

**PLEASE READ ME!**  
**I'm full of valuable information!!**

# SMOKE SIGNALS

Redeemer Lutheran School  
468 Grand St, Redwood City 94062  
(650) 366-3466  
www.redeemer-school.org

July 2009

*"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. Love your neighbor as yourself."*  
Matthew 22: 37-39

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Aug 24..... First Day of School 8:30 am  
Aug 28..... PSC Welcome Dinner 6:30 pm  
  
Sep 7..... Labor Day Holiday No School  
Sep 15..... Faculty Meeting, 12:30 Dismissal  
Sep 21-25..... 6th Grade Outdoor Ed  
Sep 30..... School Pictures

## PRINCIPAL'S CORNER Mr. Mike Mancini

### ALMOST TIME AGAIN!

Wow! We are about a month away from the start of another exciting school year. I hope that each one of you is having a wonderful summer vacation and has had an opportunity to get away for a while. Lisa and I will spend two weeks in Lake Tahoe for some much needed R & R at the end of July.

As we enter our 53rd year of educational ministry in Redwood City, we thank our great God that He has allowed us to touch the lives of many families and has helped us produce fine Christian students. We are very proud of all our graduates in what they have become and are becoming. We all continue to take great pride in preparing each student for the ever-changing society they will face and give them the tools they will need to be successful Christian men and women in the years to come.

### A Look Ahead

August will be a very busy time at Redeemer. We are in the process of ordering new curriculum materials as we continue to keep current with our WASC accreditation, other quality schools and our California State standards. This is also the time of year when teachers begin their home visits, parents finish up with vacation schedules, and students begin the task of purchasing school supplies. The 2009/2010 school year looks to be one of excitement and challenges.

As our state continues to struggle with budgetary cuts and individuals are losing jobs, we need to continue to remind each other that our awesome God is in control. This can be difficult when we feel we are all alone. We are cautiously optimistic for the upcoming year as God

continues to send prospective families to our school. Our staff is looking forward to the new year and the many opportunities it will bring. In May we were concerned that our enrollment wouldn't reach 162. As of this issue of Smoke Signals, we are planning on starting the year close to 175 students. PRAISE GOD!

We will pray that the Lord continues to work with our governmental leaders, both national and state, in all they continue to do to improve our economy. We also pray He touches the lives of all the families I have met and those I will be meeting leading them to our school and church ministries.

As we look toward the upcoming months and challenging times ahead, I would like to remind each of you as I am reminded of God's promise through the following well-known story...*Footprints*.

*One night a man had a dream. He dreamed He was walking along the beach with the LORD. Across the sky flashed scenes from His life. For each scene He noticed two sets of footprints in the sand. One belonging to Him and the other to the LORD.*

*When the last scene of His life flashed before Him, he looked back at the footprints in the sand. He noticed that many times along the path of His life there was only one set of footprints. He also noticed that it happened at the very lowest and saddest times of His life.*

*This really bothered Him and He questioned the LORD about it. LORD you said that once I decided to follow you, you'd walk with me all the way. But I have noticed that during the most troublesome times in my life there is only one set of footprints. I don't understand why when I needed you most you would leave me.*

*The LORD replied, my precious, precious child, I Love you and I would never leave you! During your times of trial and suffering when you see only one set of footprints, it was then that I carried you.*

### FACULTY NEWS

The faculty is off for the summer. Some of them continue to tutor students a few days a week. I am pleased to say we do have a replacement for Mrs. Madden when she goes on maternity leave. Mrs. Michelle Graham, who currently has two students at

Redeemer, will fill in beginning in October for three months. Michelle was Mrs. Madigan's replacement this past spring. I am waiting to hear back from two other candidates for Mrs. Maier's vacancy to start the year off. I hope to have that confirmed in the next couple weeks. God continues to bless us with a great staff for next school year! We all look forward to once again putting together an awesome TEAM!

