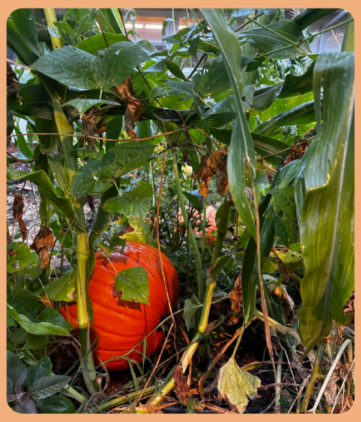
SunRidge School

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

SunRidge School Bulletin

October 21st, 2026



Theme in Yellow

I spot the hills
With yellow balls in autumn.
I light the prairie cornfields
Orange and tawny gold clusters
And I am called pumpkins.
On the last of October
When dusk is fallen
Children join hands
And circle round me
Singing ghost songs
And love to the harvest moon;
I am a jack-o'-lantern
With terrible teeth
And the children know
I am fooling.

By Carl Sandburg

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Kindergarten Crafts

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.

Friday, October 23rd
1st Grade Walking Field Trip

Monday, October 26th - Thursday, October 29th
Parent Teacher Conferences
Early Release Days

Monday, October 26th, 9:00 am - 12:15 pm
TK / K Laguna Uplands Walking Field Trip

Monday, October 26th, 5:30 pm - 7:00 pm
SEF Mtg.

Friday, October 30th
Teacher Work Day / Conferences
No School

Tuesday, November 3rd, 5:30 pm - 7:00 pm
Parent Council Mtg.

Wednesday, November 4th
Portrait Makeup Day

Wednesday, November 4th
5th Grade Play

Thursday, November 5th
5th Grade Play

Friday, November 6th, after dropoff
CommuniTea

Wednesday, November 11th
No School in observance of Veterans Day



2nd Grade Nature Table

Goodness, Beauty, and Truth in Waldorf Education

In Waldorf education, goodness, beauty, and truth are guiding ideals that help shape how we teach children as they grow. They connect to Waldorf's commitment to educating the whole person—through practical activity, feeling and imagination, and independent thinking.

Waldorf education traditionally describes three broad developmental phases, each lasting approximately seven years. Within this framework, goodness is especially emphasized in early childhood, beauty during the elementary years, and truth in adolescence. These are overlapping themes, rather than fixed milestones; children need all three throughout their education.

Goodness: Early Childhood, Birth to Approximately Age 7

During early childhood, including our TK and kindergarten years, children learn through movement, imitation, play, and relationships. Waldorf education seeks to nurture a foundational sense that "the world is good"—that there are trustworthy adults, meaningful routines, and opportunities to participate and belong. This takes shape through ordinary experiences: preparing food, washing dishes, tending a garden, caring for classroom materials, and helping a friend. Teachers establish a predictable rhythm and model the consideration they hope children will develop.

Goodness also requires clear boundaries. When a child hurts someone or struggles to join an activity, an adult responds with warmth and firmness, helping the child practice a different way. Through repeated experiences of care and guidance, children begin to build trust and responsibility.

Beauty: The Elementary Years, Approximately Ages 7–14

During the elementary years, Waldorf education places particular emphasis on imagination, feeling, and artistic experience. The guiding idea that "the world is beautiful" finds expression in lessons that invite children to feel connected to what they are learning. Art is woven into academic instruction. In first and second grades, stories, pictures, movement, and rhythm can support literacy and mathematics. In third grade, studies of farming, building, and practical work connect learning to human needs. In fourth and fifth grades, local geography, history, and studies of animals and plants offer opportunities for careful observation, drawing, storytelling, and writing. In sixth through eighth grades, artistic work continues alongside increasingly demanding academic study. Students might use precise geometric construction, perform a class play, or draw what they observe in a science lesson. Beauty includes clarity, proportion, craftsmanship, and the satisfaction of doing something well.

