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## WELCOME BACK!

The 2009-2010 school year is off to a great start. It is wonderful to see students filling the halls again and the new faculty and staff members have jumped right in. Thanks so much to all of you; it's going to be a great year!



## NEW FACES

**Traci Siegel** is the new assistant teacher in the third/fourth class with Erin Palfrey. Traci has a B.A. in Psychology with a minor in Art History from Pace University. She earned her elementary teaching credential and Master's Degree in Education from Pepperdine University. Traci completed her student teaching in grades three and four. She also taught in an after-school art enrichment program, an inner city high school health and nutrition program, and has worked as a reading tutor and recreation leader.

**Karen Leahy** is our new elementary Spanish teacher. Karen has a B.A. in Government, International Relations from Smith College and a Master's in Spanish from Rutgers University. She holds certificates in French (L'Université de Paris IV) and German (Technische Universität). She has worked as a language instructor of children and adults in various settings. She also brings her experiences of living in Latin America, Europe, Québec, Australia, and the Pacific into the classroom to share with the students.

**Sharon Kunde** is the new high school English teacher. She has a B.A. in English and American Literatures and Languages and Women's Studies from Harvard University and a Master's in

English Education from Teachers College, Columbia University. Sharon taught English in the Pasadena public schools last year and at Horace Mann in Riverdale, New York from 2002 to 2008. Sharon served in the Peace Corps for one year in Tirana, Albania and two years in Undurkhaan, Mongolia, teaching English language and composition in addition to working on other community projects.

**Grete Howland** is the new administrative assistant at the high school. Grete moved to Pasadena from Santa Cruz in 2006, where she completed her Master's at Fuller Seminary. She most recently worked as the Front Office Coordinator in the Dean's Office at the College of Arts and Letters at CSULA.

*Please join us in welcoming Traci, Karen, Sharon, and Grete to The Waverly School.*

## FACES IN NEW PLACES

Our very own **Rebecca Figueroa** is taking the helm as the new middle school English teacher. Rebecca began at Waverly in 2002, teaching American, European, British, and Women's Literature at our high school. She is a published poet and mother of recent middle school graduate, Jasmine. When asked what she is looking forward to most, Rebecca responded, "working with such a great group of teachers and students." We can't wait to see what she does at the middle school.

## HIGH SCHOOL BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT

The high school Back to School Night is Tuesday, September 22, 2009 from 7:00-9:00 p.m. Parents/Guardians will receive their child's class schedule and have the chance to go through a "mini version" of the school day, meeting with each of their child's teachers. This event is intended for parents/guardians only.

## ELEMENTARY BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT

The elementary Back to School Night is Tuesday, September 29, 2009 from 7:00-8:00 p.m. The purpose of this event is to provide parents/guardians with an overview of curriculum and class procedures. Teachers present information about the class-integrated theme, share instructional materials and books, review the assessment process, and answer questions. Teachers distribute grade level classroom guides and other appropriate class materials. It is an adult-only evening and babysitting is not provided.

## WPO JOB FAIR

The *easy* way for everyone to contribute to their school and meet their required 20 work hours! Come early on your child's Back to School Night. Visit our displays of the specific Waverly projects that need your help. With detailed job listings, dates, and times, you can talk to different WPO coordinators and sign up for what you want to do. If you don't know, we can help find the perfect project for you.

### **High School:**

Tuesday, September 22, 6:30-7:00 p.m.

### **Elementary School:**

Tuesday, September 22, 6:30- 7:00 p.m.

Get involved with The Waverly Parent Organization! See you there!

*Ann Stabolepszy Cooke*  
*WPO President 2009-2010*

## FRESH LUNCHES

Freshlunches is once again providing lunch to The Waverly School, Mondays through Thursdays. The Freshlunches daily menu offers a selection of hot and cold options with a choice of sides. Freshlunches are delivered to our school in recyclable bags and containers labeled with each child's name. Lunches will be served to students at the elementary, middle, and high schools. Returning users may order online at [www.freshlunches.com](http://www.freshlunches.com). New users please check the attached flyer for directions. All orders must be in

by Friday to receive lunches for the following week.



## HOOPS FOR GROWN-UPS

Last year, a group of Waverly parents began playing pick-up basketball at the elementary school playground every Sunday morning, from 9-11am. We had a great time getting together, talking about our kids, and having a great workout. We plan on starting again on September 20.

Advanced...Beginner...Haven't played in a while but want to start again... It doesn't matter! This is Waverly and we are a community! If you are interested or have any questions, please give me a shout.