- K ~ Rebecca Madigan & Sue Wilson
- 1st ~ Noelle Madden (Substitute is Michelle Graham)
- 2nd ~ Challeen Flick
- 3rd ~ Lindsey Kinstler
- 4th ~ Sarah (Rathe) Bishop
- 5th ~ Robert Doody
- 6th ~ Melissa Davis
- 7th ~ Denise Maier (Substitute is TBD)
- 8th ~ Denise Lenahan

**PASS IT ON**

As the new school year begins we realize that we have much work ahead of us. We will need your help in our marketing process. We are currently setting up dates for open houses, tour dates and other events, which will put our name out in the community. Even with the new building, we still face the challenges that so many other Lutheran and private elementary schools are facing in today's economy. Our name is reaching out to the community and families are responding but we all need to work harder in communicating what Redeemer has to offer. Word of mouth is still the best marketing tool we can use! **FRIENDS LISTEN TO FRIENDS!** Please continue to spread the word about our school and the great things that are happening around Redeemer. **REMEMBER, YOU CAN EARN A REFERRAL CREDIT TOWARD YOUR REGISTRATION!**

With all that is happening in our own lives it is so easy to get caught up in the negative vibes that surround us, our school, and even our work place each day. There is a banner that hangs in many of our teacher's rooms that states, "**Attitude is a little thing that makes a big difference!**" Chuck Swindoll, a popular Christian writer, has a quote on attitude. He says, "*I am convinced that life is 10% what happens to me and 90% how I react to it. And so it is with you...we are in charge of our ATTITUDES.*" Great idea to live by isn't it? We all have a responsibility to our young kids of today, as we together... **Create The Future One Child at a Time.** So we should all be positive role models with contagious attitudes.

I look forward to seeing all our families who will be returning for another year at Redeemer. It will also be a thrill to welcome new families to our school for the first time. We have an awesome God who continues to bless us to overflowing. We pray for His continued presence among us during this summer vacation and look forward to a very fruitful year to come

**WELCOME!**  
**Mrs. Gale Olsen**  
**School Office Administrative Assistant**  
**Smoke Signals Editor In Chief**

Welcome new families! Welcome returning families! We are looking forward to a fantastic year. We currently have 179 students enrolled with openings in all grades except 1st. *Spread the word!*

If you recommend a new family to RLS and that family enrolls one or more children and they attend and pay tuition for at least one semester, you will be credited with a \$300 tuition rebate. You may use it for February 2010 tuition or 10-11 re-enrollment fees. You will be credited \$300 for every child that enrolls from each family!! (No cash value and not transferable.) **The new family must list your name as a referral on their enrollment application and have no prior connection to Redeemer Church or School.**

As this is written, classes for 09-10 look like this...

<u>Gr.</u>	<u>Teacher</u>	<u># of students</u>
K	Mrs. Madigan (Tu-Th)	21
K	Miss Wilson (Mon & Fr)	
1	Mrs. Madden	24
2	Mrs. Flick	19
3	Miss Kinstler	22
4	Mrs. Bishop	22
5	Mr. Doody	16
Middle School:		
6	Mrs. Davis	18 (Literature/English)
7	Mrs. Maier	18 (Math/Science)
8	Mrs. Lenahan	19 (History/PE)

- Mr. Mike Mancini - Principal & Algebra teacher
- Mr. Gary Behrens - Public Speaking teacher & "Singing Angels" choir director (grades 6-8)
- Mr. Hugh Irwin - Geometry teacher
- Mrs. Gale Olsen - School Office
- Mrs. Kim Gordon - Kids Klub Director (extended care)

\*Mrs. Madigan will teach Kindergarten Tuesday-Thursday and Miss Wilson will teach on Monday and Friday.

**IMPORTANT OFFICE MISC.**

1. **School starts Monday, August 24.** School hours are 8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. for all grades.
2. The school office is open daily during the school year, 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m..
3. The School fax number is 650-366-5897.
4. Please call the office in the morning if your child will be absent or late. Voice Mail picks up

during off hours (I am Extension 10). Tardy students must come to the office to obtain a late slip prior to going to class. If you need to remove your child from campus during school hours, you must first obtain a check-out slip from the office.

**5. Children not enrolled in Extended Care may not be dropped off prior to 8:15 a.m. and must be picked up no later than 3:15 p.m. Thank you for being prompt! Students still on campus at 3:15 will be checked into Extended Care and you will be billed.**

6. MEDICATIONS - The only medicine the office keeps on hand is Tylenol (or a generic equivalent). We must have your signed authorization on the emergency card in order to dispense Tylenol to your child. If your child requires any other medication, prescription or over-the-counter, it must be kept in the office. Packaging must have your child's name on the container along with **written** instructions. Students may not keep any medications (including inhalers) with them in their backpacks, lockers or desks - no exceptions please.

