

SMOKE SIGNALS

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

July 2007

"I will rejoice in the Lord, I will be joyful in God my Savior" Habakkuk 3:18

UPCOMING EVENTS

Aug 22..... First Day of School 8:30 am
Aug 22..... MANDATORY 6th-8th Parent
Information Night 7:00 pm
Aug 24..... PSC Welcome Dinner 6:30 pm

Sep 3..... Labor Day Holiday No School
Sep 17..... School Pictures
Sep 18..... Faculty Meeting, 12:30 Dismissal
Sep 24-28..... 6th Grade Outdoor Ed

PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

Mr. Mike Mancini

Wow! We are less than a month away from the start of another exciting school year. Our 50th year has come and gone and the celebration that took place in June was wonderful. Now it's time to start the next 50! We look forward to starting our second year in the new school. Now that most of the kinks and punch list items have been completed, we are excited to utilize all the features that we have in our new facility.

The summer months have gone by quickly and I pray each of you had a restful summer vacation. I know that time away or quiet time is something we all need to rejuvenate the mind and spirit so we can deal with the trials and tribulations that life throws at us. The staff is rested and ready to start the year, and you will be hearing from each of them as they set up their home visits schedule. Please take the time for you and your child to sit with your teacher and discuss the upcoming year.

As we start our 51st year serving the Redwood City community, we will have new faces around the campus. As our teacher for the Second Grade, we welcome Mrs. Challeen Flick. Challeen is a member of our congregation and has taught in the Pacifica School District for a number of years. We are excited to also have Mrs. Gabriella Evans come aboard as our part-time Spanish teacher. She will be teaching Spanish in grades K-8 two times a week. Both Challeen and Gabriella are important parts of our Sunday School group (Sunday 30) and their spouses and Challeen are a part of the Praise Band Team. We thank God for the gifts he has given to each of these individuals and look forward to them sharing our ministry with the children and families of Redeemer. Please take a moment to say, "Welcome" to our two newest members. We also

say a big thank you to Mrs. Harper. She has gone back to school for her degree in early childhood education. She has done so much for our ministry and we will miss her commitment to the kids and staff at Redeemer. We will continue with the Child Study Team that Mrs. Harper was instrumental in implementing with Mrs. Davis, Glenda Fuge (DPK), and myself. Our ministry has been blessed with people who have a passion for Christ and children! THANK YOU!

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. Enrollment is not at the number we would like to see. Our vision is to be at 195 in the next 4 to 5 years. We ended the school year with 155 students and we currently are at 156. The new building is attracting families 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!**

For all these wonderful things we can only say one thing....PRAISE GOD! We are very blessed to have families and congregational members such as you supporting and sharing in Redeemer Lutheran School's vision. We look forward to giving the children God has blessed us with not only a quality education, but also the Christian values and morals that will allow **each** of them to succeed in our forever changing society.

It will be great to welcome back 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 family this fall. 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.

Our theme for the new school year of 2007/2008 is **Habakkuk 3:18**. "I will rejoice in the Lord, I will be joyful in God my Savior".

This verse truly states what our hope is for the Redeemer community. Each of us with Joy can rejoice daily with others in the great things our Savior does for us! Plus....It also gives us practice in spelling Habakkuk.

See you all in three weeks!

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 156 students enrolled with openings in every grade except 2nd. *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 2007 tuition or 08-09 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 07-08 look like this...

<u>Gr.</u>	<u>Teacher</u>	<u># of students</u>
K	Mrs. Madigan*	18
K	Mrs. Hessler*	
1	Mrs. Madden	16
2	Mrs. Flick	24
3	Miss Kinstler	13
4	Ms. Rathe	16
5	Mr. Doody	16

Middle School:

6	Mrs. Davis	18 (Literature/English)
7	Mrs. Maier	18 (Math/Science)
8	Mrs. Lenahan	17 (History/PE)

Mr. Mike Mancini - Principal & Algebra teacher
Mr. Gary Behrens - Speech teacher & "Singing Angels" choir director (grades 6-8)
Pastor Joel Vano - Geometry teacher

Mrs. Gale Olsen - School Office
Mrs. Judy Vano - Kidz Klub Director (extended care)

* Mrs. Hessler will teach kindergarten on Wednesdays and Mrs. Madigan will teach the other 4 days/week.

CALENDAR CHANGES FOR 07-08

In order to effectively address the items for improvement that WASC (the accreditation group) recommended at our visit in April 2007, we have made a schedule change for the upcoming year.

Once a month, on a designated Tuesday (usually the third), school will be dismissed at 12:30 PM to allow the teachers and staff to meet. Please see the school calendar enclosed for a complete list. Please note that students will not have a lunch break on these days. Please send a healthy snack to help your child make it through the day!

Child care will be available 12:30-3:00 PM on these meeting days for any interested students (grades K-8) for a flat rate of \$20. Care for these early dismissal meeting days is included in the monthly rate for students who are enrolled in Kidz Klub on a regular basis. You must have a current Kidz Klub registration form on file and must make arrangements in advance to use Kidz Klub on a drop-in basis. Please see the enclosed Kidz Klub information for all the details.

We have also changed half days to a 12:30 PM dismissal time. The only exception is Good Friday, which will still be a noon dismissal to allow families to attend Good Friday worship services.

IMPORTANT OFFICE MISC.

