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December 12, 2008

EARLY DISMISSAL: 12/18

Our last day of school this month is Thursday, December 18. Students will be dismissed early so that preparations can be made for the Holiday Program (see below). Please follow this pick-up schedule:

YK - 2nd/3rd: 11:45 a.m.

3rd/4th - 5th/6th: 12:00 p.m.

9th - 12th: 11:50 a.m.

7th - 8th: 12:10 p.m.

WAVERLY HOLIDAY PROGRAM

The Waverly Holiday Program is just around the corner! The holiday show will be on Thursday, December 18 at 7:00 p.m. at Occidental College's Thorne Hall. Our halls here at Waverly resound with music as students and staff busily practice their songs and dances!

- The doors to Thorne will **open at 6:30 p.m.** on the night of the performance. Teachers will be waiting to meet their students in their assigned seating areas at that time. **All students need to arrive by 6:45 p.m. at the very latest!**

- **The show will start promptly at 7:00 p.m.** Please make sure you leave enough time to get to the theater (directions are below). **Arriving late could result in forfeiting your ticket to someone without one.**

- We ask that you not leave the hall once you have entered. If you must leave the hall, you will need to have your hand stamped in order to reenter. As you know, this is the first year we have ticketed the show. We greatly appreciate your patience and cooperation as we implement this change.

- Tickets will be sent home with the students on Tuesday, December 16. If you prefer to pick your tickets up from the front desk at the elementary school, please email Alison at receptionist@thewaverlyschool.org by noon on Tuesday, the 16th.

Rehearsal Schedule at Thorne Hall Wednesday, December 17, 2008

Carpool drivers will be contacted by the teachers with further information.

9:30 a.m. Marina

9:50 a.m. Liz & Richard

10:10 a.m. Susan

10:40 a.m. Melissa

11:00 a.m. Tina

11:25 a.m. Erin

11:50 a.m. Mike

12: 15 p.m. Cheri

12:40 p.m. Middle School

1:15 p.m. Bollywood/HS Practice (Oxy Break)

1:45 p.m. Bollywood

2:30 p.m. High School Drama

3:45 p.m. Faculty/Staff Number (For those who can make it!)

Directions to Thorne Hall

1600 Campus Road, Los Angeles 90041

From Waverly:

Take Pasadena Avenue north to the 134 Fwy; take the 134 Fwy.

Exit on Colorado Blvd. (you will merge onto Colorado Blvd. going west)

Drive approximately one mile and then: Turn left on Eagle Rock Blvd.

Drive approximately one mile and then: Turn left on Westdale

Save the Date

Parents' Night Out

3:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.

Saturday, December 13

Pickup Basketball game, ES Court

9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Sunday, December 14

Half day: noon dismissal

Holiday Program at Thorne Hall,

Occidental College, 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, December 18

Winter Break

December 19, 2008 through January 4, 2009

WPO meeting, 8:30 a.m.

In the E.S. community room

Friday, January 9, 2009



Turn left on Campus Road (you are now alongside Occidental campus) Thorne Hall is the first big building you see on your right when you first start up the hill (you are seeing the rear of the building).

Convenient Parking (3 suggestions)

1. Park anywhere on Campus Road below the first stop sign and walk over to Thorne Hall.
2. As you drive up the hill, you can turn right at Bird Road (first stop sign) onto the Occidental campus and park in the first lot on your right. Thorne Hall is down the hill to your right.
3. A multi-level parking garage is located on Gilman Road. From Campus Road, turn right on Bird Road and then left on Gilman Road. The parking garage will be on your left. Walk down Gilman Road and continue straight downhill about 100 yards. Thorne Hall will appear on your right.

THE FUN DOESN'T HAVE TO END WHEN SCHOOL DOES!

The elementary school will be offering several afterschool class options for students beginning in January 2009. Please mark your calendars now and continue to read the Wave for more information. Fliers are available in the elementary lobby.