7. Please notify the office immediately if your child comes down with a contagious disease (e.g., strep throat) or has a head of lice. We must notify other class members of any possible exposure.

**8. Smoke Signals is a monthly publication. We're going green!! THIS IS YOUR LAST PAPER COPY OF SMOKE SIGNALS! For the 2009-2010 school year, Smoke Signals will be sent home via the Yahoo!Group e-mail and will also be posted on the school web site. It will no longer be sent home with your children!**

### **PARKING LOT ETIQUETTE**

1. Please do not block the driveway to the parking lot entrance. If the gates are not open when you arrive, please find a parking place. Do not block Harrison Street!
2. When dropping off your child, please park in a designated spot. If you would like to drop off quickly without parking, please pull over in the designated area alongside the church building, clear of the driving lane, and drop your child off quickly. Please, no loitering and chatting if you're doing the drop and go!
3. When picking up your child, please park in a designated spot.
4. Please observe safe driving practices at all times in the parking lot -- no speeding, watch for

children and basketball poles, hang up your cell phone, and pay attention! ☺

5. The parking lot is **CLOSED TO CARS** daily 9:00 AM until 3:00 PM and again from 3:30 PM - 5:00 PM (RAIN or SHINE). Please do not leave your car in the lot during these times when the students use the lot as a playground. Please don't make Mrs. Gordon feel guilty or uncomfortable when she asks you to move your car at 3:30pm so that the kids can play outside. The parking lot is also used after school for volleyball and basketball practice.

Thank you for your cooperation!!!

### **FAMILY DIRECTORY**

Each year I prepare a family directory which lists all students and their addresses, phone numbers, and parent e-mail addresses. This information is obtained from your enrollment application. If you have moved, changed your marital status, e-mail address, etc. since enrolling, please let me know. The directory is not used for any marketing purposes and is made available only to RLS families.

Please check your name/address as it is shown on your mailing label. If you would like your name/address listed differently in the Family Directory, please let me know.

The directory will be available in September and will be sent home with your youngest child. One directory per household please! You are welcome to make additional copies for your personal use.

### **CLASSROOM COMPUTERS/INTERNET**

All of Redeemer's classrooms have computers and are ready to surf the net. Enclosed in this mailing is an Computer/Internet Use Permission Slip. **This must be returned before your child is allowed to use any RLS computers.** Please read it through carefully and return the signed slip to the school office. Thank you for your prompt response.

### **STUDENT IN MEDIA CONSENT FORM**

Enclosed in this mailing is a consent form to permit Redeemer to use your child's picture and/or name in Redeemer publications. Please check only one box and return the form to the school office. Please note that by choosing the "no" box on the consent form, your child's name and/or picture will not be included in **any** RLS publication, including group e-mails and Smoke Signals publications.

## SCHOOL UNIFORMS

Enclosed is a list from Dennis Uniforms of approved school uniforms for the 09-10 school year. You may also go online at [www.dennisuniform.com](http://www.dennisuniform.com) and look at the list of authorized uniform pieces and check out pricing. Redeemer's school code is M3HRED. The store also has a list of Redeemer's authorized uniform pieces. Please purchase uniforms at Dennis Uniform only. Look-a-likes from stores other than Dennis are not acceptable.

We have a large stock of used uniforms for sale at \$3.00/piece that you are welcome to look over.

*PE uniforms are required for all students in grades 6-8.* These uniforms are also purchased at Dennis Uniform (or from the experienced uniform closet). Sweat pants are an *optional* item for PE. Students who do not "dress out" for PE are marked down in their PE grade.

## CHAPEL

Please join us for a special opening day chapel at 8:45 a.m. on Monday, August 24. (No chapel Aug. 28.)

Chapels are held each Friday morning at 8:40 during the school year (Chapel is on Thursday when we have a Friday holiday). You are always welcome and invited to join us.

This year our school theme focuses on LOVE (Matthew 22:37-39). We will continue to award Fruit of the Spirit certificates each month beginning in September.

We support various charities throughout the year with our weekly chapel offerings. Look for specifics in upcoming editions of Smoke Signals.

## TUITION PAYMENTS

If you did not sign up to pay your tuition in full for 09-10, you should have received a letter from SMART Tuition company letting you know the dates and amounts for auto-withdrawal. Withdrawals begin in August and continue through May, 2010. If you have not yet returned your SMART enrollment form to the school office, and are not planning to pay in full, please return your SMART form immediately.

