

# Crestmont News

DECEMBER-JANUARY 2007

Crestmont School ♥ 6226 Arlington Avenue, Richmond, California 94805 ♥ (510) 237-4164

## Fun Raising Makes Front Page!

by *Scotty Gelfand, Fundraising Chair*

### MARK YOUR CALENDAR

#### JANUARY

**Thu, Jan 11**  
7-7:30p  
Class Meeting

**7:30p**  
Membership Mtg.

**Thu, Jan 18**  
7-9:30p  
Board Meeting

**Mon, Jan 15**  
Martin Luther King Day  
No School

**Fri, Jan 19**  
Articles and Photos due for Newsletter

**Thu, Jan 25**  
7-9:30p  
2nd Board Meeting  
If Needed

**Fri, Jan 26**  
Talent Show

**Mon, Jan 29**  
Teacher Appreciation Lunch

#### FEBRUARY

**Thu, Feb 1**  
7-9:30p  
Membership Meeting: Budget

**Thu, Feb 8**  
7-9:30p  
2nd Budget Membership Meeting  
If Needed

**Fri, Feb 9-Sun, Feb 11**  
Snow Trip

**Tue, Feb 13**  
Articles and Photos due for Newsletter

**Thu, Feb 15**  
7-9:30p  
Board Meeting

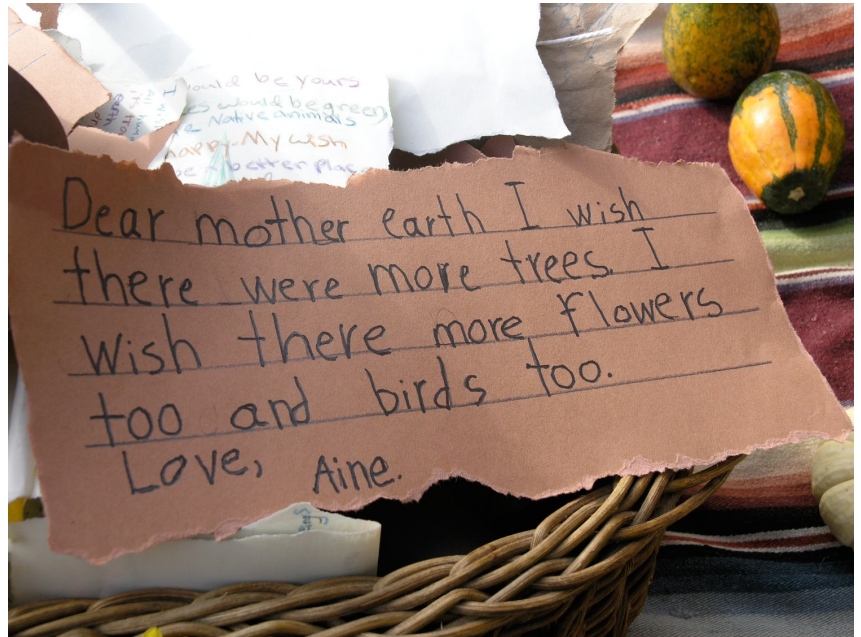
**Fri, Feb 16**  
100th Day

**Mon, Feb 19-Fri, Feb 23**  
Mid Winter Break  
No School  
Daycare Pending Demand

The fundraising committee has been meeting and planning our upcoming events for the year. It takes a lot of work to pull off the yearly silent/live auction in March, and on the committee this year are Carol Aldalpe, Tracy Fortini, Will and Shirley Hopkins, Keith Gallion, Alyssa and Bob Crawford, Anja Borgstrom, Chris and Claudia Cronin, and Ulrike Bauer. What a team! We promise to help raise the bar on funds and fun this year while creating community at the same time. Feel free to join us at any meeting with your clever ideas. We like to meet at the Kensington Pub.

Our first fundraiser was October 22nd—a family day at The Buddy Club Children's Shows—where we raised almost \$200 for Crestmont watching The Flying Calamari Brothers comedy magic show and laughing with our children. Many people have asked me to do another day at the Buddy Club in the spring, so we'll see if we can plan that.