Kid Shakespeare (Carlyle Williams and Sydney Walsh): Grades 3-6;

Tuesdays 1/13-5/26

Chess (San Diego Chess Academy):

Grades K-6; Wednesdays 1/14-3/4

Yoga (Mallory Leitner from The Yoga House): Grades YK-2;

Wednesdays 1/14-3/4

Spirit Team (Kerry Marhefka): Grades 3-6; Thursdays 1/15-3/5

Fun with Literature (Sonia Von Wike): Grades 1-4; Mondays and Thursdays 1/12-4/20

Folk Dancing (Nickie Hovhannessian): Grades K-6; Tuesdays 1/13-3/10

GENETIC DIVERSITY AT THE MIDDLE SCHOOL

On Friday December 5, Miles Smith, NASA scientist and Waverly Parent came to the middle school to give the

first in a series of talks about the biggest questions in science. The first question Miles addressed was, "Where did we come from?" Of course, one hour is far too short a time in which to answer such a vast question but Miles spoke to the students about how we can look at many disciplines including, genealogy and genetics, to trace back human lineage.

In preparation for his lecture, Miles had



the students complete a short homework assignment to trace back their maternal ancestors back for as many generations as possible. Most students knew about their biological mothers and maternal grandmothers. Fewer found information about their maternal great and great great grandmothers, and just a handful found information about their great great great grandmothers. Miles then talked about the concept of six degrees of separation and how almost any two people on the planet can be connected through a chain of six people. Most students, because they



knew their grandmothers, had only one degree of separation between them. Miles then had the students line up around the room and they discovered how they could simulate how many degrees of separation there were between people living today, to people living in the dark ages, to the Roman

Empire, all the way back to the pyramid builders and beyond.

Miles then talked about how humans as a species have very little genetic diversity compared to other species. In fact, a single troupe of bonobo chimpanzees has more genetic diversity than the entire human race! How do we know this? Genetic testing of course. Miles then talked about a special kind of DNA called mitochondrial DNA that you only inherit through the mother's lineage. Mutations build up very slowly in the mitochondrial DNA, which allows scientists to use it like a clock. By looking at differences in mitochondrial DNA, we can calculate approximately when two populations of humans diverged. Miles also shared with the students that genetic testing of indigenous peoples around the globe has shown that 90% of human genetic diversity is in the indigenous people living in Africa today. The whole rest of the world including Europe, Asia, the Americas, Australia and Oceania only contain about 10% of the human species genetic diversity.

Finally, Miles shared about how the students could find out about their mitochondrial DNA through the Genographic Program run by National Geographic, and have their own DNA tested. For more information about the project please visit:
<https://www3.nationalgeographic.com/genographic/>

WORLD MARKET NEWS

The countdown is over. It's here!!! Come shop – for Christmas, for Hanukkah, for Kwanzaa, you pick the occasion; we'll provide the wonderful gifts. The Market will be open today from 2:00 until 7:00pm and Saturday from 10:00 to 2:00. We hope to see you there!

Christy Dooley and Lisa Henderson
World Market Co-Chairs

COYOTES LET LOOSE

This week the Counting Coyotes:
* learned about Hanukkah with Nolan's dad, Bradley.
* ate latkes and applesauce.
* learned about lighthouses, hung pretty lights and learned how lions hunt.
* learned about the state of Louisiana.
* learned about lungs on the human body model.
* looked at a map of Los Angeles and found familiar places on it.
* learned about singing a solo.
* sewed stockings

Some books we read:

- *The Nutcracker Ballet*
- *A Christmas Carol*
- *The Lorax*
- *Latkes and Applesauce*

FARM REPORT

Fall in Southern California acts as a second spring in the planting world. This season presents opportunities for transplanting, sowing seeds and cultivating lettuce, carrots, broccoli and cauliflower, just to list a few cool season vegetables. Join us this Saturday at the farm; we will be assembling our Sukkoth, organizing our tools, repairing our jogging path and performing various "spring cleaning" tasks.