1. School starts Wednesday, August 22. 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., Monday-Friday.
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). 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 3:30 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. It is sent home with your youngest child the third or fourth Friday of the month in their "Friday Folder." If you do not receive your copy, first ask your child! If no luck there... I'll be happy to send home another copy. It is also posted on the RLS web site www.redeemer-school.org.
9. Students must be dropped off and picked up in the parking lot. Enter on Harrison, exit on Hudson. Please do not drop off students on Grand Street. Please remember that the parking lot becomes a playground during the school day and after school and is therefore closed to cars from 9:00 AM-3:00 PM and 3:30-5:00. Please park on Harrison St. if you will be on campus during those hours.

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.

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.

IF YOU DO NOT WANT YOUR INFORMATION INCLUDED IN THE DIRECTORY FOR ANY REASON, PLEASE LET ME KNOW ASAP.

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.

INTERNET / CLASSROOM COMPUTERS

All of Redeemer's classrooms have computers and are ready to surf the net. Enclosed in this mailing is an Internet/Computer Use Permission Slip. **This must be returned before your child is allowed to use RLS computers** or participate in Internet classroom activities. 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 7-08 school year. You may also go online at 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 several items available for special order: red lined hooded jackets, navy fleece jackets and vests, and (new for 07-08) **red zip-front hooded sweatshirts**. Please don't wait until the last minute. Order early and have your winter clothing when you need it!

We have also added cargo shorts for boys. Please note that these are for boys grades 4-8 ONLY. Girls also have the option of capri pants grades K-8.

We have a large stock of used uniforms for sale at \$3.00/piece that you are welcome to look over. Look for sale information in the PSC fliers enclosed.

PE uniforms are required for all students in grades 6-8. These uniforms are also purchased at Dennis Uniform. Sweat pants have been added as 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 Wednesday, August 22.

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.

We support various charities throughout the year with our weekly chapel offerings. Look for specifics for 07-08 in future editions of Smoke Signals.

During the 06-07 school year, we were able to assist the following groups:

- 1st Qtr = \$800 to James Kim Memorial Fund
- 2nd Qtr = \$600 to Guide Dogs for the Blind
- 3rd Qtr = \$650 to Interfaith Network for Community Help
- 4th Qtr = \$600 to Redeemer Ministries Mexico Mission Trip

Thank you all for your continued generosity!!

TUITION PAYMENTS

If you did not sign up to pay in full for your 2007-08 tuition, you should have received a letter from SMART Tuition company letting you know the dates and amounts for auto-withdrawal. 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. You have missed the deadline for an August payment, therefore you will now have nine larger payments withdrawn from your account (September - May) rather than the standard ten payments (August-May).

Students who have not paid in full or had their SMART tuition auto-withdrawal 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 to 468 Grand Street, RC 94062. Thank you!

06-07 OUTSTANDING BALANCES

Families with outstanding balances from 06-07 will not be allowed to return until all past due amounts are either paid in full or a payment plan is agreed upon with the principal. This includes tuition, extended care, and unfulfilled mandatory hours. 07-08 registration fees must also be paid in full before your child may attend classes. Please call me if you have any questions.

If you have any outstanding amounts or are missing any enrollment information, a statement is included with this mailing.

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 WEDS,
AUGUST 22.

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 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!

6TH - 8TH GRADE PARENTS & STUDENTS Information Night

MANDATORY meeting
Wednesday, August 22 @ 7:00 pm.
Please mark your calendars!

PARENT HANDBOOK

Your oldest child's teacher will bring you your copy of the new version of our Parent Handbook on your home visit. Please review it carefully, discuss it with your student, and sign and return the Handbook Agreement form no later than August 27, 2007. If you miss your home visit, your copy will be sent home with your oldest student on the first day of school.

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 BACK
FAMILY DINNER
FRIDAY, AUG. 24
6:30-8:30 PM
FELLOWSHIP HALL**

**See you there!!
See the PSC flier for more details.**

SUMMER READING REMINDER

All students entering grades 4-8 are **required** to read the novel for their grade level listed below before school begins on August 22, 2007. 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:

- Because of Winn Dixie by Kate DiCamillo

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 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.

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.

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 Susie Madsen 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. And it's fun!

KIDZ 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, please sign up now. Students will not be allowed to use Kidz Klub without a current registration form and emergency card on file. Mrs. Vano is our Kidz 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!

Teachers mailed out their supply lists and welcome letters around July 1st. If you haven't received yours yet, please contact the school office.

PARENT PARTICIPATION PROGRAM

The mandatory hours program has changed for the 2007-2008 school year. Please see the enclosed information packet and read it carefully!

Want to get started on your hours right away?

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. Sign up to do it once this summer, or do it on a regular basis to keep our new building looking spiffy!

Do you like to garden? Volunteer to remove and replace some of the "expired" plants around the campus, replant the flower bed, or pull weeds!

Help out with the PSC Welcome Dinner. Contact Judi Weller at 364-2421.

If you worked over and above your required hours in 06-07, you may count your excess hours toward your 07-08 hours. But only this one time because we changed the reporting period to May 1-April 30.

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.

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.

LIFE WITH GOD 101

Launches August 29!

- ◊ Receive a basic overview of Christian faith
- ◊ Deepen your walk with God
- ◊ Sign-up by phoning the church office (366-5892)

Life with God 101 is designed to answer questions about life with the God Who made us, and then made us His own. Through Him, He keeps us growing and experiencing a life that is abundant. This class allows you opportunity to become acquainted with the vision and values of the Lutheran community facilitated by Pastor Hal. He will address a variety of topics and answer many of your common questions. The class also provides a basis for deciding if you want to become a member of Redeemer in a formal way. This 16-week semester is launching August 29th! It is held on Wednesday evenings, 7:00-8:30pm.