Phil Lee

323-574-5617

[phil.lee.dp@sbcglobal.net](mailto:phil.lee.dp@sbcglobal.net)

## ELEMENTARY CLASS NAMES & NEWS

### MARINA, CHEENU, & KERRY'S YK CLASS

The name of our class this year is "Musical Kingdom." We had to pick a name that pleased [mostly] everyone and one that described their personalities. We are exploring bluegrass music and learning some simple square dance steps. We hope to perform a square dance at an upcoming All School Meeting. The students brought a variety of apples for our apple graphs and applesauce which we made on Thursday. We identified each apple and placed the similar apples, such as Granny Smith, Gala, and Red or Golden Delicious in separate rows. Then, we counted which type we had the most or least of. We read the story *Ten Apples Up On Top* by Theo LeSieg. Then, we pretended the beanbags were apples

and tried to balance as many as we could on the tops of our heads without dropping any! We also learned about ants, squirrels, and acorns. Did you know that if you plant an acorn today, you will not live to see the fully grown oak tree? Oak trees can live for hundreds of years!

#### RICHARD, LIZ, & KERRY'S K CLASS

Our class name is the "Magic Light!" We love discovering all of the ways that we can let our magic lights shine. Richard even showed us his magic light (it was very old and covered with dust, but once we cleaned it off, we watched as it reflected light from the window!)

We've had a great two weeks of kindergarten! Some of the many things we learned include our group colors: Red, Green, Yellow, and Blue! Richard showed us around the classroom and we even learned some rules. Liz taught us about the calendar and how to say the date. We all learned about the days of school. We are counting them with beads, and making a number line that will eventually stretch around the whole room! Richard introduced us to some new puppet friends and we all got chances to hug them. We had to search through a giant bin of letters to find all the ones that belonged in our name, and then we used them to make necklaces with Liz. In addition to all of this new knowledge, we are exploring our feelings and how we fit into the classroom.

It seems like everyone's making new friends! We even witnessed a sweet new friendship between two parakeets in the room! Richard reached inside Lola's cage and gently moved her into Miles'. We all watched excitedly to see what would happen... At first the birds hopped around each other. It was so suspenseful! A moment later they perched right next to each other and began singing. Very heartwarming!

Exploring music with Ernie, art with Hypatia, and Spanish with Karen has been fun too! We've had a fabulous start to the year!

#### SUSAN & BRITTANY'S 1/2 CLASS

From some far away land in another galaxy, the "Microscopic Kids" have traveled to Earth. We passed by the moon and entered the sky. We flew over oceans, rivers, and lakes. We saw tall mountains, volcanoes, woodlands, and rainforests. We traveled by wetlands and grasslands, ice lands and hot lands. We touched ground in a town and entered a small school called Waverly. And so, the real journey begins.



#### PURPLE PORCUPINE PROSE

(TINA & MARIA'S 2/3 CLASS)

A friend is someone who you can trust and rely on, and when you get hurt they just don't think "not my problem."

A friend is important because without them life would be boring because you wouldn't have anybody to play with.

My friends are Noah, Sylvian, Eli, David, and Naman.

*Matthew Dean*

A friend is someone that look's up to you, plays with you, draws with you and writes with you. A friend is important because if you get hurt they are always there to help you. My

friends are Jack, Derek, Olivia, Ethan, Josh, Sylvian, William, Chessa, Una, Camille , Tina, Melissa, Maria, Richard, Sam, Trevor, Noah, and Matthew.

*Harry Wilcox*

A friend is someone who helps you and someone who you can tell your problems to. A friend is important because they support you and they are very nice. My friends are Matthew, Gabriel, Jack, Ethan, and Jay.

*Noah Shirk*

A friend is someone who you can play games with. A friend is important

because they will help you when you get hurt. My friends are Jady and Korryn.

*Izzie Haberman*

A friend is someone who is kind to you and you can depend on. If you get hurt your friend would help you. A friend is important because if you didn't have any friends you would be lonely and bored. My best friend is my cat Marmalade. He means everything to me. If I fall down and hurt myself Marmalade will run up to me and lick me. When I am sad he lets me lie my head on his soft orange fur.

*Olivia Neil*

### DONNA'S LE FARM REPORT



I am happy to report that the Waverly School Organic Farm is now an official Certified Wildlife Habitat. Look for our new sign when you come to the farm.

As you can see from the photo, our farm produced some beautiful food and flowers this summer. The high school farming class planted tomatoes, cucumbers, basil and flowers last April. Andy Snitzer came out this summer to help with the watering and harvesting of the class crops. Some other faithful summer farm workers were Maki Kurahashi, Barbara Ayers, Clay Christensen, and my dear husband, Charlie Craig, who helped me with irrigation woes all summer long!