We typically do not do too much in the beginning of the school year to let everyone get settled into their



Rainy weather brought Stone Soup to the Crestmont school yard this year instead of the traditional Alvarado Park location. Nothing was lost in the move, though. The teachers and parent organizers created an intimate setting for the ceremony and celebration. More pictures and the wishes for Mother Earth coming next issue of *Crestmont News*.

routines and the busy-ness to calm down a little bit. Our Progressive dinner was postponed for this reason, and I believe it will be a big hit when we go for it.

see "Fun Raising" on page 2

## Banana Tag

I had a "Crestmont" moment and it happened during a game of banana tag. With my neon green vest clearly marking my role as a parent participant, I stood watching a chaotic whirlwind of kids jumping up, racing around, crouching down and negotiating position via rock-paper-scissors. There was much laughter as students continually cycled in and out of the game. As my senses adjusted to the game and chaos turned to sport, I took notice of a very special, but in no way unique, Crestmont experience. Two kindergarten students ran up, and with no inhibitions, joined in the game. Within moments these young students had corralled several upper classmen and began negotiating position. One kinder student covered rock with paper and the 5th grader crouched down. I chuckled and

looked around only to observe an amazing intergenerational mix of students all happily and equitably engaging in collective play. Ahhh, I thought, this is something I love about the Crestmont experience. Our kids mix, without being forced, and in doing so receive so many opportunities to learn from each other. And clearly, the kids are having a blast. Often, in the process of listening to thoughts and/or concerns from parents, I will end our conversation by asking "and how is your child doing?" For me, this is one of the truest measures of our schools success. With very few exceptions, the answer has always been extremely positive. How lucky are children are to be sharing such a positive educational experience.

*Sue Gardner, President (Kyle, 3rd)*

# Enrollment Update

By Lisa Raffel and Scott Smith, Enrollment Co-chairs

Here's a brief update regarding enrollment. Our hours are filling up well, and the teachers have been dealing with large groups wandering through their rooms. One week they even had tours two days in a row!



Wishes for Mother Earth.

*"Fun Raising" from page 2*

But don't let that fool ya; we have been busy! I have spent the past two months exploring new ways for fundraising to add to what we already do, and am excited about a new possibility that would bring us funds from outside our community (always the best way to raise money without it being from ourselves). Unfortunately, Picture It Sold, which we were hoping to use to sell items on ebay, has lost their lease. So for the moment, that is not an avenue we can pursue.

However, I have been searching for improvements to our yearly auction. As you know, it takes an incredible amount of labor to raise \$10,000 in one day. But there are new tools out there that can help us.

We are going to experiment this year with an on-

line auction site to augment our silent auction in March. If you do not use the internet do not worry, as we will make sure you have all the information you need to still be a player and a part of the auction before the day of the event (and you'll still

Stone Soup altar.



Our first information event was on November 8, and we had a wonderful turnout, filling the kindergarten room. All four teachers, plus David Wharton, Catherine Ference, Nancy Jacobson, Nilou Glosson and Frans (an alum parent and president of the Board at Manzanita) did an excellent job presenting to the prospective parents.

At the membership meeting on diversity, some great ideas for increasing outreach were generated, and we've already taken action on some of them.

Mostly we want to give a big thank you to everyone in the Crestmont community. Thanks to the teachers for all of the extra work associated with the enrollment process. Thanks to the parents who have been helping out, including Scott Serata and Virginia Altoe for their support, and John Blair for improvements to our web site. Thanks finally to the children who have graciously welcomed all of the visitors who crowd around, look over their shoulders at their work, and listen to them read their written work aloud.

Prospective parents are always impressed by Crestmont children's focus, skills, maturity, and kindness.

We have so much to be thankful for!

Our second and last information event will be Saturday, January 20. Please spread the word among your friends and acquaintances that might be interested in our school. ▼

be able to bid on items at the event, of course). I have signed up with Cmarket—an online company that helps non-profits do auctions for their benefits (at a very reasonable percent of sales basis). They gave me a free set up (\$695 value), and their services are awesome and will help us in a big way. I am currently working on learning their templates. When we are up and running, we will be able to:

- send out attractive and exciting html flyers promoting what donations are coming in,
- offer online bidding to anyone we choose (again raising money outside our community),
- save money (approx. \$700) on printing,
- solicit donations via e-mail (saving more costs of our mailing),
- streamline the auction day so we won't be completely overwhelmed with the checkout process (always a nightmare for the staff),
- and most importantly allow the fundraising committee to share the database entry which will save the life of one Crestmont committee member (think of Tracy last year and Judy Fukumae the previous few years). In the past they have had to list, track, categorize, and price over 300 items all by themselves: a full time job. We are looking to change that and will try this this year.

We are excited about any ideas that can help us raise more money, and improve the returns for our labor. More information will follow. ▼