**Students who have not paid in full or had their SMART tuition account set up prior to the first day of school will not be allowed to attend until their account is current.**

**Checks for payment in full are due in the school office no later than August 1** to qualify for the \$200/child tuition discount. Please mail your check to 468 Grand Street, RC 94062.

Enclosed in this mailing is a white

**EMERGENCY CARD**  
**THIS CARD MUST BE ON FILE IN**  
**THE SCHOOL OFFICE NO LATER**  
**THAN 8:30 A.M. ON MONDAY,**  
**AUGUST 24.**

Students may not attend class without it! Please mail or drop yours off today. Don't wait until school starts.

Be sure to sign the card.  
Please use BLACK ink.  
Please avoid folding the card  
if at all possible!

## RLS E-MAIL GROUP

*SIGN UP NOW*

*for Redeemer Lutheran School's E-Mail Group*

Receive important reminders, notices, and information sent directly to your e-mail. Many notices are ONLY sent out via e-mail. Don't miss out on critical information!

**Send Mrs. O an e-mail at [golsen@redeemer-school.org](mailto:golsen@redeemer-school.org) and I will send you an e-mail "invitation" to join the group. It's quick and easy!!**

Only RLS (Mrs. Olsen) can send e-mails via this group. You will not receive any spam because you've signed up. It's a great way to stay informed! Don't delay... log on and sign up today!

## DRIVER FORM

Enclosed is a Driver Information Form. This form, along with proof of insurance (**showing amount of coverage -- must meet minimum requirements!**) and a copy of your driver license must be returned before you will be allowed to drive on **any** school-related activities. Please return this information ASAP so you are ready to participate! All previous year's forms have been shredded and disposed of. **A new form is required each year.** Thank you for your cooperation and prompt response.

**PSC WELCOME  
FAMILY DINNER  
FRIDAY, AUG. 28  
6:30-8:30 PM  
FELLOWSHIP HALL**

**See you there!!  
See the PSC Page for more details.  
No RSVP required!**

**STUDENT CELL PHONES**

Redeemer Lutheran School policy allows students to have cell phones, but they are not to be visible or turned on during regular school hours 8:30 AM - 3:00 PM (including lunch and recess). Phones must be kept in backpacks or lockers. Students may only use their phones on campus before and after school hours. Students breaking the rules will have their phone confiscated and parents will be asked to come and retrieve the phone from the principal.

**SUMMER READING REMINDER**

All students entering grades 4-8 are **required** to read the novel for their grade level listed below before school begins. When school starts, your child should be ready to discuss their novel and participate in activities based on their summer reading. Many first quarter literature assignments are based on the summer reading and your child will be at a definite disadvantage if they have not completed the required book.

**Students Entering 4th grade:**

- Charlotte's Web by E.B. White

**Students Entering 5th grade:**

- Maniac Magee by Jerry Spinelli

**Students Entering 6th grade:**

- The Cay by Theodore Taylor

**Students Entering 7th grade:**

- The Outsiders by S.E. Hinton

**Students Entering 8th grade:**

- Tangerine by Edward Bloor

**STUDENT LUNCHES**

Please send prepared, ready-to-eat lunches only. **There are no microwave or cooking facilities available for students.** Be sure to send any necessary utensils.

Lunches and snacks should focus on nutritional items. Please keep sweets and sodas to a minimum. **Glass bottles and containers are not allowed on campus due to breakage.** Please do not send pull-top cans with younger students as sharp edges can cut fingers.

**HOT LUNCH**

The hot lunch program will once again be provided by Nob Hill Catering every Monday, Wednesday and Friday. **Sign up online for lunches.** Don't delay. Enclosed in this mailing is an information sheet that describes Nob Hill Catering and contains instructions on how to order lunches. **The first lunch will be Monday, August 31.**

We always need volunteers to set up and serve lunch. Please see the volunteer form and return it to the school office or e-mail Jennifer Palafox ASAP! Thank you in advance for your enthusiasm and support!

All hours worked helping with hot lunch count toward your mandatory hours requirement for the year.