There are also currently at least two plots available for rent. For a rental contract, go to the school website, download the rental agreement, and take it to Cindy Andrade in the business office.
Happy Farming!
donnaforey@gmail.com

SECRET SORCERERS' FIELD TRIP TO MEDIEVAL TIMES

Written by Erin's 3rd and 4th Grades Secret Sorcerers
Last Thursday the Secret Sorcerers witnessed a jousting tournament at the restaurant, Medieval Times. They traveled far and wide from the realm of Waverly to cheer for the mighty Blue Knight. As students were led through the Museum of Torture they saw cruel, gruesome torture contraptions like the

grotesque head crusher, body saw and spiked chair. Dining on greasy, mouth watering, juicy roasted chicken sans utensils they watched the intense mock battle between good and evil. Sadie Twocat, Lola Stephenson and Izzy Sherwood, Sorcerer Princesses, received the Sash of Love and Beauty from the Blue Knight. Lily O'Vivian, Hannah Carstenhellesen and Lucinda Merserson received a carnation kissed by the brave and noble Blue Knight. Proving himself worthy of the Princess Esperanza and her father, King Fernando, the Green Knight was crowned the champion of the tournament. Using sword, battle axe and lance he fought his way successfully through the battle and in the end was victorious. In other words, it was the best field trip ever! Long live the Queen!

eSCRIP FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Just in case you don't find everything on your gift list at the awesome Waverly World Market, there's always (now say it with me) eSCRIP! When you participate in our eScrip program, you get eScrip merchants and markets to support our school. Here's how to make the most of your eScrip participation:

- 1) Each time you shop from an eScrip merchant, use your eScrip registered debit and credit cards to make all your purchases.
- 2) Use the eScrip Online Mall where you can shop at more than 1,000 stores that support Waverly. There are special eScrip exclusive offers and coupons and some shops even offer free shipping. Log on to www.shopping.escrip.com
- 3) Register for the eScrip Visa card, which generates dollars for Waverly every time you use it. Apply today at: www.escrip.com/visa
- 4) If all that shopping makes you hungry and you're going to eat out, try the eScrip participating restaurants in our area. The list ranges from Jakes Café and Billiards to Café Santorini, not to mention Tutti Gelati. Visit

www.esrip.rewardsnetwork.com for more restaurants.

- 5) If you are dining at home, remember to register your grocery club cards with eScrip.

I give my best wishes for a safe and wonderful (and eScrip-filled) winter break. I hope you have a happy new year!

Questions? Contact Michelle, your friendly eScrip Chair, at micreative@mac.com or call 626.791.2441

SUNDAY MORNING BASKETBALL

The elementary school basketball court is typically quiet and calm on weekends. But in the past month, a group of Waverly parents have turned



out on Sunday mornings to play pickup basketball, getting some great exercise and having a lot of fun along the way.

This informal pickup basketball game is open to all adults in the Waverly

community, and in recent weeks there have been players from the elementary school and high school, with a range of basketball skills. The next opportunity to play will be this Sunday, December 14, 9:00-11:00 a.m. at the elementary school. Anyone who wants additional information should email Phil Lee (phil.lee.dp@sbcglobal.net) or Mike Alvarez (rma@hss.caltech.edu).

UPGRADING?

In case any of our Waverly families upgrade their video/audio systems (Anyone converting to Blu-ray?) this holiday season and find themselves with an extra working DVD player, we would happily take it off of your hands. Another tax donation before the new year. Please contact Tracey Fiss in our business office at

tracey@thewaverlyschool.org. Happy Holidays!

BABYSITTING NIGHT: DECEMBER 13

Parent's Night Out will be on Saturday, December 13, from 3:00 p.m. until 11:00 p.m. at the elementary school. Run by Waverly's own Martha Ramirez Adams, this night is the perfect opportunity to shop for the holidays, have a quiet dinner, see a movie, or spend a few hours without the kids. Dinner will be served. Contact Martha at 323.394.4669. Drop-ins are welcome.



ANNUAL FUND INFORMATION For the week ending 12/5/08

2008-2009 Annual Fund Goal: \$275,000
Dollars raised as of 12/5/08:
\$119,981.67 (includes pledges)
Dollars raised since last week:
\$9,725.45 (includes pledges)

Overall family participation to date:
27.14%

Class Participation Bar Graph:

