variety of reasons; but most often to accommodate anticipated overflow public attendance. **Please check Agenda Online for the meeting location.** If you have any questions, contact the Superintendent's Office at 415.451.4060.

For a board agenda and all supporting documents please visit <http://rvsd.csbaagendaonline.net> or pick-up a copy at the District Office. (Note: Agenda and board packet information are available 72 hours prior to each meeting.) Questions: Call 415.454.2162 or e-mail [superintendent@rossvalleyschools.org](mailto:superintendent@rossvalleyschools.org).

### **OTHER RVSD MEETINGS / EVENTS**

Visit the link - <http://www.rossvalleyschools.org/calendar>

### **PRESIDENTS' DAYS & LOCAL RECESS**

Monday, February 20, 2012, through Friday, February 24, 2012  
District Office and School Campuses Closed

### **ATTACHMENTS**

- Parent Ed Events for February 2012

### **COMMUNITY LINKS**

- **San Anselmo Recreation Department /Stay N' Play After School Enrichment Programs**, Questions: Contact the San Anselmo Recreation Dept., 1000 Sir Francis Drake Blvd, San Anselmo at Tel. 415.258.4640/Fax. 415.455.8229 or online at [www.townofsananselmo.org/](http://www.townofsananselmo.org/). *Note: Fees involved.*
- **Town of San Anselmo News**: For information on the happenings in the Town of San Anselmo log-on to [www.townofsananselmo.org](http://www.townofsananselmo.org).
- **PATCH**: For local news - <http://sananselmofairfax.patch.com>
- **Safe Routes to School**: For information: <http://www.saferoutestoschools.org/>
- **School/Pool/Marin**: Carpool, walk, bike or bus together. [www.School/Pool/Marin.org](http://www.School/Pool/Marin.org)!

### **COMMUNITY & SPORTS ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- **San Rafael Youth Soccer Club Spring Season**: March 19-May 5; 1 practice a week and 6 weekend games. Ages 5-14. For more information or to sign-up: [www.sanrafaelsoccer.org](http://www.sanrafaelsoccer.org) . *Note: Fee involved*
- **Marin County NFL Flag Football League**: For boys and girls ages 5-14. Season runs on Sundays from April to June with all games at Davidson Middle School in San Rafael. To register online or get more information at: [www.leaguelineup.com/nextlevel-fca](http://www.leaguelineup.com/nextlevel-fca). *Note: Fee involved*
- **Marin County NFL Flag Football League**: For boys and girls ages 5-14. Season runs on Sundays from April to June. Games at Davidson Middle School in San Rafael. To register online or get more information at [www.leaguelineup.com/nextlevel-fca](http://www.leaguelineup.com/nextlevel-fca). *Note: Fee Involved*