



SunRidge School

A public school guided by the core principles of Waldorf Education in Sebastopol, CA

SunRidge School Bulletin

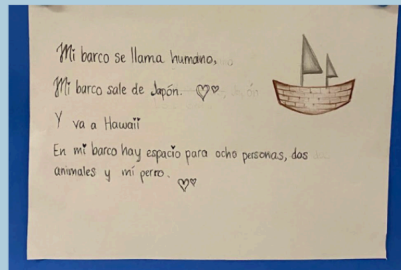
September 23rd, 2026



By all these lovely tokens September days are here.
With summer's best of weather and autumn's best of cheer.
- Helen Hunt Jackson

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8th Grade Spanish

Calendar

To view the calendar on the school website, [click here](#):

To view the 26-27 calendar click this pdf: [2026-27 SunRidge School Year Calendar](#)

Please [click here](#) for directions on exporting the SunRidge School Calendar.

Monday, September 28th - Friday, October 1st
6th Grade Field Trip to Lassen

Monday, September 28th, 5:30 - 7:00 pm
SEF Mtg.

Monday, October 5th - Tuesday, October 6th (Schedule TBD)
Portrait Day

Tuesday, October 6th, 5:30 - 7:00 pm
Parent Council Mtg.

Wednesday, October 7th
Walk and Roll to School

Thursday, October 8th, 4:30 PM
Twin Hills District Board Mtg.

Friday, October 9th, after drop off
CommuniTea

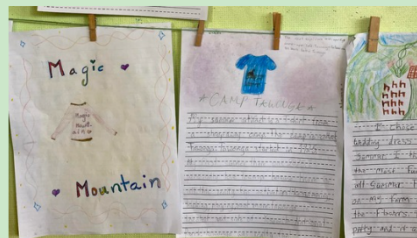
Monday, October 12th
Indigenous Peoples Day

Tuesday, October 13th, 8:45 am - 12:45 pm
TK / K Field Trip to the Pumpkin Patch

Wednesday, October 14th
7th Grade Play

Thursday, October 15th
7th Grade Play

Friday, October 16th
Teacher Professional Development Day
No School for Students



4th Grade Summer Reports

A Season of Reflection, Courage, and Belonging

The days are growing shorter and cooler, inviting us to notice the changing light and the turning of the seasons. This week also brought Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement and the holiest day of the Jewish calendar. Its spirit of reflection, reverence, forgiveness, and renewal feels especially meaningful in our complicated world.

We are also celebrating Latino Heritage Month, a time to recognize the histories, cultures, traditions, and many contributions of Latino communities. As a first-generation Argentine Latina and a native Spanish speaker, this month is deeply personal to me. My heritage, language, family, and experiences have shaped the educator and leader I am today. I know how meaningful it is for children and families to see their cultures and languages welcomed—not simply during one designated month, but as a valued part of the life of their school.

With that spirit, I am delighted to share that the **Pasitos program will be on our campus every Thursday**. Meaning “little steps” in Spanish, Pasitos is a Spanish-language early-childhood program that brings young children and their parents together each week. Through stories, songs, activities, crafts, and shared learning, the program supports early literacy while helping parents embrace their role as their children’s first and most important teachers. We are so happy to welcome these families and support this wonderful community partnership.

Looking ahead at next week, September 29 brings the festival of Michaelmas. Although rooted in early Christian tradition and the Central European history of Waldorf education, Michaelmas is not a required Waldorf festival. Many Public Waldorf schools have adapted its themes to speak to the needs and cultures of their own communities. At its heart, it offers a celebration of courage, resilience, gratitude, and the inner strength needed to face the unknown.

At SunRidge, the story of confronting or taming the dragon can remind us that courage does not mean being without fear. Courage means meeting difficulty with purpose, trusting the light within ourselves, and standing beside one another when challenges arise. Through stories, songs, games, acts of courage, and perhaps even a slice of dragon bread, our students experience these ideas in ways that grow and deepen from year to year.