**KIDS KLUB**

**(Before & After School Care)**

Redeemer offers before and after school care for our students in grades K-6. Our morning session runs from 7:00-8:15 AM and the afternoon session runs from 3:00-5:45 PM. Please see the enclosed information and registration form. If you think you *may* need drop-in care during the year, including care on early dismissal days (grades K-8), please sign up now. Students will not be allowed to use Kids Klub without a current registration form and emergency card on file. Mrs. Gordon is our Kids Klub Director.

**OFFICE DEPOT - SCHOOL SUPPLIES**

Earn free supplies for Redeemer! Buy your school supplies at Office Depot and Redeemer will get 5%! Give them our **School ID number: 70012828** when you make your purchase!

## **PARENT PARTICIPATION PROGRAM (aka Mandatory Hours)**

Want to get started on your hours right away?

1. We need a parent (or two) to power wash the lunch tables and red walkways outside the new school building. This can be done at your convenience... but you do need to provide your own power washer. (Lunch tables may be washed by hand if you don't have access to a power washer.) Do it once this summer, or volunteer to do it on a regular basis throughout the year!
2. We also need a parent (or two) to replace the shade cloth that covers our lunch tables. It is old and tattered and definitely in need of replacement. You will need a tall ladder or two. Redeemer will reimburse you for all costs involved for materials. A great job to do over a weekend or evenings this summer at your convenience.
3. Help out with the PSC Welcome Dinner. Contact Mallory Stevens at 366-0570.

Please carefully review the Parent Participation Letter included in this mailing. Hours for 09-10 must be completed by April 30, 2010 and unfulfilled hours must be paid at \$20/hour.

## **STUDENT BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS**

**Classroom student birthday celebrations may consist of treats only** (no classroom lunches, pizza, etc.) and should be provided during a scheduled break or lunch. Treats must be individual servings (e.g., cupcakes, donuts). Drinks must also be in individual serving containers (no soda). All necessary implements for serving (e.g., plates, napkins) must be provided by the parent. **Classroom celebrations must be cleared in advance with the classroom teacher.** No formal parties may be held on school grounds during school hours.

**Students may wear (appropriate) "free dress" on their birthday.** If a student's birthday falls on a weekend or school holiday, they may wear free dress on Friday or Monday. Students with a summer birthday may wear free dress on their half-birthday.

### **MIDDLE SCHOOL INFORMATION MEETINGS 7:00 PM in Media Center**

- 6th grade - Tuesday, August 18
- 7th grade - Wednesday, August 19
- 8th grade - Thursday, August 20

## **SUPPORT REDEEMER THIS SUMMER!**

Please consider supporting our school this summer through the easy fundraiser opportunities below. These ongoing fundraisers provide money, not only for in-class activities, but also for sporting events, art classes, drama productions, field trips, computer equipment, the school library, and a lot more.

### **eScrip**

Redeemer can receive up to 10% of your purchases from retailers you visit every day (i.e. Safeway, Key Market, etc.) and up to 16% from the online shopping sites you know and trust (i.e. Amazon.com, iTunes, Gap, etc.). Purchases are tracked through your grocery loyalty cards, ATM cards, debit cards and/or credit cards. Simply sign up online at [www.escrip.com](http://www.escrip.com) and use the following information when registering with eScrip:

- Group Name: Redeemer Lutheran School
- Group ID: 137104928.

### **Target RED Card**

Shop RED and Target will donate up to 1% of your purchases to Redeemer Lutheran School. You can request a Target Visa card online and designate Redeemer as your school of choice. Simply go to: <http://target.com/tcoe> and enter Target School ID: 3565

### **Box Tops for Education**

The Box Top for Education logo is on many different products throughout the grocery store shelves, including Cheerios®, Betty Crocker®, Juicy Juice®, Ziploc®, Kleenex®, Hefty® and more!

Please save them during the summer. Each one is worth 10¢ to us, and these little Box Tops can add up very quickly. All you need to do is cut the Box Tops for Education logo off of the packages of items you already buy and return them to the school. Collection boxes are available in each classroom and conveniently located on the information table at the front of the Fellowship Hall for Church members and friends.

### **JOIN THE YAHOO! RLSNEWS E-MAIL GROUP**

**Don't miss out on another  
important reminder!**

**Send Mrs. Olsen an e-mail at  
[golsen@redeemer-school.org](mailto:golsen@redeemer-school.org)  
and she will sign you up!**

**Stay informed!  
No spam, just important RLS stuff.**