



# 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

- Jan. 25th **Parent Chat, 9am**
- Feb. 11th **Yes! Gala**
- Feb. 16th **WTPA Meeting, 7pm**
- Feb. 16th **Parent Chat, 6pm**
- Feb. 20th **President's Week**
- Feb. 24rd **Recess, No school**
- Feb. 29th **Parent Chat, 9am**
- May. 24th **International Day**
- May. 28th **Memorial Day, No school**

## 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\* an 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

\*Steve Gardner works as a consultant with school districts and has experience working with parents in providing tips and strategies to help educate children and youth in family life education issues.

## music auditions!

**Attention Young Musicians:** the Richard Judd (K-5) and Nancy Scott (6-8) Music Scholarship Auditions will return this spring.

**Watch this newsletter in January** for more information regarding requirements, applications and audition dates. You may also contact **Nancy Scott** at [scotts281@sbcglobal.net](mailto:scotts281@sbcglobal.net).

## YES! Gala: Saturday, February 11th

**Buff up your dancing shoes because the Ross Valley School District's YES Gala is back.** Trust us when we say this is not your grandmother's gala so book your sitter now for **Saturday, February 11th**. This year we've got a new venue, an amazing new caterer and a great DJ that will keep your toes tapping.

**"The Music Never Stopped" YES Gala is not to be missed!** Tickets are on sale now and are available in limited

quantities so mark your calendar now to secure your spot.

**All the proceeds from YES Gala go to critical YES programs for our schools** and kids, including art, music, theater and libraries. The support of parents, our community and fabulous events like this ensure every student gets the high quality education they deserve.

—YES Gala Team

## Open Studios in the Art Room

**Please come join us in the Art Room for Open Studios the week of January 30th- February 3rd.** Parents are invited to come visit our art classes during your child's regular art time. Please check with your child's teacher to find out the class time and day. I hope

you will be able to come and see what beautiful and creative art our students have been creating and to learn more about our art program. I look forward to meeting you!

—Jenni Bahrt, Art Teacher

## 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.



## School Lunch Program News

If you haven't tried Choicelunch yet, you don't know what you're missing, so try lunch on us! All new accounts set up by February 29th receive a **free lunch**.

**Tell us what you think!** Please participate in our lunch survey to help us improve the lunch program to meet your needs. We'd like to hear from everyone, whether you order lunches or not. Go to <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/RVSDLunch2011> today—it will just take a minute!

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 451-4074 or via email: [food@rossvalleyschools.org](mailto:food@rossvalleyschools.org).

## Upcoming Parent Chats

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

- Wednesday, January 25 at 9:00 a.m.
- Thursday, February 16 at 6:00 p.m. (before WTPA meeting)
- Wednesday, February 29 at 9:00 a.m.



## 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.

### Next Walk & Roll Day: Wednesday, February 1st

3rd Grade Golden Wheel Contest:  
December Golden Wheel Contest—  
**4th Grade was won by Mr. Garry's class. Congratulations!**

January Golden Wheel Contest—Hot chocolate and Clif bars.....we ran out...no contest this month. Be early.

### 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.

**See the next page for “Learning to Ride: Part One: Riding the Bike”** and the next news post for “Part Two: Rules of the Road and Streetriding”.

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

## Learning to Ride—Part One: Riding the Bike

**So someone got the new bike for the Holiday present. Now what?**

We suggest learning to ride in 2 phases: one, Riding the Bike and two, The Rules of the Road and Street Riding. Here is part one (look for part two next month).

**This is a list of our favorite out of traffic or off street rides.** Start short with lots of stops, snacks and attractions. Work on biking skills. Nothing is better than repetition.

Many of these involve driving to the start...a compromise for training the young ones.