Across these observances and celebrations runs a shared thread: reflection, identity, courage, renewal, and belonging. May we continue creating a school community in which every child and family feels seen, every culture is treated with curiosity and respect, and each person’s inner light is encouraged to shine brightly.

[Learn more about the Pasitos program.](#)

Warmly,
Karina Haedo
Director



2nd Grade Festival of Courage Paintings

Assessment at SunRidge: Seeing the Whole Child

At SunRidge, assessment begins with a fundamental principle of Waldorf education: we must first seek to understand the child before deciding how best to teach and support them. Teachers come to know their students through careful observation, relationships, classroom participation, artistic and academic work, and an understanding of each child's development over time. As a public Waldorf school, we also use standardized assessments to provide additional information about student learning.

SunRidge is not a school that teaches to the test. Standardized assessments do not define a child, nor can they capture the full range of capacities we value: imagination, creativity, perseverance, curiosity, collaboration, artistic expression, practical ability, social awareness, and the capacity to contribute meaningfully to a community. An assessment score is one piece of information—not a complete picture of a student.

Having said that, we bridge both Waldorf education and the public sector, therefore, students in kindergarten through second grade complete DIBELS, a brief reading screener that helps identify developing strengths and areas in which a child may benefit from additional literacy support. Parents will receive a paper copy of their child's DIBELS results along with a letter explaining the assessment and results.

At the same time, we believe that the thoughtful use of data is part of our responsibility as a public school. Assessment results can help teachers recognize patterns, identify students who may need additional challenge or support, monitor growth, and reflect upon the effectiveness of instruction. When combined with teacher observations, classroom work, attendance, family input, and social-emotional information, assessment data helps us respond more intentionally to the children before us.

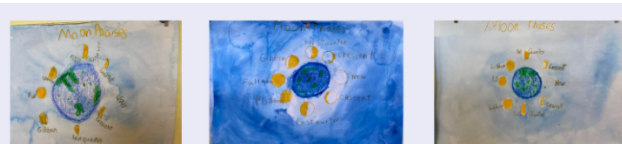
Students in grades three through eight complete Renaissance STAR Benchmark assessments three times each year. These fall, winter, and spring assessments provide information about student achievement and growth in reading and mathematics. Teachers will discuss each student's STAR results with parents during conferences, placing the scores within the broader context of the child's classroom learning and development.

Students also participate in the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress, or CAASPP, once each year in the spring. The CAASPP includes the Smarter Balanced assessments in English language arts and mathematics. These state assessments provide another measure of student progress toward California's academic standards and help us understand both individual and schoolwide patterns of learning.

Our Student Support Team meets weekly to consider student needs and continually reviews multiple sources of information and helps put appropriate supports into place. These may include classroom strategies, small-group or individual academic intervention, counseling, social-emotional support, behavioral guidance, or additional collaboration with families and teachers.

This is a cycle of continuous improvement: we observe, identify a need, provide support, monitor progress, and adjust our approach when necessary. Healthy systems do not replace the relationships at the heart of Waldorf education; they strengthen and protect those relationships by helping ensure that every child is known and supported by the wider school community.

At SunRidge, we hold together two important responsibilities: fidelity to the developing human being and faithful stewardship of the public trust. Assessments help us fulfill that responsibility when they are used with care, perspective, and professional judgment.



3rd Grade Moon Phase Artwork

Every Day Helps Us Grow: SunRidge Attendance Journey

Regular attendance gives children the opportunity to participate fully in the rhythm of classroom life, build strong relationships, and experience the rich learning that happens each day at SunRidge. To celebrate students who demonstrate perfect attendance, we are beginning a new SunRidge Attendance Journey!

The school year will be divided into five attendance periods. Students who attend every scheduled school day during a period will receive a special wooden charm to add to a collection ring that can be kept on their backpack. Each charm represents a season of the school year and the journey we share together.

