

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 2008

*"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control."
Galatians 5:22-23.*

UPCOMING EVENTS

Aug 20..... First Day of School 8:30 am
Aug 22..... PSC Welcome Dinner 6:30 pm

Sep 1..... Labor Day Holiday No School
Sep 15..... School Pictures
Sep 16..... Faculty Meeting, 12:30 Dismissal
Sep 22-26..... 6th Grade Outdoor Ed

PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

Mr. Mike Mancini

"Redeemer Lutheran School

Creating The Future One Child At A Time!"

Wow! We are a month away from the start of another exciting school year -- our 52nd! Isn't the statement above so true about Redeemer? God has given us a great opportunity to reach and touch the lives of many young people each day.

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 spent two weeks in Lake Tahoe for some much needed R & R. 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 environment each day. There is a banner that hangs in many of our teachers' 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.

Drop off and Pick up has changed! Yea! Beginning this fall we will have larger area to drop off and pick up students. The area will be along the church side of the lot. **PLEASE FOLLOW THE SIGNS THAT ARE OUT! THIS IS NOT FOR PARKING!** If you chose to park please pull into a marked parking stall. **DO NOT PARK IN OTHER AREAS!** We are working on making the lot

safer for children and parents. Please note that the entrance of the lot will still be from Harrison and the exit will be on Hudson. Should you have any questions at all feel free to contact either Mrs. Olsen or myself at your earliest convenience. Also, please take the time each month to read through each of these issues of Smoke Signals. There is always important information that is discussed each month.

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. Although we praise God daily for guiding families to our school, our enrollment is not at the number we would like to see. Our vision is to be at 200 in the next 3 to 4 years. We ended the school year with 162 students and we currently are at 174! 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!**

As we enter our 52nd 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.

It will be great to welcome back all of you to our new building and to see 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 next year. 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 2008/2009 is **Galatians 5:22-23**. "But the fruit of the spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control."

This verse truly states what our focus will be for our school community. Each month throughout the year we will focus on one area of the fruit of the spirit. What better one to begin the month of September with than Love!

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 174 students enrolled with openings in most grades. *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 2008 tuition or 09-10 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 08-09 look like this...

<u>Gr.</u>	<u>Teacher</u>	<u># of students</u>
K	Mrs. Madigan*	23
K	Miss Wilson*	
1	Mrs. Madden	24
2	Mrs. Flick	21
3	Miss Kinstler	24
4	Ms. Rathe	16
5	Mr. Doody	15

Middle School:

6	Mrs. Davis	16 (Literature/English)
7	Mrs. Maier	17 (Math/Science)
8	Mrs. Lenahan	18 (History/PE)

Mr. Mike Mancini - Principal & Algebra teacher
Mr. Gary Behrens - Speech 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 Wednesday, August 20. 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.

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, hang up your cell phone and pay attention! :)
5. The parking lot is **CLOSED TO CARS** at 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 so that the kids can play outside.

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.

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.

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 08-09 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 and red fleece jackets and vests, and 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 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 20. (No chapel Aug. 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.

This year we will be focusing on the Fruit of the Spirit in our chapels. Each month we will emphasize one attribute -- September is LOVE. In chapel at the end of each month we will give recognition to a child from each grade who has especially shown the attribute in their day to day activities at school.

We support various charities throughout the year with our weekly chapel offerings. Our September offerings will support "Bags of Love." Bags of Love provides a bag lunch, encouragement, and the Word of God to folks in San Francisco in the Seneca Hotel. Look for specifics for future months in upcoming editions of Smoke Signals.

TUITION PAYMENTS

If you did not sign up to pay in full for your 08-09 tuition, you should have received a letter from SMART Tuition company letting you know the dates and amounts for auto-withdrawal. Withdrawals begin in August. 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. Mr. Mancini and Mrs. Olsen will both be out of the office the last week of July, so please mail your check to 468 Grand Street, RC 94062.

PARENT HANDBOOK

Parent Handbooks will be distributed to all families new to Redeemer by your teacher at your oldest child's home visit. Please review it carefully, discuss it with your student, and sign and return the Handbook Agreement form no later than August 20, 2008. If you are a returning family and have misplaced your handbook and would like another copy, please stop by the school office and pick one up.

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. 22
6:30-8:30 PM
FELLOWSHIP HALL**

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

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 20.**

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!

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:

- 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 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 Wednesday, September 2. DEADLINE TO ORDER LUNCH FOR THE FIRST WEEK OF SCHOOL IS AUGUST 28.**

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!

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

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. (Lunch tables may also be washed by hand.) Sign up to do it once this summer, or do it on a regular basis to keep our new building looking spiffy!

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

Please carefully review the Parent Participation Letter included in this mailing. Hours for 08-09 must be completed by April 30, 2009 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.