This integration of the arts is central to Waldorf education. It gives students multiple ways to understand a subject while cultivating attention, perseverance, and care.

Truth: Adolescence, Approximately Ages 14–21

As students enter adolescence, Waldorf education increasingly emphasizes independent judgment and the search for truth. Young people want to examine explanations, challenge assumptions, and understand how we know what we claim to know. This transition begins during the middle school years, particularly in grades 6–8. Students increasingly work with cause and effect, support their conclusions with evidence, and consider competing perspectives. In Waldorf high schools, these capacities become a central focus across the curriculum.

Goodness, beauty, and truth are connected to Waldorf's often-used language of educating the "head, heart, and hands." These relationships are interwoven: practical work can express goodness, artistic experience can engage feeling, and thoughtful inquiry can strengthen understanding. A single lesson should involve all three.



Farm Friday 3rd Grade Culinary Project

SunRidge Attendance Journey

Our SunRidge Attendance Journey is underway! We are handing out the acorn charms this week, the first in our series of seasonal charms celebrating attendance throughout the school year.

The next attendance period is November–December, and the charm will be a Star! We look forward to having the next batch soon.

Thank you for supporting regular attendance and helping your children stay connected to their learning and classroom community!



2nd Grade Flute Cases

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, 23% of families have pledged, and we have received $23,800—just 11% of our $225,000 fundraising goal. We still need to raise $201,200. Spread over eight monthly payments from October through May, that means $25,150 per month across our school community.

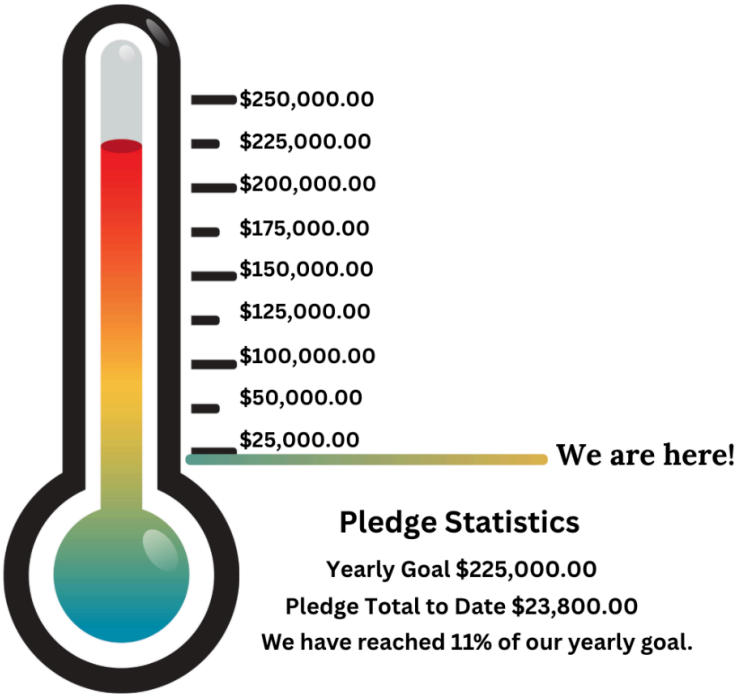
Without increased Pledge support, our specialty programs will change. As a friendly class challenge, any class that reaches 100% Pledge participation will receive $250 from the SunRidge Education Foundation toward its field trip fund.

Please make your Pledge today. A monthly contribution can make giving more manageable while providing steady support for the teachers and programs that are such an important part of the SunRidge experience. Every Pledge truly makes a difference!



3rd Grade Sukkah

Pledge Update



Pledge Statistics

Yearly Goal $225,000.00

Pledge Total to Date $23,800.00

We have reached 11% of our yearly goal.



Volunteer Driver and Chaperone Requirements

As of this July, SB 848 requires qualifying school volunteers, including drivers and chaperones who supervise students without direct staff supervision, to complete mandated reporter training. It took a moment for the system to catch up and provide these training platforms, but they are now available.