- Acorn Charm: August–October
The acorn represents the beginning of the school year and the potential carried within every child.
- Star Charm: November–December
The star represents the light students bring to their classrooms and our school community.
- Raindrop Charm: January–February
The raindrop reminds us that steady nourishment helps children learn, develop, and grow.
- Bee Charm: March–April
The bee represents diligence, cooperation, and the important contribution each student makes to the whole community.
- Sun Charm: May–June
The sun celebrates the warmth, growth, and accomplishments of the completed school year.

Students who collect all five charms will receive a special recognition at the end of the year.

This program is intended to bring encouragement and joy to consistent attendance. We understand that children become ill, and students should always remain home when they are sick. Families can support strong attendance by scheduling appointments and vacations outside school hours whenever possible, arriving at school on time, and communicating promptly with the office when an absence is unavoidable.

Every school day matters, and every student's presence helps our SunRidge community shine!



7th Grade Artwork

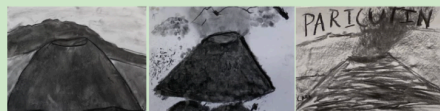
SunRidge Educational Foundation News

The SEF just funded new **wheeled racks** for our event shed costumes. Hardy parent volunteers are utilizing the racks to sort, organize and purge; thank you Parent Council President Allison Yost and Julia Green, as well as those who constructed the racks.

Did you know that **Oliver's Market** offers 3% of your purchases to SunRidge? That can really add up. Use their **Community Card** to designate SunRidge as your recipient, then just present the card before every purchase.
<https://www.oliversmarket.com/community-card/>

Fircrest Market also offers money to SunRidge through eScrip. As does **Big O Tires**. Check with those retailers to support Sunridge.

The Foundation is supporting our 25th Anniversary Gala, scheduled for March 6th, and looks to apply for some grants this year. If you're looking to help, contact sef@twinhillsusd.org.



6th Grade Volcano Artwork

Pledge Call

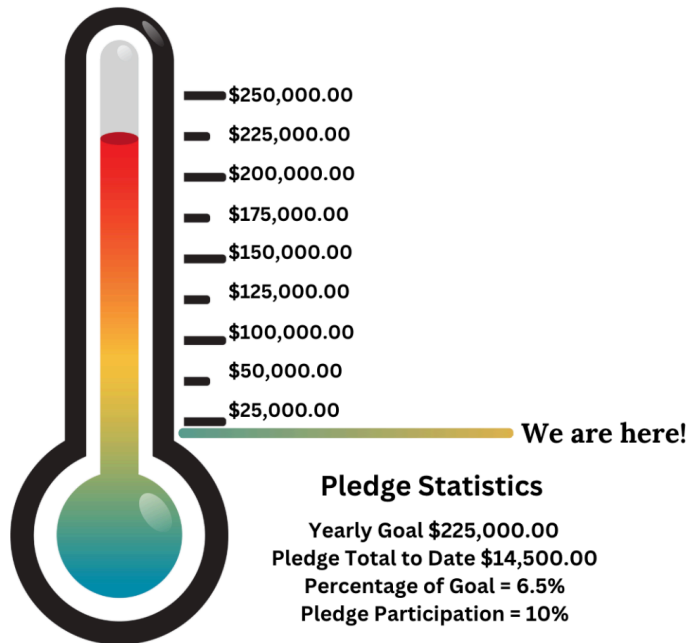
Our Pledge directly supports the salaries of our beloved specialty teachers, whose work brings richness, creativity, movement, music, artistry, and hands-on learning into our students' days.

At this time, our Pledge participation is only 10%. **Without increased Pledge support, we will have to reconfigure some of these cherished specialty programs.** Whether your family can contribute a little or a lot, every family's participation matters.

As a friendly class challenge, any class that reaches 100% Pledge participation will receive \$250 from the SunRidge Education Foundation toward its field trip fund.

Please make your Pledge today and help us continue offering the specialty programs that are such an important part of the SunRidge experience. Every Pledge truly makes a difference!