If you make "New Years Resolutions" at this time of year, as I do, please put coming to the farm on your list. You'll be glad you did!

### PARENT EDUCATION NIGHT

We encourage you to join us for our parent education night on Tuesday, October 13, 2009 with Dr. Melissa Johnson from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the elementary school. Dr. Johnson's presentation, "What's A Parent To Do? Helping Children Develop Positive Friendships and Resolve Conflicts," will include information to help parents/guardians as their children navigate a world of social relationships. Dr. Melissa Johnson is a licensed clinical psychologist and is the President and Founder of the Institute for Girls' Development. Dr. Johnson recently worked with the elementary and middle school faculty, and is looking forward to returning to meet Waverly parents/guardians. Please R.S.V.P. to Alison at [receptionist@thewaverlyschool.org](mailto:receptionist@thewaverlyschool.org) if you plan to attend. Parents/guardians receive parent work hours for attending parent education events.

Babysitting will be provided free of charge at the elementary school for current Waverly K-6 students during the parent education night event. If you will need this service you *must* R.S.V.P. to Alison no later than Monday, October 12, 2009 at 3:00 p.m.

### ES TUTORING/HOMEWORK HELP

A few elementary lead and assistant teachers offer their services outside of school hours: tutoring with homework, assisting with organizational and study skills, or other academic assistance. It is the school's policy that a teacher may not tutor his/her own students for remuneration. Teachers are able to teach an afterschool/weekend class or workshop to their own students. If you feel your child might need tutoring, you should first speak to your child's teacher or contact the appropriate school administrator. Please contact each teacher independently for more information.

- Mike Strusinski, ES lead teacher ([mikes@thewaverlyschool.org](mailto:mikes@thewaverlyschool.org)) elementary, grades 3-6 middle school, grades 7-8
- Susan Roco, ES lead teacher ([susan@thewaverlyschool.org](mailto:susan@thewaverlyschool.org))

- elementary language arts and math
- Brittany Reynolds, ES assistant teacher  
([brittany@thewaverlyschool.org](mailto:brittany@thewaverlyschool.org))  
elementary
- Kristin Lee, ES assistant teacher  
([kristin@thewaverlyschool.org](mailto:kristin@thewaverlyschool.org))  
elementary
- Kerry Marhefka, ES assistant teacher  
([kerry@thewaverlyschool.org](mailto:kerry@thewaverlyschool.org))  
elementary, grades 1-4

## AFTER SCHOOL ELEMENTARY CLASSES

We are happy to offer a number of after school classes for Waverly elementary students this fall. Please download the attached flyers for more information, and/or pick up flyers from the parent resource counter in the elementary school lobby.

- Chess with Chess Academy on Wednesdays from 3-4 p.m. for grades K-6 in the library...begins 9/23
- Beginning Guitar with Josie from on Tuesdays and Thursdays 3:15-4:15 p.m. for grades 4-6 in the library...begins 9/22
- Folk Dancing with Nikki on Tuesdays from 2:45-4 p.m. for grades YK-6 in the kindergarten room...begins 9/22
- Kids Shakespeare on Thursdays from 3-6 p.m. for grades 3-6 (grade 2 for strong readers) in Tina's room and playground...begins 10/8
- Yoga with Mallory on Wednesdays from 3-4 p.m. for grades YK-2 in kindergarten room...begins 9/23
- Math Workshop "Fun with Everyday Math" for grades 3 and 4 with Mike in Mike's Room (Contact Mike at [mikes@thewaverlyschool.org](mailto:mikes@thewaverlyschool.org) for more information.)
- Art with Erin on Mondays and Wednesdays from 3:15-4:15 p.m. for grades 3-6 in Erin's Room...begins 9/30
- Cooking with Traci on **Tuesdays** (*note the day change!*) from 3:15-4:15 p.m. for grades 2-6 in Faculty Lounge...begins 10/6

## Save the Date

**Tuesday, September 22**  
High School Job Fair: 6:30-7:00 p.m.  
Back to School Night: 7:00-8:00 p.m.

**Saturday, September 26**  
High School Parents Cocktail Party: 5:00 p.m.

**Tuesday, September 29**  
Elementary School Job Fair: 6:30-7:00 p.m.  
Back to School Night: 7:00-8:00 p.m.

**Sunday, October 11**  
Farm Picnic & Work Day

**Tuesday, October 13**  
Parent Education Night