

Santa Lucia School Parent Letter

October 6th 2015



Ballooning spiders

Anyone notice strings of wispy webs floating in the air the last week? Young spiders use this technique to migrate. Keep an eye out

Back to School Night Attendees of this entertaining and informative evening enjoyed Jan's thoroughly engaging description of "in depth" education and how well this approach is modeled at Santa Lucia School. Jan's class project last year in conjunction with the Monterey Bay Aquarium Ocean Plastic Pollution Summit encapsulated the ways that SLS successfully incorporates cross curricular, hands-on learning in a way that truly engages eager young minds. School board president, David Wood followed on seamlessly with a presentation of how and why creative, right-brained thinkers are the ones who will lead us into a bright future, inspired by Daniel Pink's Whole New Mind (a highly recommended read). We were also reminded to spread the word about Santa Lucia School by telling our friends, families, colleagues and facebook contacts about the joys and successes of our SLS students. Stacy Burk regularly posts updates on the school Facebook and web pages. Check in and stay informed. We also heard important news from fundraising committee member, Marijke Priest and her evolving plans for our benefit celebration in March. Parent Participation coordinator, John Flanagan gave us some ideas for staying up with our hours. Stay tuned for ways to volunteer on all fronts as we progress into our school year.

Upcoming Events

School cleaning:

Oct. 9th Wilson

Oct. 16th Canestro

Oct. 23rd Chon

Green Door Classroom

Traveling Education:

Unitarian Universalist

Thurs. Oct. 8th 9:15-11:30

and Tues. Oct. 20th

Congregation Beth Israel

9:15-11:30

Indigenous

People/Columbus Day

Monday Oct. 12th

NO SCHOOL

Corn maze and pumpkin patch field trip – Blue &

Yellow door classrooms

Wednesday Oct. 21st

Halloween Poetry Party at school

Thursday Oct. 29th

In the second half of the evening, we were welcomed by our illustrious teachers who had prepared the classrooms beautifully and showcased wonderful works of art and plans for the coming year. Truly inspirational!



PARENT PARTICIPATION

Stay tuned for a series of work days to be scheduled throughout the school year: a great way to get involved, meet and network with other families and tend our special school.

And meanwhile that ubiquitous little star thistle is waiting for you.....

THANK YOU...

Thanks to the Barker Family for cleaning the school over the weekend.

Thank you Social Crews for the lovely array of back to school refreshments : Franca Lansky, Marijke Priest, Correne Knowles, Miranda Canestro, Amanda Grindley, Melanie Chon, Stacy Burk, Gina Grieb, Courtney Ehlinger, Lindsay Pera, and Vallar Wahba.

Food for Thought: Indigenous people ~ Columbus Day

As Christopher Wanjek [wrote](#) for Live Science back in 2011, “What Columbus ‘discovered’ was the Bahamas and then an island later named Hispaniola, now split into Haiti and the Dominican Republic. On his subsequent voyages he went farther south, to Central and South America. He never got close to what is now called the United States.

So why does the United States celebrate the guy who thought he found a nifty new route to Asia and the lands described by Marco Polo?” Mr. Wanjek wonders. “This is because the early United States was fighting with England, not Spain. John Cabot (a.k.a. Giovanni Caboto, another Italian) ‘discovered’ Newfoundland in England’s name around 1497 and paved the way for England’s colonization of most of North America,” he explains. “So the American colonialists instead turned to Columbus as their hero, not England’s Cabot. Hence we have the capital, Washington, D.C. — that’s District of Columbia, not District of Cabot.”