Pledge Update



Parent Club Update

*Every Leaf speaks bliss to me
Fluttering from the autumn tree.
-Emily Bronte*

Falling Leaves planning has begun! Parent Council will be sending out emails to Class leads with details on your class task in the coming week. We look forward to another fun and successful festival this year.

To add your business or expertise to the SunRidge Parent Skills directory [Please fill out this form](#)

SunRidge PC Meetings are held the **First Tuesdays** of each month in the SunRidge School Library from 5:30-7:00. All are invited.



SunRidge Autumn Garden



Falling Leaves - Call for Submissions

SunRidge Charter's Annual "Falling Leaves Festival" is November 7th, 2026

This beloved school tradition, open to the public, is an important fundraiser for our class field trips. We need your help to make this a continued and endearing success!

Please consider donating handmade items for the Festival's "Handmade Marketplace"

Examples of items and themes that historically sell well:

- Accessories, candles, ceramics, gifts, home goods, woodwork, jewelry, soap, toys; nature, natural materials, holiday decorating, gnomes, dragons, fairies, mushrooms
- Crafters and makers of all skill levels welcome! [Here's a link to our Pinterest page with craft tutorials for inspiration](#)

To honor all of our efforts, **we must receive donated items by November 3 with a donation form**

- Donation forms can be [downloaded and printed at home](#). Hard copies are available in the office.
- Deliver donations with forms between October 12th and November 3 to the labeled space at the SunRidge school office.

Thank you in advance for your heartfelt contributions to this true community effort. Please contact us with any questions about the "Falling Leaves Handmade Marketplace".

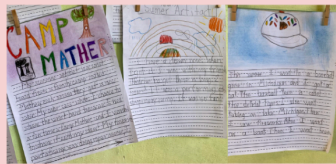
See you at the festival,

Tanessa (tanessa27@gmail.com) and Amy (Amy.cagulada@gmail.com) on behalf of SunRidge Parent Council



School Directories

The School Directories are here! Very soon, your youngest child at SunRidge will be issued a directory for each home they live in. Look for the bright orange directories in your student's backpack.



4th Grade Summer Reports

Drive Safely in the Neighborhood

Recently, a couple of our neighbors have complained about the unsafe speed that has occurred at drop off and pickup times near SunRidge School. Please remember to drive safely at all times when you are near our school. We want the utmost safety for our students, and we also want to be good neighbors. Thank you. We appreciate your cooperation.



Portrait Day

Sari Singerman Photography will be at SunRidge on October 6th and 7th taking our student's portraits. Information will be sent home with your child that will include details about how to order photos online. Information regarding the portrait schedule will be sent out via Parent Square. Please plan ahead to make sure your children will be present those days.



Yearbook Photos

Parents and Teachers, if you take any photos that are yearbook quality, please upload them to this Google file. The file has a folder for each grade and each Specialty class. Thank you for your help with this project!
<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1Z2XyC24JcAqckJbCb6heyXB---6CcylD>

If you are unable to upload your photos to the Google file, please email me at dbecchetti@twinhillsusd.org and I will upload them for you. Thanks again for all of your help!



1st Grade Study of
Yellow

Classifieds

SunRidge School provides space for advertisements in its newsletter as a service to the community. The appearance of any advertisement in this newsletter does not constitute an endorsement, recommendation, or certification by SunRidge School. The school neither verifies the accuracy of the content nor supports the products, services, or organizations featured in these ads. Families and individuals are encouraged to exercise their own discretion and judgment when engaging with the businesses or services advertised.

[Click Here](#) for Classifieds

Want To Contribute To The SunRidge Bulletin?

If you would like to add or contribute something to our school bulletin, please submit your request to all of the following staff:

Ms. Theresa at tthomasson@twinhillsusd.org

Ms. Haedo at khaedo@twinhillsusd.org

We have bi-monthly bulletins. Bulletins will be posted twice per month. Please submit your contribution ONE full week prior to the bulletin posting. Contributions received after that time will be considered for the following bulletin. Thank you so much.