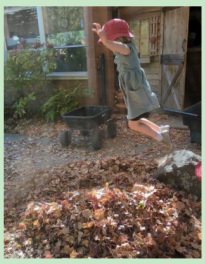
Beginning November 1, parents who have not completed ALL requirements for their volunteer role will not be cleared to drive students. Overnight and unsupervised chaperones must have clearance confirmed before their assignment.

Requirements include school office approval, TB clearance, fingerprint clearance, mandated reporter training, and driver and vehicle approval if transporting students.

Those who have already driven this school year are also being asked to complete any outstanding requirements and submit documentation so that our school can maintain the robust field trip and sports programming that we currently offer!

Please visit the district's volunteer page for information and training resources, and confirm your clearance with the school office.

Thank you for helping make these experiences possible for our students!



Fall Fun in the Kindergarten

Crossing Guards Needed! A Repeat Reminder

Dear Community,

I am writing again because our dear neighbors have asked us to remind families that our school is in a residential neighborhood. Both our neighbors and I have witnessed students crossing outside the crosswalks or without looking in both directions. I have visited the older students' classrooms to review safe street crossing, and I ask that you reinforce these skills at home!

On the adult side, I have witnessed cars driving to and from our school much too quickly! The town is working on adding speed limit signs to our road. In the meantime, please slow down, stay attentive, and take extra care around children and pedestrians.

We are again calling on parents and community members who can volunteer regularly as crossing guards during either of these times:

- Morning: 8:15–8:35 a.m.
- Afternoon: 2:50–3:10 p.m.

If you can lend 20 minutes of your time on a regular basis, please complete this form to share your availability.

Click here for form.

2026-27 YMCA Intersession Schedule at SunRidge

- October 26th - 29th after early release - 5:30 pm
- October 30th, 7:30 am - 5:30 pm
- November 23rd - 25th, 7:30 am - 5:30 pm
- December 21st - 23rd, & 28th - 30th, 7:30 am - 5:30 pm
- February 12th, 7:30 am - 5:30 pm
- March 22nd - 26th, 7:30 am - 5:30 pm
- April 9th, 7:30 am - 5:30 pm
- May 24th, 7:30 am - 5:30 pm



Kindergarten Challuh Breadmaking

Parent Council Update

SunRidge Parent Council has been busy planning for this year's Falling Leaves Festival, Friday November 7th. Please check your class signup genius to see how you can support. We also have a few general help needs, see signup below to help out.

https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0A45AFAA23ABF94-49266974-2024

We have organized the **Costume Shed**!!!
Thanks to the SunRidge Educational Foundation for funding new shelving for the space. We have gone through and labeled prop bins and organized the clothing racks. Huge thanks to **Erik Olsen** of Indie and Alder fame for providing the muscle and dump runs for the project.
Hoping this makes set and costume design an easier and more enjoyable task for all involved!

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 Squash

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

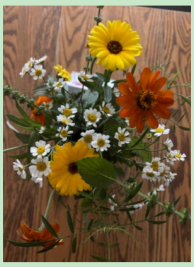


Something Wonderful Is Blooming at SunRidge!

Save the Date: Saturday, March 6, 2027

SunRidge is **celebrating 25 years** of learning, growing, and thriving! **Save the date** for a special **Anniversary Gala & Auction** as we **honor** the people, stories, and traditions that have shaped our school, **celebrate** the vibrant community we are today, and come together to **support** our campus beautification project, creating inspiring spaces for our students.

A magical evening is in the making! We're keeping the details a surprise just a little longer. Join us at the **Falling Leaves Festival** for the grand **reveal** of our gala theme and ways to **get involved**.



Flowers from the 3rd Grade

Lost and Found Items

Please check the lost and found before Friday, to see if there is anything in there that your student has accidentally left behind. The items will be donated on Friday at the end of the day.

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---6CcyID

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!



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@twinhillusd.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.