### **Samual P. Taylor**

Cross Marin Trail. Park at the Trestle over SFD. Walk up to the trestle and ride 2.5 miles (total 5) to Covered Bridge and back. Shady. Bonus: Start at Inkwells. Park at the Salmon view area, open in winter. *(Mountain or Road)*

### **Golden Gate Park, SF**

Sunday road closure- Spring, summer, fall. Park outside the park or west of Park Presidio. Ride to Academy of Science, DeYoung, Japanese Tea Garden, Conservatory of Flowers, or Children's Playground. Loops-2-5 miles. *(Mountain or Road)*

### **Crissy Field, SF**

Exploratorium to Fort Point. Warming Hut for snacks. Ft. Point is free, has a museum and lots of real cannons. 2.5 miles (total 5) *(Mountain or Road)*

### **The Tunnel**

Park near Office Depot on Anderson in San Rafael. Cross the street. Ride the path thru the SMART train tunnel. 1.5 mile one way. Starbucks at the Landing. *(Mountain or Road)*

### **Corte Madera Creek**

Ross Post Office to Larkspur Ferry and back. Starbucks at the Landing. 3.5 miles (total 7) *(Mountain or Road)*

### **Rush Creek Open Space, Novato**

101 North. Exit San Marin/Atherton. Right turn. Go 300 ft, left turn to Gness Field, park just past Park n' Ride. Almost flat dirt fire roads narrowing to near single track. Great birds and views. 3 miles (total 6) *(Mountain)*

### **Phoenix Lake-Grilly's/Scoop**

The classic: Phoenix, 5 Corners, Deer Park. Lunch at Grilly's. 5 miles one way. And home on streets...good intro to dirt and back streets riding. Mud and puddles a plus in a normal winter. *(Mountain)*

# **COMMUNITY NEWS**

**JANUARY 2012 – UPDATED 1.19.12**

(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)

- |  |                |                   |                    |
|--|----------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| • Board Meeting/Closed Session               | Tues., 1/24/12 | 6:30-7:00 pm      | DO Conference Room |
| • <u>Board Meeting/ Open Session</u>         | Tues., 1/24/12 | Starts at 7:00 pm | DO Conference Room |
| • <u>Board Meeting / Open Session</u>        | Tues., 2/14/12 | Starts at 7:00 pm | DO Conference Room |
| • <u>Board Workshop: District Technology</u> | Tues., 2/28/12 | TBD               | DO Conference Room |
| <i>(Note: Rescheduled from 1/24/12)</i>      |                |                   |                    |
| • <u>Board Meeting/ Open Session</u>         | Tues., 2/28/12 | Starts at 7:00 pm | DO Conference Room |
| • <u>Board Meeting / Open Session</u>        | Tues., 3/13/12 | Starts at 7:00 pm | DO Conference Room |
| • <u>Board Meeting/ Open Session</u>         | Tues., 3/27/12 | Starts at 7:00 pm | DO Conference Room |
| • <u>Board Meeting / Open Session</u>        | Tues., 4/3/12  | Starts at 7:00 pm | DO Conference Room |
| • <u>Board Meeting/ Open Session</u>         | Tues., 4/24/12 | Starts at 7:00 pm | DO Conference Room |
| • <u>Board Meeting / Open Session</u>        | Tues., 5/8/12  | Starts at 7:00 pm | DO Conference Room |
| • <u>Board Meeting/ Open Session</u>         | Tues., 5/22/12 | Starts at 7:00 pm | DO Conference Room |
| • <u>Board Meeting / Open Session</u>        | Tues., 6/12/12 | Starts at 7:00 pm | DO Conference Room |
| • <u>Board Meeting/ Open Session</u>         | Tues., 6/26/12 | Starts at 7:00 pm | DO Conference Room |

**Board Policy Workshop dates have been revised and will be listed in next week's Community News**

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>

## **KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION BEGINS**

Monday, January 23, 2012

## **PARENT EDUCATION CAFE**

Powered by Manor PTA and MAP

Tuesday, January 31 from 6:30-8:30 pm at the Manor School Library

Open to all parents in the District.

Join fellow parents in a lively & engaging conversation through a parent book club to explore how 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning Skills apply to a complete education for your child

### Reading List Includes

*Education Nation* by Milton Chen

*Out of Our Minds-Learning to be Creative* by Ken Robinson

*Schools Our Children Deserve* by Alfie Kohn

*Global Achievement Gap* by Tony Wagner

### For More Information Contact

Mark Solomons, Manor PTA Parent Education Coordinator, [lukeshiva@gmail.com](mailto:lukeshiva@gmail.com)

Nancy Ng, MAP Parent Education Coordinator, [nancyng62@gmail.com](mailto:nancyng62@gmail.com)

## **ATTACHMENTS**

- None

## **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 Davidon 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*